BUMMER, BUMMER, BUMMER. We had to cancel the November 7 banquet because of covid-19. We plan to celebrate the 2020 winners along with the 2021 winners in a joyous celebration after we’ve been cooped up too long.

Some good news did happen in the past few months. Kathleen Cook, our newsletter editor, has joined the board and will add her wise counsel to our deliberations. We’re glad to have her.

We’ve been updating the website and have added several individual web pages. If you haven’t added your webpage, please contact me for further information.

For the majority of you who do have a webpage, please go to our website and copy your link. Then you can add it to your email signature. That promotes your work and the association at the same time. For your convenience, our website is http://www.arizonauthors.com. Click on Members, then click on your name to go to your personal link.

An important but often unrecognized asset we have is our blog. Vijaya Schartz manages it but all members are welcome to add content. It could be promotional materials for your books, but we especially like having members contribute articles about the business of writing and the art of writing. For your reading pleasure, here’s the link: AAA BLOG.

In her usual organized and friendly style, Jane Ruby has been in contact with many of you to help with judging the contest. Thank you, judges, for participating in this critical function of the Association. Once you returned...
Vice President’s Corner, continued

the judging ballots, Jane notified the winners and collected materials to create the literary magazine. I’m doing the editing this year, so if you have questions or concerns, contact me directly.

If you’d like to buy last year’s literary magazine for $10, here’s the link: MAGAZINE.

Our plan is to publish the 2021 Arizona Literary Magazine in both e-book and paperback. When the link to Amazon is ready, we’ll let you know so you can purchase your own copies. Judges and finalists will all receive an e-book or pdf.

As you can see from the rundown above, the board members are working hard to make the Association successful. We could definitely use some help. If you want to volunteer for activities that accentuate your talents and help all the members, here are the slots we’d like to fill:

Webmaster
Promotion
2022 Literary Magazine Editor

A reminder, if you’ve not joined our Facebook page, please click on this link: FACEBOOK.

The Facebook group is open to the public. If you have friends in the writing business, let them know they are welcome to join. The group is a public service for the writing community.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween and Thanksgiving!

BUMMER, BUMMER, BUMMER. We had to cancel the banquet because of covid-19. I’m still sad about missing out on a year of memories.

Just wait till next year!

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

Board of Directors:

President……………………………………….Russell Azbill
Vice President…………………………………Toby Heathcotte
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

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. “The Science of Deduction” is Chapter One of which Sherlock Holmes novel?

2. Complete the title of this Bolshevik revolution novel by John Reed: Ten Days That ...... ... ..... 

3. This 1961 military novel’s cover featured an airplane and a large dancing figure.

4. This one-word title by Malcolm Gladwell is subtitled, The Power of Thinking Without Thinking

5. What is the first name shared by bestselling authors Delinsky and Kingsolver?

6. What Thomas Keneally novel inspired Spielberg’s most celebrated Holocaust movie?

For more trivia, go to: Bookriot

Mandolins, Musical Instrument Museum
Scottsdale, Arizona
Photo by AAA Member David Rich

Cottonwood, Arizona
Photo by AAA Member Sharon Sterling
Arizona Authors Association

Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

Membership Benefits

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

The yearly Literary Contest furnishes an opportunity to showcase your work and the possibility of earning prizes that will enhance your reputation as an author. 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. 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!
Patricia L. Brooks, award-winning author, will speak on a Zoom call for the Desert Foothills Library’s Writers Connection Friday, October 2nd at 1:00 -3:00 pm, on Write the Memoir You’re Afraid to Write. RSVP to patricia@plbrooks.com or DFLA at 480-488-2286 for ID and PW.

Patricia is president/founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing Company, LLC, and the phenomenally successful Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. She is a sought-after workshop or keynote speaker and is passionate about storytelling in her award-winning memoirs. Sick as My Secrets is a powerful memoir told by a strong woman who overcame her desperate need for alcohol to handle stress in her young life. Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends is her poignant story of a dangerous journey through love addiction and domestic violence. Her first memoir, Gifts of Sisterhood - Journey from Grief to Gratitude, is a tribute to her sister who passed away from lung cancer.

patricia@plbrooks.com 480-25-5556 cell/text www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com

Due to COVID-19, Marilyn June Janson’s workshops in Gilbert and Mesa have been canceled.

