

RIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

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501c3 organization

ArizonaAuthors.org/com [Facebook](#) [Arizona Authors Blog](#) ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com

Issue 29

Arizona Authors Association

December 2023-January 2024

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President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

The banquet this year had excellent food from Bottega's Pizzeria Ristorante, made better by the bonus of doggy bags. Everyone who attended had fun and enjoyed the speeches by the winners, the ever-popular book lottery, entertainment by the barbershop quartet, Tribute, and a comic skit by the hostess, Penny Orloff.

At the end she presented me with a glass appreciation award recognizing my years of service. I appreciate greatly the recognition as well as the opportunity to serve this great organization over the years. I intend to continue to serve if I am able as statutory agent and a member of the board.

Only 7 of the 23 winners attended along with 16 members. This low attendance is an unsustainable situation we need to address at the annual meeting. What to do about the banquet in the future is an open question.

Jane Ruby ran the contest with her usual flair plus she created a new digital badge for the winners to display on their books and their websites.

Penny Orloff took over the editorship of the literary magazine this year and created an outstanding and professional issue, made more beautiful by the cover photo provided by member Linda F. Radke. If you want to buy a copy, check page [3](#) of this *Digest*.

We began the year with the plan to present workshops, but there was so little interest that we cancelled them. This is an option for the future because we still have the Zoom account. Previous workshop recordings are available; we have them all listed at arizonaauthors.org. Click on [Resources](#).

continued on the next page

President's Corner, continued

Our website is working famously, one plus for us and for potential members. Kathleen Cook keeps it in top shape.

We have 196 members.

Dues are payable by the end of January for most members. You will be notified if you need to renew your membership.

Financial Resources as of October 31, 2023 included:
Savings: \$25.00, Checking: Beginning Balance:
\$16,899.16, Credits: \$0, Debits: \$851.87, Ending Balance:
\$16,047.29.

The AAA Annual Meeting will occur on January 13, 2023, at 10 AM on Zoom. Mark your calendars. Please plan to be there to give feedback on the direction of our association and changes in responsibilities with my term as president ending.

Enjoy the holidays,
Namaste
Toby

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<https://www.arizonaauthors.org/>
<http://www.arizonaauthors.com/>



*Happy Holidays
from your friends
at the
Arizona Authors
Association*





Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, AZ
Photo Courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management

Literary Holiday Trivia

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. Which poet wrote a famous work about his childhood Christmas memories?
2. Name the title of Rumer Godden’s book about a little girl who wants a doll and a new home for Christmas.
3. In *The Best Christmas Present in the World*, the best present is an old letter written by a soldier during this war.
4. A very snowy Christmas is the setting for this Susan Cooper novel.
5. In *The Christmas Mystery* by Jostein Gaarder, something wonderful is found in this magical hiding place.
6. *A Christmas Journey* by Brian Wildsmith is told from the point of view of these animals.

For more Christmas trivia, click [HERE](#).

Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Toby Heathcotte
 Treasurer/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby
 Secretary/Editor/Website Admin.....Kathleen Cook
 Incoming EditorPenny Orloff

Additional Staff:

Proofreader.....Sharon Sterling
 Forum Director.....Kyle Patton

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

Editorial correspondence and digest submissions may be emailed to:

pennyorloff@me.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

The 2024 Arizona Literary Magazine is on sale.

Send check or money order to:
 Arizona Authors Association
 PO Box 538
 428 E. Thunderbird Rd.
 Phoenix, AZ 85022

Or pay with PayPal to:
arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com



Arizona Authors Association

Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

Membership Benefits

The 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 digest 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 new “Oldie but Goldie” category offers a chance to relaunch and renew interest in it. We also offer online book fairs or other 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.

I hope you will 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. Ask questions that will be answered in the next issue. Together, we will all benefit from the combined knowledge of our diverse membership.

Lastly, one of the biggest benefits of your Arizona Authors Association membership is the ability to reach others with your book releases and advertisements. At present, 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) will receive a free, full-page ad.



Submissions to the Digest

Your input is welcome! The following categories accept submissions through midnight on the **10th** day of odd-numbered months. Send all entries to: pennvorloff@me.com

Features are generally between 800-1200 words (lengthier or shorter submissions will be considered). We seek articles that motivate and inspire writers, enhance their skills, assist in promoting their works and more.

What Are You Reading? asks members to share their current reading material in 200 words or less. Tell us why you like or dislike a book (written by anyone except yourself). This will help other members in their quest for new reading material.

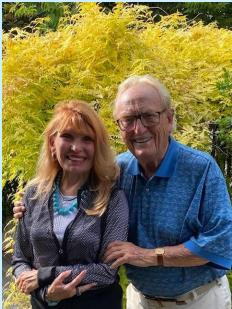
Road to Imagination seeks finished works of 800 words or less based upon the previous issue's story prompt. **Back Page Quotes** seeks jokes or quotes (200 words or less) on the foibles of writing, editing or publishing. We also need Arizona landscape **photos**, as inspiring space fillers for our digest. If we use them, we'll credit you. Please be sure to state in your email that you took the photos.

If you published a book within the last six months, share it with the Arizona Authors Association Digest. We'd love to advertise it in our next issue. We will also list any upcoming book-related events, meetings, workshops, book sales, book signings, etc., across the state or in nearby regions as space permits. If you offer editing, proofreading, or other literary services, submit a quarter-page ad with us, currently without cost to members in good standing.

Send your articles in Word, Notepad or Wordpad format. Articles will be standardized to a Times New Roman 11pt font. Pictures may be gif, png or jpegs. Send large pictures, if possible, (no less than 2"x4") since we can shrink any picture without losing quality, but small pictures cannot be enlarged without deterioration. Note that all submissions are subject to light editing/proofreading. You will be informed in advance of publication if extensive edits are needed.

Thank you!

Recent Events



The Scottsdale Society of Women Writers welcomed [Deena Goldstein](#) to speak at their regular monthly meeting on October 25th. This award-winning artist and stand-up comedian recently penned her debut memoir, [OK Little Bird](#). Deena's artwork has been featured in solo and collective exhibitions, receiving numerous honors for her original acrylic and digital works. *Little Bird* shares the unique, irreverent, and inspiring relationship with her quirky loveable, cowboy father, as she navigates the deep waters of grief, teaching us that humor can help heal from unbearable pain and loss.

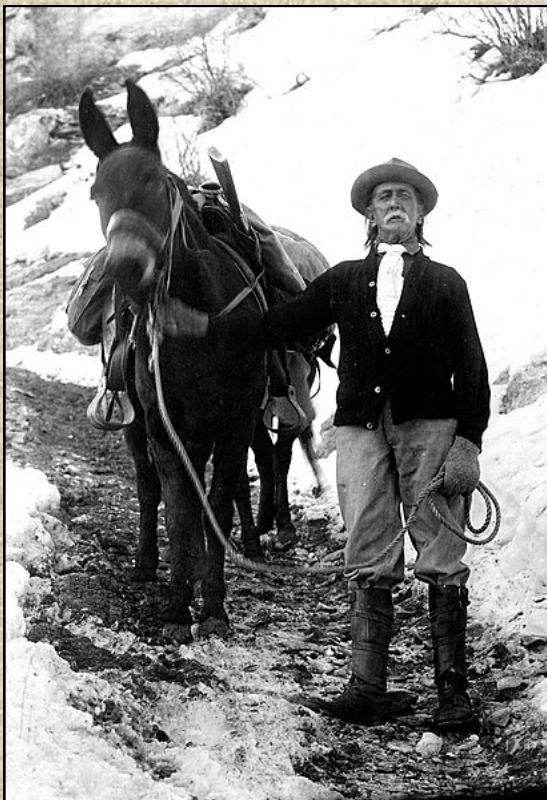
To participate in SSWW events or to find out more about Patricia, click [HERE](#) or email: patricia@plbrooks.com or text: 480-250-5556

Arizona Authors Association member Frank G. Davis was featured in two recent book signings at local venues. The first was on November 18 at the Mesa Barnes and Noble bookstore on 1758 S. Val Vista Drive in Mesa. It featured his [Generations](#) series as well as his newest book, [The Last Prophet](#), which is showcased in this Digest issue in the Book Releases section on page [39](#).



The second book signing occurred on November 28 at the Casa Grande Public Library, 449 North Drylake St in Casa Grande. It featured all eleven of his book titles.

To find out more about Frank and all of his books, click on his [website](#).



Historical Photo circa 1910
Bright Angel Trail, Grand Canyon
Picture courtesy of Grand Canyon National Park

Donis Casey hosts a monthly series of author essays on her website called **Tell Me Your Story**, where she invites successful authors to share their life experiences and tell how those experiences have influenced their writing.



Donis' guest for November was Baron Birtcher. NYT Bestseller Reed Farrel Coleman says: "[Baron] Birtcher is part poet, part philosopher, and a consummate writer." Baron is the winner of the Silver Falchion Award ([Hard Latitudes](#)); Winner of Killer Nashville Readers Choice Award ([South California Purples](#)); and Best Book of the Year Award for [Fistful Of Rain](#). He has also been nominated for the Nero Award, the Lefty, the Foreword Indie, the Claymore, and the Pacific Northwest's Spotted Owl Awards. Baron's writing has been hailed as "The real deal" by Publishers Weekly; "Fast Paced and Engaging" by Booklist; and "Solid, Fluent and Thrilling" by Kirkus. Another of my favorite bestselling authors, Don Winslow, has said, "You want to read Baron's books, then you want to live in them." Follow Baron on Facebook [HERE](#).

To visit Donis' website, click [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events



Donis Casey hosts a monthly series of author essays on her website called **Tell Me Your Story**, where she invites successful authors to share their life experiences and tell how those experiences have influenced their writing. Her guest for December is Tucson's [Rosemary Simpson](#), author of the *Gilded Age*

Mysteries, including [What the Dead Leave Behind](#), set in New York during the Great Blizzard of 1888, and [Lies that Comfort and Betray](#). Rosemary is also the author of two stand-alone historical novels, [The Seven Hills of Paradise](#) and [Dreams and Shadows](#). She is a member of Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, and the Historical Novel Society. Educated in France and the United States, she lives near Tucson, Arizona. Rosemary's story will appear December 20 on Donis' [website](#).

Donis Casey's **Tell Me Your Story** guest author for January 2024 is the Spur Award winner [Reavis Z. Wortham](#), Texas through and through. Reavis retired in 2011 and now works harder than before as the author of the critically acclaimed *Red River* historical mystery series.

Kirkus Reviews listed his first novel, [The Rock Hole](#), as one of their Top 12 Mysteries of 2011. True West Magazine included [Dark Places](#) as one of 2015's Top 12 Modern Westerns. Reavis' high octane contemporary western series featuring Texas Ranger Sonny Hawke kicked off in 2017 with the publication of [Hawke's Prey](#). The fourth Sonny Hawke thriller, *Hawke's Fury*, was published in June 2020. In 2019, the Western Writers Association presented [Hawke's War](#) with the Spur Award in the WWA Best Mass Market Paperback category. His latest thriller, [Hard Country](#), came out in Aug 2023. Read Reavis' story beginning January 20 on Donis' [website](#).

To visit Donis' website and keep up with all of her latest guests, click [HERE](#).



