



RIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED 1978



A non-profit
501c3 organization

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

Issue 23

Arizona Authors Association

December 2022-January 2023

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President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

The end of 2022 brought together a jubilant group of authors, those who won in our literary contest. Almost all of the winners attended the banquet and gave brief acceptance speeches or read from their work. The other attendees attested to the great food at Moon Valley Country Club and the beautiful vistas of the golf course. Besides presenting the awards, we held a book auction, which gave many something cool to take home besides the memories.

The banquet was extremely successful and an important part of the offerings of AAA. Its continuance in future years depends in part on the support of the rest of the membership. In previous years, before covid, many members attended the banquet to have fun and catch up with other members. If only the winners attend, we'll have to find less expensive venues, like a public park or someone's backyard. This is a subject I'd like member input on. What approach do you think we should take to the banquet?

This year's contest and literary magazine closed thanks to the expertise of Jane Ruby, Russell Azbill, Kebba Button, and Connie Osterlitz. Check out the beautiful cover and excellent works by ordering it on [Amazon](#).

We presented seven workshops this past year on Zoom: Karen Odden on **Building a Back Story**, Patricia Brooks on **Writing Memoir**, Penny Orloff on **Writing Compelling Dialogue**, Donis Casey on **Writing Mysteries**, Jane Ruby on **The Snowflake Method**, and two by Penny Orloff on **Promoting Your Work**. We're lucky to have so many members with such teaching expertise. These workshops are free to the public and a

continued on the next page

President's Corner, continued

good way to get writer-friends who are not members to get involved.

The participating audiences have ranged from four to fourteen when so many more could attend. It's a shame that more people don't participate, however a great benefit of the workshops is that their recordings are available to watch on Zoom. We have them all listed at arizonaauthors.org. Click on [Resources](#).

Financial Resources as of October 31 included: Savings: \$25.00, Checking: Beginning Balance: \$12,029.41, Credits: \$2,128.36, Debits: \$28.66, Ending Balance: \$14,129.11.

Our website has completely turned around. Last year it caused headache after headache. This year it runs smoothly and contains many links and attributes. Kathleen Cook has kept refining it to keep us up with the latest and best available in content and format.

Membership stands at one hundred fifty-four now. We are always happy to receive new members, so feel free to invite your writer-friends to join.

Dues are payable by the end of January for most members. You will receive a message from me if you need to renew your membership. Many people who paid for multiple years will not receive a notice. There is no change to dues amounts for next year.

The AAA Annual Meeting will occur on January 14, 2023, at 10 AM on Zoom. Mark your calendars. Please plan to be there to give feedback on the direction of our association.

Blessings on you and yours through the holidays,
Toby

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Happy Holidays

from all of us

at the

*Arizona Authors
Association*



Snowbowl, AZ
 Photo Courtesy of the USDA

Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

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

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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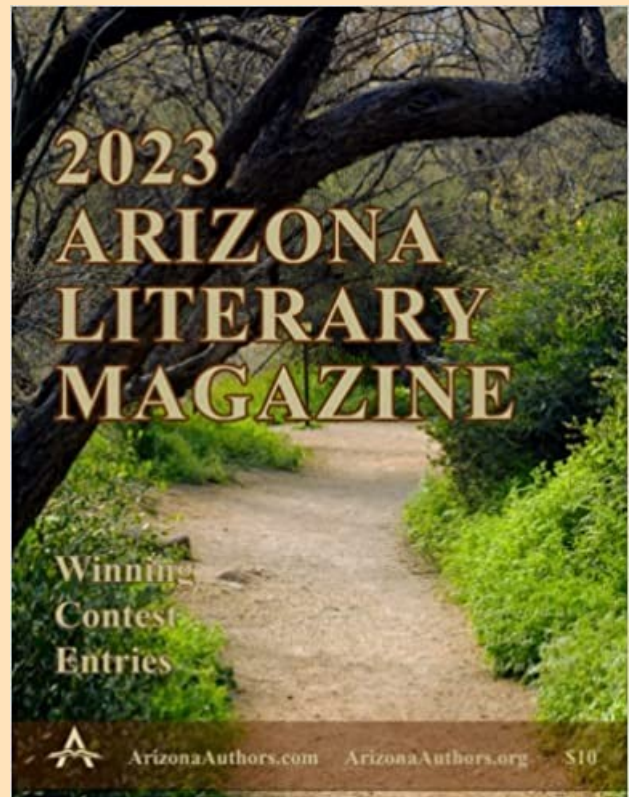
Literary Christmas Trivia

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. “Christmas won’t be Christmas without any presents” is the opening line to which novel?
2. Who wrote the book, *Letters From Father Christmas* ?
3. Which book by Laura Ingalls Wilder features a Christmas dinner that takes place in Spring?
4. In this children’s classic it is “always winter but never Christmas.” Name it.
5. In which Beatrix Potter novel does a wedding take place on Christmas Day?
6. In the Harry Potter series, what gift does Mrs. Weasley always give to her family members on Christmas?

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

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



Arizona Authors Association

Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

Membership Benefits

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

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

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

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



Submissions to the Newsletter

Your input is welcome! The following categories accept submissions through midnight on the **15th** day of odd-numbered months. Send all entries to: 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 Association Newsletter. We'd love to advertise it in our next issue. We will also list any upcoming book-related events, meetings, workshops, book sales, book signings, etc., across the state or in nearby regions as space permits. If you offer editing, proofreading, or other literary services, submit a quarter-page ad with us, currently without cost to members in good standing.

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

Thank you!

Recent Events



Patricia L. Brooks, award-winning nonfiction/memoir author, and her husband Earl L. Goldmann, memoir author, participated in the 37th annual Scottsdale Arts and Crafts Festival held on November 5th at the Granite Reef Senior Center in Scottsdale.

Patricia, president of the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, also hosted acclaimed author Mary Ann Carman at the monthly meeting of the SSWW on October 26th on Zoom.

To participate in SSWW events or to find out more about Patricia and Earl, click [HERE](#) or email: patricia@plbrooks.com or text: 480-250-5556



AN ACCIDENTAL MURDER by Diana Grillo is a play adapted from her short story. Theater Artists Studio states that the play “investigates the all-too universal theme of women navigating through trauma — their struggles against abuse and their common loss of self-esteem as they fight to maintain their dignity and exercise control over their lives.” A first look/table read was presented on November 21st at the Theater Artists Studio, 4848 E Cactus Rd Ste 406 in Scottsdale. For information on the performance, click [HERE](#). To learn more about Diana, click [HERE](#).



On Saturday, November 19, Karen Odden presented a slide show on the topic of **Mayhem, Murder and Mystery in Victorian London**.

The event took place at the Mesquite Public Library near the former Paradise Mall on 4525 E Paradise Village Pkwy N, Phoenix.

To find out more about Karen or to attend her events, click [HERE](#) or visit her [Arizona Authors](#) page.

Mark D. Walker recently participated in a gathering of local journalists, civic leaders, artists, and writers to discuss the growing challenges of disinformation in Arizona.



Newly elected State Senator Christine Marsh joined the event. "Reflections on Midterm Coverage and Activism in Arizona" was hosted by the free expression division of Pen International U.S.

PEN now has a local chapter in Phoenix. To visit their website, click [HERE](#). To learn more about Mark, click [HERE](#).

Mike Rothmiller hosted a "Munch and Learn" Program via Zoom on 11/3 through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Yavapai College. Their [catalog](#) described Mike as a *true Renaissance Man*. He discussed his “many years of producing and hosting documentary television productions for ESPN, PBS, ABC and others.” Mike explained “the ins and outs and difficulties of making documentaries produced in the field,” and detailed “some of his most challenging and exciting filming adventures.”



Mike also did a one-hour live interview on [Talk Radio Europe](#). It was also video recorded from Talk TV Europe and their YouTube channel. The subject was his new book featured on page [42](#) of this issue.

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

Penny Orloff appeared at the ASU Kerr Theater in her one-woman show, **Songs and Stories from a Not Quite Kosher Life**, on November 19 in Scottsdale, AZ. Penny also conducted a 2-part Zoom workshop for the Arizona Authors Association titled, “Getting Your Work Out There.”



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

Upcoming Events



Donis Casey hosts a monthly series of author essays called **Tell Me Your Story** on her [website](#), where she invites successful authors to share their life experiences and tell how those experiences have influenced their writing.

December's guest is Frankie Y. Bailey, PhD, professor in the School of Criminal Justice University at Albany (SUNY). She studies crime history, and crime and mass media/popular culture and material culture. She is the author of five mysteries featuring amateur sleuth Lizzie Stuart and two police procedurals novels featuring Albany police detective Hannah McCabe.

Frankie is currently at work on a nonfiction book about four hundred years of dress and appearance in American crime and justice. She is also working on a historical thriller set in 1939 and her next mystery novel. Frankie is the project director of the Justice and Multiculturalism in the 21st Century project in the School of Criminal Justice (UAlbany). Frankie's fascinating story about dealing with history, mystery, and multiculturalism will appear on Dec. 20 at www.doniscasey.com

To find out more about Frankie, click [HERE](#). To visit Donis' website, click [HERE](#).



Patricia L. Brooks, award-winning nonfiction/memoir author, and her husband Earl L. Goldmann, memoir author, will facilitate their **Write the Memoir to Remember** workshop on Saturday, December 10th, 2022, at the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Goals of the workshop include:

- *Be encouraged and inspired to bring your words to fruition.
- *Understand that writing one's memoir is a very integrating experience that can lead to greater wholeness.
- *Learn what memoir writing is, and its significance in our lives.
- *Develop a greater connection within your family and a personal sense of who you are in your writing.
- *Learn how to put your memoir story together piece-by-piece with events and emotional beats.

To learn more about this workshop, click [HERE](#) or email Patricia at: patricia@plbrooks.com or text: 480-250-5556



Mark D. Walker will take part in the Desert Foothills Library's Arizona Author Series on February 22nd. His topic will be: "Daily Rituals: How Local Writer Mark D. Walker Works."

Mark will share some interesting rituals of well-known authors—and then explain his own rituals for writing each day.

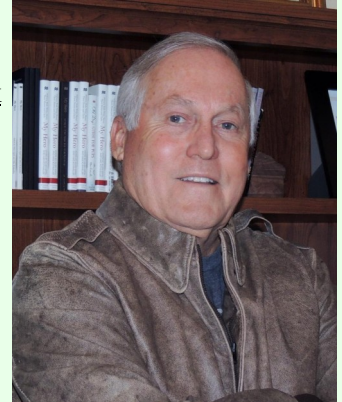
The Desert Foothills Library is located at 38443 N School House Rd, Cave Creek, AZ.

To learn more about the library series, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about Mark and all of his upcoming projects and appearances, click [HERE](#).

Congratulations to Our Members

As usual, Mike Rothmiller has had a busy couple of months. His new book, [*Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders*](#), is available for pre-sales; it will be out on January 10th. Find it in the Book Releases section on page [42](#). On Oct. 1st, the Irish Independent news ran a major [essay/review](#) of the Frank Sinatra book. It was featured on [MSN.com](#), [Suffolk News UK](#), [Daily Mail](#), and many more. The book is in pre-release in the US, and yet it scores as one of Amazon's Hot New Releases. It reached 6th in Ebook and 5th in Audio. The book was released in the UK in September and quickly reached #30 in its category.



