

ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

Issue 6

Arizona Authors Association

February-March 2020

Index

	Page
Vice President's Corner	01-02
Nickel and Diming by June Reynolds	02
Arizona Authors Association Leadership	03
Literary Trivia	03
Membership Benefits	04
Submissions	04
Recent and Upcoming Events	05
Congratulations to Our Members	06-07
The Million Mile Walker Review: What We're Reading and Why by Mark D. Walker	08-10
January Meeting Minutes by Jane Ruby	11-13
The Road To Imagination by Cherie Lee	14
What Are You Reading?	14
Is It Time to Launch YOUR Author Podcast? by Laura Orsini	15-17
Politically Incorrect by Marlene Baird	18
AAA Membership form	19
If It's Too Good by Barbara Renner	20-21
Desert Nights Rising Stars Conference	22
The Inevitable Author by Kathleen Cook	23-24
Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest	25
New Book Releases	26-28
More Banquet Photos	29-32
Back Page Quotes	33



Vice President's Corner by Toby Heathcote

Hello dear fellow members,

Our annual membership meeting transpired on January 4 at the North Mountain Visitor Center in Phoenix. There were eleven members and four board members in attendance, Russ via cell phone because he was snowed in during a New Mexican storm. We discussed the past year's accomplishments in turning the Association in a better direction. We brainstormed new directions for the coming year.

We discuss hosting programs for the public. Some suggested we hold a day-long conference. Others suggested writer's circles or other informal groups to help members get together and improve their writing skills. We're hoping to host some activities this year. If you would like to assist with these programs, please let me know. I'd love to have someone work with me. Or if you have an idea for a program you'd like to attend, please send me an email.

Memberships renew each January, as most of you know already. You got an email note if you owed money and how much and where to pay. Those members who contribute their time have their dues comped. Others have paid years in advance so don't have to write a check each year, and we didn't contact them. We currently have 162 members in the database. We hope everyone wants to renew, but we understand if people decline.

Connie Osterlitz is helping organize the information for membership this year and might contact you by email or phone. If you have a friend you'd like to encourage to become a member, or if you are attending a book

continued on the next page

Vice President's Corner, continued

festival or signing, feel free to print copies of our membership form. It appears on page [19](#) in this newsletter.

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

[Arizona Literary Magazine 2020](#)

I'm pleased to announce the new editor for next year's literary magazine will be Dick Waters. I look forward to working with him.

Our literary contest started again as of January 1, thanks to Jane Ruby. The entry blank appears on page [25](#) in the newsletter. Print the page for your own convenience. You'll help yourself and AAA by entering as many times as you can.

We need someone to help work on the website. Any volunteers out there?

I'm looking forward to 2020. We're off to a great start.

Toby Heathcotte 
tobyheathcotte.com Author
Arizonaauthors.com Vice President
[Facebook](#)
 Email: toby@tobyheathcotte.com



Superstition Mountains
by AAA Member June Reynolds

Nickel and Diming by June Reynolds

Being a writer is all about "nickel and diming." I have a vast experience in selling in farmer's markets, so this un-lucrative way of making money is not new to me. I am constantly lurching from sending out thousand dollar checks to scraping up five and ten dollar bills to put in the bank for the next go-around. How do I keep my sanity? I write for medium.com.

This website features big, well known writers and a lot of little known authors like me. Eventually they will send me a check, but it still beats going to art festivals for four hours and selling one book. You might want to google medium.com yourself or if your time is limited, go to <https://medium.com@junereynolds> and you will see a list of my articles. As I post them, I can also notify my friends on Facebook that I have a new article coming out. They can clap and I get money on my account. I am interested in writing about people who are cultural leaders in all walks of life who do not get much press.

In addition to taking a stab at writing, there is another interesting bonus: lots of interesting reading. All writers should be reading. It does not matter what. I range in reading from local entertainment newspapers, to biographies, to novels. I also read the articles off of medium.com

There are fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and regular feature articles. So get out there and write and read, maybe in a bar or café!



June Reynolds spent 35 years as a K-12 teacher and librarian in Oregon public schools. She is the author of many books including: [Ghost Dogs and Animals of the West](#), [Desert Trails](#), [Land Over Time](#), and [Something in the Sky](#).

Find June on these sites:

[Facebook](#)

[Amazon](#)

The Arizona Authors Association board members and editor wish you a very happy Valentine’s Day on February 14. As Steven Sills would say: “If you can’t be with the ones you love, love the ones you’re with!”



Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Russell Azbill
 Vice President.....Toby Heathcote
 Treasurer.....Debbie Weiland
 Board Member.....Nicolas Lagrand
 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 Norse Mythology

1. The first living being was named Ymir. He formed when two planets, an ice and a fire world, collided. He emerged from the melted ice.
2. The Norse Adam and Eve were created when Odin and others walked along a beach and found two sticks. They brought them to life and gave them the earth to populate. The man was fashioned from ash wood, the woman from elm.
3. Four of the days of our week were named for Norse gods. Thursday, of course, was named for Thor, and Friday for Frigg or Friga, Odin’s wife. Tuesday was named for Tyr, god of war. Most important of all was Wednesday, named after Wodin, or better known in America as Odin.
4. The ancient Norse religion is making a comeback in Iceland and is one of the fastest growing religions there. A temple to Odin (and other gods), called Asatru, has recently been built.

For more on Norse Trivia, go to:
[Five Fascinating Facts](#)



Confluence of Little Colorado and Colorado Rivers,
Grand Canyon, Arizona
by AAA Member David Rich

Arizona Authors Association membership fees for 2020 are due now. See page [19](#) of this newsletter for a membership form you can mail in. Thank you!



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

The Arizona Authors Association's annual business meeting was held January 4th, 2020, at the North Mountain Visitor Center in Phoenix. Officers present included Toby Heathcotte, Debbie Weiland and Jane Ruby. Russ Azbill joined them via cell phone from New Mexico. Several past officers were also in attendance. For more information on the meeting, see page [eleven](#) of this newsletter.

UPCOMING



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

Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend 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.

Monday February 3 – Monday February 10 6-8PM
Location RMR Cost: \$15* plus RMR fee
Short Stories and Novels: Beginnings

Have an idea for a story and don't know where to start? Award Winning Writer and Author Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. guides you through premise, plot, and character development. Genre Fiction, Essays, Young Adult and Children's, Memoirs, and Family History. Enroll [HERE](#)

Saturday February 8 10AM-Noon
Location: SRL Cost: \$25.
Scene Development

Learn to add setting, dialogue, and action to your short

stories, novels, and memoirs. Fiction, Nonfiction, Memoirs, YA, and Children's. Enroll [HERE](#)

Saturday February 22 10AM-Noon
Location: SRL Cost: \$25
Chapter Writing

Beginnings, Middles, and Endings. Add cliffhangers, suspense, and tension to your work. Fiction, Nonfiction, Memoirs, YA, and Children's. Enroll [HERE](#)

Monday March 2 – Monday March 9 6-8PM
Location: RMR Cost: \$15* plus RMR fee
Scenes, Chapters, and Essay Writing

Award Winning Writer Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. provides step-by-step instruction to include scene building, foreshadowing, tone, and mood. Mainstream fiction, Essays, Young Adult, Children's, Memoirs, and Family History. Enroll [HERE](#)

Saturday March 7 10AM-Noon
Location: SRL Cost \$25.
Short Stories & Graphic Novels: Your Vision

Match illustrations with your text, scenes, and dialogue. No artistic ability necessary. Enroll [HERE](#)

Monday March 23 – Monday March 30 6-8PM
Location RMR Cost: \$15* plus RMR fee
Writing Dialogue, Tone and Mood

Practice writing dialogue, and adding tone and mood to your script. Mainstream Fiction, Young Adult, Essays, Children's, Memoirs, and Family History. Enroll [HERE](#)

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

Congratulations to Our Members

GLENDALE, AZ, November 26, 2019

Author Vijaya Schartz Receives 2019 Best of Glendale Award

Author Vijaya Schartz has been selected for the 2019 Best of Glendale Award in the Media & Entertainment category by the Glendale Award Program.

Each year, this program identifies companies and individuals that we believe have achieved exceptional success in their local community and business category. These exceptional companies and people help make the Glendale area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2019 Glendale Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Glendale Award Program and data provided by third parties.

Only one winner is selected in each category, so it is quite an honor for our own Arizona Authors Association member. Congratulations, Vijaya!

Find out more about her works here:

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>



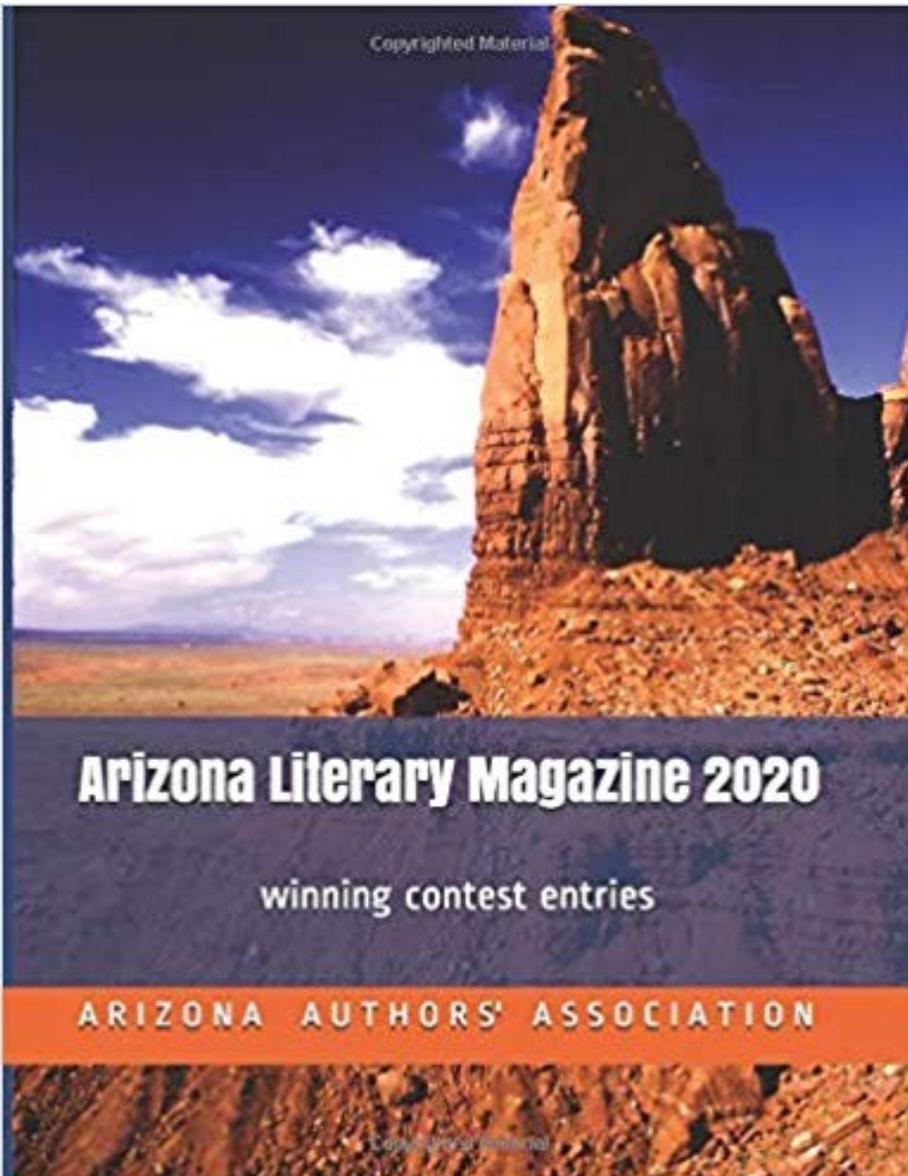
[Grand Canyon](#) photo (cropped) by Dietmar Rabich

Arizona Authors Association member, Mark D. Walker, has once again appeared in [REVUE](#) Magazine with an article that was first featured in the Arizona Authors Literary Magazine, 2020 edition. The award-winning article, **Hugs Not Walls: Bringing the Children Home**, won second place in last year's Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. Congratulations again, Mark.

Find out more about Mr. Walker here:

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

<http://www.millionmilewalker.com>



*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!



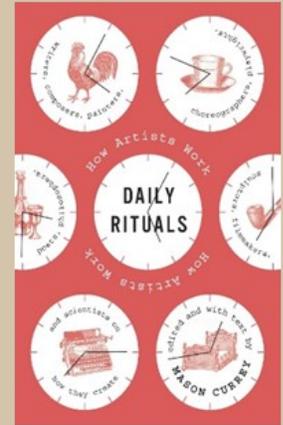
The Million Mile Walker Review What We're Reading and Why

By Mark D. Walker



My fellow writers will appreciate the first book I review, which is filled with inspirational stories about how authors prepare themselves each day to create their next masterpiece . . . or not. My second book is a 20th century classic from Mexico by an author whose magical realistic style influenced such great Latin American authors as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Pablo Neruda and Miguel Angel Asturias. The last book received a Pulitzer Prize for Literature and was written by the “dean” of Native American writing.

I learned about *Daily Rituals* from a speaker at the Phoenix Writers Network and began reading some of the 161 short profiles from famous authors and artists each evening, which I found inspirational as well as an opportunity to rethink my approach to writing and how to be both creative and effective. I've often wondered how other authors and artists do meaningful creative work and earn a living, which many of these profiles deal with.



According to the publishers, this book brings together “Writers, composers, painters, choreographers, playwrights, poets, philosophers, sculptors, filmmakers and scientists on how they create (and avoid creating) their creations. “

The author reveals why and how he wrote this book in the following statement:

In that sense, this is a superficial book. It's about the circumstances of creative activity, not the product; it deals with manufacturing rather than meaning. But it's also, inevitably, personal. (John Cheever thought that you couldn't even type a business letter without revealing something of your inner self— isn't that the truth?) My underlying concerns in the book are issues that I struggle with in my own life: How do you do meaningful creative work while also earning a living? Is it better to devote yourself wholly to a project or to set aside a small portion of each day? And when there doesn't seem to be enough time for all you hope to accomplish, must you give things up (sleep, income, a clean house), or can you learn to condense activities, to do more in less time, to “work smarter, not harder,” as my dad is always telling me? More broadly, are comfort and creativity incompatible, or is the opposite true: Is finding a basic level of daily comfort a prerequisite for sustained creative work?

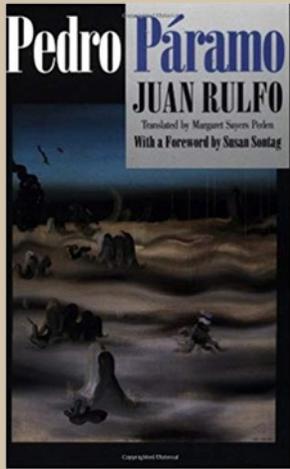
The book includes 27 graphics and photos, such as Ben Franklin's ideal daily routine, from his autobiography, which starts each morning with the following question, “What good shall I do this day?” The opening quote of the book from Thomas Mann, “Death in Venice,” anticipates what much of the book's content will try to answer: “Who can unravel the essence, the stamp of the artistic temperament! Who can grasp the deep, instinctual fusion of discipline and dissipation on which it rests!” An extensive set of notes and permissions can be found at the end.

I gravitated first to my favorite authors like Graham Greene, who decided to write a book of questionable quality because it would be a good seller and allow him to pay the bills while finishing his classic, “The Power and the Glory.” According to the profile on Greene, “. . . To manage the pressure of writing two books at once, he took Benzedrine tablets twice daily, one upon waking and the other at midday. As a result, he was able to write two thousand words in the morning alone, as opposed to his usual five hundred. . . .”

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker Review

An excellent and inspiring read for all writers and artists looking to improve their habits and creativity as well as appreciating our special vocation by looking in at the “rituals” of others.



I first learned of what is considered “one of the masterpieces of twentieth-century world literature” while reading Paul Theroux’s, “On the Plain of Snakes.” In his critique of Mexican literature, he mentions “Pedro Páramo” because, unlike many of Mexico’s best-known authors, Rulfo wrote about rural Mexico. He mentions that the book was published in 1955 and was one of the procurers of “magical realism,” which influenced many of Latin America’s best authors.

When I told my Guatemalan wife about the book, she told me she “hated it.” Evidently, the Belgian nuns who ran her school in Guatemala made this obligatory reading in 6th grade! Oh well, obviously I got a late start finding this great piece of literature, but was not disappointed one bit.

Susan Sontag, an American writer, philosopher, teacher, filmmaker and political activist described as “one of the most influential critics of her generation,” wrote the foreword to the book. According to Sontag, Garcia Marques said that, “*Pedro Páramo* is a legendary book by a writer who became a legend.”

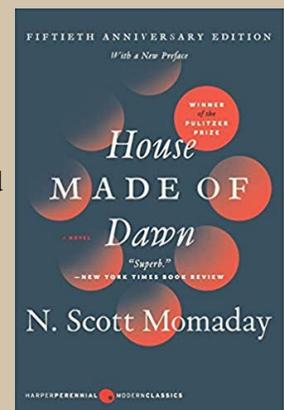
The story is about a dying mother beseeching her son to locate his father, Pedro Páramo, whom they fled from years ago. With that, Juan Preciado sets out for Comala, a town alive with whispers and shadows - seemingly populated only by memories and hallucinations. Built on the tyranny of the Páramo family, its barren and broken-down streets echo the voices of tormented spirits sharing the secrets of the past.

Initially, the novel received a cold critical reception and only sold two thousand copies during its first four years, until it was highly acclaimed as a key influence on Latin American writers like Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Marquez claimed that after he discovered *Pedro Páramo* (with Kafka’s “Metamorphosis” the most influencing reading of his early writing years), he could recite from memory long passages, until eventually he knew the whole book by heart, so much did he admire it and want to be saturated by it.

Everyone asked Rulfo why he did not publish another book, and Sontag observed, “...as if the point of a writer’s life is to go on writing and publishing. In fact, the point of a writer’s life is to produce a great book—that is a book which will last”---and this is what Rulfo did.

I learned about the author of *House Made of Dawn* on an “American Masters” documentary, “Words from a Bear” that portrayed him as a voice of Native American Renaissance in art and literature, which led to a breakthrough of Native American literature into the mainstream. Like many Americans, my awareness of the Native American was raised by historian Dee Brown’s 1970 best-selling book, “Bury my Heart at Wounded Knee,” which told about the massacre of several hundred Lakota Indians (mostly women and children) by soldiers of the U.S. Army. Scott Momaday was brought up around places I’d lived and worked in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, and this book received a Pulitzer Prize for Literature.

The main character, Abel, has come home to New Mexico from war only to find himself caught between two worlds. The one world is modern and industrial, claiming his soul and leading him into a destructive, compulsive cycle of depravity and despair. The author expresses a wariness of the white man’s world and language:



continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker Review

On every side of him, there are words by the millions, an unending succession of pamphlets and papers, letters and books, bills and bulletins, commentaries and conversations. He has diluted and multiplied the Word, and words have begun to close in upon him. He is sated and insensitive; his regard for language—for the World itself—as an instrument of creation has diminished nearly to the point of no return. It may be that he will perish by the Word.

In contrast, his grandfather would orient him to the rhythm of the seasons, the harsh beauty of the Southwest, and the ancient rites and traditions of his people.

These things he told his grandsons carefully, slowly and at length, because they were old and true, and they could be lost forever as easily as one generation is lost to the next, as easily as an old man might lose his voice....And he knew they knew, (his grandsons) and he took them with him to the fields and they cut open the earth and touched the corn and ate sweet melons in the sun.

Considered by some as the “dean” of Native American writers, Momaday was proficient in fiction, poetry, painting and printmaking. He used his familiarity with both Native American life and legend as well as the modern world, building a bridge between the two.

The New York Times Book Review found this book, “as subtly wrought as a piece of Navajo silverware.” And I’d agree with the critique of this book from *The Paris Review*, “both a masterpiece about the universal human condition and a masterpiece of Native American literature.”

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

[Daily Rituals](#)

[Pedro Páramo](#)

[House Made of Dawn](#)

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

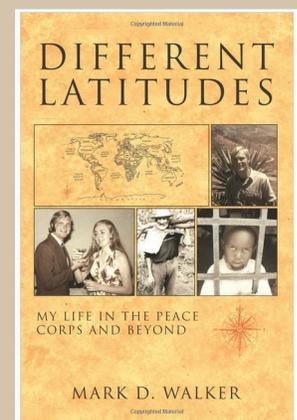
Mark@MillionMileWalker.com or through my website: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker/>

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.





January Meeting Secretary's Minutes

by Jane Ruby



ARIZONA AUTHORS'
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

HELD: JANUARY 4, 2020 AT 9:23 AM

LOCATION: North Mountain Visitor Center

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Debbie Weiland, Treasurer
Toby Heathcotte, Vice President
Jane Ruby, Secretary

Present via cellphone: Russ Azbill, President

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vijaya Schartz	Cherie Lee	Dave Rich
John Sandifer	Marty Feess	Mark Walker
Kebba Button	Vince Bailey	John Hansen
Barb Renner	Roger Scott	

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Heathcotte called the meeting to order at 9:23 AM. Treasurer Debbie Weiland informed attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Russ Azbill welcomed the attendees by cell phone. He was unable to attend because he was snowed in.

continued on the next page

Secretary's Minutes, continued**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

VP Heathcotte discussed the newsletter, compiled and edited by Katy Cook. VP Heathcotte commended Cook on an excellent job informing the membership of Association events, and Heathcotte encouraged members to submit articles or information on book releases. She announced a new editor of the Literary Magazine, Dick Waters, who is a longtime Association member. VP Heathcotte also announced that Connie Osterlitz will be helping with membership duties such as informing members about dues and renewals. To date the Association has 162 members but not all are paid up. She and Connie will solicit membership for payment. VP Heathcotte reported low attendance at the 2019 workshops held last summer and therefore does not want to schedule any for 2020. She would, however entertain any new ideas for future workshops. Many members offered new or other conventional workshops including daylong events.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Weiland reported that although the literary contest showed a profit (\$305), the literary awards gala showed a loss (-\$14). As of this meeting, the Association is operating in the black with a bank balance of more than \$1900.

STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Treasurer Weiland reported on the investigation of past board members' misappropriation of funds, but she could not discuss any details because it's an ongoing litigation. She reminded the attendees of the previous year's forensic analysis of bank records last year leading up to grounds for possible litigation. No criminal charges were filed; it would be a civil suit. She was able to secure a pro-bono attorney who began proceedings but the process is slow. Russ interjected, stating that no lawyer would handle the case even if paid by percentage of revenue recovered. Mark Walker and Dave Rich will email potential lawyers to Russ.

LITERARY CONTEST REPORT

Secretary Jane Ruby reported on the annual literary contest, magazine and awards banquet. The literary contest netted \$2260 but after purse and expenses netted \$690. She published the literary magazine using KDP Select (Amazon) and ordered 200 copies for members to buy and share at book festivals and other venues. She thanked Heathcotte for proofreading and guidance. She also thanked Weiland for an eye-catching cover design. This purchase left the Association in the red, but Ruby is hopeful that future sales will ease the debt. She thanked attendees who judged and urged others to consider judging as this is the Association's main fund raiser. Secretary Ruby also announced the opening of this year's Literary Contest and made available the entry form. Some members found confusing information on the form, and offered suggestions on how to clarify. Secretary Ruby will revise the form. Ruby also reported on the Awards Banquet, which featured an "AZ BBQ." The theme, "Super Sleuths," consisted of costumed characters and suspects. Thanks to Jasmine, Treasurer Weiland's daughter, who played the dead victim. Thanks to board officers who volunteered to be "suspects" in the murder mystery. Board officer Nic LaGrand was voted "killer" in the crime.

QUESTIONS/SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP

David Rich asked if members could pay for literary contest entries other than with personal checks. Secretary Ruby and Treasurer Weiland said that money orders/cashier checks can be used. Weiland explained the association's difficulty in getting a new Paypal. The previous secretary had the account tied to her name, so the association cannot open a new account because "that account still exists." Weiland has been trying to amend the name on the account. VP Heathcotte offered to create a new account tied to her name for temporary

continued on the next page

Secretary's Minutes, continued

use, but Weiland stated that would also raise problems with bookkeeping. For now cash, check, money order or cashier's check is acceptable and the association needs to get a receipt pack for members who pay with cash. Mark Walker stated that we could get a Zell or similar account in the AAA name for payments. Pres. Azbill would like to discuss this possibility at the next board meeting.

Mark Walker asked about the membership numbers, including paid memberships. VP Heathcotte said that we currently have 162 members. She and Ms. Osterlitz will be sending out payment notices for this year. Heathcotte will also be accepting payment at this meeting, or they can be mailed to her. Yearly dues with stay at \$45. The Association has offered multi-year memberships at a discount rate and will continue to do so. Cost for 2 years will be \$85, and for 3 years, \$120.

A few members asked about getting more students involved—maybe creating a student category for the literary contest. Debbie Weiland reported that currently Mountain View Elementary School is the only area school that invites AAA members to participate in two literary events, "Young Authors Day" and "Read Across America." Some members further suggested that the Association get involved with more schools and advertise the literary contest, possibly offering nonmonetary prizes like gift cards or a monetary prize to the winning entrant's school. The board will further discuss these suggestions at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Rich wanted to know if we could offer a workshop on audibles, adding that it has become a popular form of literature. The topic broadened about other possible workshops, including an all-day workshop.

Vijaya Schartz reported that other writing groups have genre-specific workshops including a keynote speaker from LA or NY, and have meals included. Romance writers do this and it is expensive to run, but would attract many interested authors from near and far.

John Sandifer suggested that we could have a workshop with writer circles, where everyone brings a short work to be read/critiqued by other attendees. Vijaya addressed John's suggestion, saying that critique groups do that on a regular basis. Toby chimed in, saying that she's part of a critique group of Association members that has been meeting for years, having members of different genre. Vijaya says that having critique members of different genre is an advantage—even with nonfiction writers because the rules for fiction apply to nonfiction as well. She said we should press for more critique groups.

John Hansen stated that he needed a good editor and asked if we could advertise for editors. It was unclear if anyone addressed John's question, but he certainly can request one in the next newsletter.

Kebba Button mentioned that she received a Happy Holidays email from Lisa Aquilina. She asked about her status in the Association. Treasurer Weiland said we couldn't discuss any details due to ongoing litigation. It dead-ended on the civil side. She (or Russ) asked the bar association and others for pro-bono legal help, but no one would offer help.

Kebba asked if we could have a children's category in the contest. Treasurer Weiland said that cash prizes for minors can be problematic. It would be better to award gift cards.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

VP Heathcotte motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vijaya Schartz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Toby adjourned the meeting at 11:20 AM.



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.

Workshop

Fan blades swirled above the machines but gave no real relief from the hot temperature. The bins of coal needed to be replenished often to keep the furnace stoked, to melt glass for blowing shapes at the end of a long hollow tube.

I shoveled more coal into the furnace for Mr. Mike, the master artisan of fancy vases. This was his first attempt at a new method and he was determined to get it right. Mrs. Knowles agreed to pay enough money for the first vase ever made this way, which would keep his company in business. The vase would have tiny pebbles on the outer portion of the vase, something that had never been achieved before.

Mr. Mike plunged the glass into the flame to make it turn into a viscous liquid. Soon he began blowing the vase shape. I held my breath and watched.

Questions:

How is hand-blown glass really made?

Can this information be found on the internet?

How many companies are doing this?

Are they making huge items or small glass figurines?

Where could a person take a tour to see this being done?

Is it true that glass becomes liquid or semi-liquid to be shaped into some form?

How is the glass hardened?

Does it air dry or go into a furnace for baking?

Would this master artist be able to achieve success so the company can stay in business?

Who is telling this story?

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



What Are You Reading?

This month I'm reading [Seabiscuit](#), by Laura Hillenbrand. It's not normally something I would read, but I just happened to pick it up and couldn't put it down. The foibles of horse racing, the tribulations of the jockeys, all of it makes for riveting reading. I very highly recommend this book. —Editor





Is it Time to Launch YOUR Author Podcast?

By Laura Orsini



As of September 2019, it was reported that as many as 90 percent of top *USA Today* bestselling authors have a podcast presence. Podcasts – digital recordings of music, news, or other media that can be streamed from the internet or downloaded to a device – offer authors access to readers and potential readers in a way no other medium does.

If you've been on the fence when thinking about starting a podcast, here are a few statistics to ponder, current as of mid-2019:

- 70% of the US population is familiar with the term “podcasting”
- 50% of all US homes are podcast fans, with 62 million people listening to podcasts weekly
- 56% of podcast listeners are male
- 45% of monthly podcast listeners have a household income beyond \$75K – vs 35% for the total U.S. population
- 27% of US podcast listeners have a 4-year college degree – vs 19% overall
- Podcast listeners subscribe to an average of 6 shows
- Comedy is the most popular podcasting genre, followed by education and news
- Podcast listeners are much more active on every social media channel
- Podcast listeners are more likely to follow companies and brands on social media
- 69% of podcast listeners agree that podcast ads make them aware of new products or services

What does this mean for you, as an author? First, the audience for podcasts has grown in recent years, and will only increase from here. Secondly, because podcast listeners are generally more affluent and somewhat better educated than the general population, chances are good that they are readers. And if you're looking to build your social platform with active and responsive followers, podcasting is a handy way to do that. Not to mention that podcast listeners agree that they learn about new products – ahem, your book? – from the shows they listen to.

Podcasting isn't for everyone, though. Don't let anyone tell you it's easy, doesn't take any time, or is free. Those people are liars. It's not inordinately difficult, but you do need a bit of tech savvy – or willingness to develop it – if you want to succeed. Or, you must have the means to pay someone with the requisite knowledge. Podcasting also takes time. Well spent time, in my opinion – but time, nonetheless. And if you're serious about it, you'll need some equipment (mic and headphones) and will incur a hosting fee.

That said, there are great reasons for an author to launch a podcast. Here are my Top 8:

Easily Connect with Your Readers.

If you are looking for a way to connect with your existing readers on a more personal level, podcasting is definitely worth considering. Remember how blogging used to be described as writing as if you were sitting down having a cup of coffee with someone? Well, podcasting takes that concept a degree closer to an actual conversation by allowing you to literally speak directly to your audience. About anything. For as long or as short a time as you want to. As frequently or infrequently as you want to – although once per week is about the least frequently you can get away with and still retain your audience.

continued on the next page

Podcast, continued**Build an Audience Who Wants to Hear from You.**

It's a special thing to connect with fans who already love you, but the way to build your platform and readership is by reaching prospective *new* readers. A regular podcast that showcases your work, your personality, and your creativity as an author is a fantastic way to do that. The fact that people can download a podcast and listen to it on almost any device makes it eminently shareable, too.

Establish Yourself as an Authority in Your Genre or Subject Matter.

A long time ago in a book that turned marketing on its ear, Seth Godin said something to the effect that it doesn't take going very much beyond average to stand head and shoulders above the rest of the field. A well-produced podcast with thoughtful content is an excellent way to set yourself apart from most other authors in your genre, simply because not very many people are doing it yet – authors included. And if you're the first – or even one of the first 10 – to host a podcast on your subject matter, you *will be* regarded as an expert.

Invite High-Profile Guests and Become a High-Profile Guest.

A great way to leverage your podcast is by both hosting guests with as high a profile as you can secure – and becoming a guest on as many shows as you can. When you have a show, it's a lot easier to get booked on other shows.

Improve Traffic to Your Website.

As a podcaster, you will have the opportunity to issue a call to action throughout and at the end of every show – one of the things you can do is encourage your listeners to visit your website. This will generate the best results if you give them a good reason to do so.

Increase Trust in Your Author Brand.

The better people know you, the easier it will be for them to like you, trust you, buy your books, and recommend you. Because of the very personal nature of podcasting, it will be much easier for your readers and prospective readers to get to know you – and therefore to trust you.

Repurpose Your Content as Many Ways as Possible.

Whether your book becomes your podcast content or the other way around, you can also get mileage out of the same content as social media posts, blog posts, email campaigns, and online courses. Or you can repurpose your blog into a podcast. In a post for ThePodcastHost.com, Lindsay Harris Friel puts it beautifully:

We know that blogging is low-commitment, accessible, searchable, and shareable. Blogging could seem like your one easy answer to any content sharing strategy questions. Stick with me. Blogging might be how you get someone's phone number, but podcasting is how you get them to go on a date, hold hands and share popcorn.

Come on in – the water's great.

Consider these numbers: there are 31.7 MILLION blogs, but only 800,000 podcasts. This means the podcast market isn't oversaturated yet. There's still plenty of room for you to break in as a podcaster, provided you've done your homework, set yourself up properly, and are ready to commit to consistently publishing your podcast.

Podcast, continued

There's no question that podcasting can help you build your platform by touching your readers personally and consistently. Becoming a respected podcaster – and a must-have guest on other podcasts – will give you credibility and establish you as an authority. Doing it successfully will require research, commitment, and passion. Is it time for YOU to launch *your* author podcast?

If you think it's time to start a podcast of your own, but you're a little unsure about where to begin, consider participating in the Author Podcast Challenge, launching on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. This 9-week course will help you prepare every phase of your podcast before you launch. And if you do actually launch your author podcast by the end of the 9th week, you will receive a 50 percent refund on the cost of the course. Email admin@authorpodcastchallenge.com for more info.

Resources:

<https://www.authormedia.com/90-percent-of-usa-today-best-selling-authors-have-a-podcast-presence/>
<https://www.podcastinsights.com/podcast-statistics/>

Purple Cow, July 2007, Penguin

<https://www.thepodcasthost.com/planning/blogging-vs-podcasting/>

Laura Orsini is a publisher, author, speaker, and book marketing strategist. The podcast that accompanies her newest book, *Get in the G Zone: Develop a Gratitude Attitude So You Can Win in Life*, is accessible on her website, GetInTheGZone.com. Contact Laura at: laura@panoplypublishing.com



Painted Desert Museum Photo by AAA Member David Rich



Politically Incorrect

by Marlene Baird

The Good News, The Bad News

Naiveté is a fancy word for not knowing what the heck you are doing.

After self-publishing my first book, I thought I would take it to local independent bookstores and put it on consignment. A self-published book, unless you order 5,000 or more copies, is fairly expensive, so on the way to the bookstore I decided what the dealer could probably price the book at, and the minimum amount of money the dealer would likely want to receive at the time of sale. The outcome of that rumination made me see that I would make very little money. However, I decided that I would go ahead just to see my book on a shelf. If it sold, so much the better.

The dealer was very happy to take a few copies. He slapped a form on the counter in front of me and said, "Fill this out." Turns out, the dealer's rumination did not match my own. Who would have thought I'd be on the short end of a 60/40 split? However, now on the spot, I filled out the form and signed it.

My husband was waiting for me in the truck.

I climbed inside and said, "Well, there's good news, and there's bad news."

"What's the good news?"

"He took three books."

"What's the bad news?"

"For each one he sells I will lose two dollars."

My husband is not loose with *any* two dollars; he was for me going back inside the store. I prevailed, however. I'm not prideful, but I do have a smidgeon of it.

When my small check came it was quite a thrill to know that three people in our smallish community were reading my book.

And I still get very small checks. A royalty might be \$1.90 for an e-book. I expect Preston and Child would rip these checks in half and light their cigars with them. I expect Elizabeth George would mark them, *Return to Sender*. It's likely that they would inspire Ian McEwan to dash off a 200-page missile about disappointment. And Heaven only knows what Joyce Carol Oates would do with them. She is capable of absolutely anything.

I cash them.

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](#)





Application for Membership

Benefits of Membership

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____

WEBSITE _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP _____

PUBLICATIONS OR CURRENT PROJECTS:

Writers Published or Unpublished:

One year \$45
Two years \$85
Three years \$120

Send Checks To:

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

Professional Membership:

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

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



If It's Too Good by Barbara Renner

A man by the name of Frank Williams called me in November stating that he was the Business Development Manager for a Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Bridgewater, New Jersey. He told me they wanted to feature my new book, *SPRING! TIME TO BUILD A NEST, A STORY ABOUT TRUMPETER SWANS*, in their Somerset Shopping Mall store for three months beginning January 1, 2020. They would guarantee selling 500 copies of my book in that three-month period and pay me \$6.00 per copy. The promotion would include a three-month bookstore display near the cash register, a stand-up banner, and an email marketing campaign to their members. I was excited. The only requirement from me would be to invest in a rental fee of \$1,500 for the space. They guaranteed earnings of \$3,000 for the sale of 500 books, plus compensation for any additional copies sold over the 500. They would mail me a check in April. Therefore, my return on investment would be at least \$1,500. Knowing that grocery store vendors pay for premium spots on the shelves, this did not sound unusual to me.

Frank emailed me an agreement to sign outlining these terms. The agreement had the Barnes & Noble and Somerset Shopping Center logos, was very professional, and was signed by Frank Williams, Business Development Manager. I asked him why Barnes & Noble chose my book. His response was that it was easy to read, interactive, and enticing. I had several people look at the agreement and asked for their opinions. They thought it was a wonderful opportunity. I decided to sign the agreement and send him the money using my credit card via PayPal.

You've probably figured out by now that this was a scam. I am embarrassed to write about falling for such an obviously fraudulent scheme. The purpose for my confession is to warn other authors about this swindle as well as give you some tips on protecting yourself.

Here are the red flags I should have noticed:

1. Barnes & Noble has certain procedures they follow when buying authors' books for their shelves. They are unlikely to stock POD books written by indie authors. Click on this [link](#) for the Publisher/Author Application form.
2. Frank's email address is frank.williams@barnesandn0bles.com
Notice the zero and letter "s" in nobles. Scammers will always use a different domain name and/or misspell words. The email for Barnes & Noble Corporate Relations is @bn.com.
3. The invoice was # 0011. This is a pretty low number for a shopping center bookstore accounting department. Also, the invoice date and the due date were the same.
4. New Jersey? Why would a bookstore in New Jersey want to promote a children's book about Trumpeter Swans? I asked Frank if I could refer to this promotion when I approach Barnes & Noble bookstores here in Arizona with my Quincy the Quail books. He never answered that question.
5. I should have done my due diligence and called the store manager to inquire about this special promotion of my book before money was exchanged. When I finally did call Cheryl, Barnes & Noble Bookstore Manager at the Somerset Shopping Center, she didn't know about the book promotion and didn't know Frank Williams.

Here are some steps to take after falling for a scam:

1. Notify law enforcement. This will enable you to obtain a police report, which could possibly help you recoup your losses.

continued on the next page

2. Notify your financial institution. When you file a dispute with your credit card company, you are not obligated to pay the disputed amount until after it's been investigated or your money credited back to your account.
3. Notify all three credit bureaus if the scammer was able to obtain your personal identifying information. You can also place a [freeze](#) on your credit to completely prevent anyone from accessing your credit report.
4. Notify the Federal Trade Commission ([FTC](#)). They will use the information to create public warnings and may be able to provide you with information on your rights and steps to take.
5. Notify your State Attorney's Office (SAO). They keep track of reported fraudulent activity and scams within your state. They may provide tips and tools for you to use to remedy the situation. To look up contact information for your local SAO, use the tool on the [United States Department of Justice website](#).
6. Notify the business or agency that the scammer used to identify with. The affected business may post a warning on their website.

In addition to losing sleep over being scammed, I have cancelled my credit card, filed a dispute with my credit card company, filed a claim with PayPal, and contacted Barnes & Noble Corporate Relations. I'm planning to file a report with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.

To complete the title of this article and emphasize the cliché: "If it's too good to be true, it probably is."

Barbara Renner

Author, Classroom Presenter

Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Member

Arizona Authors' Association Member

Scottsdale Society of Women Writers Member

Young Adult Author Rendezvous Member

Author of [Lonnie the Loon](#) Picture Book Series

Author of [Quincy the Quail](#) Picture Book Series

Author of [Trumpeter Swan](#) Picture Book Series

Email Barbara at: barb.renner@gmail.com

www.RennerWrites.com

[Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)



*As Credence Clearwater
would sing, "Doo, doo, doo,
lookin' out my back door." A
beautiful Arizona evening!!*

Photo by AAA Member
Barbara Renner



Desert Nights Rising Stars

Writers Conference

February 20 - 23, 2019
Arizona State University

Pre-conference workshops will begin on the 20th and the activities will include a Literary Fair on Saturday that is **FREE** to the public.

From the ASU [website](#):

“The Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writers Conference creates a unique and intimate creative writing experience where writers of all backgrounds, genres, and skill levels gather together and connect through the celebration and study of literary craft, culture, and community. Featuring over 25 faculty members teaching more than 50 sessions, we seek to create a warm and welcoming environment that meets people wherever they are, where writers can learn from and support each other as they work toward their goals.

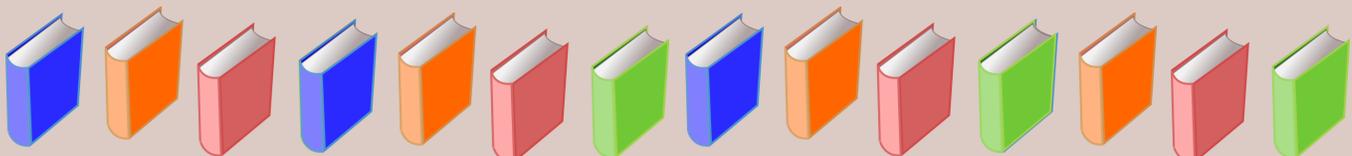
As a conference focused on literary craft and technique, we cover all major genres and forms, including fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, memoir, young adult, and genre fiction. Sessions also touch on editing, publishing, the business of writing, and the writing life. Special topics like travel writing, climate change, graphic novels, translation, disability studies, hybrid forms, and social justice are also highlighted.”

The regular price of the conference is \$300, with ASU members receiving a \$25 discount off that price.

The [literary fair](#) is **FREE** and will take place on Saturday, February 22nd, from 10:00 AM—7:00 PM

To learn more about the conference, you can meet our faculty, view the schedule, or visit our website at: <https://asuevents.asu.edu/desert-nights-rising-stars-writers-conference>

To learn more about the free literary fair on Saturday, February 22nd, visit the ASU FAIR website [HERE](#).





The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

This has been a warm winter, so far. By warm, I mean we haven't had any days lower than two degrees below zero. Considering "normal" here is an average winter low of minus 20 to minus 25, I'd say that's warm! When I lived in Phoenix, however, I would have called this winter blistering cold. Funny how I used to shiver at 60 degrees, and now that temperature feels like swimming weather. I'm adjusting to new circumstances and seeing things with new eyes.

Whenever I write, I try to be aware of perceptions and how they affect people differently. While you may think you're conveying one thought, your reader may perceive something entirely different. I remember once when I wrote an article entitled, "How to Reupholster a Barrel Chair." By "barrel chair," I meant a specific type of chair that is shaped like a barrel, with a high back and a rounded design. One reader, however, commented that she had a lot of old wine barrels and she didn't think my instructions would work, because I didn't consider the need to "fluff out" a barrel with extra padding beyond what I had listed.

My first impression was not very nice; I wondered why she didn't know what a barrel chair was. In my second impression, I realized *my* error. I hadn't given even a cursory definition of a barrel chair. I simply plunged into the topic. That was my failing, not hers.

Subtler examples abound and are often found in novels. Did you add some nuance to lead a reader in a certain direction, or toward a certain conclusion? How subtle was the clue? Even when a hint may seem like enough of a nudge to you, it may not work. Not everyone thinks as you do, and vice versa. If the reader doesn't "get" your clue, will they still enjoy the book just as much? If yes, then your hint may be sufficient and may even be more appreciated by those sharper readers. If no, then perhaps you need a second and third opinion to figure out whether your clue will work.

Critique groups are so helpful, particularly when they are large because you have a wide variety of perceptions and opinions. While most of your readers may understand

instantly what you mean, especially if they know you and have worked with you at length, other, newer members of the group may see things differently. If you are part of a critique group, seek out new members at least once a year. Critique groups that stagnate for years may be so used to the quirks of their members that they begin to anticipate them, rendering their opinions, while still valuable, a bit colored by familiarity.

Any critique group, however, is better than none. Value the opinions of others, even if you don't like those opinions. I'm not saying to sway with the wind no matter from where it blows, but weigh carefully anything said in an objective light. Sometimes you need a few days before you can really absorb criticism. Our first reaction is usually defensive. It takes time to let the value of a differing opinion sink in, especially when that opinion concerns our "baby" ... our precious manuscript.

What should you do when someone hates what you've written? Many of us fear more rejection and put our manuscript away for a while, to get over the hurt feelings and confusion. The wisest writers, when that happens, make themselves even more vulnerable by showing their work to more and more and more reviewers. You may add more insult to injury by doing so, but you'll learn and grow and become the writer you were meant to be.

There will always be an outlier . . . someone who hates your work no matter what you do. By gaining a consensus of the majority, you will know when to take heed and when to politely discard advice. But what do you do when one person is genuinely confused by your meaning, such as the woman who reviewed my article on barrel chairs? That's more difficult. You need to draw a fine line between belaboring your point and eliminating all confusion. Sometimes, all it takes is a line or two. If I had simply said, "A barrel chair, which derives its name from its general shape, etc., etc.," I would have avoided confusing that one reader. One line may make all the difference in your work.

continued on the next page

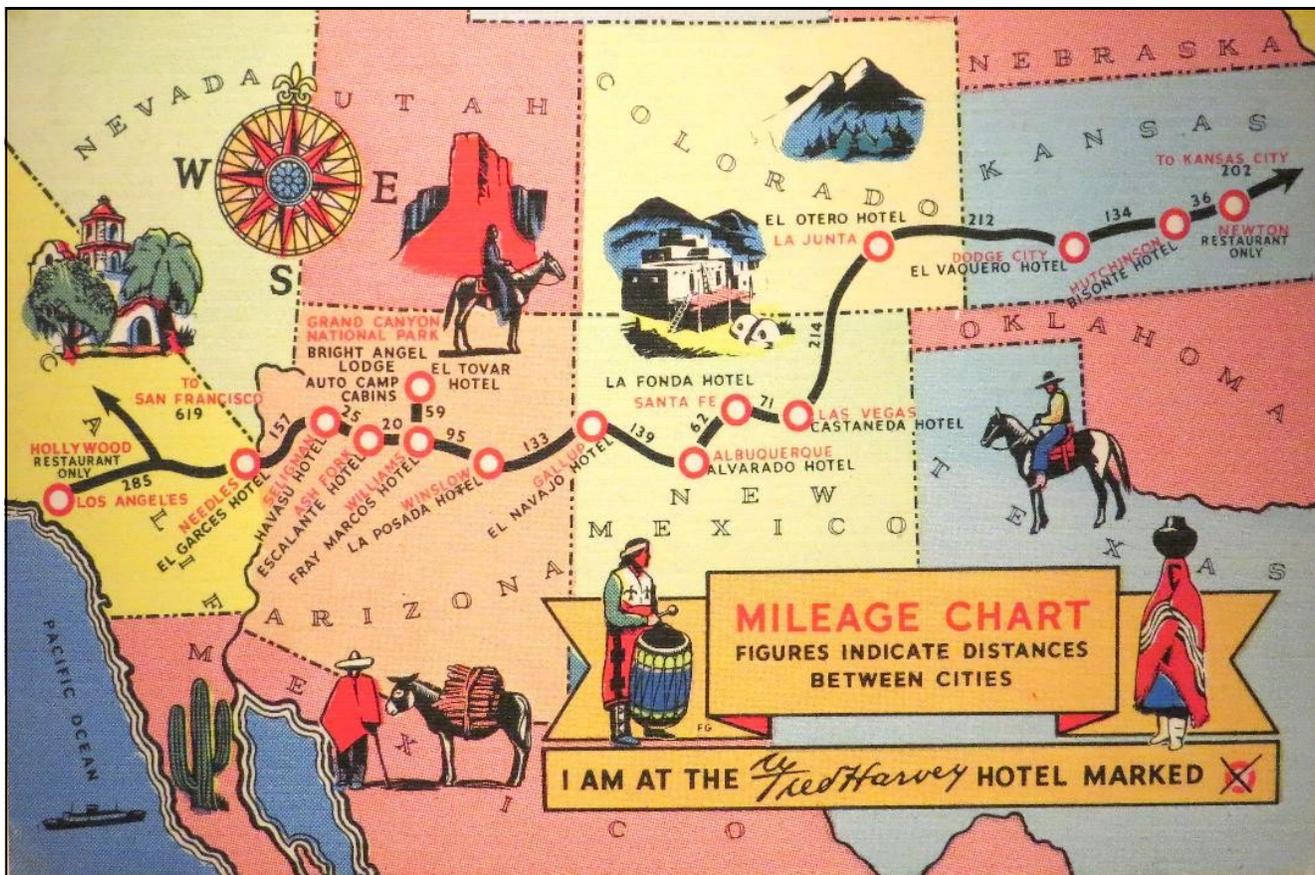
Inevitable Author, continued.

I'm looking out my window again as I sit at my computer. Today we'll have a high of 40 here in the middle of Maine. Downright balmy! I think I'll go check the mail in my sweater rather than my coat, and thank my lucky stars that it's warm today. Too cold for you? When I get back to Phoenix later this year, I may just agree with you . . . or I may not. Vive la différence!

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.



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



Fred Harvey Vintage Post Card

Submitted by AAA Member David Rich

First Prize All Categories
\$100 and publication or feature
in Arizona Literary Magazine

Second Prize All Categories
\$50 and publication or feature
in Arizona Literary Magazine

Third Prize All Categories
\$25 and publication or feature
in Arizona Literary Magazine

Honorable Mention All Categories
Publication or feature
in Arizona Literary Magazine

First and Second Place Winners
In Poetry, Essay, Short Story
Nomination for the Pushcart Prize
(Priceless)

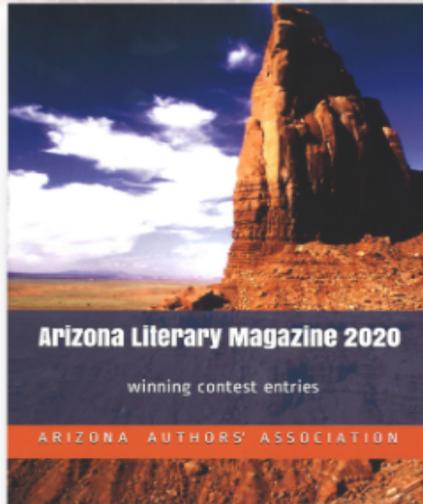
CRITIQUES OFFERED

To request a detailed critique of all
aspects of your work with suggestions:

- * Mark your choice of critique on the entry form
- * Critiques cost extra and are available only for unpublished works

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

Sponsor of the 2020
Arizona Literary Contest & Awards
Arizona Literary Magazine



Arizona Authors Association
Literary Contest Director
1119 E. Le Marche Ave.
Phoenix AZ. 85022
www.arizonaauthors.com



2020

**ARIZONA AUTHORS
ASSOCIATION
LITERARY CONTEST
& AWARDS**

Unpublished Categories

Poems
Short Stories
Essays/Articles/True Stories
Novels/Novellas

Published Books Categories

Fiction
Nonfiction
NEW Children's Picture Book
NEW Juvenile/Young Adult

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

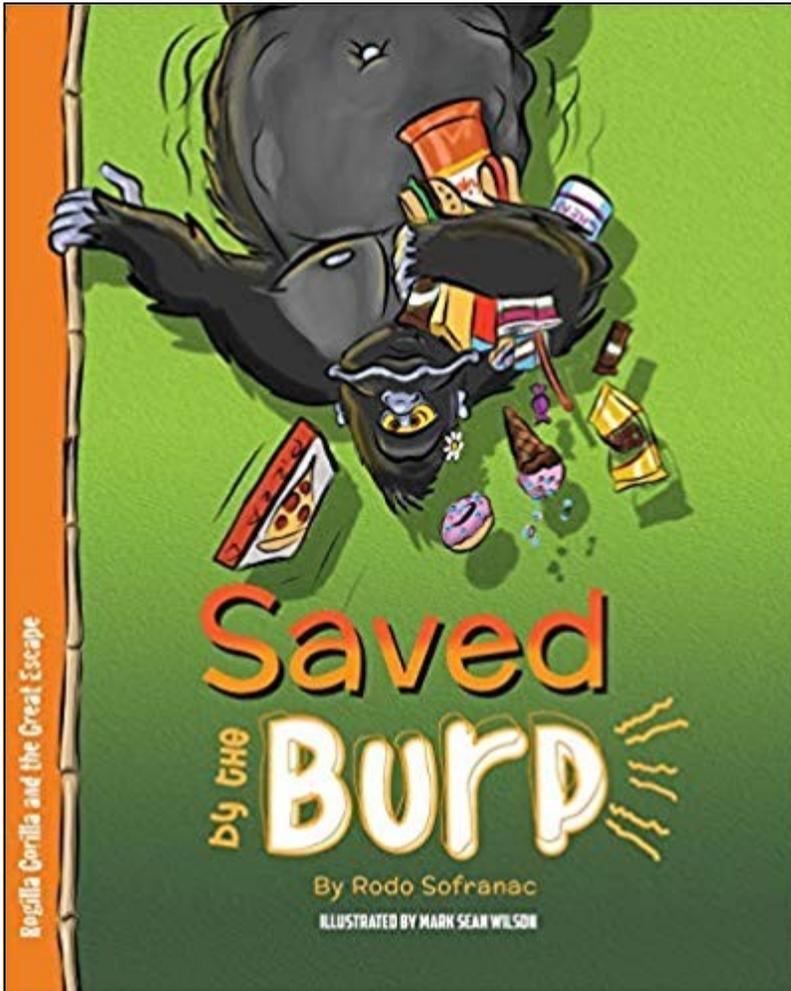
You may write one check to cover price for all entries and critiques
Delivery Confirmation OK
No Signature Confirmation please

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

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

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Rodo Sofranac



Saved by the Burp: Rogilla Gorilla and the Great Escape

Rogilla the gorilla is the zoo's most popular resident. At heart, she's like a human kid. She loves to play, eat, drink, and play some more. One night she gets out of her enclosure and decides to eat and drink like a human kid. Oh my! What happens when she does?

Rodo's newest book, his eighth, is perfect for children through age six and is 36 pages long. It was published January 1st, 2020 by Grammy Knows Books, owned by Rodo and his wife, Susan. They use 100% of the profits from the Grammy Knows Books sales to produce, purchase, and donate more books to schools, libraries, and nonprofit agencies working on literacy—over 110 organizations, so far!

Purchase *Saved by the Burp* locally at Enchanted Chapters Book Store, Duck and Decanter, and gift shops throughout Arizona, or online at:

[RodoWrites](#)

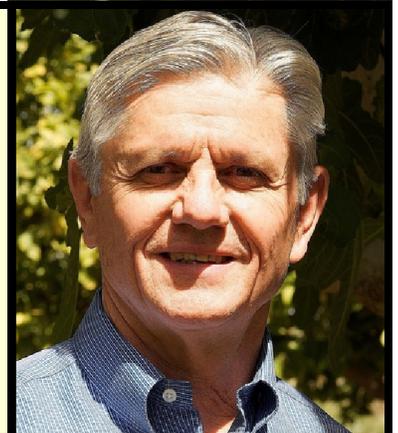
[Changing Hands Book Store](#)

Rodo hails from the former Yugoslavia and first immigrated to Austria and then the United States. He speaks several languages and holds a degree in psychology from Cornell University, a teaching certification from Cleveland State University, and a Masters in Business Administration from ASU. Find out more about Rodo on his website, RodoWrites.com. His books include the following titles and more:

[The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail](#)

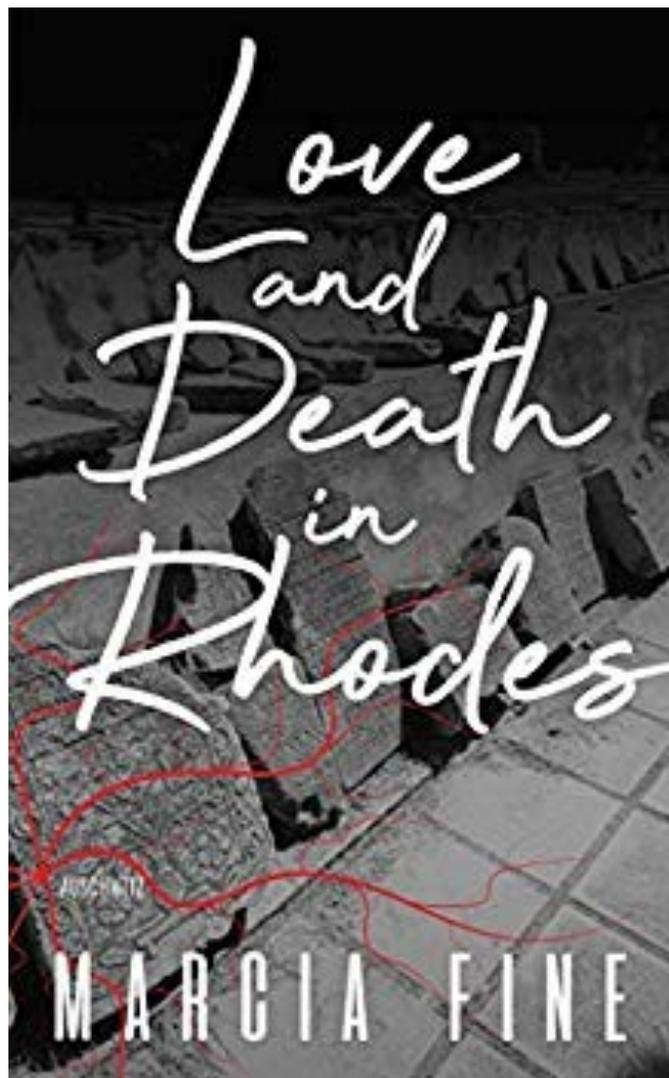
[My Maddy, My Daddy](#)

[Polly and the Peaputts](#)



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Marcia Fine



Love and Death in Rhodes A Novella of Biblical Proportions

LOVE and DEATH in RHODES--A Novella of Biblical Proportions was released January 1. Endorsed by world renowned professor and biblical archaeologist, Dr. Richard A. Freund, who is the subject of more than 25 documentaries on PBS, the book is where archaeology and biblical history meet. A devout woman faces challenges of forbidden love before WWII arrives on her island of paradise. Based on actual history and a true story, Luna learns the hardest lessons of life that change her destiny. It also includes the actual story of Babatha, a wealthy owner of date farms who existed in biblical times and left behind in a cave the largest archive of letters ever found. The plates in the photo below were found in the cave along with many valuables. This is a story of family loyalty, survival and endurance. Find it at the following locations:

[Amazon](#)
[Barnes and Noble](#)



In her eighth novel, award-winning Historical Fiction author Marcia Fine explores in depth the Jewish history of Rhodes, a Greek island occupied by many conquerors over the centuries. The Jews have had a presence on the island for 2400 years. An epic love story based on scholarly research, Rhodes comes alive with heroes, wisdom and fragrant spices. "The story of the Jewish community of Rhodes is one of the most dramatic and tragic tales of history and the Holocaust. Marcia Fine weaves history with compelling characters that span thousands of years and will keep you in the edge of your seat waiting to see how it all turns out!" ----Dr. Richard A. Freund, Bertram and Gladys Aaron Professor of Jewish Studies, Christopher Newport University. Find out more about Marcia at: marciafine.com



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Dianne Ebertt Beeff

A Grand Madness U2 Twenty Years After

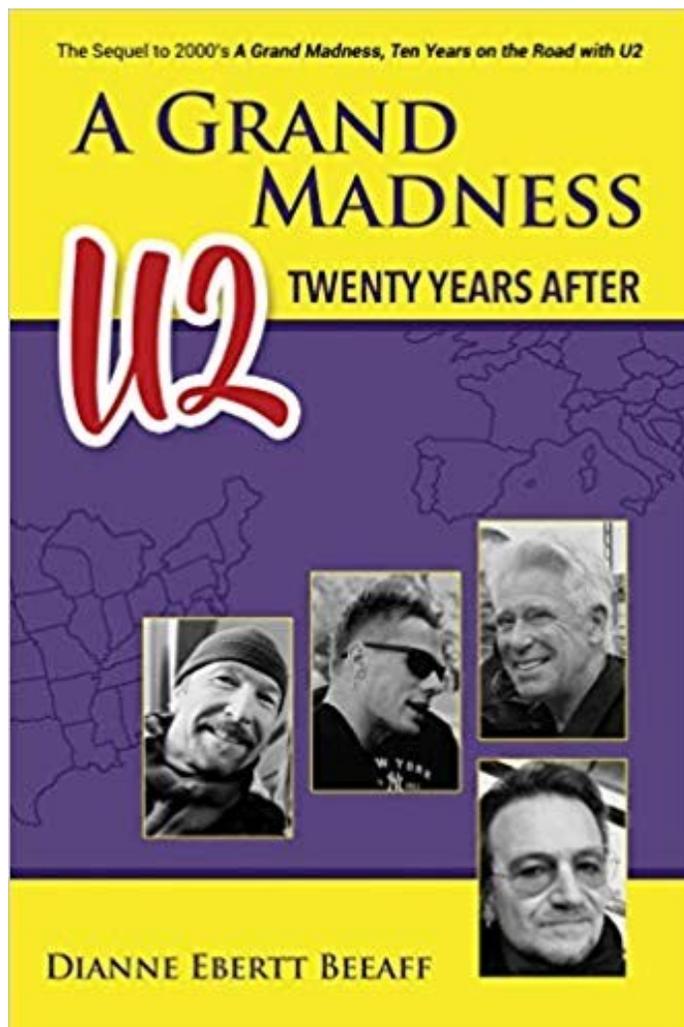
A Grand Madness, U2 Twenty Years After by member Dianne Ebertt Beeff was released by Hawkmoon Publications in October of 2019. The title is the sequel to Beeff's 2000 bestseller, *A Grand Madness, Ten Years on the Road with U2*.

"From airport terminals to street corners, you can almost taste and touch everything here as Beeff shadows the band, providing us a rich, nuanced commentary that has the knowledge of an Insider but the perspective of an Outsider," writes Brian Boyd, music and entertainment contributor to *The Irish Times* and author of *U2 Experience*.

You may find Dianne's book here:

[Amazon](#)

A reprint of Beeff's first U2 memoir is also available on [Amazon](#)



Dianne was born in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, and currently lives in Tucson, Arizona, with her husband, Dan. Dianne has written for many magazines, including Arizona Highways, Tucson Magazine, Vegetarian Times and others. She began writing books around 2000 and started with her best-selling memoir, [A Grand Madness, Ten Years on the Road with U2](#). Her current book is a sequel to that work. Another book, [Spirit Stones, Unraveling the Megalithic Mysteries of Western Europe's Prehistoric Moments](#), was published by Five Star Publications.

Find out more about Dianne on:

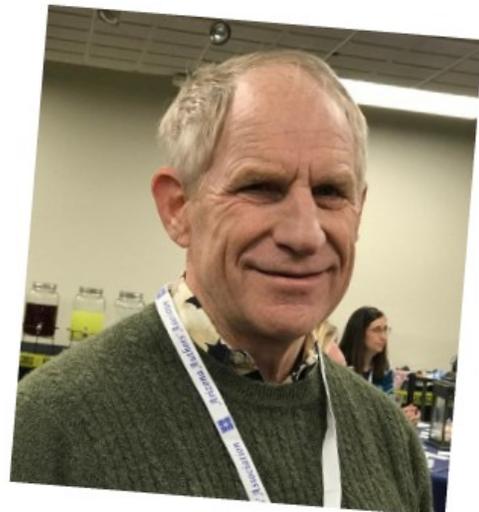
[Authors Guild](#)

[Amazon](#)



More Banquet Photos!

Arizona Authors Association Awards Banquet, November 2019











Painted Rock Petroglyph Site, Arizona
Both Photos by AAA Member June Reynolds

Back Page Quotes



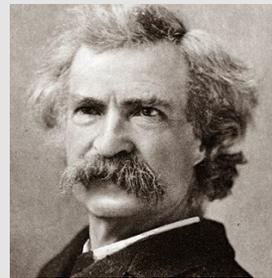
There are three rules for writing. Unfortunately, no one can agree what they are.

— **Somerset Maugham**

Most writers can write books faster than publishers can write checks.



— **Richard Curtis**



It takes a heap of sense to write good nonsense.”

— **Mark Twain**

Brighter Stars Editing Services



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

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

Asking a working writer what he thinks about critics is like asking a lamppost how it feels about dogs.

— **Christopher Hampton**



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.