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On Our
Arizona Authors Association
Forum Yet?**

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It's FREE!**

Are you a member of the Arizona Authors Association and looking for a place to advertise your book, article, editing service, or writing-related work for **FREE**?

Join the Arizona Authors Association forum and post a message about your book, article, or event! Add all of your writing-related news and announcements. Let's get this forum going!

[Arizona Authors Association](#)

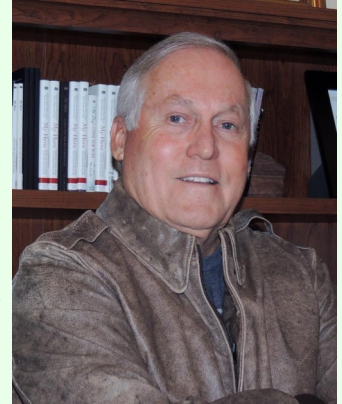


Congratulations to Our Members

Arizona Authors Association member Mike Rothmiller appeared on the [Crime Beat](#) radio show on November 2nd. Mike and co-author Douglas Thompson discussed their book, [Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders](#). Crime Beat is broadcast in many countries and on scores of radio stations. To listen into Mike's interview with Ron Chepesiuk, click [HERE](#).

Mike's book on Frank Sinatra hit Number #1 in its category on Amazon again last month, after 14 months in circulation. Another of Mike's best sellers, [Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe](#), hit Number #1 again despite 31 months since its release. Several of his other books have done well during the same time period. Overall, *The New York Times* bestselling author has had another spectacular year.

To learn more about Mike, click [HERE](#).



Arizona Authors Association columnist Janet Alcorn was interviewed for an episode of the [Mysterious Goings-On](#) podcast called **Writing Your Own Destiny**. She talks with host Alex Greenwood about her writing journey and how to use short stories to build a writing career. The episode was made available November 29.

Find it at:

<https://mgopod.com> or on your favorite podcast player.

To learn more about Janet, visit her [website](#) or follow her on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), [Facebook](#), [Threads](#), or [BlueSky](#).

Arizona Authors Association member Mary Coday Edwards won a 2023 Nautilus Silver Award in the Travel Memoir category for her book, [To Travel Well, Travel Light: An Adventure Memoir of Living Abroad and Letting Go of Life's Trappings: Material Possessions, Cultural Blinders, and a Patriarchal Christian Worldview](#).

Winners of Nautilus Book Awards are authors and publishers from more than 20 nations. Other notable Nautilus Book Award winning authors include Barbara Kingsolver, Louise Erdrich, Deepak Chopra, M.D., Brené Brown, Eckhart Tolle, Desmond Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Nautilus Book Awards recognizes books that promote spiritual growth, conscious living and sustainability, high-level wellness, and positive social change and social justice as they stimulate the imagination and inspire the reader to new possibilities for a better world.

To find out more about Mary, visit her [website](#).



Congratulations, continued

Arizona Authors Association columnist Mark D. Walker gave a presentation recently on YouTube titled, *2023 Publishing Trends and Platform Development*. The (approximately) one-hour presentation for [WOW](#), or Work of Women.org, discusses the consolidation of the publishing industry and how emerging writers can navigate the publishing trends in order to develop their own platform for successful exposure.



To view this YouTube video, click [HERE](#).

Mark has decided to run a Kickstarter crowd funding campaign for his forthcoming book, *The Guatemala Reader: Extraordinary Lives and Amazing Stories*, which will be independently published. This assures his control of its content and an opportunity to enhance its distribution to a broader audience. The campaign will last two weeks and offer several incentives, such as a special hard copy edition with colored photos, which is very close to his heart and represents a fifty-year love affair with Guatemala and its people. He now has a cover for the book and has begun formatting it.

To find out more about Mark's Kickstarter campaign or all of his books and reviews, visit his website at: www.MillionMileWalker.com or follow him on his [Facebook](#) page.



Arizona Authors Association member Karen Lynne Klink was recently interviewed for an article that was posted in the *Foothills News Magazine*. The feature, titled, "New Novel Explores the Antebellum Era," can be read [HERE](#). In it, she discusses her new book, *At What Cost, Silence?* The novel gives readers a thought-provoking and sensitive view of two families living in Texas in the period before the Civil War.

The article also appeared in the *Tucson Weekly* on Thursday, November 16th.

To find out more about Karen, visit her [website](#).

Rodo Sofranac, author of many award-winning books including *The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail*, was recently featured in the September-October issue of *Cornellians*, the alumni magazine for Cornell University. In it, they say this about Rodo: "For decades he's volunteered with CAAAN, the alumni group that often is a first contact for undergraduate applicants. When one son was a commercial brewer, Rodo helped schedule a Cornell gathering at a brewery that had created a "deeeeeeelicious!" Touchdown the Bear red ale. Rodo has led such community projects as Habitat for Humanity and Helping Hands for Single Moms for local Cornell clubs. ..." To read the entire spot on *Cornellians*, click [HERE](#).



Rodo will be showcasing his books at Phoestivus this year. The Christmas extravaganza is featured on the [back page](#) of this issue. Drop by and visit Rodo's booth at Phoestivus, or to learn more about him and his books, visit his [website](#).

Arizona Authors Association Annual Meeting



Saturday, January 13, 2024
Online via Zoom 10:00 AM MST

The Arizona Authors Association Annual Meeting will be held online via ZOOM. You may join a Zoom meeting with either a web cam or a phone, and enjoy participating in the Arizona Authors Association event without leaving the comfort of your home. We will be announcing the new Board of Directors as well as discussing upcoming events, this year's literary contest, budget concerns, anticipated changes, and much more. Please RSVP Toby Heathcotte [HERE](#). To set up a free ZOOM account, click [HERE](#).



*The ability to enjoy solitude is the greatest superpower
in the universe.*

—Kathleen Cook

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona
Photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

by A.L. Means

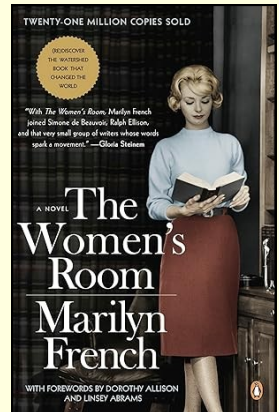
My late wife was an avid reader. Not only that but she was fast. Boy, was she fast. She could dispatch a novel in a couple of days that would take me weeks to get through. It was exasperating actually. I lamented my inadequacy. Did she secretly yearn for a mate with a more virile lexicon?

The upside is that she bequeathed to me a considerable library, mostly consisting of classic novels and aging sci-fi. Every so often I stumble upon an unanticipated volume in her collection, and such was the case recently (ok, a few weeks ago) with a novel entitled [The Women's Room](#). My edition is in the form of a battered paperback published in 1977. The cover blurb promises revelations for men and women alike. I was hooked. Was this treasure a sign from my dearly departed? She'd never mentioned it while she had the chance.

Apparently, the author, Marilyn French, was a celebrity in feminist circles. But not, I confess, in mine. However, I quickly became enthralled with her observations about growing up female. Having spent my formative years in a boarding school, I long held the belief that females lived on pedestals—when one could even approach them, that is. How quickly the author disabuses me. Admittedly her chronicle begins in the dark age of the 50s, when it seems American girls could expect to be mocked for their body changes and literally manhandled without consequence. Career prospects were bleak or unfair, even in the elite academic sphere described here. Life could not offer much beyond domestic repetition consisting of children, housecleaning and pandering to the all-powerful male.

Upon further thought, I do believe that not all women share this view. Some may actually favor having children and houses, and might not be averse to the occasional pandering. Besides, female expectations, at least in our part of the world, have surely improved since Ms. French wrote this. All the same, the novel retains relevance and offers insights worth reflecting upon. This is one cover blurb, in my estimation, that delivers what it promises.

A.L. Means grew up in Britain and has lived in or near Phoenix, Arizona, for over 30 years. He has authored fiction and nonfiction in various genres, using different pen names, and has spent much of his working life as a journalist for magazines and newspapers. Find out more about Andrew [HERE](#).



The Arizona Authors Digest will have a new Editor-in-Chief starting with the next issue! The deadline has changed; please have all features, articles, news, and submissions in no later than January 10. Late submissions will be held for a future issue.

Send your submissions to:

pennyorloff@me.com



The Road to Imagination

by Cherie Lee

Do you ever need a prompt to get you started? Try Cherie Lee's story starter to spur your imagination and get the sentences flowing. An award-winning author, Cherie wrote the following paragraph as a guide:

"This fictional teaser can be used by teachers or by anyone (recommend sixth grade and up through all adult ages) who wants a creative writing exercise or to jump start a new work. This idea is not meant to be genre specific, but left to the writer's imagination. There are no specific rules to follow. All the listed questions do not need answers. There is no order for preferred reading."

If you would like to share a story you create with this prompt (800 words or less), please send it no later than January 10 to pennyvorloff@me.com and we may publish it.

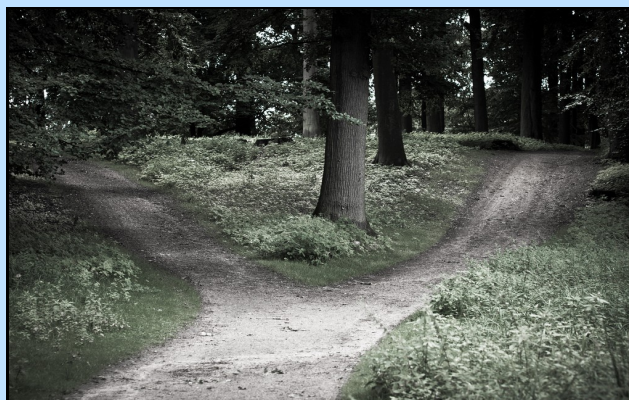
The Journal

Darting into the used bookstore, she closed her umbrella and shook it. Moisture flew from it in spite of it barely sprinkling outside. Someone had left the door propped open and several puddles had formed by the doorway. Yanking her headscarf from her head, she grabbed a towel and dried the water from the stone floor. She shouted, "Henry, get your nose out of that journal and come here!" She listened for his footsteps, but none sounded. She climbed into the loft. Henry slept with the journal clutched tightly to his cheek. She tried to pry it loose, but merely pulled its cover away. Henry awoke and spotted the priceless journal in tatters.

Questions:

1. Who is the woman in the story? Is she the bookstore owner or a customer or someone else?
2. What was Henry's reaction when he spotted the torn journal?
3. Why was the journal precious? Was it an antique or did it have sentimental value?
4. Did Henry own the business or was he the woman's employee or relative?
5. Where is the bookstore located, a busy city or an isolated village?
6. Why was the door propped open?

Now it's your turn. Go forth and write!