Meanwhile, Mike's book on Marilyn Monroe continues to score record sales and was on many media outlets throughout 2021 and 2022, such as the one [HERE](#). [*Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe*](#) is near the top in three categories as well as doing amazing sales in the audio book category.

Additionally, Mike has been a featured lecturer at OLLI/Yavapai College in Prescott, AZ, where he lives. To learn more about Mike, click [HERE](#).



Karen Odden's newest book, [*Under a Veiled Moon*](#), was recently launched at an event at the Poison Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale on October 15th. To view this event, click [HERE](#).

She was also featured at Boswell Book Company in a recorded video [HERE](#). From the Boswell site: "Author of Victorian era mysteries Karen Odden joins us at Boswell for a conversation about her latest, in which Inspector Mickey Corravan investigates a real-life 1878 disaster whose tentacles reach throughout his homeland and into his own adoptive family."

Karen was also interviewed recently on the [Guns, Knives and Lipstick](#) podcast, which features authors who specialize in crime fiction. The audio podcast with Karen is 45 minutes long; you may listen to it [HERE](#).

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

Patricia L. Brooks was featured in the Daily Independent newspaper, which serves 21 communities in the Phoenix metro area. Patricia's author's group, the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, just celebrated its 17th year and the newspaper lauded this accomplishment on September 28th. Click [HERE](#) to read the article. The Scottsdale Society of Women Writers features renowned authors as its guest speakers.

In addition to her work as founder and president of the SSWW, Patricia and her husband, memoir author Earl Goldmann, conduct workshops to teach authors the art of crafting an excellent memoir. An upcoming workshop will take place at the Tempe Public Library (see previous page for details). Earl Goldmann's recent article, "Former Tillamook resident fondly remembers Alderbrook Golf Course," is featured on page [48](#) of this newsletter.



To find out more about Patricia and Earl, visit their website [HERE](#).

To learn more about the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, email Patricia at: patricia@plbrooks.com

Congratulations, continued

Marcus Nannini has just signed a standard author's contract with his third UK publisher in a row for his historical mystery/thriller *NINE MEN DOWN, the Secret Invasion of Oahu*. This is his 4th traditionally published book in 5 years.

In addition, The Pencraft Awards for Literary Excellence has named [MIDNIGHT FLIGHT TO NUREMBERG](#) by Marcus A. Nannini its 2022 Nonfiction Book of the Year/Biography winner. *Midnight Flight to Nuremberg* has accumulated a number of plaudits this year:

2022 Nonfiction Book of the Year-Biography, Pencraft Awards for Literary Excellence.

2021-2022 Overall Grand Prize Winner, Nonfiction, Readers Views.

Silver Medalist, 2022 CIPA EVVY Book Awards.

Silver Medalist, 2022 IPPY Book Awards.

Finalist, 2022 Eric Hoffer Book Awards.

Finalist, American BookFest Awards.

Finalist, The Hearten Book Awards (Chanticleer Books)



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



Mimi Francis has just submitted her third book in the *Loves of Lakeside* series to her publisher. The release date is tentatively scheduled for the end of December. This is her sixth published book.

The *Loves of Lakeside* series includes [Run Away Home](#), [The Professor](#), and the newest, [Our Two-Week, One-Night Stand](#), which is available for pre-order sales.

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



Mark D. Walker has joined [The Authors Show](#) as a content contributor. He will serve as an independent book reviewer. According to the Authors Show website: A book reviewer and author of several books himself, Mark, who contributes articles to various platforms - such as *Literary Traveler*, *Wanderlust Journal* and *Revue Magazine*, has joined The Authors Show as an independent book reviewer. A former Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala who worked with international agencies for many decades, Mark holds a MA from the Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of Texas/Austin. He is bilingual English/Spanish.”

In addition, Eland Publishing of London, UK, has just offered this tweet of Mark’s new book: “Award-Winning Author And Travel Writer Mark D. Walker Announces New Travel Book, *My Saddest Pleasures: 50 Years on the Road*.” Given the prestige Eland enjoys in the Traveling genre, the tweet is quite an honor.

To find out more about Mark, visit his website [HERE](#) or check out his [Facebook](#) page.

Arizona Authors Association Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2023
Online via Zoom 10:00 AM MST

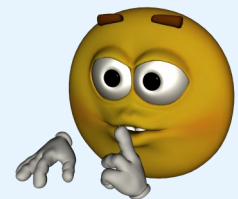
The Arizona Authors Association Annual Meeting will be held online via ZOOM. You may join a Zoom meeting with either a web cam or a phone, and enjoy participating in the Arizona Authors Association event without leaving the comfort of your home.

We will be discussing upcoming events, this year's literary contest, budget concerns, anticipated changes, and much more. Please RSVP Toby at:
toby@tobyheathcotte.com for more information.

To set up a free ZOOM account, click [HERE](#).



Tohono Chul, Tucson AZ
Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member
Janet Alcorn



Psssst!

We've got a secret! After four decades, the Arizona Authors Association newsletter is finally getting a name! Starting in the next issue, it will be titled:

Arizona Authors Digest

Be sure to check out our new header in the next issue, and let us know what you think!



WHAT ARE YOU READING?

by Peter Bernhardt

If you're in the mood for a delightful story and fun facts about the Caribbean island Curacao, give this one a read. I just posted this review on Amazon:

“The unique narrative voice, captivating characters and the vivid description of Curacao make this a delightful read.”

I knew the author from the years when we were both members of the Internet Writing Workshop and had this book on my Kindle for some time, until my better half read it and recommended it to me. I'm glad I finally read it.

[The Miracle of Small Things](#)

From the Amazon Website:

“International tax lawyer Luis Villalobos is lured to the tiny island of Curaçao by the promise of a fast track to the cusp of an already stellar career. But the paradise we expect is so rarely the paradise we find. *The Miracle of Small Things* is a novel in stories, a portrait of the power of place in our definition of self. Author Guilie Castillo Oriard is a Mexican import herself who transferred to Curaçao “for six months”—and, twelve years and a magical story of love later, is still there.”



Peter Bernhardt is the author of [The Stasi File](#), Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Quarter Finalist; [Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter](#), and [Red Romeo](#)

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



*Winter is not
a Season;
it's a
Celebration*

-Anamika Mishra

View of San Francisco
Peaks

Photo Courtesy of
The US Forestry Service



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 January 15 to arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com and we may publish it.

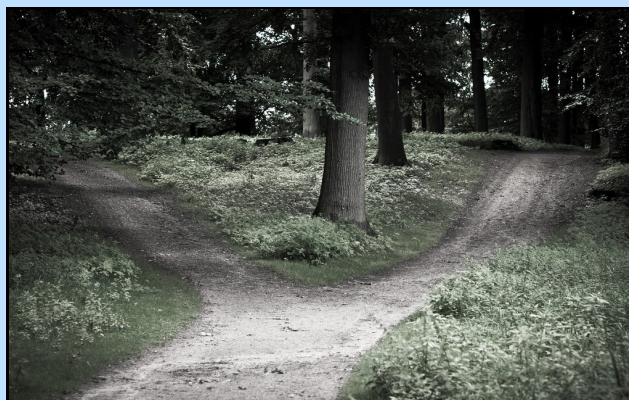
The Business Card

The salesman handed his business card to me. I glanced at it to read his name and to find out what he was selling, but it was blank on both sides. A blank business card amazed and perplexed me. How would he ever make a living if his card didn't promote his business? I wondered what he was really doing. Was he looking for a special customer, one who could read this blank card? How would he find that person? Everyone in the whole society looked the same and wore the same uniform. The houses were all alike, at least on the outside. No one was ever different, and yet, this business card *was* different. Why?

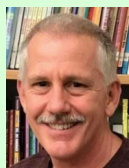
Questions:

1. What was the significance of the blank business card?
2. Did the society force everyone to be the same, or did they choose uniformity?
3. Was the salesman rebelling against the government, or was he part of it?
4. Did the business card reveal a secret society or an underground movement?
5. When and where does the story take place?
6. Are the people happy in their regulated society or are they oppressed?

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



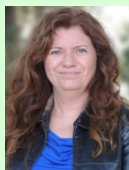
Thank You 2022 Member Contributors to the Arizona Authors Newsletter and Literary Magazine



One of our newer members, Tracy T. Agnelli's book, *My Nana's Special Gift is...* was featured in the August issue. [LINK](#)



Elizabeth Ajamee-Boyer's books, *Death at Hell's Canyon Quarry*, and *Miriam Attala An Emigrant's Story* were featured this year. She also submitted pictures and judged the contest. [LINK](#)



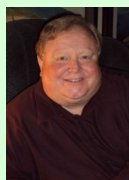
Janet Alcorn is a regular columnist and photographer. She wrote several full-length articles and was featured in the Congrats and Short Releases sections several times. She also won 3rd place in Poetry. [LINK](#)



Marsha Arzberger was featured in the Congrats section in April. Her essay won 1st place in the AAA literary contest in November. [LINK](#)



Rico Austin was featured in both the Congrats and the Short Releases section several times and in a feature article. His essay won 2nd place and he volunteered at the Tucson Festival of Books. [LINK](#)



Former Arizona Authors Association president Russell Azbill volunteered as a judge in the literary contest and participated in AAA Zoom workshops. [LINK](#)



Marlene Baird's book, *Gracie a Rescue Dog*, was featured in the October issue. She also served as a judge for the literary contest. [LINK](#)



Monica Bauer was featured in the Congrats section in August and won two prizes in the literary contest, a 1st place novel and a 2nd place short story. [LINK](#)



Peter Bernhardt won 1st and 2nd place in the Oldie but Goldie category. He contributed to the "What Are You Reading?" column as well as photos for the newsletter. His books, *Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter* and *Red Romeo*, were featured in June's Book Releases. [LINK](#)



A regular contributor to the Upcoming and Recent Events columns, she was also featured in the Congrats section several times and presented a workshop titled, **Write a Memoir to Remember** in June. [LINK](#)



Wynne Brown, a Tucson editor and author, won the first prize in the Nonfiction category of the literary contest. [LINK](#)



Jeanne Burrows-Johnson's column is featured in every issue of our digest. She also participated in Zoom presentations this year. [LINK](#)



Kebba Buckley Button assisted Toby Heathcotte in publishing the Arizona Literary Magazine for 2023. She also served as a judge in the contest. [LINK](#)



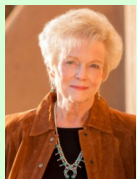
Caren Cantrell's book, *The Sun Thief*, was featured in the April issue. She was also featured in the Desert Foothills Flyer and in the Events column. She served as a judge for the contest. [LINK](#)



Donis Casey presented a workshop, **How to Commit Murder**, on Zoom in August. She also contributed many times to the Recent and Upcoming Events page throughout the year. [LINK](#)



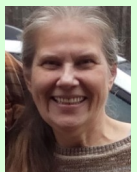
Dr. Diane Holloway Cheney's book, *Jesus, His Brother, and Paul: Their Lives and Archaeological Evidence*, was featured in the October issue. She wrote an article in the June issue and judged the contest. She also won a prize in another category. [LINK](#)



Jan Cleere was a featured author at the Tucson Festival of Books. The Arizona Authors Association advertised the event in its February Newsletter and participated in the event. [LINK](#)



John Floyd won a 3rd place prize for his short story in the contest. He also served as a judge in another category. John was featured in the Congrats section in August. [LINK](#)



Kathleen Cook is Arizona Authors Association's editor and website admin. She writes a regular column and sits on the Board. Her book, *The Sun Always Trumps*, was featured in Book Releases. [LINK](#)



Mimi Francis is featured in the Congrats section of this issue; she was also mentioned in the Back Page section in October. [LINK](#)



Dana Davis returned to the AAA as a new member this year and won an honorable mention in the AAA literary contest for her Oldie but Goldie novel. [LINK](#)



Earl L. Goldmann's book, *Intestinal Fortitude*, was highlighted in Book Releases in August. He was featured in several issues in the Congrats and Events sections. [LINK](#)



Peter DeChristopher joined the AAA this year and his novel, *Pangea*, was featured in the Book Release section in October. [LINK](#)



Stacey Goodman's book, *The Dust Never Settles*, was featured in the February issue of the newsletter. [LINK](#)



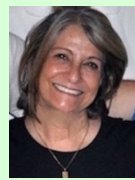
Jodi Decker has been featured in the Congrats, Events, and Short Releases sections this year. Her book, *Poems From The Asylum*, a joint effort by her and her daughter, appeared in the June issue. [LINK](#)



Brad Graber's book, *Boca by Moonlight*, was highlighted in the February issue and won 2nd place for Fiction in the contest. He judged in a different category, and was also featured in the Congrats section in October. [LINK](#)



Sandee Drake's book, *Greenebriar's Garbage*, was featured in the April issue. She has also participated in AAA Zoom workshops. [LINK](#)



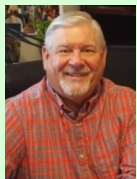
Diana Grillo served as a judge for the contest and was featured on the Congrats and Recent Events pages. She also participated in Zoom workshops. [LINK](#)



Mary Coday Edwards' book, *To Travel Well, Travel Light*, appeared in the October issue. She has also been featured in the Events column this year. [LINK](#)



Kevin Gundlach creates literary puzzles for his regular column. He also assists in maintaining the Arizona Authors Association website. [LINK](#)



Wayne Edwards won an Honorable Mention in the Children's Picture Books category in our contest; he also participated in our Zoom Workshops this year. [LINK](#)



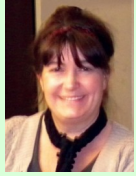
Rosalinda Haddon served as a judge this year for the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Diana Ellis' book, *Uncertain Passage*, was featured in the Book Releases section of the October issue. She also served as a judge for the contest. [LINK](#)



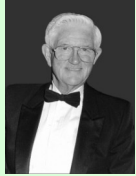
John R. Hansen won an Honorable Mention for his essay in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest this year. [LINK](#)



Sheri Hauser's book, [*Camp Verde Chamber Resource 2022-2023*](#), was featured in the August issue of the newsletter. [LINK](#)



Marcus Nannini was featured in the Congrats section of the Arizona Authors newsletter both in August and in the current issue. [LINK](#)



Jack Hawn's book, [*Insomnia: Two wives, childhood memories and crazy dreams*](#), was highlighted in the August issue. He volunteered at the Tucson Festival of Books and was featured in the Congrats section twice. [LINK](#)



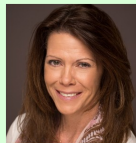
Jan Nichols earned a 3rd place win this year in the Essay category of the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



President of the Arizona Authors Association, Toby Heathcote serves in numerous capacities as Literary Magazine editor, Zoom host, and many more. Her column appears in each issue. [LINK](#)



Cynthia Kern O'Brien's book, [*Marky the Magnificent Fairy*](#), was featured in October and a press release was added to this issue. [LINK](#)



Heidi Herman volunteered at the Tucson Festival of Books and also served as a judge in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Karen Odden's books, [*Down a Dark River*](#) and [*Under a Veiled Moon*](#), were both featured this year (April and October). Her AAA workshop, **What is the Why? Building a Backstory** was presented on Zoom in April. She was also featured in the Congrats and Events sections this year. [LINK](#)



Marilyn June Janson's book, [*What Happens Now?*](#), was featured in the Book Release section in February. She appeared several times in the Congrats, Short Releases, and Events sections and served as a judge in the contest. [LINK](#)



Penny Orloff's workshop, **Let Them Talk!**, was featured in July. A two-part workshop, **Getting Your Work Out There**, was presented in October and November. She was also featured in our Events and Congrats sections this year, and judged the contest. [LINK](#)



The former editor of the Arizona Authors Association newsletter, Cherie Lee still heads a regular column in the publication. [LINK](#)



Connie Osterlitz volunteered as a judge and a proofreader for the Arizona Authors Literary Contest and magazine. [LINK](#)



K. Patrick Malone earned an honorable mention this year for his short story in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Dawn Pisturino was featured in the Congrats section in August. She also earned an Honorable Mention in Poetry in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



A.L. Means won a first place prize in the Poetry category this year in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Albert Monreal Quihuis served as a judge for the Arizona Authors Literary Contest this year. [LINK](#)



Karla Moeller won 2nd place in the Children's Picture Book category this year in the AAA's Literary Contest. She also volunteered at the Tucson Festival of Books. [LINK](#)



Linda Radke has contributed press releases to the Arizona Authors newsletter this year. Her ad is featured in every issue. [LINK](#)



June Reynolds was featured on the Events page of the newsletter in April. She volunteered at the Tucson Festival of Books and provided the newsletter with pictures of the event. [LINK](#)



Robert Ronning was featured in the **Where in Arizona?** column in June and August. He wrote a piece for **What Are You Reading?** in August. [LINK](#)



Mike Rothmiller has appeared in the Congrats section of every issue. His books, [OSS Top Secret Operations Volume 1](#) and [Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders](#), were featured Book Releases. His Events and Short Releases were also featured. [LINK](#)



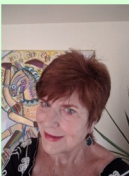
Jane Frances Ruby serves as treasurer and contest director for Arizona Authors. Her column appears in several issues and she headed the AAA booth at Tucson Festival of Books. She led a workshop in September titled, **The Snowflake Method**. [LINK](#)



David Salvaggio earned a second place win in Nonfiction in the AAA Literary Contest and he was featured in the Congrats section of the newsletter in April and August. [LINK](#)



Past president of the Arizona Authors Association, Vijaya Schartz's book, [Angel Ship](#), is featured in the Book Releases section of this issue. She also runs the AAA Blog and helps manage the Facebook page. [LINK](#)



Nancy Scheneman-Brehm won a second place prize in the Poetry category in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest this year. [LINK](#)



Pam Schweitzer won First Place for co-authoring a book in the Children's Picture Books category in the Arizona Authors Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Craig Sodaro volunteered to serve as a judge this year for the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. [LINK](#)



Rodo Sofranac has been featured in the Congrats, Events, and Short Releases sections of the newsletter this year. He also volunteered at the Tucson Festival of Books. [LINK](#)



Gil W. Stafford's newest book, [Walking with the Spiritual but not Religious](#), is featured in the current issue's Book Releases. [LINK](#)



Sharon Sterling volunteered to serve as a judge for the Arizona Authors Literary Contest this year. [LINK](#)



Ashley E. Sweeney is a regular columnist for our newsletter. Her book, [Hardland](#), was featured in the October Book Releases. She earned a spot on the Congrats page in October and served as a contest judge. [LINK](#)



Heidi Thomas was featured on the Congrats page of the Arizona Authors newsletter in both June and October. [LINK](#)



Mark D. Walker is a regular columnist for the newsletter and has appeared on the Congrats page in every issue. He has also earned spots on the Events page and in the Short Releases section, and has participated in Zoom workshops. His book, [My Saddest Pleasures: 50 Years on the Road](#), was featured in the August issue. [LINK](#)

Arizona Authors Association member Julia Watson has volunteered to help maintain the website links this year.



Kenneth Weene's books, [Coursing](#), [The Rightful King](#), and [Jumping Over the Ram](#), are all featured in the Book Releases section of the current issue of the Arizona Authors newsletter. [LINK](#)

Thanks to all members who contributed in any way this year!



Back to Basics

by Ashley E. Sweeney

CHARACTER AND PLOT DEVELOPMENT

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Who is your most memorable character in literature? Jay Gatsby? Scarlett O'Hara? Sherlock Holmes? Gandalf? What is it about that particular character that has stayed with you over the years?

Scout Finch tops my list, the indomitable young girl in Harper Lee's 1960 classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Scout's naiveté, coupled with her tomboyishness and blunt honesty, creates a flawed yet fully-fleshed character who's stayed with me since I first read the novel in the early 1970s. Even when I taught a unit on TKAM every year in high school English, I never tired of Scout or her earnestness. If anything, her character grew on me.

So how do we, as authors, create memorable characters in our own works? Knowing our characters inside and out, sometimes before they hit the page, is one of our most important tasks as authors.

Think of it like dating. You don't marry someone you hardly know (well, not usually!) It can take weeks or months (or in my case, years) to decide if that certain someone is right for us. We assess, observe, and question our potential mate's inner and outer characteristics as we experience shared events and situations.

Does he/she/they have road rage? Negative political views? A nasty habit? Does he/she/they have a penchant to do good in the world? Accept others, warts and all? Love wildly? All of this factors into our decision whether to take a chance on a relationship.

The same goes for characters. Who are they? And why should readers spend time with them?

Early on in every manuscript, my (very detail-oriented) editor asks for a five-pronged character map for each of my characters. Talk about time consuming! When I'd rather be writing! But it's proved an invaluable tool for each novel.

Here is a sample:

continued on the next page

Back to Basics by Ashley E. Sweeney continued:

Character Worksheet

Be as specific as possible

<u>Vital Statistics</u>	<u>Physical Traits</u>	<u>Socio/Economic Situation</u>	<u>Gut Reactions</u>
Full Name:	Height:	Education:	Certainty vs. Change:
Gender:	Weight:	Occupation(s):	Confusion vs. Understanding:
Age:	Ethnicity/Race:	Income:	Defeat vs. Success:
Born:	Hair:	Attitude toward wealth/ poverty:	Despair vs. Joy:
Now Resides:	Eyes:		Jealousy vs. Acceptance:
Birth Order:	Striking Features:	<u>Personality</u>	Loss vs. Gain:
Parents:	Physical Flaws:	Introvert/Extrovert/Other:	Love vs. Hate:
Siblings:	Habits:	Mental Illness (if any):	Panic vs. Calm:
Spouse (if any):	Health:	Strengths:	Worthiness vs. Unworthiness:
Children (if any):	Skills:	Weaknesses:	
Pertinent Backstory:	Hobbies:	Triggers:	
	Disabilities:	Spiritual Life (if any):	
	Speech:		

After this exercise, take the five category headlines (Vital Statistics, Physical Traits, Socio-Economic Situation, Personality, Gut Reactions), winnow it down, and write a character synopsis. I repeat this exercise for every major character in the book, first the worksheet and then the paragraph.

Note that these are more detailed for primary characters than secondary characters. Tertiary characters and cameo characters are not as fleshed out (or at all).

Here's an example of a character synopsis of the protagonist, Ruby Fortune, in my recent release, *Hardland*.

Ruby Fortune: protagonist;

VS: Ruby Barstow Fortune, b. 1873 in Tucson, Arizona (6 years old (1879) to 34 years old (1907) in span of novel), only child of now-deceased George "Big Burl" Burlingame Barstow, widowed, mother of five boys (one deceased), resides in Jericho, A.T. north of Tucson, kills husband, Willie Fortune, in self-defense, swindles co-mine owners for claim of Silver Tip Mine outside Jericho, A.T.

continued on the next page

Back to Basics by Ashley E. Sweeney, continued

PT: Short, blonde, thin, flat-chested, weathered face, fit, attractive, low voice

S-E: Eighth-grade education, "Girl Wonder" (sharpshooter in her father's Triple B Traveling Carnival and Wild West Show), now owner/proprietor of Jericho Inn/The Miracle

P: Extrovert, outspoken, hard worker. Character Strengths: willful, loyal. Character Weaknesses: details, men. Triggered by nightmares of past abuse. Admits mistakes. In awe of nature.

GR: Difficulty working through change. If taken once by someone, vows not to be taken again (exception: Willie Fortune). Accepts everyone at face value, although not without judgment; slow to alter first impression, but does, when warranted (for good or evil). She-bear about sons; puts them first at her own expense. Struggles with relationship to God. At times, hot-tempered and foul-mouthed; at other times, reflective and soulful. Often own worst enemy. Makes mistakes in relationships. Works to manage pain and panic. Questions whether she is worthy.

You'd be surprised how many times I returned to this synopsis while writing. When Ruby is hot-tempered, her mouth runs ahead of her thoughts. Check. I'm being consistent. When she's reflective, she goes somewhere deep, into a place reserved for interior dialogue. Check, again. Consistency to character is paramount.

If it sounds like a lot of work to create characters through devices such as worksheets and synopses, it is. I contend you'll be more satisfied with your characters, though, and so will your editors and readers.

But wait, there's more!

PLOT DEVELOPMENT

After getting to know my characters, my editor then assigns a chap-by-chap plot summary worksheet, using the following classic plot template:

DATE/SETTING

Opening:

Falling Action:

Inciting Incident:

Denouement:

Rising Action:

Ending:

Climax:

My entry for the first chapter of *Hardland* begins this way:

September 7, 1899, Jericho, Arizona Territory

Opening:

Weather detailed: windy/cloudy/dark

Locale detailed: dry/unforgiving/spare

Character detailed: stature/anxiety/bruised neck from recent abuse

continued on the next page

Back to Basics by Ashley E. Sweeney, continued

Inciting Incident:

Ruby Fortune navigates steep, dangerous incline to Silver Tip Mine outside Jericho, A.T., almost falling into a crevice

Rising Action:

Ruby Fortune arrives at Silver Tip Mine with forged will of dead husband Willie Fortune to claim ¼ of mine ownership; plans to buy a dilapidated roadhouse with funds

Climax:

Ruby confronts and pulls gun on mine owner, Jimmy Bugg

Falling Action:

Sheriff Sheldon Sloane arrives at mine on business

Denouement:

Sloane arranges for Bugg to pay Ruby the next day at Jericho First National Bank

Ending:

Ruby and Sloane ride back to Jericho in middle of monsoon

As a classic “pantser,” this worksheet is not nearly as detailed as outlines of classic “plotters,” but it does give structure to each chapter. And remember to end each chapter, as novelist Olivia Hawker says, with a “cymbal crash” (others call it a “cliff-hanger” or an “uh-oh” moment, something to keep your readers going and not wanting to put your book down).

In closing, there is much we can do before we even start our stories to flesh out characters and give our stories shape. Of course, authors must be flexible as writing is underway. Maybe a character develops an unforeseen ailment to deepen the plot or we have to switch up or delete chapters for clarity. Life—in reality and in fiction—is full of surprises. Be open to them!

Until next time, Happy Writing!

Ashley

ashleysweeneyauthor.com

Ashley E. Sweeney is the winner of the 2017 Nancy Pearl Book Award for her debut novel, *Eliza Waite*. A native New Yorker, she is a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, and resides in Tucson. *Answer Creek*, released in May 2020, is her second novel. Her third novel, *Hardland*, is set in the Arizona territory at the beginning of the 20th century. It was released on September 13, 2022. Find out more about Ashley [HERE](#).

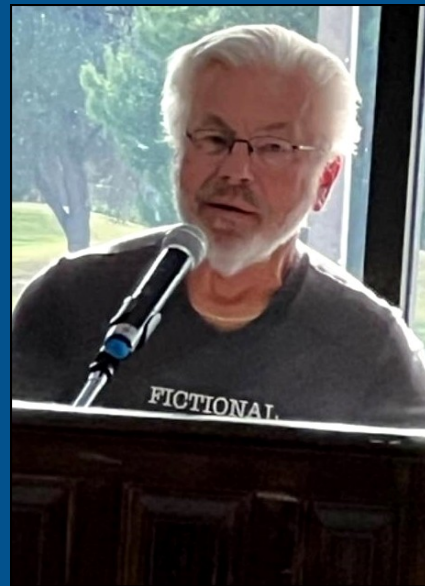
2022 Literary Awards Banquet



Saturday,
November 5,
2022

Moon Valley
Country Club,
Phoenix, AZ.

From left: Connie Osterlitz, President Toby Heathcotte,
Vijaya Schartz, and Kebba Buckley Button



Peter Bernhardt



Volunteer Judge Jeff Marshall and Contest Coordinator and Treasurer Jane Frances Ruby



Dr. Diane Holloway Cheney

Menu

*Italian Buffet
Fettuccini
Marinara
Alfredo Chicken
Garlic Bread
Caesar Salad
Assorted Pastries*





Winning Entries



Karla Moeller



Past President Vijaya Schartz



Brad Graber



Pam Schweitzer



Kebba Buckley Button and Ashley E. Sweeney



Monica Bauer



Peter Bernhardt



President Toby Heathcotte with Jan Nichols



Ashley E. Sweeney

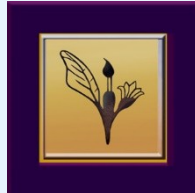


John Floyd



Energizing Your Marketing & Technical Strategies

by Jeanne Burrows-Johnson



OPERATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR AUTHORS & ARTISTS PART 2

In my last article, I discussed operational organization for authors and artists with focus on our physical environment, including office contents and their arrangement, assessment of hardware and electronic gadgets, evaluation and updating of relevant software, and the backing up of files and folders. Today I'll offer an overview of organizing books and other reference materials, as well as files and folders and the documents within them.

BOOKS

I have found that the key to optimizing organization of the many aspects of our daily operations lies in consistent review. Depending on your methods, simple cleaning can provide opportunities for determining whether all that greets your eyes is worthy of retention. One category of review that requires *my* regular attention is examination of the shelves of books that reside in four rooms of my home. While that may sound as if I possess a massive number of bookcases, that is not the case; I simply like to position the varied works where they will be most accessible.

Living in Hawai'i for twenty-five years, I had the sad experience of having to discard countless books due to the infestation of mold and mildew. In addition, when preparing to move back to the mainland in mid-life, I realized that many of my reading materials were no longer relevant to either my recreational taste or required professional reading. At the end of the life of each collection of books, I have given items to friends and colleagues who would enjoy and benefit from them. At one point, my husband and I realized we had far too many cookbooks. Professionally, for both fiction and nonfiction projects, I've found it easier to research food and recipes on-line than to go through my library. In this case, I again checked with friends and found new homes for books I no longer needed. Interestingly, these people have sometimes returned the gift of recipes by providing ones for visitors to my author website!

At the onset of each project I author, I gather new and used reference materials, often relevant foreign language and multicultural resources. With a degree in American history and experience as a teaching assistant in world civilizations, I have accumulated many historical encyclopedias and dictionaries. In addition, I have a number of books on World War II, which are proving useful as I am now writing a mystery on ramifications of prostitution in Honolulu at that time. As I look these items over, I realize I should soon donate many of them to other authors and Friends of the Library, as they do not seem pertinent to work I may undertake during the last years of my life. You might find it useful to consider the topics and themes of your books and reference files when contemplating which will be appropriate for your current and future purposes...personally and professionally.

continued on the next page

Energizing your Marketing and Technical Strategies by Jeanne Burrows-Johnson continued

Please know that I'm not suggesting you unduly burden yourself in accomplishing such tasks. For instance, I've found that watching television, streaming shows, and movies provide ideal opportunities for determining the continuing usefulness of reading and reference materials. By placing boxes nearby to hold items to be discarded (plus paper or electronic means for taking notes) you can browse at a leisurely pace while keeping track of your evaluations. Another method I suggest for evaluating the continuing usefulness of reading material is joining with one or more authors or artists. Such a joint venture can simplify both the removal of items no longer deemed suitable to your library and the gathering of new ones that may prove vital to a new project.

UPDATING FILES & FOLDERS

In the life of a wordsmith or artist today, one's work accumulates in both electronic and hardcopy forms. To maintain an organized reference system, I find it useful to review storage methodology as well as the actual contents of files and folders. Sometimes making appropriate upgrades is as easy as selecting new file/folder colors and tabs. For example, I use burgundy colored files and folders for *my* work, turquoise for *clients*, and yellow for general reference materials—along with utilizing corresponding tabs that feature appropriate titles and dates.

Unfortunately, determining the value of the contents of one's files and folders can prove more trying. Sometimes you'll find that the original method for organizing those contents is no longer useful. In the decades of executing marketing assignments for clients, I generally kept folders of my work for them filed under their individual or organizational names. Once I shifted the focus of my writing to fiction and nonfiction pieces under my own name, I began reorganizing assignments for clients under categorical titles such as insurance, non-profit organizations, and newsletters. It's been interesting to note that with the passage of time, I sometimes forget a client's name ...

REVIEWING INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTS

When a project has been completed (usually meaning that it has been published), maintaining fail-safe backups of the original text or images may still be necessary. This is especially true if I continue my connection with a partner, editor, or publisher. You may also find it useful to create parallel files and folders under additional names/titles for future work. For example, I have electronic files of possible titles and plot descriptions for potential mysteries. I also have files with text I have removed from projects but have kept due to its detail or flow. Again, you might find a joint venture with a salon of authors familiar with your writing an ideal way to determine the fate of some of your unpublished work.

I hope these simple suggestions will prove suitable to refining your operational organization. In our next conversation, I'll address the issue of editing documents for the completion of current work and planning for future usage.

Wishing you the best in your creative endeavors,

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

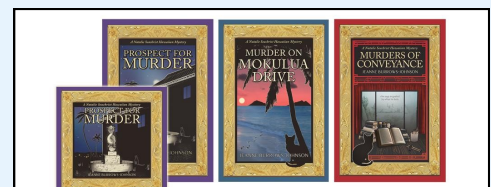
For more ideas to aid your career as an author or artist, visit:

Author Website: JeanneBurrows-Johnson.com

Author Blog: Blog.JeanneBurrows-Johnson.com

Marketing Website: ImaginingsWordpower.com

You can email me at Info@Jeanne-Burrows-Johnson.com



The Award-Winning Natalie Seachrist Hawaiian Mysteries

Jeanne Burrows-Johnson is an author, narrator, consultant, and motivational speaker who writes works of fiction and nonfiction. She is the author of the award-winning *Natalie Seachrist Hawaiian Mysteries*, featuring pan-Pacific multiculturalism and history in a classic literary form that is educational as well as entertaining. She was art director, indexer, and a co-author of the anthology *Under Sonoran Skies: Prose and Poetry from the High Desert*. 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 such as *Newport This Week*, *Broker World*, the *Hawai'i Medical Journal*, and *The Rotarian*. Find out more [HERE](#).



Literary Contest Coordinator's Report

by Jane Ruby

2022 Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest Report

This year's contest had a total of 77 entries. The majority of entries came from:

Fiction - 14
Short Stories - 13
Poetry - 13
Nonfiction - 12

Critique Requests: 4

Revenue Generated: \$2395
Payout: \$1105
Net: \$1290

Expenses: (pre-awards banquet):

Printing + Paper + Ink: \$92.77
 Postage + Shipping: \$240.34
 Certificates: \$25.54

Total Expenses: \$358.65

Contest Net – Total Expenses = \$931.35

Expenses (post-awards banquet):

Moon Valley Country Club (Room&Food&Bev): \$4510 minus \$500 donation from Jane Ruby = \$4010.
 Ship&Post Magazine & Award Certificate: \$113.33
 Magazine Purchase \$280

Total Expenses: \$4403.33
 Minus 50 Ticket Sales: \$2500.00
 Contest Entries: \$931.35

Net cost: \$971.98

So, the Association ate the cost of the banquet (so to speak) despite a profitable contest. This was no surprise, since throwing a prestigious awards banquet will cost more than a potluck dinner. Our members and award winners deserved an award-winning event.

continued on the next page

Literary Contest Coordinator's Report, continued

The awards luncheon, held at Moon Valley Country Club (North Phoenix) included a full slate of goodies: pasta buffet, prize awards, book lottery, and readings/acceptance speeches by award winners. I announced the winners and Toby handed out the awards. The sunny weather afforded great views of the golf course, serving as a great backdrop for this festive event.

Thanks to Kebba Button who photographed the winners and Connie Osterlitz who commandeered the registration/sign-in table. Thanks also to Vijaya Schartz, who along with Toby ensured a successful escort to our party room when signs were not posted due to unexpected circumstances (banquet manager was rear-ended on the way to the country club). Flexibility proved to be key that day.

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



... Winter friends are friends forever

— George R.R. Martin

**Snow on the San Francisco Peaks, Arizona
Photo Courtesy of the US Forestry Service**



The Million Mile Walker What We're Reading and Why

By Mark D. Walker



Over the years, I've read and reviewed several of the eighteen books of fellow author and returned Peace Corps volunteer "Lorenzo" Lihosit. He was a volunteer in Honduras and married a lady from Mexico, and I was a volunteer in Guatemala and married a señorita from there. I used his *Peace Corps Experience: Write & Publish Your Memoir* to write my own, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*. I proofed his *Oral History from Madera, California* and agreed with the Madera *Tribune*: "The best of its kind in print. Like Volume 1, the author offers real-life stories by citizens of Madera, California. It seems like they speak directly to us, seated at our kitchen table, waving their arms while laughing. This is a must-read for those interested in the California Central Valley."

So, when he told me he was writing *Those Who Are Gone*, a story about my community of Scottsdale, Arizona, I purchased a copy as soon as it appeared. Lorenzo assured me it was "a page-turner," and he was right. He also told me, "Yesterday, I received comments from the man who was the model for Vic Chacon. He said that it was so accurate that it affected him."

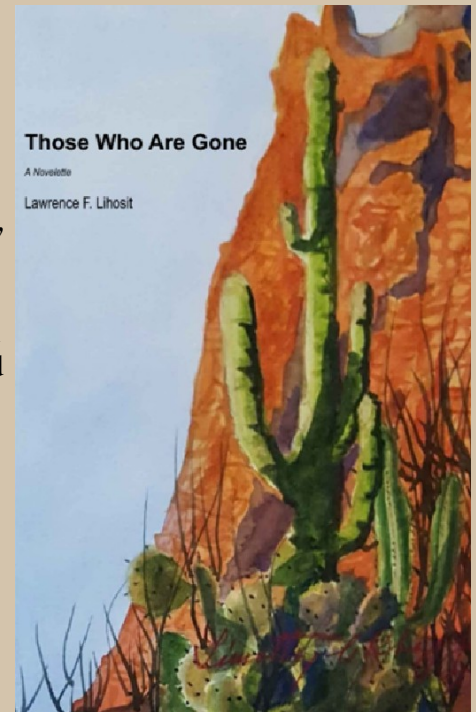
I wrote a review for *Those Who Are Gone* on the [Peace Corps Worldwide](#) website, and much of what I wrote there is reiterated in this column. The book tells the story of Jack Colter's early school years in the 1960s, when Scottsdale had 10,000 people. This modest "novelette" is historical fiction, although the characters and scenes of his childhood adventures and mishaps with his friends came alive.

As someone who has traveled extensively and lived in different cultures I find the author's stories, with a mix of Anglos, Yaqui, Papago, and Pima Indians, both a surprise and a delight. And since I learned more slang than good grammar when learning Spanish in the Peace Corps, I felt at home with the jargon used by the young protagonists:

"Muy Jalado," said Wuicho, and everyone laughed.
 "Eh la moey," said Chucho, and everyone laughed again.
 "so, if jalado is a jerk, what is 'Eh la moey,'" I asked.
 "It's like cool," responded Vic....

The diversity of these schoolboys is emphasized when a teacher addresses "Chucho." "So, you speak two languages and play an instrument." He responds, "I speak three languages, ma'am." "The third language is Yaqui?" Chucho nodded. "You are considered a well-educated person, Chucho. Thank you for sharing," responded his teacher.

Phoenix is known for its extensive system of canals, which have local Indigenous origins. The book offered an appreciation of local Indigenous history: "The modern canals were begun in 1878. We believe the Hohokam began building their ancient system about 1,500 years ago...."



continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

The tragic origins of Yaqui Indians in Scottsdale were traced back to the Mexican government, which in 1896 and 1926 “used poisonous gas dropped from planes, 12,000 troops, and artillery. Yaquis were sold as enslaved people and taken by cattle cars to work on plantations in the Yucatan.” At that time, Yaquis were welcomed to Arizona as political refugees because of the genocide.

Among other things, the Yaquis brought their medicinal remedies with their “curanderas.” After a hard-fought battle on the basketball court, the boys applied “sabila poultice” to their bruised legs. This linguistic and cultural diversity wasn’t always appreciated by others, as reflected while shaking hands after winning a basketball game from a larger school and hearing such slurs as “Injun chumps” from opposing players.

The book ends with a profound observation by the narrator, Jack Colter: *Maybe my role was meant to be as a witness. To this day, every member of our Thunderbird team still has a yellowed, cut-out copy of that newspaper photo even though none of us live in South Scottsdale anymore. We’ve all become Hohokam, those who are gone.*”

This is why a story of childhood schoolmates and basketball games is so fascinating and timely, as it reflects how much the community has changed over the last 68 years. The population of Scottsdale has increased from 10,000 to over 250,000 today after a steady process of gentrification. Modest homes have given way to sleek, high-rise apartments. The average home in North Scottsdale is worth approximately \$5 million, making it one of the wealthiest communities in the country.

Old Town Scottsdale, “The West’s Most Western Town,” is now populated with boutiques, and a stretch of Scottsdale Road is lined with dealerships of Benzes, Beamers, and Ferraris, not to mention the occasional \$500,000 Lamborghini, all of which causes one to appreciate a day when life was simpler and more inclusive.

The Author

From his [Amazon](#) biography page: Lawrence F. Lihosit was born in the southern suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, in 1951. His family later moved to Arizona, where he graduated from grade school, high school, and Arizona State University. He reluctantly served in the U.S. Army Reserves during the closing years of the Vietnam War and enthusiastically volunteered for the Peace Corps (Honduras, 1975-1977).

His literary work is eclectic, including poetry, short stories, travel essays, memoirs, history, and how-to. He recently published a series of art essays, accompanied by more than 150 sketches from his travels. Several of his books were nominated for Peace Corps Writers’ awards, and one was named Best Travel Book of the Year (2012). Another received a U.S. Congressional Commendation (2011). Some of his work is listed in the U.S. Library of Congress Peace Corps Bibliography, and his Peace Corps literary donations are in the John F. Kennedy Library Archives.

Although an urban planner by trade, the author has had a passionate interest in education. He taught English as a Second Language in Mexico City and back home in Phoenix, Arizona. He later volunteered as an aide in a San Francisco Bay Area grade school and high school. At 48, while working days as an urban planner, he returned to night school to earn a California Teaching Credential. For two and one-half years, he worked as a substitute teacher in grades K through 12. After retirement, he taught art as an after-school activity and volunteered at a local grade school as a teacher's aide, helping the children of immigrants learn the 3Rs. His local school board awarded him "Volunteer of the Year" recognition in 2013 and 2017.

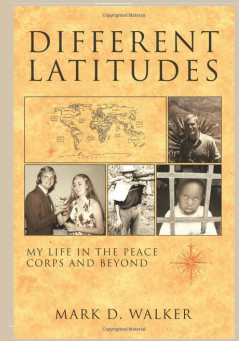
The opinions stated in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Arizona Authors Association. You can find the entire reviews of these two books and 70 others on my website under the “Library” tab. Please let me know what you think - about this newsletter, my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

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



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*Trees are poems that the earth
writes upon the sky*

— Kahlil Gibran

**Aspen Corner, Flagstaff
Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member
Janet Alcorn**



Puzzle it!

A Logic Puzzle for Christmas Lovers by Kevin Gundlach

Let's have fun with a Christmas puzzle!

You will be given a list of four authors, their book titles, and the main character and setting featured in each book. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to match all authors with their own book, setting, and main character.

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, write your answers 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 33). If you just click "print" without selecting the page, you'll wind up printing the whole newsletter!

You may copy the grid to use in conjunction with the clues to eliminate answers. 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!

Authors:

David Baldacci, Kristin Hannah, Jenny Colgan, Jasmine Guillory

Books:

Royal Holiday, The Christmas Train, The Christmas Bookshop, Comfort and Joy

Main Characters:

Joy, Carmen, Tom, Vivian

Settings:

Los Angeles, England, Edinburgh, Pacific NW

How to get started: Take a clue, such as, "Joy is featured in either the book by David Baldacci or the one set in the Pacific NW." From this clue, you know that David Baldacci did not write the book set in the Pacific Northwest. Therefore, you can immediately eliminate that possibility. Keep eliminating possibilities until you have only one choice left. Good luck! If you solve the puzzle in 30 minutes or less, let us know and we'll congratulate you in the next issue.

continued on the next page

CLUES

1) The main character of *Royal Holiday* is either Vivian or Carmen.

2) *The Christmas Bookshop* is either set in Edinburgh or it features Vivian

3) Jenny Colgan did not set her book in the Pacific Northwest.

4) Joy is featured in either the book by David Baldacci, or the one set in the Pacific NW

5) Neither Joy nor Tom is the main character of Jasmine Guillory's book.

6) Neither *The Christmas Bookshop* nor the book by David Baldacci are set in England.

7) Los Angeles is the setting of either the book by Kristin Hannah or the one featuring Tom.

8) Tom is not the main character of *Comfort and Joy*

9) Jenny Colgan wrote either *The Christmas Bookshop* or *Comfort and Joy*

10) *Comfort and Joy* is either written by Jasmine Guillory or is set in the Pacific NW

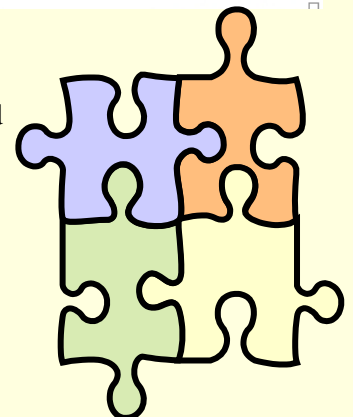
11) Tom is featured in either *The Christmas Train* or in the book by Kristin Hannah

		Royal Holiday	The Christmas Train	Christmas Bookshop	Comfort and Joy	David Baldacci	Kristin Hannah	Jenny Colgan	Jasmine Guillory	Joy	Carmen	Tom	Vivian	Los Angeles	England	Edinburgh	Pacific NW
Book Title	Royal Holiday	O	X	X	X												
	Christmas Train	X	O	X	X												
	Christmas Bookshop	X	X	O	X												
	Comfort & Joy	X	X	X	O												
Author	David Baldacci					O	X	X	X								
	Kristin Hannah					X	O	X	X								
	Jenny Colgan					X	X	O	X								
	Jasmine Guillory					X	X	X	O								
Main Char	Joy									O	X	X	X				
	Carmen									X	O	X	X				
	Tom									X	X	O	X				
	Vivian									X	X	X	O				
Setting	Los Angeles													O	X	X	X
	England													X	O	X	X
	Edinburgh													X	X	O	X
	PacificNW													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 33**, 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](#).



Story Monsters® Press Continues to Serve as a Trusted Resource for Quality Children's Books

Story Monsters Press is an imprint of Story Monsters LLC and the publisher of children's books that offer hope, value differences, and build character. Under the leadership of Linda F. Radke, Story Monsters LLC includes a team of skilled professionals who bring more than 35 years of experience to the industry.

"We focus on educating children's books and have built a team that has become a trusted resource for our clients," said Linda F. Radke, president of Story Monsters LLC and publisher of Story Monsters Press. "We want young readers and their caregivers to be inspired when they read a book published by Story Monsters Press."

Radke, a former special education teacher for grades K-12, is dedicated to helping kids develop a love for reading and writing. That is why every book published by Story Monsters Press includes a curriculum or resource guide. "Curriculum guides give parents, teachers and librarians the tools to have meaningful discussions about the book," said Radke. "They also encourage kids to have fun while learning more about a subject."

Most recently, Story Monsters Press has teamed up with award-winning author Cynthia Kern OBrien on her latest children's book, *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy*, a story about a woodland fairy who cannot fly because she has one small wing. In this story, OBrien helps young readers understand that having differences is what makes them unique and lovable. This is a book about kindness, compassion, and believing in yourself.

"Working with Story Monsters has been invaluable to me throughout this process," said OBrien. "It has been a wonderful experience working with Linda and her talented team."

Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy is scheduled to be released in January 2023.

In addition to books by Story Monsters Press, Story Monsters also provides authors with a wide range of services, including book contests, manuscript evaluation, book marketing, book production, website creation and book consulting.

For more information about *Marky the MAGNIFICENT Fairy*, other titles by Story Monsters Press or the services Story Monsters provides to authors and publishers, please visit www.storymonsters.com.





Join a Write-In to Meet Other Writers and Boost Your Productivity

by Janet Alcorn

Writing is solitary work. We labor over our stories alone in our offices or, since this is Arizona, on our patios. Maybe we make time to meet up with other authors once a month for a workshop, but mostly we toil away on our own. That's fine, but what if we could meet up with other writers, virtually or in person, and just... write together? Well, we can! Getting together to write is called a write-in, and since it's National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), write-ins are happening all over the world. In fact, I host one every week on Saturdays, and you can join! Details are at the end of this article, but first, let's talk about why you might want to join a write-in.

4 Reasons to Join a Write-In

Boost your productivity. People who write books about building healthy habits usually offer at least two pieces of advice: schedule time for your new activity and find someone to do it with. You want to exercise? Put gym time on your calendar and find a buddy to go with you. We'll bail on ourselves, but we'll think twice before we bail on someone else. That's how write-ins work. The meeting is on my calendar, and people are expecting me to show up, so I do. And when I'm there, I write. No excuses, and no scrolling social media. Everyone else is writing, so I do too.

Meet other writers. Other writers "get" us in ways normal people don't. When you tell another writer your character told you she was gay while you were in the shower (yes, this actually happened to me), they smile along and share their stories of characters who wouldn't stay in their author-assigned boxes. When you tell a normal person such a thing, they back away slowly and lose your number.

Find support and encouragement. Other writers can be a huge source of support, especially when you're struggling. Other writers can talk you down after you get a bad review or your 247th rejection. They can celebrate your successes with you and remind you that you and your work have value. They can understand your frustrations and laugh with you about the absurdities and frustrations of this business.

Make friends. Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, American adults are more isolated than ever; in a recent survey, 49% reported they had three or fewer friends, and 12% said they had no close friends (see [Friendship Study](#)). Joining a write-in could help you make friends AND get writing done. What's not to love?

Where Can I Find a Write-In?

Thanks to videoconferencing, anyone can join a write-in from anywhere in the world as long as they have a decent internet connection. In-person write-ins are also resuming in many communities. Here are a few places to find a write-in:

1. Your city's NaNoWriMo group. Visit nanowrimo.org, create an account, and under Community, select Find a Region. Arizona NaNo regions include Flagstaff, Tucson, East Valley, Patagonia, Phoenix, Prescott, Yuma, and Elsewhere. Some NaNo groups are resuming in-person write-ins this year, and many do virtual write-ins as well.

continued on the next page

Join a Write-in by Janet Alcorn, continued

2. Other local writing groups. To find them, search Facebook or [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) or check with your local public library.
3. Professional associations. Sisters in Crime (sistersincrime.org) offers several write-ins per day throughout NaNoWriMo and occasionally during the rest of the year. Check with your favorite association to see what's available.
4. Online writing communities. Some writing instructors have created online communities for their students, and some of those communities include write-ins. For example, I take classes from Margie Lawson (margielawson.com) and some of her students and instructors host write-ins—including (drum roll please)—me!

How to Join My Write-In

I host a write-in through margielawson.com every Saturday morning from 7-8 AM with an optional social time from 6:30-7:00 (No, “AM” is not a misprint, and yes, a copious amount of caffeine is involved). There are three other write-ins available if you don't want to drag yourself out of bed early on a Saturday. To join any of them:

1. Go to margielawson.com and sign up for an account. It's free, and all you need is an email and a password.
2. Go to <https://www.margielawson.com/product/lwa-write-ins/>
3. Click Add to Cart (don't worry—it's still free)
4. Click either View Cart or Go to Checkout
5. Click Place Order

You'll get the Zoom links for all LWA write-ins, including mine, on the next screen and in your email. You can also access the classroom forums to chat with other writers. I don't get any kind of compensation for either referring you to LWA or hosting the write-ins.

I'm also willing to host a separate write-in for Arizona Authors Association members. If you're interested, shoot me an email (janetcrum@gmail.com), and we'll get something scheduled.

Happy writing!

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>.



Snowmen
Tohono Chul
Tucson, AZ

Photo and joke
submitted by
Arizona
Authors
Association member
Janet Alcorn



Robert J. Lowe
@nimorapi

The best way to find typos in your work is to carefully and meticulously proofread it, publish it for public consumption, and then casually glance at a random page two weeks later.

7:36 AM · Jun 6, 2021



Winter in Bonito Park, Arizona
Photo Courtesy of the U.S. Forestry Service

“Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.”

-Attributed to John Boswell

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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.



Possible Locations:

Happy Jack

Williams

Patagonia

Show Low

Pine

Flagstaff

Payson

Prescott

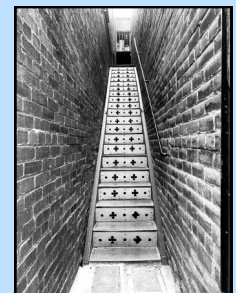
Pinetop

Alpine

Write to arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com no later than January 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 in Bisbee. No one guessed the location correctly. Remember, even if you guess wrong, we appreciate the participation! Send your guesses to: arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com





The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

Seasonal Writing Patterns

Do you orient toward the various seasonal shifts in your writing patterns? I do! Now that the leaves have all fallen and thoughts turn to Christmas, I take a notepad and pen and curl up near the fire on the comfy couch. While most of my writing is done on a PC or laptop, pen and paper seem to dominate my winter prose. I can lie on the couch with a throw blanket and a cup of cocoa, and look out the window at the chipmunks to find inspiration. The south-facing window with its soothingly warm sun is perfect in winter, and chipmunks, with antics that remind me of children playing in snow, trigger my imagination as well as anything on television.

Where do you write best? Do you have a favorite spot? Does it change with the seasons? Try varying your writing spots. Revisit those spots in different months and at different times, to discover when they can serve as your *productive hot spots*. You may find that a chair with a north-facing window is far more comfortable in summer than in winter. You may also find that the light of a west window is perfect in the morning but too harsh in the afternoon. Mixing up your writing places can add zest to your writing. Being in the same spot day in and day out is like eating the same meal every day. It gets boring, and that boredom shows in your writing.

Come spring, I'll switch to my computer upstairs, where I can witness the new buds just starting to burst forth on the peach trees in the backyard. From that location, I can see groundhogs scurry in the distance. In summer, I'll shift to the other side of the house with the northern exposure and a shade tree, where a cool iced tea and a chair with breathable fabric bring comfort on a hot day.

In early autumn, just as the leaves start to change, I'll move again to the south side with my laptop, but this time, I'll choose the room with a view of the flaming redbud tree. It takes my breath away, and for some reason, all of my favorite books have started their first chapters in that room. (And yes, my books DO write themselves! All I need is the inspiration of my surroundings!)

If you really can't switch rooms with the seasons, switch up your décor. I know a friend who writes on her computer in her bedroom, but with every season she changes her bedspread and the flowers on her window. It changes her mood and uplifts her spirits. While it's possible to write while in the depths of the doldrums, you usually do a better job when your spirits rise. Try switching out the items on your computer desk, too. If you usually keep a pen handy, try a different color for every month. If you have a desk lamp, switch out the shade every few months. Or put a new stuffed animal out to make you smile.

I guess what it all boils down to is that monotony can dampen your creativity. When you change the scene in which you write your novels, either by changing rooms or by changing the room you're writing in, you drive a stake into that monotony and shakeup your routine. You gain a different perspective. You may see things in a new light, and that's the best kind of light to write by no matter where you are! Happy Seasons!

The Inevitable Author, continued.

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](#).



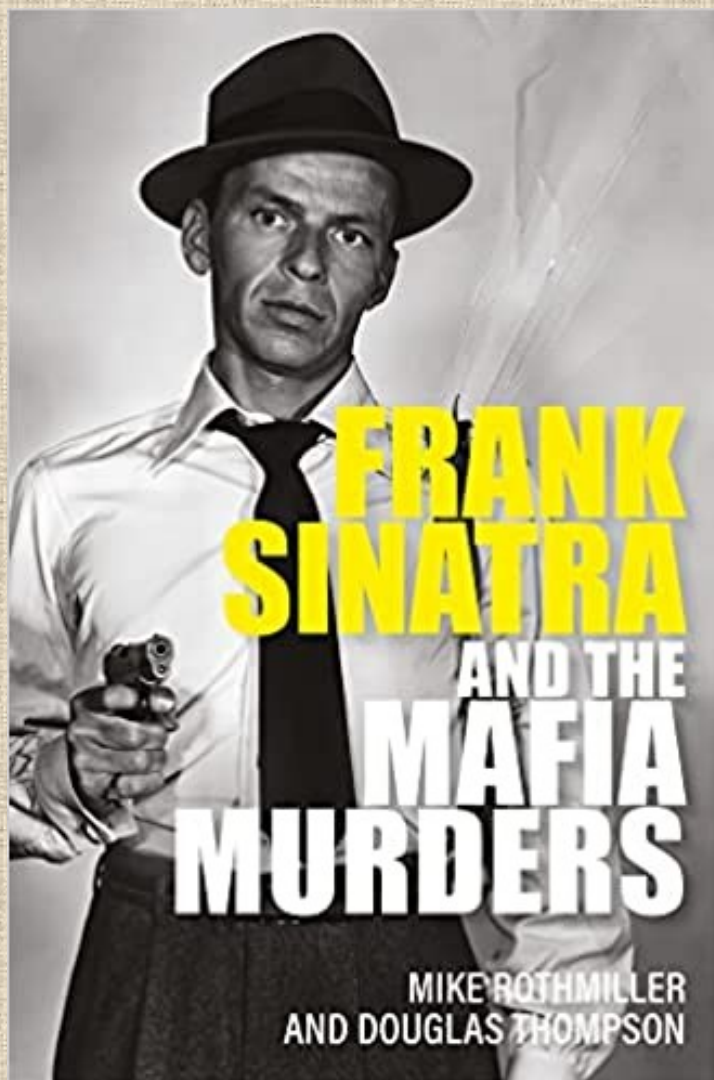
"Kindness is like snow—it beautifies everything it covers."

Kahlil Gibran

Winter Day in Arizona
Courtesy of the US Forestry Service

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Mike Rothmiller



Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders Release Date: January 10, 2023

Mike Rothmiller and Douglas Thompson draw on LAPD intelligence files, a cache of FBI documents, and extensive interviews with prime sources who worked with Frank Sinatra. Many of them tracked his long and fatal association with American Mafia leaders, including Sam 'Momo' Giancana, who shared a lover with President John F. Kennedy.

Shortly after John F. Kennedy's assassination, 19-year-old Frank Sinatra Jr. was kidnapped at gunpoint in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. A \$240,000 ransom was demanded from his father. While law-enforcement agencies sprang into action, Frank secretly contacted his Mafia friends for help. The Mafia believed they could free young Frank much more quickly through their underworld connections. In the end, nine people died.

Revealed here as never before is the extent to which Sinatra was adopted by the Mafia. They promoted his career and 'watched his back.' In return, Sinatra danced to their tune. The book reveals Mafia and CIA interests as well as explosive, previously secret documents.

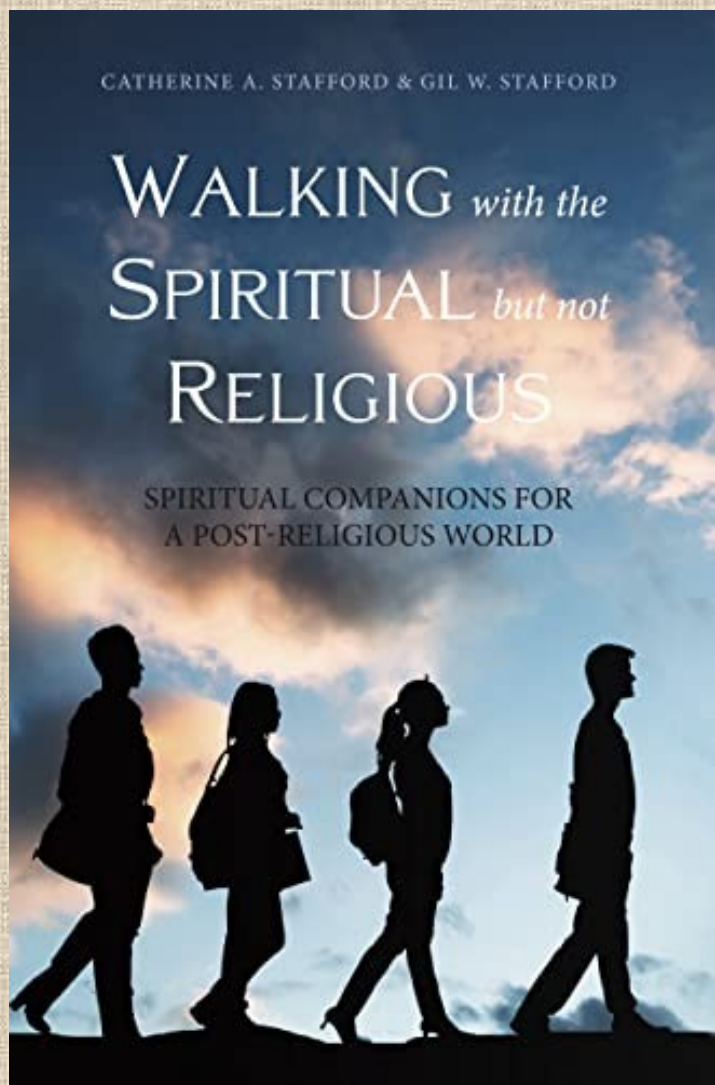
Available for pre-release sales on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.

Mike Rothmiller is a New York Times Bestselling Author, nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, historian, former cop and Army medic. He's also served as a TV reporter, an award winning documentary producer and television host for ESPN, PBS and other international television markets. He's written and produced over 25 television documentaries, numerous TV and radio ads and has authored movie scripts. His nonfiction book, [My Hero. Military Kids Write About Their Moms and Dads](#) (St. Martin's Press) received international acclaim and holds the honor of being the only book in history to have forwards written by three living Presidents and General Norman Schwarzkopf. He's authored many books and his [Secrets, Lies and Deception and Other Amazing Pieces of History](#) was featured on Fox News and over 40 Television News Stations across America. Readers of his books include three Presidents, former First Lady Laura Bush, the late Charlton Heston and Queen Elizabeth II. To read more about Mike, click [HERE](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Gil W. Stafford



Walking with the Spiritual

but not Religious

Walking with the Spiritual but not Religious takes a fresh look at being a spiritual companion for those who identify as something other than religious—SBNR, Nones, not religious, agnostics, atheists, people who have experienced something unexplainable, and those who have encountered the paranormal (religious or otherwise).

The book is for anyone who has left a religious tradition but still longs for a spiritual path. It is also for anyone—religious or not—called to be a spiritual companion for the not religious.

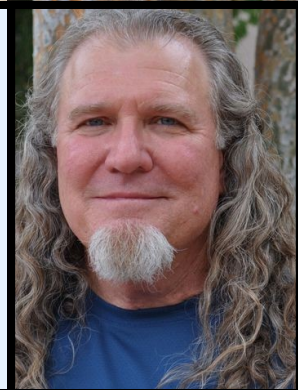
In this book, you'll discover:

- just how “normal” the paranormal actually is
- meditation, contemplation, and other “spiritual” practices
- how to craft meaningful life-cycle rituals
- creating spiritual community that heals rather than hurts

Available for purchase on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.

Catherine Stafford, EdD, professional educator for thirty-eight years as an elementary teacher, college professor, and finally a public-school superintendent. In 2012, she stepped off the public-school trail onto a new path, which lead her into the forests, fields, waterways, and sometimes deserts of interfaith spiritual exploration and companionship. All along these trails and paths wisdom listening has been her practice.

Gil Stafford, PhD, DMin, 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](#) and [When Leadership and Spiritual Direction Meet: Reflections and Stories for Congregational Life](#), and [Meditations on Blue Jesus: Listening to the Disabled God](#). Life is a pilgrimage and Stafford has taken many, including walking Ireland coast-to-coast. Find out more about Gil and Cathy [HERE](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Vijaya Schartz



Angel Ship

The Blue Phantom Book One

Desperate to save her people from the Marauders swarming her space freighter, Kefira prays for a miracle. Blake Volkov, legendary captain of the Blue Phantom, hears her plea and deems her and her refugees worthy of his help. Grateful for the rescue, Kefira finds his price shocking. But despite his glowing wings, handsome looks and impressive abilities, Blake admits he is no angel ... although Kefira's feline bodyguard strongly disagrees.

Meanwhile, an old enemy bent on revenge unleashed an unspeakable evil on the galaxy. Time to face past mistakes ... time for innocent blood to flow. Nothing prepared Kefira for the upheaval ahead.

Can Blake find redemption? Can Kefira save her people?

Can she ever trust and love again?

The first book in the Blue Phantom series, it is available for sale on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets.

Born in France, award-winning author **Vijaya Schartz** never conformed to anything and could never refuse a challenge. She likes action and exotic settings, in life and on the page. She traveled the world and claims she also travels through time, and feels just as comfortable in the future as in the far past. Her novels collected many five star reviews and literary awards. She will make you believe you actually lived these extraordinary adventures among her characters.

Blasters, Swords, Romance with a Kick

<http://www.vijayaschartz.com>

<http://www.amazon.com/author/vijayaschartz>

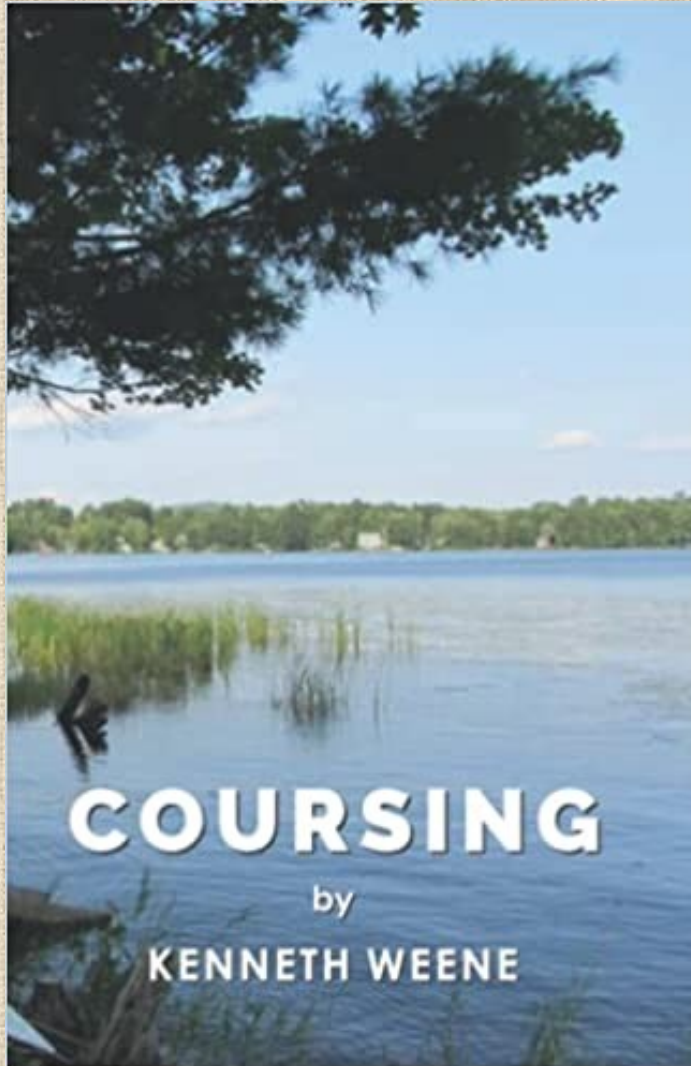
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/vijaya-schartz>

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NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Kenneth Weene



Coursing

The poems included in the collection reveal a remarkable poetic excellence. These poems aptly show profoundly imaginative power. No doubt, the poet is an adept in the intimate and convincing analysis of emotions.

Having grown up in Massachusetts and Maine, Kenneth Weene still considers himself a broody New Englander. However, he lived for many years in New York, where he practiced as a psychologist and taught at various colleges. During the 1980s, Ken started writing, primarily poetry.

Since then, he has written a stream of words including five novels, many short stories, essays, two plays (co-written with his friend Umar O Abdul), two novellas, and a number of poems.

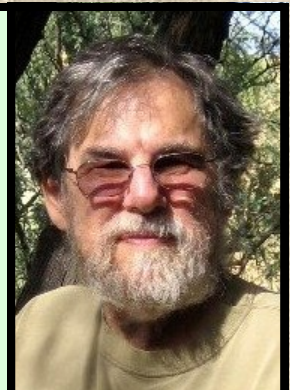
Many of Ken's poems have been published in print and on the internet. This collection, selected by the poet, reflects his highly personal approach to poetry and to life. He sees his writing, and especially his poetry, as being a way to better understand the world as he has experienced it, as a continuation of the psychoanalytic process.

Available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.

A New Englander by birth and disposition and trained as a psychologist and minister, Ken Weene has worked as an educator and psychotherapist. Besides writing, Ken's earlier interests included whitewater rafting, travel, and playing paintball.

Ken's short stories and poetry have appeared in numerous publications. An anthology of his writings, [Songs for my Father](#), was published by Inkwell Productions. Five of Ken's novels and two short stories were published by All Things That Matter Press. [Broody New Englander](#) was published in 2014, [Sweet and Sour](#) in 2015, and [Ashes](#), a prose play, was published in 2019.

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



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Kenneth Weene



The Rightful King

Everyday sees the disintegration of mankind; greed for wealth and power leads to conflicts between people and hence to the destruction of peace and unity. The goal of this play is, in its small way, to bridge that ever-widening gap between people and to offer the hope that there might be something or some power that can reunite us all.

Umar O. Abdul, playwright and poet, hails from Oj'achadu, Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria. A Lecturer with the Department of Theater Arts, Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa. The Rightful King is his second collaboration with Ken Weene. UMAR is married to Hajarat and they are blessed with beautiful children.

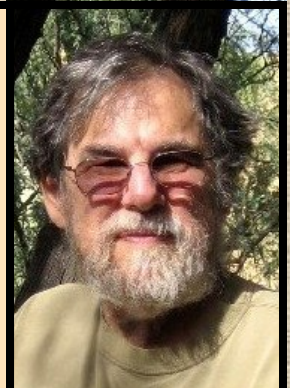
A retired psychologist and college teacher, Ken Weene sees the process of writing as a way in which to better understand other people and especially himself. In his novels, plays, and poetry he strives to grasp that which is universal through the exploration of the personal. Ken's website is www.kennethweene.com

The Rightful King is available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.

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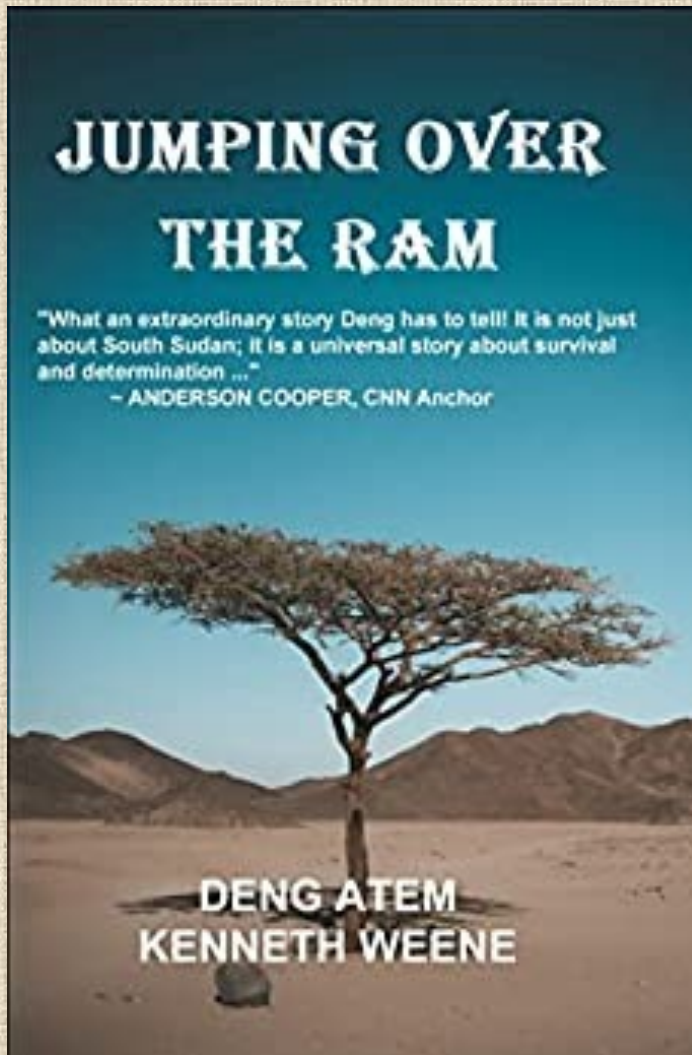
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Find out more about Ken [HERE](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Kenneth Weene



Jumping Over The Ram

“What an extraordinary story Deng has to tell! It is not just about South Sudan; it is a universal story about survival and determination - how a child can face the most difficult of situations and find a way through them. It is a privilege to introduce you to Deng Atem and his moving memoir, *Jumping Over the Ram*.”~Anderson Cooper, CNN Anchor

From Amazon:

The author of these memoirs, Deng Atem, is one of the highly resilient young South Sudanese who has endured every hardship of South Sudan’s final war of liberation under the Sudan liberation army (SPLA). Like much of his generation, he survived all the ordeals of the last South Sudan war of independence.

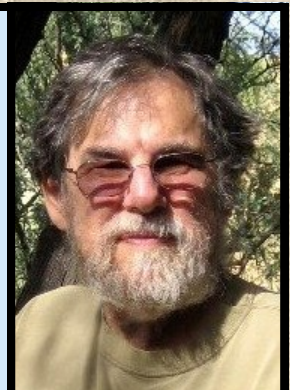
“Since this manuscript is his account of his life and soldier as a child of South Sudan’s long war of liberation, as one of his elders in the community we both come from Twic Mayardit community of Warrap, it gives me privileges and honor to attest with these few orders, to the accuracy of what’s contained in this manuscript.”
Bona Malwal Madut Ring; Twic Mayardit Elder.

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



SHORT RELEASES

New Feature! 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. The work may be on any topic of general interest



Jodi Decker published a short article in the Glendale Historical Society's November 2022 newsletter about her 99-year old mother-in-law, Bertie Decker. Bertie has been a long time Glendale resident. Jodi is a family historian and co-wrote *Poems From the Asylum* (2021) about her grandmother, Martha H. Nasch.

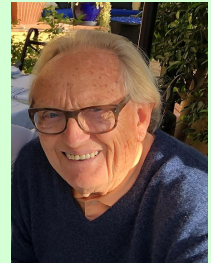


To find out more about Jodi, click [HERE](#).

To find [Poems From the Asylum](#) on Amazon, click on the link.



Earl Goldmann wrote a piece for the *Tillamook Headlight Herald* titled, "Former Tillamook resident fondly remembers Alderbrook Golf Course." The article reflects the closure of a golf course that played an integral part in the author's life as a young man growing up in Tillamook, OR.



To read the article, click [HERE](#).

To find out more about Earl, click on his Arizona Authors Association [webpage](#) or visit his website at brooksgoldmannpublishing.com



Are you a member of the Arizona Authors Association who has written a short story or article recently? Did you publish it? If so, then let us know and we'll promote it on this page.

Send it no later than January 15, 2023,
to:

arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com



The deadline for submissions to the next issue is:

January 15, 2023

Back Page Jokes and Quotes

Why is Christmas exactly like your job?

You do all the work and a fat guy in a suit gets all the credit.



Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.

Helen Steiner Rice

What are Santa's little helpers called?

Subordinate Clauses



You are the snow that melts into water on a sunny day
A brook transports you to your destiny
Pure and clean, cold morphs into warmth
In communion with all things
After a lifetime of isolation and cold
You finally meet yourself

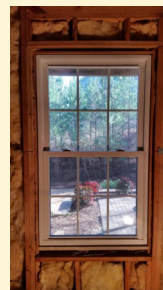
-Kathleen Cook

Oak Creek in Winter
Picture Courtesy of [C Wanamaker](#)

Literary Trivia From Page Three

Answers

1. *Little Women*
2. J. R. R. Tolkien
3. *The Long Winter*
4. *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*
5. *The Tailor of Gloucester*
6. Home made jumpers (sweaters)



Why was Microsoft declared a monopoly on Christmas?

Because they made Santa switch from Chimneys to Windows.

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 before the 15th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue.