WE’RE BACK! That’s the way I felt when I attended the banquet November 2 at the beautiful venue, Moon Valley Country Club. It thrilled me to see the contest finalists joyful at their wins. They laughed and chatted getting to know each other, some even wearing hilarious costumes. They showed off their certificates and treasured seeing their words printed in the Arizona Literary Magazine 2020. Celebrating writers and writing: that’s what it’s all about.

Special thanks to Jane Ruby, her family, and all the judges who helped make this a come-back event. The 2020 Arizona Literary Magazine looks great. It’s a product we can be proud to sell this coming year and add to the history of outstanding literature in our 40-year history. It’s available for purchase on Amazon: Arizona Authors Association 2020 Literary Magazine.

As 2019 comes to a close, we look forward to a more prosperous and eventful 2020 for AAA. Memberships are due in January. Expect to receive an email reminder. Should you decide to pitch in, there are several posts we need to fill for next year: Literary Magazine Editor, Webmaster, Promotion.

Mark your calendar for January 4, 2020 for our annual membership meeting. This year we’ll meet at the North Mountain Visitor’s Center at 12950 N. 7th St. in Phoenix, from nine to noon. For more information or directions, click HERE.

Bring your ideas to make 2020 a great year for AAA. If you have items to add to the annual meeting agenda,
Vice President’s Corner, continued

let me know at toby@tobyheathcotte.com

Have yourself a terrific holiday season and a stellar 2020 for yourself, our Association, and all the USA.

Toby Heathcotte 😊
tobyheathcotte.com, Author
Arizonaauthors.com Vice President
Facebook

New Opportunity for Writers

A new website called Vocal provides an opportunity for writers to put their articles, stories, and blogs out on the web, with a chance to earn a few dollars on the side. In order to join, you can either provide your email address or sign up with your Facebook, Twitter or Google ID.

Once you join, you may upload your stories and articles. It takes a day or two for them to be approved, but once they are, you will earn $3.80 per thousand unique clicks (reads) from other members. You’ll earn $6.00 per thousand if you upgrade to their paid service. (I suggest you use the free service until you build a following.)

It doesn’t hurt to have one more opportunity, and though the rewards are small, the exposure may be worth it. Sign up here: VOCAL

-Editor

The Arizona Authors Association would like to wish you the best of holiday seasons and success in 2020. Thank you for being a part of our family of writers, editors, publishers and dreamers.

May Your Walls Know Joy,
May Every Room Hold Laughter,
And Every Window Open to Great Possibility.

-Mary Anne Radmacher

Christmas Cactus Fruit
Wikimedia Commons

Cactus Snow Wikimedia Commons
Arizona Authors Association Leadership

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Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

Aspen in Winter

Photo taken by
Brady Smith
US Forest Service
Coconino National Forest

A ROOM WITHOUT BOOKS IS LIKE A BODY WITHOUT A SOUL.

Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman Statesman
Arizona Authors Association

Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

Membership Benefits

With the Arizona Authors Association relaunch, we offer 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, newsletter articles 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. As the relaunch progresses, we plan to once again participate in book fairs or other events. The opportunity to advertise under the Arizona Authors Association banner will allow 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. You may submit a quarter-page ad for your author-related services. Books released within the previous six months 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 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, and Back Page Quotes seeks jokes (200 words or less) on the foibles of writing, editing or publishing, or quotes from famous authors. We also need Arizona landscape photos. 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 for free, as space permits.

Send your articles in Word, Notepad or Wordpad format. 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 noticeable 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
The most exciting thing to report is the Arizona Authors Association Literary Awards Banquet, which took place on November 2nd. To see our photo gallery of the banquet, click HERE.

UPCOMING
Award-winning author Marilyn June Janson conducts workshops at the Southeast Regional Library (SRL) at 775 N. Greenfield Road, Gilbert, AZ., and at the Red Mountain Recreation Center (RMR) at 7550 East Adobe in Mesa, AZ. Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend her classes. Please note that Red Mountain Recreation Center charges a modest fee in addition to the workshop fee listed. Personalized materials will be provided for each student in every class. Visit her website for more information at: www.janwrite.com. You may also call 480-699-6389.

Mondays December 2-16, 6-8PM Location: RMR Screenplay Writing
Develop your idea into a premise, plot, and into proper screenplay format with dialogue, setting, and terminology. $20. Enroll HERE

Saturday December 7, 10AM-12PM Location: SRL Superhero Cartooning and Writing
Wow! Pow! Create your own characters and bring them to life on the page! Graphic novels and Short Stories. No artistic ability required. $25. Enroll HERE

Saturday December 14, 10AM-12PM Location: SRL Publishing 2020
Award Winning Writer, Publishing Coach, and Instructor Marilyn shares new opportunities and submission procedures for Traditional Non-Agented and Agented, Indie Publishers, and No Fee Contests. All genres, fiction, nonfiction books, articles, and personal essays, short stories, Internet Zines, and poetry. $25. Enroll HERE

Saturday December 21, 10AM-12PM Location: SRL Author Marketing 2020
Award Winning Writer and Author, Instructor Marilyn offers advice and provides hands on writing activities for LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook designed to grow your book buying audience. $25. Enroll HERE

Mondays January 6-27, 6-8PM Location: RMR Memoirs and Family History Writing
Instructor Marilyn provides memoir, family history samples, and motivational writing exercises to trigger memories from all life stages. $20. Enroll HERE

Peter Bernhardt will present his workshop, Write Like a Pro: Tips to Fine-Tune Your Storytelling, on February 7, 2020. The workshop will take place at the Sedona OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) on the Yavapai College Campus at 4215 Arts Village Drive, Sedona. Call for more details: (928) 649-4275.

The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writer’s Conference will take place on February 21-22, 2020 at Arizona State University. The series of workshops will begin at 8:00 am each day and last until 9:00 pm. The cost of the conference is $300, with early birds receiving a $50 discount if they register by December 31st. Optional workshops will occur on February 20th.

If you don’t wish to buy into the conference, you may still attend the Desert Nights, Rising Stars Literary Fair 2020 for free, which will take place on the Old Main, 400 E. Tyler Mall in Tempe, on Saturday, February 22, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For information on either event, click on: DESERT NIGHTS, RISING STARS
Congratulations to Our Members

Arizona Authors Association member Marilyn June Janson's personal essay, "Anxieties: Visitor Unexpected" appeared in the July 2019 edition of You&Me, America's Medical Magazine. You may find the article here: Visitor Unexpected.

The essay chronicles the debilitation of lifelong agoraphobia and cynophobia, and the inspiring and self-affirming steps to overcome the conditions. Marilyn speaks from the heart in her essay, and it shows. Congrats, Marilyn, on both your literary accomplishments and on your many personal accomplishments as well.

Allan Spiegler reminisced with friends, family, and former patrons of Spiegler's, a family heritage spanning four generations, during a book signing event on October 6th. The event took place at the Des Plaines History Center, where Allan read portions from his book and spoke of his memories of this iconic store in downtown Des Plaines, Illinois.

Some of the former patrons shared their stories as well, and one woman brought her Spieglers credit card from the 1960s, which she kept as a souvenir. State Representative Marty Moylan of the 55th district in Illinois sent a personal letter to Allan congratulating him on his book and thanking him for the rich history within.

Editor’s Note: I remember a visit to Spieglers as a young child growing up in the 1950s. My mother purchased a coat after visiting our aunt, who lived in Des Plaines. When Allan recently submitted this book for entry into the Arizona Authors Association newsletter, I was thrilled to hear about it and eager to include it in this issue. I still recall my late mother in that beautiful coat. Thanks for the memory, Allan!

If A Store Could Talk ... The Spieglers Family Remembers on Amazon
If A Store Could Talk ... The Spieglers Family Remembers on BetterWorldBooks

From Allan’s Amazon page: “Allan is a retired social worker who has been a consultant, therapist, and child welfare supervisor. He grew up in the towns of Des Plaines and Mount Prospect, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in psychology and earned university honors. Allan earned two master's degrees, one in theology and one in social work. He co-authored an article in the publication "Children Today" (Jan.-Feb. 1989) on specialized foster family care. His adventures include a year-long hitchhiking trip throughout Europe and Morocco. In March 2017, Clark Street Whole Foods Baking was published, which are recipes from his former bakery (specializing in whole grains and non-processed foods), which was on Clark Street in Chicago ...”
Congratulations go to Mark D. Walker, who has published another article about the plight of immigrants arriving from south of the border. The newest installment in his series on migrants, Justice & Responsibility: The Plight of Immigrants from Central America, was recently published in Quail Bell Magazine.

You can find this article here: Justice & Responsibility: The Plight of Immigrants from Central America.

Follow Mark on Facebook or visit his website at: Mark@MillionMileWalker.com
Congratulations to all finalists! The Literary Contest for 2020 opens on January 1, 2020, so sharpen those pencils, fire up those computers, and get those creative juices flowing!

Due to the limited number of nominations for Pushcart Press, the Association has submitted the top 2 finishers in Unpublished Poetry, Essay, and Short Story. We made the December 1 deadline for the upcoming issue, and notification is anticipated sometime around April. The competition is fierce and maybe this year our nominees will be published. Good luck, nominees!

RESULTS OF THE 2019 ARIZONA AUTHORS’ ASSOCIATION LITERARY CONTEST
By Jane Ruby

UNPUBLISHED CATEGORIES

POETRY:
1st Place THE PEAKS—by Mark Ford
2nd Place SOUL SIFTER—by Marilyn McDonald
3rd Place TIME IS A BANDIT—Sherry Goldberg
HM WESTERN GIRL—Julie Morrison

ESSAY:
1st Place WISHFUL THINKING—by Rose Garlasco
2nd Place HUGS NOT WALLS: REUNITING THE CHILDREN—by Mark Walker
3rd Place FIRST LOVE—LASTING LOVE—by Julia Watson
HM NOTRE DAME—by Rico Austin

SHORT STORY:
1st Place PROOF TEXT—by Janet Crum
2nd Place PHANTOM WAGONS—by Constance Osterlitz
3rd Place SURVIVING ENGLISH IV—by Duke Southard
HM STRANGE EVENTS IN SLATER CANYON—by Mark Ford

NOVEL:
1st Place A GALLERY OF SHADOWS—by K. Patrick Malone
2nd Place VANISHING, INC.—by Janet Crum
3rd Place A SPY IN SILKS—by Kara Krelove
HM A LOVE DIVIDED BY TIME—by Richard McMaster

continued on the next page
What Pounds My Cake, continued

## PUBLISHED CATEGORIES

### NONFICTION:

1st Place  
AMERICAN HEROES: FASCINATING FACTS AND INSPIRING VOICES—by Marty Feess

2nd Place  
THE LEAST LIKELY CRIMINAL—by Cindy McDonald and Jeni Grossman. Published by Laura Orsini

3rd Place  
LEFT FOR DEAD AT NIJMEGEN, THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMERICAN PARATROOPER—by Marcus A. Nannini

HM  
BETTER THAN ME—by Albert M. Quihuis

### FICTION:

1st Place  
ANGEL FIERCE—by Vijaya Schartz

2nd Place  
FALLACY OF CLOSURE—by Duke Southard

3rd Place  
FINAL TIPPING POINT—by Duke Southard

HM  
FINAL GRAINS OF SAND—by David Harder

### CHILDREN’S LITERATURE:

1st Place  
THE SECRET OF DELPHI—by Craig Sodaro

2nd Place  
NEEDLES, THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE—by David Kurud

3rd Place  
BELLA’S SECRET—by Lynn Marie Lusch

HM  
SATURDAY SAFARI—by Caren Cantrell

Jane Ruby is an award-winning novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She’s judged many association literary contests and feels primed to be the Literary Contest Coordinator as well as Secretary of the Association. Learn more about Jane at: 
http://www.theazuriteencounter.com/

Snowbowl, Flagstaff, Arizona
This month we’re heading south of the border with three books, which are timely, given all the polemics around our immigration policy and our relations with Mexico and Central American countries. The first book is written by the “Grandfather of Travel Writing,” Paul Theroux, about his journey by car through Mexico. I’ve made the trip several times over the years and add some insights into the meaning of his journey. The second book, *Silence on the Mountain*, is deemed the best book on the Guatemalan civil war and will help us appreciate the circumstances behind so many fleeing their homes for the U.S. I was in Guatemala during part of the violence and can attest to some of the revelations the author makes. And finally, a new fiction novel that takes place in Central America and led to the infamous “Soccer War.” Like Theroux, Mark Wentling is a fellow Returned Peace Corps Volunteer. He wrote a trilogy, which takes place in Africa, so I was pleased to see this new book that took place in Honduras and El Salvador.

As you can see, an adult beverage out on the back porch on a cool fall day is a perfect place to kick back and enjoy *On the Plain of Snakes: A Mexican Journey*, that was taken in his own car, which can be risky at best. Over the years, I’ve traveled the world through Theroux’s many books (56 and counting). He follows his own critique for what makes a superior travel book, “not just a report of a journey, but a memoir, an autobiography, a confession, a foray in South America, a topography and history, a travel narrative, with observations of books, music, and life in general; in short, what the best travel books are, a summing up.”

Although most of his journey takes place in isolated and poor communities in rural Mexico, he does take off ten days to offer a free writer’s workshop for a group of talented Mexican writers and the advice he provides reflects his philosophy on who he writes about, “If you want to do something, go live in a small village in Chiapas. Live there like a Peace Corps volunteer and write about the people there. Mexico City is connected ‘more to the big world than to the hard-up hinterland.’”

Along the way, he reveals some of his own personal life when he meets Subcommandante Marcos, leader of the guerilla group, Zapatistas, and much to his surprise is invited to speak to some of his followers:

> To you, I am sure I seem like just another gringo. But in fact, I am also part indigenous—the proudest part of my secret being. My paternal grandmother was a Menominee, a nation of people who lived in what is now Wisconsin, a people who lived in that region for six thousand years. This knowledge helps me understand your struggle a little better, because the indigenous people of the U.S. have been massacred and cheated and pushed to the margins ever since the first colonizers arrived on the continent. I share your defiance, and for this, I am happy to be among you...

Although much of the book includes anecdotes about the families who live in rural Mexico, the author’s acute observations offered some eye-popping political and social analysis. Americans are, “the world’s largest consumers of illicit drugs, spending more than $100 billion a year on cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamines smuggled across the border, according to the 2014 RAND Corporation report.” No surprise when the author reveals that “El Chapo” ran the largest airborne operation in Mexico, with almost 600 aircraft seized, while Aeromexico had a “piddling” fleet of 127 planes.

After reading this edgy but ultimately hopeful story, which mixes visit reportage and emphatic political commitment and includes a well-informed prescription for improving the situation between the U.S. and Mexico, I realized I’d continued on the next page
The Million Mile Walker Review

completed another adventure with Theroux in the comfort of my own back porch.

I came across my next book while researching the immigration crisis with a focus on Guatemala for a documentary I’m working on. *Silence on the Mountain: Stories of Terror, Betrayal and Forgetting in Guatemala* deals with the period of violence that lasted 36 years and resulted in over 200,000 deaths, most of which were at the hands of a U.S.-backed military government.

The author was a young human rights worker and the story begins in 1993, when the author decides to investigate the arson of a coffee plantation’s manor house by a band of guerrillas. This scene was familiar, as my wife’s family also had a coffee plantation in the piedmont region of Guatemala. We stayed at the “big house” many times during our initial courting period in the 1970s. I wrote an article, “My Life in the Land of the Eternal Spring,” in which I reflect on the gap of expectations between what our four-year-old daughter could expect in life in contrast to that of the more than a dozen workers’ children peering in a screen door of the big house. The tranquility and beauty of the lush gardens surrounding the big house were counter-balanced by the dismal conditions of the plantation workers, who were part of a feudal labor structure that offered opportunities for advancement where, to a degree, Mayan workers were picking coffee beans for European markets.

During his search for the story behind the burning of the “patron’s” house, the author discovers that anything about this time period was complicated by decades of terror-inspired fear, causing Guatemalans to adopt a survival strategy of silence bordering on collective amnesia. Amazingly, the author manages to tell an extraordinary tale in a most disarmingly funny, perceptive and deeply human way. You feel that you’re riding with him on his beat-up motorcycle up slippery, dangerous jungle trails into the heart of the rural areas where some seem to be just awakening from a long nightmare.

The drama and trauma that many Guatemalans experienced is graphically depicted through the story of one Mayan village not that far from where I was a Peace Corps Volunteer. Several helicopters converged on a small village, along with one hundred troops, and began taking villagers away from their town into a nearby forest. The next day some of the remaining villagers followed the path only to find:

> There were my brothers. They had their throats slit.  
> Many of them had their throats cut like animals.  
> Some had been strangled. They put a cord around their neck, tied it to a stick and turned the stick until they were choked.  
> Forty—four people had been killed. And no bullets had been fired.

Perhaps the author’s greatest gift was his ability to find ways for people to tell their stories—and through them—dramatic, intimate, heartbreaking—that anatomy of a thwarted revolution is revealed, which is relevant not only to Guatemala, but also to the countless places around the world where terror is used as a political tool. —

I’d been waiting for Mark Wentling to focus his considerable storytelling talents on Central America, as he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras. Although he never mentions this, his book, *Blue Country*, is based on the infamous “One Hundred Hour” war in which El Salvadorians claimed Honduran land in their small, densely populated country, only to have the Honduran cattlemen and farmers convince the government to counter the invasion by evicting some of the 300,000 plus Salvadorians from their homes.

The author’s story includes unexpected twists and turns, moving from the death and destruction...
The Million Mile Walker Review

of one town to the rebuilding of a new town by survivors who lived to tell the story. Human foibles, very common in Central America, are displayed through many of the novel’s characters. A magical realism, reminding me of the works of Gabriel Marques and One Hundred Years of Solitude, leads to survival, love and marriage with an underlying evil below the surface, including an unforeseeable event that defines the future of people in two countries.

The greatest compliment for a well-written review often comes from the author him/herself. Here’s Wentling’s response to my review:

Mark, I wanted to thank you for the generous review you wrote on my new book, "Blue Country." I saw this review this morning on Peace Corps Worldwide as posted by John Coyne. You do a marvelous job of capturing the essence of my book and referring to actual historic events it draws upon. I am happy to see you weigh in with insights that only someone with experience in Central America can have.

Here are the links to the published reviews showcased in this column:

On the Plain of Snakes
Silence on the Mountain
Blue Country

Please let me know what you think—about this newsletter, my reviews and most importantly, what you’re 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 website: http://www.millionmilewalker.com/

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 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 . . .”

Several of his articles have been published in Ragazine and WorldView Magazines while another appeared in Crossing Class: The Invisible Wall, an anthology published by Wising Up Press. His reviews have been published by Revue Magazine as well as Peace Corps Worldwide, including one on Paul Theroux’s latest book, Figures in a Landscape.

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.
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“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, one must stand out in the cold.”

― Aristotle

Grand Canyon South Rim in Winter
Photo by Jan Gundlach
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 anyone would like to share the story they create with this prompt (800 words or less), please send it to faerlang@yahoo.com and we may publish it.

The Magic Night

I had a dream last night about my future. It came in time, too. Tonight was New Year’s Eve, the night to make my midnight wish while gazing into a new, hand-held mirror before the clock finished striking the hour.

Knowing only my best look would do, I checked my wardrobe for the perfect dress, blue of course since it’s my favorite color. After matching it with shoes, I placed everything together on my bed for a quick change before the magic hour.

All day I pondered my wish list, knowing I’d only have time to make one before turning and grabbing the small mirror lying face down on my dresser, to see my future. My long list narrowed to five things: a car, a fiancé, enough money so I could quit my salesclerk job at the drugstore, a college scholarship, and a horse of my own so I could enter the jumping contests without begging or borrowing one from my best friend Jackie.

Listening to the music from my parents’ party that evening, I stayed upstairs, only peeking over the railing from time to time to see the dancers. When the grandfather clock struck 11 PM, it was time to run and dress. I turned out my bedroom lights and opened my curtains to let the moonlight shine in. As soon as the midnight strikes began, I made my wish, grabbed the mirror and wrapped it in time. The mirror reflected my widened eyes as I stared at the sight it revealed.

Questions:

How old is this girl?
What did she finally wish for?
Why did she believe she needed to wear special clothes and look her best?
Just what did she see in that mirror that night after her wish was made?
Why did she buy a new mirror to make her wish and then look to see the results?
Have you ever heard the old adage that holding a candle and turning to face a mirror at midnight will give you a glance of your future spouse?
What would she study or major in for college?
What jumping competitions did she enter?

Now, it’s your turn. Go forth and write!
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Arizona Authors Association Meeting

Please attend the Arizona Authors Association Meeting that will be held on:

Saturday January 4th
9AM-12PM

North Mountain Visitors Center
12950 NORTH 7TH St.
PHOENIX, AZ 85022

For more information, click on this link:
http://northmountainvisitorcenter.org

Winter Scene in Arizona
Courtesy of the US Fish And Wildlife Service
I lie in my bed,  
My only leg in a sling.  
Santa comes by.  
“Do you want anything?”

I lie there, quiet,  
My head wrapped in gauze.  
“What I want most of all  
Is to be what I was."

“I want to be brave,  
I want to be strong.  
I want to go home  
Where I belong.”

Santa sat down,  
Rocking my bed.  
He took off his hat,  
Put it on my own head.

“I crown you the Prince  
Of Goodwill Worldwide.  
I give you my elves  
And my reindeer ride.

“I give you my letters  
Of love and good cheer.  
From thousands of children  
Who can’t be here.

“But I know if they were,  
They’d give all their gifts  
To you in a flash  
If that helped you shift  
Into high gear  
And run down the hall,  
Surprising the nurses  
And having a ball.

“They want you to dance,  
They want you to smile,  
They want you back home,  
NOW, not in a while.

“But, ’til then,” he said,  
“Rest, and take care.  
Remember, we know  
No one else can compare.

“Be hopeful, have courage,  
Be loyal, be sure,  
And that way you’ll always  
Be what you were.”

Holiday Wishes from More People than you can Imagine. You are always in  
our Hearts. © 2011 Marlene Baird, Prescott, AZ

Marlene Baird is a long-time member of Arizona Authors Association, and a judge for  
our annual writing contest. She has won the contest for both a novel and an essay.  
Marlene also enjoys writing short stories, having taken 3rd place in the Lorian  
Hemingway writing contest in 2008. She lives in Prescott with husband, Bob.

Find out more about Marlene at http://marlenebaird.com/

Marlene’s Books:  
Murder Times Two  
The Filigree Cross
Not everyone who attended or were awarded prizes at the event is pictured in this issue, but everyone had a great evening. Hearty thanks go to all attendees, whether they won a prize or just rooted for the ones who did. MANY MORE PICTURES COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE! If you aren’t in these, check back then!
President Russ with Connie Osterlitz, AAA
2nd place winner for her Short Story,
Phantom Wagons

President Russ with Jane Ruby, Arizona Authors
Association Contest Coordinator
Russ with Albert Quihuis, an AAA an HM winner in published nonfiction for *Better Than Me*.

Russ with Caren Cantrell, AAA HM winner in Children’s Literature for *Saturday Safari*.

Russ with Marcus Nannini, AAA third place winner for his nonfiction work, *Left for Dead at Nijmegen The True Story of an American Paratrooper*.

Contest coordinator and hostess of the Arizona Authors Literary Banquet, Jane Ruby.
Russ with Kara Krelove, AAA 3rd place winner for her novel,  
*A Spy in Silks*

Russ with Janet Crum, AAA 1st place winner for her story, Proof Text, and  
2nd place winner for her novel, *Vanishing, Inc.*

See all the winners in the  
[2020 Arizona Literary Magazine](#). On sale now.
Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Walker. Mark is an AAA Literary Contest 2nd place winner for his essay: Hugs Not Walls: Reuniting the Children.

The McMasters check out the clues. Will they find the culprit?

Great costumes!
Two winners of the AAA literary contest with their better halves. Hey Rico, you look like a super sleuth in those shades!

Vijaya Schartz, AAA Literary Contest first place winner for her novel, *Angel Fierce*, with Cherie Lee, AAA columnist and past contest winner. Looking good!
Snow and Syntax

As I looked out this morning at the first blanket of snow, I thought about how ordered and simple it looks. All of the weed stubble, the broken branches placed in a pile and then forgotten about, the entire jumble is gone. Just a nice, smooth, beautiful patch of snow remains (and yeah, I'm revealing my bad housekeeping, or should I say yardkeeping, here). That reminded me for some reason of syntax—then again, everything reminds me of writing. I'm weird that way.

According to Merriam-Webster, syntax is: the way in which linguistic elements such as words are put together to form constituents such as phrases or clauses.

A secondary definition of syntax is: a connected or orderly system; a harmonious arrangement of parts or elements.

Words can be a jumble, just like my yard. But when you use syntax to arrange them properly, you come up with a smooth flow that is clean and simple and soothing to the mind—kind of like my snow. Not everyone can create smooth snow to cover a chaotic linguistic yard. It takes a good author and the right forecast.

The temperature must be right, for both real snow and linguistic snow. The temperature of a story, for example, must feel right. You can't turn up the heat too quickly on a suspense novel. Building up the tension and pace gives a reader time to ease into the plot, to get comfortable with it until a change occurs. Likewise, you can't throw cold water on a reader too abruptly either, unless it is done of intent and with careful planning, with several other elements falling into place at the same time.

In addition to temperature, the "clouds" must arrive at the right time and contain just the right elements for successful snow. By clouds, I mean all the foreshadow elements that cause a reader to stop and say, "Hey wait a minute; something important is about to happen. I can feel it." Even if you want to jolt the reader with a shocking revelation, you can't just throw it out of the blue without knowing that conditions—the clouds—are right.

When you think of the weather, you often see meteorologists predicting one thing and then something else happens. That can also happen in writing, but you'll never see a meteorologist predict highs in the 90s and then go out to find a blizzard instead. There is some reasonable assumption that he or she might be right. Likewise, when you are planning a piece, even if you throw in an exciting twist and turn, it must be logical. The reader must think, "Wow, that sure turned out differently than they had planned, but I can see why they got it wrong. These conditions usually prompt the predicted outcome."

Just as the weather would grow boring if it were always the same, so do stories need sunshine, thunder, lightning, rainfall, and even snow. Next time you write a piece, look outside and see how nature handles its own "story." Like the snow covering my yard, Mother Nature teaches me more every day about my writing craft. All I have to do is watch her as she writes and edits the most beautiful story of all.

Kathleen Cook is a free-lance editor and the author of nineteen books. A former copy writer/editor for Demand Studios, she also served as the Fictional Religion Editor for the ODP (Open Directory Project). She is currently the Arizona Authors Association newsletter editor.
NEW BOOK RELEASE
by Allan Spiegler

If a Store Could Talk
The Spiegler Family Remembers

Allan Spiegler’s new book, If a Store Could Talk … The Spiegler Family Remembers, chronicles not only the successes and struggles of an iconic business spanning four generations, but the love and loyalty of its family members, employees and customers. The book was published in September by Elderberry Press. Here’s what Todd Wessell, editor of the Des Plaines Journal and Topics, said about the book:

"If A Store could Talk...The Spiegler Family Remembers' is a wonderful walk through a specific aspect of the history of a true American community that tells the story of one important family that managed to stick together through thick and thin. It's a representation of love, respect and hard work that passed from generation to generation, which allowed them to succeed in experiencing the American dream."

Find this book on:
Amazon
Google
Better World Books
Powell’s Books
Read more about the history of the store HERE

From Allan’s Amazon biography: “Allan is a retired social worker who has been a consultant, therapist, and child welfare supervisor. He grew up in the towns of Des Plaines and Mount Prospect, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's degree in psychology and earned university honors. Allan earned two master's degrees, one in theology and one in social work. He co-authored an article in the publication "Children Today" (Jan.-Feb. 1989) on specialized foster family care. His adventures include a year-long hitchhiking trip throughout Europe and Morocco. In March 2017, "Clark Street Whole Foods Baking" was published, which are recipes from his former bakery (specializing in whole grains and non-processed foods) which was on Clark Street in Chicago. Allan just published "If a Store Could Talk...the Spiegler Family Remembers...", a family history of the Spieglers and their contribution to the development of the town of Des Plaines.”

Learn more about Allan at: https://allanspiegler.com/
NEW BOOK RELEASE

by David Rich

Myths of the Tribe
When Religion and Ethics Diverge

Myths of the Tribe: When Religion and Ethics Diverge was originally published by Prometheus Books (NY) in 1993. July 2019 finally saw the second edition published.

Myths propagated by organized religion not only hamper efforts to apply reason to our problems but can even foster violent conflicts that threaten global security. Myths of the Tribe argues that the belief systems of all major religions have become a detriment to clear thinking, rational conduct, and wise public policy, suggesting we substitute a rational analysis of all problems in the light of objective scientific evidence, a system of ethics that allows complete individual liberty constrained only by the principle of harming no one else, taking personal responsibility for one’s own welfare and actions, and the absence of government control over the pursuit of happiness.

Find this book on:
Amazon (second edition)
Goodreads
Alibris
Booktopia
Book Depository

From David’s Amazon biography:
David Rich grew up on a Colorado ranch, graduated from the University of Chicago Law School, and practiced law before retiring in his forties to become a full-time traveler. His book RV the World, now in its second edition, combines an account of his seventeen-year tour of 170 countries with lots of practical advice. David is also the author of The ISIS Affair, Putting the Fun Back in Fundamentalism, a satire on religion and nationalism in Syria; Scribes of the Tribe, The Great Thinkers on Religion and Ethics, organizing the great thoughts of our most important philosophers in an analysis of religion and ethics; and Myths of the Tribe, When Religion and Ethics Diverge, analyzing the religious myths that hamper efforts to apply reason to our problems and fostering violent conflicts that threaten global security.

Learn more about David here: https://www.gonomad.com/author/david-rich
Full Amazon biography HERE
NEW BOOK RELEASE

by David Rich

Scribes of the Tribe
The Great Thinkers on Religion and Ethics

Scribes of the Tribe, The Great Thinkers on Religion and Ethics was drafted in the 1990s and was finally published in July 2019. Never before in the history of humankind has there been a greater need for the essential wisdom of ethics. Our political and religious leaders have failed us, and the world is spinning out of control, with despotism on the rise in Europe and North America, continuous wars in the Middle East and Africa, and periodic nuclear standoffs between Pakistan and India. We have too many people, fighting over fewer and fewer resources. Self-interest and greed have hobbled our ability to deal with chronic world problems, such as climate change and overpopulation, that all but ensure our demise if left unchecked. We are afraid for our children and grandchildren. Where do we turn for moral guidance? We turn to this book.

Scribes of the Tribe excerpts and analyzes public domain quotes by our greatest philosophers, those known to us all, on religion (immortality and spiritual beliefs) and ethics (good and evil), arranging them in an intelligible order as a guide for the species, a guide that today seems more crucial than ever. The basic truths identified by our greatest thinkers provide a practical philosophy for ethical action that works on the mundane level where we live and breathe, the guidance we now need more than ever.

From David’s Amazon biography:
David Rich grew up on a Colorado ranch, graduated from the University of Chicago Law School, and practiced law before retiring in his forties to become a full-time traveler. His book RV the World, now in its second edition, combines an account of his seventeen-year tour of 170 countries with lots of practical advice. David is also the author of The ISIS Affair, Putting the Fun Back in Fundamentalism, a satire on religion and nationalism in Syria; Scribes of the Tribe, The Great Thinkers on Religion and Ethics, organizing the great thoughts of our most important philosophers in an analysis of religion and ethics; and Myths of the Tribe, When Religion and Ethics Diverge, analyzing the religious myths that hamper efforts to apply reason to our problems and fostering violent conflicts that threaten global security.
Learn more about David here: https://www.gonomad.com/author/david-rich
Full Amazon biography HERE
Here is an alphabetical list of those members who contributed their news, articles and columns, showcased their books, earned recognition in the literary contest, or contributed other talents to the Arizona Authors Association and newsletter this year. A hearty thank you to all! (If you don’t have a picture, make sure to update your member biography on our website!)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Biography</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DAVID ARNETT</strong></td>
<td>David Arnett published <em>The Sea of Cortez</em> this year, a thrilling adventure about drug cartels and the Colombian underworld. You may find the book on Amazon and many other outlets. Find out more about David <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>RICO AUSTIN</strong></td>
<td>Rico Austin’s essay, <em>Notre Dame</em>, won an Honorable mention in this year’s literary contest. That follows the success of <em>Baby Tender Love!</em>, a book about growing up in Montana. Earlier this year, Rico's book, <em>Arizona is Where I Live</em>, was featured on Tucson's The Morning Blend television show. Find out more about Rico <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>RUSSELL AZBILL</strong></td>
<td>Russell Azbill currently leads the Arizona Authors Association as its president and has presided over the rebuilding of the association into the vibrant community it is now. Find out more about Russ <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>MARLENE BAIRD</strong></td>
<td>Marlene Baird launched her new column, <em>Politically Incorrect</em>, earlier this year in the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter. Find out more about Marlene <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>VINCENT BAILEY</strong></td>
<td>Vincent Bailey won First In Category (paranormal / supernatural) at the Chanticleer International Book Awards for his novel, <em>Path of the Half Moon</em>. He is also a previous winner of the Literary Contest. Vince's publisher, Ingram Elliot, accepted book two, <em>Courses of the Cursed</em>, for publication. Find out more about Vince <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>PETER BERNHARDT</td>
<td>Peter Bernhardt conducted an AAA workshop called <em>Writing Like a Pro: Tips to Fine-Tune Your Storytelling</em>, in May at the Metrocenter Community Room. He also helped to launch our newsletter with his two-part series, <em>Author's Guide to Avoiding Pesky Pitfalls</em>. Peter presented his workshop at the Sedona OLLI campus and plans to repeat it in 2020. He is the author of several spy thrillers, including <em>Red Romeo</em>. Find more about Peter <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>PATRICIA L. BROOKS</td>
<td>Patricia L Brooks did a workshop in June titled, <em>You're the Expert: Write Memoir and Nonfiction with Author, Publisher Patricia L. Brooks</em>. She also participated in a Self Publishing Forum - Question and Answer Workshop at the Desert Foothills Library in March, along with Caren Cantrell, Diana Grillo and Kristina Makansi. The author of several books including <em>Sick as my Secrets</em>, find more about Patricia <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAREN CANTRELL</td>
<td>Caren’s book, <em>Saturday Safari</em>, was featured in our June issue and won an honorable mention for the children's story in the literary contest. She also participated in a Self Publishing Forum - Question and Answer Workshop at the Desert Foothills Library in March, along with Patricia Brooks, Diana Grillo and Kristina Makansi. Find out more <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>EMILY CARY</td>
<td>Emily Pritchard Cary received thanks from the Crawford County Historical Society for her book, <em>Thomas Atkinson Editor of the Crawford Messenger and Related Families Stuart and Stebbins</em>. She announced the publication of her book in our April Newsletter. Find out more about Emily <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>DONIS CASEY</td>
<td>Donis Casey launched her new book <em>The Wrong Girl: The Adventures of Bianca Dangereuse</em>, at the Poisoned Pen book store in Scottsdale on October 29th. The book was featured in the October issue of the newsletter. Find out more about Donis <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>KATHLEEN COOK</td>
<td>Kathleen Cook became the Arizona Authors Association Editor early in 2019, after previously serving under Cherie Lee. The author of <em>The Sun Always Trumps</em> and other books, Kathleen also runs <em>Gaia Troopers</em>, an environmental group. Her column, <em>The Inevitable Author</em>, appears in each newsletter. Find out more <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>Arizona Authors Association</td>
<td>December 2019-January 2020</td>
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<td>JO ANN CROOKS</td>
<td>Jo Ann re-launched her <strong>Member Spotlight</strong> column in a recent issue of the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter. The column was very popular &quot;in the old days&quot; and we are all glad to see her back. She is currently working on her first novel. Find out more about Jo Ann <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>JANET CRUM</td>
<td>Janet won first place in the short story category for her story, <strong>Proof Text</strong>, as well as the second place for her novel, <em>Vanishing, Inc.</em> in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. Find out more about Janet <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>MARTY FEESS</td>
<td>Marty Feess won 1st place in the AAA Literary Contest’s nonfiction category for <em>American Heroes: Fascinating Facts and Inspiring Voices</em>. Read more about Marty's books <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>MARCIA FINE</td>
<td>Marcia Fine won the 2018 Willa Literary Award for Best Original Softcover Fiction for her book, <em>Hidden Ones: A Veil of Memories</em>. The book was also a Finalist in the 2018 Sarton Women's Book Award sponsored by Story Circle Network. In November, Marcia displayed her books at the <em>Burton Barr Central Library’s Local Author Fair</em>. Read more about Marcia <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>DIANA GRILLO</td>
<td>Diana M. Grillo’s book, <em>An Accidental Murder and Other Stories</em>, was featured in the April newsletter. She also participated in a <strong>Self Publishing Forum-Question and Answer Workshop</strong> at the Desert Foothills Library in March, along with Patricia Brooks, Caren Cantrell and Kristina Makansi. Find out more about her <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>TOBY FESLER, HEATHCOTTE</td>
<td>Toby serves as the Arizona Authors Association Vice President and helps with many tasks, including the contest, the newsletter, and more. A prolific author, she has produced a new book, <em>Women Wronged</em>, which will be published in 2020. All of the book's proceeds will go to the National Organization of Women. Find out more about Toby <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>MARILYN JUNE JANSON</td>
<td>Marilyn has conducted a number of workshops throughout the year, including the following: Authors and Writers-Social Media Workshop, Writer's Block: Fiction and Nonfiction, Creative Writing: Story Structure, Young Adult Writing, Screenplay Writing, Children's Picture and Chapter Books Writing, and many more. Her personal essay, <em>Visitor Unexpected</em>, also appeared in the July 2019 issue of <em>You&amp;Me</em>, America's Medical Magazine. Find out more about Marilyn <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>NICOLAS LAGRAND</td>
<td>Nicolas serves as a board member for the Arizona Authors Association and has helped the board transition and reorganize to become, once again, a vibrant community. Find out more about Nicolas <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>CHERIE LEE</td>
<td>A longtime member of the Arizona Authors Association and former editor of its newsletter, Cherie serves as a mentor to the current editor and appears in each newsletter issue with a column based on her book, <em>Road to Imagination</em>. Find out more about Cherie <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>KELLY LYDICK</td>
<td>Kelly Lydick's book, <em>Dream Incubation for Greater Self-Awareness: A Handbook</em>, was featured in the June issue of this newsletter. Find out more about Kelly <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>KRISTINA MAKANSI</td>
<td>Kristina Makanski took part in a Self Publishing Forum-Question and Answer Workshop at the Desert Foothills Library in Cave Creek in March, along with Patricia Brooks, Caren Cantrell and Diana Grillo. Find out more about Kristina <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>K. PATRICK MALONE</td>
<td>K. Patrick Malone won first place in the unpublished novel category of the AAA Literary Contest for <em>A Gallery of Shadows</em>. Find out more about him <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>RICHARD MCMASTER</td>
<td>Richard McMaster won an honorable mention in the AAA Literary Contest for the unpublished novel, <em>A Love Divided by Time</em>. Find out more about Richard <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td>Arizona Authors Association</td>
<td>December 2019-January 2020</td>
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<td><strong>MARCUS NANNINI</strong></td>
<td>Marcus Nannini earned accolades for his book <em>Left for Dead at Nijmegen: A True Story of an American Paratrooper in World War II</em>, which was featured in the August issue of this newsletter. The book was recognized for inclusion into the United States National Archives, and it also won 3rd place in the published nonfiction category in the AAA Literary Contest. Find out more about Marcus <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>LAURA ORSINI</strong></td>
<td>Laura won 2nd place in the AAA Literary Contest for publishing the nonfiction book, <em>The Least Likely Criminal</em>. Find out more about Laura <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>CONNIE OSTERLITZ</strong></td>
<td>Connie Osterlitz won 2nd place for her unpublished short story <em>Phantom Wagons</em> in this year’s AAA Literary Contest. Find out more about Connie <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>ALBERT MONREAL QUIHUIS</strong></td>
<td>Albert won an honorable mention in the published nonfiction category of this year's AAA literary contest for his book, <em>Better Than Me</em>. He also conducted a workshop on <em>Children's Books-Writing and Marketing</em> on April 13 at the Saguaro Library, along with Barbara Renner. Find out more about Albert <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>LINDA RADKE</strong></td>
<td>Linda Radke, publisher of <em>Story Monsters Ink</em>, has offered a free year's subscription to AAA members. A long time member of the association, find out more about Linda <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>BARBARA RENNER</strong></td>
<td>Barbara Renner was a newsletter guest columnist this year with her timely discussion of street fairs. The newsletter also featured two of her books, <em>Spring! Time to Build a Nest</em> and <em>Quincy the Quail and the Mysterious Egg</em>. Both of them won prizes in the Story Monsters Ink Purple Dragonfly contest. Find out more about Barbara <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>JUNE A. REYNOLDS</strong></td>
<td>June submitted two of her books for inclusion in the newsletter this year: <em>Ghost Dogs and Animals of the West</em> and <em>Desert Trails</em>. Find out more about June <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>DAVID RICH</strong></td>
<td>The newsletter featured two of David's books, <em>The Isis Affair: Putting The Fun Back In Fundamentalism</em> and <em>RV the World</em>, in its April issue. In the current issue we feature two more of his books, the second edition of <em>Myths of the Tribe</em>, as well as <em>Scribes of the Tribe</em>. Find out more about David <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NANCY RIVEST GREEN</strong></td>
<td>Nancy Rivest Green's book, <em>Rosa Gets it Right</em>, was featured in our June issue. Find out more about Nancy <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>JANE RUBY</strong></td>
<td>Jane is the AAA Contest Coordinator and a regular contributor to the newsletter with her column, <em>What Pounds My Cake!</em> She also coordinated the literary awards banquet and serves on the AAA board as secretary. In addition, Jane won the 2018 London Book Festival honorable mention for her story, <em>Theories of Decay</em>. Find out more about Jane <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>JOHN SANDIFER</strong></td>
<td>The newsletter featured John in August for his important role in a Discovery Channel airing of <em>Ted Bundy: Mind of a Murderer</em>. As a Seattle reporter, he covered the subject extensively. He also released a new book, <em>Kaetennae</em>, which recorded the life and times of a Warm Springs Apache warrior in Victorio's band. Find out more about John <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>VIJAYA SCHARTZ</strong></td>
<td>Vijaya was named one of Canadian publisher BWL's best selling authors for 2018. Her book, <em>Angel Fierce, Azura Chronicles Book 2</em>, was featured in our April issue. Later this year, it won the AAA literary contest's first place for published fiction. In our June issue, we featured her book, <em>Black Dragon, Byzantium Book 1</em>, and in the October issue the newsletter featured three of her novels: <em>Noah's Ark Chronicles of Kassouk: A Prequel; White Tiger, Chronicles of Kassouk Book One</em>, and <em>Red Leopard, Chronicles of Kassouk Book Two</em>. Find out more about Vijaya <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>CRAIG SODARO</strong></td>
<td>Craig Sodaro won 1st place in Children's Literature in the AAA Literary Contest this year with his book, <em>THE SECRET OF DELPHI</em>. Find out more about Craig <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>RODO SOFRANAC</strong></td>
<td>Rodo Sofranac earned the 2019 Arizona Humanities Award as a Community Partner Outstanding Supporter, and was recognized for this achievement in our April issue. His book, <em>The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail</em>, was showcased in the same issue. In October, he was featured in Jo Ann Crooks' Member Spotlight column. Find out more about Rodo <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>ALLAN SPIEGLER</strong></td>
<td>Allan Spiegler was honored on October 6th at the Des Plaines History Center in Des Plaines, Illinois for his new book: <em>If a Store Could Talk . . . The Spiegler Family Remembers</em>. This book is featured in our current issue. Find out more about Allan <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>MARK D. WALKER</strong></td>
<td>Mark Walker was a guest columnist turned regular columnist for the AAA newsletter this past year. He won second place in the AAA contest for his article, <em>Hugs Not Walls: Reuniting the Children</em>. Mark's article, <em>Trouble in the Highlands</em>, was featured in <em>WorldView</em> magazine, a publication geared toward retired and active Peace Corps volunteers, and was also published in <em>Revue Magazine</em>, Guatemala's English language magazine. <em>Quail Bell Magazine</em> has picked up Mark's third immigration article, <em>Justice and Responsibility: The Plight of Central American Immigrants</em>. Additionally, <em>Moritz Thomsen: His Letters and His Legacy</em>, was published in September issue of <em>Scarlet Leaf Review</em>. His regular newsletter column: <em>What We're Reading and Why</em>. Find out more about Mark <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>KENNETH WEENE</strong></td>
<td>Ken was a guest columnist who helped launch our maiden issue this year with an article entitled “Facebook Brings Writers Together.” Find out more about Ken <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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<td><strong>DEBBIE WEILAND</strong></td>
<td>Debbie is a member of the Arizona Authors Association Board and serves as Treasurer for our association as well as web mistress. Learn more about Debbie <a href="#">HERE</a>.</td>
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"Winter is not a season, it's a celebration."

Anamika Mishra

Coconino Forest photo by the [USDA Forest Service](#).
Back Page Quotes

After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one’s own relations.
– Oscar Wilde

"To shorten winter, borrow some money due in spring."
– W.J. Vogel

“Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist.” – William Faulkner

Remember, if Christmas isn’t found in your heart, you won’t find it under a tree. – Charlotte Carpenter

There are three stages in a man’s life. First, he believes in Santa. Second, he doesn’t believe in Santa. Third, he is Santa. – Bob Phillips

Do you know a joke about writing, publishing or editing, or a good 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 faerland@yahoo.com before the 15th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue.

The HARD deadline for submission into the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter is the 15th of the month in the following months: January, March, May, July, September, November. If your submission is late, it will go into a future issue. Please do not ask for extensions, and thank you!

Brighter Stars Editing Services

Kathleen Cook offers editing, proofreading, formatting help and other services. Full-service editing includes extensive comments, suggestions and rewrites at 4¢ per word. Basic editing offers a similar manuscript without comments at 3¢ per word. This choice is ideal for those who have opted for full-service editing in the past.

Proofreading, without edits, is offered at 2¢ per word and honest, three-page assessments of your manuscript are a flat $50. Please write to faerland@yahoo.com if you have questions, and take advantage of my new client special, just $25 for full-service editing of the first thousand words of your novel. Thank you!

Check out the Arizona Literary Magazine 2020 on sale now!