Thank You 2023 Member Contributors to the Arizona Authors Association



Elizabeth Ajamee-Boyer contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events, Congrats, and Book Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She also served as a Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



Marlene Baird served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



Janet Alcorn contributed her regular feature, **Where in Arizona?** and to the Congrats, Back Page, and Short Releases sections of the Digest. She was a contest winner and featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



Joy K. Ball was an Arizona Authors Literary Contest winner and contributed to the Book Releases section of the Digest. [LINK](#)



Elizabeth Aldrich contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Michelle Beaver is featured in a regular Pen America ad and contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the Digest. [LINK](#)



Bart Ambrose contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest* and was a featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



Vali Benson contributed to the Congrats section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Marsha Arzberger contributed to the Short Releases and Congrats sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Peter Bernhardt was an Arizona Authors Literary Contest Winner and contributed to the Congrats and the **What Are You Reading?** sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. He was also a featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



Rico Austin contributed to the Short Releases and Congrats sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Lisa Binsfeld was an Arizona Authors Literary Contest winner. [LINK](#)



Russell Azbill served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge and was a featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



Patricia Brooks contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events as well as the Congrats sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Vince Bailey contributed to the Congrats section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Jeanne Burrows-Johnson contributed her column, **Energizing your Marketing and Technical Strategies**, in the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)





Kebsa Buckley-Button served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge and was the designated photographer at the awards banquet. [LINK](#)



Daniel Dickinson contributed his feature, **Starting Small**, as well as to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



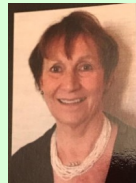
Caren Cantrell served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge and contributed to the Congrats and the Book Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Michael Dow contributed several times to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Donis Casey served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge and contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Sandee Drake contributed to the Congrats section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



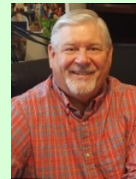
Jeri Castronova contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Mary Coday Edwards was an Arizona Author Literary Contest winner and contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Dr. Diane Holloway Cheney served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge and contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Wayne Edwards contributed the feature **Reading Across America** in the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



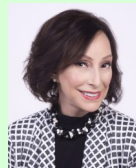
Jan Cleere contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Diana Ellis served as a judge in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Kathleen Cook served as the Editor and Web Administrator for the Arizona Authors Association. Her column, **The Inevitable Author**, is a regular feature in the Digest. She also was a contest judge, etc. [LINK](#)



Marcia Fine contributed to the Short Releases and Congrats sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Frank G. Davis contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events and the Book Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



John Floyd served as a judge in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Jodi Decker served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge and contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Dr. Lynn Fuentes contributed to the Congrats section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Earl L. Goldmann contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



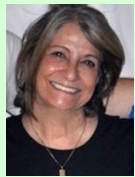
Dannette Hunnel contributed several times to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Brad Graber served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



Marilyn June Janson is featured in her ad for editing serves in every issue and contributed to the Short Releases and Congrats sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She also served as a Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



Diana Grillo contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Gavin Kayner contributed to the Short Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. He was also a featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



Kevin Gundlach contributed his regular feature, **Puzzle It!**, to the *Arizona Authors Digest*. He also serves as the association's website consultant. [LINK](#)



JoLee Kennedy was a featured *Arizona Authors Digest* photographer. [LINK](#)



Rosalinda Haddon served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



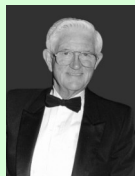
Karen Klink contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She was also a featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



William Hart was an Arizona Authors Literary Contest winner. [LINK](#)



Cherie Lee contributed her regular feature, **Road to Imagination**, to the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Jack Hawn contributed to the Congrats, Short Releases, and Book Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Venetia Hobson Lewis contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Toby Heathcotte served as the president and fiduciary of the Arizona Authors Association, as well as in many other capacities. She also contributed her regular column, **President's Corner**, to the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Lorie Lux contributed to the Short Releases and the Congrats sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



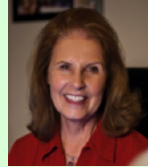
Heidi Herman served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



A.L. Means contributed to the **What Are You Reading?** feature of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Jan Nichols was a featured *Arizona Authors Digest* photographer. [LINK](#)



Barbara Renner contributed to the Congrats section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Karen Odden contributed her regular feature, **A Writer's Tip**, to the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She also contributed to the Digest's Congrats section. [LINK](#)



Maria Retana contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Penny Orloff is the incoming Editor of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She also emceed the Arizona Authors Literary Banquet and contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events sections of the Digest. In addition, she presented several workshops and served as a contest judge. [LINK](#)



June Reynolds contributed a feature article, **The Tucson Festival of Books**, as well as to the Congrats and Book Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She was also a featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



Constance Osterlitz served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge and as the Literary Magazine proofreader. [LINK](#)



Vicki Riske contributed to the Congrats section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She was also a featured Digest photographer. [LINK](#)



Kyle Patton served as the Arizona Authors Association Forum Director. [LINK](#)



Robert Ronning contributed his feature, **What's in a Name?**, as well as to the Book Releases section the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Dawn Pisturino contributed to the Congrats and the Short Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Mike Rothmiller contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events and the Congrats sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. He was also one of the Digest's featured photographers. [LINK](#)



Albert Monreal Quihuis served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



Jane Ruby served as the Treasurer and Contest Director for the Arizona Authors Association. She also contributed her regular feature, **What Pounds My Cake!** as well as her **Literary Contest** reports to the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Linda Radke's ad was featured in every issue of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She was also a featured Digest and Literary Magazine photographer. [LINK](#)



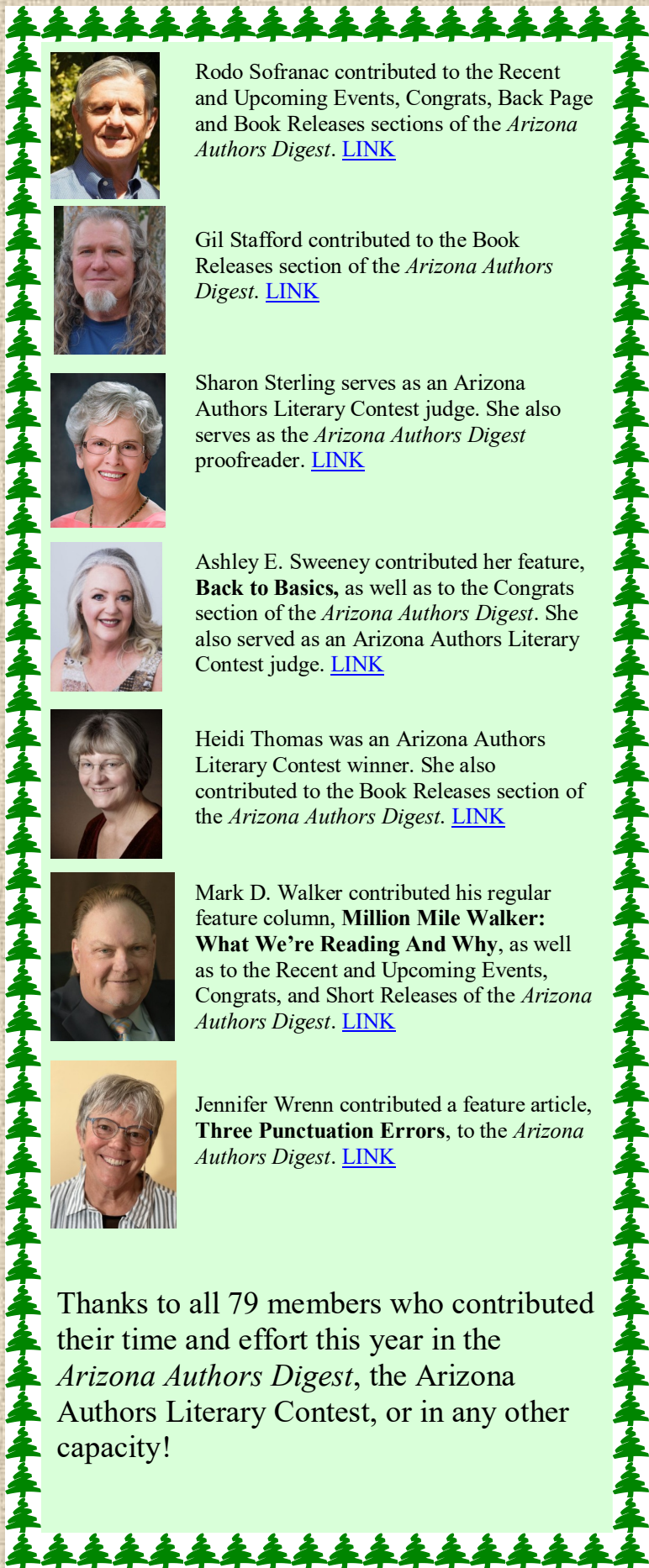
Vijaya Schartz served as the manager of the Arizona Authors Association blog. She also contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



D.R. Ransdell contributed to the Congrats and the Short Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Craig Sodaro served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



Rodo Sofranac contributed to the Recent and Upcoming Events, Congrats, Back Page and Book Releases sections of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Gil Stafford contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Sharon Sterling serves as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. She also serves as the *Arizona Authors Digest* proofreader. [LINK](#)



Ashley E. Sweeney contributed her feature, **Back to Basics**, as well as to the Congrats section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. She also served as an Arizona Authors Literary Contest judge. [LINK](#)



Heidi Thomas was an Arizona Authors Literary Contest winner. She also contributed to the Book Releases section of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Mark D. Walker contributed his regular feature column, **Million Mile Walker: What We're Reading And Why**, as well as to the Recent and Upcoming Events, Congrats, and Short Releases of the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)



Jennifer Wrenn contributed a feature article, **Three Punctuation Errors**, to the *Arizona Authors Digest*. [LINK](#)

Thanks to all 79 members who contributed their time and effort this year in the *Arizona Authors Digest*, the Arizona Authors Literary Contest, or in any other capacity!

An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas

Performance runs through December 9th at:
Stage Left Productions
11340 West Bell Road # 105
Surprise AZ, 85378

Tickets \$20. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.



Join like-minded people for literary conversation, to share your projects and to support the Arizona writing community at PEN America's Arizona chapter events. Founded in 1922, PEN America stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to support free expression in the U.S. and worldwide. Current and past PEN members include Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, John Steinbeck, Barbara Kingsolver, Salman Rushdie, Toni Morrison and many other prolific artists.

Arizona Authors Association member Michelle Beaver launched the Arizona chapter of PEN America in April 2022. Since then, the chapter has hosted events at Changing Hands Bookstore, Grassrootz Bookstore, Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, downtown Phoenix restaurants, and several other locations. Speakers have included poets, journalists, best-selling authors, Arizona Sen. Christine Marsh, *The Arizona Republic's* famed columnist E.J. Montini, a global human rights attorney, etc. Pen America is now collaborating with groups such as ASU's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, where Michelle serves as a teaching artist.

The coming year will include more great panels as well as social events that feature complementary appetizers and drinks. PEN membership is not mandatory for attendance. If you'd like more information, please contact the founder and director of PEN America's Arizona chapter, Michelle Beaver, at:

Michelle.L.Beaver@gmail.com

2023 Arizona Authors Literary Awards Banquet



Connie Osterlitz and
President Toby Heathcotte

Saturday,
November 4,
2023

Bottega's
Ristorante
Glendale, AZ



Master of Ceremonies
Penny Orloff



Award-Winning Barbershop Quartet
Tribute



Everyone enjoyed the music as well as Penny's
presentation!



Menu

Tropical Tea
Lemonade, Soda
Mini Meatballs
Bruschetta Trio
Mini Salad
Pasta al Pomodoro
Penne Salsiccia
Chicken Pizaiola
Mini Tiramisu





Outgoing President Toby Heathcote received an award for her many years of dedicated service to the Arizona Authors Association.