An award-winning writer and former Maricopa Community College instructor, Marilyn is now offering personalized workshops online.

Janson’s Literary Services, Inc. celebrates 30 years in business. Check Ms. Janson’s website for details at: www.janwrite.com. You may also call her at: 480-699-6389 or email at arisona@aol.com. Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend all classes. Twenty percent discount for AAA members!

Online Workshops Include:

One-On-One Instruction.
Personalized Materials, Assignments, and Expert Critiques.
Learn at your own pace.
All writing exercises and materials are included in the fee.

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.
Mark D. Walker has had three articles published recently in the Crested Butte News. Mark lived in the area for several years while attending Western Colorado State University.

The first article, *Legendary Educator of the Gunnison Country*, recalls his mentor from the Western slope, recently chosen as State Historian of Colorado. It is the first time in 97 years that a State Historian was chosen from that region, and Mark wanted to honor this achievement. The next two articles are part of his Counterculture series on the changes in one small skiing town in Colorado during the protests against the Vietnam War, as well as the recent protest marches organized by Black Lives Matter.

Mark Jacobs, author of *Stone Cowboy* as well as over 120 articles in literary journals such as *The Atlantic*, said, “Mark, these pieces have everything. They are thoughtful, well shaped, and interesting. Congratulations, MJ”

“Crested Butte 1970: Reflections on a Town in Transition”

“Crested Butte 2020: What Comes Around Goes Around”

All three articles can be found on Mark’s [Million Mile Walker website](#) under “Books Articles.”

Marilyn June Janson’s poem, “Sweet Messages,” appears in [*The Blue Nib*](#) magazine this month. The Blue Nib is a print and online magazine featuring poetry, fiction, reviews and essays. An archive of forty issues is available to all subscribers.

On September 13, Marilyn also appeared on Trish Hopkinson’s [*A Selfish Poet*](#) site, rated as one of the top 100 poetry blogs in the nation. Marilyn’s guest post was titled “The Beginner’s Guide to Free Verse Poetry.” To see Marilyn’s post, go to: [*A Selfish Poet Blog*](#)

Find out more about Marilyn on her website: [www.janwrite.com](#)

Peter Bernhardt reports that his books are now featured in the Metropolitan Opera online gift shop, and he has earned sales from that venue for his first book, *The Stasi File*. When the Opera’s brick and mortar gift shop opens, probably in December, he expects even more sales from that book and his other thrillers, *Kiss of the Shaman’s Daughter* and *Red Romeo*.

Peter is currently translating *Kiss of the Shaman’s Daughter*, his New Mexico mystery-thriller with a historical twist (1680 Pueblo Indian Revolt) into German. It will join the German language editions of his two spy thrillers that have sold thousands of copies. Find out more about Peter at: [*Sedona Author*](#) and on [*Amazon*](#).
Congratulations to Our Members, continued

Jo Ann Crooks will be featured in an upcoming interview on the New York radio station WOR 710. She will discuss her new book, *Confessions of a Unificationist*. The book is featured in this newsletter on page 23.

Jo Ann was a columnist for the Arizona Authors Association for several years, and her Member’s Spotlight feature is fondly remembered. For more information on JoAnn, please visit her Arizona Authors Association web page.

Deadhorse Park Lagoon in Cottonwood Az

Photo by AAA member Jan Nichols
## Congratulations to the Winners of the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest 2020

Winners are listed in alphabetical order by **first** name in each category:

### POETRY
- Andrew D. Hirss of Missoula, MT
- Deborah Doolittle of Jacksonville, NC
- Leon O’Chruadhlaioch of Dallas, TX
- Nancy Brehm of Flagstaff, AZ

### ESSAY
- Jamie Nielson Flagstaff, AZ
- Jan Nichols of Glendale, AZ
- Rico Austin of Scottsdale, AZ
- Susan G. Smith of Oracle, AZ

### SHORT STORY
- Brandy Isadora of Paradise Valley, AZ
- Constance Osterlitz of Phoenix, AZ.
- Janet Crum of Flagstaff, AZ
- William Lyman of Prescott, AZ

### NOVEL
- Cherrie Smith of Flagstaff, AZ
- Ellen Martig of Phoenix, AZ
- Richard McMaster of Surprise, AZ
- Ron V. Bartlow of Flagstaff, AZ

### NONFICTION
- Janelle Molony of Phoenix, AZ
- John Lewis Floyd of Tucson, AZ
- Matthew Schwartz of Tucson, AZ
- Thomas P. Collins of Prescott, AZ

### FICTION
- Ashley E. Sweeney of Tucson, AZ
- D. R. Ransdell of Tucson, AZ
- Jan Tenery of Oracle, AZ
- Marcia Fine of Scottsdale, AZ

### CHILDREN’S LITERATURE
- Barbara Renner of Phoenix, AZ
- Caren Cantrell of Cave Creek, AZ
- Debi Novotny of Fountain Hills, AZ
- Rodo Sofranac of Phoenix, AZ

Well done!

---

“Empty your mind, be formless, shapeless, like water. Be water, my friend.”

— Bruce Lee

Deadhorse Park Lagoon in Cottonwood AZ

Photo by AAA member Jan Nichols
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 November 15 to faerland@yahoo.com and we may publish it.

**Different**

I watched the stranger stride into my high school in ragged clothing. His hair was spiked on top and long in back. Many students stared at this newcomer and got out of his way whenever he came near them. No one spoke to him. It was his first day at this school.

He went to his locker, grabbed his books and stood in the middle of the hallway to stare at a map. His locker mate came and got his belongings and left without saying anything to the new kid, but stopped to talk to his friend, John.

“John, can I stash my stuff in your locker? I don’t want to share with that creep.”

“Be a man and keep your own locker. Maybe that guy will be all right.”

**Questions:**

Why did the new student come dressed in ragged clothes?

Why did he seem so different from the other students?

Who is telling this story?

Is it a first-person memoir or a third-person observation?

Why did John tell his classmate the new locker mate might be okay?

Will John become friends with this stranger?

Would sharing that locker with a stranger turn out all right or become a problem for the whole school year?

Would the new student conform or keep to his own code?

Would he ever find a friend or continue to be a loner?

continued on the next page
Road to Imagination, continued

Questions, continued

At his former school, was he an outstanding student or one who barely passed?
Is there a subject in which he excels?
Would the new student play sports or want to be in school plays?
Will he date someone at this school or find a date elsewhere?
How will teachers react to this new student?

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

Finish the story and send it to faerland@yahoo.com no later than November 15th.

Rocks have their dreams, and the earth changes....”

— Ursula Le Guin

Monument Valley
Photo by AAA member
Sharon Sterling
The following anonymous jokes (and more) were found on the internet by a friend of the Bernhardts. If you’d like an explanation of any of them, Linda Sienkiewicz does a great job on her website.

A dangling participle walks into a bar. Enjoying a cocktail and chatting with the bartender, the evening passes pleasantly.

A bar was walked into by the passive voice.

An oxymoron walked into a bar, and the silence was deafening.

Two quotation marks walk into a “bar.”

A malapropism walks into a bar, looking for all intensive purposes like a wolf in cheap clothing, muttering epitaphs and casting dispersions on his magnificent other, who takes him for granite.

Hyperbole totally rips into this insane bar and absolutely destroys everything.

A question mark walks into a bar?

A non sequitur walks into a bar. In a strong wind, even turkeys can fly.

Papyrus and Comic Sans walk into a bar. The bartender says, "Get out -- we don't serve your type."

A mixed metaphor walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud.

Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They converse. They depart.

A synonym strolls into a tavern.

At the end of the day, a cliché walks into a bar -- fresh as a daisy, cute as a button, and sharp as a tack.

A run-on sentence walks into a bar it starts flirting. With a cute little sentence fragment.

A figure of speech literally walks into a bar and ends up getting figuratively hammered.

An allusion walks into a bar, despite the fact that alcohol is its Achilles heel.

The subjunctive would have walked into a bar, had it only known.

A misplaced modifier walks into a bar owned by a man with a glass eye named Ralph.

The past, present, and future walked into a bar. It was tense.

A dyslexic walks into a bra.

A verb walks into a bar, sees a beautiful noun, and suggests they conjugate. The noun declines.

A simile walks into a bar, as parched as a desert.

A gerund and an infinitive walk into a bar, drinking to forget.

A hyphenated word and a non-hyphenated word walk into a bar and the bartender nearly chokes on the irony.
Facts Will Free Up Your Fiction

Every author has been asked, “How did you come up with that story?” The favorite of my novels, *The Filigree Cross: The Salvation of Larry Broadfellow*, came to me while channel surfing. On the TV screen, a televangelist was exhorting listeners to open their wallets so that Heaven would be open to them. Though he said all the right words, he was clearly bored with the message, and distracted by the fit of his coat jacket. Several times he flexed his shoulders and pulled at the collar. It made me wonder at the dressing-down he might get from his PR people when they saw this performance. So I had my next protagonist, Larry Broadfellow, failed televangelist.

Unfortunately, Larry came to me as an orphan. This stumped me. I said to my husband, “I don’t know anything about orphans; I don’t think I’ve ever known one, but my character is an orphan.” My husband, eager to end the dilemma, said, “Well, you’re the writer. Give him parents.” I wandered off knowing that would not work. Larry was completely and utterly alone. I went ahead with the story, still worried about the orphan situation.

At that time I was not a U.S. citizen. I was a green-card-carrying Canadian living in the U.S. These cards were being counterfeited so much that we were all required to get new ones. It only took me four years to accomplish this. At some point in this four-year period, I was sitting in a massive room in downtown Phoenix with several hundred others, waiting for my number to come up, so that, once again, I could have a futile conversation with an immigration agent. I was sitting on an aisle seat, and a gentleman in a wheelchair rolled up and stopped beside me. The gentleman and I began talking. When I said I was a writer he had the usual questions, and the conversation shifted to me. I told him about my orphan problem. He told me he had grown up in an orphanage in Minnesota, a facility that was also a farm. He told me everything I could ever want to know about his younger life.

I used very little of the information in my story since it was a small part of the book, but from that day forward my story almost wrote itself. Larry Broadfellow was now full-blown in my head. I now knew how he became an orphan, all about his childhood, how he was almost adopted, what happened to him when he aged out of the orphanage. None of this was the gentleman’s story; it was all made up. It was knowing I was working with a solid foundation that gave me confidence and freed up my fiction.

Larry has stayed with me and become more real to me than any other of my characters. The novel, *The Filigree Cross: The Salvation of Larry Broadfellow* was a finalist in the Southwest Writers novel competition.

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/](http://marlenebaird.com/)

Marlene’s Books:
- **Murder Times Two**
- **The Filigree Cross**
- **Minnie and the Manatees**
- **Claire Walker**
Music gives a soul to the universe ...

Plato

Piano on which Lennon composed “Imagine.”
Musical Instrument Museum, Scottsdale AZ
Photo by AAA member David Rich

What Are You Reading?
Review by Kathleen Cook

Last winter, our library had an overflow sale in which all books, including hardcovers, were sold for ten cents a piece. Needless to say, my boys hated me that day, because they had to lug home 30 boxes of books for which I paid a whopping $42 dollars. The books filled 15 large book shelves. Since then, I’ve been reacquainting myself with books I’d read as a child, such as Mark Twain’s classics and a few from Jules Verne, as well as some historical fiction. It is one of the latter genre that I’d like to review today.

_The Haj_, by Leon Uris, had been sitting on my shelf begging to be read throughout spring and summer. For some reason, I always chose others, until _The Haj_ was one of the few left that I hadn’t devoured. If I had known it would be that powerful, sad, uplifting and stirring, I would have read it sooner. _The Haj_ takes us through the life of a Palestinian family and their Jewish friend, Gideon, over the course of several decades. It starts off in the early 1900s and carries us through WW2.

Leon Uris is unapologetically pro-Israel; he freely admitted it during his lifetime. He is the same author who gave us _Exodus_, of which the Prime Minister of Israel at the time, David Ben-Gurion, said, “as a piece of propaganda, it’s the greatest thing ever written about Israel.” _The Haj_ continues from an Israeli viewpoint and must therefore be understood in that context. Despite this caveat, I found the characters human, believable, and likeable on both sides. While the Haj is sometimes a brute, his youngest son is sensitive, caring and unlike his father. And even the Haj, the leader of his village, loves his Jewish neighbor in his own, strange way. While reserving judgment on Leon’s unabashedly one-sided account, I can wholeheartedly recommend _The Haj_ as worthwhile and absorbing reading.

Due to covid, my library canceled the coming overflow sale. I’m going to have to be content with borrowed books in the coming months, and pray for all our sakes that this covid nightmare ends before another year passes. Good luck and stay safe, everyone!
The lockdown caused by COVID-19 has laid bare the growing inequalities and injustices in our social and economic systems today. Yet it offers a good opportunity to understand our foundations, as well as why so many white Americans seem willing to disregard the needs of their fellow citizens in order to maintain a system that benefits them so mightily, while ignoring and explaining away the suffering of others.

The public, excruciating murder of George Floyd sparked an awakening among many white people of our nation’s systemic racism, to acknowledge its power and longevity for over 400 years on this continent. Pulitzer Prize winner and bestselling author, Isabel Wilkerson, examines the often unspoken caste system that has shaped America. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, shows how our lives are still impacted by a hierarchy of human divisions, which damages not only the Blacks at the bottom, but also the white population at the top of society today. In understanding this insidious system, I fully agree with Albert Einstein, who said, “If the majority knew of the root of this evil, then the road to its cure would not be long.”

Wilkerson states, “American slavery, which lasted from 1619 to 1865, was not the slavery of ancient Greece or the illicit sex slavery of today. American slavery, by contrast, was legal and sanctioned by the state and a web of enforcers...” “For the first time in history, one category of humanity was ruled out of the ‘human race,’ and into a separate sub-group that was to remain enslaved for generations in perpetuity.”

The author goes on to describe caste systems in India as well as in Nazi Germany, in order to broaden our understanding of how the system has developed in the U.S. And according to a spokesman for the German press agency, when the Nazis were solidifying their grip on the country, they used the United States as a model for their own racism. “For us Germans, it is especially important to know and see how one of the biggest states in the world with Nordic stock already has race legislation, which is quite comparable to that of the German Reich.”

Another passage reveals, “In Germany, displaying the swastika is a crime punishable by up to three years in prison. In the United States, the rebel flag is incorporated into the official state flag of Mississippi. It can be seen on the backs of pickup trucks north and south, fluttering along highways in Georgia and the other former Confederate states...” The author goes on to point out that, “In Germany, restitution has rightly been paid, and continues to be paid, to survivors of the Holocaust. In America, it was the slaveholders who got restitution, not the people whose lives and wages were stolen from them for twelve generations.”

The Epilogue of the book offers some sobering final thoughts, such as, “Caste is a disease, and none of us is immune. It is as if alcoholism is encoded into the country’s DNA and can never be declared fully cured. It is like a cancer that goes into remission, only to return when the immune system of the body politic is weakened...”

“Wilkerson’s book is a powerful, illuminating and heartfelt account of how hierarchy reproduces itself, as well as a call to action for the difficult work of undoing it.”—*The Washington Post*
So, the question becomes, how does the white community deal with systemic racism in this country? Given the numbers and diversity of people participating in the Black Lives Matter protests around the world, this seemed a good time to reflect on my own upbringing and what we can do to take advantage of a pivotal point in our history, especially with elections on the horizon.

I was brought up in Plainfield, New Jersey, and although many of the students were Black in middle school, I saw only a small number who were part of the “advanced” classes, and these kids seemed very scholastically motivated. My family moved to Littleton, Colorado, when I was 16 and from there to Evergreen in 1963. I went to school on the Western Slope of Colorado in a basically white community and ended up in the equally white community of Scottsdale, Arizona. Shortly after we arrived in Colorado, all hell broke loose in New Jersey with violent race riots, burning property, shooting and looting. I remember thinking, “What was that about? Boy, did we get out of there just in time!” By 1967, Newark, New Jersey, was one of 159 cities where riots took place, including one four-day tirade in which 26 people died.

So, this New York Times bestselling book, *White Fragility*, attracted me because the author is a recognized trainer and educator on racial and social justice issues. She deals head-on with white people who ignore race and are dealing with emotions like anger, fear and guilt, which often lead to argumentation and silence. More importantly, the author not only explains the phenomenon, but also explains how it protects racial inequality and what we, as a society, can do to engage more constructively.

DiAngelo starts with, “White people in North America live in a society that is deeply separate and unequal by race, and white people are the beneficiaries of that separation and inequality.” What she calls “white fragility” is born of a feeling of superiority and entitlement. “Discrimination is action based on prejudice. These actions include ignoring, exclusion, threats, ridicule, slander and violence…” “When a racial group’s collective prejudice is backed by the power of legal authority and institutional control, it is transformed into racism…”

The author points out that, “Life in the United States is deeply shaped by racial segregation. Of all racial groups, whites are the most likely to choose segregation and are the group most likely to be in the social and economic position to do so. Growing up in segregation (our schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, shopping districts, places of worship, entertainment, social gatherings, and elsewhere) reinforces the message that our experiences and perspectives are the only ones that matter.”

The author provides some “color blind statements,” which indicate that people do not see race:

> I was taught to treat everyone the same way  
> I don’t see color  
> Everyone struggles, but if they work hard…  
> I’m not racist; I’m from Canada

Most importantly, the author provides some clear instructions on how to personally become an antiracist. “We can follow the leadership on antiracism from people of color, and work to build authentic cross-racial relationships. We can get involved in organizations working for racial justice. And most importantly, we must break the silence about race and racism with other white people.” Well, I have my marching orders!

The book has been a New York Times best seller, and here is a thoughtful critique from The New Yorker: “The value in *White Fragility* lies in its methodical, irrefutable exposure of racism in thought and action, and its call for humility and vigilance.”
The Million Mile Walker, continued

You can find the entire book reviews on my website under the “Library” tab. Please let me know what you think—about this newsletter, my reviews and most importantly, what you’re reading so I can ponder all of it and share some of your comments in my next column. You can email me at: Mark@MillionMileWalker.com or through my websites: Million Mile Walker.com Guatemala Story.net Facebook

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 Magazine 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 and follow him on his Facebook page.

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 be 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!
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

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

Send Checks To:

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

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
Where in Arizona?

by Dick Waters

We want to congratulate Arizona Authors Association member Carol Gandolfo for being the first to correctly guess the location of last month’s mystery picture, shown at left. Well done, Carol! The photo was taken by Dick Waters in Sedona, Arizona.

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.

Last Issue’s location: Sedona

This month’s photograph was taken by Dick Waters:

Possible Locations:

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

Write to faerland@yahoo.com no later than November 15th if you know the location of the photo. If you answer correctly, we’ll publish your name in the next issue.
Yes, we’re all definitely tired of this pandemic by now! If you are going stir crazy and looking for more online opportunities to improve your writing, here are a few courses you might enjoy. Remember, all of them are FREE, although they may offer optional extras. I have tested all of them and I’ve found the courses to be worthwhile and interesting.

All of the following courses are from FutureLearn, a British online educational center affiliated with many of the top universities in Britain. They are perfectly accessible to American writers (note the British spelling, however).

**An Introduction to Screenwriting**

From the website:

“Screenplays form the starting point for most dramatic films, the essential work from which all other filmmaking flows. All of the tender romance, terrifying action and memorable lines begin at the screenwriter’s desk. This free online course will introduce you to the basic elements and key concepts behind a professional screenplay. The University of East Anglia’s School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing have built this course with instructors and recent alumni from their famed course in Creative Writing. The course is a must for anyone new to scriptwriting and for more experienced writers who wish to raise their scriptwriting to a professional level. It will establish a common vocabulary for approaching the screenplay and form the basis for upcoming courses in dramatic adaptation, the crime screenplay, and other genres and skills.”

**How to Read a Novel**

Another course from FutureLearn, the website’s course description says:

“What makes a great novel? How is a novel woven together? How can we best appreciate works of fiction? Answer these questions and more with this course from The University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh International Book Festival. On the course you’ll discover four of the main building blocks of modern fiction: plot, characterisation, dialogue, and setting, using examples from a range of texts including the four novels shortlisted for the 2020 James Tait Black fiction prize. You’ll also explore the formal strategies authors use, how they came to be, and how they affect us as readers.”

**Start Writing Fiction**

Even though this FutureLearn course is mainly for authors new to fiction, it’s a great refresher for experienced authors, too. The course website says: “On this online course, established writers – including Louis de Bernières, Patricia Duncker, Alex Garland, Abdulrazak Gurnah, Tim Pears, Michèle Roberts and Monique Roffey – will talk about how they started writing. You’ll consider the rituals of writing and keeping a journal; learn how to develop your ideas; reflect on your own writing and editing; hear writers talk about their approach to research; and start turning events into plot. You’ll also have the opportunity to review the work of fellow writers and receive comments on your own, learning to read as a writer and respond to feedback.”

continued on the next page
Inevitable Author, continued.

If you have to be cooped up due to covid, this is a great time to improve your skills and come out the other side of the pandemic ready to shine! If you’re an author or simply a still-unpublished but inevitable author, these courses will take your talents to the next level, so that you’ll look back at this pandemic and say, “Well, at least I put the time to good use.”

Kathleen Cook is a free-lance 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). She is currently the Arizona Authors Association newsletter editor.

Cottonwood, Arizona

Photo by AAA Member Sharon Sterling
NEW BOOK RELEASE
by Vijaya Schartz

Malaika’s Secret
Byzantium Book 3

BWL Publishing
Publication Date: September 3, 2020

Special Agent Tyler Conrad works security undercover on the Byzantium Space Station and adheres to a strict moral code. When strange beings with wings are murdered, and a dangerous lion wanders the station’s indoor streets, Tyler’s investigation leads him to a mysterious woman, who could make him break all his rules and get them both killed.

Forbidden to love, the beautiful Malaika, guardian of the glowing crystal in the temple of the Formless One, is an illegal mind-reader who hides perilous secrets. She has seen the great evil coming to Byzantium but must hide her extraordinary abilities or perish with her people.

When Admiral Mort Lowell, a hybrid Tenebran nicknamed the Vampire, makes a surprise visit to Byzantium, Tyler knows something wicked is afoot…

Find Malaika’s Secret on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other outlets.

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

Blasters, Swords, Romance with a Kick
http://www.vijayaschartz.com
http://www.amazon.com/author/vijayaschartz
http://www.barnesandnoble.com/c/vijaya-schartz
https://www.facebook.com/vijaya.schartz
https://twitter.com/Vijayaschartz
**NEW BOOK RELEASE**

by Sam Sterk, Ph.D

**Hannah’s Visions**

Austin Macauley Publishing  
Publication Date: September 30, 2020

Hannah is a seventeen-year-old high school senior with everything going for her. She is charming, pretty, popular with peers, a loving daughter, an acclaimed artist, and has a crush on the boy of her dreams, Yigal. She is also a psychic.

Lately, her visions disturb her greatly, especially when she sees grizzly crimes committed, including the rape and murder of a young lady, a near-fatal stabbing of another female, a police headquarters bombing, and she is being stalked by Leonid, whose goal is to extinguish her life. Hannah predicts her father, Yoni, a lead detective, will be assigned to investigate this case and apprehend Leonid.

A murder is committed, a young lady is nearly fatally stabbed to death, and the attacker is after Hannah. So Hannah takes matters into her own hands.

Find *Hannah’s Visions* on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other outlets.

Sam Sterk, Ph.D., is a sport psychologist, psychoanalyst, and a certified master clinical hypnotherapist. Dr. Sterk’s practice, Peak Performance Plus LLC, is located in Scottsdale, Arizona. Additionally, Dr. Sterk also teaches medical hypnosis at a local medical university and is the immediate past president of ASPH (Arizona Society of Professional Hypnosis). Sam Sterk's published works include *Sammy’s Journey*, a memoir about the author's early life struggles and triumphs in overcoming life-threatening asthma. *Win! Get the Mental Edge Skills in Martial Arts* is a sport psychology manual for martial artists.

Peak Performance Plus, LLC  
[https://www.peakplusaz.com](https://www.peakplusaz.com)  
[https://www.samsterkbooks.com](https://www.samsterkbooks.com)  
Email: peakplus@aol.com
Most of the past publicity about the Unification Church (Unification Movement), and Reverend Moon has been negative. Jo Ann attempts to give an understanding of what this movement is all about, based on her experiences, and as seen through her eyes, and explain what made her and thousands of American young people join this movement.

She also tries to give a basic understanding of the Divine Principle (the teachings of Reverend Moon). She says, "I believe if the world knew even the basics of the Principle, we could see the way to peace on earth, as we could overcome the things that divide us now."

Jo Ann also explains the meaning of the "Blessing," which refers to the well-known group wedding ceremonies, a hallmark of the Unification Movement. She was matched by Reverend Moon to a Japanese groom, and they participated in the Blessing ceremony of 2,075 couples in Madison Square Garden, New York, in 1982.

Find Confessions of a Unificationist on Amazon, Waterstones, and other outlets.

Jo Ann is a native Arizonan, born in Phoenix. She started writing poetry and winning awards while in grade school. In high school, she helped publish a poetry anthology, contributing several pieces. She was also a past columnist for the Arizona Authors Association and her feature, Member’s Spotlight, was well received. A graduate of Phoenix College, Confessions of a Unificationist is Jo Ann’s first published book.

Find out more about Jo Ann on her Arizona Authors Association Biography Page.
NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Vince Bailey

Courses of the Cursed
A Curtis Jefferson Novel

Ingram Elliot Publishing
Publication Date: August 1, 2020

African American youth Curtis Jefferson is still serving his one-year term at Fort Grant, a penal outpost for boys—a place where a horrific massacre still haunts the inhabitants. In the second book of the Curtis Jefferson series, our hero continues to be challenged by a murderous fellow inmate, Harvey Huish, a torment that leads to a brutal confrontation. Meanwhile, in nearby Oracle Mesa, café owner Isabel Cienfuegos struggles with a premonition that her nephew, Ray, will be the victim of a treacherous plot. The parallel stories, related by the same storyteller, share a common theme: the curse of Fort Grant.

Vince Bailey's award-winning Path of the Half Moon—the first book in the series—is a paranormal historical fiction tale set in a remote detention facility for wayward boys in the early sixties. Winner of the Arizona Authors Association Literary Award and the Chanticleer International Book Awards for Paranormal and Supernatural Fiction, the Curtis Jefferson series presents an edgy and thrilling escape from the ordinary.

Find Courses of the Cursed on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other outlets.

Vince Bailey is a writer and construction manager who grew up in Central Arizona in the late 1950s. His youthful escapades in the copper state climes contribute significantly to the nostalgic flavor of his fiction creations. The author's adolescent haunts of yesteryear, tracing around the east side of Mesa, crop up frequently as facets of his fictitious hometown of Jacobs Well, the anchor location of several of his stories. Path of the Half Moon is his inaugural novel, the first of a paranormal/historical fiction series that make up his Fort Grant Trilogy. Mr. Bailey currently resides in Peoria, Arizona, with his wife, Rita.

Find out more about Vince on his Amazon page, his Arizona Authors Association Biography Page, or on his website, vincebaileyauthor.com
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.
**Website**: Supply an http web address, if desired. Go to your website and then copy the link, such as: [http://www.debbieweiland-author.com](http://www.debbieweiland-author.com). Indicate whether you are published or unpublished.
**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!

Back Page Quotes and Jokes

What was Socrates’ favorite thing to mold?
Plato

What would you find in Charles Dickens’ pantry?

The best of thyme, the worst of thyme

What kind of dinosaur writes romance novels?
A Brontë-saurus.

Why did the reader stop reading *Pride and Prejudice*?
She found it too Austen-tatious

These and other jokes can be found at: [We Are Teachers](http://www.weareteachers.com)

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.

---

Literary Trivia From Page Three

**Answers**

1. *The Sign of Four* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
2. *Ten Days That Shook The World* by John Reed
3. *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller
4. *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell
5. *Barbara*
6. *Schindler’s Ark* by Thomas Keneally (Schindler’s List)