My Personal Recollections of Arizona Authors

Boye Lafayette De Mente founded Arizona Authors as a resource for writers and publishers in 1978. During the eighties they sponsored a contest and published a yearly literary magazine for unpublished categories. I attended their workshops and became a member in the nineties after I had self-published a textbook and wanted to write fiction. I joined a critique group that met in the new president’s home, a woman volunteer because Boye had long since retired. She decided for health reasons she couldn’t continue so she turned the files over to a fellow who was a friend of hers but not even a writer. He clearly didn’t have any idea what to do.

Vijaya Schartz, another member of the critique group, and I both realized this fellow would destroy Arizona Authors, so we went to his house, picked up the files, and started over. We held a membership meeting and five people came. She took over as president and I ran the contest in unpublished categories. The next year we published a literary magazine and hosted a banquet to celebrate the winners.

That arrangement worked great for seven years from 1998 to 2005. When the Arizona Book Publishers Association closed down and stopped holding its published book competition, we added published categories to our contest and continued with the banquet event, which became exceedingly popular.

We realized we should have a website. I took a class at Glendale Community College and learned Netscape, then I showed Vijaya how to use it and we built the Arizona Authors website from scratch, then known as azauthors.com.

continued on the next page
Vice President’s Corner, continued

In 2006 I became president and Vijaya ran membership and the website. Several members volunteered to serve on the board to handle the additional work. Ones I remember fondly were Mali Berger, Cherie Lee, Greta Manville, Scott Jones, Jeri Castronova, Nancy and Tom Brehm.

Long-time member Linda Radke built a state-of-the-art website for us and gave us the logo that we all recognize on the newsletter header. Upgrades included a member page for each author to sign on and update his or her information, add published books, and show off their own writing. The new website included a statewide calendar for writing and publishing events. Other writing and publishing organizations used it freely. The website had a resources pages with links to sites all over the world. It was an awesome tool for the members and the community.

Besides creating the new website, in my ten years as president, we participated in book festivals in Sedona, Prescott, Phoenix, Tucson, and Albuquerque. We hosted star workshops featuring Diana Gabalon and David Morrell. We held numerous workshops and had board representatives all over the state. We built Arizona Authors into a vibrant organization and one of the most valued resources for writers, editors, and publishers.

With 240 members, a board of 8, and $15,000 in the bank, I held an election to encourage younger members to take over a leadership role. When the new leadership, Lisa and Drew Aquilina, took over in 2016, they systematically dismantled our work. They shut down the excellent website and built a lame second-class one on Godaddy. They revoked the membership of several board members and banned them from meetings, including Vijaya, Cherie, Kathleen and me. Over eighteen months they ransacked the organization, shut down their new website, and put our web address, azauthors.com, up for sale. They stole all the money, leaving only $700.

I was sad and angry for a long time. I’d been naïve to believe others would not take advantage, do great harm to the other members, and break the law for petty greed. They did it and got away with it.

In an alternate reality, I wish I had never called for an election of new board members. Arizona Authors would be in a far, far better place today. However, in this reality, it will take a lot of fortitude and dedication to rebuild financially and add resources for the community. Our long term vision should be to rebuild as a bigger, stronger, and more resilient entity.

I hope some of you heed my call and volunteer to help us rebuild. You can enhance your own talents and create a more viable and durable Arizona Authors for the years to come.

With humility, in fraternity,

Toby

Toby Heathcotte
Author and Publisher
Arizona Authors Vice President

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

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Editorial correspondence and newsletter submissions may be emailed to:
faerland@yahoo.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:
Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

Lawrence W. LaRue
President

Literary Trivia
(Answers on the Back Page)

1. Which play by Tennessee Williams features the characters Big Mamma and Big Daddy?

2. The phrase “dark horse” was first coined in which 1831 novel?

3. In James Joyce’s Ulysses, what is the name of Leopold Bloom’s wife?

4. In Fyodor Dostoevsky’s novel Crime and Punishment, which student commits murder?

5. In which Philip Dick novel does Rick Deckard track down a group of rogue androids?

6. What was the title of the first book Amazon.com ever sold?

For more trivia, go to: UsefulTrivia

Old Bisbee Brewing Company
by AAA Member David Rich

Hoover Dam, Arizona/Nevada Border
Photo by Dietmar Rabich
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 Jokes and 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 are a member who published a book within the last six months, share it with the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter. We’d love to advertise it in our next issue. We will also list any upcoming book-related events, meetings, workshops, book sales, book signings, etc., across the state or in nearby regions as space permits. If you offer editing, proofreading, or other literary services, submit a quarter-page ad with us, currently without cost to members in good standing.

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

Thank you!
Recent and Upcoming Events

RECENT

The Scottsdale Society of Women Writers conducted a Zoom monthly speaker/meeting on July 29th at 6pm. Zoom meetings are online and all women were welcome to participate. The July meeting featured Karen Shiffman Lateiner, author and writing coach, gender diversity educator, and Hike and Write Facilitator. Author of *Timeless Dance: A Story of Change and Loss*, Ms. Shiffman took participants on the journey she began nearly twenty-five years ago, when her adult son transitioned to become a new daughter, leading to her publication of her part memoir, biography, and primer for gender diversity. She can be found at: www.kslateiner.com

To participate in future Zoom meetings, please contact SSWW president Patricia L. Brooks at: patricia@plbrooks.com for more information.

UPCOMING

Monica Brinkman and Ken Weene continue to co-host *It Matters Radio* and welcome submissions from authors who would like to be interviewed for the podcast, which is based on YouTube. Ken reads every book that is discussed so you do have to provide a copy. Contact him at KWeene1941@gmail.com or via his website: www.kennethweene.com Kenneth Weene, PhD

Mark Walker’s website continues to update with articles on Covid19 and the impact this pandemic has had on society, as well as current affairs, politics, and nearly sixty book reviews. Watch his new video on YouTube, with a message based on the words of George Bernard Shaw: “What is life but a series of inspired follies. The difficulty is to find them to do. Never lose a chance: it doesn’t come every day.” Visit millionmilewalker.com for more information on all of Mark’s updates and articles.

Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. CEO of Janson Literary Services, Inc. is offering the following online workshops. Visit www.janwrite.com to find out more about her, or contact Marilyn at 480-699-6389 or via email at arizona@aol.com. Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend.

**Each Student Receives:**
One-On-One Instruction, personalized materials, assignments, and expert critiques. All writing exercises and reading materials are included in your fee.

**Discounts for AAA members!**

*New Book Proposal Package Submissions Workshop*
6 sessions. $300. Learn to write copy that sells your work to traditional publishing houses. Book introduction, winning cover and query letters, chapter outlines, manuscript synopsis, content, marketing strategy and book comparisons, summary, and the author’s biography section. Novels, short story collections, all genres, memoirs, and family history. Young Adult, Children’s Picture and Chapter Books.

**Short Story Writing. 6 sessions.** $265. Instructor Marilyn guides you through her unique step-by-step fiction writing process including character and plot development, scene construction, dialogue, tension, and tone and mood. Receive affirmations and expert critiques on your homework assignments.

**Memoir and Family History Writing.** 6 sessions. $300. Organize your manuscript. Learn to write stories for today’s audience. Memoir and family history excerpts from bestselling authors, and motivational writing exercises for all stages of life are provided. Receive affirmations and expert critiques on your homework assignments.

**Novel Writing Workshop. 8 sessions.** $300. From story idea to plotting, chapter and scene construction, dialogue, tone and mood, pacing, Instructor Marilyn shares her foolproof story telling process. Receive affirmations and expert critiques on your homework assignments.

**Children’s Picture & Chapter Book Writing. 8 sessions.** $265 Create irresistible, fun, kid friendly characters, and story lines. Fiction, nonfiction, concept, Edutainment, issue oriented, and inspirational manuscripts. Picture, text, and chapter formatting instructions are included. Receive affirmations and expert critiques on your homework assignments.
Peter Bernhardt was recently featured by Sedona Pen and Brush, a thriving organization that promotes noteworthy local authors. An interview with Peter was published on June 4th of this year on their website, and Peter was also their guest on June 7th at 2:30 pm.

Peter shared many of his views on Sedona, his writing career, and his background. If you’d like to read the entire interview, please click HERE.

Peter was asked about a fourth book, and he mentioned that he will first publish the German translation of Kiss of the Shaman’s Daughter. We can hope, therefore, for a fourth book in the future. All of Peter’s works, including the Stasi File and Red Romeo, feature suspense, thrills, spies and opera.

For more on Peter’s books, check out his Amazon page HERE or his website HERE.

Allan Spiegler’s book, If a Store Could Talk ... The Spiegler Family Remembers, was a finalist in the Regional Nonfiction: Midwest Category of the 14th Annual National Indie Excellence Awards.

From the press release:

“The National Indie Excellence® Awards celebrate independent publishing as a strong and vital sector of our industry. Recognizing excellence in all aspects of the final presentation, NIEA champions self-publishers and the independent presses who produce the highest quality books across a spectrum of metrics. Established in 2005, NIEA’s entrants are meticulously judged by experts from various facets of the book industry profession including publishers, writers, editors, and designers.

“Winners and Finalists are determined on the basis of superior written matter coupled with excellent presentation in every facet of the final published product. Jurors value the synergy of both content and form as they review entries spanning multiple genres. Sponsorship awards and monetary prize awards are selected from the overall group of Winners and Finalists.

“This year’s entries continue an upward trend in high-quality publishing, even among first time or newer authors. The competition is intense. Indie Excellence® proudly celebrates the talent, dedication and love they put into the book product.” – Doug Fogelson, President National Indie Excellence® Awards

To view the 14th Annual NIEA Winners and Finalists click here: Winners, Finalist

https://www.indieexcellence.com/

To find out more about Allan and his books, see his Amazon author’s page HERE or his website HERE.
Arizona Authors Association member Vince Bailey is pleased to announce that his publisher, Ingram Elliott, has set the date for the release of his book, *Courses of the Cursed*. The second volume in the Curtis Jefferson/Fort Grant Trilogy will be available in hardbound, paperback, and Kindle through Amazon and Barnes and Noble in August. The first book in the series has earned several awards, and his publisher is confident that *Courses of the Cursed* will be just as well received.

From the website: “IngramElliott is an award-winning independent publisher with a mission to bring great stories to light in print and on-screen. We publish stories with a unique voice that will translate well into film, broadcast, and streaming television projects. We're a traditional publisher and we look for a great story, unique voice, and the author's ability to build a strong platform.”

For those who have not yet read book one, *Path of the Half Moon*, it is currently available through the above sellers.

For more information on Vince and his books, please visit his web page at vincebaileyauthor.com for details and further updates.
What Pounds My Cake!

by Jane Ruby

Wanna know what pounds my cake? Being told that the book is always better than the movie. What literary snobbery! My daughters are among that class of peeps that keep their snooty noses in the air while buried in a book. They insist that novels like *The Great Gatsby*, *Moby Dick*, *North By Northwest*, *Lord of the Rings*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Lion Witch and Wardrobe*, etc.—all box office successes, mind you—are better reads. Well if so, then why were movies even made? Hmm?

Stating that books are always better than movies may be true for the literary snobs, but not for everyone. You may have already guessed, I fall in the “not everyone” category. I believe that movies are better because they cut the chaff, leaving only the main points. Let me cite one major example: J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter series. I saw all seven movies but read only two of the books: *Sorcerer’s Stone* after seeing the movie, and *Half-Blood Prince* before its movie’s release. In both cases the movies were much better than their respective books, although my daughters disagree with me. But then again they can read over 1000 words/minute with 200% comprehension. And they can remember all the details no matter how insignificant. So they can rip through a Harry Potter book and all its fluff faster than I can sit through one of the movies.

My preference of movie over book could be due to the fact that I’m more of a viewer than a reader. Maybe it’s because I’m into quality and not quantity. To me, life is too short to be wasting time reading a bunch of stuff incidental to the main plot like visuals, sensories, tensions, and attitudes (to name a few). I get all that, but I also find them distracting. I want to know what and not necessarily when where or why. So describing the scene in a chapter with all its metaphors and similes, colors and noises can be condensed by a set director for the movie. I like the director’s adaptation and not my imagination because it saves me time.

Before you get all judgmental with me, please know that I do enjoy reading—periodicals mostly. One of my favorite periodicals is *Reader’s Digest* because I can get a good idea about classic or popular literature without getting hung up by details. I have knocked off many outstanding literary works without wasting too much time. I remember as a child reading the condensed version of *Wild Geese Flying* (Cornelia Meigs) and afterwards rushed to the local library to get the book. That was probably the only time I did that because schoolwork took up most of my free time (recall I’m a slow reader). So I always stuck to condensed versions in *Reader’s Digest*.

I got by in school looking for shortcuts to stories I was supposed to read as class assignments. I got lucky sometimes. Once I had to read a Shakespeare play and write a review. I had found out that *Midsummer’s Night Dream* was playing in the local movie theatre (starring Mickey Rooney). I sat through the movie, hating it, but I took notes and wrote my review. I eked out a “C” and that was good enough for me.

Many other times I was not so lucky, especially with *The Canterbury Tales*. I attempted to pay off a few classmates for their summaries. Some deliberately led me astray, hoping I’d learn my lesson and in the future read the assignments. I lost a lot of money that year as well as decent grades.

Fast forward some fifty years I now realize that some literature is better than its movie. One prime example: *Catch 22* (Joseph Heller). Somehow the characters depicted in the book were much more colorful than the characters in the movie and no Hollywood actor could possibly play them. Well, OK, maybe Alan Arkin played a great leading role as

continued on the next page
Yossarian, the WWII pilot trying to get out of flying his missions, but I had a problem with Art Garfunkel playing Lieutenant Nately, a pilot who met and fell deeply in love with a local whore. The movie was released around the time Simon and Garfunkel’s album, Bridge Over Troubled Water, came out. It just didn’t seem right that the singer of a beautiful collection of songs played a mixed-up WWII pilot with a warped love life. And in the movie I think Garfunkel’s character was sliced in two during a twisted bombing raid of the Air Force base (done by Milo, another US pilot who made a deal with the enemy). So not fair! I’m glad Hollywood didn’t make a movie of Closing Time, the sequel to Catch 22 (Yossarian’s life as a senior citizen). There are no current actors/actresses that could possibly depict the characters in that movie (unless you can cast Alan Arkin).

Another example is the movie, I Remember Momma, based on the play of the same name, which was based on the novel, Momma’s Bank Account. Wshew—thank goodness they stopped at three adaptations!

Anyway, in my playwright class, I was supposed to read the play and participate in class discussions. This meant no cheating or shortcuts; I had to actually read the play. What a pleasant surprise to find it an easy read! Narration, stage direction and dialogue were organized, so I could clearly make out the story’s events. I almost didn’t mind the when, where and whys because they were depicted by the characters and stage setting so concisely and precisely.

Much later on (like last week), I finally saw the movie, I Remember Momma, on Turner Classic Movie channel. Ugh, the characters were nothing how I imagined from the play script. Pappa was such a loser, barely having any dynamics in his acting. The funniest part was his failure at repairing the kitchen window, where he let the sagging sash do all the acting). Katrin (the young writer and main character) was hardly any better. Her voice inflections were very dynamic, but her body language belonged in a morgue. The only outstanding performance (voice and actions) that mirrored the play to-a-tee was Momma. I especially appreciated the scene where she her bribed a famous author and gourmand, Florence Dana Moorhead, with cooking tips in exchange for reading some of Katrin’s works. The best scene ever! But trust me when I say that a remake of this movie should be made, more closely matching the characters to the play characters.

So I guess I have a partial membership to my daughters’ group of literary snobs who appreciate written works to their movie adaptations. Some, but not all.

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/
Why a Man Should Never Marry a Writer

Wife: I’ve got nothing written for my critique group in the morning.
Husband: It’s late. You’re tired. You should have thought of that earlier.
I did. I thought and thought and thought. Nothing came to me.

Something always comes; you know that. You must have given up too easily.
No. I really tried. I thought about an argument between two people on a long car ride.
That sounds like it has possibilities.
It turned out to be not so funny.
Arguments aren’t supposed to be funny.
Well I don’t want to write a disturbing argument. The group already thinks I’m a bit heavy-handed.
You are just making excuses. What about an altercation between a mother and child?
Sounds boring.
Okay. How about a husband and wife who don’t agree on how to spend their money?
Too close to home.
How about a husband and wife who don’t agree on what to eat for dinner? That could be funny. A food fight?
Been there, wasn’t funny. Limited dialog possibilities.
Or a husband who dotes on his dog and a wife who thinks the dog is spoiled?
Is the dog spoiled?
How would I know?
Say the dog is spoiled and the husband doesn’t see it. Is he stupid?
He’s imaginary. He could be stupid. Or brilliant—just susceptible to dogs.
How old is he?
The dog?
No. The man.
Who cares? Forty?
Then he’s probably at work all day. Maybe the wife is spoiling the dog.
Maybe she’s at work all day, too, and the dog is peeing on the floor because he’s been locked up. How the heck do I know? It’s your story.
But you seem to know more about these people than I do. Are you familiar with these people?

Geez, Gloria, these are figments of the imagination! Shadows, whispers.
Shhh. I just heard the wife whispering to me.
Thank Goodness. Go with that. Run with it.
She’s saying that she doesn’t lock the dog up all day. He has a doggy door but he won’t use it because he’s spoiled.
Look, I’m losing my patience and my mind. Can’t you make up a simple story about a damn dog and his master?
Why does it have to be a master? What about a mistress?

It has to be a master because when he gets through spoiling the dog he’s going to tie up the wife, and wrap her with duct tape. Look. You’re hopeless. Forget the stupid story. Just go to your group and tell them you didn’t have any ideas.
They will blackball me.
Good.

continued on the next page
Politically Incorrect, continued

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

Is the text on your Arizona Authors Association newsletter too small? If you have Adobe Reader, you can change the size of the text in order to enjoy all of the articles and features. Load up the newsletter in Adobe Reader and you may see something like the screen shot below (it depends upon your version, but all of them will have something similar.) On the side of the newsletter (see the side arrow below) there is a teensy tiny triangle. If you click on that, you’ll be able to read your newsletter as a whole page without the side bar.

In addition, you can increase the page size by clicking the “plus” sign at the top (where the fat arrow points). Or, you may increase the page size to “page width” by clicking the spot shown by the narrow arrow. If you have any questions, email faerland@yahoo.com. We want all of our readers to love reading the newsletter as much as we love producing it!
We’re taking a look at books that tell the story of our country’s involvement in Vietnam, one of them a more recent book that gives us an entirely new way of looking at the Vietnam War. *The Road Not Taken* is not only a biography of a pivotal, yet interestingly unknown, figure, but a work of history with diplomatic, political, and military implications that force us to rethink our understanding of recent American history. With the endless wars continuing in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, this seemed like a good time to read a book that puts the Vietnamese war into a new perspective. This was a war in which, according to the author, 2.7 million American troops passed through (500,000 troops by 1967). The conflict claimed the lives of 58,000 Americans and 3.6 million Vietnamese and when we left, it ended a thirty-year civil war between competing factions of Vietnamese over control of their country.

The pandemic offered the time and opportunity to review a book of this size and scope (some 740 pages). Plus, several years ago, I was able to actually visit Vietnam as the CEO of Hagar (which works with survivors of human trafficking), an experience which stimulated my interest in learning more about the U.S. legacy there. In the early 1970s, I took “The Road Less Traveled” and joined the Peace Corps, thus avoiding direct participation in the conflict.

Another reason I wanted to read it now is that it reveals the life of covert operative Edward Lansdale, who was the model for a fictional character in a book by Graham Greene, one of my favorite authors, entitled, *The Quiet American*. Interestingly, this book motivated two authors to create one of the characters in *The Ugly American*, a copy of which John F. Kennedy sent to all members of Congress, as it espoused many of the values of the Peace Corps. The book went through fifty-five printings in two years and directly resulted in the formation of the Peace Corps.

According to Greene, the two authors, Eugene Burdick and William Lederer, actually misunderstood his story, which depicted the American CIA agent, Alden Pyle, as being blinded to the realities and challenges in Vietnam due to his belief in “American exceptionalism.” And *The Ugly American* would promote better trained, technically proficient staff focused on assisting developing countries, which abilities, ironically, were the same qualities that blinded Alden Pyle.

The author brings the tragic complexity of Lansdale and the Vietnam War, including his nuanced approach to our foreign policy, which might have impacted how it eventually ended, with amazing detail. Lansdale pioneered a “hearts and minds” diplomacy first in the Philippines and then in Vietnam, although eventually Landsdale’s vision would be overwhelmed by the U.S.’s formidable military bureaucracy, steered by elitist generals, blueblood diplomats, and intellectuals like Maxwell Taylor, Walt Rostow, Robert McNamara, Henry Cabot Lodge and McGeorge Bundy.

Dozens of interviews and innumerable never-before-seen documents recast what is a cautionary American story, tracing the gutsy rise to a crashing fall of the roguish “T.E. Lawrence of Asia,” from the battle of Dien Bien Phu to the humiliating evacuation in 1975. Lansdale didn’t speak any foreign languages, but impacted events in the Philippines, and eventually would be tapped to assassinate Fidel Castro. According to the author, “more than four decades after the conclusion of the Vietnam War, (Lansdale was) one of the most fascinating and mysterious, yet misunderstood figures in post-1945 American foreign policy.”

continued on the next page
The Million Mile Walker, continued

According to George Anderson of the *Washington Times*: “Edward Lansdale is probably the greatest cold warrior that most Americans have never heard of. Max Boot has written a fascinating account of how this California college humorist, frat boy and advertising executive evolved into a counterinsurgency expert before the term was even coined…. Max Boot has become one of the master chroniclers of American counterinsurgency efforts, and his biography of Mr. Lansdale is a tribute to a guy who recognized the threat of insurgency in a post-World War II environment where most American leaders saw only brute force as a solution to any political-military problem. This book should be read in Baghdad and Kabul, not only by Americans, but by local leaders.”

Ironically, in November 2019, the BBC News listed *The Quiet American* on its list of 100 most influential novels. The novel generated two films, the original 1958 Hollywood film and the 2001 version, which was truer to the book. It screened the day before the September 11 attacks and had to shelved for a year as it was considered “unpatriotic,” an opinion which reflects the interesting and controversial role these two books played on how Americans (and eventually, the rest of the world) perceived our involvement in Vietnam.

I’d been meaning to read this book for years as it’s considered one of the best novels about the war in Indo-China and even though it was written in 1955, it anticipated many of the flaws in American character and history that would result in what many now consider a catastrophic military debacle. Greene, regarded by many as one of the great writers of the 20th century, is also one of my favorite global storytellers, with *Journey Without Maps* leading my list. I’d worked in Sierra Leone, where he started his journey through Liberia. Greene followed *Journey Without Maps* with one of his most insightful books, *The Heart of the Matter*, which took place in Sierra Leone where he was an intelligence officer in Freetown.

According to Robert Stone’s introduction, the title of his novel, *The Quiet American*, was a joke. The key character, an American, is anything but “quiet.” Like all the Americans who appear in this deft, succinct story, Alden Pyle is a prattling fool and the author goes on to prove his unspoken punch line: *The only quiet American is a dead American.*

You can find these reviews in their entirety on my new website, [www.MillionMileWalker.com](http://www.MillionMileWalker.com). Just go to my “Library” and input the titles into my search engine or go to “Non-Fiction” category for *The Road Not Taken* and “Fiction” for *The Quiet American*. These books are among 55 other reviews as well as links to all of my articles under “Books Articles,” not to mention some 30 photos from all over the world in “About Us.”

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](mailto:Mark@MillionMileWalker.com) or through my websites:


or Facebook at: [https://www.facebook.com/millionmilerunner/](https://www.facebook.com/millionmilerunner/)

continued on the next page
The Million Mile Walker, continued

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

His book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*, was recognized by the Arizona Authors Association for nonfiction and according to the *Midwest Review*, “... is more than just another travel memoir. It is an engaged and engaging story of one man’s physical and spiritual journey of self-discovery . . .”

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, *On the Plain of Snakes: A Mexican Journey*.

His honors include the "Service Above Self" award from Rotary International. His wife and three children were born in Guatemala. You can learn more at [www.MillionMileWalker.com](http://www.MillionMileWalker.com) and follow him on his [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) page.
Many of us, when we find something that is a benefit, we want to share it with others. In one of my earlier posts, I mentioned Indies Unlimited (www.indiesunlimited.com) as a great source for articles to help writers. Well last month I found another site that might be of interest to some of you. Fan Story (www.fanstory.com) has become a daily routine for my writing habit.

What has it done for me?

I never attempted writing a poem before. I never knew what types of poems there were. Since joining this site, I have written many poems and submitted them for review and entered some in site competition. To my surprise, I have even won some. If this site can expose me to something I have never done before, and give me the confidence to participate, what could it do for you?

I have enjoyed writing Flash Fiction, and some of my stories have been enjoyed by others. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, those short stories can be combined into a self-published anthology. I encourage you to do the same with your short stories and/or poems.

Back to the Fan Story site. The site has five main participation areas for members:

- Poetry
- Short Stories
- Book Chapters
- Scripts
- Reviewing

When you submit a poem, short story or a chapter, you get up to two free reviews from other members. They rate your work with stars, with one to five being the norm. A six-star review is available, but the site limits how many can be given out by members. So it is a real honor to get one.

The other participation area is reviewing other people’s work. The site rewards points and member dollars for people who provide member feedback. There is a cost to join the site, but I have to admit that the money was well spent. They even allow advertising of your work under your personal profile. As you write material on the site, the site adds it to your portfolio along with how many views and reviews it has received. It averages all of the reviews by participation area, which visitors to your profile can see.

In the one month since joining, I have submitted twenty-four poems, fifteen short stories, and twenty-seven chapters of my romance novel. Those submissions are all averaging five-stars. I have found several people are now following my entries, and have become fans. One has even purchased a copy of my latest anthology, and has shared some of my work with her family.

In my opinion, the biggest obstacle to an independent author is being found and recognized. This site is an avenue to be discovered, read and potentially liked enough to have your work actually purchased. I can honestly tell you what a wonderful feeling it was to get a six-star review for a poem I wrote. That is certainly an encouragement to keep doing what I am doing, and why I am writing this post for you.

continued on the next page
Fan Story by Dick Waters continued

I forgot to mention this detail – some of the competitions are free on the site, but most require a small entry fee of $5.50. However, all of those fee-based competitions award ‘member-dollars’ to the top three winners. I am making more money entering competitions there, than with all of my published works. To provide a balance to these entry fees, the site pays ‘reviewers’ for their feedback. The author receives the feedback and can respond back to the reviewer. I have to say that the reviews I’ve received have been friendly and helpful. Some of these people now follow my posts and some I now consider friends.

I’m sure there are many helpful sites on the Internet, but when I find one such as Fan Story, I am committed to share it with you.

Fan Story has opened an entirely new dimension for my writing, and has introduced me to a very talented world of other writers. I encourage you to consider this site for your own writing. Regardless, just keep writing and enjoying what you write. You might just be surprised when others take a liking to your work.

Here’s a sample –
“Me + YOU = US”

Just little old me…
With the addition of YOU,
Made a perfect US!

My next self-published book might just be a collection of poetry. Why not?

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

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

If you would like to share a story you create with this prompt (800 words or less), please send it no later than September 15 to faerland@yahoo.com and we may publish it.

**Myself I Know Not**

Lies, so many lies! That’s all my life has been. Truth was never my strong suit, but now I can’t even remember my childhood dreams or goals. Worst of all I left my family behind in my desire to be world famous. That goal was achieved but it took all reality away with all of the lies I told. Tomorrow, I’m going to do something truthful for the first time in years. I’m . . .

**Questions:**

What did the storyteller do to achieve fame?
What is he/she planning to do to change to truthful ways?
Can he disguise himself and go out in public as an unknown person?
What were some of those lies?
How old is he/she?
What happened to his/her family?

**Now it’s your turn. Go forth and write!**
This was a busy week for old classics! I finally got around to finishing *Rebecca* by Dame Daphne du Maurier. I’ve been meaning to read it for a long time. A best seller written in 1938, it sold 2.8 million copies by 1965. When a very young woman hastily marries a wealthy widower who is apparently broken up over his wife’s accidental death, she comes to wonder if she will ever live up to the late wife’s perfection. Complex and surprising, the twist at the end will leave you satisfied.

Mrs. Danvers is deliciously creepy and evil as the housekeeper. Beatrice, sister to the widower, is witty and understanding, a good friend to the new wife. She is one of the few who knew Rebecca’s true character. The book stands as a testament to the fact that just because a book is old doesn’t mean it’s dated. Rebecca is just as chilling, fascinating, and surprising as it was in 1938. I highly recommend it.

Another book I managed to finish this week: Sidney Sheldon’s *Windmills of the Gods*. Excellent! Mary Ashley is your typical down home Kansan now the sudden ambassador to Romania. Lots of interesting aspects to this chilling tale. Nearly every library will have this best seller from 1987. –Editor
As the current newsletter editor, I felt it only appropriate to celebrate the 42\textsuperscript{nd} anniversary of our first publication, in August of 1978, with a special feature. I'd like to start with a brief history of our founder, Boye De Mente.

Flamboyant and brilliant, De Mente was born in the tiny town of Mayberry, Missouri, in 1928. At age 13 he worked in an ice cream parlor and was given permission to eat all the ice cream he wanted. It was there that he first practiced discipline, limiting himself to one peppermint ice cream per week.

Throughout the years, that discipline served him well. He skipped a grade in elementary school and worked as a bell hop for a local hotel through his high school years. He earned extra credits by taking on more courses than average and graduated high school in less than three years. Immediately after graduation, the teenager joined the Navy, serving first in 1946 on the USS Fillmore and then at the Cryptographer School in Washington, D.C. Due to his family name, he was mistaken for Hispanic and sent to the Spanish Language Department of the NCSA, in Naval intelligence. Following his naval discharge, De Mente enlisted in the ASA, or Army Security Agency. With his cryptology background, he earned promotions and again was assigned to Washington D.C., where he operated the big, bulky computers, state of the art in those days, designed to decipher codes.

Because of his Spanish experience, he expected to be shipped to Latin America, but he was instead assigned to Japan. He served on a team of code breakers at the ASA Tokyo headquarters. In 1950 when the Korean War flared, President Truman extended every enlisted man's service by up to eighteen months, which kept De Mente in Tokyo for an extra year and a half. It was during this time that his natural talent for writing came to the forefront. He founded a newspaper called the \textit{ASA Star}. From that point on, he never stopped writing.

De Mente published the nonfiction book, \textit{Japanese Simplified}, during his time with the ASA. He created a phonetic system for pronunciation that cut the time needed for Americans to learn the language. He earned two years' credit from Jochi University in Tokyo before he was discharged in 1952 and sent back to the states. He then hitchhiked to Phoenix and enrolled in the American Institute for Foreign Trade (now known as the Thunderbird School of Global Management). After graduating in 1953, he returned to Tokyo, earning degrees from Jochi University in both Japanese and economics.

In 1954, De Mente edited \textit{Preview Magazine}. Published in Tokyo, it was the second-largest English language magazine in the region, superseded only by \textit{Reader's Digest}. He later served as editor of \textit{The Japan Times}, then the largest English language newspaper in Japan. While working in that capacity he met Ben Carlin, an Australian with an amphibious jeep who was determined to circle the globe. Ben invited him to share part of the journey in the vehicle, the Half-Safe, named after a popular deodorant. They would travel from Japan to Alaska in the jeep. Boye later recalled, "I was holding down two jobs and still not making decent money, and I had two very jealous girl friends who had just met and were on the warpath, so I decided that getting out of town was the smartest thing I could do!"

That treacherous voyage was chronicled in De Mente's book, \textit{Once a Fool: From Tokyo to Alaska by Amphibious Jeep}. Featured in the \textit{Saturday Evening Post} and \textit{Life Magazine}, the voyage even made the \textit{Guinness Book of World Records}. continued on the next page
De Mente decided to recuperate from the trip in his old haunt, Phoenix, but he was soon asked to take an editor's job in Tokyo again, as chief of a new magazine called *Oriental America*. He took his new bride, Margaret, with him. Within months, the name of the magazine was changed to *The Importer*, which became the leading trade journal in Japan. *The Importer* provided a vital link between businesses in Japan, the US and Europe. One of the companies served by De Mente's publication was Tsushin Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, which five years later, was shortened to Sony. The company grew in tandem with *The Importer* magazine.

After many more successes, Boye, Margaret, and their daughter Dawn Ruby, returned to Phoenix in 1962. A second daughter, Demetra, was born in Arizona. De Mente wrote full time and eventually established Phoenix Books/Publishers, to publish both his and other Arizona authors' works. During the ten years between the start of that operation and the founding of the Arizona Authors Association, De Mente received numerous calls from authors all over the state, asking him for advice on writing, publishing and marketing.

He knew that Arizona needed an organization to address these and many other questions from first-time authors. He suggested the idea to his friend, David Rich, an attorney, world traveler and writer. Together, they worked out a charter for the association in March of 1978. Here's how David describes that period:

"Boye De Mente and I formed the AAA in the late 70s. I incorporated AAA as a nonprofit with the Arizona Corporation Commission and wrote its first bylaws. We were an active organization with monthly seminars on many aspects of writing, with me presenting on legal issues. We didn't have the contests that you have now. We were one of the organizations featured in a publication listing the top civic organizations in AZ … sometime in the 80s."

At the time, Diamond's Department Store in the Park Central Shopping Mall in downtown Phoenix sponsored an Author's Day for Arizona authors with published books. The event, taking place annually each spring, drew many authors from around the state. De Mente contacted the woman in charge of this event and discussed the possibility of forming an organization to help Arizona authors and provide professional support. The woman gave him the store's mailing list, accumulated through years of hosting this event.

De Mente then contacted all of the authors on the mailing list and said, "Hey guys, let's form an authors association." He chose a hotel conference room on the west side of Phoenix to host an event the following month. There were around seventy-five people at the first meeting, and nearly all of them signed up for membership in the Arizona Authors Association.

Years later, Mali Berger served as secretary of the association. She had taught American Literature in Michigan universities before moving to Fountain Hills, Arizona, where she published both novels and children’s books. While serving as secretary, she interviewed Boye De Mente at his home in Paradise Valley and asked him about this early period of the Arizona Authors Association history. According to that article:

"De Mente was chosen as the first president of the AAA by unanimous vote. In addition to inaugurating a monthly newsletter, he also took the lead in sponsoring spring and fall seminars whose speakers included famous authors, agents, editors, publishers and book distributors from around the country. By the end of its first year the AAA had over 400 members. The following year De Mente initiated an annual Arizona Literary Contest and the Arizona Literary Magazine."

David Rich recalls one of those famous early guest speakers, Zig Ziglar, a motivational guru whose meteoric rise earned him a place among the world's best-selling authors. One of Zig's famous quotes was, "You can get everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want." Another quote from Zig has been repeated for continued on the next page
decades: "You don't have to be great at something to start, but you have to start to be great at something."

De Mente served as the president of the association for the next seven years, through 1985. He also continued as head of his company, Phoenix Books/Publishers, and sold AAA members' books through all of the major American book chains and also abroad to chains in Australia, Europe, South Africa and Japan. Eventually, however, the urge to travel and write became too great, and he stepped down from his position as president of the Arizona Authors Association.

Although some of the records are lost from the earliest days following De Mente's departure, we do know that Bill Bodell served on the board from 1989 until the mid-90s. Another board member, Mary Westheimer, served for a time starting in 1994. Iva Lee Martin took over as president in April of 1995. Iva was the author of several stories included in the anthology Chalkboard Dust: Twenty Six True Stories About Students As Remembered By Their Teachers. A long-time teacher in the Phoenix public school system before turning to writing about her students, she lived in Phoenix. Her vice president at the time was Sandra Harnagel of Scottsdale, who first earned that position in 1992. Her secretary was Jack Benninger, who also took office in 1992.

Gerry Benninger, Jack's wife, took over as president of the Arizona Authors Association in 1997; Jack remained as secretary. Gerry was born in 1942 in Colorado and worked as a freelance writer, poet, book editor, reviewer and teacher. She had a column in Romantic Times Magazine, a popular romance fiction magazine started in 1981. It ceased publication in 2018. Gerry was a graduate of ASU and the University of San Francisco; the latter is where she earned a degree in Theology at the age of 60.

Gerry withdrew from her tasks as president of the Arizona Authors Association in 1998 when she moved out of state, but remained on the Board until her death in 2005. She turned the association presidency over to a friend who had no experience as an author. During that time, membership declined and the organization faced a rough patch.

The association did not file a report with the Arizona Corporation Commission, as was due each year in April. The bank balance in 1997 was over three thousand dollars; a year later it had plummeted to little more than a hundred dollars. For the first time, the literary contest had to be canceled and refunds given for entry fees.

**Resurgence**

Vijaya Schartz, with encouragement and a great deal of help from Toby Heathcotte, took on the leadership role and helped to put the organization firmly on its feet once again. She filed the ACC form more than a year late but was granted a waiver from penalties. Here's how Vijaya describes that period of our history:

"At that time neither Toby nor I were board members. The lack of leadership had led to a fiasco. No newsletter, no meetings, and loss of all members but 30. The literary contest had been announced in various publications far in advance, so the mailbox was full of unopened entries. Previous entries had been opened, the checks cashed, but nothing done about organizing judges... and the deadline to announce the finalists had come.

"Toby and I volunteered for the board and convinced the board members to vote the president out. Toby asked me to run for president and she ran for VP. And quickly we realized the other board members didn't want to do anything. So we had to clean up the mess ourselves. First, we had to cancel the contest. Toby went through the contest entries. She had to return them all and refund the entry fees that had been cashed.

"I went through the finances. There was no money left. From the minimal files we retrieved, I took on membership, created a roster and contacted previous members, inviting them to rejoin. I also created and implemented our first
website to feature our members. It made membership more attractive to members who weren't tech savvy and didn't have their own website. We featured a page for each published member with a portrait, a bio, a cover and link to all of their published books.

"Then I created a newsletter and made sure all our members' successes and publishing credits were acknowledged, which was not easy, since most of our members at the time weren't familiar with email. I also created a blog for the association to feature its members. Then Toby reorganized the contest and we listed it in many publications to insure our next contest would get entries. We reformed the disbanded critique groups.

"We also designed and printed membership and contest flyers and distributed them far and wide in the Arizona writing community. At the time, we also sent press releases to local newspapers, listed our meetings in local calendars and recruited new members, but still no luck with recruiting volunteers for the board. Toby was successful in securing judges; the website and the blog did attract new members, and soon, we were on the way to recovery."

During her tenure, Vijaya, with Toby as her vice president, attracted a robust membership and increased revenues and savings. During her second year, the money collected from the contest, membership dues, etc, was $7,166.25. When she left office in 2006, receipts had nearly doubled to a little over $14,000. Together, Toby and Vijaya welcomed the services of Linda Radke to design an even better professional website.

At the time of Vijaya's inauguration, the Arizona Authors Association still mailed their newsletters out to their members. Costs for mailings, printing and postage stood at approximately $4,000 per year. These costs soared to nearly $5,900 by 2006, reflecting the increased membership. Vijaya extended the reach of the Arizona Authors Association by doubling the number/dollar value of prizes for the contest and attracting more members with workshops, seminars, exhibits, book signings, and of course, the annual awards banquet. Due to Vijaya's leadership, the Arizona Authors Association was back on the road to the heyday enjoyed by Boye De Mente during his presidency.

Patricia L. Brooks, a longtime AAA member, recalls that Kiki Swanson oversaw the selection of guest speakers many years ago. Patricia conducted workshops during this period and said that the association met monthly at the time, at various places such as the church on Hayden and Osborn (Scottsdale Presbyterian Church at 3421 N. Hayden in Scottsdale), as well as a location near North Mountain in Phoenix. She writes:

"I remember early on, 20 years ago, a group of us participating in the Phoenix Book Festival at the Carnegie Library at the Heritage Square, and at the Prescott Book Festival at the Sharlott Museum. The Phoenix one was huge with stages and national speakers and the Prescott one was smaller. The group had a booth and we shared space at both, or we had our own tables and supported each other."

Concerning the website and banquet, Patricia observes: "I felt the website was a real plus and well maintained and I am sure Vijaya was on top of that most of the time. We had the Literary Contest as we do now, but it seems to me it was much larger and utilized nationally. I did win for my first memoir and was pleased about that, but not able to attend the dinner. A friend attended for me and said it was a great night. I still have the Literary Magazine from that night – I found it today – dated Fall 2006 and photos by Heather Kirk whom I know as a designer. It was $10 at the time and in B/W. Greta Manville was the contest coordinator. Marcia Fine was also a winner and is still a friend of mine."

Jeri Castronova, PhD, author, artist and clinical psychologist, shared her first memories of the Arizona Authors Association under Vijaya's presidency:
"I joined after moving to Prescott, just finishing my first book, a self-help book for women titled *Paint the Sky and Dance: Women and the New Myths*. Based on my work at Napa State Hospital and my love of poetry/storytelling, it offers guidelines for creating new personal myths and stories to overcome trauma and past behavioral and addictive disorders. The book and workbook are used by many therapists.

"Vijaya was President and I’d drive down to the always interesting workshops. I joined the Prescott writers group and later became president. We’d have Valley authors come and speak at our monthly meetings and all would say they loved coming to Prescott. At one meeting Lisa Schnebly talked about her great-grandmother, Sedona Schnebly, a fascinating woman whose spirit even now graces us with her presence in her land. Our group was lively and enjoyed hearing AAA authors speak about their books, marketing, publicity, and self-publishing. I participated in several Book Fairs with the AAA.

"When I moved to Sedona, I continued my role on the Prescott board. When Toby asked me to be the Arizona Authors Association High Country liaison, I accepted and we would offer various workshops and talks quarterly. Since Sedona didn’t have a writers group, at least an organized one, the authors here jumped at our meetings. Sedona has many writers and a few of us have recently organized into a monthly group called Sedona Pen and Brush.

"I finished my second book, *Code of the King: A Deadly Search for Ancient Wisdom*, Book 1 of a mystical thriller trilogy. Marilyn June Janson, AAA member, was kind enough to write a review. The book was an award winner in the AAA contest for published fiction. I attended the banquet with my editor, Kris Neri, renowned mystery author. What an honor to receive an award for doing something I love."
Going Forward

Vijaya instituted changes designed to keep the Arizona Authors Association healthy far into the future. Vice President Toby Heathcotte took over the presidency in 2006 and shared those goals. She worked diligently to maintain and increase the success that she and Vijaya had initiated. The board at the time included Vice President Scott Jones, Secretary Mali Berger, Contest Coordinator Greta Manville, as well as officers Kiki Swanson, Karen Kundin, Vijaya Schartz and Sandra Bowen. Although Vijaya stepped down from the presidency when her writing career took off, she still maintained the website and the membership rolls until 2016.

When I first met Toby in 2008, I attended an Arizona Authors Association workshop designed to help authors hone their craft. I happened to see a flier at a local grocer and thought, "Well, you're a writer and editor who hasn't written or edited in nearly a year. What are you waiting for?" Toby had spent years before an audience, first as a high school teacher in speech and drama and later as a speaker at various events and workshops, and it showed. She radiated warmth and expertise, and shortly thereafter, I became a member.

In February of 2009 I attended a workshop given at the Glendale home of Vijaya Schartz. She exuded professionalism and a sincere desire to help her workshop attendees. When I discovered that she was a former president of the Arizona Authors Association, I knew I had found the right people and the right home to revitalize my career. The association helped me to regain confidence and just a few months later, I joined Demand Studios as a copy writer/editor.

Toby has felt an affinity with her ancestors since childhood, which was only strengthened by psychic experiences. These experiences prompted her to study reincarnation and psychic phenomena. In every endeavor, Toby brings a sensitivity and unique insight. So she did during her tenure as president of the Arizona Authors Association, which lasted from 2006 to 2016, which is the longest tenure of any president. Over the course of those years she organized numerous workshops, some of which she also conducted. She manned the booths at book fairs, signings, and many of the events which attracted authors throughout the state.

For the first time in 2015, Toby arranged to secure a table at the Arizona State Library Association Conference. Another event she attended during her tenure was the annual Tucson Festival of Books. Members were able to advertise their work in the association's booth at very little cost. Such perks, expanded by Vijaya and expanded again by Toby, helped to retain members and make the Arizona Authors Association such a valuable resource. Under Toby's leadership, she reported that the AAA secured "a grant from the City of Glendale to do a series of workshops with about a dozen writers, culminating in one by Diana Gabaldon."

continued on the next page
It was during Toby's presidency that the newsletter saw its greatest changes. It switched from a paper newsletter snail mailed to all members to an online publication, thereby saving the association thousands of dollars. Regular columns included President's Corner, Member Spotlight and my own column, The Inevitable Author. Ken Weene's column and his Open Mic events attracted more members. Book releases each spanned a whole page in full color. Cherie Lee served as the newsletter editor. She learned to master Microsoft Publisher and put out a professional online product bimonthly, at a time when few others had the expertise to accomplish it.

The Arizona Authors Association website thrived under Toby's leadership and Vijaya's proficiency as webmistress. The easy-to-use website boasted a welcoming and professional front page, a fully usable forum, and expertly designed members' pages, which were easy to load and fully interactive. At the time of Toby's departure, the website, newsletter, and workshops were a few of the biggest accomplishments of the association. Toby left the presidency and the organization in good shape for the succeeding administration in January of 2016.
Misplaced Trust

Through the years, some members passed away, moved away, or left the organization. During the last year of Toby's tenure, the composition of the board had changed. It consisted of Lisa Aquilina as vice president and contest coordinator, Russell Azbill as treasurer, Deborah Hilcove as secretary (followed by Ron Tobin), Cherie Lee as newsletter editor, Vijaya Schartz as webmistress, and myself as proofreader. Our High Country liaison was Nancy Scheneman-Brehm and our Southern liaison was Jan Cleere.

When Lisa Aquilina was voted into the position of president, very few people knew her. She was relatively new, in comparison to long-time members. She was congenial on the surface and people believed that she might make a good president. In other words, the membership acted on trust and elected her. She began her “reign” in January of 2016.

Cherie Lee, the newsletter editor, and I first realized that all was not smooth sailing when we were asked to revamp the newsletter, change its schedule (forcing us to work on holidays), use a new program with which neither of us were familiar, and finally, make arbitrary and frivolous changes at the last minute. At one point, Cherie and I received orders at 8:30 pm telling us to move several pages for no reason (thereby breaking all links and forcing a layout change) which prompted me to stay up until 2 am to have the newsletter proofread by the following morning. We both grew to resent Lisa's boot camp, "my way or the highway" mentality. Unknown to me at the time, Toby and Vijaya were going through even greater difficulties with Lisa. Vijaya described this time by saying:

"In the fall of 2016, Toby and I blew the whistle when we realized the money was disappearing, and the new president threw us out of the association. Then I was threatened with legal consequences if I didn't close the blog (opened by me for the association).

"It took some time for the membership and the other board members to realize what was happening. By that time, Toby and I had moved on and started a small group with no political or financial concerns, just helping other writers.

"When all the malfeasance of the last president came to light and we were called back, we were happy to return to the association."

When these difficulties compelled us to act, the four of us, Toby, Vijaya, Cherie and myself, sent a letter to the general membership in September of 2016, to address such concerns. For this, Toby and Vijaya were especially vilified and accusations were made. The four of us were expelled from the association and I was sent an email which stated, "If you attempt to come within 500 feet of an Arizona Authors Association meeting or event, you will be prosecuted, sued, and/or arrested." I'm sure all four of us received such emails, and for Vijaya and Toby it was worse. My time with the Arizona Authors Association officially ended in September of 2016.

During the years 2016-2018, Lisa installed her husband as both the vice president and the newsletter editor. She appointed a friend to another board position. She amended the Articles of Incorporation with the Arizona Corporation Commission, the first time in our history, according to available records, that it was ever done. She officially removed Vijaya as a board member, according to documents submitted to the Arizona Corporation Commission. Those years saw the loss of our members' website, which had been built up over many years. The newsletter ceased publication for an entire year. The contest was a mess; at one point a member was asked to throw her packet of submissions “over the fence and into the backyard” without any idea of where it landed, or even if it was the right backyard, given the difficulty of navigating behind Lisa’s Paradise Valley home. Most disheartening of all, we lost many of our members during this period.

When Toby and Vijaya attempted to create a new organization, they were threatened with legal action for the use of a name that had belonged to the Arizona Authors Association, but never used. They changed names and forged on. I joined them in their Facebook group, along with Jane Ruby, Connie Osterlitz, and others.
Rebuilding Stronger Than Ever

Eventually, night passes and the dawn comes. Russell Azbill took over as president in September of 2018. When I was asked by Toby in early 2019 to return to the Arizona Authors Association, I discovered that the four of us were all reinstated with full rights restored, so I gratefully accepted. By then, Toby had returned to serve as vice president. It was like a belated Christmas present, since I had dearly loved this organization for more than a decade. Toby asked me to take over as newsletter editor, which I was glad to do.

Since then, the organization has once again risen from the ashes. Considering this, perhaps it's appropriate that it's based in the Phoenix metro area. We are working on rebuilding the website as a professional tool for all of our members. We have created a newsletter of which I am proud. We are continuing to reconstruct all of the things that made the Arizona Authors Association such an important part of the Arizona writers' landscape for the past 42 years. As we continue forward, we know that no matter what, we will endure as long as there are people who love this association and realize its immense value.

The current Board of Directors includes Russell Azbill as president, Toby Heathcotte as vice president, Jane Ruby as secretary and contest coordinator, Debbie Weiland as treasurer, myself as newsletter editor, and rounded out by board member Nicolas Lagrande. Many others, including Dick Waters, Connie Osterlitz and more, volunteer in various capacities. Vijaya Schartz is in charge of the AAA blog. Together with other member volunteers, we strive to be just as vital and thriving as we were in the days of Boye De Mente's presidency.

In 2008 when I joined Arizona Authors Association, I hadn't written or edited in nearly a year. Now, twelve years later, I can't remember a single week when I haven't done both. That is the benefit that I have received from this wonderful association. By remembering this history, we can look forward to even greater heights in the future. We're on track. With increasing membership and the website and newsletter available to all members, we will soon see what Vijaya and Toby saw in January of 1998, despite few members and a savings balance of a hundred dollars in the association's account. They envisioned a dream of what the Arizona Authors Association could be, with their tireless efforts, love and uncanny knack for leadership. I share that dream.

Kathleen Cook, Arizona Authors Association Newsletter Editor
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:            Send Checks To:
Send Checks To:

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

Professional Membership:
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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. Arizonauthors.com
Arizona.authors@yahoo.com toby@tobyheathcotte.com
Where in Arizona?

This one is a toughie, folks! We’re continuing this feature, 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:

Possible Locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yuma</th>
<th>McNary</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Gila Bend</th>
<th>Bisbee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pinetop/Lakeside</td>
<td>Sedona</td>
<td>Prescott</td>
<td>Greer</td>
<td>Apache Junction</td>
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</tbody>
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Write to faerland@yahoo.com no later than September 15th if you know the location of the photo. If you answer correctly, we’ll publish your name in the next issue.
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The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

In A Reflective Mood

I think writing the history of the Arizona Authors Association has put me in a reflective mood, looking back on the past and wondering how to best utilize the future, however long it will be. What stories haven’t I written? What poems arise from within my soul? In this era of covid, riots, protests and bureaucratic insanity, I sometimes wonder if beauty, peace, and poetry are faded memories of a gentler time, not likely to return.

Whenever I grow pessimistic, I turn to famous sayings on tough times. Malcolm Forbes once said, “When things are bad, we take comfort in the thought that they could always get worse. And when they are, we find hope in the thought that things are so bad they have to get better.” Somehow, that always makes me laugh, and I don’t feel so sad. There is humor in hard times, too. I look back on my own hard times and remember them as a tunnel into which I descended, only to rise into the sunlight later, laughing. A tunnel always ends up somewhere, and often it’s a beautiful somewhere.

Whenever I grow fearful and feel like a coward, I think of a saying by Bob Riley. “Hard times don't create heroes. It is during the hard times when the 'hero' within us is revealed.” I contemplate the words and realize, yes, I’ve been a hero, often when I felt the most un-hero-like. I’ve gone through hell and still took care of my kids, raised the four of them to be beautiful, kind-hearted and decent souls. Heroes are made of such as this.

Henry Ford once said, “When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.” How often have you flown against the wind, and soared? Probing the past, all the ugly, scary, gut-wrenching times of your life, reveals your mettle. Memories form the staircase that you climbed to get where you are today. Those tough times comprise the meat of your writing, the very best to put to pen and paper . . . the things too difficult to write about because you want to forget them. Don’t forget them. They are your badge of honor, the proof that you have been through the fire and come out the other side.

One last saying I love is this one by Bob Marley: “You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.” How many times has this been true in the past? How many times will it be true in the future? Write about them. Write about the all the things so close to your heart that people will sense they are true. Write about the things that show your inner self, with all the pain, the warts, the mess-ups, the lies, the embarrassments, the hard times and all the valleys of death that you’ve walked through. Write about them and be proud that you are still here to write about them. You are a survivor, and you are beautiful.

Kathleen Cook is a retired freelance editor and the author of twenty books. A former copy writer/editor for Demand Studios, she also served as the Fictional Religion Editor for the ODP (Open Directory Project) in the late 90s. She is currently the Arizona Authors Association newsletter editor. Her latest books, the first two in a series of young adult historical sci-fi, feature an alien, time-traveling, superhero high school teacher. The series is due out next year.
Back Page Jokes and Quotes

Yesterday, a book fell on my head.
I have only my shelf to blame.

Why do writers always feel cold?
Because they are surrounded by drafts!

Why did Shakespeare write his plays in ink?
Because he couldn’t decide which pencil to use . . . 2B or not 2B?

These and other jokes can be found at:
Jokes to Make A Reading Addict Smile.

Do you know a joke about writing, publishing or editing, or a quote from a famous author? Share it with Back Page Jokes and Quotes 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.

Members Webpages

If you haven’t yet updated your page on our Arizona Authors Association website, please do so now. We’d like to see all of our members get the recognition they deserve, and the webpage will enhance your professional presence on the web. The following items will be needed:

Photo: Color or B/W, 3x5 inches, 300 dpi minimum.
Name: Write your name as you wish it to be listed on the website (two or three names).
Trade: This line will list your trade, i.e. Author, Editor, Publisher, Literary Judge, Journalist, Blogger, Technical Writer, etc. Be sure to stay within a 21-character limit.
Genre: This section contains three lines. The first line has 21 characters; the next two each have 28 characters. State the genres of your work, i.e., Fiction, Nonfiction, Sci-Fi, Biography, Drama, Comedy, Screenplays, Technical Manuals, Blogging, etc. Be sure to stay within the character (not word) limit for each line.
Email: If you wish, provide an email address where anyone who accesses our site may contact you.
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Biography: Write your biography of up to 2000 words. You may list your published works here or save that for the next section. Include your works in whatever order you like. Be sure to group series together. If you write under more than one name, group your works by name. Include the title, book cover photo, and the link where buyers may purchase your book.

Note that our staff may edit any section as needed. Please send your completed updates to: toby@tobyheathcotte.com. In the subject line of the email, insert Website Bio Update. Thank you!

Literary Trivia from Page 3

Answers

1. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
2. The Young Duke by Benjamin Disraeli
3. Molly
4. Raskolnikov
5. Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?
6. Fluid Concepts And Creative Analogies: Computer Models Of The Fundamental Mechanisms Of Thought by Douglas Hofstadter (Yeah, we were surprised too!)