Pictured: Penny Orloff presenting the award to Toby Heathcote



Starting Small

by Daniel Dickinson

Had you asked me 10 years ago if I would ever consider publishing a short story, I would have told you no. That is how naive I was.

When I began the adventure of being a multi-published author, I had a singular goal: to publish a set of novels based on a world that I had cultivated since I was about nine years old. Growing up, learning the craft, and building up my eventual voice came with the knowledge that those before me had started off publishing smaller stories. It was a goal that seemed trivial to me, even absurd. Authors like King, Gaiman, and even Tolkien, all had smaller stories published well before their breakout novels made them household names. I thought, “Those guys are old though. Things have changed. Computers have made writing easier, and the internet has made things faster! I don’t need to use those archaic methods such as publishing short stories in random publications!”

Again, that was rather naive of me. Here’s the thing that no one tells you when you’re trying to get that breakout novel or story published: We’re all nobodies, until we’re not. It’s a rather heart-breaking fact I’m letting you in on.

But as ego busting as that may sound, there is also an academic reason you would want to start off small, a far easier thing to swallow since it leaves the ego mostly intact. Mostly. As you advance as an author, there is an understanding that you’ll be traveling on a road dedicated to learning the craft, and short stories are one of those pit stops along the way. Starting off small allows you to focus on choosing each word carefully to tell a story that, normally in a novel anyway, you don’t have to worry about so much. Choosing a story that you must tell in a thousand words, such as flash fiction, really pushes choosing your words to the extreme. The shorter the work, the more precision and economy in word choice counts. As much as it pains me to say this, I’ve learned a great deal writing for flash fiction or short story markets. It also helps you focus on any crutches you may use, bringing them into stark contrast when they cannot hide among the rest of your prose. You have some breathing room in terms of editing the works and learning to spot issues within your writing. Would you rather learn from editing a hundred-thousand-word novel or a thousand-word flash story? I know which I would choose.

When it comes time to ask someone for help, size matters. We’re all busy bees. Asking another individual to look over a story, critique it, and suggest fixes, will come easier when the story is ten thousand words or less. Anything more than that takes dedication from closer friends and family, who will help you achieve your goals.

Now, a word of advice if I may be so bold. Just write your story. Write the story you want to tell, without feeling inhibited by the constraints of size. You’ll find with enough time and practice, like with all skills, it’ll get easier to actually predict the size of the manuscript—especially when you are forced to choose words specifically to tell a story, rather than bank or rely on size to hide your manuscript’s loose storytelling.

“So where do I start?” I hear you say. If I haven’t scared you off by now, that’s good! I’ve met a lot of people who, throughout my writing adventure, did me no favors by just agreeing with whatever I wrote or said. That’s to say, I didn’t learn anything, or worse, I learned how NOT to write correctly. But I’m getting off topic. Where do you start? With that scary blank page. While you’re there, type your name in there. Next step, find a theme. If you need one, I’d recommend [Diabolical Plot’s Grinder](#). Find a market that interests you; see if a publication is accepting submissions. What are they looking for? What are the themes they are interested in? Is it a topic or theme that interests you? You can also find a writing group on Discord. Sometimes they share open markets and their themes as well.

continued on the next page

Starting Small by Daniel Dickinson

Once you have a theme, go back to that blank page with your name, and a perpetually blinking cursor. You likely chose a theme that spoke to you, and something inside of you probably already knows the story it wants to tell. So with that theme in mind, let the story flow from your fingertips onto the keyboard, or pencil, and onto the screen or paper. You don't even need to keep it. You don't even need to like it, really. Just Write.

With any luck you've begun the process of writing the next best-selling story! Congratulations! Don't stop! Keep going. When you finish your first draft, that's the time to ask yourself, "Does the story work?" If it is too long, try replacing words, or even entire sentences, with simpler and more precise words and phrases. Editing down to the desired length is easier than adding up to the desired word count. Don't ask me how or why that is. If I figure it out, maybe I'll write an article about that sometime.

In the end, learning or getting published with short stories first gives you a far better grasp on the adventure that is being published. It gives you firm footing as you take those first steps toward being published. Don't be afraid to start small and work your way up to that grand novel or series. Your future self will thank you. You will have a sturdy grasp on your writing style, your voice, the process of writing, and the industry itself and how it works. All of those things will take time and understanding. You will have a better grasp and a grounded start, by writing small. Be humble on this path you've chosen, because sometimes you will fail, as we all do. You will learn to do things better. Some people will say you'll never make it. Ignore them and push on. You can and will do this. It's better to start small and fall short, then start big and fail spectacularly. What you learn will give you solid steps as you make your climb toward getting your full vision published.

Daniel Dickinson is the author of several works including [*Aggression Factor*](#). He has a wonderful family and is a proud father with a beautiful wife. One of his many hobbies is taking his daughter and grandkids camping at least twice a year. Daniel currently lives in the greater Phoenix Area, surviving in the grind and writing when he can. He enjoys giving presentations about creating worlds and fantasy genres in general, and looks forward to the challenges of growing as a writer and continuing the adventure that is life.

Find out more about Daniel on his website: <https://www.tigerforce.net/> or at: <https://shoutoutarizona.com/meet-daniel-dickinson-author/> or on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/author/ddickinson>



*"I will honor
Christmas in my
heart, and try to
keep it all the
year."*

-Ebenezer Scrooge

Desert Botanical Garden,
Tucson
Photo by Arizona Authors
Association member
Janet Alcorn



End of Year Treasurer's Report

by Jane Ruby

2023 Arizona Authors Association Treasurer's Report

This year's Literary Contest and Membership Fees were our major fund raisers.

Thanks to all who participated.

Total Revenue: \$14,235.75, which included:

Contest Revenue: +\$4110
Membership payments by check/PayPal
Contest Checks by Mail
Literary magazine ads
Awards luncheon tickets

Debits:
Postage, shipping, handling expenses
Wix website fees
Literature Magazine pub/print

Some Notable Debits:
Contest Payout: -\$1190
Literary Magazine Publication: -\$1218.54
Awards Luncheon Bottega's Ristorante: -\$3423.43

Jane Ruby, 2023 Literary Contest Director
Arizona Authors Association
www.arizonaauthors.org



The Million Mile Walker What We're Reading and Why

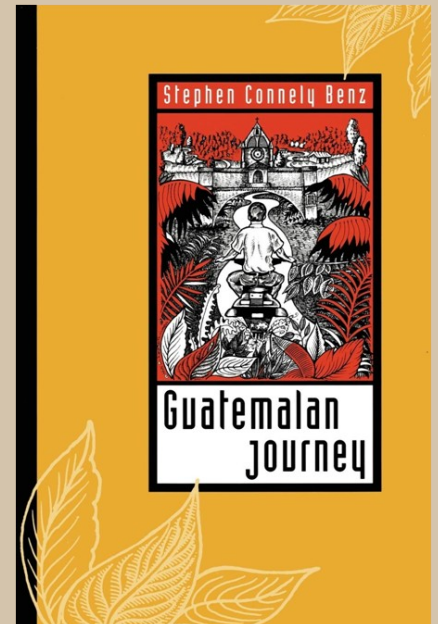
By Mark D. Walker



I recently came across an author whose book I'd reviewed in the past, although I was unaware he'd visited and written about Guatemala. After my review of his book, [Guatemalan Journey](#), I'll share a chapter from my own forthcoming book, *Guatemala Reader: Extraordinary Lives and Amazing Stories*, about an award-winning Guatemalan/American writer, Francisco Goldman.

I was introduced to Stephen Benz by his agent, who sent me [Topographies](#) to review, a stellar collection of travel essays that takes the reader through places as diverse as rural Wyoming, the Florida Everglades, and a train ride across the border from Romania to the former Soviet Union. You can find the review on my website in the "[Library](#)" section.

I was delighted to learn that he'd written a book similar to the one I'm working on entitled *Guatemalan Journey*. Identical to my Peace Corps experience, he spent two years as a Fulbright Scholar doing the day-to-day activities and dealing with the same bureaucracy ordinary Guatemalans must do. Unlike my memoir, *Different Latitudes*, he doesn't mention his family, although he brought them along for this impressive trek. Always the consummate observer, Benz starts the book grappling with critical issues facing the country, like the influx of foreign missionaries, mass killings, the strangling bureaucracy, and cultural appropriation.



He starts the book by contrasting two unrelated events that sum up the complexity and ambiguity of Guatemala's social reality. On the one hand, a massive new mall, the "Megacentro," featuring 70 stores, which would have been the envy of any mall in the U.S., is hogging all the publicity and focus of Guatemala City's population.

The very next day, a massacre occurred in a small village near Chimaltenango, El Aguacate, where 22 men were dragged from their homes and murdered. After the typical government pronouncements that the guerrillas were to blame, it became apparent that the military was the source of the violence. The author follows the funeral procession to the cemetery, which is like "a scene from a Latin American novel. Twenty coffins were carried up a hill of rocks. The wind whipped up dust and swirled it everywhere." He ends with, "For me, it was the beginning of a difficult struggle to better understand a place where malls and massacres could be so strangely juxtaposed."

Benz analyzes some underlying conditions behind this juxtaposition - the fundamental disrespect of the Mayan rural population, starting with travel writers. Guidebooks from the 1920s and 1930s barely mentioned them, although they're close to 50% of the people, other than to say they were "primitive but Christianized." Their distant past was considered much more interesting than their degraded present; even intelligent and appreciative travelers of the time, such as "archaeologist Alfred Maudslay and the novelist Aldous Huxley, were dismayed by the 'primitive' culture of the descendants of the great Maya..."

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

In recent times, the elite in the late twentieth century were more concerned with progress than the survival of indigenous culture. They were amazed that the world embraced the Indians and wished to protect them. Benz notes their views: “Rigoberta Menchú, an untutored Indian woman, for a prestigious award like the Nobel Peace Prize? Had the world gone mad?”

Later in the book, the author marvels at the weavings that made up each Maya group's clothing. He observes, “Walking around Nebaj, I saw each ‘huipil’ as a fragment of a huge, unending hieroglyphic text - one that for me must remain elusive and mysterious, though I felt certain the Ixil could read these texts and could see in each individual weaving what my untrained eye could not.”

The book's second part focuses on the places he visited, most of which I've lived in or worked around. One of my favorites is his description of The “Biotopo” preserve not far from where I met my Guatemalan wife. The “Biotopo” is over 2,800 acres and is a bold attempt to save one of Guatemala's most symbolic creatures, the quetzal. It's revered because it can't be held in captivity, and its glowing green/red plumage sets it apart from anything in the cloud forest. Unfortunately, many predicted that the quetzal would not survive the first decade of the twenty-first century, which reflects the extreme deforestation and effects of climate control.

The area has a unique environment where it can rain all night and still be drizzling in the morning. Benz describes such a morning when he saw the guard in the visitor's center waving him over. “Somehow, he'd gotten a fire going in this dampness - a skill one had better develop in the land of the ‘chipi-chipi’ - and had boiled some coffee.”

Benz sums up his experience by listing some of the names he was called over two years in Guatemala. Everything from “illustrious doctor” and “eminent critic” to “gringo jodido.” But after two years in Guatemala, one term stood out, “I remained a stranger.”

I'd agree with **The Publisher's Weekly** when it observed, “Unfortunately, the book comes to a rather abrupt end, leaving readers searching for a missing chapter.” I will add this to the bibliography of my forthcoming book.

You can find the entire review on my website: <https://millionmilewalker.com/2023/10/guatemalan-journey-by-stephen-connelly-benz-reviewed-by-mark-d-walker/>

One of the joys of reviewing books is getting to know the authors. Here's Stephen Benz's response to my review:

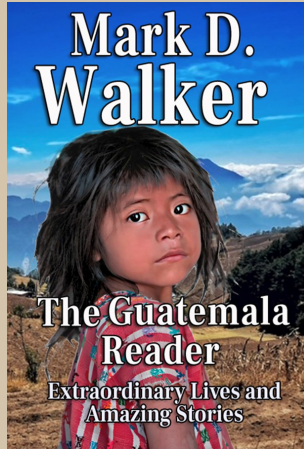
Thanks so much for sending me this--and double thanks for taking the time to review Guatemalan Journey. The positive comments mean a lot to me, coming as they do from someone who has had such deep experience in the country--far deeper than my own. Indeed, it's been twenty years since I was last in Guatemala and going on thirty years since the book was published. A great deal has changed in Guatemala since I lived there, but it seems that many of the same themes persist (and in some cases they've persisted for more than 500 years). So, while GJ (Guatemalan Journey) is dated in some ways, I think it still maintains some general relevancy.
Stephen Benz, 10/16/23

Based on that comment, I'll share a chapter from my forthcoming book, which starts with, “For every world traveler, there is a place in one's memory that is a paradise—mysterious, beautiful, and full of alluring secrets. A place where one can return to by closing one's eyes. Guatemala is mine.”

The book is part of the *Yin & Yang of Travel Series* and brings together sixteen essays, maps, graphs, and photos to celebrate Guatemala, those who impacted the country, and those whose lives were changed after moving there. This story goes beyond the long experience of conflict, racism, and violence so often focused on, especially during the ongoing immigration crisis.

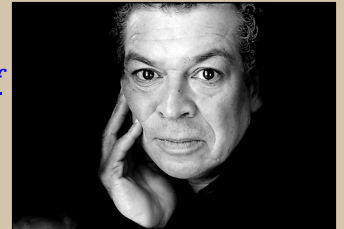
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The Million Mile Walker, continued



Most of the essays have been published in the *Revue Magazine*, an English-language publication based in Antigua with an expatriate audience throughout Central America and the U.S. The book is not a series of documents from an academic journal, but a collection of essays and poems with different perspectives of this wonderful, beautiful, complex country.

Francisco Goldman is one of the “Extraordinary Lives” I profile in this book, and the essay was originally published in the *Revue Magazine*. The recent HBO documentary, [*The Art of Political Murder*](#), introduced a growing number of readers to the author of the book on which it’s based, Guatemalan-American writer Francisco Goldman. Given his background—Guatemalan mother, Jewish-American father, and formative years growing up in rough and tumble Boston—Goldman has a unique insight into the violent history of Guatemala and what makes the country tick.



The HBO documentary closely follows Goldman’s book, a thorough dissection of the sensational murder of Guatemalan Bishop Juan Gerardi in 1998. Days before his brazen murder, Bishop Gerardi published a detailed account of the country’s military involvement in the atrocities committed during Guatemala’s civil war.

I was drawn to the author because, like Goldman’s father, I married a Guatemalan woman. Like Goldman, my wife and our children bridge two cultures. And, like any culturally diverse family, there’s always the sense of being somewhat of an outsider in both cultures.

Goldman is the best-known contemporary Guatemalan/American author who has written several excellent books such as *The Long Night of White Chickens*, *Say Her Name*, and most recently, *Monkey Boy*, which I discuss in my essay. Here are two timely observations from Goldman on writing:

“I think everything you are, everything that engages you, eventually comes to bear on the novel you write. I think the creative energy in novel writing comes from tension. From trying to fuse. From trying to make coherent disparate things that might not at all seem to belong together within a narrative.”

-- **Francisco Goldman**

“I’ve written one book-length piece of journalism. *The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed Bishop Gerardi?* That book had an impact. Eight years after it was published, it’s still having an impact in Guatemala. I remember when I wrote it, a surprising number of people said things to me like, ‘That is such an amazing story; why didn’t you turn it into a novel?’”

-- **Francisco Goldman**

<https://www.inspiringquotes.us/>

Follow this link for the rest of this essay, which will be part of my new book: <https://www.revuemag.com/uncovering-the-art-of-francisco-goldman-by-mark-d-walker/>

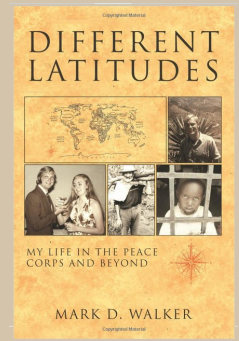
You can find the reviews of these two books and 80 others on my website under the “Library” tab. Please let me know what you think - about this digest, my reviews, and most importantly, what you are reading so I can ponder it and share some of your comments in my next column. You can email me at Mark@MillionMileWalker.com or through my websites: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker/>.

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

Walker was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala and spent over forty years helping disadvantaged people in the developing world. He came to Phoenix as a Senior Director for Food for the Hungry, worked with other groups like Make a Wish International and was the CEO of Hagar USA, a Christian-based organization that supports survivors of human trafficking.

His book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*, was recognized by the Arizona Authors Association for nonfiction and according to the *Midwest Review*, “. . . is more than just another travel memoir. It is an engaged and engaging story of one man’s physical and spiritual journey of self-discovery . . .” His honors include the "Service Above Self" award from Rotary International. His wife and three children were born in Guatemala. You can learn more at www.MillionMileWalker.com or follow him on his [Facebook](#) page.



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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For Every Client"*

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Have questions? Ask Marilyn @ arizona@aol.com, www.janwrite.com, or call her at 1-480-699-6389



*Don't keep repeating the same year
your entire life. Make it a
happy NEW year!*

-Kathleen Cook

**Desert Botanical Garden, Tucson
Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member
Janet Alcorn**



Puzzle it!

A Logic Puzzle for Holiday Lovers by Kevin Gundlach

For the holidays last year, we did an all-Christmas theme. This year, let's mix it up with some New Year's titles, too!



You will be given a list of four book titles, authors, a main character, and the year the book was first published. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to match all authors with their own works, characters, and the year of publication. While the easiest method is simply to Google the answers, that would be cheating! You may know or deduce some of these without the need for clues, and if so, then congratulations! You're a smart cookie! The rest of the answers will be revealed by the clues on the next page.

You may make your own list or create a grid on scratch paper, or print the grid on the next page to simplify the process of elimination. Just right click on the page; you'll see a "print" icon (or the word "print," depending upon your browser). Click the print icon and then ... very importantly ... **set the page** that you wish to print in the document (page 28). If you just click "print" without selecting the page, you'll wind up printing the whole digest!

Put an "X" in any boxes that connect two implausible choices and an "O" in the boxes that connect two correct choices, until you eliminate all wrong answers. Happy Puzzling!

Books:

The New Year's Quilt, Not Another New Year's, New Year's Eve Murder, A Magical New York Christmas

Authors:

Leslie Meier, Anita Hughes, Jennifer Chiaverini, Christie Ridgway

Main Character:

Hannah, Silvia, Sabrina, Lucy

Year of Publication:

2005, 2006, 2007, 2021

Good luck! If you solve the puzzle in 30 minutes or less, let us know so that we may congratulate you in the next issue! Let's have a great holiday season and get puzzling!

continued on the next page

CLUES

1) The four books are:
 - The one published in 2005
 - The one titled *Not Another New Year's*
 - The one by Jennifer Chiaverini
 - The one in which Sabrina is the main character

2) Leslie Meier did not write the book published in 2006.

3) *The New Year's Quilt* was published some time after Christie Ridgway's book, but before Anita Hughes' book.

4) Christie Ridgway's book was either the one published in 2007, or the one featuring Hannah as the main character.

5) Leslie Meyer's book was either the one titled *A Magical New York Christmas*, or the one featuring Lucy as the main character.

6) The book featuring Lucy as the main character was published some time before *The New Year's Quilt*.

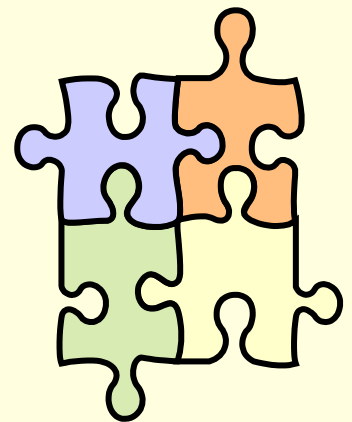
7) Anita Hughes' book was neither published in 2005 nor was its main character named Silvia.

		New Year's Quilt	Not Another New Y	New Year's Eve M	Magical Christmas	Leslie Meier	Anita Hughes	Jennifer Chiaverini	Christie Ridgway	Hannah	Silvia	Sabrina	Lucy	2005	2006	2007	2021
Title	NY's Quilt	O	X	X	X												
	Not Another NY	X	O	X	X												
	NYE Murder	X	X	O	X												
	Magical Xmas	X	X	X	O												
Author	L. Meier					X	X	X	X								
	A. Hughes					X	O	X	X								
	J. Chiaverini					X	X	O	X								
	C. Ridgway					X	X	X	O								
Main Char.	Hannah									O	X	X	X				
	Silvia									X	O	X	X				
	Sabrina									X	X	O	X				
	Lucy									X	X	X	O				
Pub. Date	2005													O	X	X	X
	2006													X	O	X	X
	2007													X	X	O	X
	2021													X	X	X	O

Printing Tip

To print this puzzle, right click on this page and open the "print" icon. Be certain to select **Page Number 28**, to print **ONLY** this puzzle page, rather than the whole digest.

Good luck! Let us know if you solved the puzzle in 30 minutes or less.



Kevin Gundlach was a senior software developer who, unlike most, undertook the flight between academia and industry in reverse order. He co-authored *Tryn*, *Just An Ordinary*, *Time-Traveling*, *Alien High School Teacher*. Find out more about Kevin [HERE](#).

Arizona Authors Association Election

DRUMROLL! And Our Candidates Are . . .

President:

Jane Ruby
Kathleen Cook

Editor-in-Chief:

Penny Orloff

Senior Board Member:

Toby Heathcotte

Board Member:

Mark D. Walker

Vote for **ONE** president: Jane Ruby or Kathleen Cook . Please write **one name only**.

(Whichever candidate gets fewer votes will be offered the Vice Presidency. Candidates may assume other duties, such as Contest Director, Membership Director, etc. Specific roles will be discussed at the annual meeting.)

Vote **YES/NO** on all other candidates for office, or write “**YES ALL**” to vote for all candidates **except president**.

Email your votes to:

arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com

no later than January 10, 2024.

THANK YOU!



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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. ArizonaAuthors.com, ArizonaAuthors.org, ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com



Where in Arizona?

by Janet Alcorn

Can you guess where in Arizona this picture was taken? Be the first to guess correctly and we'll publish your name along with the correct answer in the next issue! Send your guesses to: pennyorloff@me.com.



