

# Arizona Authors Digest



Published by:  
Arizona Authors Association  
a nonprofit 501c3  
organization est. 1978

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

Issue 25

Arizona Authors Association

April-May 2023

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## President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

Our membership drive has ended for this year. We have 164 members in total.

Welcome to these new members so far in 2023:

Barton Ambrose  
CJ Anaya  
John Barelli  
Michelle Bates  
Lynn Fuentes  
Kathy McIntosh  
Kyle Patton  
D. R. Ransdell  
Mary Stone  
Vicki Walker  
Jennifer Wrenn

Our contest has new rules and new prizes. We hope you find the changes satisfactory. Please enter in some category. If you don't have a new book for the published categories, try writing a poem, essay, or short story. Maybe experiment with a new genre or form just to keep your muse engaged.

There are no Zoom workshops planned so far, but that could change. I sent out a call for volunteer presenters. You would get a year's free membership for doing one. There's plenty of time. If you have a topic of interest, write to me so I can set up the Zoom time. They've been on Saturday mornings.

Thank you to three members for accepting important positions. We are proud of them for volunteering and wish them great success.

continued on the next page

President's Corner, continued

2024 Arizona Literary Magazine Editor – Penny Orloff  
 Proofreader for Arizona Literary Magazine and Arizona  
 Authors Digest – Sharon Sterling  
 Forum Monitor – Kyle Patton

We still have an open volunteer position - Membership  
 Developer. Contact me if you are interested.

If you have not checked out the Forum on our website,  
 why not give it a try? We could make it a fun and fruitful  
 place to go.

As of March 1, 2023, our current financial status includes  
 \$25 in savings and \$11,283.39 in checking at Desert  
 Financial Credit Union.

My health issues have not improved, but at least they've  
 not gotten worse. I hope to lessen my daily workload as  
 the year goes along. In case you didn't catch the annual  
 meeting or my previous column, I've developed atrial  
 fibrillation and have to be more careful with my energy.

Peace and good health to you,  
 Toby

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## THE FORUM IS OPEN!

Are you a member of the Arizona Authors  
 Association and looking for a place to advertise your  
 book, article, editing service, or writing-related work  
 for FREE? Join the Arizona Authors Association  
 forum and post a message about it! Add all your  
 writing-related news and announcements. And while  
 you're there, say hi to our new forum director, Kyle  
 Patton, or our website admin, Kathleen Cook. Let's  
 get this forum hopping!

[Arizona Authors Association Forum](#)



*The 2023  
 Arizona  
 Literary  
 Magazine,  
 is on sale  
[HERE](#)*



**Walker Charcoal Kiln  
 Prescott National Forest, AZ**

**Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member  
 Mike Rothmiller**



Superstition Mountains

Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member  
June Reynolds

### Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Toby Heathcotte  
 Treasurer/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby  
 Arizona Authors Digest Editor/Web Admin....Kathleen Cook

Additional Staff:

Arizona Authors Blog Editor.....Vijaya Schartz  
 Literary Magazine Editor.....Penny Orloff  
 Proofreader.....Sharon Sterling  
 Forum Director..... Kyle Patton

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

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

All other inquiries should be sent to:

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

### Spring Literary Trivia

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. In the opening of *Wind in the Willows*, who says, "Hang spring cleaning!"
2. What Shakespeare play includes a poem entitled "Spring"?
3. In the book *Twilight*, who is the first to ask Bella to the Spring Dance?
4. Which famous book character said the following: "The spring has sprung, the grass is rizz. I wonder where them birdies is?"
5. Who wrote the poem, "Lines Written in Early Spring"?
6. In *The Secret Garden*, where was Mary Lennox born?

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



*The Arizona Authors  
 Association  
 Wishes Everyone a  
 Very Happy Easter*

## Arizona Authors Association

### Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

#### Membership Benefits

The Arizona Authors Association offers several valuable benefits to our members. This digest provides you with a bimonthly guide to workshops, events and activities, many of them free or low cost, designed to hone your skills as a writer. In addition, both our blog and our newsletter offer advice, suggestions, and insight to reinforce your expertise.

The yearly Literary Contest furnishes an opportunity to showcase your work and the possibility of earning prizes that will enhance your reputation as an author. Do you have an older book that never got the recognition it deserved? Our new “Oldie but Goldie” category offers a chance to relaunch and renew interest in it. We also offer online book fairs or other events through our Zoom account. Advertising under the Arizona Authors Association banner allows you to promote your work and increase your visibility with a minimum of expense and effort.

I hope you will take advantage of the digest to report your accomplishments. Our “Congratulations” page is designed to applaud your efforts and inspire other members. We also welcome your input on anything author related, such as your own literary news, useful tips, helpful websites, etc. Ask questions that will be answered in the next issue. Together, we will all benefit from the combined knowledge of our diverse membership.

Lastly, one of the biggest benefits of your Arizona Authors Association membership is the ability to reach others with your book releases and advertisements. At present, members may submit a quarter-page ad for author-related services without cost. Books released within the previous six months (or about to be released) will receive a free, full-page ad.



#### Submissions to the Digest

Your input is welcome! The following categories accept submissions through midnight on the **15th** day of odd-numbered months. Send all entries to: [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

# Recent Events



Mark D. Walker recently gave a presentation at the Desert Foothills Library in Cave Creek, AZ. Entitled, **“Daily Rituals: How Local Writer Mark D. Walker Works,”** the presentation was part of the library’s “Author Series” and took place on 2/22. The author shared some interesting rituals of well-known authors—and then explained his own rituals for writing each day.

To find out more about this event, visit the Desert Foothills Library event page [HERE](#). To find out more about Mark and his many reviews, presentations and books, click [HERE](#).



Elizabeth Ajamee-Boyer and her husband TJ took part in two events recently, on March 24th in Sedona and March 25th in Cottonwood. At the Sedona Library, March 24th, TJ presented his **World Building Panel** about how Dungeons and Dragons affected the writing of *The Mirror Gate Chronicles* series, which both he and Elizabeth authored. On March 25, Elizabeth was at the Verde Valley Comic Expo in Cottonwood to share her offerings and speak with attendees about her many books.

To find out more about Elizabeth and her books, click on her [website](#) or visit her [Arizona Authors](#) page.



On 2/22, the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers featured Arizona Authors Association member Caren Cantrell as their speaker. Cantrell specializes in writing and publishing children's books, and shared her expertise in that genre. She also offered advice on marketing children's books. Cantrell has won several awards for her books from the Arizona Authors Association, Writer's Digest, and the Institute of Children's Literature.

To find out more about Patricia and the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, visit her [website](#).



Mike Rothmiller was recently a guest on the popular nationwide radio program, Coast to Coast AM with George Noory. Coast to Coast AM is syndicated to hundreds of radio stations in the

US and Canada. Mike appeared on the morning of January 23 and discussed several of his books on the show. To listen to the broadcast, click [HERE](#).

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

On Sunday, March 28, the Society of Southwestern Authors hosted a workshop on **“Finding Your Voice”** with Donis Casey. Donis shared examples and techniques for revealing your character and her world through both dialogue and narration, as well as finding your authentic voice to set the entire tone of your novel or story. The workshop took place at the Tempe Public Library.



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



Rodo Sofranac launched his book signing tour for the 2nd edition of [The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail](#). See page [26](#) of this issue for more information on the book. Rodo appeared recently in these locations:

- March 5<sup>th</sup> – Launch – Arizona Trail Association Annual Meeting 10:00 to 1:00
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – REI Flagstaff -11:00 to 3:00
- March 25<sup>th</sup> – REI Chandler -11:00 to 3:00
- March 26<sup>th</sup> – REI Paradise Valley -11:00 to 3:00

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

# Upcoming Events



Rodo Sofranac continues his book signing tour for the 2nd edition of [\*The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail\*](#). See page [26](#) of this issue for more information on the book.

Meet Rodo at the following locations:

- April 1<sup>st</sup> - Duck and Decanter, Phoenix 11:00 to 2:00
  - April 15<sup>th</sup> - REI Tucson --11:00 to 3:00
  - April 22<sup>nd</sup> - Botanica at the Farm at South Mountain 9:00 - 3:00
  - End of May - Cameron Trading Post, Cameron, AZ.
- 100% of the profits support nonprofits working on literacy. Find out more about Rodo [HERE](#).

On 6/7/23 between 3:30 to 4:30 Patricia L. Brooks and her author-husband, Earl L. Goldmann, will present their memoirs, five total, and read from their books at the **Desert Foothills Library** in Cave Creek, AZ, at 38443 N. Schoolhouse Road. RSVP to [DFLA](#) or call 480-488-2286. This event is part of the monthly Author Series.



To learn more about Patricia and Earl, visit their [website](#) or email [patricia@plbrooks.com](mailto:patricia@plbrooks.com). You may also text Patricia at: 480-250-5556.

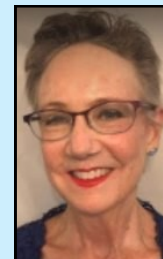
Donis Casey's **Tell Me Your Story** is a monthly column in which successful mystery authors share how their life experiences have influenced their writing and path to publication. Her guest in April will be Will Thomas, author of a Victorian mystery series featuring Cyrus Barker, a Scottish detective or "private enquiry agent," and his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn. The wildly popular Barker/Llewelyn novels are set in the 1880s and often feature historical events, people and movements.



Will's first novel, [\*Some Danger Involved\*](#), was nominated for a Barry Award and a Shamus Award, and won the 2005 Oklahoma Book Award. Read Will's story starting April 20 [HERE](#).

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

Jodi Decker and her daughter, Janelle Molony, are embarking on a book tour for [\*Poems From the Asylum\*](#) at the end of May, in St. Paul, St. Peter, and Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The biography focuses on the life of Martha Nasch, who spent seven years in an insane asylum in St. Peter, Minnesota. While there, she wrote poetry, which her descendants have published 80 years later.



The book tour will include presentations at various libraries, as well as a tour of the historic state hospital and local historical societies.

Educational updates are provided on the [Facebook](#) page Seven Years Insane or visit Janelle's website [HERE](#).



Registration is open for local authors wishing to exhibit their books at the 2nd Annual Desert Foothills Book Festival. Presented by The Holland Center and Desert Foothills Library, the event will take place at the Holland Center located at 34250 N 60th St., Scottsdale, AZ, 85266 on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Interested authors can register to purchase a table at the festival's website at: [www.desertfoothillsbookfestival.com](http://www.desertfoothillsbookfestival.com)

# Congratulations to Our Members



Once again, one of Mike Rothmiller’s books has hit the number one best-seller spot on Amazon in its category. This time it was for his book, [Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders](#). Both this book and another recent one, [Bombshell](#), are still in the top ten in many markets. And last month, his co-author and he formalized a deal with a major publisher for another book, due to be released in the spring of 2024.

[Peninsula Television](#), based in Ireland and New York, is producing a two-part series on Frank Sinatra and JFK. They flew in a crew to Prescott to speak with Mike at his home. The producer said the book will be a significant component of the program and the book cover will be shown during the program. The special is already set for broadcast in the United Kingdom and negotiations for a US broadcast should be completed by May.



Mike also completed an interview for Coast To Coast AM, a syndicated radio program that is aired by hundreds of stations across the US and Canada. See [page 5](#) of this digest for more on that interview.

To find out more about Mike and all of his books, click [HERE](#).

Karen Odden’s book, [Under a Veiled Moon](#) was nominated for a Lefty Award, which is sort of a big deal in the mystery community. The Lefty is awarded at [Left Coast Crime](#), a conference that was held in Tucson in mid-March.



Less than two weeks later, the book was also nominated for an Agatha Award, sponsored by [Malice Domestic](#). According to their website, “The Agatha Awards celebrate the TRADITIONAL MYSTERY, best typified by the works of AGATHA CHRISTIE.”

To find out more about Karen, visit her [website](#) or her Arizona Authors [member page](#).



Mark D. Walker was interviewed for a second time on [Global Connections TV](#), the only talk show of its type in the world, which has featured a myriad of guests ranging from leaders at the UN to the private sector to academics to non-governmental organizations. The program is aired on UN TV and in universities around the world.

Mark’s interview was also featured in [Revue Magazine](#), where he is a contributing writer. You can find the link in the February issue [HERE](#). Or you can check out the Global Connections interview on YouTube [HERE](#).

Mark also presented [My Daily Rituals: How I Write and Why](#) at the Desert Foothills Library. To read more about it, check out [page 5](#) of this digest. To learn more about Mark, click [HERE](#).

Congratulations, continued

Rico Austin was recently featured in a very lengthy article in the February issue of the magazine [Tequila Aficionado](#). He gave extensive information on himself and his new tequila, Bajarriba Tequila, and is therefore included in the Short Release section of this digest on page [33](#).

To find out more about Bajarriba Tequila, click [HERE](#).  
To find out more about Rico, visit his [website](#).

[Hidden in Childhood: A Poetry Anthology](#) has hit #1 as an Amazon Bestseller in its category. The anthology was released on 1/26/2023 and includes two poems from Arizona Authors Association member Dawn Pisturino. For more information, check out her entry in Short Releases on page [32](#) of this digest.

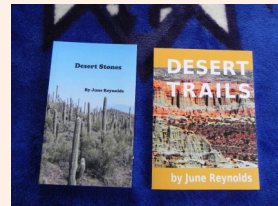


To find out more about Dawn, visit her [website](#) or her Arizona Authors [member page](#).



Arizona Authors Association member June A. Reynolds will have her books featured at Antigone's Bookstore in Tucson on 4th Ave and at Copper News Bookstore in Ajo. Her new book, [Desert Report](#), is featured in this digest on page [28](#).

To find out more about June, visit her Arizona Authors [member page](#).



Patricia L Brooks and her organization, the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, was recently featured in the [Scottsdale Independent Newspaper](#). The story, which appeared on February 1st, also featured another Arizona Authors Association member, Caren Cantrell, who presented a workshop for the SSWW on February 22nd. In the workshop, Caren shared her expertise on children's books, publishing, and marketing.

For more information on Patricia and the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, visit her [website](#).

For more information on Caren Cantrell, visit her [website](#).

To read the Scottsdale Independent Newspaper story, click [HERE](#).



Elizabeth Ajamee-Boyer's new book, [Cheyenne on Her Mind](#), is being featured on the website [FussyLibrarian](#). The website calls itself "Your Personal Librarian" and is free to join, which you may do in order to view their offerings.

Find out more about Elizabeth by visiting her [website](#) or her Arizona Authors [member page](#).



*I may not have gone where I  
intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I  
needed to be!*

-Douglas Adams

Balloons over Page, Arizona  
Photo by Arizona Authors Association member  
Mike Rothmiller





## What Pounds My Cake!

by Jane Ruby

Wanna know what pounds my cake? I'll tell you anyway: driving a "smart car." No, not the self-driving kind but the kind that thinks it knows more than you do, and runs your life.

You know, cars that automatically turn on headlights when it gets dark or windshield wipers when it starts to rain—like you're too stupid to do it yourself. Ones that enable all your seat settings, mirror settings, and last radio station you listened to. How presumptuous can those little twits be?!

Case in point: My husband wanted to borrow my 2012 Nissan Xterra for his annual ski trip to Lake Tahoe. He anticipated snowstorms and wanted my 4X4 SUV should conditions get tough. It made good sense since his travels involved passing through parts of the California Sierra Mountain Range, which recently got record amounts of snow.



In exchange, he loaned me his late-model Hyundai Genesis. Smooth, sleek and luxurious, the sedan would afford a quiet comfortable ride in the mild sunny Phoenix weather. I'd seen the Genesis commercials. The car beat out the options my Spartic SUV had: 4 wheels, some seats and power windows. It had no aux cords, no GPS, not even a compass. Xterra makers must've assumed we drivers had a brain or ought not be driving.

So, I agreed to the vehicle exchange, not realizing how unfair it was for me.

Left with his flashy smart car, I ran my weekly errands and hooked up with other family members for a lunch date. The Genesis indeed had all the bells and whistles—more than I had anticipated. When I first started the engine, it told me to straighten the steering wheel. Huh?

The seat moved back and the mirrors adjusted to my husband's views (his being taller I couldn't see out of any of them). The AC fan blew into my face and the radio tuned into National Public Radio, with over 100 decibels of volume! After disabling those presets, the smart screen diagrammed safe passage out of the garage. Like I couldn't see for myself!

I hooked my purse over the gearshift lever—like I always do on my truck. But after ~15 minutes of driving, my left butt cheek started to burn. Why the left butt cheek? I put my hand under it, and shortly my hand started to burn. I pulled off the road and turned off the car. Must've been a short circuit in the wiring somewhere.

I called my husband and asked if he'd had any problems with left-cheek burning. After brief laughter, he told me that I must have activated the seat heater. He told me that somewhere on the gearshift console I could find a button to deactivate it. I found it alright, and it had three settings, in which I must have activated the highest one with my purse strap. Geez, who needs a seat heater—let alone three levels of it—in Phoenix?!

Driving back home, I stopped at the local grocery store. I pushed the "Off" button but forgot to put the gear in "Park" first. Boy, did Mr. Smarty Car let me have it with beeps and lights. It wouldn't let me leave the car in peace. I had to sit back down, restart the engine, engage/disengage the parking gear, and push the "Off" button before he calmed down.

Continued on the next page.

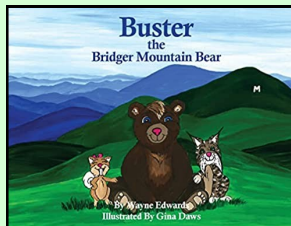
What Pounds My Cake, continued

So feisty! If that ever happened in my XTerra all I got was one beep and inability to pull out my ignition key. By simply reshifting to “Park,” my car let me leave and go my merry way.

I had other issues, especially with the “Lane Change” notification which not only blipped on the dashboard but also vibrated the steering wheel. My husband had given me a heads-up on that defect, so I knew to expect those notifications. Suffice it to say, when hubby finally made it back home with my SUV, I pampered it with a car wash and wax. So wonderful to have an uncomplicated and relatively brainless vehicle back!

**Jane Ruby** is an award-winning novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She’s also the Treasurer of the Association as well as the Literary Contest Director. Learn more about Jane [HERE](#).

# Read Across America



Arizona Authors Association member Wayne Edwards and his wife, Lorinda, participated in the Read Across America program and visited Mountain View Elementary School in Peoria, Arizona. Wayne read his children’s book, *Buster the Bridger Mountain Bear*, in first grade classes. Lorinda made her usual appearance as one of the book’s characters, “Savannah Skunk,” which is always a big hit with the kids! They had a blast, and so did Wayne and Lorinda!

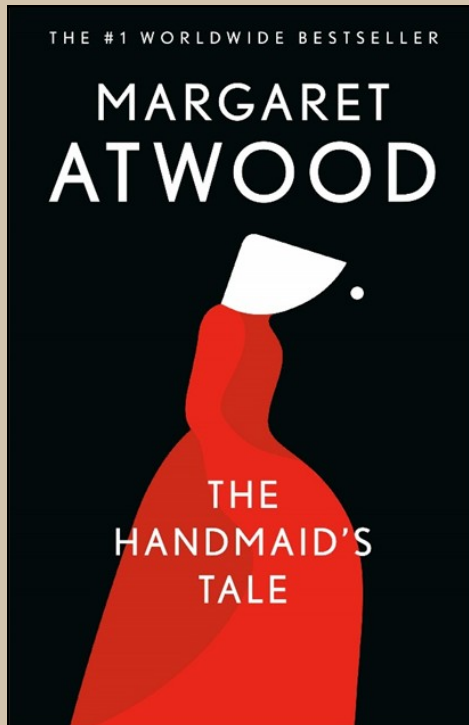
For more information about the Read Across America program, click [HERE](#).  
To learn more about Wayne and his books, click [HERE](#).





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

By Mark D. Walker



I decided to read this book after I saw the author promoting a fundraiser for PEN America to combat book banning. She partnered with Penguin Random House to create an unburnable version of her often-banned novel, [The Handmaid's Tale](#). She is depicted with a flame thrower. Margaret Atwood is among the top twenty authors banned, with three titles and fifteen bans in eleven school districts. One of the positive results of book banning is that many readers will read them to find out why they're being suppressed.

She's also an accomplished author with over fifty books translated into 35 languages. This book hasn't been out of print since it was first published in 1985 and has sold millions worldwide. Over the years, it has been reproduced in many formats, and in 2016, Hulu announced a straight-to-TV series of the book. Atwood was a consulting producer and played a small cameo role in the first episode.

But what makes this book special is that although it was written 38 years ago, the dystopian society it depicts seems to reflect the direction we're moving towards today, making this a very timely story worth reflecting on. With the wife of a Supreme Court Justice involved with the sedition of January 6<sup>th</sup>, and a Supreme Court that has overturned Roe vs. Wade and a woman's right to determine a choice on abortions, this fictional story seems possible.

Last week, the Public Religion Research Institute released new findings showing how successfully Christian Nationalists have spread their oppressive message:

*The rising influence of Christian nationalism in some segments of American politics poses a significant threat to the health of our democracy. Increasingly, the major battle lines of the culture war are being drawn between a right animated by a Christian nationalist worldview and Americans who embrace the country's growing racial and religious diversity.*

In a racial breakdown, the study indicates that 64% of white evangelical Protestants—the most significant percentage of any group—identify as either adherents or sympathizers of Christian nationalism.

Atwood acknowledges the extent to which her dystopian vision of many years ago is proving relevant today, “It's this aspect that seems the most possible to me at those uneasy moments when I find I'm convincing even myself of the plausibility of my own dire creation.”

In the author's dystopian future, environmental disasters and declining birthrates have led to a Second American Civil War. This led to the rise of the Republic of Gilead, a totalitarian regime that enforces rigid social roles and enclaves the few remaining fertile women. The main protagonist, Offred, is a Handmaid obligated to produce children for one of Gilead's commanders. She is deprived of her husband, her child, her freedom, and even her name.

The inspiration for the Republic of Gilead came from a study of early American Puritans at Harvard. She contends that

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

Puritan leaders wanted to establish a monolithic theocracy where religious dissent would not be tolerated.

She revealed in an updated introduction in 2017 that her book is not “anti-religious.” It is against using religion as a front for tyranny, which is a different thing altogether.”

Atwood was also inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1978-1979, where a theocracy was established that drastically reduced women’s rights and imposed a strict dress code on Iranian women. And where the leaders frequently profess, in a very sanctimonious manner, to act from the highest moral principles, in reality, the opposite is the case.

She lists a series of influences to developing this story “...group executions, sumptuary laws, book burnings, the Lebensborn program of the S.S. and the child-stealing of the Argentinean generals, the history of slavery, the history of American polygamy....”

The novel concludes with a fictional epilogue described as a transcript of an international historical association conference in 2195. In it, the keynote speaker explains that Offred’s account of events was recorded onto cassette tapes later found and transcribed by historians studying what is then called “the Gilead Period.”

In a final scene, Offred is led into a parked van by armed guards, and she says, “Whether this is my end or a new beginning, I have no way of knowing. I have given myself over into the hands of strangers because it can’t be helped.” And so I step up, into the darkness within; or else the light.”

And as the novel ends, its story and inspiration are picked up and moved along by the Hulu production in 2016. Bruce Miller, the executive producer, created the series. It was ranked 25<sup>th</sup> by [The Guardian](#) and 38th by the [BBC](#) on their lists of the 100 best TV series of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and has gone five seasons. Hulu announced that this would be the sixth and last season. The Hulu production is dark and foreboding and reflects the underlying suffering within the dystopian world Atwood envisioned.

“Atwood takes many trends which exist today and stretches them to their logical and chilling conclusions...An excellent novel about the directions our lives are taking...Read it while it’s still allowed.”—**Houston Chronicle**.

**About the Author**

**Margaret Atwood** is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry, and critical essays. Her novels include *Cat’s Eye*, *The Robber Bride*, *Alias Grace*, *The Blind Assassin*, and the *Madd Addam* trilogy. Her 1985 classic, *The Handmaid’s Tale*, was followed in 2019 by a sequel, *The Testaments*, which was a global number-one bestseller and won the Booker Prize. In 2020, she published *Dearly*, her first poetry collection in a decade.

Atwood has won numerous awards, including the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Imagination in Service to Society, the Franz Kafka Prize, the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, the PEN USA Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. In 2019, she was made a member of the Order of the Companions of Honor for services to literature. She has also worked as a cartoonist, illustrator, librettist, playwright, and puppeteer. She lives in Toronto, Canada.

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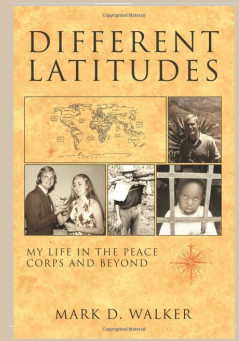
The opinions stated in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Arizona Authors Association. You can find 70 other book reviews on my website under the “Library” tab. Please let me know what you think about this newsletter, my reviews, and most importantly, what you are reading so I can ponder all of it and share some of your comments in my next column. You can email me at: [Mark@MillionMileWalker.com](mailto:Mark@MillionMileWalker.com) or through my websites: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker/>.

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

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

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



Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. CEO of Janson Literary Services, Inc. offers her literary expertise to both new and veteran authors.

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Have questions? Ask Marilyn @ [janlitserv@cox.net](mailto:janlitserv@cox.net), [www.janwrite.com](http://www.janwrite.com), or call her at 1-480-699-6389



Arizona Authors Association member Michelle Beaver launched an Arizona chapter of PEN America in April 2022 and the chapter has hosted multiple events since then, with several AAA members in attendance. PEN America stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to protect free expression around the world. The Arizona chapter bolsters this work and gives local writers the chance to commiserate on shared interests.

Events have been hosted at Changing Hands Bookstore, Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, Michelle Beaver’s home and at downtown Phoenix restaurants. Speakers have been plentiful, including Arizona Sen. Christine Marsh, The Arizona Republic’s famed columnist E.J. Montini, a director of the American Civil Liberties Union, etc.

The coming year will include more great events, including panels and social hours featuring free appetizers and one complementary cocktail per person. PEN membership is not mandatory for attendance. If you’d like more information, please contact the founder and director of PEN America, Michelle Beaver, at: [michelle.l.beaver@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.l.beaver@gmail.com).



## The Road to Imagination

by Cherie Lee

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

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

If you would like to share a story you create with this prompt (800 words or less), please send it no later than May 15 to [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com) and we may publish it.

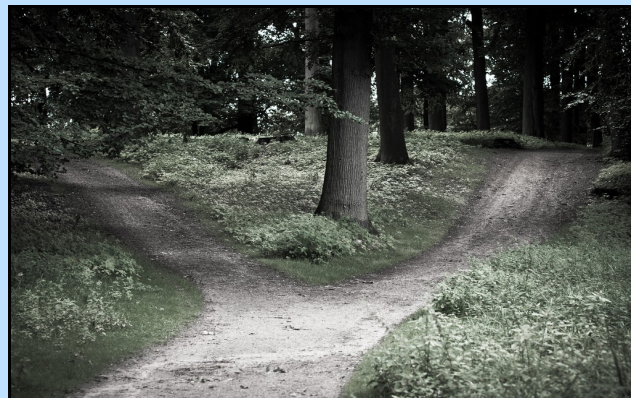
### The Party

Irene entered the bowling alley and looked for her friends. Bowling balls rolled down the lanes like hot rods rumbling during a race. Sometimes a bowler yelled, "Strike!" as the pins rolled off the back of the alley. She saw none of her friends so she walked from lane one to the last lane, number thirty-seven. No friends were bowling. She stared at her party invitation and said, "Damn!" Irene shoved the invitation back into her purse and left, letting the door of the bowling alley slam shut behind her.

