

ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

Issue 7

Arizona Authors Association

April-May 2020

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Vice President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

The membership drive we made in January and February was sobering. We had 175 members on the books at the start. However, 85 people dropped for one reason or another, including taking a break or returning when activities are better or moving away or bad email addresses. Special thanks to Connie Osterlitz for helping me sort the database, notify members of their dues, and update the contact lists.

Currently we have 90 members who are paid or are serving. We'd like to build our membership. If you know writers, published or unpublished, who you feel could benefit from joining, feel free to forward our newsletter, so they can see some benefits of belonging.

The contest is in full swing. Please enter as many categories as you can and encourage your friends to do so also. You'll be supporting the Association and giving yourself a chance to win. You can print the entry blank from this newsletter on page [25](#) or download it from our website. Jane Ruby is once again advertising and generally making contest appeals where appropriate.

We planned a free workshop to be presented by our member Mike Rothmiller, however it has been cancelled due to Coronavirus. I look forward to rescheduling it once the crisis has passed. Its title is compelling: **CLUES FOR PROMOTING YOURSELF AND YOUR BOOK**. I also look forward to other regular business one of these days.

About half of you have not completed a personal page on

continued on the next page

Vice President's Corner, continued

our website. I encourage you to send me your information. The webpage will give you one more presence on the web, something always to be enjoyed.

Last year's Arizona Literary Magazine 2020 is available for purchase. Below is the link to buy. Many exciting authors won awards. Enjoy an excellent read and help support your Association.

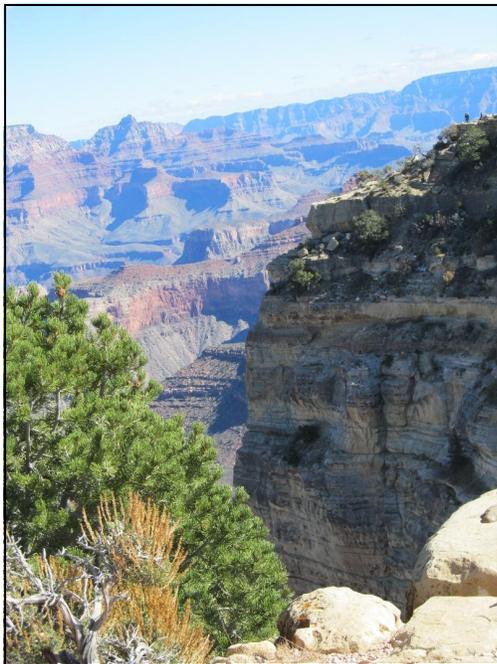
[Arizona Literary Magazine 2020](#)

If you would like to help promote Arizona Authors or devote a few hours to working on the website, please let us know.

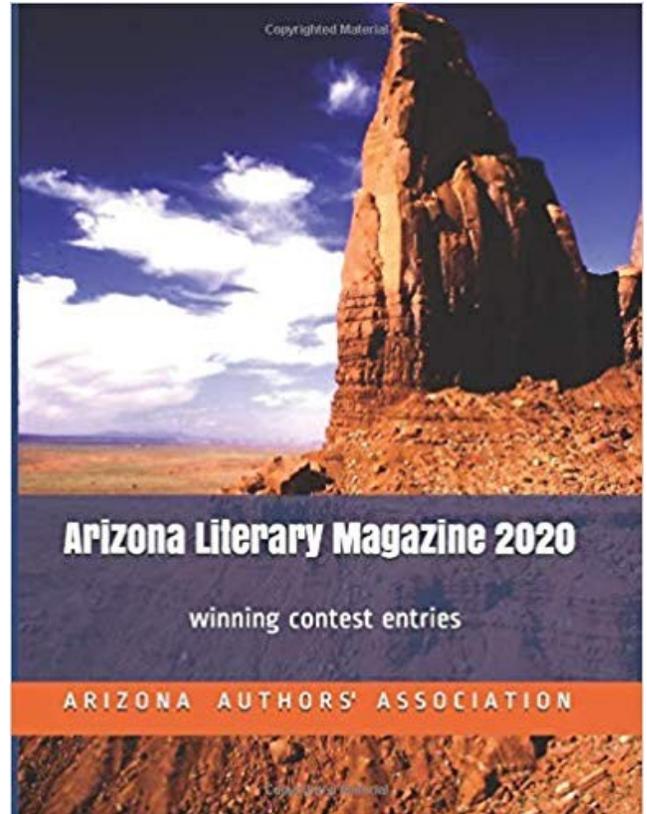
I made my own Coronavirus / hand sanitizer: two parts ethyl rubbing alcohol and one part almond oil. You don't have to use almond; you could use rose oil, spruce oil, or any essential oil you happen to have handy. I'll never buy hand sanitizer again.

Stay safe on the trail, beloved members.

Toby Heathcotte 
[Author and Publisher](#)
[Arizona Authors Vice President](#)



Grand Canyon
 by AAA Member Sharon Sterling

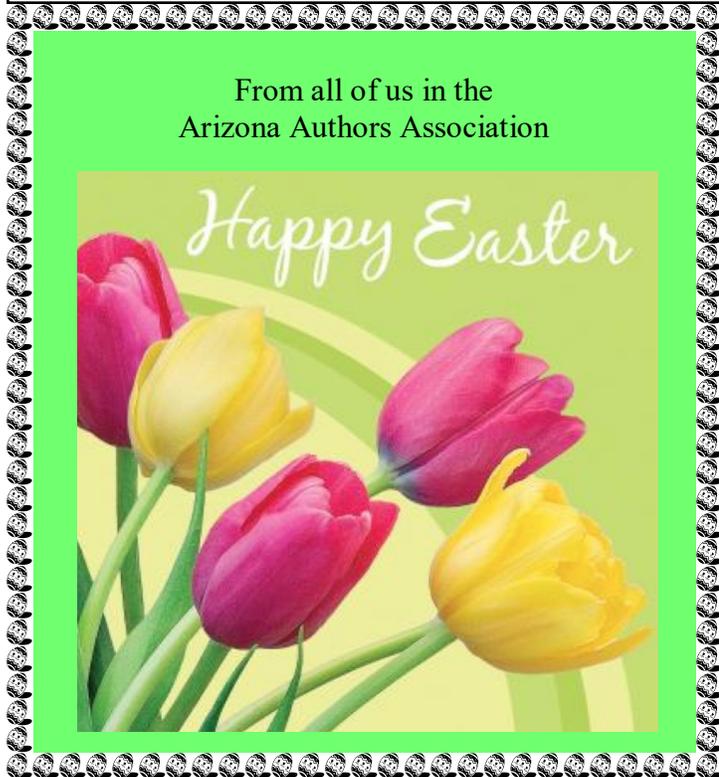


Did you pick up your copy of the Arizona Literary Magazine 2020?

It's on sale [HERE!](#)

Your purchase helps the Arizona Authors Association to grow and thrive.

Thank you!



Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Russell Azbill
 Vice President.....Toby Heathcotte
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 Secretary/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby

Newsletter Editor.....Kathleen Cook

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

Editorial correspondence and newsletter submissions may be emailed to:

faerland@yahoo.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

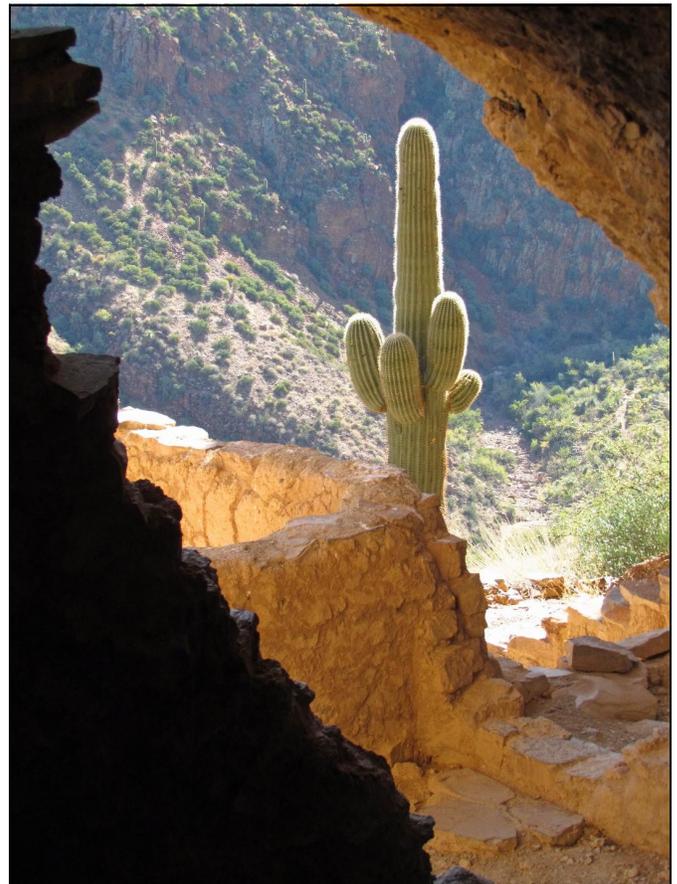
Literary Trivia

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. What is the pen name of veterinarian James Alfred Wight?
2. What is the last word in Robert Frost’s poem, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”?
3. Which country’s authors have won the most Nobel Prizes in Literature?
4. To whom did Hamlet refer when he described a man as, *a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy*?
5. Which Hemingway novel begins off the coast of Cuba and ends on shore 3 days later?
6. Who was the only native Californian to win a Nobel Prize for Literature?

For more trivia, go to:

[Can You Answer?](#)



**Tonto National Monument
by AAA Member David Rich**

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, newsletter articles offer advice, suggestions, and insight to reinforce your expertise.

The yearly Literary Contest furnishes an opportunity to showcase your work and the possibility of earning prizes that will enhance your reputation as an author. As the relaunch of this association progresses, we plan to once again participate in book fairs or other events. The opportunity to advertise under the Arizona Authors Association banner will allow you to promote your work and increase your visibility with a minimum of expense and effort.

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

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



Submissions to the Newsletter

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

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

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

Road to Imagination seeks finished works of 800 words or less based upon the previous issue's story prompt. **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. Pictures may be gif, png or jpegs. Send large pictures, if possible, (no less than 2"x4") since we can shrink any picture without losing quality, but small pictures cannot be enlarged without noticeable deterioration. Note that all submissions are subject to light editing/proofreading. You will be informed in advance of publication if extensive edits are needed.

Thank you!

Recent and Upcoming Events

RECENT

Peter Bernhardt held the workshop: *Writing Like a Pro: Tips to Fine-Tune Your Storytelling* at the OLLI Sedona Campus on February 7, 2020. He gave a prior version of this workshop last year for the Arizona Authors' Association in Phoenix and OLLI in Sedona, both great successes.



Currently, Peter is translating his spy thriller *Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter* into German. Find out more about Peter at:

[Sedona Author Amazon](#)



On Wednesday, March 25, 2020, Vijaya Schartz was scheduled to conduct a workshop at the Starfire Golf Club on Hayden Road in Scottsdale, titled: **The Joy of Polishing the Novel**. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, however, the workshop has now been rescheduled for a future date.

Please contact Vijaya for more information on this or other workshops.

Vijaya Schartz, author
Strong heroines, brave heroes, cats, Romance with a Kick

<http://www.vijayaschartz.com>
<http://www.amazon.com/author/vijayaschartz>
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/vijaya-schartz>
<https://www.facebook.com/vijaya.schartz>
<https://twitter.com/vijayaschartz>

UPCOMING



Award-winning author Marilyn June Janson conducts workshops at the Southeast Regional Library (SRL) at 775 N. Greenfield Road, Gilbert, AZ., and at the Red Mountain Recreation Center (RMR) at 7550 East Adobe in Mesa, AZ. She has just added a third

location, **McQueen Park Activity Center (MPC)** 510 N. Horne Street. Gilbert, AZ, 85233.

Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend all her classes. Personalized materials will be provided for each student in every class. Visit her website for more information at: www.janwrite.com. You may also call her at: 480-699-6389.

*Please note that Red Mountain Recreation Center charges a registration fee of between \$12-\$14 in addition to the instructor's fee shown.

April - May 2020 AZ Writing Workshops

Saturday April 18 10AM-12PM (MPC) \$25

Dialogue, Tone, and Mood Writing

Learn to write and apply inner and outer dialogue, sensory and visual imagery, setting to your novels and short stories. Enroll [HERE](#)

Mondays April 20 – 27 6-8PM (RMR) \$15*

Writing: Pacing, Action, and Symbolism – 33923

Add depth and riveting scenes to your short fiction, novels, Young Adult, Children's, Memoirs, and Family History scripts. Enroll [HERE](#)

continued on the next page

Upcoming Events, continued

Mondays May 4 – 11 6-8PM (RMR) \$15*

Editing Your Manuscript – 33924

Instructor Marilyn shares her editing process, tips, and manuscript preparation for publishing Essays, Mainstream Fiction, Young Adult, Children's, Memoirs, and Family History. Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend. Personalized Instructional Materials are provided. Enroll [HERE](#)



Desert Flowers

Photo by AAA Member Sharon Sterling

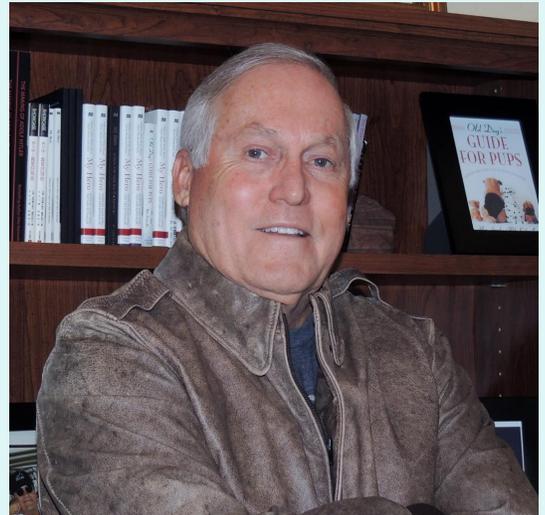
Publisher's Weekly Recent Best Seller List

1. [Find Your Path: Honor Your Body, Fuel Your Soul, and Get Strong with the Fit52 Life](#)
Carrie Underwood, Author
Dey Street Books
2. [House of Earth and Blood](#)
Sarah J Maas, Author
Bloomsbury Publishing
3. [Chain of Gold](#)
Cassandra Clare, Author
Margaret K. McElderry Books
4. [Green Eggs and Ham](#)
Dr Seuss, Author
Random House
5. [The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz](#)
Erik Larson, Author
Crown Publishing Group
6. [The Maga Doctrine: The Only Ideas That Will Win the Future](#)
Charlie Kirk, Author
Broadside Books
7. [Dragonslayer \(Wings of Fire: Legends\)](#)
Tui T Sutherland, Author
Scholastic Press
8. [One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish](#)
Dr Seuss, Author
Random House
9. [The Mamba Mentality: How I Play](#)
Kobe Bryant, Author
MCD Books
10. [The Numbers Game](#)
Danielle Steel, Author
Delacorte Press

Congratulations to Our Members

New York Times Bestselling Author and Arizona Authors Association member Mike Rothmiller has had the TV/Movie rights for three of his nonfiction books optioned during the past few months. His first book, [LA Secret Police](#), is being developed as a TV series. The second book, *Bombshell*, is currently being sold throughout Europe by his literary agent and is being developed as a multi-part TV series. His third book has been optioned solely based on the book proposal.

Mike, a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, is a former cop, Army medic, television reporter, and historian. He's also written and produced various acclaimed documentaries for PBS, ESPN, and others. His nonfiction title, [My Hero, Military Kids Write About Their Moms and Dads](#), published by St. Martin's Press, contains forewords written by three living presidents as well as General Norman Schwarzkopf.

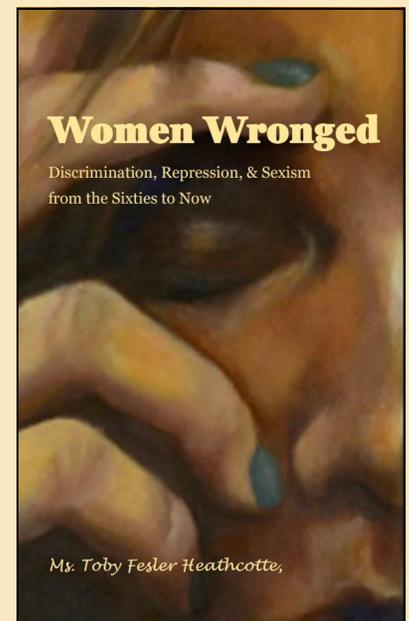


Congratulations to Mike from all of us at the Arizona Authors Association!
Find out more about Mike [HERE](#)

Congratulations to the fourteen members of the Arizona Authors Association who contributed to the newly released book, [Women Wronged, Discrimination, Repression and Sexism from the Sixties to Now](#). Compiled and edited by Toby Heathcotte, the book gives hope, discernment and support to all young women of today and contributes to the understanding of the Me Too! movement.

Contributors include:

Eyvonne Carter-Riley	Kathleen Cook	Marcia Farrell
Valerie Foster	Monique Gerbaud	Rita Heathcotte
Toby Fesler Heathcotte	Marilyn June Janson	Jan Nichols
Constance Osterlitz	Tamara Poff	Jane Ruby
Vijaya Schartz	Writer Anonymous	



We applaud the courage and fortitude of these authors, and hope that future generations of women will derive benefit and inspiration from their strength, in order to create a more just and equal society.

Congratulations to Our Members, continued

The website of the documentary Mark is producing, “Guatemala: Trouble in the Highlands” has been updated. Check it out! www.Guatemalastory.net

His article, “**Moritz Thomsen: His Letters and His Legacy**,” just dropped in *Scarlet Leaf Review* and was reissued in the *Peace Corps Worldwide*. You may read it [HERE](#).

Another of Mark’s articles, “The Yang of Travel,” received an honorable mention in the 14th Annual Solas Awards. Check out the list of award winners [HERE](#).

Find out more about Mr. Walker at:

Mark D. Walker MA, CFRE, President
Million Mile Walker LLC.

<http://www.millionmilewalker.com>



Desert Color

Photo by AAA Member Sharon Sterling

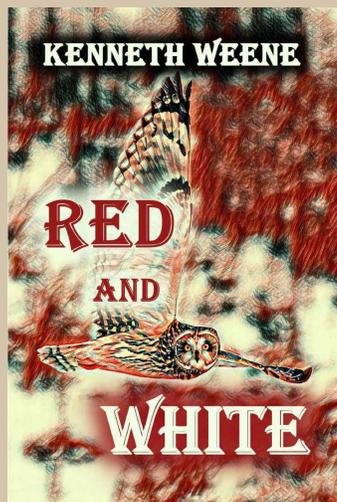


IS WRITING FICTION CULTURAL APPROPRIATION?

by Kenneth Weene, Ph.D

Is writing fiction appropriation or sharing the human experience? That's a question I've been facing for years. Certainly, each of my novels and stories contains an autobiographical element, but in no way are they memoirs, not even *Memoirs From the Asylum*, which does reflect my career in mental health, and certainly not *Widow's Walk*, the story of an Irish-American widow. If I am not writing about me, who are these characters and do I have the right to use their stories? For example, the drunks and hangers-on found in the pages of *Tales From the Dew Drop Inne*—yes they are fictional characters, but—have I invaded their privacy and appropriated their stories? That is a question with which I wrestle as an author.

In the last year that issue has grown even more regnant.



First, there is my newest novel *Red and White*, which explores not only Native American culture but also examines the Black experience in the years after the Civil War. Preparing to write *Red and White* involved not just a lot of reading but also talking with many Native American friends. From them I learned a great deal about Native American history and culture. However, I didn't want to appropriate what they told me. If I couldn't come up with something more, something that I created, I was determined that the book should not be written.

The novel, which was channeled from a Sioux warrior Plenty Horses, centers on Lonely Cricket, a Ho-Chunk youth who was among the first students at the Carlisle Indian School. I have never been one to focus on reincarnation, and if I were to have lived before, I'm quite sure it would not have been as a Sioux warrior. Why and how the spirit of Plenty Horses decided to reach out to me is a mystery for which I have no answers.

Filled with a newly created series of Native American stories, *Red and White* is, in my opinion, not an appropriation but a reflection built on Plenty Horses' speaking to my heart and my empathy for the young men and women taken from their homes and sent to such schools. As I thought about those youngsters, it occurred to me that there would be a natural affinity between them and the Blacks they would meet in that "White world."

Having grown up a member of a minority and having gone to a boarding school designed to make me not just a "White American" but an old-fashioned New England Yankee, what I call a Broody New Englander, I have great empathy for the marginalized and rejected. I guess in some ways I identify with Steinberg, an author whose characters are often outside trying to see into society.

I think that sense of empathy has also connected me strongly to Africa, a part of the world to which I have never been.

My first connection was an on-line friendship with a South African writer, a connection which helped my books to sell well half-way around the world. However, that was only a beginning. A few years back, I met a man from South Sudan. He had been a child soldier, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. Deng wanted to write a memoir and was looking for help. I ended up co-authoring that volume, which is yet to be published, and became involved with his magazine, *Ramciel*. The

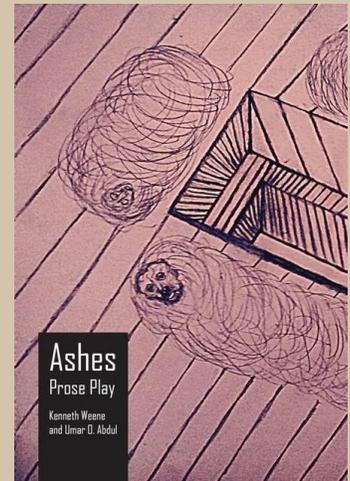
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goal of *Ramciel* is to connect the South Sudanese who are scattered around the globe with those still in their homeland. Since South Sudan is a young nation, still suffering civil conflict and driven by multi-tribal identities, and since so many South Sudanese are dispersed around the world, the role of this magazine in helping to create a national and cultural identity is important.

Then, there's my friend Tendai Mwanaka from Zimbabwe. A publisher, Tendai was looking for essays about the African-American experience. He read one of my essays about discovering racism as an adolescent and asked to include it in a collection. I was delighted. Only later was I more delighted to learn that I was the only White author whose work was included.

With such connections and with an active presence on social media, it seemed more ordained than coincidence that I became friendly with Nigerian playwright Umar Abdul. Umar and I decided to write a play together. *Ashes* is the story of an African-American who, with his mother, brings his father's ashes back to Nigeria to scatter them in the ancestral homeland. Of course, identifying that homeland so specifically involved both oral history and DNA analysis.

Writing *Ashes*, which recently had its first performance in Nigeria, was a great experience. I learned how the people of Umar's community looked at the world and how they used metaphor. I provided more of the plotting. Between us we wrote a play that has something to say. However, we also needed it published. Re-enter my friend Tendai who offered to publish *Ashes*.



The experience was so rewarding that Umar and I are working on a new play, one that is more surrealist and hopefully more universal in its insights, even more encompassing of the human experience.

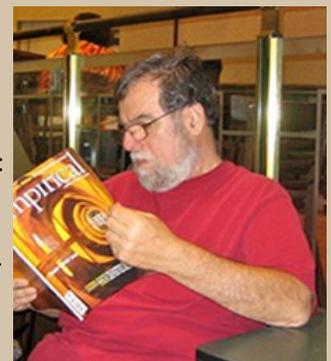
The goal of my writing is to find that which encompasses not my personal experience but the universal, that which makes us all more nearly human than otherwise. If I cannot go beyond that which I have personally experienced and connect to the collective and archetypic, I have failed in my goal as an author. I create characters who live their own lives and my job is respecting their existence while celebrating their connection to us all.

To answer my original question: no, to create a work of fiction from the perspective of another person and even a culture is not appropriation but rather a celebration of our human connection.

Sometimes **Ken Weene** writes to exorcise demons. Sometimes he writes because the characters in his head demand to be heard. Sometimes he writes because he thinks what he has to say might amuse or even on occasion inform. Mostly, however, he writes because it is a cheaper addiction than drugs, an easier exercise than going to the gym, and a more sociable outlet than sitting at McDonald's drinking coffee with other old farts: in brief because it keeps him just a bit younger and more alive.

Ken's stories and poetry have appeared in numerous publications and he has a number of books which can be purchased on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com), [Barnes & Noble](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), and other outlets.

More about Ken can be found at: www.kennethweene.com.





What Pounds My Cake!

by Jane Ruby

Wanna know what pounds my cake? Authors/writers/editors not getting in on this year's Literary Contest. Seriously. I'm getting psyched/stoked/pumped/jacked for this year's event and so should you.

Why? Last year's entries overwhelmed me in number and quality. Apparently some of you have been cranking out literary works and good ones too. Only problem? Many of last year's high quality entries didn't place because there weren't enough awards to accommodate them.

So, for example, only four Children's Lit entries could be awarded (First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention). Such a shame, especially after so many colorfully illustrated and well-written picture books were entered. Heck, they were all winners in my opinion. But there's one teeny, tiny silver lining to this issue. If your entry didn't place in last year's contest, and it has a 2019 publication date, then you can re-enter it in this year's contest. Of course you can also enter newer books published in 2020.



But there's a much larger silver lining (wait for it): this year the Association split the Children's Literature category into (1) Picture Books and (2) Juvenile/Young Adult categories. This will allow a better fitting of books into a more appropriate category for better judging and more winners. (Aren't you glad you waited for it? You're welcome.) But that's all the splitting we can do at this point. Hopefully we can further add or split other categories down the pike, but it depends on the number of entries for this year's contest. We still don't have as big a purse as we had in past years—thanks to overspending in recent years (and not by this current board—just saying).

The Association would also like to clarify who can enter works and who can't. The published/unpublished work can only be entered by the **author** or in the **author's name**. For example, Aunt Sue cannot enter an unpublished poem written by her nephew, George, unless George's name is on the entry form. I know this sounds obvious, but the Association wants the author to be credited with the award and prize money and not someone entering on his behalf. This would eliminate my chance of winning a poem authored by Dr. Seuss (I know that sounds ridiculous, but I'm trying to make a point).

But Aunt Sue isn't a total loser; if she entered a published compilation of poems from all her nephews and nieces, and she is the editor, then she is eligible for the award. Hopefully she'll use the prize money to at least host a pizza party for all her contributing poets like a good little aunt.

Make sense? If not, then email me at arizona.authors@yahoo.com. I'll be happy to answer lit contest entry questions. Some of you already have, and I hoped to have helped you.

Now onto another topic: Lit Contest Judges. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE help our Association by judging this year's Literary Contest. We need at least 3 judges for each unpublished category (essay, poetry, short story, and novel

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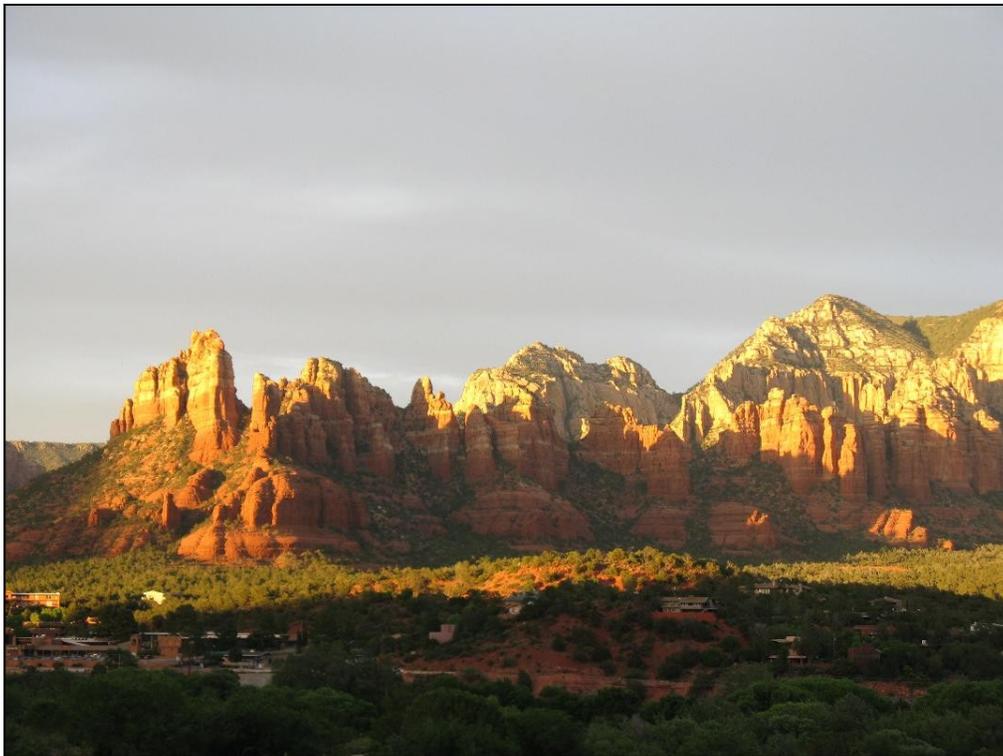
What Pounds My Cake, continued

manuscript). That means 12 judges if my math is correct. We also need at least 2 judges for each published category (Nonfiction, Fiction, Picture Book and Juvenile/Young Adult). That means 8 judges for these categories. So I need a minimum of 20 judges. I may need more if there's an excess of entries in any of these categories (I did last year, and some of you really stepped up to the plate.). You can judge even if you entered in the contest—just not the category that you entered in. For example, if you entered a poem, you can't judge Unpublished Poetry, but you can judge maybe published fiction, picture book categories or anything else.

We need judges, yes, yes, but we also need POSITIVE judges, especially if asked to critique. If you are asked to critique a work, please keep a supportive tone. A work can be really bad, but put on your coach's hat and do your best to find strong points. Also find it in your heart to avoid stating negative points. You want to encourage new or amateur authors to keep writing, not cut them down for their flaws. For example, I was asked to critique a badly written essay. I found the topic interesting and said so, stating several reasons why. But instead of saying how the writing SUCKED, I offered ways that the writing could be improved. If I can do this then so can YOU!

So let's have a good year by supporting YOUR Association. Attend our workshops, enter our literary contest, and volunteer to judge the contest. All or any participation will be rewarding. It's a win, win, WIN! So get in on some of this (and don't make me pound anymore cake than I have to)!

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



Palisades Red Rocks Sedona

Photo by AAA Member Peter Bernhardt



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 anyone would like to share the story they create with this prompt (800 words or less), please send it to faerland@yahoo.com and we may publish it.

Light

William crouched next to the thick oak tree and shivered. Darkness was everywhere with no stars in the sky and heavy clouds hiding the moonlight. Wind blew and animals rustled in the thick growth of the forest. His buckskins were wet. He needed a fire, but light of some sort was needed to dig a fire-pit and line it with rocks. His flashlight had fallen out of his pocket when he swam across the river. He'd even lost his pack as he struggled in the rapids when he first escaped. Snow was forecast for the night, too.

Questions:

Who is this person?

What survivor skills did he know?

From what, precisely, did he "escape"?

What kinds of trees proliferated in this area?

Is anyone looking for him?

Does he want to be found?

What was in the pack he lost?

If animals were making noise near him, was he in any danger?

How could he protect himself?

Is it ever truly so dark in a forest that nothing could be seen?

Why was he wearing buckskin clothing?

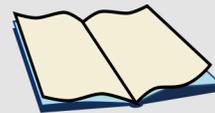
Was this taking place a long time ago or now or even in the future?

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



What Are You Reading?

This month I read [The Bridges of Madison County](#) by Robert James Waller. I confess I've never seen the movie, but after reading the book, I'd like to see it. A short romance novel based on a true story, a fast reader will finish it in a day. It had me crying at the end, so I highly recommend this book. —Editor





Indies Unlimited

by Dick Waters

When it comes to writing, do you have everything you need, or do you know everything you need to know? I still don't. There are times when I need to research an element of writing. One of the first resources I go to over the years is INDIESUNLIMITED.COM. It is a free site dedicated to independent authors like myself. I highly recommend the site, not only for answers to writing questions, but as a source of interesting information related to writing.

From a research standpoint, they have a "Knowledge Base" that provides information on different writing elements. For example, do you have "book trailers" for your books? If you are interested in creating a book trailer, why not visit this site to see how you can create one?

They also have "Tutorials" on many subjects, as well as a "Search" bar, if you need to find information on a particular subject quickly.

If you would like more people to know about you, why not try their weekly free Flash Fiction competition. Each Saturday morning, they post a picture prompt and open the competition. Can you come up with a story (max 250 words) by Tuesday evening? Voting is open to the public until Thursday evening. The winning entry is announced on Saturday morning.

One of the great benefits of the competition is that it gets your name and your story in front of a world-wide audience. Another benefit is that if your story is selected by the editors, it will be published, along with other selected stories in an annual "Indies Unlimited Flash Fiction Anthology." Some of my stories were lucky enough to be published in this manner.

Wouldn't it be a nice reward to have your story listed in the weekly competition, not to mention if it was the winning entry? In addition, if your work was selected for the Anthology publication, it would be another way of getting your name known to the world. Wouldn't being published for free be a valuable gift to a potential unknown author?

Indies Unlimited has been in existence for over eight years. During that time, it has been a resource for my writing needs, an outlet for my creativity, and a source of valued friendships. Kat Brooks, who maintains the many aspects of the site, dedicates many hours to the work. The fact that the site was recognized as one of 'Six Great Blogs for Indie Authors' by *Publishers Weekly*, might be another reason to check the site out.

From a personal perspective – if I had discovered this site earlier, it would have saved me thousands of dollars... Yes, I am embarrassed to say, I was the victim of a Publisher, who turned out to be a "Vanity Press." Don't know when you are being taken advantage of? Maybe, you should check out the Indies Unlimited site, to prevent yourself from being a victim.

I can proudly say, I have learned better. I took my rights back! Don't know how to do that? Check out the site for some facts. I am now a self-published author of six novels and two anthologies of my flash fiction and other short stories. As I mentioned, also published in Indies Unlimited Anthologies. All of my novels have book trailers, which I can credit IU for providing the information I needed to create them.

continued on the next page

Indies Unlimited, continued

I also use the Indies Unlimited Flash Fiction competition to periodically write an entry, primarily, to put a tear in my eye, or a smile on my face, and hopefully, someone else's.

While you have many sources for helpful information related to writing aspects, please check out the Indies Unlimited website as a supplemental source, as well as a site to advertise your work and to potentially improve your skills.

Dick (Rich) Waters lives in the Valley of the Sun near Phoenix, Arizona. A former resident of New England, he enjoys the beauty and sunny days of the Arizona desert. His novels include [Branded for Murder](#), [Serial Separation](#), [Scent of Gardenia](#) and others. Dick has agreed to serve as the new Arizona Authors Association Literary Magazine editor. Learn more about him at: [Arizona Authors Association](#) and at [Amazon](#)



Spider Canyon

Photo by AAA Member David Rich

Where in Arizona?

We're launching a new feature in this issue, conceived by Dick Waters. Each issue we'll add a photograph taken somewhere in Arizona along with a list of ten locations, one of which is correct. If you think you know which one, write to faerland@yahoo.com and let me know. The first one to guess the correct answer will have their name featured on this page in the next issue.

The photograph was taken by Dick Waters:



Who is Looking at Whom?

Possible Locations:

Yuma	McNary	Page	Gila Bend	Bisbee
Pinetop/Lakeside	Sedona	Prescott	Greer	Apache Junction

Write to faerland@yahoo.com no later than May 1st if you know the location of the photo. If you are the FIRST to answer correctly, we'll publish your name in the next issue.



Politically Incorrect

by Marlene Baird

WHO WRITES THOSE FRIDGE MAGNETS?

I have survived several of the ‘big’ birthdays. My wonderful mother, who passed at 101, said that age is only a number, so I pick 59. So let’s say I’m 59. (In fact, I have lied about my age so often that I really do forget what it is. Either that, or I’m senile.) Anyway, these years have allowed me to have an extended writing career. I use the term loosely.

Do any of you remember the good old days when rejection letters were actually addressed to you? And you might get a few comments that proved the editor/agent had actually read the manuscript? *Dear Ms. Nittel* (I was single then) *thank you so much for sending your mystery novel. I especially like your character development of Detective Derek Johnson, and your plot is engaging. Unfortunately, I have just taken on a story very similar to yours and will have to turn you down this time. Please keep me in mind for your next project. Sincerely, Jane Smythe.*

A person could get a decent sleep after that. But, as the years passed, these rejection letters became less and less personal, until one day I received my own cover letter back. On the upper right-hand corner, stamped in red ink, it said, *Not what we want at the moment.* There was no indication that my work had even been looked at. A monkey could have placed that red stamp.

Currently, of course, we are simply warned in advance that if our work is rejected we will not get an email. They only email accepted authors. And I love this one: *simultaneous submissions are accepted.* Not read, just accepted.

They say that writers must also be readers, so I was reading my refrigerator the other day. There are so many magnets on it that the door swings open by itself. This is handy when you have a gallon of milk in one hand and cut up cold chicken in the other. I just nudge the door with my nose.

Years ago, pictures of my children and grandchildren dominated the door of the refrigerator. Nowadays those precious mementos are crowded out by other messages. From what is posted on our fridge at this very moment, Bob and I know what a recluse spider looks like, how to find an appliance repairman or how to call the nurse hotline. If the air conditioner goes out we are covered, and I know what is in the freezer. I suppose the most valuable magnet tells us the *symptoms of stroke*. In case you don’t have this valuable information at your fingertips, the symptoms are:

Fainting
Nausea
Numbness
Slurred speech
Loss of Balance

But, before you call that nurse hot line, or 911, keep in mind that fainting only counts if you haven’t stood up too quickly. Nausea only counts if you haven’t spun around too quickly. Numbness only counts if you haven’t been sitting still too long. Slurred speech only counts before eight o’clock at night. As for loss of balance – tipping is the only thing that is fun anymore.

continued on the next page

Politically Incorrect, continued

Another magnet is from one of my sisters who knows me well. It reads, *I have a kitchen because it came with the house.* One day I figured out that, over these many years, I have made more than 30,000 meals. That was almost enough to make me stop cooking altogether. Then a bright idea struck me. I explained to Bob that in order for us to eat healthy we must do without butter or bacon or dairy or white flour or refined sugar or meat or colas or egg yolks. So, we're pretty much down to cereal with almond milk, couscous and kale. And we eat everything cold. This may sound boring, but isn't it better than having the fire department show up just because you put a dab of oil in the pan and turned your back for one second to check the score in the ballgame?

By the way, a George Foreman grill is super for heating your socks in the winter.

But back to the problem at hand. Do you think there is money in writing fridge magnets? Here's an oldy but goody: *Life is short, eat dessert first.* Why not, *Eat dessert often?* I like, *Seconds are not for losers.* Or, *You are what you eat, so don't be a cauliflower.*

I turn away from the fridge. I'm off to look up the *2020 Writer's Market* and the *Guide to Literary Agents* to see who might be interested.

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

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

Marlene's Books:

[Murder Times Two](#)

[The Filigree Cross](#)

[Minnie and the Manatees](#)

[Claire Walker](#)



*Dare to love yourself
as if you were a
rainbow with gold at
both ends.*

Aberjhani

**Sedona Photo by AAA member
Peter Bernhardt**



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ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW EACH JANUARY

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



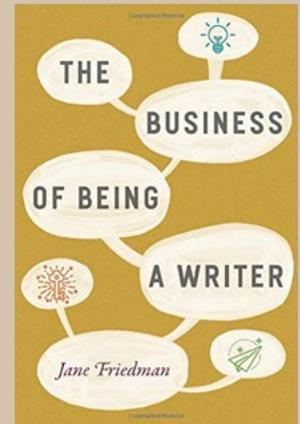
The Million Mile Walker Review What We're Reading and Why

By Mark D. Walker



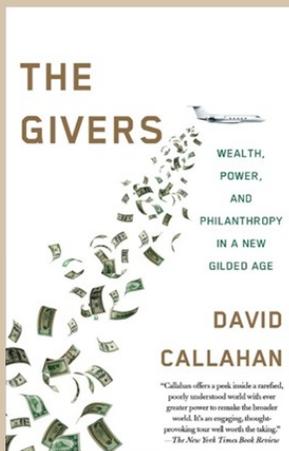
My fellow writers will appreciate the first book I review, which is filled with sage advice on realistic goals toward shaping a rewarding career and tons of useful information on writing and publishing your works. The second book is about mega-philanthropists in a new “Gilded Age” and the impact they have on all aspects of life. The last book will be of special interest to my Boomer friends, as it describes the synergism between my favorite Trappist Monk and music icon.

I learned about this book, *The Business of Being A Writer* by Jane Friedman, along with another, *Daily Rituals* by Mason Curren, (which I reviewed in the last column) from the speakers at a Phoenix Writers Network meeting. Curren’s book provides inspirational stories from writers, composers, artists and filmmakers on how the artists produce their creations. But then the question becomes, how do we get them published? I’m a professional fundraiser so marketing and promotion have become second nature, but most authors want to write and let someone else do the marketing, which would be nice, but it’s often unrealistic and expensive.



This book offers the business education writers need and often don’t receive. It is meant for early career writers looking to develop a realistic set of expectations about making money from their work, or for working writers who want a better understanding of the industry. The book provides a comprehensive picture of the publishing world - from queries and agents to blogging and advertising—and writers will learn how they can best position themselves for success in their specialty over the long term.

The “Final Word” section at the end of the chapter, “Literary Publishing in the 21st Century,” was especially insightful: “Too many literary publishing efforts launch with the expectation that quality automatically sells. It does not. Anything that requires goodwill and charity to survive is a risky enterprise...It’s the same as it’s always been (the publishing industry), but its distribution and discovery will no longer be reliant upon them. This is a win for the writers, and an identity crisis for the publishers.”



This book, *The Givers* by David Callahan, provides an inside look at the secret world of elite philanthropists whose wealth has increased over the years, and how they’re wielding increased power to influence American life in ways both positive and negative. My friend Peter Nagle, the President of Carlton & Company, where I’ve been a V.P. and Senior Counsel for many years, sent me the book because it “has a lot to tell us about major gifts, what is going on in the present day and where the big-time philanthropy might be headed in the years to come. This is one of the two best books on the subject I have come across in many years.”

Ten years ago, I met Matthew Bishop, the co-author of a book that had a similar focus, *Philanthro-capitalism: How the Rich Can Save the World*. The New York bureau chief of the *Economist*, he interviewed such philanthropic powerhouses as Bill Gates, Bill Clinton,

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

George Soros, Angelina Jolie and Bono to learn why they were bent on saving the world. A similar tone was set by the most recent issue of *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, titled, “Billion-Dollar Boom: The top 5 donors of 2019 gave over \$1 billion each, and many wealthy Americans gave to urgent problems like climate change and inequality.” Michael Bloomberg headed the class at \$3.3 billion.

The author is the founder and editor of *Inside Philanthropy*, a digital media site that covers the world of giving by wealthy donors and foundations. He’s the author of seven nonfiction books including, [The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead](#). He holds a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton University.

This book provides both a damning and persuasive critique of American philanthropy and the shift towards a more unequal balance of wealth and power. He also provides a clear warning on some of the directions society must take to change these powerful trends.

My initial interest in [The Monk’s Record Player](#) by Robert Hudson was the monk, Thomas Merton, which was the result of a visit to the Trappist monastery hermitage in Snowmass, Colorado when I was a student at Western State University in Gunnison. I was impressed by the contemplative lifestyle and asked one of my professors why someone would join such a group, “Read Thomas Merton’s [Seven Storey Mountain](#),” my professor advised.

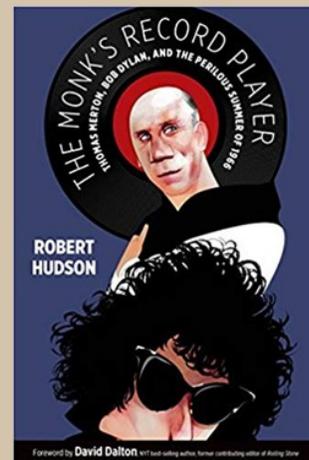
And as I describe in my book, [Different Latitudes](#), “I went on to read many of Merton’s books, some of which describe his attempts to find a balance between this contemplative lifestyle and the desire and need to express himself as an author—a balance I would often struggle with myself, although I was never really cut out for that level of isolation.”

As a Boomer, I was also interested in the period of our history where music was so creative and reflected the challenges and polemic of our time. I used lyrics from rock music to express the transition in my own life and one memorable nine-hour drive from Crested Butte, Colorado, to Oklahoma City to deliver some furniture to a professor I was working with; “a grueling nine-hour drive back was made easier listening to “Many a Mile to Freedom,” by Traffic, and a few of my other favorites by Dave Mason, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, The Who, Jethro Tull, Steely Dan and Blind Faith. I was never a big fan of Bob Dylan until he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016, “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”—not bad...

The book describes when writer-activist-monk Thomas Merton fulfilled a twenty-four-year dream and went to live as a hermit beyond the walls of his Trappist monastery. Seven months later, after a secret romance with a woman half his age, he was in danger of losing it all. Yet, on the very day that his abbot uncovered the affair, Merton found solace in an unlikely place—the songs of Bob Dylan, who, as fate would have it, was experiencing his own personal and creative crises during the summer of 1966.

David Dalton, the founding editor of *Rolling Stone Magazine*, writes an insightful foreword:

“The basic idea of *The Monk’s Record Player* is to throw two eccentric characters possessed of genius in the same life raft, along with himself. So now, you have three men in the drunken boat. It’s a sort of Mad Hatter’s tea party, except instead of riddles, nonsense, poetry, and a dormouse, Hudson’s book mulls over a wide range of ideas, theories, and philosophies and he obviously doesn’t have any qualms about putting them all into the mix...”



The Million Mile Walker, continued

You can find the reviews in their entirety on my website or at GoodReads:

[Mark Walker's Reviews: The Business of Being A Writer](#)

[Mark Walker's Reviews: The Givers: Wealth, Power and Philanthropy in a New Gilded Age](#)

[Mark Walker's Reviews: The Monk's Record Player: Thomas Merton, Bob Dylan, and the Perilous Summer of 1966](#)

Please let me know what you think—about this newsletter, my reviews and most importantly, what you're reading so I can ponder all of it and share some of your comments in my next column. You can email me at:

Mark@MillionMileWalker.com or through my websites:

[Million Mile Walker.com](#)

[Guatemala Story.net](#)

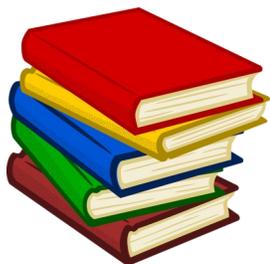
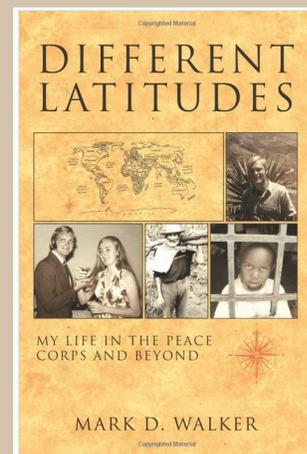
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Walker was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala and spent over forty years helping disadvantaged people in the developing world. He came to Phoenix as a Senior Director for Food for the Hungry, worked with other groups like Make a Wish International 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 . . .”

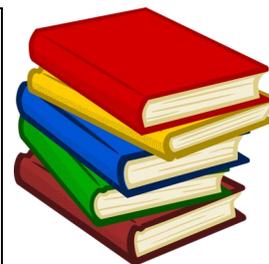
Several of his articles have been published in *Ragazine* and *WorldView Magazines* while another appeared in *Crossing Class: The Invisible Wall*, an anthology published by Wising Up Press. His reviews have been published by *Revue Magazine* as well as *Peace Corps Worldwide*, including one on Paul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

His honors include the "Service Above Self" award from Rotary International. His wife and three children were born in Guatemala. You can learn more at www.MillionMileWalker.com and follow him on his [Facebook](#) page.



Remember, National Library Week is April 19-25!

Check out your local library's plans for any special events they may hold in that week, and pay them a visit! If you can't visit in person, go online to check them out. Some are moving their events online!





The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

Doom and Gloom or Potential Boom?

I've recently met writers who were pessimistic about the outlook for self-published authors. If even the large bookstores such as Barnes and Noble are struggling, they reasoned, what chance does anyone have of making a living in media? One even told me that she believed young people weren't interested in reading anymore; all they wanted to do was watch videos. While I grant you that YouTube videos are popular, I did not share her gloom and doom.

Hearing these opinions, I decided to research the facts and found a few very pleasant surprises. In 2009, there were about 1650 independent bookstores across America. By 2019, that number had jumped to over 2500. That's a 53 percent jump! This is fueled by a social desire for a more intimate consciousness, to get away from big box stores and back toward a personal experience with retailers. You can often speak with the owner of an independent bookstore; something impossible when shopping online or with a huge retailer. And while an unknown writer will not find their books on the shelves of those megastores, they are able to establish a relationship with indie owners just by walking in, getting acquainted, and offering a copy of their book for review and possible placement.

Ebook sales have flattened and even declined, after a raucous rise to the top of the charts in 2016. While ebook popularity hit a hefty 28 percent in that year, they have now dipped to about 25 percent, meaning 25 percent of adults say they've read an ebook in 2019. Although most people predicted that ebooks would take over the world, that hasn't happened. Many people are seeking a return to something less modern, with more texture than mere words on a screen. In other words, if you are an author, don't put all your eggs in an e-basket, or rather, your words into an e-book. Paper is here to stay.

On the other hand, audio books are soaring, so if you have a clear voice, or have a friend or relative who does, consider creating your own versions of your books in audio. While only eleven percent of adults "read" an audio book in 2011, that number jumped to twenty percent in 2018. Audio books can be enjoyed while engaged in many activities where an ebook or a paperback would be impossible or dangerous, such as while driving. You don't need special effects or a fancy studio to create an audio book. All you need is a clear, crisp voice without a strong accent, and a quiet room that is isolated from street sounds. Some people even create audio books in their bathroom, as the most sound-friendly room in the house.

Other possibilities abound. While sales of novels and short stories may have declined in the last few years, poetry is up a bit from its dismal decline between 2010-2012. Perhaps it's time to start those poetic juices flowing, once again. And in 2013, fiction sales exceeded nonfiction by a significant percentage; that trend is now reversed with nonfiction soaring in tandem with fiction's decline. Nonfiction sales hit more than six billion, while fiction sales fell to less than four and a half billion.

While waiting for the ups and downs to once again flow and ebb, why not consider nonfiction? What do you know that you can share with others? You may have an intimate knowledge of an out-of-the-way tourist spot in Arizona. You

continued on the next page

Inevitable Author, continued.

may have your mother's recipes gathering dust in a cupboard. Take them out and share them in an ebook, print or audio book. It doesn't have to be a big book ... small books, the kind that can be read in one sitting, are "in." Better to write a popular 80-page nonfiction work than to sit there with your great American novel, 600 pages, unread.

Lastly, I am happy to report that the stigma associated with self-publishing has finally gone the way of the dinosaur. In the past, authors felt they might doom themselves from ever being taken seriously. That is no longer the case. With incredible success stories such as *Fifty Shades of Grey*, major publishers are actively seeking new titles from the ranks of successful self-published books. Vintage, a major publisher, sniffed around once the first novel in the Fifty Shades trilogy was self published. Since that time, the trilogy has been translated into 52 languages and set a record in the United Kingdom as the all-time fastest selling book in paperback. Self publishing, if you enjoy even a moderate success, may earn notice from the major hitters and put you in the big leagues.

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



Floating Down the River

Photo by AAA Member David Rich

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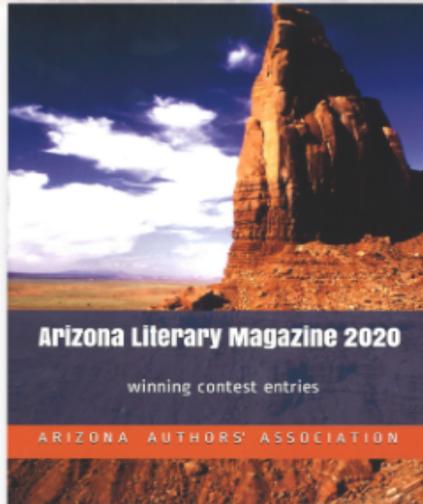
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Arizona Authors Association
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www.arizonaauthors.com

Contest Rules & Submission Guidelines

- Winners in unpublished categories automatically consign first serial rights to Arizona Authors Association (right to print an excerpt in Arizona Literary Magazine first). If an entry is published after the deadline, the author must withdraw that entry.
- Winning entries will be published or featured in the 2021 Arizona Literary Magazine.
- Entries accepted January 1, 2020, until postmarked no later than July 1, 2020.
- Unpublished categories: Three copies of each entry must be provided. No author name anywhere other than on entry form.
- Except for poems, all unpublished works must be double-spaced, with 12 pt font, 1-inch margins, and all pages must be numbered and titled in header.
- Unpublished novels and novellas must be completed and available upon the judge's request.
- Manuscripts will not be returned except with critiques.
- Published categories: Two copies of each book by author only. No publisher entries except for compilations.
- Published E-books must be submitted in print & bound form like a gallery or ARC.
- All published books including E-books must include ISBN, copyright dates, and publisher information.
- For multiple entries, fill out a separate entry form for each entry. You may copy the form from our website or photocopy from an original.
- Published books will be donated. Unpublished works will be shredded or destroyed.
- All finalists will be notified in advance of awards.
- The judges reserve the right to switch a category for an entry, to cancel a category if the number of entries is not sufficient, or to decide not to have a winner if the level of the best entries is not up to publishing industry standards
- Any entry not following guidelines will be disqualified without notifying author. No refunds on disqualified entries.

Title of Submission: _____
(Each entry must be accompanied by a copy of this entry form and completely filled out)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____ Zipcode: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check category, enter price of entry and TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

Unpublished Entries:

_____ Poem \$15 = \$ _____
(50 line maximum)

_____ Short Story \$20 = \$ _____
Essay/Article/True Story (15-page maximum)

_____ Novels/Novellas \$30 = \$ _____
(Send a 5-page synopsis and the first 25 pages of manuscript)

Published Entries:

(Only 2019 OR 2020 publication dates eligible. Judged on literary merit first, production quality second.)

_____ Fiction: Novels, Novellas, Short Story Collections \$30 = \$ _____
_____ Nonfiction \$30 = \$ _____
_____ Children's Picture Book \$30 = \$ _____
_____ Juvenile/Young Adult \$30 = \$ _____

Critiques: (For unpublished entries only)

_____ Poetry \$15 = \$ _____
_____ Short Stories \$20 = \$ _____
_____ Essay/Article/True Story \$20 = \$ _____
_____ Novels/Novellas \$30 = \$ _____

Total Amount Paid: = \$ _____
(For All Entries and Critiques)

Checks payable and entries mailed to:

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

You may write one check to cover price for all entries and critiques
Delivery Confirmation OK
No Signature Confirmation please

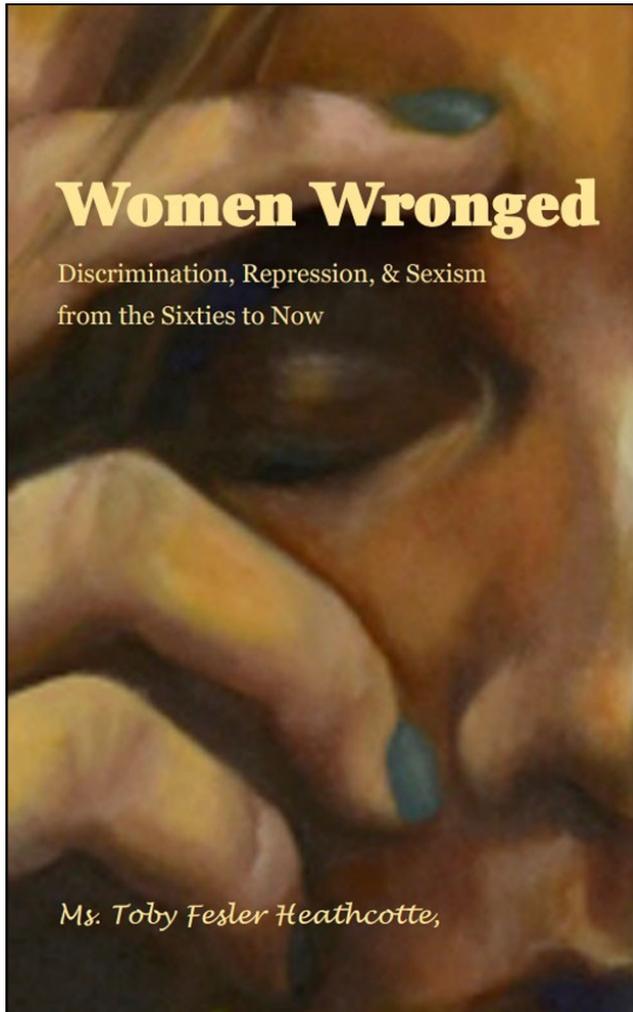
Entry Form Available on our Website:
www.arizonaauthors.com

**Deadline: July 1, 2020
Awards: November 7, 2020**

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Ms. Toby Fesler Heathcotte, Editor

Kindle Edition proceeds donated to NOW, National Organization for Women



Women Wronged Discrimination, Repression and Sexism from the Sixties to Now

In this anthology, wise women tell poignant stories of their efforts to overcome discrimination, prejudice, repression, sexism, and marginalization in their lives. These authors give hope, discernment, and support to young women embarking on their own journeys today. Buy it on [Amazon](#).

Contributing Essayists:

Eyvonne Carter-Riley, Kathleen Cook, Marcia Farrell, Valerie Foster, Monique Gerbaud, Rita Heathcotte, Toby Fesler Heathcotte, Marilyn June Janson, Jan Nichols, Constance Osterlitz, Tamara Poff, Jane Ruby, Vijaya Schartz, Writer Anonymous

Since childhood, Toby Fesler Heathcotte has found many affinities with her ancestors. Unexpected and unwelcome psychic experiences led her to study reincarnation and psychic phenomena. As a high school teacher, Toby wrote academic books, including [Program Building](#), before relating her psychic experiences in [Out of the Psychic Closet](#). Those experiences inspired a fictionalized series called the [Alma Chronicles](#), a family saga of reincarnation and conflicts spanning centuries. Expressing her love for the stage, Toby has written plays and screenplays, alone or in partnership with other authors.

The passing of some family members resulted in an interest in genealogical research, which sparked the publication of [Backlight](#). Her most recent publication is [Women Wronged](#). She serves as Vice President of Arizona Authors Association. Mother of two and grandmother of three, Toby lives in Glendale, Arizona. [Tobyheathcotte.com](#) and [Mardelbooks.com](#)





Chihuly

Photo by AAA member David Rich



Submissions to the newsletter are due no later than the 15th of the month in May, July, September, November, January, and March. Entries received after that date will be considered for a later issue.

Thank you!

Literary Trivia From Page Three

Answers

1. **James Herriot**, who is famous for his series, *All Creatures Great and Small*.
2. **Sleep** ... the famous poem ends:
The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
and miles to go before I sleep
and miles to go before I sleep.
3. **France**
4. **Yorick**, a jester whose skull was exhumed in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.
5. *The Old Man and the Sea*, by Ernest Hemingway.
6. **John Steinbeck**, for *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Back Page Quotes

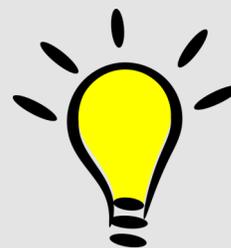


I hate writing. I love having written.

— Dorothy Parker

It's okay to write garbage—as long as you edit brilliantly.

— C. J. Cherryh



“There is no idea so brilliant or original that a sufficiently untalented writer can't screw it up.”

— Raymond Feist

“There is no idea so stupid or hackneyed that a sufficiently talented writer can't get a good story out of it.”



— Lawrence Watt-Evans

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