Possible Locations:

Alamo Lake

Prescott

Bartlett Lake

Rimrock

Roosevelt

Flagstaff

Cottonwood

Sierra Vista

Patagonia

Springerville

NEW!!! If you are the **FIRST** to guess correctly, you'll win a **\$5 Starbucks gift card**, sent to you via email! Thanks to outgoing president Toby Heathcotte for funding this prize to 2027.

Janet is a librarian, published short story author, and aspiring novelist. She writes mostly suspense and horror with the occasional foray into other genres. Learn more about Janet and her writing at: <http://janetalcorn.com>.

Last issue's photo was taken in Willcox, Arizona. The **FIRST** to guess correctly was **Daniel Dickinson**. Congratulations, Daniel! Thanks to all our members who guessed, correctly or not. We appreciate the guesses!





The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

The Long and Winding Road

Wow, it's been a long run as editor of the Arizona Authors Digest! I've loved every hectic minute of it. When I started nearly five years ago, the digest (it was called a "newsletter" then) had been defunct for a couple of years. Toby Heathcotte contacted me and asked me to revive it. She had returned to the Arizona Authors Association after a 2-year expulsion by the former president, Lisa, (who also expelled Cherie Lee, former president Vijaya Schartz, and myself). During the interim, we had an alternate group on Facebook and tried to keep in touch with our base.

I admit, when Toby contacted me to tell me that we were all reinstated and that Lisa was out, I was thrilled. I gladly took on the task of restarting the Arizona Authors bi-monthly publication. Nearly five years later, I can look back and see the growth we've achieved, thanks to some wonderful contributors. Mark D. Walker has walked this journey with me since the very beginning. His **Million Mile Walker** column has brought a unique insight into Latin American issues and other important topics. Cherie Lee's **Road to Imagination** has also been a feature for the last five years. Toby Heathcotte's **President's Corner** column has graced the front page for the past couple of years and before that, it was the **Vice President's Corner**. Toby reassumed the presidency in July of 2021.

Newer additions to the *Arizona Authors Digest* include the popular **Where in Arizona?** by Janet Alcorn and the **What Are You Reading?** column, where a guest columnist suggests worthy books to read. (Check out A.L. Means' column in this issue!)

Some columns have come and gone, such as Jeanne Burrows-Johnson's **Energizing Your Marketing Strategies**, Marlene Baird's **Politically Incorrect** and Ashley E. Sweeney's **Back to Basics**. There are too many to list, but we remember them fondly and are grateful to all of our columnists, both past and present. And we're glad we still have the columnists in our membership; we may just tap them in the future for more gems of wisdom!

Yes, it's been quite a ride, and I'm feeling very sad about handing over the editing reins to Penny Orloff. I know without doubt that she'll do a good job. You'll enjoy her wit and humor and her incredible pizzazz. And despite no longer being your editor, I will still write this column, probably until I'm 100! So you'll still see my picture in every issue.

Now, I'm looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead. Whether as your president, vice-president, or in any other capacity, I will try to do my utmost to serve the best interests of this wonderful association. One thing I can tell you with a fair amount of certainty ... I'll be directing the Arizona Authors Literary Contest! Jane has turned over the contest to me, but she will still be helping tremendously to make it a success.

I hope to expand the reach of the contest into all areas of the United States. After all, many people across the country are Arizonans at heart. Whenever they dream of getting away from the industrial East, they think of us. Whenever they check out retirement spots, they think of us. Whenever they break out snow shovels, they think of us. (Although up in Concho, where I have property, most people still break out snow shovels!) Why not harness that love of Arizona and turn it into more entries, more prizes, and a better Literary Contest? That's one of my goals in the year ahead.


continued on the next page

The Inevitable Author, continued.

Last year was a trial run of the switch to pdfs from mailed books. We didn't get everything right, but we got most things right. We increased the number of entries received from 77 to 138. That's an 80 percent increase from one year to the next!!! We shuffled around the prizes to do more with the same amount of money. Next year, we'll tweak the process in order to provide clearer instructions to our contestants, our judges, and the public at large. Please email us at arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com if you have suggestions on how to improve the contest. We'd love to have your input as we move forward.

So, I am now wearing two hats, as a columnist and a contest director, and taking off one as an editor. Please welcome Penny's efforts as you have always welcomed mine, and I look forward to "seeing" you in the next issue. Thank you so much for these wonderful years. You've all given me a lifetime of memories, and I shall never forget any of you!
Love, Katy

Kathleen Cook is a retired editor and the author of more than twenty books. A former copy writer/editor for Demand Studios, she also served as the Fictional Religion Editor for the ODP (Open Directory Project) in the internet's early days. She is currently the Arizona Authors Association Editor as well as the website administrator. Find out more about Kathleen [HERE](#).



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NEW BOOK RELEASE

by June Reynolds

JUNE A. REYNOLDS

Third book in the Lyle Kent series

RIVER OF WIND



Illustrator: **CLYDE LIST**

River of Wind

River of Wind is the final book in the Lyle Kent series. The first is *Something in the Sky*. The second is *Land Over Time*. The series starts in the fall of 2008 and ends in the third book in the fall of 2011.

In *River of Wind*, we follow Lyle through his Junior and Senior years at Sherwood High. We see how he handles the many disasters at the home farm and house. We see that his mother is changing as well, and so is Lyle.

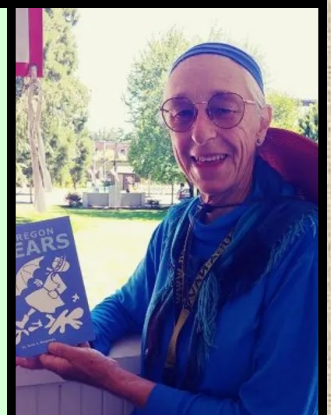
Finally, there is a day of reckoning at a place called "Crack In the Wall," a fabled place that has unreal properties which take the reader back in time. Lyle was not wanting to go back there but does so at the urging of his girlfriend, Janice. Only the river of wind can get these hikers back to their regular life, if you call it regular.

Find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets.

Ever since I was ten, I wanted to be a writer. So I wrote many many words, sentences, paragraphs, and stories. Most of the stories are based on real things that have happened in my life. Now I am an author and I hope that you enjoy these true things, both happy and sad, but part of life's adventure.

Other books in the Lyle Kent series include [Land Over Time](#) and [Something in the Sky](#).

Find out more about June on her Arizona Authors page [HERE](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Vijaya Schartz



Angel Guardian

Desperate to escape the frozen labor planet to complete his crucial mission, Kal wishes he could remember his orders, who he worked for, or who he was before his memory wipe.

On her first solo assignment to rescue a foreign angel, Indra discovers that, despite her impeccable training, she is not warrior material. She cares too much to follow orders. Her life turns upside down when the captain of the Blue Phantom assigns her a spirited, telepathic feline named Panthera.

But a new kind of evil threatens to subjugate the galaxy, and it came on the wings of the rescued angel. Torn between duty, and what she thinks is right, will Indra dare to violate angel rule? If she's wrong, and Kal is an agent of evil, it could plunge the entire galaxy into eternal torment.

Find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets.

Born in France, award-winning author **Vijaya Schartz** never conformed to anything and could never refuse a challenge. She likes action and exotic settings, in life and on the page. She traveled the world and claims she also travels through time, and feels just as comfortable in the future as in the far past. Her novels collected many five star reviews and literary awards. She will make you believe you actually lived these extraordinary adventures among her characters.

Blasters, Swords, Romance with a Kick

<http://www.vijayaschartz.com>

<http://www.amazon.com/author/vijayaschartz>

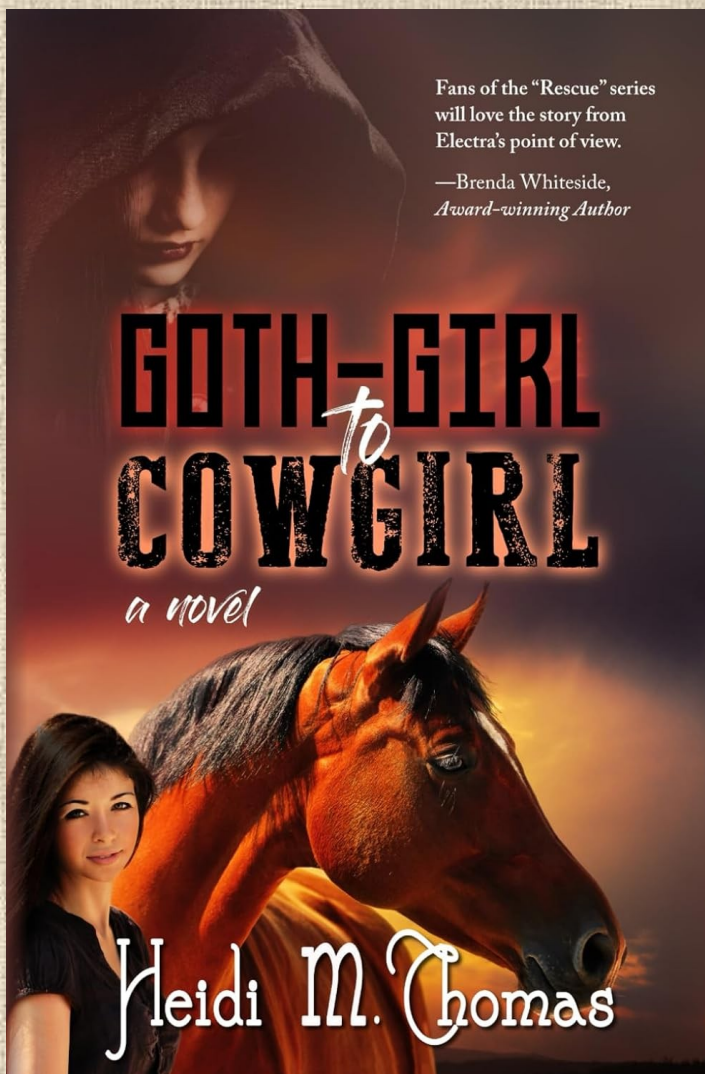
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/vijaya-schartz>

<https://www.facebook.com/vijaya.schartz>



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Heidi Thomas



Goth-Girl Cowgirl

New Yorker Electra Lucci is as empty as the wide-open Montana prairie. Hiding her broken heart behind a dark, Goth-girl persona, she balks at the lame mother-daughter bonding vacation on a dude ranch. Then Samantha Moser introduces her to an abandoned, nearly-dead horse, Apache, and it's love at first sight. At last, she has something to care about, and someone who cares for her. As she helps Sam work with other troubled teens and veterans with PTSD, she learns the powerful healing capacity of horses.

When forced to return to New York after the summer is over, she discovers she's changed too much to fit in with the Goth crowd. The grief and loss of her brother, father, and friends once again engulfs her. Will she return to Montana to find peace and healing or will she continue on her self-destructive path?

Find this book on [Amazon](#), on Heidi's [website](#), and on other outlets.

Heidi M. Thomas grew up on a working ranch in eastern Montana, riding and gathering cattle for branding and shipping. Her parents taught her a love of books, and her grandmother rode bucking stock in rodeos. She followed her dream of writing with a journalism degree from the University of Montana.

Heidi is the author of the award-winning [Cowgirl Dreams](#) novel series and [Cowgirl Up: A History of Rodeo Women](#). Novels [Seeking the American Dream](#) and [Finding True Home](#) are based on her mother who emigrated from Germany after WWII. She is a recent winner of the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest.

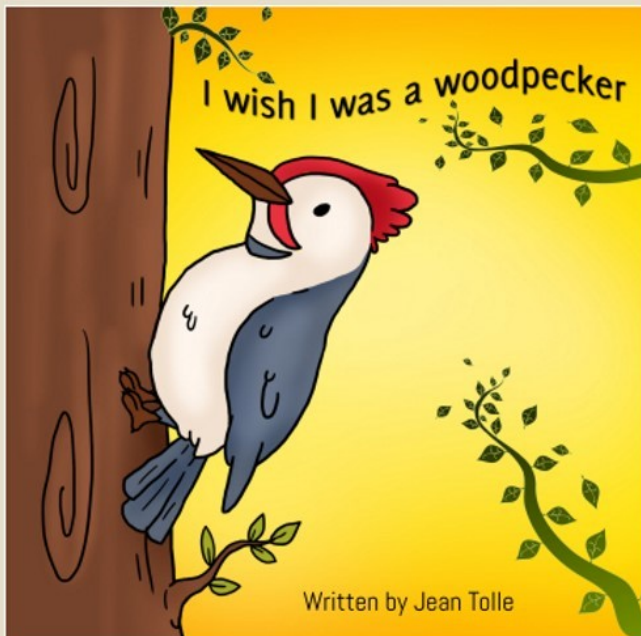
Find out more about Heidi on her [website](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Jean Tolle

I Wish I Was A Woodpecker



I Wish I Was a Woodpecker is a suitable board book for children age 0 to 5, with engaging content and early literacy benefits, encouraging the senses through touch, imagination and the words “I wish.” It aligns well with the needs and interest of children in this age group. Like the early reader, *I Wish Upon a Star*, it is designed for the youngest of readers.

Release Date: Nov 28th 2023

Children's Board Book - What do you wish you could be? ages 0 to 3, suitable for ages 0 to 5

Find more information about this book and all of her works on Jean Tolle's website [HERE](#).

Jean has been involved with the arts from an early age of 8, drawing, and doodling on everything in sight, even the staircase walls, that didn't go over very well at home. She began writing poetry at age 11, and short stories in her early teens. She entered her first poetry contest in early 1992 and won an award and received “The Golden Poet” Trophy with Milton Berle and Eddie-Lou which was published in the *Book of Poetry* through The World of Poetry Association. As an adult, she began writing for a local newspaper. When she was hired by Gannett Newspaper for a local publication to write her own weekly column from early 2001 to late 2009, she got her chance to write professionally. She soon also became a commissioned artist in June 2005. She knew she found her place and true passion for the literary and visual arts. She then wrote her first children's book for her 2 boys when they were wee little, and has been writing and creating art ever since.

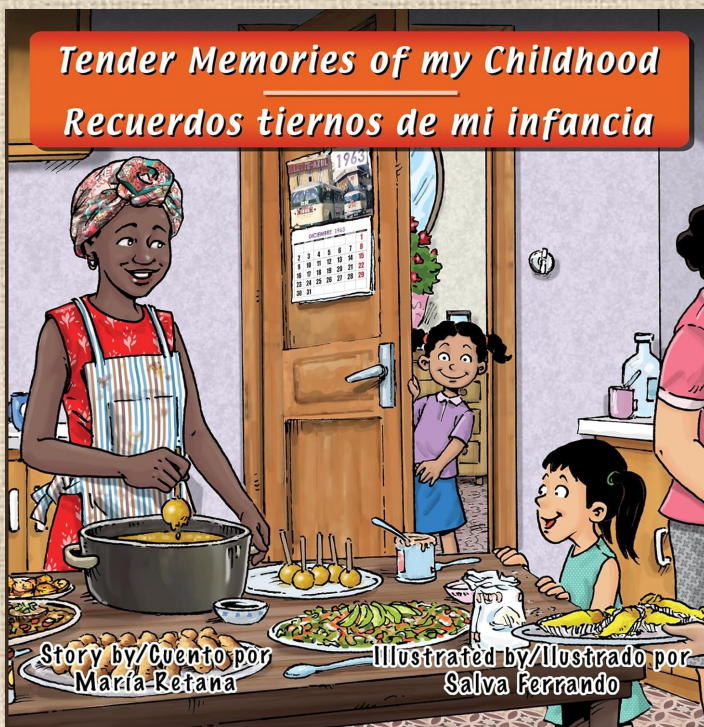
Find out more about Jean on her [website](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Maria Retana

Tender Memories of my Childhood



Tender Memories of my Childhood/Recuerdos tiernos de mi infancia is a bilingual (English and Spanish) nonfiction picture book. It will transport the reader to Cuba at the time when the author was a child.

This Cuban holiday season story of the 1960s is tasty, colorful, and reflects not only Cuban traditions but those of other Hispanic countries as well. Mr. Ferrando offers a feast through his colorful and vivid illustrations.

Recommended Ages 3-7

Reviewed on Amazon November 23, 2023:

“Such a charming book! This bilingual children's book is rich with Latin American Christmas/holiday traditions and fosters appreciation for the cultural importance of holding dear to our childhood memories. The illustration throughout is a gift. Definitely on my gift-giving list for my grandkids.”

Find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets.

In 1996, Mrs Retana published her first book, [The Pig that is not a Pig/El cerdo que no es cerdo](#). It is now in its 5th edition. The author invites you to enter the magical world of the javelina, to travel with them through their home in the High Desert, to find out how mama javelina raises her piglings, teaches them how to survive in the arid habitat, and guides them through a night adventure into town.

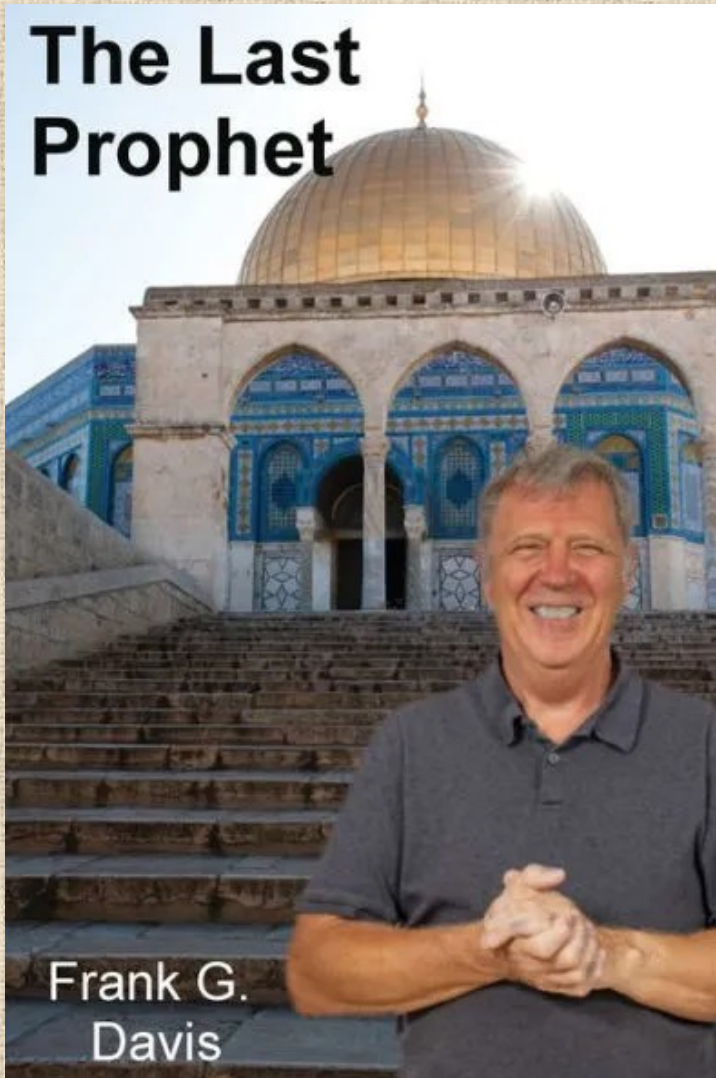
Through the years Mrs. Retana has published picture books, chapter books, the *Miles & Lee Series* and two graphic novels under the Science Fiction, Historical Fiction, Adventure, Mystery, Cuba, and Southwest Wildlife genres. In January 2023 she published, along with her 12 years old grandson, Miles Last, a graphic novel titled [Miles & Lee and the Ghosts from the Lighthouse/ Miles & Lee y los fantasmas del faro](#).

Find out more about Maria on her [website](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Frank G. Davis



The Last Prophet

On April 11, 2101, Isaac Silberman passed away of a heart attack. He was known as a chaplain, pastor and theologian and died two weeks before his 100th birthday. His acolyte, Gregory Stone, arrived three days later to legally identify the body. What happened next was miraculous; Isaac returned to life and began receiving visions from God.

Like the prophets of old, his mission was to pass on the word of God to all types of people, from the person on the street to world leaders; to prepare them all for the end of time.

Find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets.

Frank G. Davis is an award-winning local author from Chandler. During the last four years he has self-published more than ten science fiction novels. He has also generated an audio book of one of his novels, [The Book of Caleb](#). It's a prequel to his *Joshua* series.

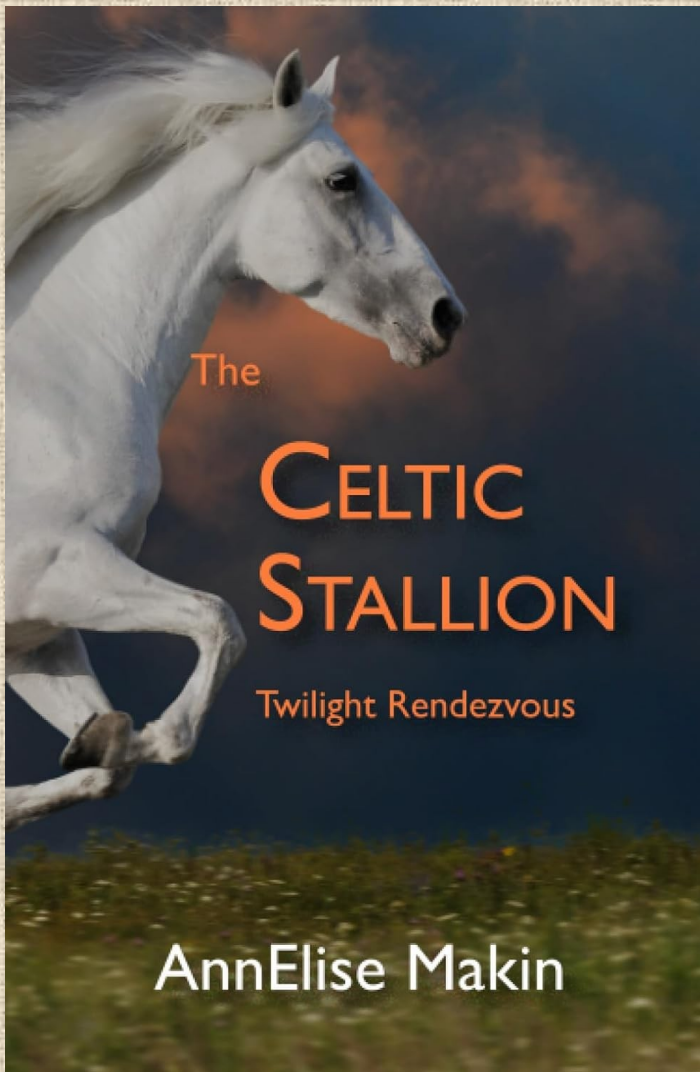
Several Barnes and Noble stores in the Phoenix area added some of his books to their Local Authors displays. In March of 2023, he held his first book signing event at the Barnes and Noble store at Tempe Market Place. There are eleven Barnes and Noble stores in the greater Phoenix area. His goal is to hold book signings monthly at their various stores.

To find out more about Frank, visit his [website](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by AnnElise Makin



The Celtic Stallion

1974

Katrina, a stormy teenager in an ancient Bavarian village, plunges herself into love adventures and ends up seeing ghosts. Katrina has a lot of imagination, but fails each essay until she plagiarizes her dead grandmother's diary. All hell breaks loose over her newspaper story.

Not much later, another sensation excites the village: a 2000-year-old Celtic princess is unearthed. The mute grandfather worries that Katrina mingles with the riff raff. He peens his scythes while Katrina types away in the henhouse. Gramp's worst fears come true when Katrina is blamed for a church robbery. He must help that girl!

All along Katrina writes her stories. Many ghosts canter around St. George's Chapel. And the Celtic stallion soon becomes all too real.

Find this book on [Amazon](#) and on the [IMAKINations](#) website.

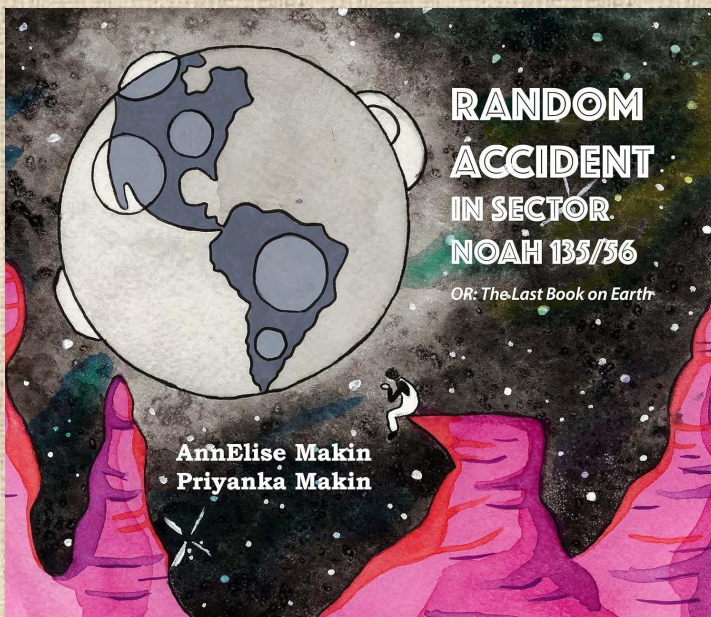
AnnElise Makin writes from Mesa, Arizona. The Munich native took her first professional reporting jobs in high school, won a scholarship for the University of Texas at Austin, and has been a US-German correspondent ever since. She has written for *Amerika Woche*, *German Life*, *Up Close Publications*, and others. AnnElise learned her bookmaking craft at Harcourt Brace College Publishers and is offering an editing & publishing service. Her debut novel, *Der Keltenschimmel* (German), was received with great interest. Recently, its English version, [The Celtic Stallion, Twilight Rendezvous](#), has gone live on Amazon. [Random Accident in Sector Noah 135/56](#) is a story book for all ages, illustrated by her daughter Priyanka with enticing water color scenes. In *Random Accident*, a little girl saves the world by bringing nature back to the planet.

Find out more about AnnElise on her [website](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by AnnElise Makin



Random Accident in Sector Noah 135/56

In the far future, people on Earth live in population hubs under Plexiglas domes. They are in control of (almost) all their biological needs and global processes. That is, until Sandy stumbles upon a book. Her emotions flare up uncontrollably. For Bob, the universal caretaker, this is a 911 call. Tears can't be. He tries to fix this dire emergency. But things just snowball from there. What can I say? Kids. And accidents happen.

In a perfect world in the distant future where everything, the emotions as well as the weather, is under control, a little girl loses it. She experiences a random accident. And the world as she knows it shatters.

Her big friend, Bob, prevents the worst. Finally they turn on the rainbow. When Sandy learns to grow things, her life takes an unexpected turn. This is a post-Brave-New-World story book for people of all ages who love nature.

Find this book on [Amazon](#) and on the [IMAKINations](#) website.



AnnElise Makin writes from Mesa, Arizona. The Munich native took her first professional reporting jobs in high school, won a scholarship for the University of Texas at Austin, and has been a US-German correspondent ever since. She has written for *Amerika Woche*, *German Life*, *Up Close Publications*, and others. AnnElise learned her bookmaking craft at Harcourt Brace College Publishers and is offering an editing & publishing service. Her debut novel, *Der Keltenschimmel* (German), was received with great interest. Recently, its English version, [The Celtic Stallion, Twilight Rendezvous](#), has gone live on Amazon. [Random Accident in Sector Noah 135/56](#) is a story book for all ages, illustrated by her daughter Priyanka with enticing water color scenes. In Random Accident, a little girl saves the world by bringing nature back to the planet.

Find out more about AnnElise on her [website](#).





A Writer's Tip

by Karen Odden

Compare Yourself ... To You

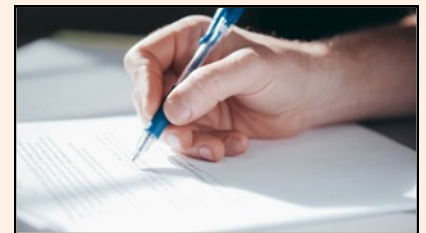
I was recently asked what was something I wish I'd known earlier in my writing/publishing journey. And I thought about this:

We all know how detrimental it is to compare ourselves with others ... and the publishing world is full of rejection, reorganization, cancelled series, and uncertainty right now, so when we hear about someone else getting a three-book deal with a publisher we admire, it can cause a twinge. That doesn't feel good -- we'd all like to be the people who can be happy for our friends and colleagues. Worse yet, it can lead to a loss in confidence, a diminishment of joy, a drop in our desire to sit ourselves down and write.

So I'd like to suggest that you instead compare yourself -- to you. Think about where you were one year ago, three years ago, and five years ago. What have you learned about the writing craft? What successes have you had? What wonderful people have you met on your journey? What have you found the strength to face and put on the page, so as to touch someone else, perhaps to make them feel less alone or make them laugh?

There was a time when I thought about tossing out this old, terrible manuscript that I wrote in my 20s. But I kept it -- mostly because I am a packrat and have a hard time throwing anything away -- and now I'm glad I did. With some trepidation, I recently reread the first few pages and realized, I am a better writer now. My characters are not flat and trying too hard to be clever; my writing is not laden with (quite so many) clichés; my plot doesn't hinge on implausible events and overheard conversations. Most important, I am not pretending I don't feel grief and loss but, rather, I am using it to fuel my writing. I've taken steps toward trying to get more truth on the page. It's not everything. It's not a million-dollar advance or a three-book deal. But it's something good and something worth doing for all of us, don't you think?

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 [HERE](#) or visit her [website](#). You may also visit her Arizona Authors Association page [HERE](#).



iMakiNations

CALL FOR ENTRIES:

The Bandana Book II

“UNUSUAL ENCOUNTERS”**What is “unusual”? Fill in “strange, remarkable, mysterious, uplifting ...”**

A bandana is one of the most versatile clothing items on earth. It goes with any-THING, any-WHERE, and any-WHO. Therefore, a bandana has stories to tell. In the Bandana Book II, we are looking for UNUSUAL ENCOUNTERS involving a bandana.

Have you ever

hitch-hiked with a crazy type?
wondered if you got played?
learned something from a homeless person?
been brushed by fame, celebrity, or death?
made friends in all the wrong places?
miraculously got a lost item returned?
fallen into a lion’s den or a bear’s lair?
followed a strange call leading to a surprise?
found a relative you didn’t know you had?
sighted an UFO and ET in your backyard?
seen a cat raise ducklings or foxes?
had an encounter out of this world? Etc. etc.



Hucksters, pranksters, gangster, anything goes. If it’s a semi-true story, so much the better. But I won’t check the facts! Just for the most unlikely individuals, characters, and circumstances.

A BANDANA must be in it. I never go out hiking without one. It literally saves my neck. The sun is hot in Arizona. My grandpa always carried a snuff-kerchief in his pocket, just in case. My husband, raised in India, also never leaves home without a hankie.

Got an idea? Write it down. Send me your bandana story and we will put it together in the second edition.

BANDANA STORY GUIDELINES

Topic: UNUSUAL ENCOUNTER—as long as the bandana is in it

Length: 1000—3000 words

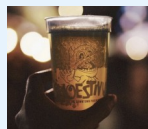
Deadline: January 15, 2024

Prizes: first prize, \$200; second prize, \$100; third prize \$50 (multiple)

Rules: Story must include a bandana (please no adult content and no excessive violence). Authors give publication rights to Imakinations for a bandana storybook. They receive a copy of the book and bragging rights.

Please send your story to AnnElise at makin_anna@yahoo.com

Note: The Arizona Authors Association is not involved with and does not endorse any part of this advertisement. Any rules, prizes, or details therein are the sole responsibility of the person sponsoring and advertising this contest.



PHOESTIVUS 2023

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TWO BACK-TO-BACK NIGHTS + A SATURDAY MORNING OF FUN WITH YOUR FAVORITE VENDORS AND FRIENDS
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5 P.M. - 10 P.M.

The Farmers Market + The Phoestivus Hangover
Saturday, December 16, 2023
8 A.M. - 1 P.M.

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Your purchases & donations support Community Food Connections & the Downtown Phoenix Farmers Market a registered 501c3 nonprofit supporting local growers & businesses.

Our own Arizona Authors Association member, Rodo Sofranac, will be showcasing his books at the Phoestivus. Please visit his display while you are there. As Rodo says: "I will be there with all eight of my books, both December 14 and 15th. They love our youth and nonprofit model. We are helping generate funds for our literacy program as well as Community Food Connections ..."



For more information, go to: Phoetivus.com

Literary Trivia From Page Three

Answers

1. Dylan Thomas wrote *A Child's Christmas in Wales*
2. *The Story of Holly and Ivy*
3. World War One
4. *The Dark is Rising*
5. An Advent Calendar
6. A Dog and a Cat

Back Page Quotes

"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights." –Maya Angelou



"Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not Included."

"A lovely thing about Christmas is that it's compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together." –Garrison Keillor



"Christmas is like candy; it slowly melts in your mouth sweetening every taste bud, making you wish it could last forever." –Richelle E. Goodrich

What's the difference between Hanukkah and a dragon?

One lasts eight nights; the other ate knights.



Do you know a quote about writing, publishing or editing, or a holiday joke or quote? Share it with Back Page Quotes and if we use it, we'll credit you with the entry. Send it to pennvorloff@me.com before the 10th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue.