



RIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

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A non-profit
501c3 organization

ArizonaAuthors.org/com [Facebook Page](#) [Arizona Authors Blog](#) Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

Issue 19

Arizona Authors Association

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President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

Ola!

During the past two months the membership drive ended. Currently we have 121 members.

Entries have started to come in for the contest. Jane Ruby efficiently has already solicited member assistance in judging on this important task. If you accepted the call, I applaud you. The organization runs on volunteers.

I urge you all to enter the contest. If you don't have an entry prepared, there's time to take the challenge. Write a new essay or short story or poem.

Happily, we were back at the Tucson Festival of Books with a booth this year. Those authors who worked in the booth are listed on page [12](#) of this newsletter. This event is important exposure for AAA so people interested in the arts and writing will know who we are. We ran out of membership and contest fliers, a very good sign. We'll be prepared with adequate supplies next year.

Kathleen Cook completed the website update, including adding a forum. Thanks to her, the website is beautiful and functional. We will add content as we go and could use volunteer member help. Specific tasks are detailed on page [10](#) of this newsletter.

We are planning a series of Zoom workshops on the art of writing, from 10 am to noon throughout the summer and fall. Following are the ones already set. We'll update as we determine dates, presenters, and topics. We are lucky to have so many talented presenters in our membership.

continued on the next page

President's Corner, continued

April 30 – Karen Odden – “What is the Why?”: Building a Backstory for Nuanced Characters and Authentic Conflict

June 11– Patricia Brooks – The Art of Writing Memoirs

July 9 – Penny Orloff - “Let Them Talk!” - Writing Compelling Character Dialogue

Hopefully next year, with covid behind us, we can plan more in-person events.

The banquet will be November 5 this year. Mark your calendar.

Peace to you, brothers and sisters.

Peace for Ukraine!

Toby Heathcotte

Arizona Authors, President
arizona.authors@yahoo.com

<https://tobyheathcotte.com/>

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

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



Pick up your copy of the 2022 Arizona Literary Magazine, on sale [HERE](#)

Calling All Authors!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 4, 2022 for the inaugural Desert Foothills Book Festival presented by the Holland Community Center and the Desert Foothills Library!

We will hold the festival from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holland Community Center, 34250 N 60th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85266. Fifty-plus tables will be available for you to meet and greet, sell, and sign your books. The Holland Center draws crowds from Cave Creek, Carefree, North Phoenix, and North Scottsdale. It will be the first book festival held in this area, and we're expecting great attendance.

Arizona Authors Association members Patricia L. Brooks, author of three successful memoirs, and her author-husband, Earl L. Goldmann, will join approximately 50 other authors as they display/sell/sign their books.

The Desert Foothills Book Festival is a celebration of the importance of reading in our community. Offered free to the public, the festival exists to promote literacy and a love of reading among adults and children by creating an interactive and inclusive venue for readers and authors to connect. Net proceeds from the festival go to support local literacy programs. Visit our website [HERE](#), or for more information email Caren Cantrell, Desert Foothills Book Festival Committee Chair, at caren.cantrell@gmail.com, with Desert Foothills Book Festival in the subject line. We hope to see you all there!



Looking West from Sentinel Peak
 Photo by Arizona Authors Association member Janet Alcorn

Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Toby Heathcotte
 Treasurer/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby
 Board Member/Editor/Website Support.....Kathleen Cook

Unless expressly stated, 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:

faerland@yahoo.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

Literary Trivia

(Answers on the Back Page)

- Who was the protagonist of the Hunger Games?
- What is the title of the seventh book in the Harry Potter series?
- This is the smallest book, in terms of measurement/size, in the Welsh National Library.
- What is the name of the first book in the James Bond series of spy thrillers?
- This book by Edith Wharton won her a Nobel Prize, the first one ever bestowed on a female author.
- Why was playwright Joe Orton sent to prison in 1962?

For this and more trivia, go to:
Mantelligence.com



Ukrainian Easter Eggs

As a child, I was taught to make these Easter eggs by my Ukrainian-American aunt. As we think about Easter, let us all pray, hope, and strive for peace and freedom in Ukraine and throughout the world, in our own ways and according to our own beliefs. - Kathleen Cook, Editor

All of us at the
 Arizona Authors Association
 wish you a Happy Easter!

Arizona Authors Association

Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

Membership Benefits

The Arizona Authors Association offers several valuable benefits to our members. This newsletter 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 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 newsletter 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 Newsletter

Your input is welcome! The following categories accept submissions through midnight on the **15th** day of odd-numbered months. Send all entries to: faerland@yahoo.com.

Features are between 800-1200 words (we will consider other lengths). We seek articles that motivate and inspire writers to write, to enhance their skills, to promote their works, or other such **relevant** topics.

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 Association Newsletter. 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 and Upcoming Events

RECENT



Patricia L. Brooks conducted her workshop, "Write a Memoir to Remember," on February 4th from 1pm-3pm on Zoom. She will repeat this free workshop for Arizona Authors Association members in June. See the flyer on page [19](#) of this newsletter for more details.

Patricia L. Brooks is the author of three memoirs, president/founder of both Brooks Goldmann Publishing Company, LLC, and the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. To find out more about Patricia and her books, go to: www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com or text her at: 480-250-5556. You may also email her at: patricia@plbrooks.com

The Tucson Festival of Books took place on March 12-13 at the University of Arizona campus. The Arizona Authors Association had a booth, its first in a major event since the start of the pandemic. Association Board Member Jane Ruby coordinated the event. Pictures of the event, taken by Arizona Authors Association member June Reynolds, are on page [12](#) of this newsletter.

The special event, For the Love of Story, was supposed to take place in Carefree on March 27 at the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion. The event has been postponed to May 7th. Guest speakers will include Association members Mark D. Walker, Karen Odden, and others.

Dr. Karen Bryson, a USA Today bestselling author, was the featured speaker at the meeting of the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. The meeting took place on Zoom on March 30th. Karen discussed ways that authors can use podcasting to market their work for little to no cost. The Scottsdale Society of Women Writers is a group founded by Association member Patricia L. Brooks. For more info on future meetings, contact her at patricia@plbrooks.com or phone 480-250-5556.

UPCOMING

The Flagstaff Writers Connection will conduct a Personal Writing Workshop on April 1-2 at the Continental Country Club, 2380 N. Oakmont Dr., Flagstaff, AZ. The event will include workshops on blogs, personal essays, commentaries, and micro-memoirs. Margaret Erhart will conduct the event. She is the award-winning author of five novels and many essays and articles. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and her commentaries have aired on NPR. Find her at: www.margareterhart.com.

[PEN America](#) is launching a new chapter in North Phoenix on April 9th from 5:30-9pm. The event will include appetizers, libations, a raffle, and entertainment from the street-dance crews Creation and Beat Drop Kidz, plus socializing with old and new friends. Our columnist Mark Walker will be attending the event. Everything will be outside so masks are optional.

USA Today bestselling author and Arizona Authors member Karen Odden will conduct a free online workshop on Saturday, April 30th, from 10am-Noon Arizona time. The topic will be, "What is the Why? Building a Backstory for Nuanced Characters and Authentic Conflict." Members are welcome to invite their nonmember friends to attend the Zoom workshop.



Contact [Toby](#) for the meeting code and see the flyer on page [15](#) of this issue for more information.

The First Annual Desert Foothills Book Festival will take place on June 4th, 2022 at the Holland Center in Scottsdale. Please see the flyer on page [2](#) of this issue for more information, or contact Caren at caren.cantrell@gmail.com with further questions or to reserve your table.

Congratulations to Our Members



Arizona Authors Association member Mike Rothmiller has achieved another milestone with his bestselling book, [Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe](#). The book is now a best seller in France, which is an even greater achievement since the book is not published in French (yet).

Even after months at the top of Amazon's charts, the book still ranks number fifteen in the Kindle video category on the global Amazon website. Many of Mike's other offerings continue to remain best sellers.

Congrats, Mike, once again! For more information on Mike Rothmiller, please click [HERE](#).



Arizona Authors Association member Marsha Arzberger was a semi-finalist in the nonfiction category at the Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards for 2021. Her story, "The Owl With One Wing," is part of a collection that she has had in her working file for some years. Marsha stated, "I work on it now and then but the manuscript is not finished and I'm having great difficulty locating the right category/genre for it in the market. A nonfiction collection of short stories is a difficult category. Winning a literary contest award is an amazing impetus to encourage me to work harder and more focused. More importantly, the award gives me another (figurative) golden coin to attract an agent or publisher."



Marsha adds this success to other awards earned for her book, [One Hundred Sixty Acres of Dirt](#), a history of the pioneers of the Kansas and Arizona territories. The book was a finalist in three categories in the New Mexico/Arizona Book Awards, as well as a second place winner in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. Find out more about Marsha on her website, [Wandering Owl Tales](#).



David Salvaggio, one of Arizona Authors Association's newest members, was featured at the annual LA Book-to-Screen PitchFest, which was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA, in October, 2021. His book, [Restless Gold](#), relays the challenges that educators face both inside and outside the classroom in their quest to provide educational excellence to a diverse group of students, each with their own unique challenges, achievements, and heartbreaks. Three of the screenwriters featured at the PitchFest requested copies. [Restless Gold](#) was also well received at the Miami International Book Fair at Miami Dade College in November, 2021, the CTA Human Rights and Equity Conference at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles in March, 2022, and will be featured at the annual L.A. Times Festival of Books at USC in April, 2022. Numerous rave reviews of *Restless Gold* are posted on both Amazon and Barnes&Noble.

To find out more about David, visit his arizonauthors.org member page [HERE](#).

Congratulations, continued

Longtime Arizona Authors Association member Rico Austin has been featured in two recent issues of the *Gringo Gazette*. The full-page article dated January 31, [Rico Austin, Man About Town](#), tells of Rico's early years, his first trip to Baja, and his later aspirations. The second full-page article dated February 28, [Bajarriba Tequila and its Tres Cabo Amigos Founders](#), details the launch of Rico's newest venture into tequila. A managing partner of the company, Tres Cabo Amigos, Rico and the other two partners all reside in Arizona. The tequila, however, is a pure, pesticide-free product of one of the most pristine areas of Mexico, in the Atotonilco Highlands. Rico's wife, Connie, designed the label of the bottle, made responsibly from recycled glass.



To find out more about Rico, visit his website at www.ricoaustin.com. To learn more about his tequila, click [HERE](#).

Arizona Authors Association columnist Mark D. Walker has had a busy winter. His article, "Time Among the Maya, Travels in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico: A Review," will be featured in the next issue of [Revue Magazine](#). Another article, "My Saddest Pleasure: Moritz Thomsen, A Personal Reflection from Former Peace Corps Volunteer, Mark D. Walker," was published in [ELAND Press's March Issue](#) as well as in the Peace Corps Worldwide blog.

Yet another article, "Allegro for Life," was published by Pegasus Literary. And his review of the book, [Lies My Teacher Told Me](#), appeared in the March issue of Midwest Book Review.

When he isn't writing reviews and articles, Mark spends time lecturing and performing. On May 7th, he will perform a version of "La Pulsera" (The Bracelet) for "Love of Story" at the Carefree Sanderson Outdoor Pavilion. To find out more about Mark, visit his website at: www.millionmilewalker.com.



Rodo Sofranac, a longstanding member of the Arizona Authors Association, is mostly known to us for his children's books. His work, however, is not limited to that genre. He was born in Montenegro, just a few miles from Nikola Tesla's birthplace. Rodo has read, talked, and written about Tesla for many years. Like Tesla, one of Rodo's greatest joys was becoming an American citizen.

Rodo's recent article, "Visionary Nikola Tesla," appeared in both the February issue of [American Essence Magazine](#) as well as under a different title, "Nikola Tesla's Futurist Vision That Came to Pass," in the March 1st issue of [The Epoch Times](#). (The *Epoch Times* version is available without subscription. Click on the link to read the article.)

To learn more about Rodo and his work, visit his website at rodowrites.com.



A Commentary on Book Banning in Arizona

by Mark D. Walker

One of my siblings recently sent me the following message from “Parents Defending Education,” which claimed, “No part of your child’s education is safe from ideology and political activism. **Paradise Valley United School District in Arizona considers math textbooks that claim conservatives are racist — even presenting it as fact.** Parents Defending Education’s research team identifies and exposes troubling examples like this from across the country. But to keep standing up to this political activism in schools, I’m counting on concerned parents like you for support.” I was surprised since I’d chosen Paradise Valley School District for my kids because it was reportedly one of the best. Two of my children graduated from one of the high schools in question, and my youngest daughter’s husband is a librarian at a local community college.

After some initial research, I learned that the PV school district reportedly found texts with profanities and sexual references ([12 News article](#)). I shared this with my kids, and they all said that sexually explicit materials in textbooks was never a problem and still isn’t, as most kids are discussing these issues anyway. Their primary source of information is online—not textbooks. They all checked out the message from Parents Defending Education and pointed out that this is a “fundraiser,” and the information it provides is not substantiated in any way.

I also found a recent article from the [Washington Post](#), which reveals that this is not an isolated case: “[In] terms of numbers, book challenges/bans in the past six months have been at their highest since the [American Library Association](#) began collecting information. More than 330 unique cases were reported.”

The American Library Association reported that since 1981, it saw nearly 1,000 books challenges - with most, but not all, coming from conservative groups. Last October, a key Republican state legislator in Texas called for school districts to review whether they held some of the 850 books he listed as making kids “uncomfortable or guilty.” Hundreds of titles have been removed since, including “from Sept. 1-Nov., 20 more than in any other three-month period . . .”

Mike, a professor friend at the University of Tennessee, told me: *Here in Tennessee, we know a little bit about book banning! The Governor's newest initiative is to form "American Patriots" through some kind of Civics Institute funded by the State and housed in the U of Tennessee. As you might guess, UT faculty are irate and protesting to a university administration that lacks "cojones," as one might say in Spanish.*

My middle daughter’s hubby (the librarian) is on a committee that reviews and opposes book banning in general at one of our community colleges. So, our concern is that banning books from libraries and schools can’t prevent children from finding them, which is why some of the new book banning wave is being aimed not so much at children, but at punishing teachers and librarians—and at trying to narrow curriculum and classroom debates about controversial topics.

As parents with two children in Horizon High School, our focus was not on textbooks but on how to broaden our children’s life experiences and opportunities to learn and grow into balanced world citizens and professionals. We sent them to Europe for a year with Rotary’s Youth Exchange program—two in Germany and one in France, where they learned a third language and matured immensely. As far as the content of textbooks—I’ll refer you to my recent book review of *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, which focuses on the information our students are not being told, which would impact the way they see the world and how they treat others ([millionmilewalker.com](#)).

According to the same [Washington Post](#) article, “Attacking books has been an American tradition since 1650, when Puritans in Massachusetts Bay Colony seized William Pynchon’s “The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption,” labeling

continued on the next page

Book Banning by Mark D. Walker, continued

it blasphemous to say obedience, and not suffering, led to atonement . . . From 2000-2009, the Harry Potter books were the most challenged, accused of “promoting the occult and Satanism . . .”

The article went on to explain why the effort to ban books is different today than from other times it has been attempted in our history. “Now we are seeing a new wave of book bans, marked by an unprecedented number of challenges and intense polarization. Its focus: narrowing the universe of information in schools and public libraries that might challenge young people on race and gender—the same issues at the center of the political and cultural wars ripping through the country.”

[Amanpour & Co.](#) recently hosted a revealing interview with authors Jason Reynolds and Kiese Laymon on what it’s like to have your books challenged and banned by several school boards around the country. **Jason Reynolds is an Ambassador for Youth Literature** and says that our focus needs to be suitable for the children, not the parents. Books should be the basis of discovery. Feeling “uncomfortable” is the basis of learning new things. And education should be about children learning new things—so that education can be revised. He goes on to say that during his readings—no children seemed overwhelmed or left the room during his lessons— “the kids are all right.” Focusing on our children’s educational needs rather than insecure, biased parents is key to a more balanced approach to how our children learn. ([Interview.](#))

What to do? Well, if you’re the [Penguin CEO, you set up a \\$500,000 trust](#) to combat book-banning efforts. And call it the Dohle Book Defense Fund in conjunction with **PEN America**.

And for those who write or just read books, join **PEN America**. A writer friend of mine submitted my name to participate in an organized event in Phoenix. (See flyer on page 15 of this newsletter.) **PEN America** stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect free expression in the United States and worldwide. They champion the freedom to write, recognizing the power of the word to transform the world. And their mission is to unite writers and their allies to celebrate creative expression and defend the liberties that make it possible. Founded in 1922, **PEN America** is the largest of the more than 100 centers worldwide that make up the PEN International network—and **I love international networks**. <https://pen.org/>

The Author

Mark Walker was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala and spent over forty years helping disadvantaged people in the developing world. He’s worked with other groups like Make-A-Wish International and was the CEO of Hagar USA.

His book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*, was recognized by the Arizona Literary 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 articles have been published in *Ragazine* and *WorldView Magazines*, *Literary Yard*, *Scarlet Leaf Review*, and *Quail BELL*. At the same time, the “Solas Literary Award recognized another for Best Travel Writing.” Two of his essays were winners at the Arizona Authors Association Literary Competition, and another was recently published in Eland Press’s newsletter. He’s a contributing writer for *Revue Magazine* and the *Literary Traveler*. He has a column in the Arizona Authors Association newsletter, “The Million Mile Walker Review: What We’re Reading and Why.”

His honors include the "Service Above Self" award from Rotary International. He’s a board member of “Advance Guatemala.” His wife and three children were born in Guatemala. You can learn more at www.MillionMileWalker.com and follow him on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker/>

Calling All Volunteers!

The Arizona Authors Association needs help in the following areas. If you can serve in one of these positions, you may earn enough credits to pay for your membership, and you will earn our gratitude at the same time!



Jobs Available:

ZOOM WORKSHOP: Present a Zoom online workshop in 2022 for the membership and public. (90-120 minutes in length.) You may submit your own topic for approval or choose from among suggested topics. A board member would set up the Zoom connection and introduce you to the participants.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES: Add four substantive articles of between 800-1200 words to the newsletter in 2022 (one in each upcoming issue) on **writing-related** topics (of help to authors, publishers, editors, etc.) Topics could include editing help, grammar help, marketing tips, publishing trends, etc.

WEB PROMOTION: Search the internet for author-related, high-quality, non-spam websites, classifieds, etc, where we can advertise the Arizona Authors Association for free, particularly our contest, events, banquet, and literary magazine. Experience in sending press releases to radio, TV, and podcasts that promote author-related material is a plus. Submit our ad or press release (provided) to quality web sources and then report back to us when at least six sources publish them.

ZOOM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Conduct a one-hour Zoom interview with an Arizona Authors Association member to add to Facebook and Zoom files. Research the member's books and basic biographical info before the interview and prepare relevant, appropriate questions (main and alternate) ahead of time.

WORKSHOP: Present an Association workshop at a physical location, such as a local library (we would secure the venue). Submit a topic of your own for approval or choose from among our suggested topics, and then prepare and present your 90-120 minute workshop.

FORUM CONTENT: Do you spend a lot of time on Facebook? Are you fond of forums? If so, you may be able to help us establish and advertise our new arizonauthors.org forum. We need someone to post in the forum daily, add content, articles, and information of interest to authors. Create threads, add posts, add comments, etc. Be warned: the current forum is only newly created, so it's lifeless. If you add good content to it, we can get it off the ground and attract other members.

Contact a Board Member if you are interested in any of these positions:

Toby Heathcotte: toby@tobyheathcotte.com

Jane Ruby: moonvalleyisr@cox.net

Kathleen Cook: faerland@yahoo.com





What Pounds My Cake!

by Jane Ruby

Wanna know what pounds my cake? I'll tell you anyway. It's book festival attendees who don't follow the rules.

You know, rules that keep the festival running like a well-oiled can.

Case in point; The Tucson Festival Of Books, held March 12 & 13 at the University of Arizona, had over 200 booths tended by authors, artists, publishers, food trucks, book brokers, etc. The public walked University Ave. in orderly fashion, dropping in lines or seats or booths of their favorite venue. To ensure smooth traffic flow, vendors couldn't impede traffic and had to stay inside their booths. The majority of them did, and things went well.



But there were a few exceptions, particularly around our booth.

One author, a historian, felt everyone in booths around his ought to know about his newly published book. He entered our booth and introduced himself. He showed us his book and described his clever way of selling it. I congratulated him on his accomplishment. Then, in the most diplomatic tone, I pulled out the festival handbook and quoted two rules of booth confinement—that vendors and their wares had to remain within their booths. Pitching his book in our booth was in violation of these rules.

My compadre, a fellow author, stood just behind my right shoulder with his arms crossed. Dressed in black clothes and sporting just-as-black sunglasses, he resembled a bodyguard or maybe nightclub bouncer with his posture and college football physique. I told the historian that I was merely trying to save him some grief if he were caught by a festival official. Although trying to be helpful I'm sure that my compadre and I looked intimidating.

Busted! The historian's shoulders and smile drooped. He may have thanked us before turning to leave—I wasn't sure. My compadre smiled as if approving my action and the results. After that, we didn't see the historian anywhere outside his booth.

There were other violators, but I felt it wouldn't be right stopping the crucifix bearer and his apostles (especially during Lent) or the Ukraine fund-raiser. They had higher goals and weren't selling books.

I didn't mean to be part of the festival police, but over time I have been weary of book fair violators. After participating in numerous book fairs over ten years, I felt awkward rejecting authors trying to sell me books when I was trying to sell books.

Is it just me—or do others feel the same?

Before this event I never had a good way of rejecting these pesky unwanted salespeople. Thankfully the Tucson Festival of Books handbook was my savior. I wish other book fairs had handbooks with similar rules. Until then I have to find creative ways of supporting these vendors without feeling shame when refusing their business. Meanwhile, kudos to the Tucson Festival of Books committee for running a pleasant and effective event!

Jane Ruby is an award-winning novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She currently serves as the Literary Contest Coordinator as well as Treasurer of the Association. Learn more about Jane at: arizonaauthors.org



Thank You Tucson Festival of Books Volunteers

Jane Ruby
June Reynolds
Rico Austin
Heidi Herman

Rodo Sofranac
Karla Moeller
Jack Hawn

And THANK YOU,
June Reynolds, for
providing these
photos!





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 May 15 to faerland@yahoo.com and we may publish it.

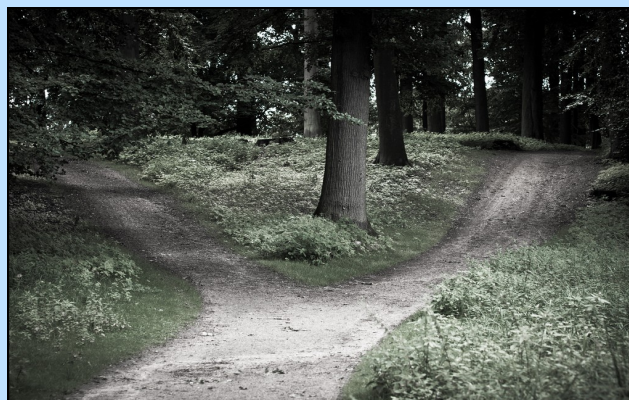
The Knock on the Door

One by one the lights turned off. The housekeeper entered her room and turned on her television. It was time for the 10 PM news. All of the students were in their dorms and the front door was locked with the security alarm set. The newsman reported, "News flash. Police warn of a man breaking into dormitories. They've asked everyone not to..." The doorbell rang and over the intercom a male voice said, "I have an emergency telegram for Sarah Hurler." The housekeeper left to answer the door.

Questions:

1. Will the housekeeper open the door or have the man slide the telegram under the front door?
2. How old are the students? Is this a boarding school or a college?
3. What was the newsman about to say before the housekeeper was interrupted?
4. What will happen if the woman opens the door?
5. How many people are still awake in the building?
6. Is this a coed facility or a girls' school?
7. Is this an actual occurrence, or a test of safety procedures?

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





Network with Other Writers in the Insecure Writers Support Group

by Janet Alcorn

Writing can be a lonely activity. We park ourselves in front of our computers and imagine and type and revise and sweat over details. Then we send our work out into the world, only to get rejections and bad reviews. It's enough to shatter even the biggest and toughest of egos.

One of the best pieces of advice I ever received when I first started writing fiction was to network with other writers, because normal people won't understand what I'm going through. That's why I joined the Arizona Authors Association, and it's why I participate in the Insecure Writers Support Group (IWSG). If you're looking for a supportive, informative community, click on over to <https://www.insecurewriterssupportgroup.com> and join us.

Founded by Alex J. Cavanaugh in 2011, the IWSG is an online community for writers at all stages of their careers, "from unpublished to bestsellers," intended to, "offer assistance and guidance," and "help writers overcome their insecurities." The IWSG charges no dues. To join, just show up.

Do you have a blog? Join the monthly blog hop. We post on the first Wednesday of each month, sharing our thoughts about some aspect of writing. The group provides an optional writing prompt in case you need inspiration for your post. The blog hop is a great way to gain new blog readers and to share in a worldwide conversation with other writers who probably have the same insecurities you do. To join, visit the [sign-up page](#) and add your blog to the list of over 150 participants. Then on the first Wednesday of each month, post your thoughts and visit and comment on posts by other members.

Social media more your style? Join the conversation on Twitter ([@TheIWSG](#), [#IWSG](#)) or [Facebook](#). The group also sponsors [a pitch contest on Twitter](#).

Join the [IWSG Book Club on Goodreads](#). Each month, two books by IWSG members are featured as book club reads.

IWSG participants are also eligible to enter the annual IWSG Anthology Contest. Each year's contest focuses on a different genre, which is announced in late spring with entries due in September.

In addition to networking opportunities, the IWSG also publishes a monthly email newsletter and provides a wealth of useful links on its website: writing tips, information about publishing and querying agents, information about self-publishing, contests, marketing, conferences and workshops.

I have participated in the IWSG since 2019 and [co-hosted the blog hop](#) for the first time in March. Through the blog hop, I've made friends, learned about the industry by reading about the experiences of other writers, gotten sound advice when I shared my struggles, and been reassured that my insecurities are normal (or normal for writers anyway). In a business that so often tears people down, the IWSG is a warm, welcoming, and knowledgeable community dedicated to lifting each other up. I hope you'll join us. —

Janet Alcorn is a librarian, published academic author and editor, and fiction writer. She writes everything from romance to horror, because genres are suggestions, right? When she isn't wrangling cantankerous fictional people or earning a living, Janet gardens, listens to 80s rock at ear-bleeding volume, and hangs out in Tucson with her husband, son, and Maddie the Imperious Greyhound. She's lived in 5 states and 3 time zones, the majority of the time in Northern California (where she was born and raised) and Portland, OR. Learn more about Janet at janetalcorn.com or follow her on Twitter ([@ja_alcorn](#)) or Facebook (facebook.com/authorjanetalcorn)



What is the Why?

Building a Backstory for Nuanced Characters
and Authentic Conflict

Zoom Workshop Presented by USA Today
Bestselling Author, Karen Odden

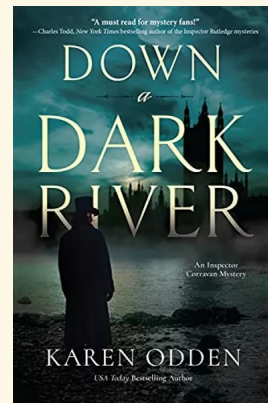
Saturday, April 30th, 2022
10am-Noon MST online

Email [Toby Heathcotte](mailto:Toby.Heathcotte) to participate.

In this workshop we explore how to create backstories for the protagonist and the important secondary characters. Effective backstories make characters unique and memorable, drive the plot forward, and provide opportunities for both interpersonal (character/character) and intrapersonal (character/world) conflict. Using familiar works such as the Harry Potter series and *The Queen's Gambit* as sample texts and drawing on the idea of the “personal myth” developed by Dan McAdams, participants will develop “baggage” for the characters in a work-in-progress to bring to the opening pages, or (as some writers describe it) to “the day everything changes.” Then we examine how that “baggage” can drive the plot forward for a satisfying plot arc and character arc.



Participants will be given writing exercises to do during the workshop as well as some to take home.



Karen's Latest Novel, [Down a Dark River](#), on Sale Now

Karen served as an Associate Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and taught classes in English literature at New York University and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She has contributed essays to books and journals, including *Studies in the Novel*, *Journal of Victorian Culture*, and *Victorian Crime, Madness, and Sensation*; she has written introductions for Barnes and Noble's Classics Series; and she served as an Assistant Editor for the academic journal *Victorian Literature and Culture* (Cambridge UP). Prior to receiving her Ph.D. in English, she worked in publishing at Harcourt Brace Jovanovich and McGraw-Hill, as a Media Buyer for Christie's auction house in New York, and as a bartender at the airport in Rochester, where she honed her listening skills. She is a member of Sisters in Crime (National), Desert Sleuths (SinCARizona) and Mystery Writers of America. Her first book, [A Lady in the Smoke](#), was a *USA Today* Bestseller and won the 2017 New Mexico-Arizona award for eBook Fiction. Her second and third books, from William Morrow/Harper Collins, [A Dangerous Duet](#) and [A Trace of Deceit](#) have won awards for historical mystery and fiction. Read more on her [website](#).



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

by Mark D. Walker



MillionMile
Walker

I met Earl Vincent de Berge and his wife, Suzanne, several years ago over lunch in Phoenix discussing fundraising strategies for an NGO they set up in Guatemala, "Seeds for a Future." The program provides training to impoverished rural women in and around Chocolá on the South coast, to improve family access to food and nutrition. I soon learned that we not only shared a love and appreciation of Guatemala and the Desert Southwest, but that Earl was also a writer and, in his case, a poet as well.

I was surprised to learn that he started writing as far back as 1959. This spring, he will publish *A Finger of Land On An Old Man's Hand*, an autobiographical novel laced with poetry and photos about his adventures as a young man in the Sonoran deserts of Baja California, Mexico, and Arizona. At an early age, he was writing about nature, environment, cities, and social issues, and his travels fueled his imagination through Central America, the Sonoran Desert, and the Andes. "Everything I experience has potential for a poem—even the increasingly dreadful business of politics."

In this book, his poems are divided into "Songs from my Life," "Poems from Guatemala," and "Desert Songs." Anyone who lives in the desert appreciates the rare times it rains, which is why "Desert After Rain" struck my fancy:

*Drained ivory clouds drift flat-bottomed/above valleys strewn in yellow froth/ where flowering palo verde trees
geyser/ above cactus spines and creosote brush...*

*Colossal mesquites whisper ancient tales/ fall silent contemplating their love of rain. / All pause before
resuming tasks of survival. / A silver dove decants its mournful song.*

With a vivid description of the desert in "Subtle Greens:"

My mind is calmed by desert's pastel tan and green colors/capped by a pale blue sky..."

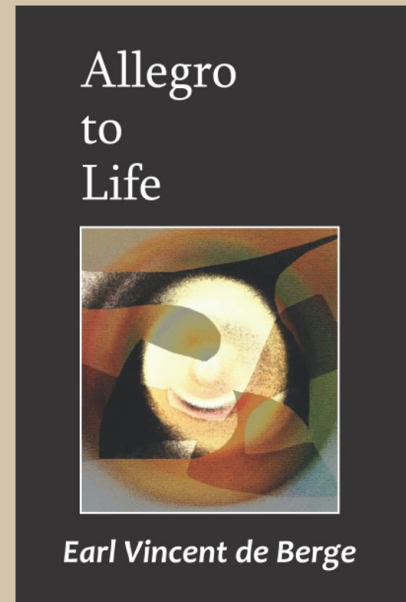
*I fancy cacti as fortified castles/ lush with wild displays of flower and fruit/as nature has had fun with shapes/
and splashes of color.*

From the Desert Southwest, the author transports us to the unique, ever moist environs of the rain forest in Guatemala with "Chipi-Chipi:"

It is raining/in the way of mist, / just heavy enough/to cling to plants/...too light to dimple the lake...

*Chipi-Chipi is the name/Tzutujil speakers/ give to mist rain/ that neither/ starts nor stops/ yet accumulates/like
dew/ to drip gently from/ palm fronds. / One senses eternity.*

The author and his wife split their time between Guatemala and Arizona and have owned homes on Lake Atitlan, but eventually were drawn to Antigua, so I wasn't surprised to find this enchanting tale of life in the Central Plaza in "Blind



Allegro
to
Life

Earl Vincent de Berge

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The Million Mile Walker, continued

in Antigua:”

Girdled by ancient Spanish buildings, / their silent arches like eyes gazing with/ stern conqueror authority into Antigua’s, / graceful central park where modern folks/ now stroll, dally, and relax beneath gnarled jacaranda trees in full lavender flower...

In slow waltz, the calm mix of humanity stir/ in social mingling, a seamless stream that eddies, / and pauses on benches where lovers giggle/ and women chat in clusters, their hands waving/ “oh really!” as they rock back laughing in/ the glow of fresh neighborhood chin-wagging...

A man sits with sad slumped shoulders. / one foot raised on the shoeshine boy’s box/ as he reads of war and butchery in the world. / Worried only about future family meals.

The author uses plain language, “my Texas mother can understand.” He uses metaphors and rhyming sparingly. No matter where the poem takes place, it is underscored with a clear idea, image, and emotion, which paints a picture that will set the reader adrift on their journey.

What Other Readers Say:

One astute reader says: *His economy of words--reminiscent of Asian and Native American poetry--thrusts the reader directly into the subject, whether it be the blessing of rain on a thirsty desert cactus, or the grief of a soul destroyed by Guatemala's Civil War. Earl's uncluttered directness embodies what Thomas Merton, author of the spiritual classic **The Seven Storey Mountain**, said of his artist father:*

"His vision was religious and clean, and therefore his paintings were without decoration or superfluous comment since a religious man respects the power of God's creation to bear witness for itself."

Today, I read more, but more slowly and repeatedly. Mark Twain said that the difference between a good word and the perfect word is like the difference between a lightning bug and lightning.

About the Author

An Arizona native, Earl is a poet/photographer. His education includes Antioch College (BA) and the U of Arizona (MA). A political scientist, he founded Behavior Research Center, created the respected Rocky Mountain Poll, and was Editor for 35 years. You can learn more about Seeds for a Future at www.SeedsforaFuture.org.



I met Alberto Rios at the Desert Nights Writers Conference at ASU in Tempe several years ago and was impressed by his literary understanding and insights into the Hispanic community. I told him about my connections and interests in Latino culture. I asked about participating in his literary interview show, **Books & Co.**, which he hosted for eight years on PBS. He currently hosts an arts interview show “**Art in the 48.**” He was named Arizona’s first poet laureate in 2013, a post he still holds.

I decided to start with one of his best-known books, *The Iguana Killer*, considered a Chicano Fiction classic, and was not disappointed. He uses mundane situations, which reflect the complexity and injustice on the borderlands, capturing many migrants’ struggles. His magical imagery of the Southwest is breathtaking. Growing up on the border, the author explores the three worlds of Mexico, the United States, and childhood.

The dual worlds of the border are beautifully brought alive in “**The Iguana Killer**,” which tells of a small boy in Villa Hermosa, the capital city of Tabasco. One of his relatives from the U.S. side of the border sends him a bat for his birthday, representing the most iconic games in this country. But when the boy

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The Million Mile Walker, continued

opens the gift from Nogales, he's ecstatic because it's just what he needed, an "iguana-killer." As the author points out, the child had never been to the U.S. and had no idea what the game of baseball was. The boy would become the champion iguana killer, always holding his now-famous killer bat. So, all his friends wanted to copy it. "They would come every day asking for measurements and questioning him as to its design..."

The book, which went on to win the Western States Book Award for Fiction, includes several etchings by Antonio Pazos. One editorial review claims, "*The Iguana Killer is not the Chicano version of *Catcher in the Rye*, but it is close.*"

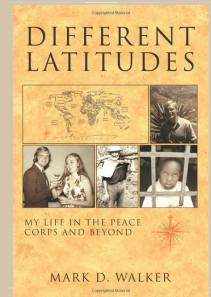
The Author:

Alberto Álvaro Ríos graduated from the University of Arizona with an MFA. Ríos is a Regents Professor at Arizona State University, where he has taught since 1982 and holds the further distinction of the Katharine C. Turner Endowed Chair in English. In 2014, he was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.

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 or through my websites: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker/>

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 and follow him on his [Facebook](#) page.



*Love is Like Wildflowers;
it is Often Found in the Most
Unlikely Places*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Brittlebush Flower,
Sentinel Peak, Arizona

Photo by Arizona Authors Association
member
Janet Alcorn



Write A Memoir to Remember

Zoom Workshop Presented by Award-Winning
Author Patricia L. Brooks

Saturday, June 11th, 2022
10am-Noon MST online

Email [Toby Heathcotte](mailto:Toby.Heathcotte@azauthors.com) to participate.

We are experiencing an unprecedented time in our history. Our lives have changed in so many ways. In an encouraging and insightful presentation, Patricia will help you capture your untold story. Through her highly regarded presentation, she will share with you how to produce this memoir to your own satisfaction, face your fears and conquer your story's emotional essence.

With tips and techniques from her own daring memoirs, ([Gifts of Sisterhood](#), [Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends](#), and [Sick as My Secrets](#)), Patricia will inspire you to take the necessary steps to complete your manuscript. She will also discuss why you should: keep a writing journal, do the necessary research, write goals and make no excuses about your writing.

In this workshop, Patricia stimulates your creative talents by showing you how to break through your silence to find your voice and give yourself permission to write your truth. Considering what has been happening in the world, now is a great time to record your stories for posterity.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the real Theme of your memoir
- Learn to dig deep to get to the Soul of the story
- Discover the Depth and Challenge of your memoir
- Realize you can Speak your Truth



Patricia is president/founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing Company, LLC and Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. *Sick as My Secrets* covers her 35-years of recovery. *Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends* addresses love addiction. *Gifts of Sisterhood* is a tribute to her sister who passed away from lung cancer. Find out more about Patricia on her website: brooksgoldmannpublishing.com



One of Patricia's award-winning memoirs, [Sick as My Secrets](#), on sale now.



Let Them Talk!

Zoom Workshop Presented by Award-Winning
Author Penny Orloff

Saturday, July 9, 2022
10am-Noon MST online

Email [Toby Heathcotte](mailto:Toby_Heathcotte) to participate.

Writing Compelling Character Dialogue

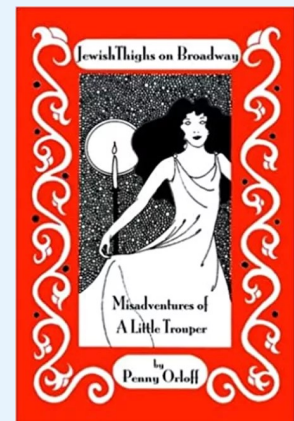
Examples, discussion, and exercises to help participants hear what their characters have to say, expressed in the characters' own voices.

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 on hold until the theaters open again.

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 at:

<https://culturespotla.com/author/penny-orloff/>



Penny's award-winning book, [*Jewish Thighs on Broadway: Misadventures of A Little Trooper*](#)

For sale on Amazon and other outlets.



Public Speaking for Authors Part Two By Jeanne Burrows-Johnson

A Post Mortem



Editor Viki Gillespie (left) and author, Jeanne Burrows-Johnson (right).

Before the Covid virus arrived, I took a promotional road trip. In my hometown of Portland, Oregon, I attended the 50th reunion of my high school graduating class and spoke to several audiences, including creative writing classes at the high school and a combined meeting of book clubs. How did my planning for Public Speaking engagements mesh with the actual experiences? Were my preparations adequate? What were the results?

TRAVEL

- ~ Shipping books and marketing materials in advance proved useful. Not only did they arrive safely, but once I completed my appearances, I was able to pack the remaining items into the spacious luggage I took for that purpose.
- ~ During research for travel, I joined an international hotel group that awards points. They also provided: transport to area restaurants and businesses; quality buffet breakfasts which permitted taking food back to one's room; offered a 25% discount for dinners, including when I hosted guests.
- ~ Since the penalty for altering flights was the same as emergency rescheduling, I did not purchase airline tickets with that option...I would have done so if my itinerary were more complex.
- ~ With today's complex public safety rules, I had to carry multiple small containers of toiletries, snacks, and food supplements, which I divided between carry-on and checked baggage. In case my checked bag failed to arrive, my carry-on pieces included: clothing; accessories; necessary paperwork for public appearances, such as handouts for audiences. I also carried a thumb drive with data that could be downloaded and printed out in the hotel's business office.
- ~ Because I was having dinner with a friend [and former theatre director] shortly after my arrival, I was not able to schedule an initial day without activity. But the following day I enjoyed a delicious lunch at a Hawaiian Café and a memorable tour of the city with my editor, while moving from a hotel near the airport to one near my engagements.
- ~ I was grateful to avoid renting a car. Although I tried using share-ride transportation, I found it awkward to schedule repeat transport with drivers I liked, and the cost was not substantially less than a highly rated traditional cab company.

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Public Speaking, Continued

Thereby I repeatedly scheduled drive times with a couple of cab drivers I liked!

~ I travelled with ample cash for tipping people who rendered excellent service, such as porters at airports and the hotel. As I encouraged readers to purchase books through their favorite local stores or online, I made only a couple of cash sales, although I was capable of taking credit card payments.

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

~ Since my events were not open to the general public, there was no reason to generate Media Releases. I did add a news page to my author website and referenced my travel on Facebook. I posted a picture with my editor taken at the book club meeting I addressed.

~ At the reunion, I followed the organizer's suggestion and served Hawaiian macadamia nut candy...and discussed all of my books in the Natalie Seachrist Hawaiian mystery series.

APPEARANCE

~ I followed my own advice regarding maximizing the expression of one's personality and profession. Because my writing focuses on Hawai'i, I wore tropical print jackets and a large name badge throughout my trip—with business cards at the ready. This facilitated conversation with numerous people I would not have otherwise met!

~ Since the Northwest was becoming colder and wetter than Tucson, I had to travel with varied clothing for the eight days. Despite necessary increases in the number of items I carried, my planning for multiple events proved to be appropriate.

~ Except for when my editor joined me in speaking to the book club, I was the sole presenter and did not need to coordinate my attire with other speakers.

~ In addition to my tropical-themed wardrobe, I accessorized with a necklace of my design and the name badge featuring my personal logo. I also wore a realistic appearing artificial orchid in my hair, which I wore pinned to heavily sprayed hair swept to one side, so the arrangement would remain in place for several hours.

SETTING THE STAGE

~ While it was not appropriate to hang a banner from podiums, my colorful attire proclaimed my personal style and the nature of my writing.

~ I positioned my presentation outline, a large watch, and bottle of water in advance of speaking—and a short bio in my pocket in case the person introducing me forgot the copy I had provided in advance.

~ I set up a colorful display with marketing materials, books, and laid out an information request sheet on a clipboard. These items were placed on clear acrylic stands on a multi-level tablescape covered with purple and gold tablecloths, with a scattering of shell leis and tropical flowers.

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PERFORMANCES

~ I provided event organizers with my bio and a short introduction in advance of each event...and carried a copy with me in case they omitted important details.

continued on the next page

Public Speaking, Continued

~ Since the venues at which I spoke were small, I did not need overhead projections or a sound system. I merely arrived with a spiral bound binder with my presentation, potential readings from the three books in my series, and handouts. [I also carried notes for unexpected issues that might arise, and backup electronic files.]

~ Walking through Portland's cold air provided physical warmups; I was limited in my ability to warm up vocally.

~ By using an annotated outline rather than scripted presentation, I was able to make periodic eye contact with my audience...letting attendees know I cared about them individually.

~ Despite allergies, my voice was strong enough for the demands of my public speaking. Theatrical training and experience has increased my ability for vocal projection.

~ My primary challenge was ensuring I covered each of my main points before the conclusion of each presentation. My large watch aided time management so that free-flowing dialogue could develop during Q&A segments, thereby maximizing audience interaction.

~ I concluded each presentation by holding up a pin with a single inspiring word...IMAGINE! Beyond the generally inspiring meaning, the word highlighted my branding, as my marketing website is ImaginingsWordpower.com!

~ As part of my long-term branding program, I travelled with Thank You cards, distinctive postage stamps and gifts of Hawaiian candy. I presented the candy to key people involved with events and mailed Thank You cards prior to leaving Portland.

Let me close my Postmortem by confirming that each public speaking appearance is a branding, as well as sales, opportunity. When you decide to embark on promotional road trips, I urge you to choose trips that can serve multiple purposes. And, by planning your journeys with care, you should be able to enjoy each phase of the experience! You never know who or what you'll encounter along the way. I can say that I established new readers and organizational contacts with which/whom I've remained in touch. My only regret is that because of Covid, I wasn't able to follow through on other planned events, such as attending a book fair in Hawai'i, because I might have travelled again to Portland en route!

Wishing you the best,

Jeanne Burrows-Johnson, author, narrator, consultant, and motivational speaker

For more ideas to maximize the results of your branding program, visit my marketing website or blog: [ImaginingsWordpower & Design Consultation.com](http://ImaginingsWordpower.com), Blog.JeanneBurrows-Johnson.com. You are also welcome to send me an email at info@JeanneBurrows-Johnson.com



*The mountains are
calling and I must go.*

-John Muir

Enchanted Hills outside
Tucson, Arizona

Photo by
Arizona Authors Association
member Janet Alcorn



*Years may weather
your outer façade,
but they can never
gnarl your
timeless soul unless
you let them.*

- Kathleen Cook

Palo Verde Trunk, Arizona-Sonora Desert
Museum, Tucson

Photo by Arizona Authors Association member,
Janet Alcorn

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toby@tobyheathcotte.com



Where in Arizona?

by Janet Alcorn

Each issue we'll add a photograph taken somewhere in Arizona along with a list of ten locations, one of which is correct. If you think you know which one, write to faerland@yahoo.com and let us know. The first one to guess the correct answer will have their name published on this page in the next issue. Arizona Authors Association member Janet Alcorn has recently agreed to take over this feature from the departing Dick Waters and will supply the photos for this and future issues. We wish Dick a fond farewell and welcome Janet to her new role.



Possible Locations:

Mayer

Tucson

Gila Bend

Yuma

Bisbee

Ajo

Camp Verde

Globe

Apache Junction

Nogales

Write to faerland@yahoo.com no later than May 15th with your guess. If you are the first to answer correctly, we'll publish your name in the next issue, when we reveal the location of this photo.



The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

Spring Cleaning

Spring again! YAY! And with it comes SPRING CLEANING! Oh no ... not the dust bunnies behind that huge armoire that you never move, or the attic and garage mess. I'm talking about SPRING CLEANING YOUR OLD BOOKS!

I wrote a book back in 2008 that I rushed to put up on Amazon. It was dismal. When Amazon visitors previewed that one, they didn't care to read my other works. If you are like me, once you put a book up on Amazon it stays there, whether it sells or not (usually not). But what are these books saying about you as a writer? How much have you grown, learned, expanded since then? Has your grammar, syntax, use of passive language, use of clichés, etc., changed since you first published your works? What are passing book browsers learning about you if they only glance at your early works? Believe me, it happens!



I decided last year to review that 2008 work. UGH! The premise and plot were good. The characters needed a facelift but were mostly solid. But by the third chapter, I was screaming at my book, "IF YOU SAY THE WORD 'UNFORTUNATELY' ONE MORE TIME, I'LL THROW YOU IN THE WOOD STOVE!!! I opened chapter four and read, "Paul laughed when he heard what he thought was a joke. Unfortunately, Marion's icy stare corrected his error a moment too late." ARRRGGGHHH!

There are a lot of people who believe that once a book is self-published, the author has no right to go in and quietly fix minor mistakes. Baloney. If you are using Amazon's free ISBN instead of your own, then you can upload a new edit any time you wish to revamp your work. You can even make major changes, if necessary. No labeling as a new version is required, and no new ISBN is needed. Even so, you may wish to retire your old book and replace it with a new version. I revised [*The Sun Always Trumps*](#) last year and extended it, so I republished it as a new edition.

If you are using a purchased ISBN number to sell anywhere, then yes, you'll need a new ISBN to change any part of the book. But even so, it may be worth it to retire that old version and publish anew. If an Amazon (or any) passerby judges you by your old works, you want them to see the best you have to offer, not the embarrassing follies of your youth.

You may not have read your old works in years. It's time to do so. Every writer should read their own books again every five years, at least. If those books need a good spring cleaning, then do it before others see the cobwebs they've gathered in too many passive clichés, tired or outdated language patterns, or just too many repeats of that darned, "unfortunately."

If you're unpublished, bring out those old manuscripts that you've been meaning to edit. View them with a new eye and the courage to chop them to pieces. As an editor, I've often seen a 600-page bad novel turn into a 300-page great one. If you're an unpublished but inevitable author, get cracking on those old works gathering dust in that armoire, you know, the heavy one you never move.

continued on the next page

The Inevitable Author, continued.

Spring is a time of renewal, regrowth, and for peeking out from behind the lethargy of winter. Let's face it, we all get lazy over the holidays and winter in general. A cozy fire and a hot cocoa promote inactivity, a time to take in and absorb the year, process it, and turn over a new chapter in your life. But winter is over, and we've already absorbed, processed, and planned our resolutions for the year ahead. Spring is the time to implement those resolutions.

While I'll be broadforking the garden every morning this spring, the afternoons will be spent with a good old book ... my own! What did I get right? What did I get wrong? Time to find out and fix! Happy spring to all of my fellow authors, published or inevitable!

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 spent twenty years before retirement as a freelance editor, and is currently the Arizona Authors Association editor and website technician. Find out more about Kathleen [HERE](#).

*One day, you
will look back
and see that all
along, you were
blooming.*

-Morgan Harper Nichols

Trailing Four-O'clock in the Enchanted Hills, Tucson

Photo by Arizona Authors Association member,
Janet Alcorn



First Prize

\$100 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Second Prize

\$50 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Third Prize

\$25 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Honorable Mention

Publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

1st and 2nd Prize Winners in Poetry, Essay & Short Story get nominated for the National Pushcart Prize (value: PRICELESS)



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**ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION
2022 LITERARY CONTEST
DEADLINE: July 1st!**

**Unpublished Categories
Poem**

**Short Story/Essay/Personal
Narrative/Review
Novel /Novella**

**Published Categories
OLDIE BUT GOLDIE
Fiction
Nonfiction**

**Children's Picture Book
Juvenile/Young Adult**

CRITIQUES OFFERED (For unpublished works only with an extra fee.)

See entry form on Next Page!

continued on the next page



Since 1978, the Arizona Literary Magazine has launched the careers of many authors.

TITLE OF SUBMISSION: _____

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY/STATE: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

BELOW, check category you wish to enter, fill in price and TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AT BOTTOM

PUBLISHED ENTRIES (\$30 for members, \$35 nonmembers)
 _____ FICTION: Novel/Novella/Short Story Compilation = \$ _____
 _____ NONFICTION = \$ _____
 _____ CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOK = \$ _____
 _____ JUVENILE/YOUNG ADULT = \$ _____
 _____ OLDIE BUT GOLDIE = \$ _____

UNPUBLISHED ENTRIES:
 _____ POEM (\$20 for members, \$25 nonmembers) = \$ _____
 _____ SHORT STORY, ESSAY, PERSONAL NARRATIVE, REVIEW (\$25 for members, \$30 nonmembers) = \$ _____
 _____ NOVEL/NOVELLA (\$35 for members, \$40 nonmembers) = \$ _____

CRITIQUES For Unpublished Only
 _____ POEMS (\$25 for members, \$30 nonmembers) = \$ _____
 _____ SHORT STORY, ESSAY, PERSONAL NARRATIVE, REVIEW (\$30 for members, \$35 nonmembers) = \$ _____
 _____ NOVEL, NOVELLA (\$35 for members, \$40 nonmembers) = \$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (for entries & critique requests) = \$ _____

Pay by check or Venmo (see QR code below):
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 Mail entries (and copy of Venmo payment if applicable) to:

Arizona Authors Association
 1119 East Le Marche Ave.
 Phoenix, AZ 85022



venmo

Scan QR code for payment

To pay for contest fees, you can go to Venmo and type in:
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 Or scan the code:

Now available on our [website](#), you may also pay with **PayPal!**

Contest and Submission Rules

ALL BOOKS/E-BOOKS IN PUBLISHED CATEGORIES – Submit 2 copies. Books must include ISBN, copyright date, and publisher information. E-Books must be submitted in print & bound form like a gallery or ARC. No books returned; all will be donated after judging.

OLDIE BUT GOLDIE entry can have any publication date, but must never have won this contest. Must be indie work. ALL OTHER PUBLISHED ENTRIES must have 2021 or 2022 publication date.

No submissions by publishers unless entry is a compilation of authors.

UNPUBLISHED CATEGORIES – IF BY MAIL: Submit THREE (3) copies; **IF BY EMAIL:** Submit PDF file (See payment section for addresses)

Poetry entries - 50 line maximum in 12-point plain font. Single-spacing within stanzas OK.

Short Story/Essay/Personal Narrative/Review entries cannot exceed 15 pages and must be printed in 12-point plain font, double-spaced lines, 1-inch margins, title and page numbers in header. Author’s name cannot appear anywhere in text—only on entry form.

Novel/Novella entries must include a synopsis (max. 5 pages) and the first 25 pages of manuscript. The synopsis must summarize entire story. Must be printed in 12-point plain font, double-spaced lines, 1-inch margins, title and page numbers in header. No author's name in text – only on entry form. Manuscripts must be completed and available upon request. They will not be returned except if critique is requested.

Winners in unpublished categories automatically consign first serial rights to Arizona Authors’ Association, our right to publish in the Arizona Literary Magazine in November, 2022, before anywhere else.

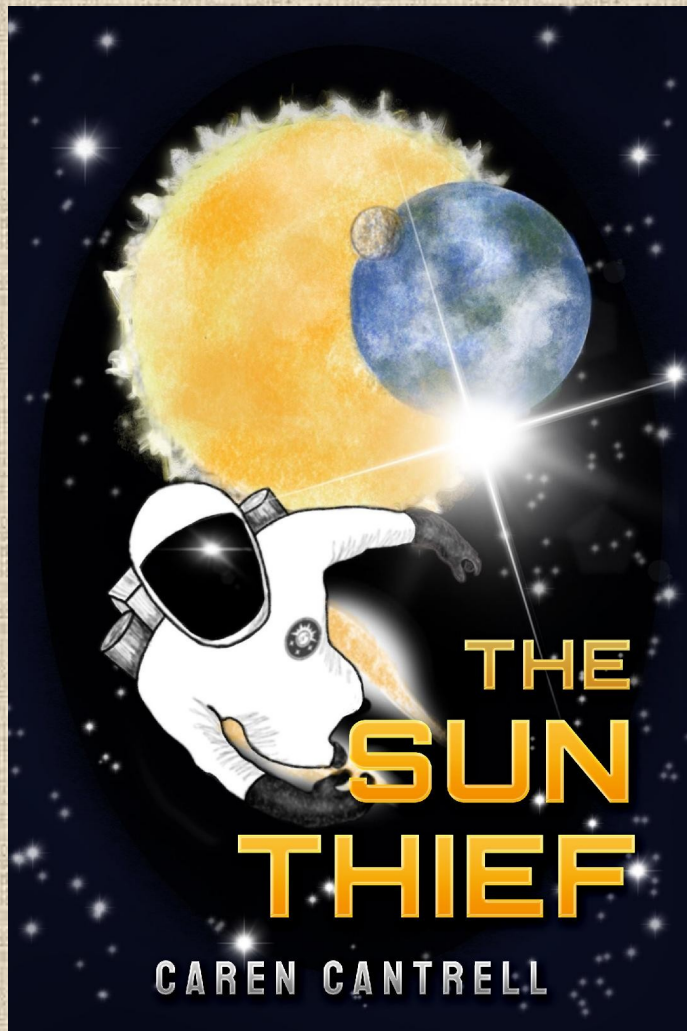
Multiple entries – need an entry form for each entry. You may print extra forms from our website (www.ArizonaAuthors.org or .com) or photocopy this form.

We reserve the right to switch an entry’s category, cancel a category, or not award any winners if they don’t meet publishing industry standards. Any entry not following rules will be disqualified without notification or refund.

Good Luck To All Our Contest Entrants!

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Caren Cantrell



The Sun Thief

The year is 2450. After graduating from the Galactic Preservation Academy, 12-yr-old Earthling Manny Adams is thrust into the role of Chief Cosmic Controller for the Moon when his commander dies in a suspicious moonquake. Jupiterian Cira Blondt is the Chief Cosmic Controller for the Sun, a role she's wanted since she grew her baby body vents. The two share a unique telepathic bond.

Together, they engage in a battle of wits and courage when Reginald Daschell III, their nemesis from the Academy, concocts a plan to destroy their reputations and proclaim himself a hero to win the respect of his powerful father. Dasch captures the Sun's Control Center and stops sunlight from reaching the Moon. Without solar power to run the Moon's equipment, it's losing the ability to rotate, weakening its gravitational pull on the Earth.

Manny and Cira have just 48 hours to stop Dasch before the Moon crashes into the Earth, exploding it into a gigantic mass of space debris.

Readers Favorite says, "I liked that this book promoted diversity and inclusivity on top of addressing the issue of family expectations and the loss of a loved one."

Available on [Amazon](#) and [Barnes and Noble](#).

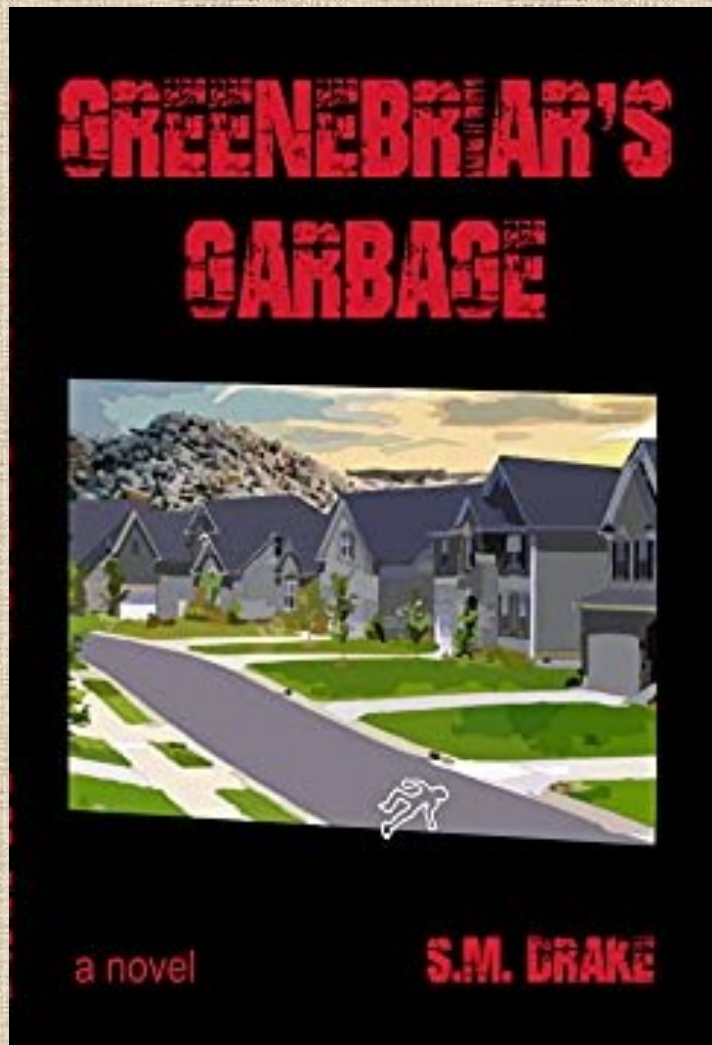
Caren Cantrell, known for writing picture books, has released her debut middle-grade science-fantasy novel *The Sun Thief*. She writes in her biography, "As an author, I write books for children. I have 6 picture books published to date, and I also write an eBook series for Kindle called *Planet Discovery Books for Kids* under the pen name Matthew Taylor. My business is 102nd Place. Here I assist others who wish to indie-publish to get their books out to the world. I provide ghostwriting, editing, interior design, and cover development services. When I'm not writing or visiting with my eight grandchildren, you can find me on the golf course. I live in Cave Creek with my husband, Bill and our little dog, Daisy."

Find out more about Caren by visiting her website, carencantrell.com



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Sandee Drake



Greenebriar's Garbage

Journey to the South Chicago suburbs in the 1970s. The Williams family is excited about a job transfer from Texas. Living in the Midwest will be a big change from the Lone Star State. As they complete the closing on their new house in the neighborhood of Greenebriar, they find out they will be living with an extremely restrictive homeowner's association. They also learn that the neighborhood was built over a former garbage dump. Too late to back out and find a different home, they begin a two-year journey of mishaps, mayhem and murder.

Sally Williams jumps headlong into the hierarchy and politics of Greenebriar after the death of a neighbor's child. She joins the volunteer board of directors and works to get the speed limits in the neighborhood lowered to avoid another tragedy.

The idyllic, seemingly peaceful neighborhood begins to spin out of control. After an amateurish attempt to blackmail an alleged mob member, one of Sally's fellow board members is murdered. Soon afterwards, many secrets which hid behind these suburban front doors begin to spill out onto the streets.

Find Greenebriar's Garbage on [Amazon](#) and other outlets.

Sandee is a retired French and Spanish teacher who lived in Parks, Arizona, before moving to Chicago. She has a Bachelor's in French from Florida State University and a Master's in Education from Weber State in Ogden, Utah.

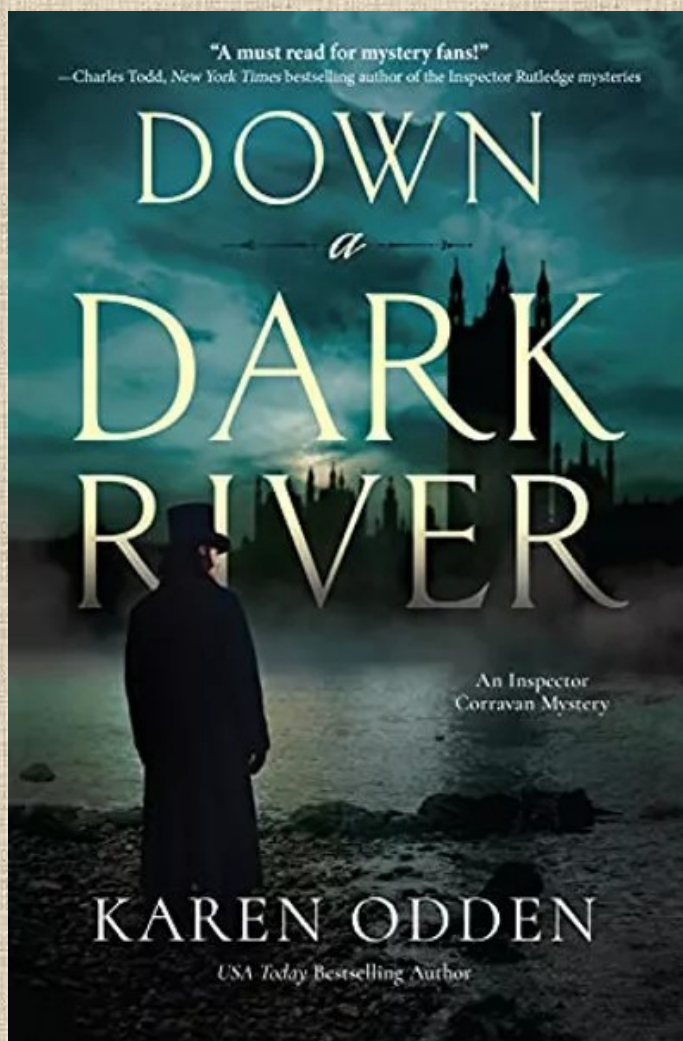
In her only writing class at WSU, her professor urged her to submit her story to the university writing contest; it won first place. When she retired from teaching, her professor said, "You'll have a new career writing." After wasting a few years looking for an agent, Sandee now publishes on Amazon. She currently has two novels, three books of short stories, and a short story and two poems published in the anthology, [Northern Arizona Authors Association Collected Works Volume 2](#).

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



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Karen Odden



Down a Dark River

London, 1878. One April morning, a boat bearing a young woman's corpse floats down the murky waters of the Thames. When the victim is identified as Rose Albert, daughter of a prominent judge, the Scotland Yard director gives the case to Michael Corravan, one of the only Senior Inspectors remaining after a corruption scandal left the division in ruins. Reluctantly, Corravan hands over his ongoing case, a search for the missing wife of a shipping magnate, to his young colleague, Mr. Stiles.

An Irish former bare-knuckles boxer from London's seedy East End, Corravan has good street sense and an inspector's knack for digging up clues. But he's confounded when a second woman is found dead, and then a third. Meanwhile, Mr. Stiles makes an alarming discovery: the shipping magnate's missing wife, Mrs. Beckford, may not have fled her house because she was insane, as her husband claims, and Mr. Beckford may not be the successful man of business that he appears to be.

Slowly, it becomes clear that the river murders and the Beckford case may be linked. Now, Corravan must dredge up the truth—before London devolves into a state of panic and before the killer claims another victim.

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

USA Today bestselling novelist Karen Odden earned her PhD in English at NYU, writing her dissertation on the literature and true history surrounding Victorian railway disasters. She taught English literature at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has written introductions for novels for the Barnes & Noble Classics Series, and edited for the academic journal *Victorian Literature and Culture* (Cambridge UP). All her novels are set in 1870s London, with seedy Whitechapel, rowdy music halls, dangerous railway accidents, and the smelly Thames River.

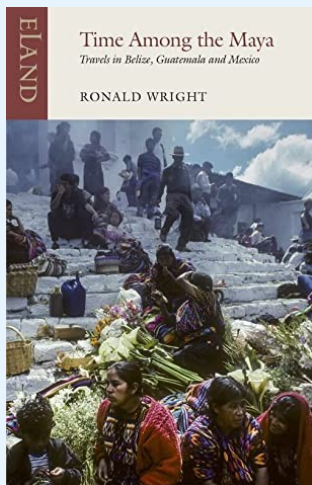
Karen is a recipient of a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and a member of both Arizona chapters of Sisters in Crime, Grand Canyon Writers and Desert Sleuths, where she serves as the programming chair for 2022. Find out more about Karen at her website: www.karenodden.com.



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 faerland@yahoo.com. The work **must contain at least 1600 words**, fiction or nonfiction, on any topic of general interest published within the past six months.

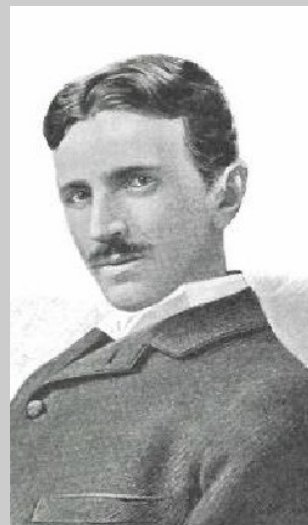
Review of:



Mark D. Walker's [review](#) of *Time Among the Maya: Travels in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico*, will be published in the next issue in [REVUE MAGAZINE](#).

You may also read the review on Mark's website, [Million Mile Walker.com](http://MillionMileWalker.com)

Find out more about Mark on his website, millionmile-walker.com.



"Visionary Nikola Tesla," an article written by Rodo Sofranac, was published in the February issue of [American Essence Magazine](#) as well as the March 1st issue of [The Epoch Times](#) (under a different title).

You may read the article [HERE](#).

Find out more about Rodo on his website, rodowrites.com.



*"I felt it shelter to
speak to you."*

-Emily Dickinson

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Photo by Arizona Authors Association
member Janet Alcorn



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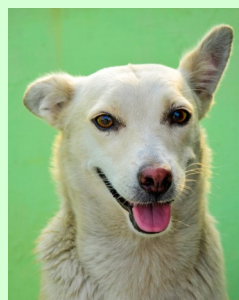
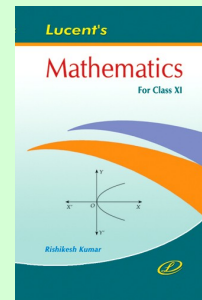
Have questions? Ask Marilyn [@janitserv@cox.net](mailto:janitserv@cox.net), www.janwrite.com, or call her at 480-699-6389

Back Page Jokes and Quotes

Ed: I feel so sorry for my mathematics book.

Mary: Why would you feel sorry for a book?

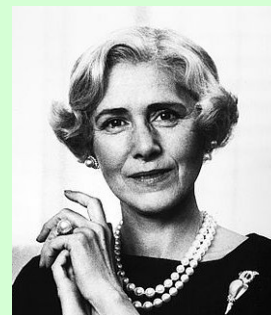
Ed: Because it has so MANY problems!



What should you do if your dog starts eating your book?

Just take the words right out of his mouth!

“All autobiographies are alibi-ographies.” —Clare Boothe Luce



Literary Trivia From Page Three

Answers

1. Katniss Everdeen
2. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*
3. *Old King Cole*; the book measures 44 mm high by 33mm wide.
4. *Casino Royale* by Ian Fleming
5. *The Age of Innocence*
6. He was found guilty of defacing library books.



“A synonym is a word you use when you can’t spell the other one.”

—Baltasar Gracián

Do you know a joke or quote about writing, publishing or editing? Share it with Back Page Quotes and if we use it, we’ll credit you with the entry. Send it to faerland@yahoo.com before the 15th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue.