

APRIL | MAY 2026

ISSUE 43

ARIZONA

AUTHORS DIGEST



ARIZONAAUTHORS.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Cook

PRESIDENT
Arizona Authors Association



H

ello, everyone. With spring in full swing, we're planning some great events. On April 11, we'll take part in the Northern Arizona Book Festival. NABF's staff have already completed their author selection process, which differs from most other fairs. Congratulations to the selected members! We're glad to have a space at Heritage Square—thanks to Julie Hammonds. We hope this marks the start of ongoing participation. Our Northern Arizona Coordinator, Cherrie Smith, will join us along with writers from the Flagstaff Writers Circle.

FLASH FICTION WORKSHOP

If you can't visit our Flagstaff booth, join our Zoom workshop with award-winning author and Arizona Authors Association vice president Jane Ruby. She'll demonstrate how to use Flash Fiction, including Young Adult Flash Fiction, to expand writing skills. The workshop is on April 18 at 10 am MST. Hope to see you there!

LITERARY CONTEST

Thanks to all who attended my Contest Judging workshop on March 28. The 46th annual Arizona Authors Literary Contest is heating up! I'll follow up by emailing everyone and compiling a list of judges for 2026. If you didn't attend but still want to volunteer, I hope you'll reach out to me at ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com. In the next couple of weeks, I'll start sending assignments to judges. All volunteer judges will receive a thank you from us. Last year, we sent \$5 Starbucks gift cards, but many judges didn't open their emails to retrieve the cards. This year, we'll give a \$5 credit on next year's membership instead, so no one has to hunt for an email. Thank you all; without you, we could not have a contest.

PESKY PITFALLS WORKSHOP

In May, Peter Bernhardt will teach us how to avoid "pesky pitfalls" in writing. His workshop offers tips and tricks he's learned and shared with Arizona Authors and others. My first assignment as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Digest, in March 2019, included Peter's lengthy and brilliant article on this topic. Many of our authors have enjoyed Peter's timeless wisdom over the years. Please join us on May 16 at 10 a.m. MST.

JUDGES WANTED!

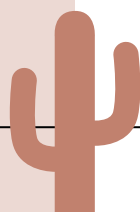
The contest will close in June. Last year, entries were up by 46 percent, and we hope for the same or even more this year. We'll need at least 40 judges, with each entry scored by three to five judges. Judges have until August 6 to submit their scores. Good luck to all contestants!

In the next issue, I'll discuss summer events, including the Payson Book Festival and AnnElise Makin and Bernd Haber's upcoming workshop, "When Human Destinies Get Mixed Up: Personal and Historic German-American Stories." Stay tuned for details. Enjoy your spring!

Peace, Katy



*Kathleen Cook is the president of the Arizona Authors Association, as well as its web administrator and former editor. She has written more than a dozen books. Her historical western set in 1880s Prescott, **The Sun Always Trumps**, features clerical sleuths known as the St. Francis Gang.*



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KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com



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

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

ARIZONA AUTHORS DIGEST **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Submit by **May 1** for inclusion in the next issue.

Advertising

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

New Releases

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

Feature Articles

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

Congratulations & Upcoming/Recent Events

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

What Are You Reading?

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

Quotes and Photos

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

Submission Guidelines

- Label your email subject line, e.g., “Book Release for April–May 2026.”
- Send text in the body of the email or as a Word document.
- Submit images as GIF, PNG or JPEG (largest file possible). Submit only photos you've taken yourself; include proper photo credit.
- All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and space.

Send entries to: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com





Application for Membership

Benefits of Membership

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____

WEBSITE _____

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

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

Writers Published or Unpublished:

One year \$45
Two years \$80

Current Member's Spouse/Partner/Child or any person living in the same household:

One year \$25
Two years \$40

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

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

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

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

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

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS of the Arizona Authors Association



William Esmont

William writes speculative thrillers from his home in southern Arizona.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Dannette Hunnel

Dannette is an award-winning author of ten children's books with additional honors for juvenile fiction and children's stories. A retired travel professional, she splits her time between Arizona and Mexico and writes with her grandchildren in mind.



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Mel Goldberg

Mel taught literature before retiring to Sedona, where he published his first novel. After years traveling the U.S., Canada, Alaska, and Mexico, he settled in Ajijic, Mexico. He writes mysteries and has published five haiku collections.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Rob Lezcano

Rob Lezcano is a genre-blending author whose work mixes memoir, speculative fiction, magical realism, and myth-driven adventure. His stories explore boundary between the ordinary and the impossible, often combining humor, nostalgia, and supernatural elements.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Rita Hanner-Ward

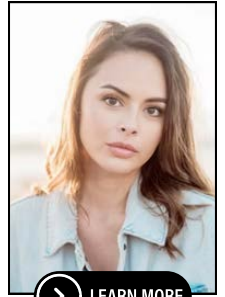
Rita is an award-winning author and former museum curator who later worked in fundraising and media relations. Now living in Arizona, she writes fiction and poetry while volunteering, working with clay, and keeping up with her incorrigible dog, Zorro.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Cindy Lee Neighbors

Cindy, a Honolulu native, is a former Army physician and Captain whose career has included acting. Now retired from the military, she writes memoir and children's fiction while advocating for mental health awareness.



[LEARN MORE](#)

M. Redding

Redding is a Phoenix-area writer and longtime Arizona resident who grew up near Detroit and studied communication at Arizona State University. After years of work and family life, he now focuses on writing stories meant to keep readers turning pages.



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FROM THE EDITOR

E

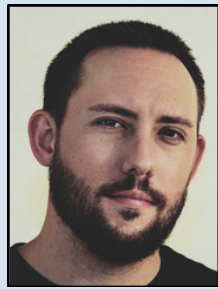
very editor eventually writes this column, whether they plan to or not. At some point, someone asks why a piece was not published, why another one was. I have received a few emails recently from members who were upset that their work did not run in the digest, which makes this a good time to explain the process. Since the *Arizona Authors Digest* exists to serve a specific community with a specific purpose, I hope you'll let me explain plainly what we publish, why we publish it, and why not every submission belongs here.

We're not a general-interest magazine. Our focus is intentionally narrow. We publish material related to authorship, the craft of writing, publishing and the activities of the Arizona writing community. That includes articles and essays about writing, news about our members, industry information, book releases, interviews and topics that help writers do their work better or stay connected.

A publication without a clear scope quickly turns into a bulletin board. Members who receive this Digest expect to find content related to writing and to this community. When something falls outside that scope, the decision not to publish it is not an act of censorship.

A sports magazine does not run travel poetry. A cooking magazine does not print legal theory. A literary journal does not publish car repair manuals. Those are not acts of suppression. That leads to another misunderstanding that has come up from time to time—that an editor's job is only to fix little things: grammar and spelling. Anyone who has worked in publishing (or been published, for that matter) knows that is not true. Being an editor means deciding what belongs in a publication or on a page and what does not. It means shaping the voice of the magazine and making sure the content serves the readers it was created for.

Kyle Patton
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arizona Authors Digest



The First Amendment gets dragged into these conversations far more often than it should, and almost always in the wrong way. The First Amendment limits the government. Put simply, it prevents the government from punishing speech or forcing someone to say something they do not want to say. It does not require a magazine to publish everything sent to the editor. That is basic civics, and in 2026 there is no shortage of ways to look it up. I take the First Amendment seriously, and I do not treat it as a slogan to be used whenever someone disagrees with an editorial decision. I have represented PEN America, an organization devoted to defending free expression, am a member of the Society of Professional Journalists, and have served as editor-in-chief of multiple publications. At my core, I still think and act like a journalist. Supporting free expression means understanding what it actually protects, not invoking it incorrectly every time a publication decides something is not a fit. Saying no to a submission does not silence anyone. It does not prevent anyone from writing, printing, posting or publishing somewhere else. It simply means that a particular piece does not belong in a particular magazine.

I am always willing to have a civil, informed conversation with anyone about the First Amendment or about what belongs in the Digest, and as long as I serve as its editor, I will continue working with our members to select the content that best fits the publication's purpose and the interests of the writing community it exists to serve.

***Kyle Patton** is an Arizona native and Phoenix-based editor, writer and journalist. He has worked for a variety of publications and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the State Bar of Arizona's Arizona Attorney Magazine.*

[> LEARN MORE](#)



LITERARY TRIVIA

(answers on the back page)

1 What does the publishing term “slush pile” refer to?

- A. Unsolicited manuscripts submitted to a publisher
- B. Unsold books returned from stores
- C. Early drafts rejected by the author
- D. Damaged books in storage

2 Which novel famously begins with the line, “The sky above the port was the color of television, tuned to a dead channel”?


- A. *Snow Crash*
- B. *Neuromancer*
- C. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*
- D. *The Left Hand of Darkness*

3 What is unusual about Mark Z. Danielewski’s novel *House of Leaves*?

- A. It has no chapter breaks
- B. Its layout and typography change throughout the book
- C. It is written entirely in dialogue
- D. It was first published online only

4 Which author is known for the fantasy series set in the world of Earthsea?

- A. Robin Hobb
- B. N.K. Jemisin
- C. Ursula K. Le Guin
- D. Terry Brooks



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



CRITIQUE CIRCLE IS NOW OPEN TO MEMBERS STATEWIDE!

No method of improving the craft of writing is more efficient or fun than a critique group. Our welcoming, supportive and thorough critique group has been serving Arizona since 2019. We welcome all styles, audiences, and genres of writing. For more info or to attend, email us at Crit@FlagWriter.com

ARIZONA AUTHORS ON:



[Youtube.com/@ArizonaAuthorsAssociation](https://www.youtube.com/@ArizonaAuthorsAssociation)

The Arizona Authors Association recently created a YouTube channel for all of our Zoom workshops and meetings. If you've missed a workshop and would like to view it, check out the channel. In the coming months, we'll be moving our older videos from the Resource page to the YouTube page, to have all of them in one place. Please like and subscribe, so that you can always view our workshops at any time. By subscribing, you also help to support us, so that we can grow our association and promote your books to a wider audience. Thank you!

ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION AND PROLIFIC WRITERS LIFE JOIN FORCES

The Arizona Authors Association has teamed up with Prolific Writers Life in order to garner a wider audience for both groups and better serve the literary community. Leslie Rager has offered her services as liaison. A member of both groups, Leslie has over 25 years' experience in software design, development, and training. In her business, *Leslie Rager, Lacoursiere Publishing Author, Editor, Web Design*, Leslie helps authors shine by showcasing their personalities and books. Her background as a corporate technical writer equips her with a keen eye for detail, which she brings to her role as an editor. She offers discounted websites to authors.

Her books, *Menu for Murder and Cocktails at Sunset* received five-star reviews on Readers' Favorites, Amazon, and Goodreads. Leslie's latest book, *Reunion in the Desert*, is her first venture into the Romance genre. She spends her limited free time with her husband, family, and friends, hiking in the desert, and savoring wine. As a breast cancer survivor, she volunteers for EBeauty, a non-profit organization created to support women undergoing treatment for cancer.

Find out more about Prolific Writers Life [HERE](#).

And find out more about Leslie at LeslieRagerAuthor.com or her [AAA Member Page](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS




April 20

Mario Acevedo will be the featured guest on **Donis Casey's** *Tell Me Your Story* interview series. Acevedo, author of the Felix Gomez detective-vampire novels, will discuss his writing career and published work in an online feature available at doniscasey.com.

April 29

The Scottsdale Society of Women Writers will host Jeanne Valenti as the featured speaker at its monthly meeting at Chompie's at 92nd Street and Shea in Scottsdale. The group, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year, continues its 2026 speaker series with additional programs to be announced. Before registering, please contact **Patricia L. Brooks** at patricia@plbrooks.com to check in and ask questions.



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

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

May 10

Penny Orloff will perform her solo show *Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life* in Surprise, Arizona. The performance features music and personal stories drawn from Orloff's life and writing.

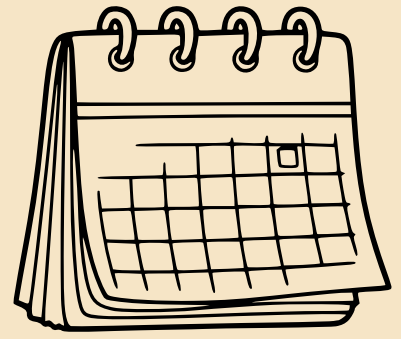
July 18



Patricia L. Brooks and her husband, **Earl L. Goldmann**, will participate in the 11th annual Payson Book Festival, held at the Mazatzal Casino ballroom in Payson, Arizona. The free public event will feature about 100 authors, along with art, music and food vendors. For more information, visit paysonbookfestival.org or text 480-250-5556 for questions.



2026 EVENTS



Monthly: Historic Y Open Mic 3rd Sunday,
Downtown Tucson

January 4: Mixer with PEN America,
Phoenix

January 10: Annual Meeting of the
Members (Zoom)

January 17: Zoom Workshop: Write the
Memoir You're Afraid to Write with
Patricia L. Brooks

February 7: Green Valley Authors
Showcase Luncheon

February 21: Zoom Workshop: The Power
of the Pen: Why Reviews Matter
with Mark D. Walker

March 14-15: Tucson Festival of Books

March 28: Zoom Workshop: Arizona
Authors Literary Contest Judges

April 9-12: Northern Arizona Book Festival
(tentative) Flagstaff

April 18: Zoom Workshop: Flash Fiction
with Jane Ruby
(see flyer on pg. 14)

May 16: Zoom Workshop: The Authors
Guide to Avoiding Pesky Pitfalls
with Peter Bernhardt
(see flyer on pg. 24)

June 1: Arizona Authors Literary
Contest Closes

July: Payson Book Festival

July 25: Zoom Workshop - When Human
Destinies Get Mixed Up: Personal and
Historic German-American Stories for
Writers with AnnElise Makin
and Bernd Haber (see flyer on pg. 48)

August 15: Zoom Workshop: Letters to the
Editor with Former Arizona Republic
Opinions Editor Robert Leger

September 12: Zoom Workshop: How to
Finish Your Book Faster and Enjoy the
Journey with Lorraine Haatiaa, Founder of
Prolific Writer's Life

October: ASU Desert Nights, Rising Stars
Conference and Book Fair

October: Desert Foothills Book Festival

October 24: Zoom Workshop: The Author's
Tactical Promotion with
Jeanne Burrows-Johnson

November: Arizona Authors Literary
Awards Event

November: Zoom Workshop: 7 Deadly Sins
of Writing Romance with Donna Hatch

November: Green Valley Holiday Book Fair

December: Mesa Holiday Book Festival

*Other events will occur as they arise, we will
keep you posted. We're always looking for
opportunities to serve our authors, so if you
have a suggestion, please write to us
at ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com*

RECENT EVENTS



February 21

The recent Zoom workshop, “Power of the Pen: The Impact of Book Reviews,” presented by Arizona Authors Association’s Mark Walker, drew participants from several writing groups, including Peace Corps Writers. The session explored how reviews support authors, build community, and influence the broader literary landscape.

For a copy of the presentation notes, which includes resources, email mark@millionmilewalker.com.

SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

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

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

March



Donis Casey’s March *Tell Me Your Story* guest is Arizona author Heidi Thomas, who was inspired by her rodeo-star grandmother to write three award-winning novels based on her life: *Cowgirl Dreams*, *Follow the Dream*, and *Dare to Dream*. Her

nonfiction book is *Cowgirl Up! A History of Rodeo Women*. *Seeking the American Dream* and *Finding True Home* draws on the life of her mother, a post-WWII German immigrant. Her newest series, beginning with *Rescuing Samantha* and followed by *Rescuing Hope*, follows the next generation of the Moser family. Read her story at doniscasey.com.

ARIZONA BOOK PUBLISHING

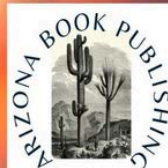
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Ghostwriting - Book Reviews
Websites - Book Signings

Lowest prices Available



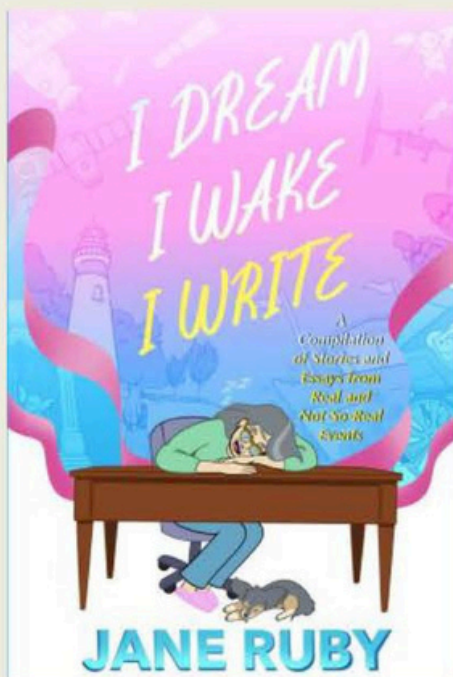
Arizona Authors Association Workshop

Flash Fiction with Jane Ruby

If you've ever thought about writing flash fiction, please attend our free ZOOM workshop with award-winning author, Jane Ruby. Jane will offer her tips and secrets to writing flash fiction that readers will love.



April 18, 2026 10:00 AM MST
Zoom Platform
To register, click [HERE](#).



Jane Frances Ruby is the Vice-President of the Arizona Authors Association and the award-winning author of several middle school works. Her most recent book is titled *I Dream, I Wake, I Write*, a collection of memoirs and other stories.

Find *I Dream, I Wake, I Write* on Amazon [HERE](#).

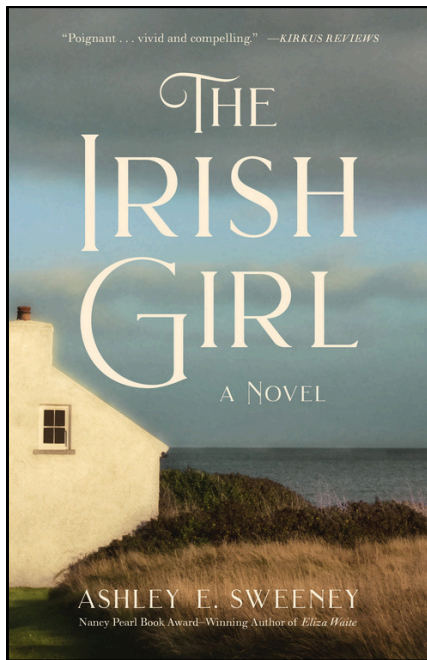
Find out more about Jane and her other books and stories by clicking [HERE](#).

CONGRATULATIONS

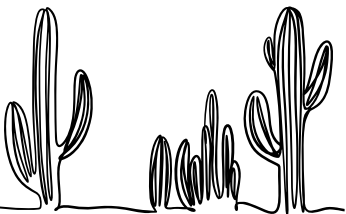
D.E. DuBois's short story *The Mission*, an alternative-history tale set in a world where World War II never ended, was published in *The Bloomin' Onion*, Issue Two. DuBois, a Scottsdale writer, is currently working on a YA urban fantasy novel. Read the story at thebloominonion.com/the-mission-issue-two.

Ashley E. Sweeney

announced that her novel *The Irish Girl* (She Writes Press, 2024) will be released as an audiobook by Tantor Media, narrated by Irish actress Aiofe McMahon. She also signed a foreign rights agreement with EK-2 Publishing in Duisburg, Germany, covering three of her novels.



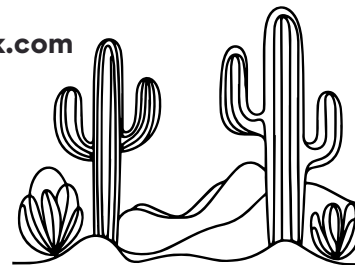
Penny Orloff's touring solo show, *Songs and Stories from a Not-Quite-Kosher Life*, recently sold out at Wham Arts Gallery in Surprise. The show is scheduled to return for another performance in May.



SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

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

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com



Rodo Sofranac's book *Bird's Eye View of Baseball*, illustrated by Mark Sean Wilson, recently received a positive review highlighting its humor, wordplay and comic-style artwork that introduces baseball terminology in a lighthearted way.



Cindy Lee Neighbors's debut children's book, *Benji and Briana Become Booger Doctors* (Mascot Books, 2025), received both the Golden Winner Book Prize and the Mom's Choice Award. The book has also been accepted for retail at Changing

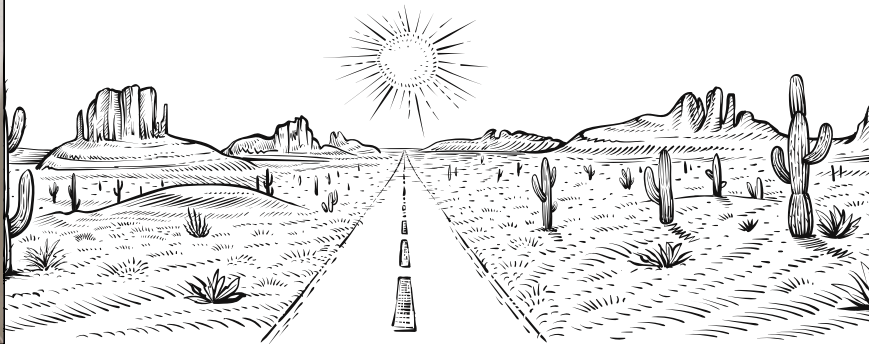
Hands Bookstore in Tempe.

CONGRATULATIONS

CONTINUED



DeAnna Dupree was honored to be named a Phoenix Visionary of the Year, joining 11 other Phoenix leaders to raise critical funds for Blood Cancer United. DeAnna, a life-style coach and well-known speaker, set a goal to raise \$150,000 for the charity, formerly known as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The campaign launched on February 18 and runs for ten weeks. If you wish to donate, click on the link: pages.ils.org/voy/az/az26/ddupree.



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TARGETED: FRAUD SCHEMES AIMED AT AUTHORS

From fake mailing lists to threats about your book, scammers are finding new ways to exploit writers. Here is what they are doing and how to protect yourself

By Kathleen Cook and Mark D. Walker

Authors have been inundated with online scams lately, and as president of the Arizona Authors Association, I work hard to keep our members safe. Scammers excel in psychology, and since every author loves readers, they play upon the desire for more readers and the delight engendered when they say, "I loved your book!" (Hint: If your money is involved, they've never read it.) The following are the most common author scams.

WE HAVE THE LIST!

Scam: *Do you want to connect with like-minded authors? Buy our list! We've got the names and personal information of every member of (insert organization here). Email me for more information!*

Reality: They have no list and are not connected to the organization. They *may* send you a sample of emails, taken from members who publish them. Once you send the money, you'll either get a bogus list or nothing at all. Reputable organizations like ours protect their members' information. Only the staff ever sees the list.

I LOVE YOUR BOOK!

Scam: *(Name) suggested I read your book, and I fell in love with it! It's exactly what I'm looking for to (display in a chain of bookstores, feature on Goodreads, produce a movie). To show my good faith, I'll put up the money for (hotels or whatever). All you need to do is send me money for (insert any reason here, such as flights). I'll take care of everything else! You just send your share.*

Reality: The person named never suggested they read your book, and they are not connected to a chain of bookstores, in the movie business or

working for Goodreads. They will not pay for anything and only wish to take your "share" and fly the coop. Once you send money, you *may* hear from them again if you seem gullible enough to send more. Glitches, tough breaks or overlooked extras appear like magic until you stop paying. The wording may change, but the bottom line is always the same ... "send me the money." Legitimate agents do not ask for money up front. They ask for a percentage of any of your future earnings from the deal they secure for you. They also don't ask you to send money for flights. You arrange those, or, rarely, they will pay for them.



I LOVE YOUR BOOK (AND I DON'T WANT MONEY!)

Scam: *A famous author emails to tell you how much they loved your book. They mention their favorite parts and ask what you're working on next. They sign their name and link to their website or Wikipedia page. You're thrilled because you click on*

the link and it actually goes to a legitimate page for a famous author.

Reality: Think. Did this person say anything about your book that was not in the Amazon blurb? Nope, because they never read the book. Did they leave a review? Nope, because they'd need an account with that name. Is the contact email on their website the same as the one they used to write to you? Again, nope, it isn't. The scammer is softening you up. You're thrilled to start some correspondence with a famous author who, after you become "friends," will put you in touch with someone they know, be it a publisher, agent, etc., who will ask for money. And since your famous friend recommended them, you trust them.

**LEGITIMATE
AGENTS
DO NOT ASK
FOR MONEY UP
FRONT**

YOUR BOOK IS PERFECT FOR OUR BOOK CLUB!

***Scam:** I'd love to offer your book to our (insert large number) subscribers. Not only will we feature it as our "Book of the Month," but we'll also do an author spotlight, so that readers can get to know the extraordinary author who wrote it. Here's a link to our Book Club. If you like what you see, reply to me, and I'll arrange everything for only a little bit of money! You'll make thousands in sales and, more importantly, you'll gain instant name recognition, which is important to authors!*

Reality: If they sent a book club link, they picked a random popular site with no connection to themselves. You click on it, see a book featured, and think, "That could be me!" You send money (to the scammer, not the popular site) and you never hear from them unless there's a "glitch" and they need more money.

GET YOUR BOOK REVIEWED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES!

***Scam:** Your book has incredible potential to be reviewed by The New York Times, which has 12.7 million readers in the U.S. and around the world. The New York Times is the place to get your book "out there." If you want to go big, then The New York Times is the way to go!*

Reality: You notice how scammers try to sell obvious points? They'll wax poetic about *The New York Times* to initiate "yes" psychology. You don't have to be convinced because you already know it. When they're finished, they've charged thousands for a tiny ad that you could have bought for one-tenth the cost. *The New York Times* does not do paid reviews. They only do paid ads (and when was the last time you mistook a small ad for a thoughtful, unsolicited review?) If you want to pay for expensive reviews, there are legitimate options. If you have more time than money, watch my video, **Marketing on a Zero-Dollar Budget**.

STOP ADVERTISING YOUR BOOK!

***Scam:** We have learned that you are advertising your book on Amazon and other outlets. If you don't take it down now, we will publish it ourselves and destroy your reputation! We will also post your home address on the Dark Web, where rapists and murderers collect such addresses! You will not be safe if you continue to advertise your book. Stop now!*

Reality: Fear is the scammer's weapon, and this threat frightens most authors. 99.99 percent of the time, they have only your email address. They're going for shock and awe, not wasting time looking up home addresses for no benefit to themselves. Authors are confused because scammers don't ask for money from this email. They wonder if someone hates them. You may receive more threats from the same email and wonder when the attacks will stop. Scammers are softening you up. After a few such threats, you'll be happy to hear from "good guys" who say, "We've been monitoring internet traffic and notice that you have been the subject of threats from very bad actors. We defend victims against such

threats, and because we are a nonprofit, we charge one-tenth the cost of a private investigator. For only (some amount of money) we will eliminate the threat, remove your home address from the Dark Web, and restore your peace of mind." The author pays, never realizing that the "good guys" don't "monitor the internet." They are just the "bad guys" using a different email.

WARNING SIGNS

- If anyone tells you their offer must be completed quickly, run.
- If the praise for your book doesn't mention details not found without purchase, the emailer has never read it.
- Check for typos in email addresses, such as extra periods. Check, too, for misspellings. If they try to mimic another organization, they're a scammer.
- Scammers usually use a free email account, rather than a paid one. While many legitimate organizations use free accounts, especially nonprofits where dollars are tight, most do not cold-spam. To receive emails from our association, for example, you must have been a member, entered our contest, emailed us or visited our website. If you have never contacted the people soliciting you, Google their email before replying. People who work for legitimate companies will be verifiable.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

1. Be cautious of strangers offering great deals; they may lie, flatter, befriend you and act like experts. (They are experts ... expert thieves.) Examine every offer carefully. One of our members said he believed the offer was real because "Gee, he was such a nice guy; he went the extra mile to address my concerns." If they mention a name, always verify it. Don't assume the person mentioned knows the scammer, and don't blame them for a bogus offer. I once received an email that read, "You should stop endorsing X Company. They scammed me out of a thousand dollars." I replied that I'd never heard of X Company, and he wrote back with, "Then why did you recommend my book to them?"

2. Do not contact the scammers or reply to their emails. I know it's tempting to show that you are on to them, or string them along till they reveal themselves, but unless you have extensive legal and tech expertise, you'll only expose yourself to many more scams.
3. Never click on QR codes or links. They can seriously compromise your computer system.
4. Forward any suspected scams to: **reportphishing@apwg.org**. There is no need to explain the email; they've heard it a thousand times. Merely forward it to them. If the scam involves a request for a PayPal payment, forward the email to **phishing@paypal.com**. If the scam involves a personal threat, report it to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at: **https://www.ic3.gov/**, and your local police department. Save the email until you receive instructions from them.
5. Make sure you are using updated software. Outdated browsers or software can compromise your security.

Stay safe and know that we care about all of you here at the Arizona Authors Association.



Kathleen Cook retired from her career as an editor in 2017. Afterward, she served for five years as editor of the Arizona Authors Association before becoming president in January 2024.



Mark D. Walker is the author of several award-winning books and essays. A former Peace Corps volunteer, he spent decades leading international aid organizations. He writes for travel publications and serves

on several nonprofit and literary boards, including the Arizona Authors Association.



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GRAND PRIZE

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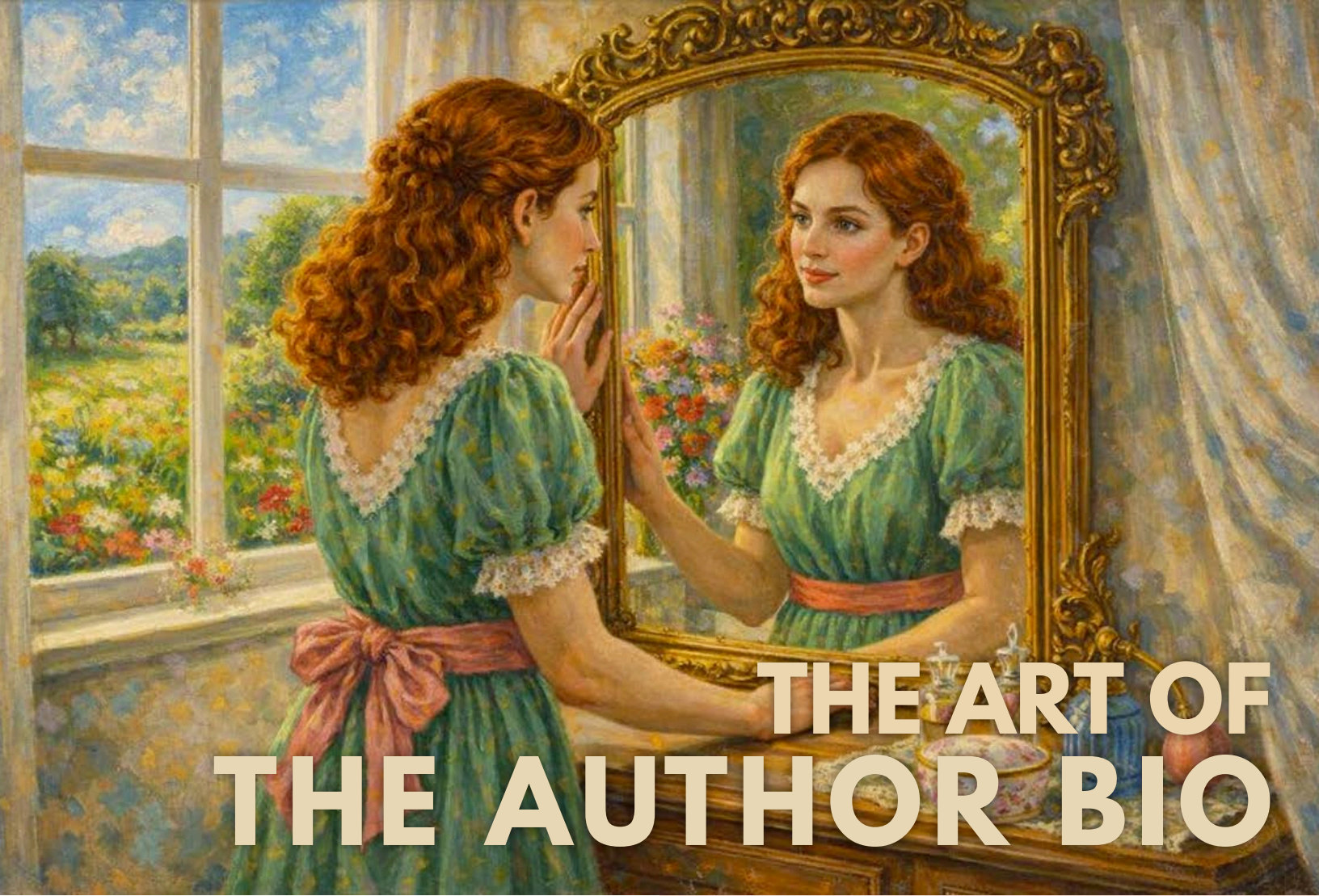
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THE ART OF THE AUTHOR BIO

A biography is not just a list of facts but a small act of authorship, a chance to shape how others encounter your work, your history and the person behind the page

By Jeanne Burrows-Johnson

CONSIDERATIONS FOR AN EMPOWERING BIOGRAPHY

Presenting themselves professionally is a primary goal of most entrepreneurs and executives. While biographies and résumés are separate items for marketing oneself, they have overlapping features, and each of them can be the difference in making a positive or negative impression on an individual or organization with which one hopes to conduct business.

THE CREATIVE'S BIOGRAPHY

Whether or not you are an author, artist, or other creative, biographies will prove beneficial throughout your career. Many people who describe themselves as writers work full-time in another field of endeavor to secure a reliable income for their day-to-day

expenses. For the many talented creatives who are students or recent graduates, the issue of a bio may not seem relevant. However, I believe that having a strong bio (and perhaps a portfolio with samples of one's work) in addition to a standard résumé helps anyone separate themselves from competitors in the positioning of artistic creations in a store or gallery, let alone in a job search.

If you are a writer whose work appears in public, you will truly need more than a single biography. For instance, promotion of a newly published book demands multiple forms of author presentation. The bio appearing on the back cover usually allows the largest amount of space for a biography. Fliers for mailings, events, and ads for varied outlets will vary in size, especially if there is more than one publication to promote. Items with the least space will be

postcards, bookmarks, and business cards (sometimes folded). The author's publisher (or printer if the author is self-publishing) will usually provide a description of the materials they need or samples to be approved or edited.

Another consideration is the individuals and organizations who will receive your bios. These may include literary agents, publishers, grant providers, literary awards, and potential readers. You can expect that most of these potential recipients will stipulate requirements for bios and other introductory materials: Content; format (such as composition in first or third person); a limit to the number of words or characters (with spaces); and the size and file type of images to be submitted.

THE VALUE OF RESEARCH

In shaping your bios, it can prove useful to research people whose success lies in work parallel to yours, plus individuals and organizations you are preparing to contact. Through the Internet (if not your public or university library), you can explore interviews they have given and papers they have written. Also consider where they were educated, their noteworthy professors, and the articles and books they have published. If someone has shifted from one company to another, determine whether they have discussed why they changed positions. What you learn in this process should provide ideas for designing bios that will attract them to you. Of course, if you dislike what they have said or written, consider whether you truly wish to pursue being associated with them, or whether you are likely to succeed in your attempts to do so. Finally, do not forget to research yourself. What information about you appears online and in print that matters? If there are errors, inconsistencies, or outright falsehoods, you need to address these problems prior to engaging in a major marketing and promotion campaign!

ELEMENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL BIO

The bios you shape will have several elements, even when short on content. The basics include who you are, what you do, and how your education, training, and talents are notable! The last item is always challenging...for if not handled appropriately, it will

sound as though you are bragging. If you are fortunate, educational degrees, awards, and professional memberships will demonstrate your expertise. Given time and space, creative professionals will want to present unique aspects of their life and career. In this regard, I give reference to training and public performance in dance and theatre, plus authored and co-authored articles and books. When I was contacted for an interview by **Readers House Magazine, London's Literary Gateway**, last summer, I decided to include my lifetime membership in the British Association of Teachers of Dancing, Highland Dance genre, in the bio I provided them.



KEEPING RECORDS OF BIOGRAPHIES

Regardless of career, the layout of one's biography largely depends on purpose and length. That is why, in addition to the passage of time, I have several files of bios. For easy reference, they are separated by purpose: Book covers and front matter; insertion in a book marketing website (like Goodreads); radio interviews; print matter interviews; online interviews; fliers; bookmarks; business cards. Each entry opens with length, followed by title and/or details of purpose and its original date. This detail helps me in the middle of the night when I may be searching for a complete bio, its opening, or even a single phrase.

REASONS FOR HAVING A STRONG BIOGRAPHY

Many years ago, I met with a corporate CEO seeking advice on strengthening her corporate marketing. One of my suggestions (which she questioned) was to create biographies for each board member and department head in her start-up international company. I never heard from her after submitting this tongue-in-cheek laundry list addressing the issue. I've often wondered which of the reasons I shared for executive bios concerned her.

SHORT-TERM PLANNING

- Potential clients are knocking on your door
- Potential investors are analyzing your organization
- Your small business lender has requested a comprehensive business plan
- A member of the national media wants to interview you

MID-RANGE PLANNING

- Eventually, you will need to complete that business plan you've been thinking about
- Clients are comparing you to a competitor who was recently featured in the media

LONG-RANGE PLANNING

- You will become successful, and people will want to learn about you...so you had better start checking facts you've already forgotten

REASONS TO AVOID HAVING A BIO

- Your name is never misspelled, and you are never misquoted
- Statistics about you and your business are never erroneously cited
- You have no competition; your clients will never ask about the organization's management
- Despite their talent, some principal employees have weak education, training, and/or experience
- You do not need to impress anyone, and do not care about any gossip afloat

WHEN WILL YOU SEEK AN EMPOWERING BIO?

- You have just been introduced incorrectly?
- When incorrect data have been published and widely distributed?
- When your sales team needs to proclaim your superiority?
- When does someone notice the gap under "Management Team" in your business plan?

WHAT CONSTITUTES A STRONG BIO?

Whether you are preparing to deliver a single compound-sentence self-introduction or provide a page-long entry to a professional publication, consider the bios of your peers. What have you enjoyed in your career? What makes you curious about the subject? What aspect remains positively memorable? Whether you write the biography

yourself or hire a wordsmith, you need to analyze the results in both print and oral presentation. The easiest way to do this is to read it aloud and then have someone read it to you. Consider including the following desirable elements:

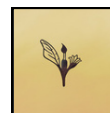
- Industry-appropriate vocabulary that does not leave your audience questioning jargon
- Warmth, even humor, without self-deprecation
- Short, clear sentences with strong verb clauses that do not rely on "very" and "really."
- Highlight a unique quality and pertinent skills
- Mention special recognition and outstanding awards

If you are not in business, consider when it might be useful to have a bio at the ready.

- You need an introduction to potential colleagues
- You are being honored by your profession for a successful career
- Your family and friends may need to prepare your eulogy



Jeanne Burrows-Johnson writes works of fiction and nonfiction. She is the author an award-winning mystery series. Drawing on her interdisciplinary experience in the performing arts, education, and marketing, her authored and co-authored articles have appeared in literary, professional, and general readership publications. Check out her new website and blog at JeanneBurrows-Johnsonslmaginings.com.



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The Authors Guide to Avoiding Pesky Pitfalls Zoom Workshop with Peter Bernhardt

Saturday May 16 10:00 AM on Zoom

To register for this workshop, click [HERE](#).

Have you ever slugged through the opening pages of a manuscript or novel laden with background and wondered what the story is about and when it will finally take off before you quit reading? The self-appointed pitfall detective, Peter Bernhardt, has spotted this malady in more manuscripts than he cares to recount. In this workshop, Peter will cover a plethora of pitfalls and help you avoid them.

Peter Bernhardt is a multiple award-winning author whose works appear in libraries and in the New York Metropolitan Opera House gift shop. His first novel, *The Stasi File*, won first place in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. His second novel, *Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter*, won second place, and his third novel, *Red Romeo*, took first prize in 2023 as an Oldie But Goldie winner. All of his works can be found in both German and English editions.

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I'M NOT THE AUTHOR ... I ONLY WROTE THE BOOK

By Dan Baldwin

PART I OF V A GHOSTWRITING SERIES

[Editor's Note: We are pleased to present the first installment of a five-part series by Dan Baldwin on the craft and business of ghostwriting. In Part II, Dan will explain which motivations help turn a hesitant prospect into a client when they are considering hiring you as a ghostwriter. Look for Part II in the June–July 2026 issue.]

A GHOST OF A CHANCE

Everyone you know, have known and will ever know has a book hidden inside. Many want to release that work. The job of the ghostwriter is to bring out that book in a publishable form. First, definitions: *Author*—the name that appears on the cover of the book; *writer*—that's you, the guy who does the real work.



Your name goes on the check (more on that vital subject later).

Authors have a perverse view of the process. In its worst form, it goes something like this: “I have a great idea for a book; you write it, and we’ll split the profits 50/50.” (If you haven’t heard this by now, trust me, you will.) Authors also have equally perverse views of what happens after publication.

I’ve worked with authors who knew—just knew, mind you—that their book would hit the best seller list the first week out of the chute, that it would sell tens of thousands of copies immediately, fans would line up around the block for their book signings, and that they’d be living the good life in New York, Rome, Paris or Lordsburg in no time at all. I’ve worked with authors polishing their Pulitzer Prize acceptance speech before finishing the outline of their book.

One of the duties of a ghostwriter is to rain on that parade very carefully. Early in the process, and earlier the better, I explain to clients that eight out of ten books achieving publication fail in the marketplace.

Most books in traditional publishing never earn back the advance paid to the authors. Failure is not only an option, but it's also practically guaranteed. Once that chore is out of the way, the writer can proceed with a guilt-free conscience and work their butt off to beat the odds.

As with any writing project, the process is simple. That doesn't mean it's easy. This is especially true when working with someone who expects you to read their mind, carry out their orders, and be okay with "the check is in the mail." Ghostwriting doesn't require any special talents not found in writing novels, short stories, memoirs, news reports, or advertising copy. It does require the ability to balance patience with the need to shout, "Get off your ass and do your part!" when necessary.

One of the big challenges for some ghostwriters is the need to sacrifice their voice for that of their client. This is an essential skill. A ghostwriter must remember that the work is the author's work and not the writer's chance to stretch their skills, try out new techniques, or tell the story the way it *ought* to be told. It's easier than you think, but you must work at it from page one to *The End*. The writer's input is essential and should be expressed, but in the end, it's the author who writes that check. It's their book; write it their way.

Most business books (indie and traditional publishing) are written at an eighth-grade level, and the reason is simple. Almost everyone in America has an eighth-grade education. Write the book that way, and most authors will be delighted with how great they "sound." Throw in a few terms and phrases gleaned from your client, and he'll be amazed at how you have captured their true voice. I know extremely well-educated business leaders who speak with multiple voices. They'll use one voice for the board of directors and another when addressing the men and women on the manufacturing line. That's not a matter of talking down or talking up to people; it's a matter of using words and phrases appropriate to the audience. The audience often determines voice. And regardless of that, the audience never talks down or tries to cozy up to those folks. The writer must respect the audience.

Authors (name on cover) usually have a few reasons

for hiring a ghostwriter (name on paycheck). One, the author can write but lacks the inclination and drive necessary in the hard work of applying fingers to the keyboard. Two, some can write, but are busy doing whatever it is that they want to write about. As one of my authors said, "I can write it, but you can do in six months what it would take me six years to write." Three, they can't write it, but they have something to say and need professional help saying it. And that's why God invented ghostwriters and paychecks.

THE WRITER MUST RESPECT THE AUDIENCE

I'll be exploring more tips on ghostwriting in several upcoming installments. For now, anyone interested in becoming a ghostwriter should consider their skills in writing in someone else's voice, interviewing, research and fact-checking, patience with someone unfamiliar with the process, the ability to make sure the author lives up to their end of the bargain (deadlines are particularly challenging), and a willingness to smile while chewing nails.

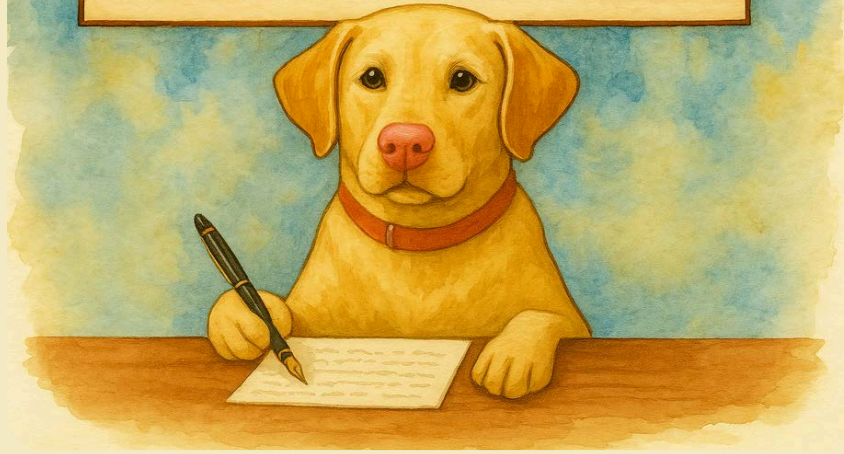
Once you have a grip on those abilities, you have a ghost of a chance at becoming a successful ghostwriter.



Dan Baldwin is an author, ghostwriter, multi-genre novelist, and published paranormal investigator. His work has earned multiple awards, including Best Book Awards, National Indie Excellence, Book Excellence, the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, a national Telly, Addy, and honors from major film festivals and advertising networks. His public-awareness campaign for the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse was cited as a national model. He lectures on writing, paranormal investigations and the JFK assassination. Learn more at DanBaldwin.com.



LARRY'S CORNER



MY MOM THE PLANTSER

By Larry Renner

Edited by Barbara Renner (Mom)

My mom is a *Plantser*. You are probably thinking she likes to plant vegetables and flowers. And you would be correct. But I'm here to discuss writing. So, I hear, writers fall into three categories as they prepare to write their novels: *Plotter*, *Pantser*, and *Plantser*.

Going with Mom's garden analogy, as a *Plotter*, she plots out where the zucchini, peas, and green beans are planted. She's so precise, I'm surprised they aren't in alphabetical order. As a *Pantser*, she throws a bunch of flower seeds in an empty flower bed, waters them, and waits to see where they sprout, when they bloom, and what color they are. Mom combines both these techniques, and that makes her a *Plantser*. She marks her garden rows carefully, but her best dog friend, me, digs a little, and the cucumbers end up sprouting where the cantaloupes should be. I digress.



Back to the topic of writing.

Plotters are writers who outline scenes, characters, and plot structure before sitting down to write one word. They have a clear roadmap of where they are going and follow their GPS faithfully.

Take, for example, my daily routine. It's all planned out. When I wake up, I lick Mom's face to be let outside. I follow the same path through the dining room to the back door. Breakfast is at 7:00 a.m., neighborhood walk is at 7:30 a.m., playtime, and then naptime. If Mom moves the furniture or

walks me on a different route, my plan is all discombobulated, and I must find new scents to cover up. For *Plotters*, redoing an entire outline is time-consuming and frustrating.

Pantsers are those who "write by the seat of their pants," for those who wear pants. They don't create

an outline or a roadmap for their story. There is no GPS to guide them. When they sit down to write, their Muse takes over, transforms the plot, and introduces new characters. The theme may change according to the Muse's whims.

Speaking of ignoring the GPS, I overheard Mom telling Dad about the time she ended up in a dry riverbed because she didn't follow her GPS directions. She got lost and had to figure out another way to get home, which took a lot longer. *Planters* might find themselves with writer's block if they don't follow a plan. Kind of like walking down an alley and meeting a barking dog.

Planters follow a little bit of both the *Plotter* and *Pantser* approaches. They write a synopsis, create character sketches, and jot down important details of the story. But if their Muse whispers in their ear, the story could go in a different direction.

I'm not sure what a Muse is, but my instincts tell me *Plantser* would be more fun. I love digging in the garden.



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



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ADD YOUR BOOKS AND ARTICLES to the April-May issue of the Arizona Authors Digest no later than **May 1, 2026**

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

Include:

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- 100-150-word synopsis
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BOOK RELEASES
30-44

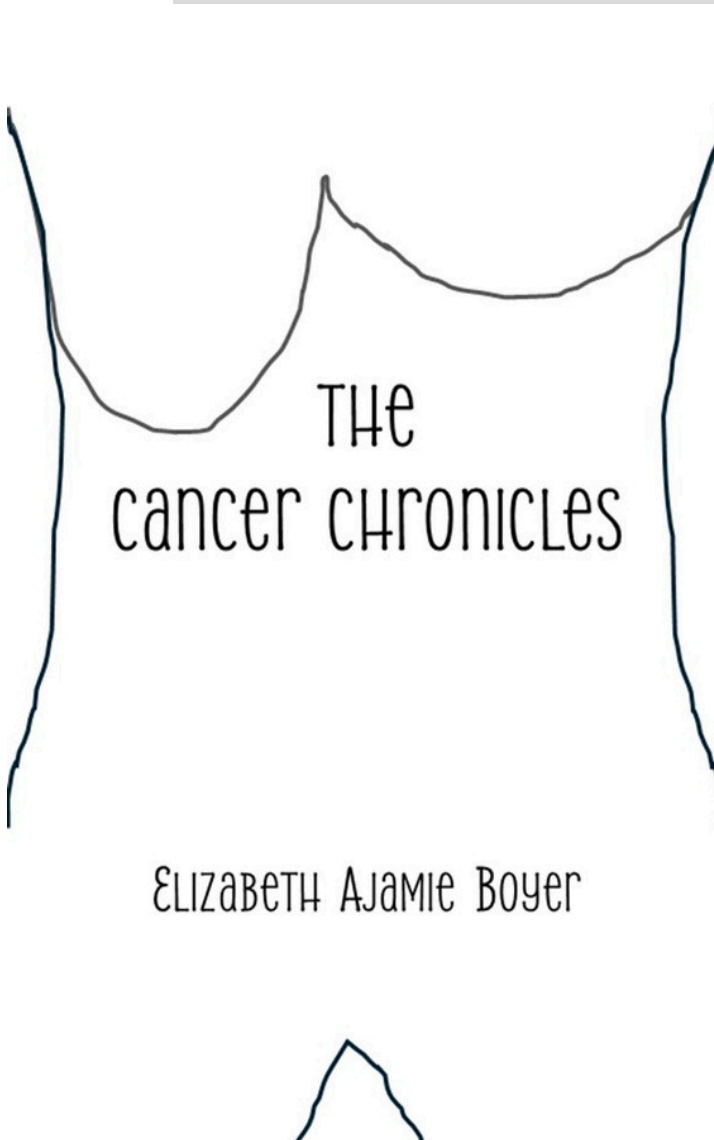
SHORT RELEASES
None in this issue

NEW RELEASES



NEW BOOKS

THE CANCER CHRONICLES
Memoir | Independently Published



When I wrote this first blog/chapter I knew my Mom would die soon. Dad had passed in 1996, and now she was following him, both of terrible diseases brought on mainly due to life choices. Mom passed away December of 2016.

At that time, I thought I would never get cancer. No one in our family ever had it, outside of some minor skin type cancers. I ate, yes still eat, healthy. I exercised.

Yet, I was chosen for such a time as this.

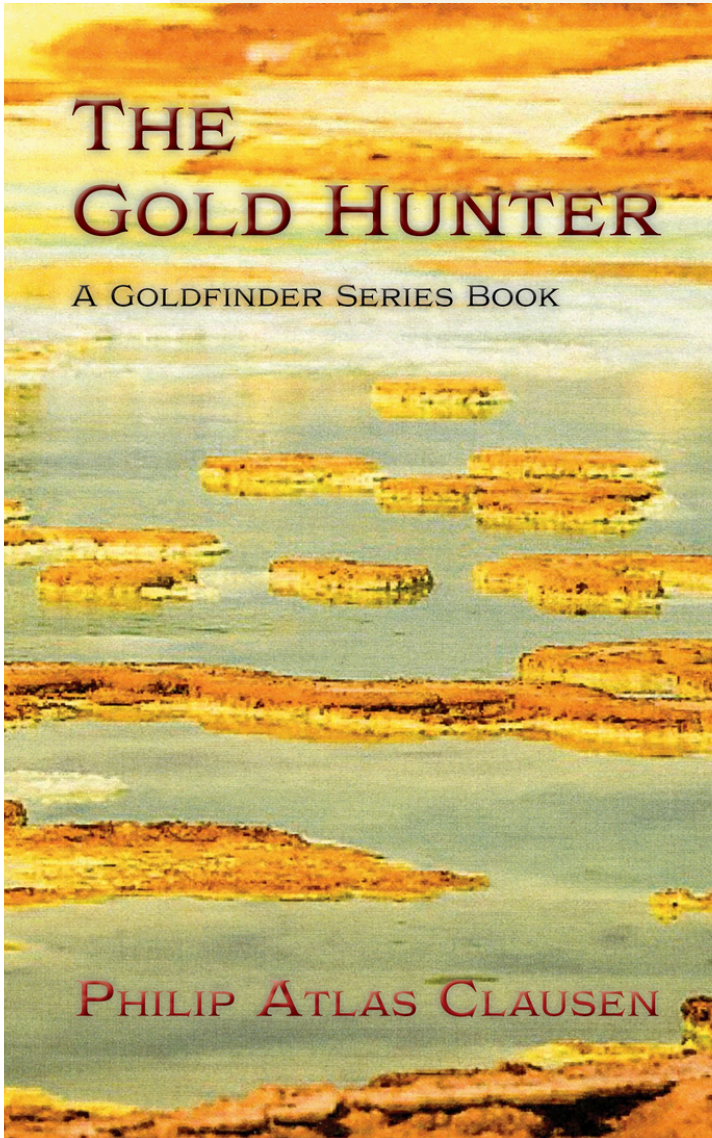


As a writer, **Elizabeth Ajamie-Boyer** dedicates all her work to her Lord Jesus Christ. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from ASU. She's written six books, collaborated with her husband, TJ Boyer on a cozy murder mystery, and co-wrote several of the Mirror Gate Chronicle Books. She's lived in Phoenix, AZ for most of her life.



NEW BOOKS

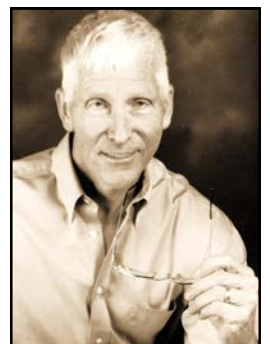
THE GOLD HUNTER
Action / Adventure / Mystic Fiction | Sunstone Press



When seventeen-year-old Petr Valory finds, not just a vein of gold, but the volcanic throat into the heart of the California Motherlode in 1852, instead of becoming the salvation of his pioneer family, it ends in their destruction. When he enters The Luminahee beneath the Gold Lake he experiences a spiritual transformation guarded by the Old Ones for centuries. The vast amount of gold incites the interest of power mad Dain King. Here is a touching love story of brother for sister and youth's desperate struggle to survive the darkness surrounding gold fever rampant on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada.



Born in California, **Philip Clausen** enjoys hiking the Sierra Nevada Range and Redwood Empire for inspiration and ancient memories. Clausen has a B.A. in Journalism from San Jose State and he studied fiction at the Iowa Writers School Festival. He lives in Tucson, Arizona, where he retired after years of blue-collar work. He is a lifelong Rosicrucian (AMORC).



NEW BOOKS

A SEARCH FOR CONNECTION
Flash Fiction | Independently Published

A SEARCH FOR CONNECTION



30 FLASH FICTION STORIES
BY
MEL GOLDBERG

A *Search for Connection* is a vivid and emotionally resonant collection of flash fiction stories each under 1,500 words that explores what it means to reach outward, inward, and across time in pursuit of understanding, belonging, and meaning. Ranging from stark realism to speculative science fiction, these stories offer quick but powerful glimpses into the human condition. Though brief, each piece lingers long after the final line, revealing how connection can be both fragile and transcendent. Together, these and other stories form a tapestry of characters searching—for understanding, for solace, for home, and ultimately for connection.

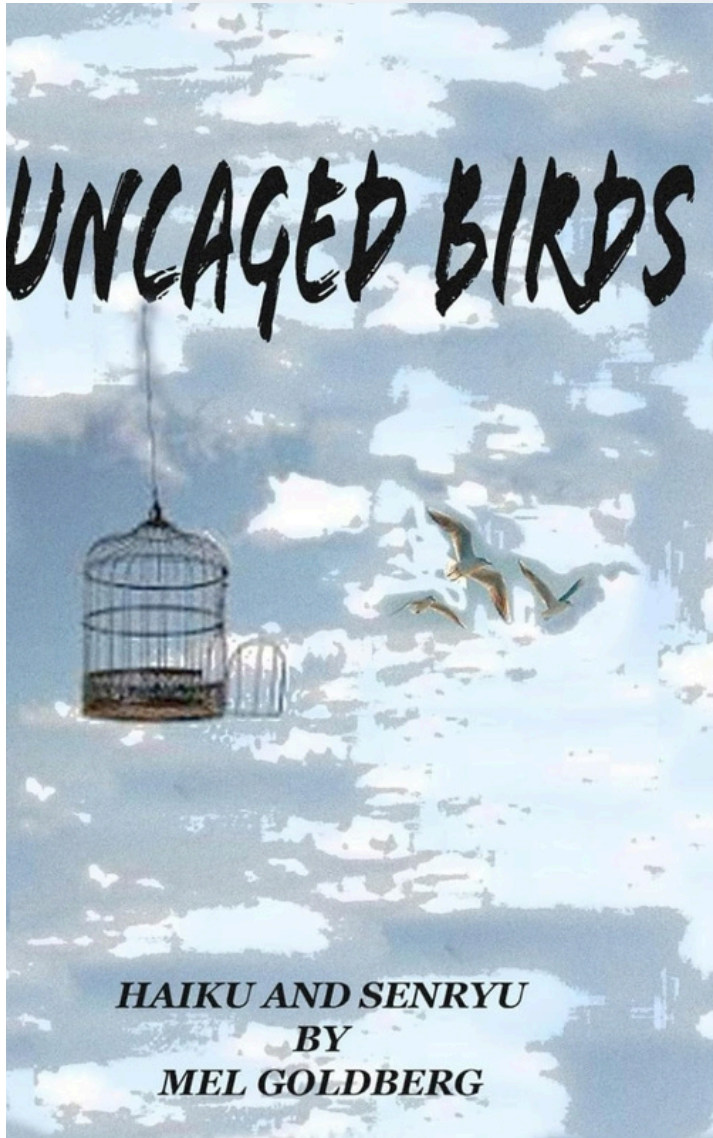


After earning a master's degree in education, **Mel Goldberg** taught high school and college literature and writing in California and Illinois. He was selected as a Fulbright Exchange Teacher at Stanground College in England, an experience that deepened his love of language and culture. Following early retirement, he moved to Sedona, where he met artist Bev Kephart. Together they traveled across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico before settling in Ajijic, joining its vibrant expat arts community. Mel writes crime novels featuring detective Aaron Guerevich and forensic analyst Ann Berendt, but his true passion is poetry—especially Japanese haiku. He has published five haiku collections.



NEW BOOKS

UNCAGED BIRDS
Haiku Poetry | Independently Published



U*ncaged Birds* contains 216 haiku written over several years, many published. Mel won the grand prize for Haiku from the Setouchi Matsuyama Haiku Contest, Matsuyama, Japan, in 2018, and a Laureates Choice award in the Maria Faust Sonnet Contest in 2021, among others.



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NEW BOOKS

HULA GIRL
Young Adult Fiction | Independently Published



A Mythic Adventure of Heart, Family, and Island Magic

Eighteen-year-old Tommy Tanner never expected his grandfather's old yellow Corvette to carry him into a world of ancient gods, living legends, and dangerous magic.

But when Tommy discovers that a tiny hula doll on his dashboard is actually La'Ka, a sacred spirit tied to the goddess Pele, his life changes forever.

Suddenly, he is no longer just a kid trying to find his place.

He is the chosen guardian of a powerful legacy.

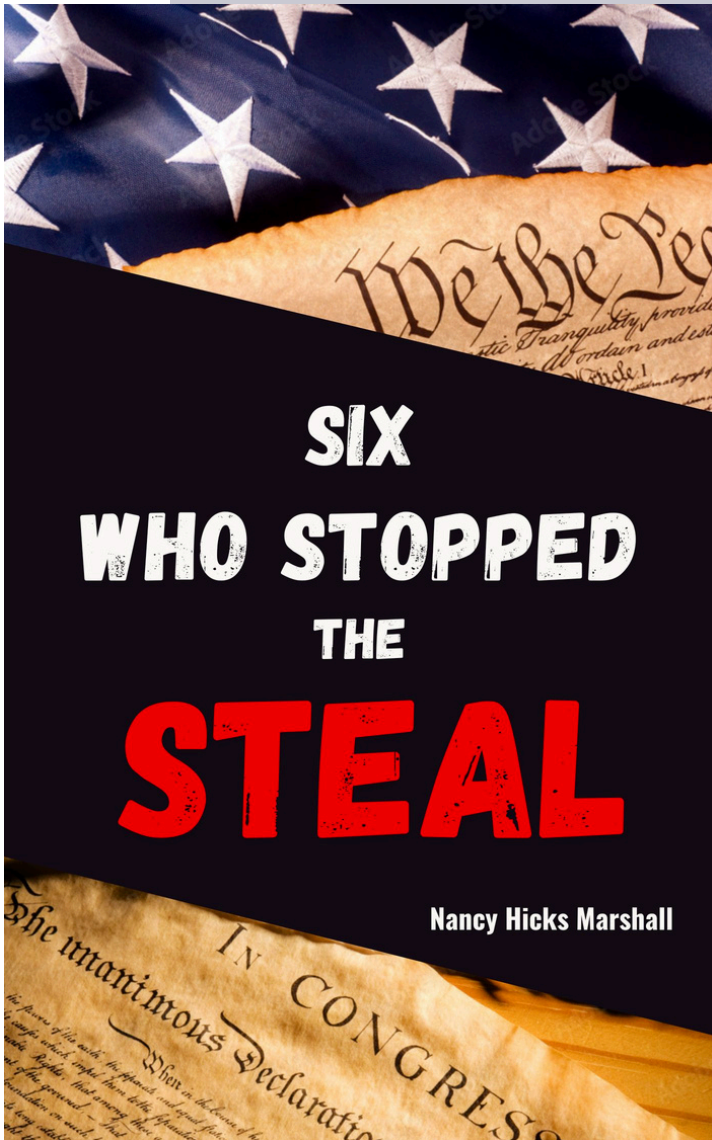


Rob Lezcano writes across genres, blending memoir, speculative fiction, magical realism, and myth into stories that explore memory, legacy, and the thin space between the ordinary and the impossible. His work circles questions of identity, love, faith, and the things we carry that refuse to release us. Rob mixes nostalgia with futurism, humor with heartbreak, and emotional honesty with bold invention. Influenced by writers like Ernest Hemingway, Ray Bradbury, Gabriel García Márquez, and Kurt Vonnegut, he treats tradition as conversation rather than rulebook, building both interconnected worlds and stand-alone stories meant to surprise and unsettle.



NEW BOOKS

SIX WHO STOPPED THE STEAL
Nonfiction | Nugget Press



An in-depth and intimate account of the six men who prevented the 2020 Maricopa County presidential elections from being stolen--simply by honoring their oath to defend the Constitution and Arizona law. Because of their integrity, most suffered numerous threats of death or bodily harm to them and their families. Marshall asks:

What were the monsters of 2020?

And where do we go from here?

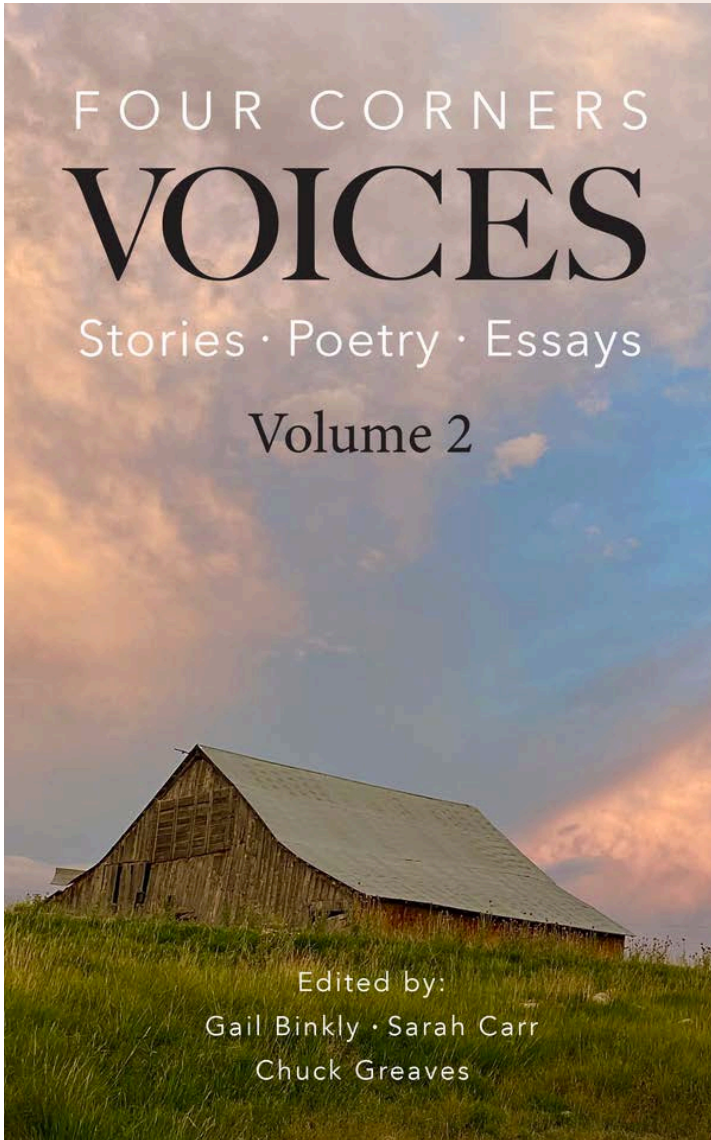


Nancy Hicks Marshall was born and educated in the east and moved to Phoenix in 1975. She has always had a concern for fairness and strong dislike of the abuse of power. She writes in a conversational tone when possible, not overly academic, even when tackling a topic such as the nature of the voting process. A retired attorney, Marshall has written several books, usually fiction, for both adults and children.



NEW BOOKS

OUR CORNERS VOICES STORIES, POETRY, ESSAYS, VOLUME 2
Essays, Poetry and Short Stories | Four Corners Writers



This second anthology from Four Corners Writers, following the success of Four Corners Voices, winner of the 2025 Colorado Book Award, features stories, poetry, and essays from over 40 writers based in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado, all in furtherance of FCW’s charitable mission of “identifying, developing, and promoting literary voices in the American Southwest.”

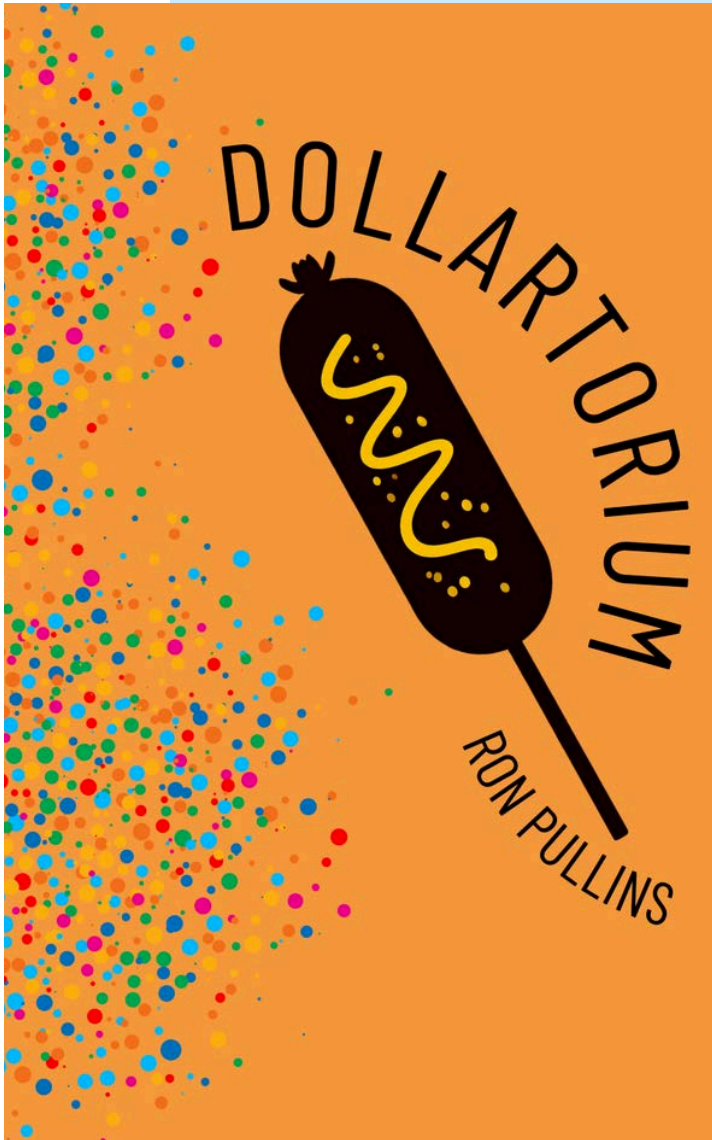


Jamie Nielsen is an ecologist and a returned U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, based in Flagstaff, AZ, with her husband, two teenagers, a puppy named Osa, and an ever-patient rescue dog, Rainy. Jamie’s writing appears in the **Arizona Daily Sun, The Sunlight Press, Cleaver Magazine, Empty House Press**, and she is a past contributor to the Arizona Authors’ Association **Literary Magazine**. She’s currently putting the finishing touches on her first memoir and next month’s **Substack!** She is honored to be one of more than 40 writers to be featured in the 2025 Four Corners Writers Anthology, **Four Corners Voices, Vol 2**.



NEW BOOKS

DOLLARTORIUM
Fiction | Unsolicited Press



“**A**n allegory for our times, a surreal meditation on the illusions, and delusions, that underpin late-stage capitalism and a society in which almost every relationship is monetized. It depicts an American Dream turned nightmare, while celebrating beacons of integrity and love in turbulent times, as well as the possibility of awakening. It provides an unsparing look at rampant greed and still radiates hope in the human spirit.”

Review by Alice Hatcher, Dzanc Books.

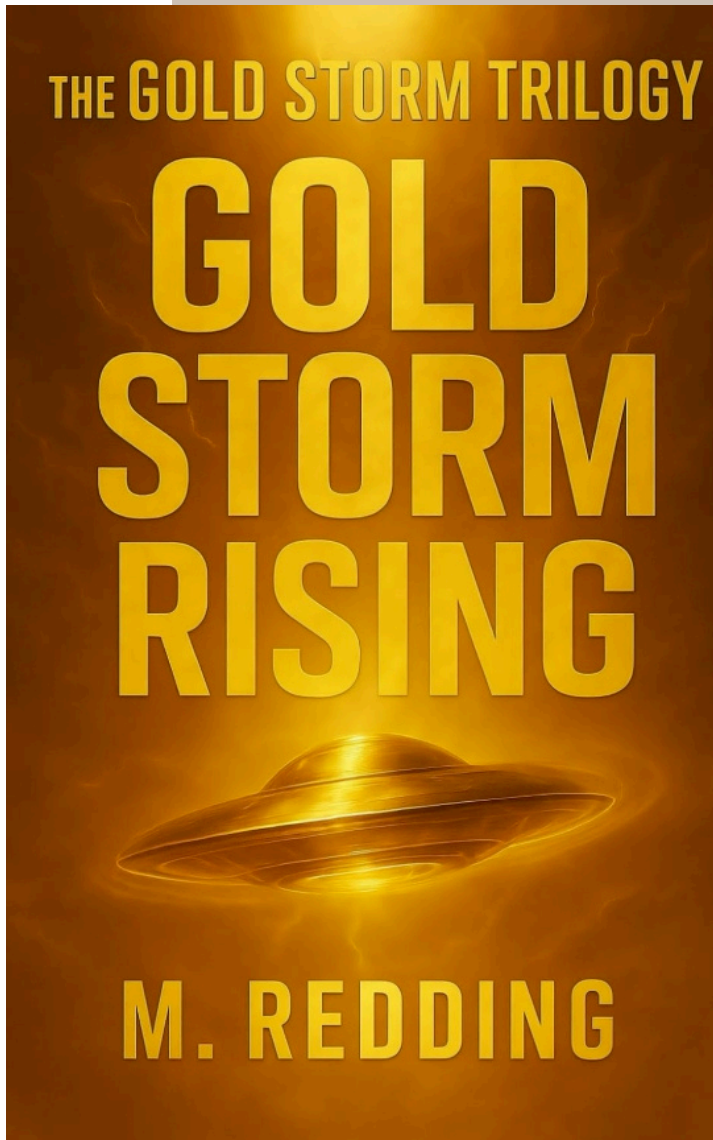


Ron Pullins is a writer working in Tucson AZ. His works have been published in numerous journals including *Typishly* (Editor’s Choice), *Southwest Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Sunspot*, *Irreal* (Czech), etc., and been nominated for *Pushcart*. Pullins won the 2022 Malcolm Lowry award for *Dollartorium*, a satirical novel, from *Unsolicited Press*, Feb 2026. His novella, *Ice Dancing*, 2019, has been published in *Sunspot Literary Journal* and *Fracture* were published in February 2026. *Fracture* was a finalist and published *Sunspot 2023 First Chapter* and the novella was published in *Sunspot Fall 2025*. His plays, long and short, have won awards and been produced in from coast to coast, including a version of *Dollartorium*. A piece of his novel in progress, *The Loin*, was featured in a radio podcast by *Mauhaus Productions*, 2025.



NEW BOOKS

GOLD STORM RISING: THE GOLD STORM TRILOGY
Sci-Fi Thriller | M. Redding Books, LLC



A science-fiction thriller forged in grief and driven by vengeance. Beyond the warships, secret technologies, and alien threats lies a far more dangerous force... what happens when a human being survives something they were never meant to survive.

The first contact with the enemy does not bring wonder. It brings annihilation. Ships vanish. Families are ripped apart in moments. Those left behind are forced to live with memories that never soften and questions that will never be answered. Survival becomes a curse... a reminder that the universe did not care who it destroyed.

This is not a story about hope saving the day. It is about obsession taking hold. About grief that refuses to heal and instead sharpens into purpose. The characters in these pages are not chasing glory or peace. They are chasing accountability... no matter the cost.

***M. Redding** is a writer living in the Phoenix area with his wife, Lee. Originally from the Detroit area, he moved west to attend Arizona State University, where he studied Communication and became a lifelong Sun Devil fan. Arizona has been home for more than 30 years, and he has no interest in trading desert sunsets for snow shovels. A lifelong reader, he found his way to writing while raising kids and working full time. Now that his children are grown, he is finally pursuing the storytelling passion he carried for years.*



NEW BOOKS

TO FINISH A FEUD: A TRACE NEWATER NOVEL
Sci-Fi Thriller | M. Redding Books, LLC



There's something about a feud... real or imagined, that burrows deep into the bones of a story. It doesn't end when the last shot is fired or the last body is buried. Feuds linger. They echo. They learn how to wait. What begins as blood and pride often becomes something stranger over time, twisting justice, memory, and truth into shapes that no longer obey the rules of history.

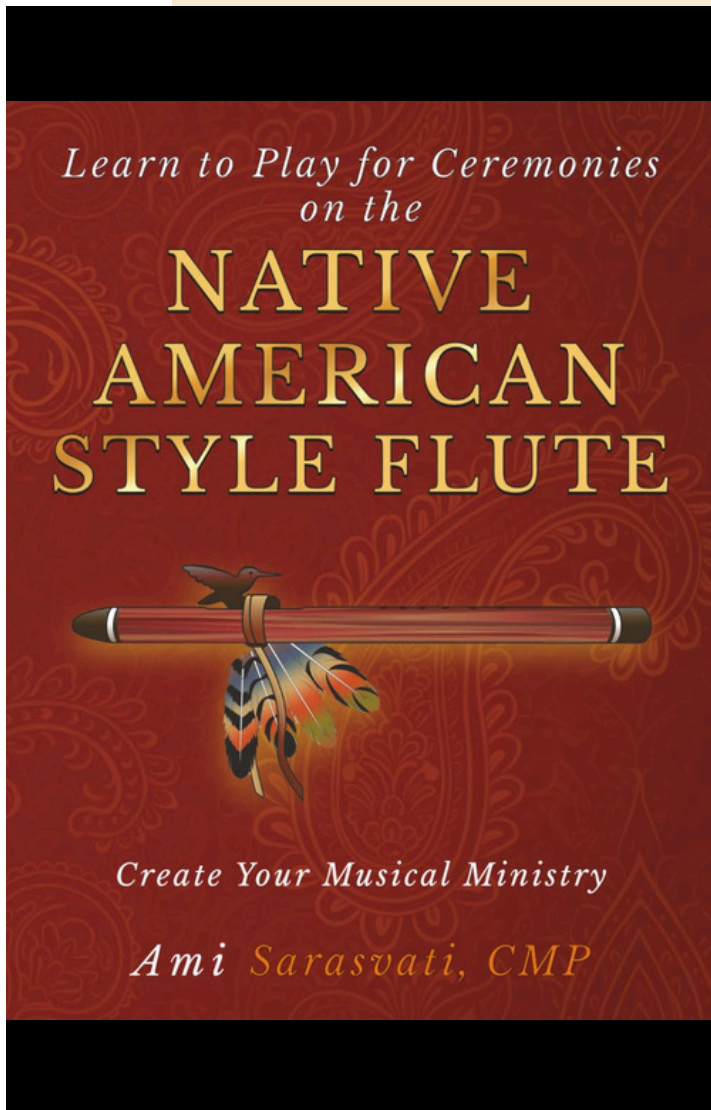
To Finish a Feud is not just the first installment in the Trace Newater series... it is a time-fractured, mystery-layered descent into a conflict that refuses to stay in the past. What starts as an old Kentucky blood feud soon reveals itself as something far more unsettling... a legacy that moves through generations, leaving behind unanswered questions, impossible coincidences, and traces of events that shouldn't be able to touch one another at all.

***M. Redding** is a writer living in the Phoenix area with his wife, Lee. Originally from the Detroit area, he moved west to attend Arizona State University, where he studied Communication and became a lifelong Sun Devil fan. Arizona has been home for more than 30 years, and he has no interest in trading desert sunsets for snow shovels. A lifelong reader, he found his way to writing while raising kids and working full time. Now that his children are grown, he is finally pursuing the storytelling passion he carried for years.*



NEW BOOKS

LEARN TO PLAY FOR CEREMONIES ON THE NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE
FLUTE: CREATE YOUR MUSICAL MINISTRY
Instructional Music Book | Independently Published



Do you feel called to play the Native American style flute for ceremonies, healing work, or spiritual gatherings?

This book offers a clear, grounded, and reverent pathway for musicians who wish to bring live Native American style flute music into ceremonial, meditative, and sacred spaces. Through step-by-step instruction, simple illustrations, QR codes leading to audio and video examples, charts, stories, and practical guidance, you'll learn how to play the Native American style flute not just with technique—but with presence, intention, and service.

This is not a performance-based flute method. It is a contemplative approach to ceremonial flute playing.

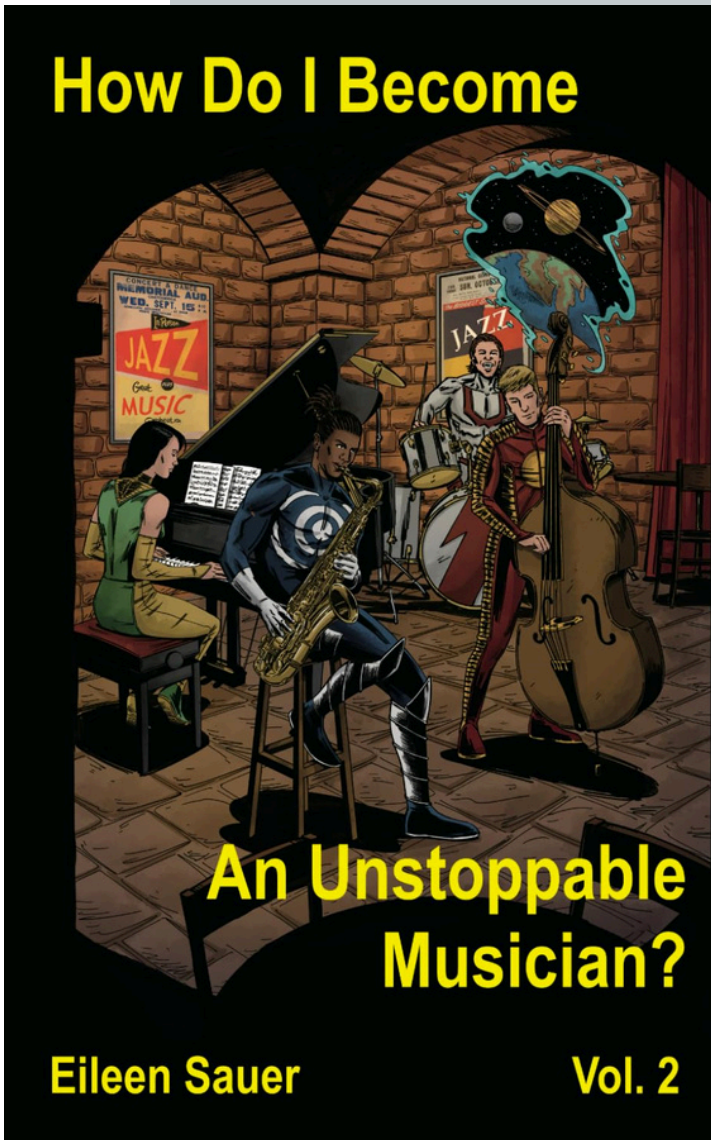


Ami Sarasvati is the author of books and courses *Learn to Play the Native American Style Flute*, *Discover the Musical Modes on the Native American Style Flute*, *Musician's Heart Journey*, and *Musician's Practice Journal*. She has facilitated community music-making events and has played bedside for the ill and dying in the hospital setting as a Certified Music Practitioner (CMP). She has witnessed, again and again, the healing power of music for both the individual and the community. Ami is passionate about facilitating transformation through musical pursuits as well as long-hand journaling.



NEW BOOKS

HOW DO I BECOME AN UNSTOPPABLE MUSICIAN? VOL. 2
Educational | Independently Published



Volume 2 gathers the topics that would have diluted Volume 1's tight focus on the French School method as it was actually taught. Volume 1 shows how, with the smallest possible set of skills and concepts even a three-year-old could begin using, we built a foundation strong enough to do anything we wanted: learn an instrument, join a choir with confidence, compose, or walk into any music school or conservatory ready to thrive. In Volume 2, you will find the conversations around the method, including its background, theory, memory techniques, practice philosophies, the broader context of musicianship, and the supporting frameworks that made this "musical kindergarten" curriculum unexpectedly complete. If Volume 1 shows what we did and why it worked, Volume 2 continues the story by rounding out how to become an unstoppable musician.

 **BUY NOW**

Eileen Sauer played piano at Carnegie Recital Hall nine times as a child and sang in the high school choir, NJ All-State Chorus, and Notre Dame Chorale. Young Eileen couldn't understand why everyone couldn't do this because it all seemed so easy, and it took decades to answer this question.

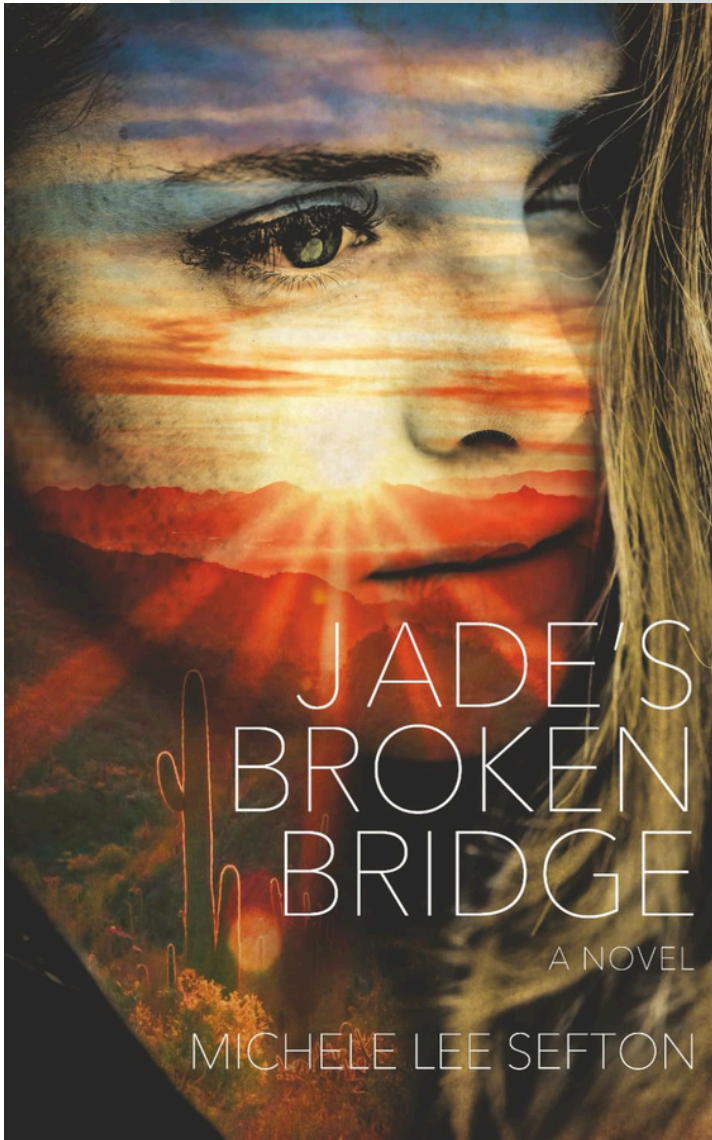
Author, online instructor, pianist, and self-taught composer who took classes at The Juilliard School Evening Division in composition, orchestration, music production, and film scoring. Former technologist who has done software development, technical training, engineering management (B.S. in Math - Computing from the University of Notre Dame), and real estate investing.

 **LEARN MORE**



NEW BOOKS

JADE'S BROKEN BRIDGE
Women's Fiction | Tumbleweed Spirit Press LLC



A gritty, intimate story about survival, shame, and the fragile pull of hope. Jade looks back on her life as an Arizona native who ends up dancing in strip clubs in Fairbanks, Alaska, chasing money and a sense of control. Beneath that search lies the wreckage of her parents' divorce, financial strain, and a deep loneliness that follows her into addiction and destructive relationships. Inspired by true events and set in the late 1980s, the novel is told in vivid, poetic prose. It does not glamorize the strip club world or self-destruction. Instead, it offers an honest portrait of a woman confronting her past and slowly finding the strength to choose something different.

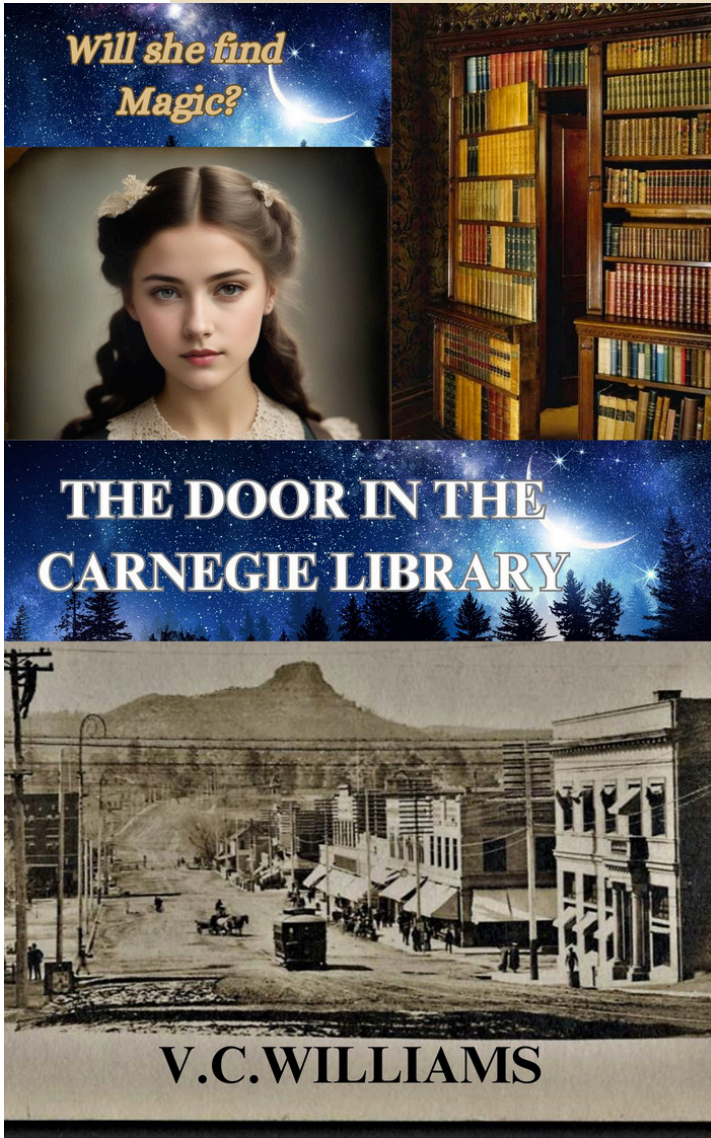


Michele Lee Sefton is a poet and writer of poetic prose who left a long career teaching English in 2019 to fully embrace her creative voice. Her work appears in several anthologies, including the Piper Poetry Month Anthology through the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University. During the pandemic, she collaborated with her artist daughter on a series of illustrated poetry chapbooks. She has also published poetry collections and prose novellas. Her debut novel, *Jade's Broken Bridge*, is released through her imprint, Tumbleweed Spirit Press. She continues to write, photograph, and co-facilitate narrative therapy workshops.



NEW BOOKS

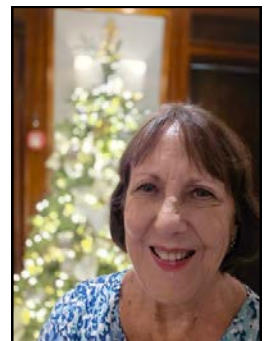
THE DOOR IN THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY
YA Historical Fiction Time-slip | Outlaws Publishing LLC



Seventeen-year-old Julie believes she's failed at everything in her 1967 world of miniskirts and popularity. Unnoticed at school, even her parents have little time for the shy girl. While taking shelter in the town library during a rainstorm, a friendly Native American spirit "pushes" her back in time. Finding herself in the Elks Opera House, an attractive teenage stagehand, Ren, reveals she's landed in 1907. Taken in by a strangely familiar woman and her deputy sheriff husband, the frightened girl learns that if she wants to get home, she must step out of her comfort zone. Ren and a new friend at school help her take those first steps. But when the Apache Kid hears about the Yavape' Apache magic, Julie faces her biggest challenge. Survival. Without the magic of bravery, trust, and inner knowledge, she may never get home again.

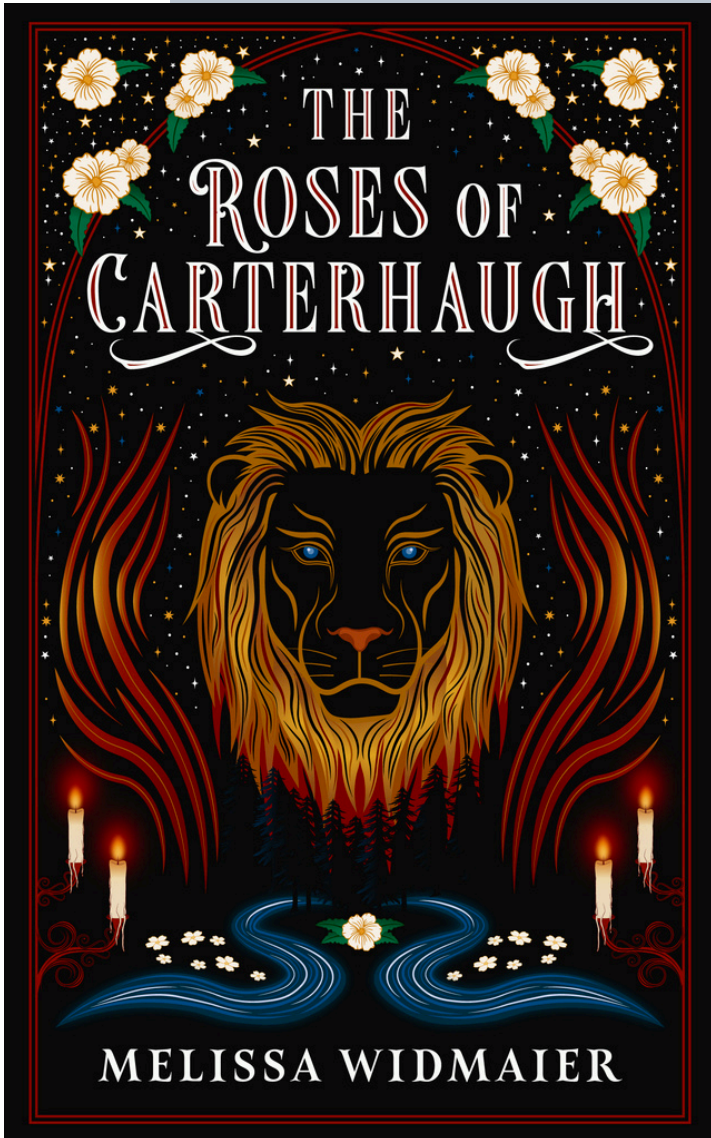


Despite a background in technical writing, **Vicki Mastriani Walker (V.C. Williams)**, with four published novels to date, enjoys writing fiction about strong women. Featured in *True West Magazine*, she has received excellent reviews from *Kirkus*, *The Historical Fiction Co.*, and was a finalist in the 2023 American Writing Awards. A second-generation Arizonan and a history enthusiast, she is a member of the Historical Novel Society, the Arizona Authors Association, and the Arizona Territorial Society. Vicki grew up in Prescott and loves to travel, having visited much of this beautiful country and the world.



NEW BOOKS

THE ROSES OF CARTERHAUGH
Fantasy | Independently Published



Love is immortal.

In a quiet souters village in Scotland, an earl's rebellious daughter stirs up trouble with the fabled faeries known as the Daoine Sith. Can she lift the veil on a darkened past and rescue her knight from the seelie queen's clutches?

Based on a beloved Child Ballad, this fairytale retelling mixes magic with devotion, leading our heroine and her loved ones on an adventure worth recounting in an enchanted glade or a royal hall.



***Melissa Widmaier** is an award-winning author on the spectrum. Her writing typically gravitates toward fantasy, but whatever she decides to put on the page, it will certainly lean heavily on her love of the natural world. When not writing, she dabbles in nature photography. Her favorite locales are mountains, forests, and beaches.*



THE MILLION MILE WALKER

WHAT WE'RE READING AND WHY

By Mark D. Walker

I've gotten to know the author over the years through a shared appreciation for iconic writer Moritz Thomsen, whom Tom met in Ecuador, and our love of travel and travel writing. *The Panama Hat Trail* is one of my all-time favorite tales, and I was impressed to learn that the author took two trips and eight months to complete it! My wife, who is Guatemalan, loved *How I Learned English*, a series of stories of Latinos learning English.

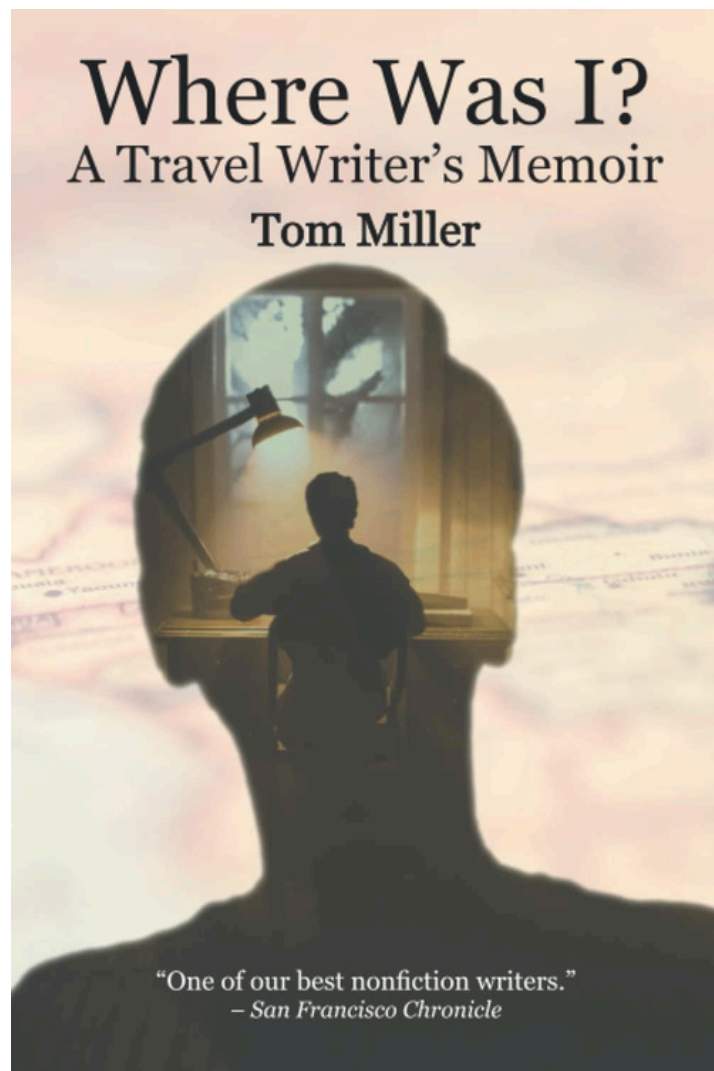
Since the author is considered one of the best nonfiction/travel writers, I headed for the chapter on that subject. Initially, the author didn't know that travel writing was a genre, but quickly learned, "Great travel writing describes what's going on when nobody's looking. It consists of equal parts curiosity, vulnerability, and vocabulary. It is not simply for know-it-alls or the indecisive...A well-grounded sense of place is a challenge for the writer." That says it all.

But wait! He goes on with, "Surely as buses plunge off Peruvian mountainsides, his favorite travel accounts are full of, "polemic, prejudice, and adversity; revelation, conquest, and triumph." And that the best travel writing "elegantly addresses history, geography, and politics, biology, culture, even criminology. It's refreshing honesty reveals a world of surprising love and disappointing fools, unforeseen circumstances, and stimulating challenges, all of which is a reminder of why I love travel writing and everything that Miller writes.

I found the segment about his relationship with fellow writer Moritz Thomsen, whom he met in Quito at 9,300 feet he saw the "chain-smoking Thomsen with some frequency and formed a deep friendship

that continued during an extensive correspondence. He admired Thomsen for "... the words he chose, the order he put them in, his grand illusions and sideways allusions."

After providing background on Thomsen's life and how he joined the Peace Corps at 48 and published four (eventually five) books by the end of his life, Miller described what made them so special briefly: "They revealed elegantly phrased but brutal truths



about life among the poor. Drawing on Proust, Stravinsky, and Hemingway, Thomsen got inside the skin of his rawboned neighbors and found them burdened with a combination of passion and ignorance."

His best-known book was *Living Poor*, the Peace Corps experience book. According to Miller, Thomsen proved to be a man of insufferable integrity and undeniable charm. Evidently, he deflected efforts to translate his works into Spanish, which I thought they should have been, "...because, as he

once confided, he did not want those he lived among to see that he wrote about them.”

Miller was a keynote speaker at the First International Conference on Moritz Thomsen in Quito. Ecuadoran writers reappraised Moritz Thomsen—addressing salient questions such as whether Thomsen was an expat or a true Ecuadoran. Should his work be considered travel literature? According to Miller, one Ecuadoran sniffed, “Too much politics and social awareness, but minimal artistic sensibility.” Through all of this, Miller was named the HUESPED ILUSTRE “Illustrious Guest” for writing about Ecuador and keeping the words of Moritz Thomsen alive.”

Miller and I were contemporaries, both Conscientious Objectors protesting the war in Vietnam, although he wrote for some of the top underground publications. He said his last salaried job was in 1969, so he could pursue a fifty-year career as a freelance writer. He interacted and dealt with Jerry Rubin, whom he considered a “public Nuisance.”

He described some of his 30 visits to Havana, where he met his wife, Regla, and his interaction with Ry Cooper. The latter introduced him to the world outside of Cuba through the magical music group “Buena Vista Social Club.”

Miller begins and ends his memoir with his battle with Parkinson’s at 62, making for some very poignant stories. As he puts it, “...I’m here to say that having led a fairly healthy life into my early sixties, to suddenly learn that the rest of my time would be spent with a disease from which I could never get better, only retard the getting worse, well, that put me in a funk. *Funquíimo*.

And ends with, “Parkinson’s is fashionable these days, but it was never on my dance card, lord knows. Still, on entering my ultimo tercio de la vida, *the final third of my life*, I’ve broken through denial and reluctantly adapted to the unknown. Now, where was I?”

One last note: despite having written seven books, edited four, and being considered one of our best nonfiction writers, he was obliged to self-publish this excellent book. A book that will be of great interest and inspiration to so many. When I asked why the most obvious publisher, the University of Arizona

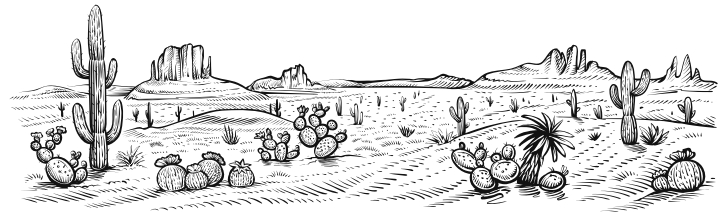
Press, didn't publish it, Miller said they only provided a vague reason. But still...



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

Reach me at **Mark@MillionMileWalker.com**, MillionMileWalker.com, or facebook.com/millionmilewalker.

Sign up for the Million Mile Walker Dispatch, a monthly review of my latest articles, book reviews, cultural insights, favorite quotes, and the occasional surprise.



SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

What Are You Reading?

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

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WHEN HUMAN DESTINIES GET MIXED UP

Personal & Historic German-American Stories

What if your *CONSCIENCE* pushes you
on to the wrong side of history?

AnnElise Makin

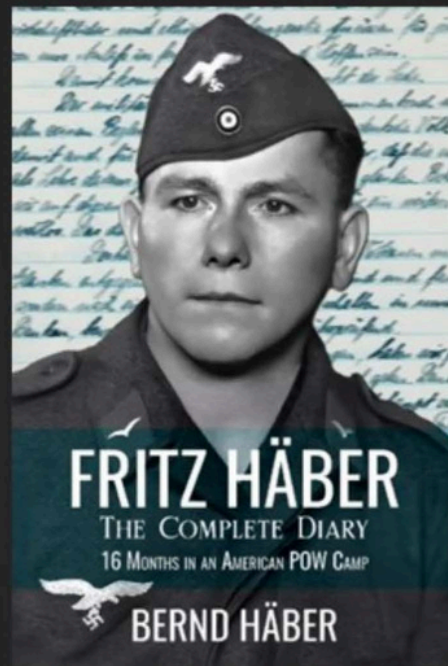
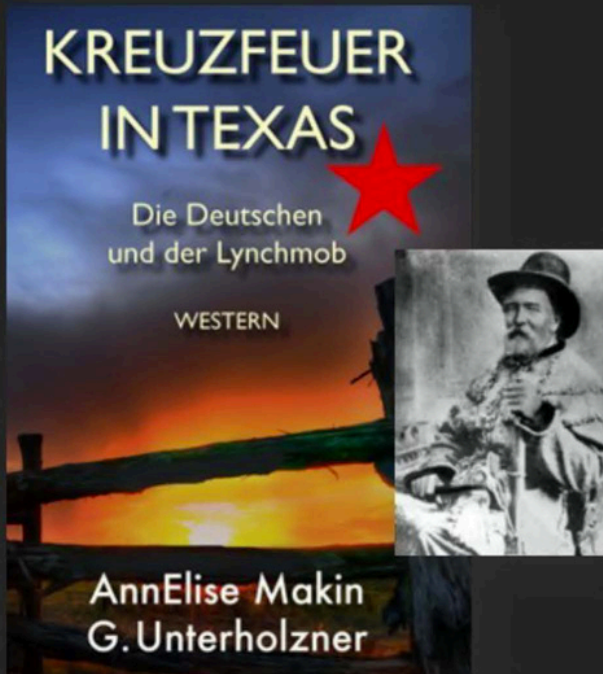


1861 – 1865
TEXAS Civil War
1941 – 1946
GERMANY World War II

Bernd Häber



Join **AnnElise & Bernd** on **July 25** at the **AAA Writer's Workshop**. Learn how to resource and gather key information from documents, archives, and personal narratives. For **history writers** and **creative fiction & nonfiction authors**. History is a sleuthing and rewarding adventure!



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: **MIKE ROTHMILLER**

By Kathleen Cook

I "virtually" met the intrepid Mike Rothmiller when he first emailed me with a submission for this digest back in March 2020. I was its Editor-in-Chief, just installed the previous year to relaunch our newsletter. (It wasn't called the *Arizona Authors Digest* at the time; I suggested we name our anonymous newsletter in June of 2022, and Jane Ruby, our Vice President, proposed the moniker we now use today.)

Mike struck me as being the most amazing and congenial person I had ever met ... he reminded me of Johnny Cash's 1996 rendition of "I've Been Everywhere."

Since 2020, Mike and I have communicated via email nearly every month. As a *New York Times* and an Amazon bestselling author, as well as a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, Mike has been congratulated in nearly every issue of our digest for his bestselling books, most of which have been sold in dozens of countries and some even optioned for Hollywood movies.

Mike started as a police officer in Los Angeles, where he learned much of the inside stuff and unknown facts that dominate his writing. When he left that career, he had enough material to write a hundred books, but he didn't pursue writing immediately; just too much to do and too much of the world left to see to get stuck behind a desk. He took on roles as a television reporter, a television producer and an ESPN host.

Mike produced and hosted *The Gamesman*, an adventure series for ESPN. Some of the highlights of that show included flying with the Blue Angels, fire-walking in Tahiti, camping in the Amazon, exploring Mexican caves, swimming with sharks, and more. He also produced specials for PBS. At the time of his

Gamesman series, he was in business with the legendary country singer Kenny Rogers.

Eventually, Mike settled down to writing and sent a proposal to around a dozen major publishing houses. Several showed interest, and one, Pocket Books, sent a senior editor to California to discuss his proposals. This eventually led to his first best seller, ***L.A. Secret Police: Inside the Elite LAPD Spy Network***. A string of books followed.



Mike made the talk show circuit in the 1990s and early 2000s. He recently sent me a picture of Geraldo Rivera holding his first bestseller, *L.A. Secret Police*. He appeared on talk shows several times in the mid-90s, sometimes to discuss the OJ Simpson trial. Mike presented facts about why OJ committed the murders and that there was no LAPD conspiracy to frame him. He found it interesting that no one challenged him, despite the chaos and conflicting opinions on the set that day.





In his various careers, Mike has met and worked with many interesting people, including Arnold Palmer, Charlton Heston and Arnold Schwarzenegger, as well as U.S. presidents, governors, senators and more. He also acted in a few movies. One of Mike's many books, ***My Hero: Military Kids Write About Their Moms and Dads***, contains artwork and essays from kids about their parents serving in the military. Mike and his co-author, Allen Apell, worked with the Armed Services YMCA to benefit its many programs. All proceeds from sales of the book, with forewords from General Norman Schwarzkopf and Presidents Clinton, Bush and Carter, were donated to the ASYMCA. Mike and his co-author were "humbled by the children's heartwarming and at times tragic stories."



His humor book, written from a dog's point of view, *Old Dog's Guide for Pups*, was read by presidents, first ladies and even Queen Elizabeth II. Once he was tired of California traffic, he and his wife, Nancy, moved first to Colorado and then finally settled in the mountains of Arizona, in Prescott. The

couple was featured in *Prescott Mountain Neighbor* magazine in February 2017. In it, they said that they "enjoy living in Prescott, because of its size, mild four seasons, lack of California-type traffic and taxes; it is a fun community with wonderful residents."

Mike was a weekly contributor on AZTV7's *Sandy and Friends* television program. He is also an Arizona Archeological Site Steward. In this role, he oversees the condition of remote ancient cliff dwellings and other natural treasures of the state.

Mike has given the *Arizona Authors Digest* free use of many dozens of his amazing nature photos over the years. Some of the photos are of rare species found nowhere else but in the wilds of Arizona. In addition, he donated his time to us with a fantastic workshop last year called "Getting Published." The workshop was our most successful ever, with 53 registrants. In the workshop, Mike covered traditional vs. self-publishing, finding agents, and he gave us the inside scoop on what types of books sell or get optioned. He warned about scams (which Mark D. Walker and I cover in another article in this issue on **page 17**) and how to tell a scam when you see one.

I asked Mike how he possibly found the time to do this for us, given the fact that at any moment, he may be conducting an option for a movie deal or giving an interview for a European newspaper. I didn't have to ask. After six years, I know he did it for us for the same reasons that he donates his time as a site steward. My original opinion of him, formed six years ago when we "met" online, has never wavered. Mike is simply a great guy, usually saying yes to new opportunities and adventures. As he said himself in the *Prescott Mountain Neighbor*, "If there's an open door, don't be afraid to go through it."

Find out more about Mike here.



Kathleen Cook retired from her career as an editor in 2017. Afterward, she served for five years as editor of the *Arizona Authors Association* before becoming president in January 2024.



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A WRITER'S TIP

FROM KAREN ODDEN

CLOSURE & CLIFFHANGERS

CHAPTER ENDINGS, TV SHOWS & WHY WE HIT NEXT EPISODE

Last week, my husband and I sat down to catch up on some shows. (Don't judge. I mean, well, you can judge, but maybe just don't tell me. Lol.) We watched the latest episodes of *The Pitt*, *Doc*, and *Shrinking* (which is my absolute favorite on TV right now).

It's a truth generally acknowledged that writers want to end chapters with a bit of suspense, even a cliffhanger, to get the reader to turn the page to begin the next chapter. But maybe because I was watching three different shows in quick succession—



different genres, too—I caught onto something that may seem obvious but I'd never really thought about before.

At the end of all three episodes, there was not only a cliffhanger, not only left something open, there was some closure as well. Take *Shrinking*. (Sorry if these are spoilers, but true fans of the show have probably already watched the first episode. It's that good.) At

the end, there is a wedding between Paul (Harrison Ford) and Julie (Wendie Malick). And Jimmy's daughter Alice has finally figured out where she's going to college and told her father, who has accepted it. Two nice bits of closure. But *then* in a quiet moment at the wedding, Paul has a hallucination—he sees Jerry, a patient with Parkinson's (played by Michael J. Fox) in the kitchen, when Jerry isn't there. "Woof," Paul says ruefully, and Julie nods. They both know the challenges that are coming their way. Closure plus opening (new/heightedened problem).

Similarly, *Doc* shows the successful wrap-up of two troubling medical cases; but then Amy's daughter Katie has an attack—a panic attack? or something more serious?—and as Amy and her ex-husband desperately try to help Katie, the show ends. Again, closure plus opening (new problem).

It got me thinking about why closure is important even as you create the cliffhangers or new problems. I believe offering the reader some incremental bits of closure is sort of a promise to the viewer, or the reader. It's an implicit message: "Don't worry, we know closure is important; we'll get there! Just hang with us a bit longer." I think that's part of why we keep turning the page or pushing NEXT EPISODE on our remote. Problem piled on problem with no closure along the way tends to lose me.

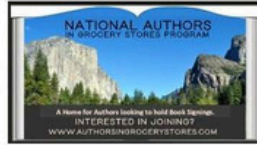
What do you think of my little TV theory? I'd love to hear, if you want to share. Meanwhile, I hope you keep writing and keep finding the fun in it.



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

You may also visit her Arizona Authors Association page.





The National Authors in Grocery Stores Program



Summary:

That's helpful context! Here is the information about the National Authors in Grocery Stores Program presented in an easy-to-read format:

National Authors in Grocery Stores Program Overview

The National Authors in Grocery Stores Program offers an exclusive opportunity for authors whose books are not currently stocked or distributed in grocery stores to hold **book signing events** in affiliated locations.

Key Program Details

- **Goal:** To provide authors with access to high-traffic retail environments for book signings.
- **Locations:** Over **1,650** program locations are available across **19 states**.

Participating States

The program operates in the following states (with specific regional limitations noted):

Region	States
Western US	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Texas
Midwest/South	Alabama (northern), Georgia, Indiana (southern), Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, South Carolina (southern), Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia

How to Sign Up and Participate:

Fee Schedule

- **Sign-Up Fee:** \$100
- **Per ISBN Fee:** \$25
- **Annual Renewal:** \$100
- **Note:** A discount is available for 5 or more books.

Phase 2: Setup & Approval

- **Barcode Scan Test:** Bring your book(s) to a participating store (as requested in the Welcome Letter) to ensure **each barcode can be scanned successfully**.
- **System Registration:** Allow **30 days** after successful scanning for the store to register your books in their system.
- **Schedule Request:** Send an email request to us for your desired book signing schedule. Include:
 - A list of dates and times.
 - The grocery store numbers you'd like approved.
- **Internal Approval:** Your requested schedule will be registered and sent to store division leaders, who will forward it to store managers.
- **Final Schedule:** Your **approved schedule** will be provided **2 weeks** before each signing event.

Phase 3: Book Signing Day

- **Check-In:** On the day of your signing, check in at the **Customer Service Desk**.
- **Setup:** Set up your display by the **entrance or by the registers**. You must bring:
 - A 2'x4' table.
 - A tablecloth.
 - Your books.
 - A sign that says: "**Meet the Author. Get Your Book Signed Today!**"
- **Customer Purchase:** When a customer asks to buy a book:
 - Sign the book.
 - Instruct them to **pay for it (them) at the register**.
- **Payment:** Allow **2 weeks** for payment of **62%** of your sales.

Please note: We do not shelf books; your display and books are to be removed at the close of your signing.

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ODDS & ENDS

“I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done.”—Steven Wright

Literary Trivia Answers (from page 9)

1. A. Unsolicited manuscripts submitted to a publisher
2. B. *Neuromancer*
3. B. Its layout and typography change throughout the book
4. C. Ursula K. Le Guin

SPOTLIGHT ON 
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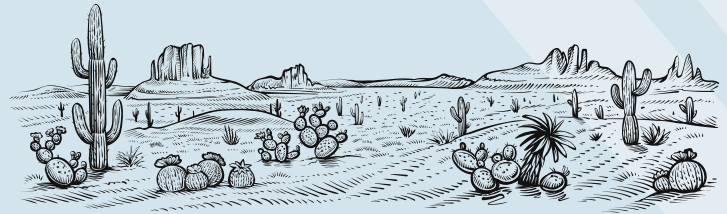


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Photos and Jokes and Quotes, OH MY!

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



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