### Questions:

1. Did someone pull a joke on Irene?
2. Did Irene accidentally go to the wrong bowling alley?
3. Was the party being held at a different time or on a different day?
4. Was this a good-natured joke or was someone bullying Irene?
5. Were these new friends that she had just met, or old friends that she had known a long time?
6. Was Irene the new kid in the neighborhood or had she lived there all her life?
7. What will Irene do now that there was no party?

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

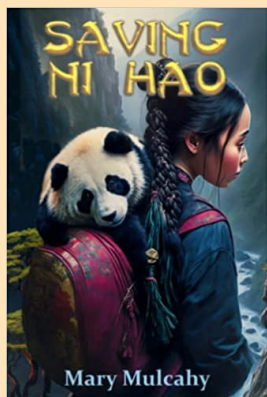




## What Are You Reading?

by Peter Bernhardt

In addition to writing novels, I occasionally help fellow authors with editing and publishing their novels. One of those I recently worked on is by talented Sedona author, Mary Mulcahy. Her novel, [\*Saving Ni Hao\*](#), is a great story and well written. While it is categorized as a YA novel, it's a good read for all ages, including old guys like me. So if you're looking for a good book for yourself or teenage grandkids, take a look.



### Sichuan Province, China 2014

Teenager Wu Kai Li talks to animals telepathically, especially her wild panda friend, Ni Hao. When she discovers Ni Hao in grave danger and no one will help, she becomes desperate to protect the vulnerable young panda by leading it back to its natural habitat far up the dangerous Silver Mountain. This action will go against the Village Headman and her already emotionally absent father, but their anger won't be her only problem. Two years earlier, she lost her mother and older brother on the very slopes she has to climb to save the panda. Though she loves the mountain and its profound beauty, she also fears it.

From her mother, she has inherited an ability to communicate with other dimensions of reality, and a sensitivity to seeing both good and bad spirits. But will these capacities and her deep love for Ni Hao be enough to overcome the unknown forces conspiring against her?

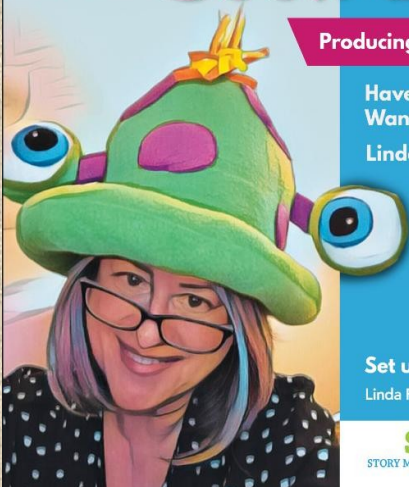
One thing is certain: the experience, with its many surprises, will result in far more than saving her beloved friend as she discovers a resilience of spirit and new trust in herself that changes her life forever.

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

Peter Bernhardt is a retired attorney and an award-winning novelist. His books, [\*The Stasi File\*](#) and [\*Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter\*](#), took first and second place in the Oldie But Goldie category of the 2022 Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. Find out more about Peter [HERE](#) or on his [website](#).

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## Tucson Festival of Books

by June Reynolds



Photo Courtesy of the Tucson Festival of Books

Tucson Festival of Books  
March 4-5 9:30am-5:30pm  
University of Arizona,  
Tucson, AZ

The Tucson Festival of Books was a real crowd-pleaser this year with 330 authors and 286 presentations. I went this year as a volunteer and worked in the Modern Language Lecture Hall. There, they had panel discussions of groups of authors. The morning session was almost full, but the next two were standing room only.

I went out to the mall around 11:00 am and was shocked at the massive humanity! The warm weather, after two months of wind, rain, snow, and frost, really called the people out. I had my volunteer shirt on and was asked for directions from five groups of people.

Although some of my favorite small booth exhibitors were not there, the National Park Pavilion was back. Headliners were Bernie Sanders with his book, [\*It's OK to be Angry about Capitalism\*](#) and Katy Tur with her new book, [\*Rough Draft\*](#). Also, Tucson-born Linda Ronstadt was there for a keynote address and her new book: [\*Feels Like Home\*](#).

I enjoyed being a volunteer, but I would have liked the festival more if I could have hung out with the Arizona Authors. I suggested to the board that it would be interesting to have a panel discussion about what it is like being a writer on Arizona topics. They thought that would be interesting.

Children, Senior Citizens, and Teenagers were well represented on the UA Mall this weekend. It was a festival of words and ideas.

Featured speakers included: Bernie Sanders, Jana Bommersbach, Arizona Authors Association member Wynne Brown, Arizona Authors Association member Karen Odden, Linda Ronstadt, Katy Tur, and many, many more.

June Reynolds has wanted to be a writer ever since she was ten. She is the author of numerous books including her newest, [\*Desert Report\*](#), which is featured in this issue. Find out more about June [HERE](#).





# Puzzle it!

A Logic Puzzle for Spring by Kevin Gundlach



Spring has sprung! Time to read those springtime, flowery novels that put a smile on your face. You will be given a list of four authors, their book titles, a quote from each book and the year it was published. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to match all authors with their own books, quotes, and the year each was first published.

While the easiest method is simply to Google the answers, that would be cheating! You may know or deduce some of these without the need for clues, and if so, then congratulations! You're a smart cookie! The rest of the answers will be revealed by the clues on the next page.

You may make your own list or create a grid on scratch paper, or print the grid on the next page to simplify the process of elimination. Just right click on the page; you'll see a "print" icon (or the word "print," depending upon your browser). Click the print icon and then ... very importantly ... **set the page** that you wish to print in the document (page 18). If you just click "print" without selecting the page, you'll wind up printing the whole newsletter!

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

## Books:

*Anne of Green Gables, Absent in the Spring, The Garden of Small Beginnings, The Language of Flowers*

## Authors:

Abbi Waxman, LM Montgomery, Vanessa Diffenbaugh, Agatha Christie

## Quote:

- A. "All my silly pretenses and shams fell away."
- B. "Everything is made new in the spring."
- C. "Anyone can grow into something beautiful."
- D. "Let's pretend everything is fine and go to look at the garden."

## Year of Publication:

2017, 1908, 2012, 1944

Good luck! If you solve the puzzle in 30 minutes or less, let us know so that we may congratulate you in the next issue!

continued on the next page

**CLUES**

1) The four books are: The one titled, *Absent in the Spring*, the one containing quote C, the one published in 2017, and the one written by LM Montgomery.

2) The book published in 2012 wasn't written by Agatha Christie.

3) *The Garden of Small Beginnings* was either published in 2012, or it was written by Abbi Waxman.

4) *Anne of the Green Gables* was either published in 1944, or was written by LM Montgomery.

5) The books by Abbi Waxman and Agatha Christie were both published after the one containing quote B.

6) *The Language of Flowers*, was published prior to the one containing quote D.

7) Quote A was not taken from *Ann of Green Gables*.

9) *The Language of Flowers* was written by either LM Montgomery or Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

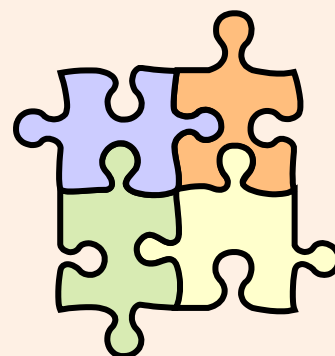
10) Agatha Christie did not write *The Garden of Small Beginnings*.

		Anne of Green Gables	Absent in the Spring	The Garden of Small Beg.	The Language of Flowers	Abbi Waxman	LM Montgomery	Vanessa Diffenbaugh	Agatha Christie	A	B	C	D	2017	1908	2012	1944	
Book Title	Anne of Green Gables	O	X	X	X													
	Absent in the Spring	X	O	X	X													
	The Garden of Small Beg.	X	X	O	X													
	The Language of Flowers	X	X	X	O													
Author	Abbi Waxman					O	X	X	X									
	LM Montgomery					X	O	X	X									
	Vanessa Diffenbaugh					X	X	O	X									
	Agatha Christie					X	X	X	O									
Quote	A									O	X	X	X					
	B									X	O	X	X					
	C									X	X	O	X					
	D									X	X	X	O					
Year Published	2017													O	X	X	X	
	1908													X	O	X	X	
	2012													X	X	O	X	
	1944													X	X	X	O	

**Printing Tip**

To print this puzzle, right click on this page and open the "print" icon. Be certain to select **Page Number 18**, to print **ONLY** this puzzle page, rather than the whole newsletter.

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



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



# Application for Membership

## Benefits of Membership

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

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Writers Published or Unpublished:**

One year \$45  
Two years \$80  
Three years \$110

**Professional Membership:**

Related Services such as Publishers,  
Agents,  
and Editors:  
One year \$60  
Two years \$110  
Three years \$165

**Send Checks or Money Orders To:**

Arizona Authors Association  
6145 West Echo Lane  
Glendale AZ 85302-5709

**Or Pay With:**

Paypal.com to:  
  
arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com

**ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW EACH JANUARY**

Arizona Authors Association is a Non-profit 501c3 organization. Its mission: To foster literary achievement, advance the art of writing and serve the writers, authors, editors, publishers and allied professionals of Arizona and the nation. [Arizonaauthors.com](http://Arizonaauthors.com), [Arizona.authors@yahoo.com](mailto:Arizona.authors@yahoo.com)  
[toby@tobyheathcotte.com](mailto:toby@tobyheathcotte.com)



## Where in Arizona?

by Janet Alcorn

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



### Possible Locations:

Phoenix

Patagonia

Kingman

Tucson

Safford

Mesa

Yuma

Globe

Gila Bend

Sierra Vista

Write to [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com) no later than May 15th if you know the location of the photo. Good luck!

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

<http://janetalcorn.com>.

Last issue's photo was taken at **Yuma, AZ**, and **Elizabeth Ajamee-Boyer** was the first to answer correctly. Congratulations, Elizabeth! We appreciate the participation!





## Arizona Authors Literary Contest Report

by Jane Ruby

The contest is off and running. In the beginning it stutter-stepped a bit because we've changed our entry format to save cost and labor. If you'd like to enter, please visit our website for instructions, entry form and rules. I also intend to personally send everyone the link by email. You can also use this link: <https://www.arizonaauthors.org/contest-1>.

So far, we've received seven entries, five of which have been completed. The other two are contingent on payment and/or pdf file. Please read the entry instructions carefully and completely. Entry to the contest contains 3 steps:

Fill out the entry form

Pay for the entry

Send pdf of entry (published books or unpublished works such short stories, essays, manuscripts, etc.) to:

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

If you do not have a PayPal account or credit card, you can still mail in a check payment to:

Arizona Authors Association  
428 E. Thunderbird Rd., #538  
Phoenix AZ 85022

Please complete the second and third steps within 72 hours of submitting your entry form (step one). Questions can be directed to [ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:ArizonaAuthorsAssociation@gmail.com)



*If your life is bereft of  
roses, make them!*

-Kathleen Cook

**Lego Rose  
Tucson Botanical Gardens**

**Photo by Arizona  
Authors Association member  
Janet Alcorn**

# 2023 Arizona Authors Literary Contest



The Arizona Authors Literary Contest is now underway and the Association has gone digital! This will save authors \$\$\$ and will make for a speedier, hassle-free contest. Plus, prizes have increased this year. Join us in making 2023 the best year ever for the Arizona Authors Literary Contest!

**Grand Prize:**

\$300 & Featured in Arizona Literary Magazine

**3 First Prizes:**

\$150 & Featured in Arizona Literary Magazine

**3 Second Prizes:**

\$75 & Featured in Arizona Literary Magazine

**3 Third Prizes:**

\$50 & Featured in Arizona Literary Magazine

**3 Fourth Prizes:**

\$25 & Featured in Arizona Literary Magazine

**Best of Category:**

Featured in Arizona Literary Magazine.

Best of Category Unpublished Poetry/Short Stories will be nominated for Pushcart Prize.

Value: **PRICELESS**

**Categories:**

**Unpublished:**

- Poems
- Short Story/Essay/Review
- Novel /Novella

(Critiques offered at low rates for unpublished works.)

**Published:**

- OLDIE BUT GOLDIE Fiction
- Nonfiction
- Children’s Picture Book
- Juvenile/Young Adult



For more information on the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest, click [HERE](#).



**CONTEST DEADLINE:**

**June 1, 2023**

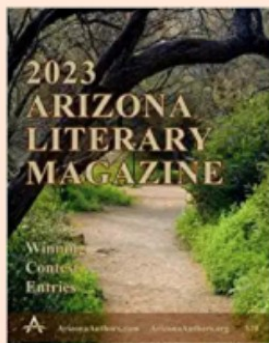
**Submit your work today!**

**CLICK [HERE](#)**

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



# Volunteer Openings

Join our family of volunteers and make the Arizona Authors Association even better!

Openings include:

**Membership:** Do you have a knack for details and keeping records? Are you friendly and able to talk to people who may be curious about joining or renewing their membership with the Arizona Authors Association? Let us know!

**Zoom Workshops:** Would you like to do one or more Zoom workshops in the coming year on a topic of interest and benefit to writers? Zoom workshops usually last 90-120 minutes, so you'd need enough material to keep your viewers engaged. Past topics include mystery writing, memoir writing, marketing your book, and writing methods. Pitch your topic to us today!



Perks include a free year's membership to the Arizona Authors Association and our undying gratitude. Thank you!

For information on these or other volunteer opportunities, contact:

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

**VOLUNTEER**



## The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

### Opportunities

When I created our new website, I realized I wanted a forum for authors to come together and advertise their books, articles, accomplishments, and to acknowledge and congratulate others. I also wanted to create one that would inform, educate and encourage writers to succeed. After several months, I added a forum to the website.

I admit, it's been slow to take off. It's a fantastic resource for our membership, but most have not yet taken advantage of it. According to Wix analytics, our website attracts between 7-9 unique visitors every day, in addition to regular member visits. (The 7-9 are people who have never visited before, and are just finding our site for the first time.) That's a great resource, since it's obvious that people who click on an authors site are interested in authors. We have a niche market there, and one that may be interested in your books!

To participate, it's easy. Just register on the forum ... no credit card or invasive info required. It takes less than two minutes from start to finish. Then, add your items to one of the categories set up. We currently have categories for General Discussion, Questions and Answers, Arizona Authors Book Releases, and Arizona Authors News.

If you have a business, such as an editing or proofreading service, add it to the Arizona Authors News section. If you have a book you would like to advertise, whether new or older, add it to the Arizona Authors Book Releases. If you'd like to ask a question, the Q and A category would be the place to do it. For all other posts, such as adding links on helpful author sites, use the General Discussion category.

We have a new Forum Director, Kyle Patton, who is keeping things nice and organized. Say hi to him on his introduction post! For that matter, say hi to me and Toby, too ... we have intros there as well. :)

If you are an Arizona Authors Association member, you may post your book info for all of your books, not just recent ones. Take advantage of the free advertising opportunity to attract those 7-9 unique visitors daily as well as regular members. Who knows? It may lead to a book sale or another opportunity.

While you are on the [Arizona Authors Association](#) website, take a look at your own professional web page as well. To locate your page, click on "Members" at the top of any page, and then scroll down to your name. All names are in alphabetical order. Check it out ... is it up to date? Does it have all of your books listed, or have you added some books since the last time you contacted the web admin (me)? Is your biography current, or have you changed your marital status, residence, or other items?

If you see anything missing, old or incorrect, contact me, Kathleen Cook, at [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com). I'll be happy to take care of it for you, usually within a few days.

If you see your name on the list but cannot click on it, it means that you have not yet sent me your information so that I

continued on the next page



The Inevitable Author, continued.

may create your page. Take advantage of this wonderful resource and send me your information, so that I can add your page link to our great group of writers. Then pop into the forum and create your first post, so that all of us may learn of that great American novel you wrote! :)

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



*Roads were made for journeys, not destinations.*

-Adapted from  
Confucius

Thunderbird Park, Glendale, AZ  
Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member  
Jan Nichols

# NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Rodo Sofranac



## The Red Tail Tale On The Arizona Trail

This edition of [\*The Red Tail Tale On The Arizona Trail\*](#) has three parts:

In Part 1, Rowen, a young, red-headed explorer, describes the diversity of the geology, animals, plants, and people along the 800-mile Arizona National Scenic Trail. He uses spectacular photographs by award-winning photographer Yvonne Kippenberg to aid his discussion.

In Part 2, Rowen and Rojo, a clever, red-tailed hawk, meet, bond, and experience an exciting adventure on the fascinating trail. This part is supported by colorful and creative illustrations.

Part 3 provides a number of lined pages where the reader/explorer can document their own adventure on the Arizona Trail. The entire book is illustrated and designed by another award winner, Mark Sean Wilson. An amazing 66 pages of experiential learning fun!

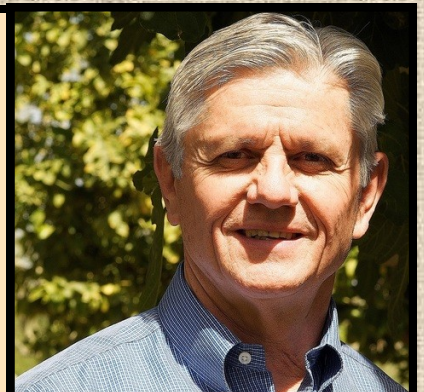
Orders can be done electronically on [www.rodowrites.com](http://www.rodowrites.com)

If you haven't seen it on our social media pages, yes, the second edition of *The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail* is now available!! Lots of new and extended features bring out the incredible diversity of Arizona's geology, animals, plants, and especially people.

This new edition of *The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail* has even more information on the early Native American influence in Arizona. All the pictures of wild animals were taken in the wild. There are also many new pictures of the beauty along the Arizona Trail.

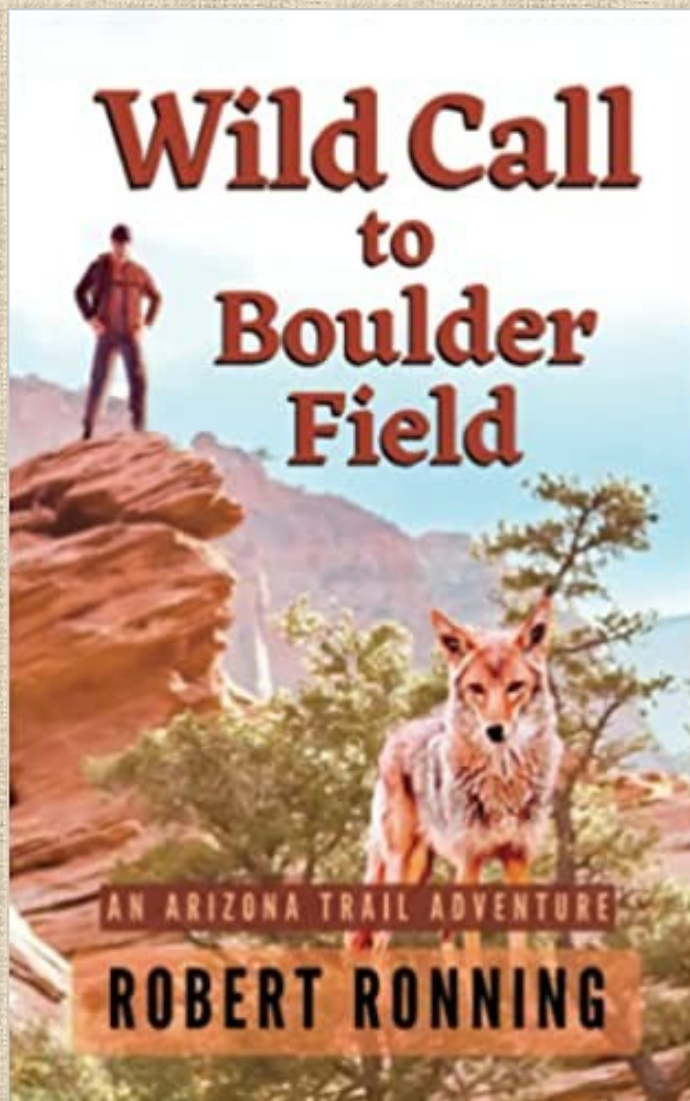
Rodo is a Phoenix, Arizona writer, teacher, trainer, and translator with over 45 years of business, education, and community experiences. Originally from Montenegro, he's held positions as diverse as bank vice president, executive director of Phoenix Habitat for Humanity, chair of various local, state, and national organizations, and member of many boards. Most significantly, Rodo is a husband (48 years to the same patient lady), father of four terrific and diverse kids, and a grandfather of six.

In addition to a degree in psychology from Cornell University, Rodo has a teacher certification from Cleveland State University, and an MBA from Arizona State University. Find more about Rodo on his [website](#) or on his Arizona Authors [page](#).



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Robert Ronning



### Wild Call to

### Boulder Field

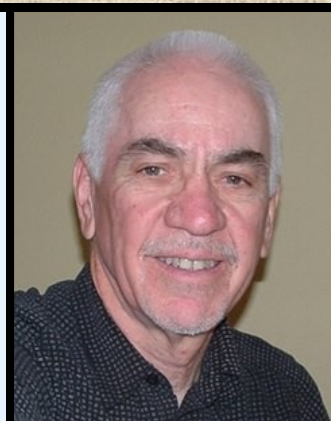
Troubled Park Ranger Wade Conrad, heartbroken when his Golden Retriever goes missing, seeks wilderness solace on the Arizona Trail. But the beauty of nature offers little peace on the first night at camp, when he hears strange calls and finds a small white terrier cowering in a burrow. Ranger and his rescue, a "Westie," soon run into an accident-prone young bicyclist who claims to carry out creative protests to save wildlife.

Trail conditions soon become desperate when the Westie vanishes in a deep canyon. Wade fears a wild predator has been stalking them on the trail all along. Spurred on by powerful emotions and determined to find the little dog, Wade follows the calls of a mysterious coyote to a vast boulder field. To save his terrier companion, Wade must reach deep within himself and far beyond the typical barriers between man and wildlife.

One Amazon reviewer wrote, "If you love dogs and wildlife, you will love this story."

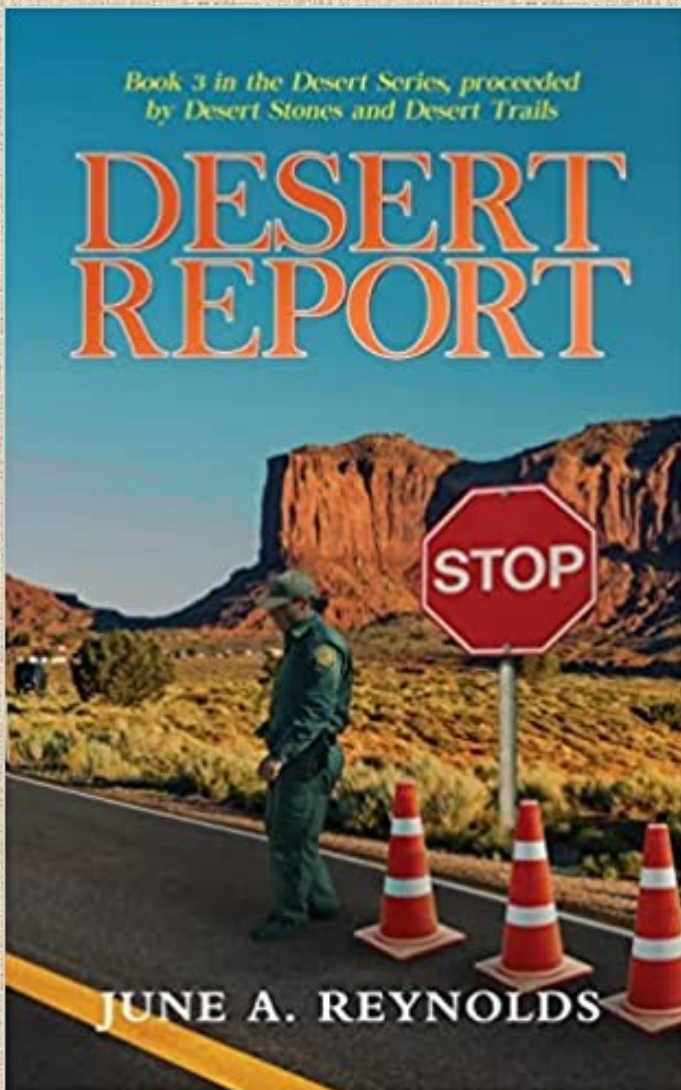
Find this book on [Amazon](#) and other outlets.

From Washington State, Robert had an early career in the theatre and earned a Ph.D. in communication arts. He taught performance of literature at City University of New York. He directed two plays Off-Broadway: a comedy about George Bernard Shaw and a concert docudrama on Albert Einstein at Lincoln Center. Theatre study lured him to London, where he lived off and on for several years. His writing has appeared in academic as well as popular publications, including *Channels in Communications*, *Scene4 Magazine*, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, and locally in Tucson's *DesertLeaf* magazine. Drawn to activist literature, he considers his proudest achievements rescuing and assisting the rescue of lost dogs. To find out more about Robert, visit his website [HERE](#). Or check out his Arizona Authors Association page [HERE](#).



# NEW BOOK RELEASE

by June Reynolds



## Desert Report

Once again, June A. Reynolds is offering a look at the desert Southwest. This book focuses on the people of the Southwest, and what they do in the desert in the past, present, and the future.

The days of the Wild West may be over and gone, but the culture of the West can be found if you look hard enough for it. This book can make a good armchair adventure, or can be taken with you as part of your travels in the desert lands.

*Desert Report* will be displayed at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on April 22-23 at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

You will find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and at [Antigone's Bookstore in Tucson](#) as well as the [Copper News Bookstore in Ajo](#).

You may also view a YouTube preview of the book [HERE](#).

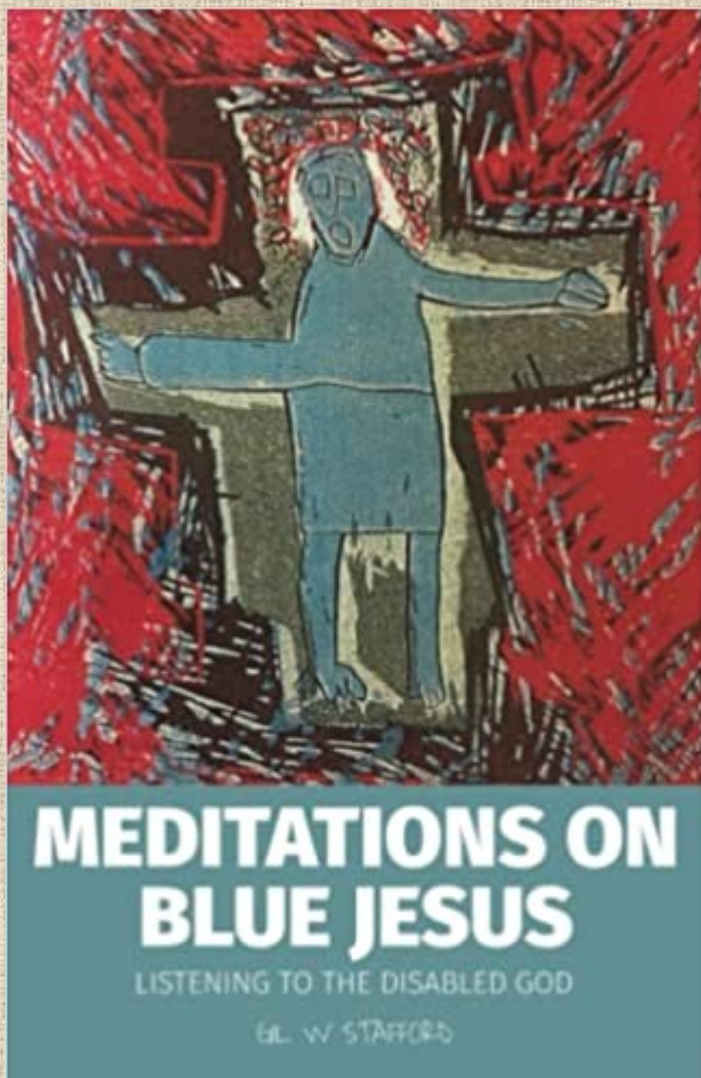
June A. Reynolds was born and lived most of her life in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. She married a Desert Rat from Tucson, so for the past ten years she has spent time in Arizona. She finds the contrast of the desert to the rainy forest very interesting, and yet, there are many things that both parts of the West have in common.

Ever since she was ten, June wanted to be a writer. So she wrote many words, sentences, paragraphs, and stories. Most of the stories are based on real things that have happened in her life. Now she is an author and hopes that readers enjoy these true things, both happy and sad, but part of life's adventure. Find out more about June [HERE](#).



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Gil Stafford



### Meditations on Blue Jesus

Dinah Stafford is among the oldest living persons with Prader-Willi syndrome. She is an artist and a mystic. She's also a survivor—strong, spiritual, and oh yes, beware, she is stubborn. She has few words but her symbolic art holds profound meaning.

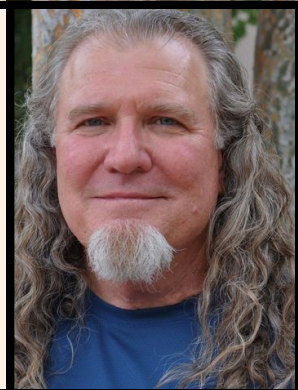
*Meditations on Blue Jesus: Listening to the Disabled God* is Dinah's story. She and her *Blue Jesus* are small broken figures who communicate a hidden wisdom only found in silence. Dinah recognizes the divine within the marginalized, the odd, the misshapen, the blue experience of every being human. And her brother, Gil, tells their family story, tragic, heart-warming, inspiring and funny.

Each chapter features one of Dinah's paintings. Her spirituality is her own, but one shared with all of us. Through Dinah's art, we'll experience her relationship with the divine, one not overly influenced or politicized by religion. Dinah sits at the center of her blue sacred circle teaching us her Blue Wisdom. Hers is the re-imagining of a spiritual story, a rebirth into a new normal. This is a story of Dinah and "the Disabled God."

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

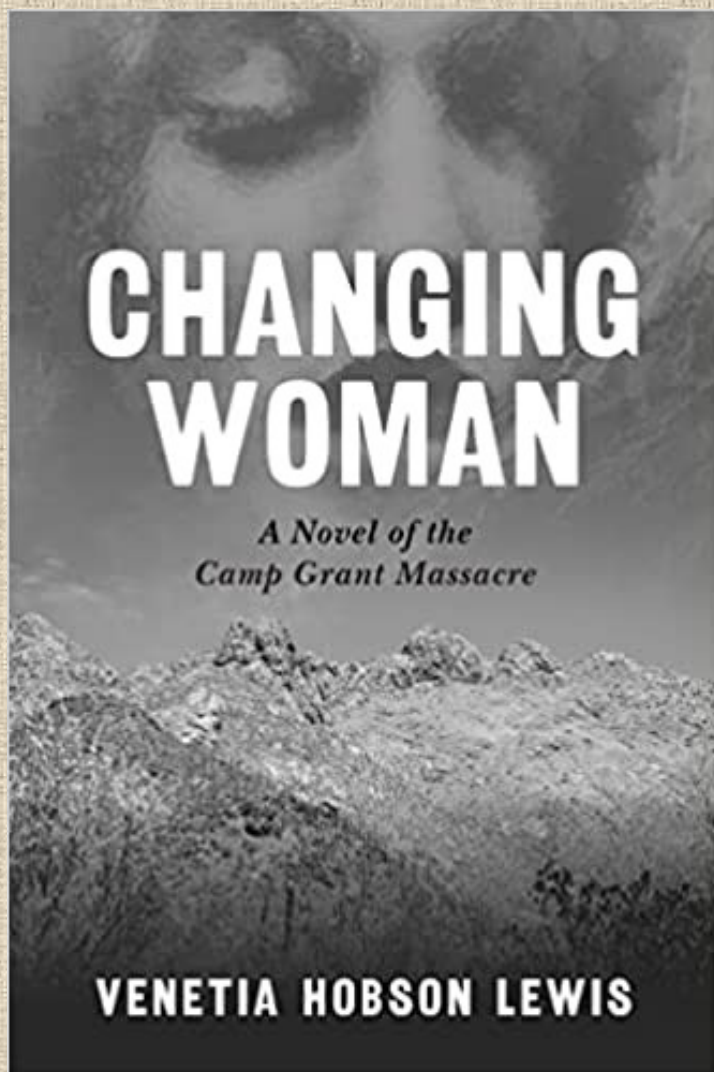
Gil Stafford, PhD, DMin, is an Episcopal priest and former Canon Theologian for the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. Stafford was the President of Grand Canyon University, previously the university's baseball coach. He is the author of 3 other books; *Wisdom Walking: Pilgrimage as a Way of Life*, *When Leadership and Spiritual Direction Meet: Reflections and Stories for Congregational Life*, and *Walking with the Spiritual but Not Religious: Spiritual Companions for a Post-Religious World*.

Life is a pilgrimage and Stafford has taken many, including walking Ireland coast-to-coast. Find out more about Gil and his author-wife Cathy [HERE](#). Or contact him on [Facebook](#).



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Venetia Hobson Lewis



### Changing Woman A Novel of the Camp Grant Massacre

Arizona Territory, 1871. Valeria Obregón and her ambitious husband, Raúl, arrive in the raw frontier town of Tucson hoping to find prosperity. Changing Woman, an Apache spirit who represents the natural order and its cycle of birth, death, and rebirth, welcomes Nest Feather, a twelve-year-old Apache girl, into womanhood in Aravaipa Canyon.

Mexican and Anglo settlers have pushed Apaches from their lands, and the Apaches carry out raids against them. The settlers, angered by the failure of the U.S. military to protect them, respond with a murderous raid on an Apache encampment at Camp Grant, kidnapping Nest Feather and other Apache children.

In Tucson, while Valeria finds fulfillment in her work as a seamstress, Raúl struggles to hide from her his role in the bloody attack. Nest Feather, adopted by a Mexican couple there, tries to hold on to her Apache heritage. Against the backdrop of the massacre trial, Valeria and Nest Feather's lives intersect in the church, as Valeria seeks spiritual guidance for the decision she must make and Nest Feather prepares for a Christian baptism.

Award-winning author Jan Cleere calls this book a "spellbinding novel." Pre-order it on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), [Nebraska Press](#) and other outlets.

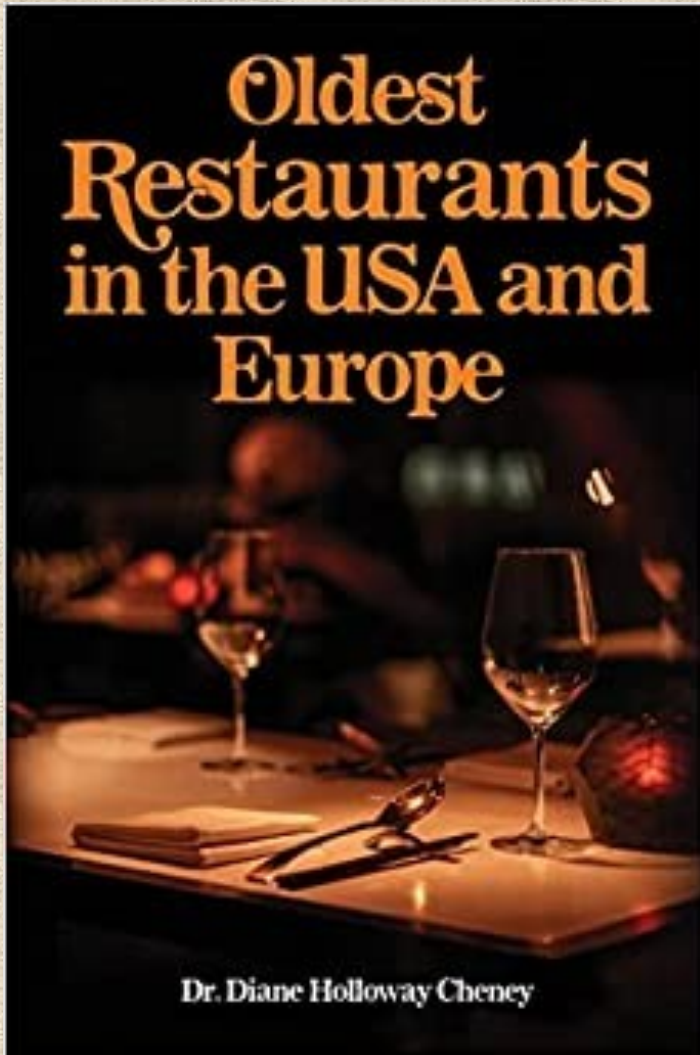
Venetia Hobson Lewis worked at several stock brokerages before moving to Los Angeles, where, for almost eighteen years, she was a corporate paralegal for a motion picture studio. She has written several award-winning Western short stories. She is privileged to live near Tucson and hopes to tell more stories of the city, the territory, the state, and the West.

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



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Dr. Diane Holloway Cheney



### Oldest Restaurants in the USA and Europe

Eating with others is a restorative activity. When dining in an historic restaurant, the setting, cuisine, and relics of the past take us back in time. We come to understand a people's history through the restaurant, those who founded it, how it stayed afloat, special dishes, and past famous guests.

Recipes featuring local foods prepared by distinctive chefs leave diners with a souvenir of a beloved restaurant. We may find ourselves swept away by the unique atmosphere, friendly waitpersons, and abundant information to inform our historic journey.

This book includes a recipe from each of the restaurants listed. According to an Amazon reviewer: "Dr. Cheney's research has uncovered food gems that have withstood the test of time."

Find *Oldest Restaurants in the USA and Europe* on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets.

Dr. Diane Holloway Cheney was a director of Study Abroad, Inc., lived in the United Kingdom and Europe, and later worked as a psychologist and management consultant to various US hotels and dining establishments. In this role, it was necessary to help hoteliers and restaurateurs meet the expectations of guests in venues such as Loew's Anatole Hotel, Dallas; the Westin hotel chain; Dallas restaurants; and the Dallas Petroleum Club. A secondary career began when Dr. Cheney was appointed the "Drug Czar" of Dallas by the mayor, which led to applying for federal grants to fund the elimination of drug users and dealers. She was honored at the White House for her efforts by US Drug Czar William Bennett, President Reagan, and First Lady Nancy Reagan, who was known for her "Just Say No" program. Find out more about Dr. Diane by clicking [HERE](#).



# SHORT RELEASES

If you have a short story, article, essay or other work that has recently been published, submit it by contacting our editor, Kathleen Cook, at [arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com](mailto:arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com). The work may be on any topic of general interest published within the past six months, written either by you or about you, in which you contribute a substantial portion of the text.



Arizona Authors Association member Maj. Marsha Arzberger, C.A.P., Retired, recently wrote a historical article, "Civil Air Patrol: Searching for Lost Airplanes in Cochise County." The article was featured in the [\*Cochise County Historical Society Journal\*](#), Fall/Winter Edition, 2023.



Marsha is an award-winning author and first place essay winner in the 2022 Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. To find out more about Marsha, go to her website [HERE](#), or click on her Arizona Authors member page [HERE](#).

## OC87 Recovery Diaries®

Stories of mental health, empowerment, and change.

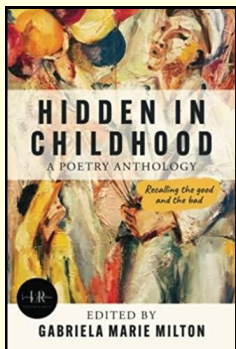


To learn more about Marilyn, visit her website [HERE](#) or her Arizona Authors member page [HERE](#).

Arizona Authors Association member and award-winning author Marilyn June Janson was featured recently on OC87 Recovery Diaries. Her article entitled, "Family Emergency Prompts OCD Coping Skills," relates her experience with family health issues and coping strategies during the Covid 19 pandemic and beyond. To read Marilyn's article on the OC87 Recovery Diaries website, click [HERE](#).



Award-winning author Dawn Pisturino is pleased and proud to announce that her two poems, "The Listener" and "I HATE SNAKES," have been published in [\*Hidden in Childhood: A Poetry Anthology\*](#), which immediately became a #1 Amazon Bestseller in New Releases of Poetry Anthologies when it was launched in January 2023.



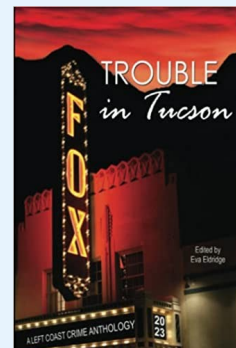
Find *Hidden In Childhood* on [Amazon](#) and other outlets. To learn more about Dawn, visit her website [HERE](#) or her Arizona Authors member page [HERE](#).

Janet Alcorn published a new suspense story, "Adam Carmona and the Case of the Saguaro Ripper." It appears in [\*Trouble in Tucson\*](#), an anthology published in conjunction with the Left Coast Crime conference held in Tucson in March. *Trouble in Tucson* is available from [Amazon](#).



An excerpt from Janet's story is available on her [website](#).

Janet is an award-winning author and columnist for the Arizona Authors Association. Find out more on her [website](#) or on her Arizona Authors member page [HERE](#).





# SHORT RELEASES continued



Award-winning author and Arizona Authors Association member Rico Austin was featured in the February 2023 issue of [Tequila Aficionado](#), a magazine for tequila lovers around the world.

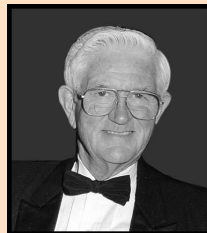


The full-length, 14-page article, entitled "Interview with Rico Austin of Bajarriba Tequila," discusses Rico's new tequila venture, Bajarriba Tequila, and offers many pictures as well as insight into his multi-faceted life and career.



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

To learn more about Rico and his colorful history, click [HERE](#) or visit his Arizona Authors member page [HERE](#).



Arizona Authors Association member Jack Hawn was featured in the February 26 issue of the Arizona Republic, Letters to the Editor, in his response to sportswriter Kent Somers' [column](#) announcing his retirement, which ended his 34-year career. Somers expressed concerns about what he would do after retirement. The Republic headlined Jack's suggestion to Somers with the title, "Take it from an old sportswriter (43 years), you can still write letters to the editor."

Jack, a longtime sportswriter, has written two memoirs and is a frequent contributor to newspapers throughout the Valley. His wife, Mary Beth, also wrote a recent editorial. Find out more about Jack [HERE](#).

## *Here's Looking At You, Kid.*

-Bogart in Casablanca

**Collared Lizard in Arizona High Desert**

**Photo by Arizona Authors member Mike Rothmiller**





## A Writer's Tip From Karen Odden

### Building a Community of Practice, One Strand at a Time

I'll be the first to admit that I made the mistake of waiting far too long to start building my community of practice as a writer. Well before my first book was published in 2016, I would have benefited from belonging to writers' groups such as Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, or the Arizona Authors Association, and from having a website and social media, relationships with librarians and book club leaders, and author friends to help me with those final stages of editing. So I'd suggest that if you're writing, consider reaching out to build your community of practice as you go.

For those of us writers who are introverts, reaching out isn't always easy -- and with so many booksellers, bloggers, book clubs, libraries, and writing groups, it can feel like a limitless process and a full-time job. I like to think of my community of practice as a web, with each "reach-out" a strand, and I try to contact just one or two new people or organizations each week, whether I'm seeking advice, introducing myself, or offering a service, support, or encouragement to someone else.

Karen Odden is a USA Today bestselling author; her latest book is [Under A Veiled Moon](#), an Inspector Corravan mystery. For more writer's tips and other news, subscribe to Karen's newsletter [HERE](#) or visit her [website](#). You may also visit her AAA page [HERE](#).

## Literary Trivia From Page Three

### Answers

1. Mole
2. *Love's Labour's Lost*
3. Mike
4. Winnie the Pooh
5. William Wordsworth
6. India

## Back Page Quotes

Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.

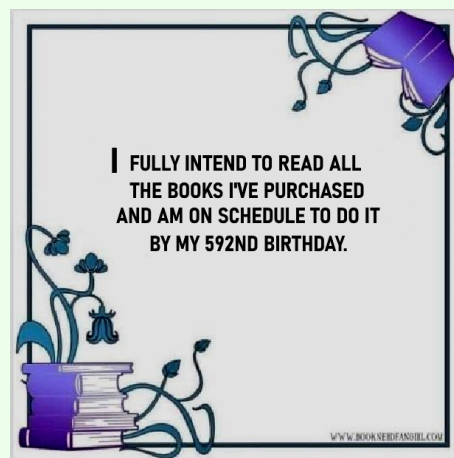


-Doug Larson



"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring." -Victor Hugo

Submitted by  
Janet Alcorn:



"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."  
-Margaret Atwood

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