



# RIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED 1978



A non-profit  
501c3 organization

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Issue 27

Arizona Authors Association

August-September 2023

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## President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

Kathleen Cook is posting this for Toby, who is still recuperating from her surgery performed in late June. Things went well and we hope she is able to write her column in the next issue. If you would like to send well wishes, please write to: [toby@tobyheathcotte.com](mailto:toby@tobyheathcotte.com). I am sure she will receive your message and reply when her health allows her to do so.

In the meantime, stay out of this blistering heat, Toby, and get plenty of rest so that we may all enjoy your column in the next issue! :)



San Xavier Del Bac Tucson, Arizona Photo by Arizona Authors Association member Janet Alcorn



**Have You Advertised  
On Our New  
Arizona Authors Association  
Forum Yet?**

**What Are You Waiting For?**

**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. While you're there, say hi to our forum director, Kyle Patton, or our website admin, Kathleen Cook. Let's get this forum started!

There are sections for Book Releases, Articles, or just general topics. If you have an editing service, post it. If you have a new book out, add your book release and picture of your new book. Talk about it ... say as much as you want about your new book. The more people use the forum, the more others will see your work. We have quite a few lurkers on the forum, but very few posters. Let those lurkers know there's something there to see ... your work!

**[Arizona Authors Association Forum](#)**



*The moment you doubt whether  
you can fly, you cease forever  
to be able to do it."*

-JM Barrie

**Lycaena helloides Butterfly  
White Mountains, Arizona  
Photo by  
Arizona Authors Association  
member Mike Rothmiller**



The deadline for submitting your Book Releases, Short Stories, Upcoming Events and more is the 15th of odd-numbered months. (January, March, May, July, September, November.) Any late submissions will be held for a future issue. Thanks!



**Cactus Flowers**  
**Boyce Thompson Arboretum**  
**Photo by**  
**Arizona Authors Association**  
**member Vicki Riske**

**Arizona Authors Association Leadership**

**Board of Directors:**

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

**Additional Staff:**

Literary Magazine Editor.....Penny Orloff  
 Proofreader.....Sharon Sterling  
 Forum Director..... Kyle Patton

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

**Editorial correspondence and newsletter submissions may be emailed to:**

[arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com)

**All other inquiries should be sent to:**

[arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com)

**Literary Trivia**

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. The study of whales, "Cetology" is the title of the 32nd chapter of what lengthy American classic?
2. Thestrals and Floo Powder were created as magical vehicles by what famous author?
3. *Life of Pi*, a 2001 Yann Martel novel, features a Bengal tiger. Name the tiger.
4. What is the name of a famous character that first appeared in the children's book, *Cecily G. and the Nine Monkeys*?
5. The Nike Literary Award (technically Nagroda Literacka Nike) is one of the most prestigious awards for literature in which European country?
6. The Imagination Library is a free children's book gifting program started by what famous singer in 1995?

For these and more Literary Trivia Questions, go to: [Water Cooler Trivia](#)

*It's not too late to pick up your copy of the 2023 Arizona Literary Magazine, on sale [HERE](#).*



## 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 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 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 **15th** day of odd-numbered months. Send all entries to: [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.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 newsletter. 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 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



Mike Rothmiller was featured on June 15 as the guest speaker at the Prescott Region Kiwanis Club, which is located in the Grace Sparkes Activity Center, 824 E Gurley St in Prescott, AZ.

He spent the session discussing his many best selling books, including his number one hits [\*Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe\*](#) and [\*Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders\*](#).

To learn more about the Prescott chapter of the Kiwanis Club, click [HERE](#).

To find out more about Mike, a *NYT* bestselling author, click [HERE](#).



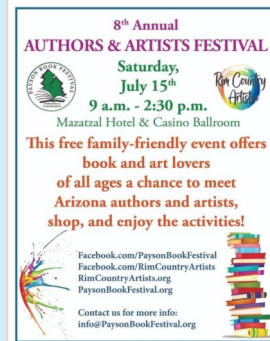
PEN Arizona teamed up with Palabras Bilingual Bookstore to host a hybrid book launch and summer mixer event, which took place on July 11 at the Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, 906 W Roosevelt St., Phoenix, AZ.



Several Arizona Authors Association members support Pen America, including columnist Mark D. Walker and Pen Arizona chapter founder, Michelle Beaver.

For more information, please contact Michelle at:

[Michelle.L.Beaver@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.L.Beaver@gmail.com)



Two Arizona Authors Association members, Patricia L. Brooks and Elizabeth Ajamie-Boyer, showcased their books in their own booths at the 8th annual Authors and Artists Festival in Payson, Arizona. The event was held on July 15 and featured eighty author and artist vendors.

Patricia's books include: [\*Gifts of Sisterhood: Journey from Grief to Gratitude\*](#); [\*Sick as My Secrets: A Memoir\*](#); and [\*Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends\*](#). Her husband Earl L. Goldmann's books include [\*Intestinal Fortitude\*](#) and [\*Bounce Back\*](#).



Patricia is the president and founder of the **Scottsdale Society of Women Writers**. To learn more about Patricia or the SSWW, visit her [website](#).



Elizabeth Ajamie-Boyer's booth, **Mirror Gate Chronicles**, featured many of her books at the Payson event, including: [\*Cheyenne on Her Mind\*](#), [\*Miriam Attala: An Immigrant's Story\*](#), [\*Memories of War: A Journey of Faith\*](#), [\*And Freedom to the Prisoners\*](#), and [\*My Soul Awaits\*](#).

The *Mirror Gate Chronicles* sci-fi series, which she co-authored with her husband TJ, includes [\*The Quest\*](#), [\*The Journey\*](#), [\*The Rescue\*](#), [\*The War\*](#), [\*The Reluctant King\*](#), and many more volumes.

To learn more about Elizabeth, visit the *Mirror Gate Chronicles* [website](#).

# Upcoming Events

New York Times Bestselling author Mike Rothmiller will give a 90-minute presentation on writing, self-publishing, traditional publishing and most importantly, spotting and avoiding scam agents and publishers. It's free and open to all. The presentation will take place at the Prescott Public Library, 215 E. Goodwin St. Prescott, Arizona, 86303, on Tuesday, August 22nd at 6:00pm.



To inquire about this presentation, contact the Prescott Library at: (928) 777-1500 or visit their [website calendar](#) and scroll down to August 22nd.

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

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 August is former research scientist and international business executive [Warren C. Easley](#), author of the award-winning Cal Claxton mysteries, set in Oregon. *No Witness*, eighth of that series, earned the 2022 Spotted Owl Award for best mystery novel by a Pacific NW author. His ninth Claxton book, *Fatal Flaw*, is available now. Warren's story will appear August 20 on Donis' [website](#).



Her guest for September will be [Deborah J. Ledford](#), award-winning author of the upcoming Eva "Lightning Dance" Duran thriller *Redemption*, set in Northern New Mexico. Edgar Award winner and 3x nominee for the Pushcart Prize, Deb is a former adjunct professor for Arizona State University's Piper Writer Center for Creative Writing, and past-president of Sisters in Crime Desert Sleuths (AZ chapter). Deborah's story will appear Sept. 20 on Donis' [website](#). While you're there, check out her [archives](#) of great authors' interviews!



Prolific writer Elizabeth Ajamie-Boyer will have a booth at the Prescott Valley Fandomania, an event which celebrates all things fandom. She will be attending with her husband, author TJ Boyer. Stop by their booth, **Mirror Gate Chronicles**, and check out their many titles.

Prescott Valley Fandomania  
Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 10am-5pm  
Findlay Toyota Center  
3201 N Main St  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

For more on Elizabeth, click [HERE](#).



*"It does not matter who my father was; it matters who I remember he was."*

-Anne Sexton

Abandoned Cemetery near Prescott, Arizona  
Photo by Arizona Authors Association member  
Mike Rothmiller

## Congratulations to Our Members



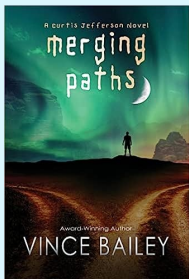
Mike Rothmiller’s book, [\*Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe\*](#), was released two years ago in June. As of June 2023 on Amazon US, it now has 2,100+ reviews and it is #4 in its category. For two years it has remained in the top 5 of its category.

Mike’s [\*Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders\*](#) is also doing well. On Amazon US it has 300+ reviews and is #2 in its category. Since its release it has also remained in the top 5 of its category. On July 16, the book hit number 1 again on Amazon in its category.

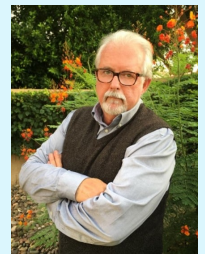


Mike is completing another book, the subject of which is currently under wraps, and he says it should be due out around March or April 2024. Despite the hectic writing pace, Mike continues to give presentations, work with television producers interested in a documentary of his work, and more!

To find out more about Mike, a *NYT* bestselling author, click [HERE](#).



Vince Bailey’s *Curtis Jefferson* Metaphysical Fiction series ([\*Path of the Half Moon\*](#), [\*Courses of the Cursed\*](#), and [\*Merging Paths\*](#)) was awarded the 2022 Grand Prize for a Fiction Series at the Chanticleer International Book Awards conference in Bellingham, Washington, last year. The series follows the real and supernatural survival struggles of Curtis Jefferson, a 15-year old African-American youth who is unfairly sentenced to a year in the notorious detention center, Fort Grant.



In addition to the series’ award, the third book, *Merging Paths*, was named winner in the 17<sup>th</sup> annual National Indie Excellence Awards for the regional (Southwest) fiction category.



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



Longtime Arizona Authors Association member Marcia Fine was recently published in the winter issue of [\*HaLapid\*](#), the official journal of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies. Her article, “Syncretism and the Mexican Experience,” focuses on the blending of two faiths, Catholicism and Judaism. It is defined as an amalgam of different religions, cultures or beliefs that fuse together. The sub-topics include: Blood Purity, the Roles of Women and Men, Mexico Saint Esther, the Belief in Mariology, Freedom and Syncretism Today. The article first appeared in the Historical Society of New Mexico’s newsletter.



To find out more about Marcia and all of her work, visit her [website](#).

### Congratulations, continued

Arizona Authors Association columnist Mark D. Walker has just won the 2023 Peace Corps Writers' Award for Best Travel Book, *My Saddest Pleasures: 50 years on the Road*. This book is part of the *Yin and Yang of Travel Series*. In *My Saddest Pleasures*, Mark “reflects on his fifty years of travel miscalculations and disasters.” The book chronicles his global treks, starting out as a Peace Corp volunteer and continuing through his years as the CEO of a major nonprofit corporation. *My Saddest Pleasures* has received mostly five-star reviews. It was recently added to the “Local Authors” section of the **Scottsdale Public Library**.



Mark is currently revising his upcoming book, *Guatemala Reader*, and continuing his search for a publisher. He has several other literary projects going on, including his review of *Poverty by America*, which was published by the Midwest Book Review and is featured in the **Short Releases** section of this digest on page **33**. He has a large archive of his reviews of some of the most important books currently on the market. You will find this archive on his [website](#).

To find out more about Mark and his books, check out his website at: [millionmilewalker.com](http://millionmilewalker.com) or go to his Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker>



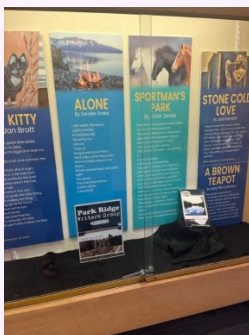
The **O'Neill Public Library** in O'Neill, Nebraska, created a Story Walk with Arizona Authors Association member Vicki Riske's fourth book, *Fishy Tales*. Vicki traveled to the library to partake of activities, including workshops, making puppets, parading with the puppets, reading books, and of course, taking a Story Walk with her *Fishy Tales*. Vicki reports that the drive to Nebraska was beautiful, the fields were green, the sky was full of clouds and they had some occasional rain, which translated into perfect

driving conditions.



Vicki would like to thank the O'Neill Library staff for all their work putting together the Story Walk and hosting them. She will never forget their kindness and dedication to the Library. She also asks that if you are ever in the northern part of Nebraska, add a stop in O'Neill and check out the charming library.

For a list of all of Vicki's books, click [HERE](#).



Sandee Drake's poem, “Alone,” is now on display at the Park Ridge Writer's Group. The poem was a first place winner in a prior year's contest sponsored by the Christian Writer's Conference. Sandee is a member of the Park Ridge Writer's Group as well as the Arizona Authors Association. The Park Ridge group meets twice a month, once in person and once on Zoom. Sandee has been part of that group for seven years.

To learn more about Sandee and her works, click on her Arizona Authors [member page](#).





## Publisher's Weekly Recent Top Ten Overall Books

1. **The Legend of Zelda(tm) Tears of the Kingdom - The Complete Official Guide: Collector's Edition** Piggyback, Author
2. **Too Late: Definitive Edition** Colleen Hoover, Author
3. **The Bad Guys in Let the Games Begin! (the Bad Guys #17)** Aaron Blabey, Author
4. **It Ends with Us** Colleen Hoover, Author
5. **Fourth Wing** Rebecca Yarros, Author
6. **It Starts with Us** Colleen Hoover, Author
7. **Icebreaker** Hannah Grace, Author
8. **Happy Place** Emily Henry, Author
9. **Verity** Colleen Hoover, Author
10. **The Housemaid** Freida McFadden, Author



*When the Winds of Change  
Blow, Some People Build  
Walls and Others Build  
Windmills.*

-Chinese Proverb

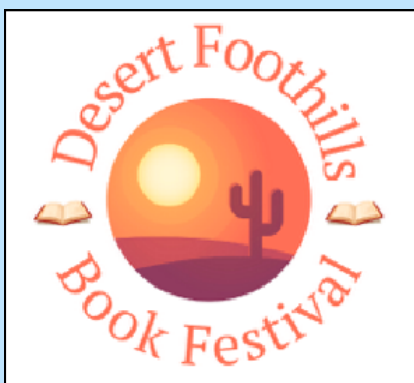
Wickenburg Arizona Sunset  
Photo by Arizona Authors Association member  
JoLee Kennedy

# Desert Foothills Book Festival

## From the Website:

The Desert Foothills Book Festival grew from the desire of a group of local authors to connect personally with book lovers and to promote an appreciation of reading and the literary arts. With the Tucson Book Festival to the south and the Payson and Prescott Book Festivals to the north, this small group felt the greater Phoenix, Scottsdale, Cave Creek, and Carefree areas were missing a valuable opportunity to meet and engage with local authors from all genres.

Registration is open for local authors wishing to exhibit their books at the 2nd Annual Desert Foothills Book Festival. Presented by The Holland Center and Desert Foothills Library, the event will take place at:



**The Holland Center**  
**34250 N 60th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85266**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2023**  
**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Interested authors can register to purchase a table at the festival's website at:

[www.desertfoothillsbookfestival.com](http://www.desertfoothillsbookfestival.com)

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# Arizona Authors Election

For the next two issues, we will be promoting participation in the **Arizona Authors Association Board Election**, asking for candidates for leadership as well as support positions. All offices are open, so throw your hat in the ring and become a board member! **Candidates will be featured in the next issue.** We can't do this job without you; with Toby slowing down, Jane and Kathleen are overwhelmed. We'll need help in the coming year if we are to continue our 45-year legacy. Thank you!!

## Open Board Positions:

### Leadership Positions (Two-years minimum membership)

**President:** Oversees policy and administration, collects and distributes funds, chairs meetings, and advises all other departments. (Must have served at least one year as a current or past board member.)

**Vice President:** Assists the president in all tasks and assumes the role of acting president when necessary. Provides secondary oversight in the collection and distribution of funds and in the overall departments.

**Treasurer:** Keeps an record of all incoming receipts and outgoing expenditures in the bank/PayPal accounts. Makes available to board members a bylaws-required ledger that is updated monthly.

**Secretary:** Keeps minutes of board meetings, copies of all important documents, treasurer's accounting reports, and a membership roster (updated monthly). Answers emails and communicates with board members and membership about events, digest entries, and meetings.

**Contest Director:** Directs the Annual Literary Contest, works with volunteer judges, keeps track of all entries and payments, and ensures each entry is counted and judged by a panel of judges. The CD also calculates scores to determine winners, submits copies of score sheets to the Secretary, and keeps the membership informed of contest updates, rules, finalists and winners. Co-hosts (with the Events Director) the annual awards banquet.

### Support Positions (One-year minimum membership)

**Membership Director:** Prepares and updates membership records and gives copies monthly (if any changes made) to the Secretary. Works with President/VP to grow membership.

**Literary Magazine Editor:** Compiles winning contest entries, edits, and prepares the annual Arizona Literary Magazine.

**Zoom Director:** Plans, hosts and schedules all online events, such as the Zoom workshops, and works with presenters.

**Events Director:** Promotes, hosts, and directs all physical events, such as the Tucson Festival of Books, in-person workshops or book fairs, etc. Also co-hosts, with the Contest Director, the Literary Awards Banquet.

**Website Administrator:** Oversees the website and updates the calendar, contest info, member pages, etc.

**Arizona Authors Digest Editor:** Compiles submissions, edits and distributes the bimonthly Arizona Authors Digest.



Each candidate may run for up to three offices (one leadership and two support). For more information and rules, please email: [arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com)



## LITERARY CONTEST REPORT

by Jane Ruby

As of the contest's close, we have received 138 Entries:

### Published:

Oldie But Goldie --26

Fiction – 27

Nonfiction - 35

Juvenile/Young Adult – 11

Children's Picture Book. - 14



Arizona Authors Association

### Unpublished:

Poetry/Prose - 7

Short Story --8

Essay - 5

Novel – 5

We raised \$4155 in entry fees (after PayPal fees were deducted) but after setting aside money for payouts (\$1225), we netted approximately \$2930. Nevertheless this is by far the largest # of entries I've handled as contest director, working by myself to organize the contest, answer emails, find judges and distribute entries to the judges, and finally, to determine and notify the winners.

I've had a few glitches with our new system. Some entrants checked the box and agreed to the rules, but never read or complied with them.

A few examples:

Poetry entries over the 50-line limit

Unpublished Entries with author's name included in the text.

Entry without payment by deadline

Payment without entry by deadline

Entry without PDF file by deadline

These last three were awkward to validate because of the three-step process. I gave entrant notification of noncompliance and a chance to correct entries ONLY BECAUSE this was our first year doing digital entries. Next year, only those authors who successfully submit a correct entry (all three steps) will receive a notification of completion. If any step is left incomplete by the contest deadline, the contestant will forfeit their chance to win a prize.

Getting adequate judges has also been challenging. I was fortunate to recruit a few new members with editing expertise. But their numbers came up short with the increased # of entries. The OBD category has been most challenging because some OBD judges prefer fiction to non-fiction etc., and OBG contains many genres that I didn't have time to review. Yikes.

Jane Ruby, 2023 Literary Contest Director  
Arizona Authors Association  
[www.arizonaauthors.org](http://www.arizonaauthors.org)





# Art as Lifework, Life as Artwork

Free 3-part Zoom Workshop Presented by  
Award-Winning Author Penny Orloff

Saturday, September 9  
Saturday, September 16  
Saturday, September 23  
10am-Noon MST online

Email [Toby Heathcotte](#) or [Jane Ruby](#) to participate.

## Part One: GET INSPIRED

Enabling whole-brain creative process, elimination of blocks, recognizing innate abilities, freeing the Authentic Self, rediscovery of joy. The Synchronicity Log. The Wish List.

## Part Two: GET TO WORK

Step-by-step approach to the discipline of creative expression, slowing down time, controlled surrender, the magic of manifestation. Baby Steps. Playmates. The Wish List in action.

## Part Three: GET THE MONEY

Funding the Work—Arts markets, private/group studio, scholarships, the ABCs of grant writing. Write your elevator speech/press release/bio. Create a workable budget and timeline.

For artists in every medium—  
musicians, singers, dancers,  
actors, writers, visual artists,  
filmmakers, arts students/  
teachers, seniors.



Penny Orloff was a working actor and dancer in Los Angeles when a Juilliard scholarship took her to New York. She sang more than 20 Principal Soprano roles for New York City Opera, and played featured roles on Broadway under directors Harold Prince and Joseph Papp. Theater, concert, and opera engagements took her all over the US, Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Her solo show, *Jewish Thighs on Broadway*—based on her novel of the same name—toured the US for a decade, including a successful run off-Broadway in 2005. Her current show, Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life, is restarting after the Covid break.

She is the author of "Art as Lifework, Life as Artwork," a creativity seminar and workbook offered nationwide since 1991; and is still procrastinating on her new book, "Who Would You Be If You Had Nothing to Bitch About?" A Tarot reader for over 50 years, Penny has used the cards in her counseling practice for decades. She is a regular contributor of stories to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series, and has worked for a dozen years as an arts journalist for various online and print media. Find out more about Penny and her work [HERE](#).

Penny's award-winning book, [Jewish Thighs on Broadway: Misadventures of A Little Trooper](#) is currently for sale on [Amazon](#) and other outlets.



## 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 September 15 to [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com) and we may publish it.

### Light

William crouched next to a thick oak tree and shivered. Darkness loomed everywhere, with no stars in the sky and heavy clouds hiding the moonlight. Wind blew and animals rustled in the thick forest growth. His buckskins were wet. He needed a fire, but digging a fire pit and lining it with rocks proved impossible without light. His flashlight had fallen out of his pocket during the swim across the river. Besides, light would reveal his position. Snow threatened, and he had nothing to help him survive. He had lost his pack when he leapt into the rapids to escape a worse danger than he faced now.

### Questions:

1. Where is William; is he in a familiar area or a place unknown to him?
2. If animals are making noise, are they a danger to him?
3. Why is William wearing buckskins?
4. Is William in mortal danger or is he partaking in special games?
5. Does he have any allies nearby?
6. From whom did William escape, and why?
7. How old is William? Is he a child, teen, or adult?
8. Is a forest ever truly pitch black? Can he find his way to safety?
9. Are there caches of supplies somewhere in the forest that he can access?

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





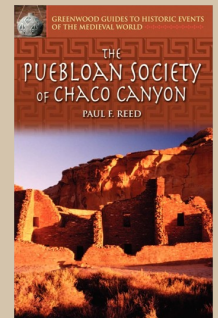
## The Million Mile Walker Review What We're Reading and Why

By Mark D. Walker



A librarian friend found this book for me in preparation for our first visit to the Chaco Canyon. As we drove down the rocky, dusty road of the south entrance, we could only be impressed by the tremendous vistas and the apparent inhospitable nature.

[\*The Puebloan Society of Chaco Canyon\*](#) by Paul F. Reed places the Puebloan society in a historical perspective as part of a Medieval Historical series, the *Greenwood Guides to Historic Events of the Medieval World*, defined as a period from 500 to 1500 A.D. Chaco would peak in the mislabeled “Dark Ages,” beginning with the fall of the Roman Empire and continuing until the advent of the Italian and English renaissances.



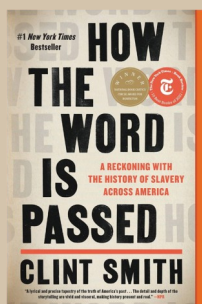
This book differs from the other series' segments, whose historical events are based on long-established historical records. In contrast, Reed's study of a pre-literate society is based on the original reconstruction of the Puebloan Indian society of Chaco. He focuses on its leaders, rituals, craft specialists, and commoners during its flourishing in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

The author deals with the challenge that the absence of written aboriginal languages in the Americas means, and that written chronologies of people's events, processes, and lives do not exist, making understanding America's pre-European past difficult. Thematic chapters guide the reader to the emergence of Puebloan society, its cultural and environmental settings, and the Pueblo people—other chapters detail how the area was settled and where the people eventually dispersed.

An annotated timeline provides references to critical dates and events. Biographical sketches reveal the lives of those who studied and formed what we know about Puebloan Society, and twenty annotated primary and secondary documents guide the reader through the Chacoan-related material. A glossary of terms is helpful, as are the illustrations and several maps. The author also recommends sources for future inquiry, websites, videos, and print.

The biography of Neil Judd was fascinating, as his name came up many times during our visit. He brought a detailed, analytical, organized approach to Chaco Canyon fieldwork in the 1920s, and his reports still serve as the primary source documents for the Pueblo Bonito and Pueblo del Arroyo. After the National Geographic-sponsored fieldwork at Chaco ended in 1927, he returned to Washington. He was caught up in other projects, so the first comprehensive report on Chaco was not published until 1954, almost thirty years after his fieldwork ended.

This book provided an invaluable overview of the Puebloan Society with multiple materials and resources, making our visit to the Chaco Canyon much more insightful and productive.



With today's Supreme Court ruling rejecting affirmative action at U.S. colleges, [\*How The Word Is Passed\*](#) by Clint Smith becomes a must-read, as the author examines the legacy of slavery in America and how history and memory continue to shape our everyday lives. Not surprisingly, this New York Times bestseller is one of the top banned books today.

The author begins the book with a quote from Frederick Douglass's [\*The Nation's Problem\*](#):

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

*Our past was slavery. We cannot recur to it with any sense of complacency or composure. The history of it is a record of stripes, a revelation of agony. It is written in characters of blood. Its breath is a sigh, its voice a groan, and we turn from it with a shudder. The duty of today is to meet the questions that confront us with intelligence and courage.*

Clint Smith starts this journey in his hometown of New Orleans. He leads us on a memorable tour of six monuments and landmarks, which offer an intergenerational story of how slavery has been central in shaping our nation's collective history and ourselves.

A well-researched exploration of the legacy of slavery, the author covers stories of the past and the story behind this month's celebration of Juneteenth. The chapter is entitled "**Galveston Island.**" The author reveals that the Emancipation Proclamation only applied to eleven Confederate states, and Texas was one of those states that ignored what it demanded. Black American second-class citizenship was recodified through Jim Crow laws limiting voting rights.

The celebration of **Juneteenth** became dangerous for Black Southerners. In 2010 Black Texans represented 12% of the population and 32% of those incarcerated. In 1979, Texas became the first state to create a holiday in honor of Black emancipation, and this chapter included some critical lessons for actual Texas lawmakers trying to erase history from the classroom.

Clint tells his own family's experience with slavery over the years and how its legacy still impacts their lives:

*My grandparents' stories are my inheritance; each is an heirloom I carry. Each one is a monument to an era that still courses through my grandfather's veins. Each story is a memorial that still sits in my grandmother's bones.*

*...I think of how decades of racial violence have shaped everything we see, but sometimes I forget its impact on those beside me. I forget that many men and women who spat on the Little Rock Nine are still alive. I forget that so many of the people who threw rocks at Dr. King are still voting in our elections...."*

The author concludes, "The history of slavery is the history of the United States. It was not peripheral to our founding; it was central to it. It is not irrelevant to our contemporary society; it created it. This history is in our soil, it is in our policies, and it must, too, be in our memories." **Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction**

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**Follow this link for the rest of the reviews:**

<https://millionmilewalker.com/2023/06/the-puebloan-society-of-chaco-canyon-by-paul-f-reed-reviewed-by-mark-d-walker/>

<https://millionmilewalker.com/2023/06/how-the-word-is-passed-a-reckoning-with-the-history-of-slavery-across-america-by-clint-smith-reviewed-by-mark-d-walker/>

You can find the entire reviews of these two books and 70 others on my website under the "Library" tab. Please let me know what you think - about this newsletter, my reviews, and most importantly, what you are reading so I can ponder all of it and share some of your comments in my next column. You can email me at: [Mark@MillionMileWalker.com](mailto:Mark@MillionMileWalker.com) or through my websites: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker/>

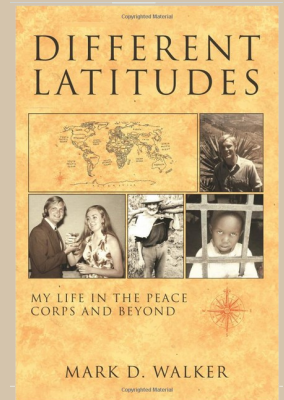
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The Million Mile Walker, continued

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](http://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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*“When you follow the rain clouds,  
you find out where the rainbows  
are hiding.”*

- Anthony T. Hincks

Double Rainbow, Ventana Canyon, AZ.  
Photo by Arizona Authors Association member  
Bart Ambrose



# Puzzle it!

A Logic Puzzle for Book Lovers by Kevin Gundlach



There's been some crazy weather in Phoenix lately, so I thought we'd do a weather-related book theme. You will be given a list of four authors, their book titles, the first word of the book, and the year it was first published. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to match all authors with their own works, first words, 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 19). If you just click "print" without selecting the page, you'll wind up printing the whole newsletter!

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:

*Fatal Forecast, Strange Weather, Heavy Weather, Gale Force*

## Authors:

Joe Hill, PG Wodehouse, Michael Tougias, Rachel Caine

## First Word

Shelly, Honey, Sunshine, Georges

## Year of Publication:

1933, 2008, 2006, 2017

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 create a storm and get puzzling!

continued on the next page

Puzzle it! by Kevin Gundlach continued.

**CLUES**

- 1) The four books are:
  - A. The one written by Michael Tougias.
  - B. The one published in 1933.
  - C. The one titled *Gale Force*.
  - D. The one with "Shelly" as its first word.

2) Joe Hill wrote either the book titled *Heavy Weather* or the book that begins with the word "Shelly."

3) *Fatal Forecast* was not written by PG Wodehouse.

4) The first word of *Heavy Weather* is not "Georges."

5) PG Wodehouse's book was first published some time before Michael Tougias's book.

6) Michael Tougias's book was published some time before the one that begins with the word "Honey."

7) *Gale Force* was published some time before *Strange Weather*.

8) Joe Hill's book was not written in 2008.

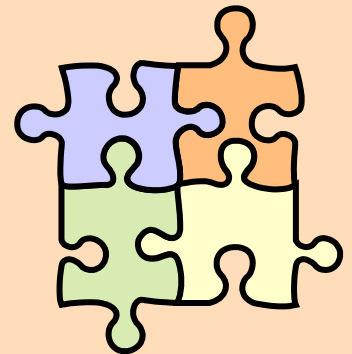
9) *Fatal Forecast* was not written in 2017.

		Fatal Forecast	Strange Weather	Heavy Weather	Gale Force	Joe Hill	PG Wodehouse	Michael Tougias	Rachel Caine	Shelly	Honey	Sunshine	Georges	1933	2008	2006	2017
Title	Fatal Forecast	O	X	X	X												
	Strange Weather	X	O	X	X												
	Heavy Weather	X	X	O	X												
	Gale Force	X	X	X	O												
Author	Joe Hill					X	X	X	X								
	PG Wodehouse					X	O	X	X								
	Michael Tougias					X	X	O	X								
	Rachel Caine					X	X	X	O								
First Word	Shelly									O	X	X	X				
	Honey									X	O	X	X				
	Sunshine									X	X	O	X				
	Georges									X	X	X	O				
Pub. Date	1933													O	X	X	X
	2008													X	O	X	X
	2006													X	X	O	X
	2017													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 19**, to print **ONLY** this puzzle page, rather than the whole newsletter.

Good luck! Let us know if you solved the puzzle in 30 minutes or less and we'll publish your name in the next issue!



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](#).



## Three Punctuation Errors That Plague Me

By Jennifer Wren

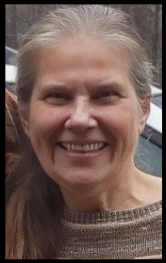


I've just spent hours doing tedious global "Find and Replace" searches to correct several punctuation errors that continue to torment me. I look up these same rules on average about once a year and then find myself making the same mistakes over and over. I am hoping that looking them up yet again and writing them down here for you will finally cement them in my brain!

1. **SINGLE SPACES BETWEEN SENTENCES:** My son, who teaches writing at a university in New York City, admonishes, "Mom, the use of two spaces at the end of a sentence is archaic." Oh gee, now I'm not only old, I'm archaic! Here is the **RULE:** after a period, question mark, exclamation mark, quotation mark, or ellipsis (anything that signifies the end of a sentence) **USE ONLY A SINGLE SPACE**, not two as you may have been taught in typing class. In fact, if you use two spaces it automatically dates you as having learned to type on a typewriter prior to the advent of computerized word processing. Yes, I am that old. [Hint: To autocorrect these, do a "search and replace." In the search bar, type a period followed by two spaces, and in the replace bar, type a period with one space. Repeat this process using a question mark, exclamation mark, quotation mark and ellipsis.]
2. **LOWER CASE DIALOGUE TAG:** You can find people who argue this until their faces turn red and their hands curl into fists, but the rule nevertheless is a **RULE:** After a dialogue fragment **OR** sentence, start the tag with a **LOWER CASE LETTER** (unless it starts with a proper name). Example: **"That's a bunch of crap," he said.** I've even had MS Word autocorrect and put in a capital, so I go back to the Internet and confirm: use a lowercase! BTW, periods always go **INSIDE** the quotation marks and most often, commas do as well. Semicolons and colons are never placed inside quotation marks unless they are part of the direct quote.  
  
Remember, if dialogue ends in a period but has a dialogue tag added, switch to a comma. Check the example: **"That's a bunch of crap." he said.** You'll note that this is incorrect because the dialogue ends in a period with a tag added. Switch to a comma as shown in the previous paragraph. However, look at the following example: **"That's a bunch of crap!" he said.** This is correct. Don't you just love English?
3. **PUNCTUATING AN ELLIPSIS:** If you want to indicate a pause, pregnant or otherwise, you may use an ellipsis. **RULE:** It depends. In most fiction, an ellipsis is **THREE** dots in a row, no spaces between, with spaces before the ellipsis and after it. The last space is eliminated if the ellipsis ends at a quotation mark. Example: **"But I thought ..."** You can see a space before the ellipsis but not after, since it ends at a quotation mark. Take another example: **"But I thought ... you knew."** In this case, there is a space both before and after the ellipsis, but no spaces between. (Note that if you added a dialogue tag to that quote, you'd switch the period after "knew" to a comma.) In nonfiction and formal writing, you may see ellipses written with spaces before, between, and after them. They are still three dots (although in certain circumstances there may be a period before or after the ellipsis, which makes it look as if it has four dots). Everyone warns against overusing this handy little device, as it becomes very tiresome for a reader to see that a character, or worse, all the characters can't seem to speak in a full sentence! Example: "I ... don't know ... maybe ... it's just that I ... you know ..."

I hope this helps some of you and if you want to argue with me, that's okay too. Maybe I'm still getting it wrong, but I tried to find at least 3 sources to confirm each rule above.

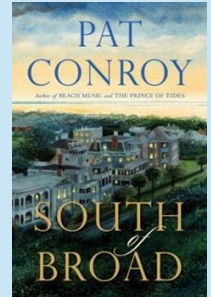
Arizona Authors Association member Jenny Wren lives in the Canelo Hills of Arizona in the borderlands with Mexico. She writes speculative fiction, paranormal romance, and poetry. With degrees in zoology and medicine, Jenny has always lived an outdoor lifestyle full of adventure, with a fascination for the natural world. All of these flavor her writing. While she hasn't yet published her novels, she admits to having "four or five sitting in my computer." The Association looks forward to their future release.



## What Are You Reading?

by Kathleen Cook

I love Pat Conroy; as one reviewer put it: “Few writers write as well, but none as beautifully.” He has a way of making everything so real, so earthy, so gut-wrenchingly emotional. You always finish the book with a sense that you’ve been part of something special, and that in some small way, you understand humanity just a little bit more than you did before reading his work.



*South of Broad* is one such example. Set in Charleston, South Carolina, against the backdrop of high school romance, murder, suicide, Hurricane Camille, loss of loved ones and sexual predators, the book enfolds you in a lifelong friendship from High School through later years. The bond between this group of friends remains strong throughout the decades, with each one willing to sacrifice, in adulthood, to find one of their childhood friends. A lost lamb riddled with AIDS, they hope to bring him back to die in his Charleston home surrounded by love.

The author obviously knows Charleston very well. As someone who lived as a teen in the Carolinas, I can relate to the sights, sounds and smells and attest to their authenticity. *South of Broad* is hilariously funny, painfully heartbreaking, an upper and a downer all wrapped into one. In the end, however, you can’t help but believe that the world is a beautiful place because there are still good people in it, friends who will love you forever no matter your sins.

Kathleen Cook is the Arizona Authors Association Editor as well as its Website Administrator. Find out more about Kathleen [HERE](#).

# Arizona Authors Literary Awards Banquet

Calling all volunteers for the Arizona Authors Association Literary Awards Banquet. The banquet will be held in early November in Glendale, Arizona. We are considering Bottega Ristorante, which won the Diner’s Choice award in 2023. It has a large private banquet hall adjacent to the restaurant. We need a guest greeter, a photographer, and an entertainer or two. Do you have time to help out and enjoy a great night with good company? (Authors are always good company when among other authors—they know if they aren’t, someone will write about them!) Amateurs welcome ... an amateur photographer or entertainer who takes great pictures or who has spent years in front of a microphone will help us to make this night a success.

Please contact us at [arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com) if you’d like to volunteer your time for one memorable night. More details will be available soon. Thank you!



# 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

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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLICATIONS OR CURRENT PROJECTS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Writers Published or Unpublished:**

One year \$45  
Two years \$85  
Three years \$120

**Send Checks or Money Orders To:**

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6145 West Echo Lane  
Glendale AZ 85302-5709**

**Professional Membership:**

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and Editors:

One year \$60  
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Three years \$165

**Or Pay With:**

**Paypal.com to:**

**arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com**

**ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW EACH JANUARY**

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](http://Arizonaauthors.com), [Arizona.authors@yahoo.com](mailto:Arizona.authors@yahoo.com) [toby@tobyheathcotte.com](mailto:toby@tobyheathcotte.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 [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com)



Photo by Janet Alcorn

Last issue's photo was taken near Holbrook, Arizona. No guesses last month, but please keep trying! We love to hear from you!



### Possible Locations:

Montezuma Well	Cottonwood	Clarkdale	Canyon de Chelly	Sedona
Walnut Canyon	Camp Verde	Casa Grande	Fort Grant	Aravaipa

Write to [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com) no later than September 15th if you know the location of the photo. If you are the first to answer correctly, we'll publish your name in the next issue.

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>.



# Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writer's Conference

**Registration opened July 7 | Register before August 31 to save \$50**

**Early Registration through August 31: \$225**  
**Standard Registration: \$275**  
**Single-day Pass: \$150**

**Discounts for Arizona educators, ASU affiliates, senior citizens, people with disabilities, students, and active or retired military personnel.**

**Starts: Thursday, Oct 12 9:00 am**  
**Ends: Saturday, Oct 14 2:30 pm**

**For More Information, Click:**

**[Desert Nights, Rising Stars  
Writer's Conference](#)**



**Keynote Speaker: Joy Harjo**





## The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

### Don't Be Shy ... RUN!

With this issue we are launching the Arizona Authors Board Election and asking YOU to run for office, volunteering in whatever capacity you feel is right for you (and don't worry, we'll help). There are so many reasons why this association is important to me and why I volunteer my time. Since I attended the very first meeting in 2008, the Arizona Authors Association has inspired me with its history, its people, and its dedication to helping other writers grow.

Toby Heathcotte was the first person I met in the Association. I walked into a meeting not knowing what to expect, and she came up to me, handed me a flyer and welcomed me. She was the president at the time and hosted the event. Past president Vijaya Schartz presented the workshop into which I had stumbled.

Vijaya gave me enough material that night to fill half my notebook. I wasn't a newbie to the book world ... I had been a copywriter/editor for Demand Studios and other publishers and had run my own editing business. But my head had been stuck in the editing side for so long that I'd forgotten some tricks for the creative writing side of my job ... tricks that I could share with my clients and use in my own books. I was hooked on the Arizona Authors Association that first night, thanks to the good fortune of meeting Toby, Vijaya, and another wonderful member, Cherie Lee.

Cherie volunteered as editor of the Arizona Authors Association newsletter. In 2013 or 14, I became her proofreader and we produced one of the best newsletters in the state. I remained in that capacity with her until 2016, when we were both surreptitiously kicked out of the Arizona Authors Association, along with Toby and Vijaya, by the new president and her husband, whom she had named vice-president. For the four of us, it was a devastating blow to see the Arizona Authors Association fall apart before our eyes. Soon after, the website went down. Eventually, the newsletter was shut down. The legacy of Boyé De Mente and David Rich, who had founded this organization in 1978, was being taken down brick by brick, and it was painful for us to watch without the ability to change it.

Since the president had threatened us with legal action if we continued to voice our concerns to the membership, I didn't want to get bogged down in a legal mess with a former attorney. I withdrew from the fray and eventually moved to Maine. But the Arizona Authors Association was never far from my heart.

Imagine my surprise in early 2019 when Toby, as the Arizona Authors Association Vice President, contacted me. She, Vijaya, Cherie and I had all been reinstated. She asked me if I would consider restarting the Arizona Authors newsletter as its editor. I was sorry that Cherie could not continue in that role, but promised that I would do my mentor proud. (Cherie, I hope I have done right by you, these past four years. You had an eye for precise layouts and aesthetics.)

Between Toby, Jane, myself, and many, many others, we have restored the wonderful 45-year legacy of the Arizona Authors Association. David Rich is still a member; he was the attorney who drew up our first Arizona Corporation Commission paperwork to found the organization. Although Boye De Mente died in 2017, I hope he is looking down on us and approves what we have done. There is a long article on Wikipedia attesting to his colorful history as an author, editor, and publisher, but I have to believe his greatest accomplishment is with us, you and me and every member of our incredible organization.

Please know, however, that we can't continue without more volunteers. Toby must slow down for health reasons; Jane

continued on the next page

The Inevitable Author, continued.

and I are being run ragged trying to do everything that this organization needs to run smoothly. We cannot handle another year without more board officers, both in leadership and support, to take on key roles. If you have been a member for at least a year, please run for a support board position. Those who have been a member for two years may run for a leadership position. Past board officers may run for president. You don't have to be an expert, just willing and earnest. Please check out the election flyer on page eleven, and write to us at [arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com) for more information. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you!

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 late 90s. She is currently the Arizona Authors Association Editor as well as its Website Administrator. Find out more about Kathleen [HERE](#).



*Happiness Held is the Seed;  
Happiness Shared is the Flower*

**-John Harrigan**

**Photo of Prickly Pear Blossoms  
North Side of Lake Roosevelt  
by Arizona Authors Association Member  
Jennifer Wren**



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.

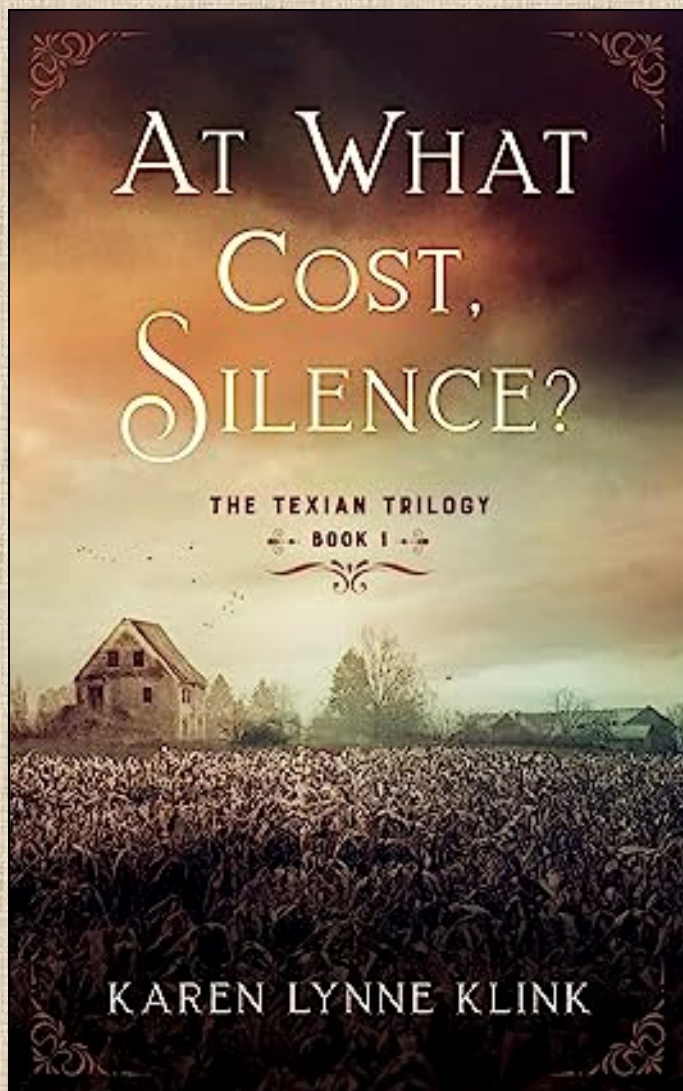
Arizona Authors Association member Michelle Beaver launched the Arizona chapter of PEN America in April 2022. Since then, the chapter has hosted events at Changing Hands Bookstore, Grassrootz Bookstore, Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, downtown Phoenix restaurants, and several other locations. Speakers 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. We're 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](mailto:Michelle.L.Beaver@gmail.com).

## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Karen Lynn Klink



### At What Cost, Silence?

The Texian Trilogy Book 1

Adrien Villere suspects he is not like other boys. For years, he desperately locks away his feelings and fears—but eventually, tragedy and loss drive him to seeking solace from his mentor, Jacob Hart. Jacob's betrayal of Adrien's trust, however, results in secret abuse, setting off a chain of actions from which neither Adrien's wise sister, Bernadette, nor his closest friend, Isaac, can turn him.

*At What Cost, Silence?* presents two contrasting plantation families in a society where strict rules of belief and behavior are clear, and public opinion can shape an entire life. Center stage are the Villeres, a family less brutal than the Harts, but no less divisive. Often-absent Papa Paien Villere guards several secrets he has kept from everyone—including one which could destroy his entire family. Years after Jacob's betrayal, Adrien falls hopelessly in love with his former mentor's erotically precocious and beautiful young sister Lily—whose father has affianced her to a wealthy older man.

Will Bernadette find the unconventional life she seeks? Or will their entire world end as states secede and war creeps ever closer?

This book is available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes&Noble](#), and other outlets.

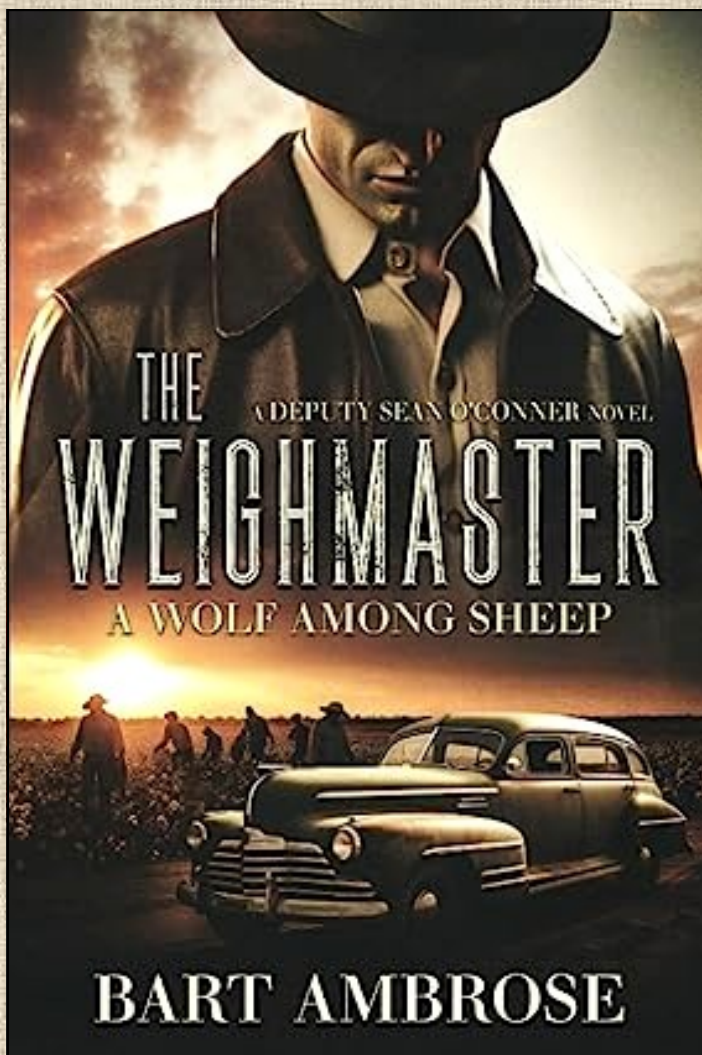
Karen began reading before entering first grade and began her career drawing imaginative adventures in the margins of schoolwork which, unfortunately, few teachers appreciated. After completing her formal education at Kent State University and San Diego State, her love of nature sent Karen to wandering the U.S. West and parts of Mexico and Central America hiking and backpacking before settling in Tucson, Arizona, with her cat buddy, Dickens. Although she enjoyed minor success as a watercolor painter, she discovered her true passion when she began writing fiction at the age of sixty. Her interest and experience in psychology and therapy inform her writing about individuals who persevere through difficulty and crisis in order to become stronger and accept themselves for who they truly are. Karen is a child abuse survivor, and humbly hopes her stories give readers pleasure and confidence to face their own difficulties, knowing they are not alone.

Find out more about Karen [HERE](#).



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Bart Ambrose



### The Weighmaster

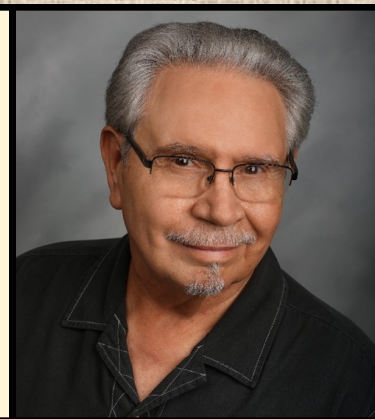
Sean O'Conner returns home as a decorated hero after being wounded and surviving intense action as a commando behind German lines on D-Day, 1944. He suffers the heart-breaking loss of his parents while in a British hospital and decides to follow in his father's footsteps by joining the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department in Arizona. His first case is to investigate a girl gone missing from a transients' cotton picker camp west of Phoenix. The seemingly routine disappearance leads Sean down a twisting and dangerous path to a man known as the Weighmaster and a mysterious place called the Orange Palace. His efforts reveal the Weighmaster's vicious kidnapping of teenage girls from the cotton fields to sell them into prostitution in a human trafficking operation that leads through the Orange Palace to organized crime in Detroit.

Sean's relentless efforts to find the missing girls lead to attempts on his life and more tragic personal loss as he pursues the Weighmaster. The two men become locked in a revenge-fueled struggle that only one will survive.

The Weighmaster will keep you turning pages to follow the perilous investigation and breakup of a criminal organization that leads from Detroit to Phoenix and finally deep into Mexico. You may find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes&Noble](#), and other outlets. Signed copies are available on the author's [website](#).

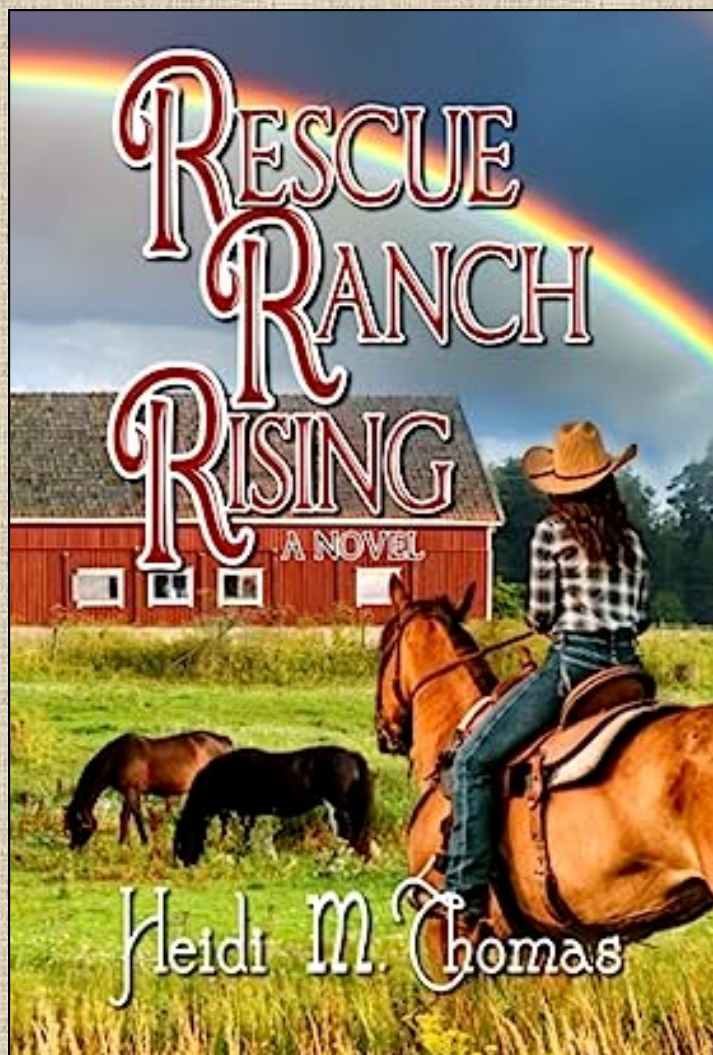
Arizona native Bart Ambrose grew up on an Arizona cotton farm where he spent his nights reading novels and teaching himself to play guitar. He graduated from ASU and worked as a natural resource conservationist throughout the West and the Pacific basin. A second career took him to Nashville, writing 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.

More information about Bart, his books, and his music is available on his website at <https://www.bartambrose.com>.



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Heidi Thomas



### Rescue Ranch Rising

Samantha Moser rescues horses...horses with the power to heal. She helps troubled teens and veterans with severe PTSD through her passion and her equine friends. Harsh Montana winters, abandonment by her fiancé, in addition to limited finances, dishonest contractors, and a disastrous barn fire turn her dream of a healing center to ashes.

When the man she loves doesn't appear to share her feelings, she's left to overcome a mountain of doubt and fear alone. Once again, Samantha is at a crossroads in her life.

Can she reignite her romance while resurrecting her dream from the ashes, or will she have to choose between them?

This book is available on [Amazon](#) and on the author's [website](#).

Raised on a ranch in isolated Eastern Montana, Heidi Thomas has had a penchant for reading and writing since she was a child. Armed with a degree in journalism from the University of Montana, she worked for the Daily Missoulian newspaper, and has had numerous magazine articles published.

A tidbit of family history, that her grandmother rode steers in rodeos during the 1920s and 30s, spurred Heidi to write three award-winning novels based on that grandmother's life: [Cowgirl Dreams](#), [Follow the Dream](#), and [Dare to Dream](#). She also has published a non-fiction book, [Cowgirl Up! A History of Rodeo Women](#). [Seeking the American Dream](#) and [Finding True Home](#) are based on her mother who emigrated from Germany after WWII. A series following the next generation of the Moser family begins with [Rescuing Samantha](#) and continues with [Rescuing Hope](#).

Heidi is a freelance editor and teaches community writing classes. Find out more about Heidi [HERE](#).



# NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Michael Dow

## Nurse Florence®, What is a Heatstroke?

Drawings by Janel Halton

Authored by Michael Dow, RN, MS, MHA, MSM



## Nurse Florence® What is a Heatstroke?

Sometimes it seems only a nurse can bring technical information down to an understanding that an ordinary person can grasp. The Nurse Florence(R) book series provides high quality medical information that even a child can grasp.

By introducing young kids to correct terminology and science concepts at an early age, we can help increase our children's health literacy level as well as help to prepare them for courses and jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

We need more scientists so I hope that many children will enjoy this book series and consider a job involving science. Introducing Some Medical Words to Kids in Every Book.

This book is available on [Booklife](#), [Amazon](#), and other outlets. To learn more about the Nurse Florence series, visit Michael's [website](#) or check out his social media [page](#).

Michael Stephen Dow always had a love for science and the human body so for a third career, he used his GI bill to go through nursing school and graduated in August, 2020. Michael now works as an RN at an inpatient psychiatric hospital. Michael's education: BA in Psychology from Auburn University, BS in Biology from U.A.B., MS in Management from Troy University, MHA from the University of Phoenix, and an MS from the University of Arizona in 2020. Books he has authored have garnered many awards including Best Children's Education Series for Independent Press Award. Michael believes we will need the best of science and religion to successfully navigate ourselves, our civilization, through future obstacles we face. With teamwork, inclusion, faith and perseverance, we can help each other reach our better selves as well as our best collective good. For more information, see:

[www.DowCreativeEnterprises.com](http://www.DowCreativeEnterprises.com) and [www.NurseFlorence.org](http://www.NurseFlorence.org)



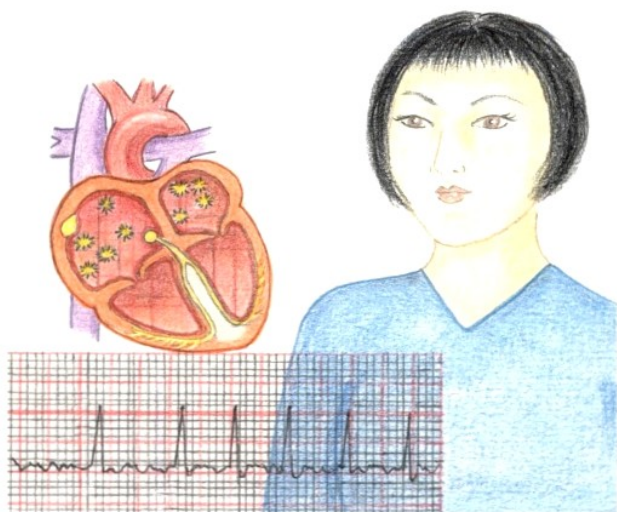
# NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Michael Dow

## Nurse Florence®, What is Atrial Fibrillation?

Drawings by Lorie Brooker

by Dow Creative Enterprises



## Nurse Florence® What is Atrial Fibrillation?

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You may find this book on [LiteraryTitan](#), [Amazon](#), and other outlets. To learn more about the Nurse Florence series, visit Michael's [website](#) or check out his social media [page](#).

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[www.DowCreativeEnterprises.com](http://www.DowCreativeEnterprises.com) and [www.NurseFlorence.org](http://www.NurseFlorence.org)



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Michael Dow

### Nurse Florence®, Why Do We Have to Drink Water?

Drawings by Anastasia Bradley

by Dow Creative Enterprises



### Nurse Florence® Why Do We Have to Drink Water?

Sometimes it seems only a nurse can bring technical information down to an understanding that an ordinary person can grasp. The Nurse Florence(R) book series provides high quality medical information that even a child can grasp.

By introducing young kids to correct terminology and science concepts at an early age, we can help increase our children's health literacy level as well as help to prepare them for courses and jobs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

We need more scientists so I hope that many children will enjoy this book series and consider a job involving science. Introducing Some Medical Words to Kids in Every Book.

You may find this book on [ReaderViewsKids](#), [Amazon](#), and other outlets. To learn more about the Nurse Florence series, visit Michael's [website](#) or check out his social media [page](#).

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## SHORT RELEASES

If you have a short story, article, essay or other work that has recently been published, submit it by contacting our editor, Kathleen Cook, at [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com). The work may be fiction or nonfiction, on any topic of general interest published or awarded an honor within the past six months.

Marsha Arzberger's story, "**The Owl With One Wing**," was selected by **Las Vegas Lit**, a literary society based in Las Vegas, New Mexico, for inclusion in the collection [\*Up From the Ashes We Rise\*](#). The book showcases stories about overcoming adversity.

To find out more about Las Vegas Lit, click [HERE](#).

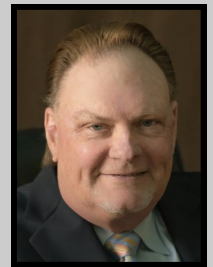
To find out more about Marsha, a former state senator, visit her [website](#).



### Book Reviews

#### Review of Poverty By America

by Mark D. Walker



Arizona Authors Association columnist Mark D. Walker was featured in the July 2023 issue of the Midwest Book Review. He reviewed the book, [\*Poverty by America\*](#). To view his full review, click on:

[MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW: July 2023](#)

To learn more about Mark, visit his [website](#).



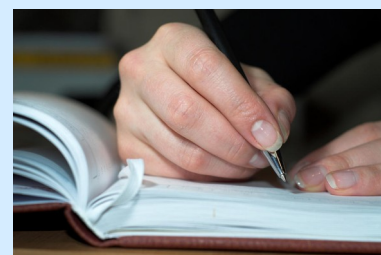
**Prickly Pear  
Cactus  
Flower**

**Photo by  
Arizona  
Authors  
Association  
member**

**Janet Alcorn**

Have you written an article (or has someone written one about you) and has it been published by any newspaper, magazine, or online blog? Share it with us, and we will publish it on this page! The deadline for all submissions is on the 15th of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November).

Send items to Kathleen Cook at:  
[arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com)





## A Writer's Tip

From Karen Odden

**When attending a conference, volunteer, prepare, and take advantage of all the opportunities.** Conferences are some of the best ways to build your community of practice as a writer. Even if you are an unpublished author, or if your debut is not quite out, you can still participate meaningfully. Volunteer to check people in at registration (a great way to meet people!), or offer to serve as the "timer" on a panel.

Prepare for the conference by looking over the list of attending authors, agents, and editors. Pro tip: often the best time to approach them is *not* immediately before or after their panel (they'll be swamped by other people); but find them at breakfast, or in the book signing room, and you'll likely be able to chat for a few minutes. Have your 30-second elevator pitch down, so it rolls off your tongue even if you're nervous. No joke - I know people who have met people in elevators ... and it's led to good things.

Lastly, be sure to take advantage of all the opportunities. Don't sit with all your friends at breakfast; instead, approach a table and meet some new people. Sign up for critique sessions, fairly informal 20-minute opportunities for feedback on one of your chapters. Chat with the person sitting to your left or right while you're waiting for a panel to begin. Have your book-marks or business cards (with your blog or your podcast, short story or website, if you haven't published a book yet) ready to hand out. Many of us writers are introverts by nature, but be willing to step a little outside your comfort zone.

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](#).

## Literary Trivia Answers (from Page 3)

1. Moby Dick
2. JK Rowling
3. Richard Parker
4. Curious George
5. Poland
6. Dolly Parton

## Back Page Quotes

What would you find in Charles Dickens' spice rack?



The best of thyme; the worst of thyme.



Why does the new writer work in her car?

Because she's writing an autobiography.

Should we invite John Milton to the dice game?



Heck no! Whenever he's invited, there's always a pair o' dice lost!

Why was Odysseus in such a rush to get home?



Because Homer's where the heart is.

Do you know a joke about writing, publishing or editing, or a quote from a famous author? Share it with Back Page Quotes and if we use it, we'll credit you with the entry. Send it to [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com) before the 15th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue. For more jokes like this, go to:

[Here's a Joke: Literary Jokes](#)