

# ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

Issue 3

Arizona Authors Association

August-September 2019

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### Vice President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

During the month of June, we planned to host Patricia Brooks for her Memoir and Nonfiction Writing Workshop at Sam Garcia Library in Avondale. At the last minute, actually only a few hours before, the librarian phoned me to say the air conditioning had gone out. The event was moved to the Avondale Public Library a few miles away.

Patricia and I phoned those who had registered, trying to intercept them in time. We don't know how many people went to the wrong library and then gave up, but many got the message and showed up. In fact I believe we had twenty people total in attendance. Half of the participants were members, including the board.

It turned out to be an excellent workshop despite all the uproar in the previous hours. I thank Patricia for her professionalism and the librarians from Avondale for facilitating this terrific workshop.

Despite that success, we have decided not to proceed with any more workshops this year. The other workshops had quite poor attendance, so we don't want to waste Association money if members don't wish to attend. In previous years, workshops were an important recruiting tool. That is currently not what we found to be true. Perhaps with more promotion, we'll have better results in the future. We'll revisit the question of workshops in the new year.

One day in July, I went to Jane Ruby's house and helped Jane set up the contest categories and assign judges. She has the contest well in hand. She took me to lunch at the location where we plan to host the banquet. It's a beautiful place with great food. I'm very much looking

continued on the next page

Vice President's Corner

forward to the banquet. I thank her for her attention to detail.

Thank all of you members who are judging the contest. It's an important contribution to the work we provide to the public for our contest and literary magazine. Thanks also to Kathleen Cook for her work on the newsletter. I encourage you all to send in your news. Also this newsletter is a great place to get a publishing credit for articles you write. Take advantage of the opportunity.

We currently are 167 members strong. Our major effort in that area involves creating the member webpages on the new website. My grandson Aaron Heathcotte has been helping build the webpage, so you may get a message from him if he needs information to complete your page.

For those of you who have not yet sent in the information for your webpage, please check the Webpage Requirements in the next column of this newsletter. You can send me the materials in a Word document or in the body of an email, whatever is easier for you.

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:


Membership  
Webmaster  
Promotion

A reminder, if you've not joined our Facebook page, please click on this link: [Facebook Group](#)

On a matter of personal business, I'm planning to compile a book of essays on discrimination against women. I'm hoping some of you members will have an interest in participating. Details of the plan are described on pages [8-9](#) of this newsletter.

Hoping you are well and writing. Hoping too for monsoon relief.

Toby

Toby Heathcotte   
[tobyheathcotte.com](http://tobyheathcotte.com), Author  
[Arizonaauthors.com](http://Arizonaauthors.com) Vice President  
[Facebook](#)

## Arizona Authors Association 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 3 lines. The first line has 21 characters. The next 2 lines each have 28 characters. State the genres of your work, i.e., Fiction, Nonfiction, Sci-Fi, Biography, Drama, Comedy, Screenplays, Play Scripts, 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 the public may contact you. This will be available to anyone who accesses our site.

Website: Supply an http web address to create a link, if desired. Go to your website and then copy the link, such as: <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.

Works by (Your Name): In this section, list your works in whatever order you like, but 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:

[arizona.authors@yahoo.com](mailto:arizona.authors@yahoo.com)

In the subject line of the email, insert "Website Bio Update." Thank you!



### Grand Canyon Sunset

By Jessica Meckmann

**Editor's Note:** Our president, Russell Azbill, is traveling this month. We all wish Russell a safe trip and look forward to his column in the next issue.



## Arizona Authors Association Leadership

### Board of Directors:

President.....Russell Azbill  
 Vice President of Special Projects.....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.

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**All other inquiries should be sent to:**

[Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com](mailto:Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com)

## Book Sales Report

While overall sales of print books dropped 1.9 percent in the first half of 2019, there were several bright notes in the statistics. Juvenile nonfiction saw an increase as compared with the same period last year. And the adult fiction bestseller, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, sold over 900,000 copies during the period.

Adult nonfiction's decline was not as great as experts had predicted, given the fact that the genre last year included several blockbusters such as James Comey's *A Higher Loyalty* and *Fire and Fury* by Michael Wolff. Offsetting expected declines were Rachel Hollis' books, *Girl, Stop Apologizing* and *Girl, Wash Your Face*, as well as Michelle Obama's *Becoming*.

A large drop in sales occurred in history, computers, cooking and entertaining genres. Gains were reported in gardening as well as in memoirs and biographies. While sci-fi was down, horror novels saw increased sales. For more information on current trends in publishing, check out [Publisher's Weekly](#). —Editor



## Arizona Authors Association

### Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

#### Membership Benefits

With the Arizona Authors Association relaunch, we offer 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 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. You may submit a quarter-page ad for your author-related services without any cost to you through the rest of 2019. 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](mailto: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 Humor** seeks jokes (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 for free through 2019.

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

Thank you!

## Recent and Upcoming Events

### RECENT

#### Pinetop-Lakeside Authors' Forum a Success

It is not surprising that Pinetop-Lakeside, a community in the middle of a forest, with lovely lakes and exquisite views, is becoming a haven for writers. When the town's library invited Nancy Turner, Carol Sletten and Julie Bradley to participate in a Local Authors Forum on June 21, the writers had a great time interacting with each other and the public. They answered questions like, "What was the first book that made you cry?" Nancy's answer was *Old Yeller*, Carol's was *Black Beauty*, while Julie said that she didn't read books that made her cry.

Nancy Turner, author of *These Is My Words*, *Sarah's Quilt*, *The Star Garden*, *The Water and The Blood*, and *My Name Is Resolute*, shared what it was like before and after she published her first book. The audience gasped when they heard about a rejection that said, "I'd like to come to Arizona and break all of your pencils." And they were amazed when this exceptional writer told them she didn't feel like she was real until her first book was accepted by a publisher.

Julie Bradley talked about how she was successfully using internet strategies to sell *Escape From the Ordinary*, a newly published book based on adventures that she and her husband had while sailing around the world. She was enthusiastic about using print-on-demand and how technology is giving more people the opportunity to publish their work.

Carol Sletten, author of *Three Strong Western Women* and the illustrator and co-author of *Stories of the American West - Legends of Arizona*, talked about the highs and lows of the writing process. She said it was worth pushing aside her doubts about being a good enough writer because when she got into the groove and the words started flowing, she would lose all sense of herself.

When the forum ended, the authors had a chance to visit with individual readers and encourage several aspiring writers to pursue their dreams.

Contact Carol at: [www.CarolSletten.com](http://www.CarolSletten.com)

### UPCOMING

Marilyn Janson conducts events in the East Valley. All workshops will be held either at the Red Mountain Recreation Center (**RMRC**) at 7550 East Adobe in Mesa, or at the Southeast Regional Library, (**SRL**) 775 N. Greenfield Road in Gilbert. Contact Marilyn at: <https://janwrite.com/> (Note: RMRC adds a \$12/14 resident/non-resident fee in addition to the instructor's fee.)

Mondays August 19-26 6pm-8pm

Location: **RMRC** Instructor's Fee: \$15.

#### Story Writing: Page Turners

Bedazzle your readers with tension and suspense on the last page of your novel chapters, short story scenes, and memoirs.

[Enroll](#)

Saturday, August 24 10am-12pm

Location: **SRL** Instructor's Fee: \$25

#### Novel and Short Story Writing

Award-winning writer shares her foolproof formula to crafting the perfect story. Fiction, Memoirs, Young Adult, Children's, Chapter Books, and Family History. [Enroll](#)

Saturday, August 31 10am-12pm

Location: **SRL** Instructor's Fee: \$25

#### Nonfiction Writing

Experiment with various forms of storytelling methods including diary entries, free verse, inspirational writing exercises, letters, family history websites, and personal essay writing. [Enroll](#)

Mondays September 9-30 6pm-8pm

Location: **RMRC** Instructor's Fee: \$25

#### Travel and Personal Essay Writing

Enthrall your friends, family, and the world stage with your adventures around the globe or in your own home town.

[Enroll](#)

Saturday, September 14 10am-12pm

Location: **SRL** Instructor's Fee: \$25

#### Publishing and Author Marketing

Build your publishing vitae and establish your online website presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Submission guidelines, book proposals, markets, and manuscript formatting. [Enroll](#)

Saturday, September 21 10am-12pm

Location: **SRL** Instructor's Fee: \$25

#### Young Adult Writing

Fantasy, science fiction, and world building. Apply the hero's journey, mystical, whimsical, and exceptional elements to create magical places and stories. [Enroll](#)

## Congratulations to Our Members



Arizona Authors Association member and Buckeye resident John Sandifer will be featured in a Discovery Channel airing of: Ted Bundy: Mind of a Murderer. Sandifer covered the case quite extensively during his career as a reporter in Seattle, Washington, and is an expert on the subject.

The episode, produced and directed by Chris Holt of Arrow Media based in London, includes interviews with Sandifer and others, audio recordings of Bundy that were made while he was on Death Row, as well as archival video footage. The feature-length program delves into all aspects of the case.



Sandifer, now retired, still keeps busy with award-winning books such as *Chato's Promise: An Apache Saga*, as well as his new book released this month, *Kaetennae*, which records "the life and times of a Warm Springs Apache warrior in Victorio's band." The book is [featured](#) in this issue of the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter.

[John Sandifer](#) on Amazon

[Kaetennae](#) on Kindle

[Kaetennae](#) on Amazon

[Chato's Promise: An Apache Saga](#) on Kindle



Rico Austin won 3rd place in the 40th annual Arizona Authors Association writing contest for his entry, [Baby Tender Love!](#), a story of growing up on a Minnesota farm in the mid-60s and early 70s with the animals, chores, and a special doll from Mattel. Here's the summary from the Amazon website:

"On a farm two miles outside a small town in Northern Minnesota, an eleven-year-old girl is busy doing chores on this typical, cold December evening. Blustery, with snow aplenty, 1974 would surely offer another White Christmas as all the years before had come through with white powder, whether welcomed or not. The 600 acres of frozen farmland - which now closely resembled the

frostbitten tundra in Central Alaska - had 30 Holstein dairy cows, about a 100 head of Hereford beef cattle, over 120 sheep, two bottle-fed lambs, 30 cats with two dogs, and a single, lone work horse, all scattered throughout the acreage and in two barns on the homestead. This is a young girl's story of growing up in Minnesota, which spans 40+ years into her adult life centering around a doll made by Mattel - Baby Tender Love!!!"



Rico, who shares the honor with Connie Austin, was previously featured in this newsletter for several of his other books, including [Arizona is Where I Live](#). You may find all of Rico's books at: [Rico Austin, Amazon](#) and at [www.ricoaustin.com](http://www.ricoaustin.com)





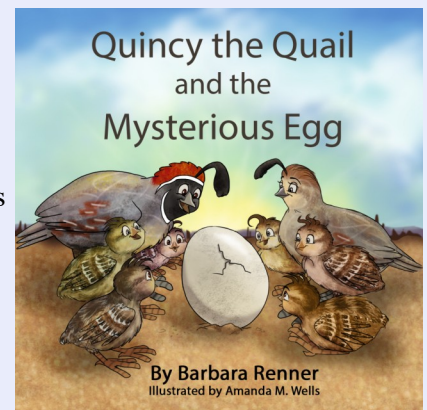
On June 27, 2019, Story Monsters LLC announced the winners of the 2019 Purple Dragonfly Book Award contest. Author Barbara Renner entered two of her picture books, and both won an award.

*Spring! Time to Build a Nest, A Story about Trumpeter Swans* won First Place for best illustrations. Illustrator Rita Goldner worked her magic in creating a watercolor effect as she captured the movement of the majestic Trumpeter Swans in their search for a home. Based on actual nesting

behaviors, the swans attempt to nest on a beaver lodge and a muskrat den. After being shooed away by these animals, the swans decide to build their own nest. The book contains interesting facts about Trumpeter Swans, a glossary of terms, coloring pages, and a QR Code so the reader can listen to the Trumpeter Swan's unique call. Barbara's book can be purchased from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

*Quincy the Quail and the Mysterious Egg* won Honorable Mention in the animals/pets category. Illustrated by Amanda Wells, this cute story shows how Quincy deals with a mysterious egg that has plopped down next to their home. His solution provides the quail family an opportunity to become friends with their desert neighbors. QR codes found in the book allow the reader to hear the quail calls. Barbara's book can be purchased from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

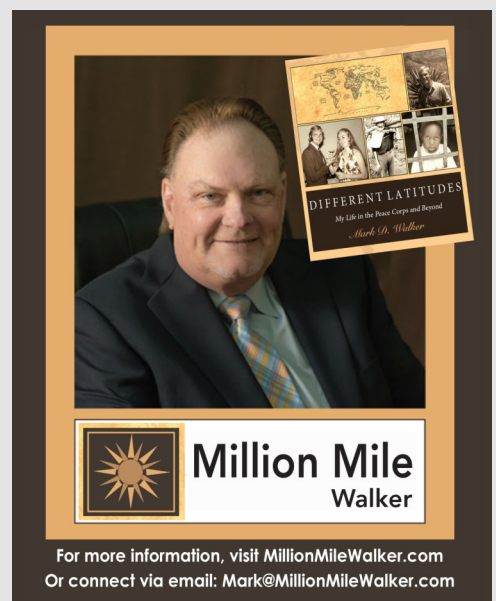
Learn more about Barbara at: [rennerwrites.com](https://rennerwrites.com)



Arizona Authors Association member and our own newsletter columnist, Mark D. Walker, wrote an article that was featured this summer in WorldView magazine, which serves an estimated circulation of 45,000 retired and active Peace Corps Volunteers. Mark's article, entitled, "Trouble in the Highlands," explains the roots of the problem in Central America and the reasons why so many people are migrating to the United States. You can read the entire issue here: [WorldView Summer 2019](https://worldviewmagazine.org).

Mark spent many years as a Peace Corps volunteer and wrote of his experiences in his book, [Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond](https://www.millionmilewalker.com). He is an expert in Latin American studies with particular emphasis on the Northern Triangle, which includes Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Find Mark at: [MillionMileWalker.com](https://www.millionmilewalker.com)





# Book Proposal

by Toby Heathcotte



## Call for Contributors

## Discrimination I Endured

Dear Women Arizona Authors Members,

I'm hoping to compile the stories and essays of women who have experienced discrimination, repression, and sexism wherever they happen. I'm wondering whether you would want to participate.

Experiences might include the workplace, school, church, social situations, and family life. We will include testimony of baby boomers, the younger generations, all interested women up to the present.

The purpose of the book, with a working title of *Discrimination I Endured*, is to give younger women a better understanding of the sexism, discrimination, and abuse women faced in our history, and provide ammunition to continue the fight. Any proceeds from the book would be donated to a nonprofit. The beneficiary could be the NOW Foundation, ACLU, or another appropriate organization. I'm open to suggestions.

I wrote an essay called "It Can't Be About Beautiful" as an example of what could go into the book. If you would like to read my essay, please send me an email so I can forward it to you.

If you would like to contribute your own stories or an essay, here are questions you might consider:

- ◇ How did the experiences change your attitude or your personality?
- ◇ How have your experiences affected your children or other family members?
- ◇ Would you react differently if you had it to do over?
- ◇ What support systems are available for voicing injustices and bringing about reform?
- ◇ How have "me too" experiences impacted you?
- ◇ How might these experiences intersect with racism and prejudices against groups, such as homosexuality, autistic spectrum, or mental illness?
- ◇ What societal reforms might be feasible in the future?
- ◇ How might we make the future brighter for people impacted by discrimination?

continued on the next page



Book Proposal

My publishing company, Mardel Books, will obtain the copyright and use ISBNs I've previously purchased. We can publish on kdp.com for free and purchase print copies at a reduced rate on Amazon.

I will do the first edit then ask other contributors who are professional editors to do the other edits. I hope to find a cover artist with a story to tell. If not, I'll pay for a cover design.

The deadline for submissions is November 1, 2019, but can be modified if appropriate.

Length of the essays is 300 to 3000 words.

We will publish anonymous stories as one separate chapter along with authors' bylines for the other chapters.

Contributors should plan to help promote the book through social media, blogs, and personal contacts. Other help in marketing might include book signings, group sales, bookmarks, speaking before organizations such as schools, book clubs, and churches.

If you have any questions or suggestions about how to proceed, let me know because the plan for the project is fluid. Let me know whether you're interested in contributing to this project.

Toby Heathcotte



[tobyheathcotte.com](http://tobyheathcotte.com), Author

[Arizonaauthors.com](http://Arizonaauthors.com) Vice President

[Facebook](#)

“The most courageous act  
is still to think for yourself.  
Aloud.”

- Coco Chanel





## WHAT POUNDS MY CAKE!

by Jane Ruby

Wanna know what pounds my cake? Nothing right now—really! Why? Because I am forever grateful for all you members who got involved in this year's Literary Contest. As a rookie contest director I feared screw-ups, glitches, and downright failure. You do not want to know about my literary contest nightmares. Yes, I have those, and I fear they won't subside until after the awards banquet.

Before I move to the awards banquet, let me first ride on my gratitude train for a few more paragraphs. My thanks go to authors who submitted entries. According to my spreadsheets, you authors/writers have been super busy this past year sending me tons of entries, and most of those (didn't do the math, but at least 95%) had Arizona return addresses! I did advertise in two national digital magazines, so I suspect that's where the remaining 5% of the entries came from (and that's OK too). I also hand delivered entries to many authors at the various book festivals in Maricopa County PLUS got help to distribute entries at the Tucson Book Festival and other Arizona writers' organizations. Thanks to Barb Renner and Patricia Brooks in that regard. Because this organization is on the rebound, I'd say we had a **SMOKING RESPONSE!**



I also need to thank the many Arizona Authors members who reached out to help judge this year's event. The most popular categories were published works and we've had to split many of the books into 2 panels of judges to lighten the load. Even after splitting, judges were still amply supplied with books! Whsheew! That's a lot of reading/judging/critiquing!

Not to downplay the judges in the unpublished categories—you folks deserve mega thanks as well. Evaluating the multitudes of poems, essays, short stories, and manuscripts can't be a cakewalk. I know; one year I had to judge 23 essays (having to critique 5 of them), and I can tell you it took up a great deal of my time! So thanks to the many judges in the unpublished categories; you deserve my utmost respect!

My gratitude train has pulled into the station, so now I can move on to this year's awards banquet. Our vice president alluded to this event in the last newsletter, but I was somehow distracted for the follow up. So here it is:

Are you ready?

This year's awards banquet will be held on Saturday, November 2, at the Moon Valley Country Club. It's located at 151 West Moon Valley Drive, Phoenix, AZ, 85023. Nestled beneath the serene, sun-drenched hills of North Phoenix in a lush, green, oasis in the desert, this classic 160-acre property is laden with mature trees and foliage, which rise above the colorful flowers that adorn the landscape. (I copied that last sentence from the [website](#), because I couldn't describe it any better.) Oh, and the food quality rises above many Phoenix eateries, too.



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### What Pounds My Cake

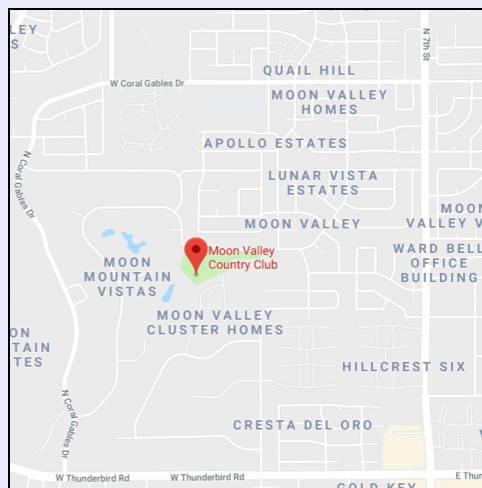
You can access the club from 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Thunderbird Rd. or Greenway Parkway. Please consult your GPS or Google Maps for optimal access from your point of origin.

Being a club member for over 20 years, I had the pleasure to dine in the same area as Karsten Solheim (founder of Ping golf clubs and past club owner). His cherished wife Louise often stopped at our table cooing to my toddler-aged daughters. The Solheims have passed and the club has since gone through many ownerships/managements. Though the golf course is relatively unchanged, the clubhouse has been updated to first-class aesthetics and comfort (my words—not theirs). I booked the Sky Room, a second-story room with large glass windows and balcony that overlooks a few fairways. Not sure when the sun sets during our banquet, but we're sure to get a colorful west-facing glow!

So whether you're a contestant, a judge, both, or neither, please consider attending this year's banquet. It should be a great way to hobnob with fellow authors, enjoy some tasty grub, and maybe win an award! Cost is still being negotiated but should be less than \$50/person. If you have any questions, please email me at: [moonvalleyisr@cox.net](mailto:moonvalleyisr@cox.net).



Moon Valley Country Club Banquet Room



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/>



San Francisco Peaks, Arizona

By [Bernard Gagnon](#)





## The Road to Imagination by Cherie Lee

Do you ever need a prompt to get you started? Try Cherie Lee's story starter to spur your imagination and get the sentences flowing. Cherie wrote the following paragraph as a guide:

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

If anyone would like to share the story they create with this prompt (800 words or less), please send it to [faerland@yahoo.com](mailto:faerland@yahoo.com) and we'll publish it.

### Music

Cars parked in front of my neighbor's house. Ratty-clothed men with long stringy hair carried horns, guitars, amplifiers, and a microphone into the neighbor's backyard.

I had been invited to this party but could not go. My twins were sick and had just gone to sleep. Now noise would wake them. Sleep would not be possible this night, but maybe a band would play soft music, not loud jangling noise that jarred my head.

Darkness soon came and lights blazed in my neighbor's yard and even lit the children's bedrooms like the sun had just risen. Little Bobby stood and looked out the window even though he couldn't see over the wooden fence. He held his blanket against his cheek and blinked his eyes, but did not cry.

I tiptoed into Suzy's room. She mimicked her brother. I picked her up and carried her into her brother's room as the first rap song exploded. Loudness exploded and assaulted my ears. An instant headache began. Leaving the twins staring out the window sucking on their thumbs, I dashed across the hallway, grabbed my earplugs, and put them in my ears.

A surprise greeted me when I returned. The twins were...

### Questions:

What does this neighborhood look like?

Was the storyteller good friends with her neighbors or were they only acquaintances?

Were either the storyteller or neighbors new to the neighborhood? Where did they come from?

What type of music did she expect since she'd been invited to attend?

Had she seen those musicians before or was this the first time?

How old were the twins?

What did the twins do that so surprised this woman?

Did they dance or sing along or cry louder than the music?

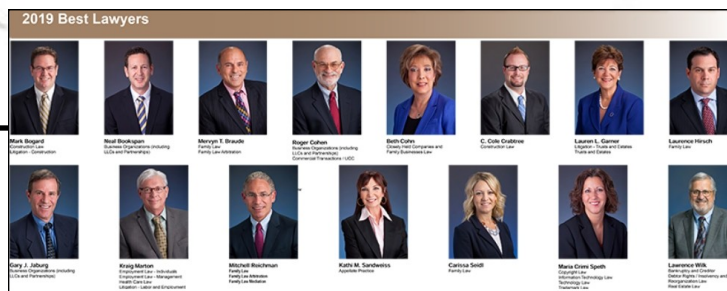
What would happen if they found their toy drums and beat in time to the music they heard?

What if a spotlight from a helicopter shone down on the house that played this loud music?

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



## Legal Services



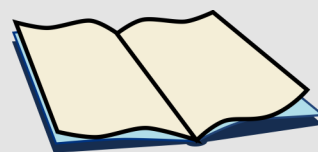
**Jaburg Wilk Attorneys at Law**  
 Intellectual Property Lawyer Labor and Employment Lawyer Divorce and Family Lawyer  
 3200 N. Central Avenue Suite 2000 Phoenix AZ 85012  
 (602) 248-1000 <http://www.jaburgwilk.com>



[Arizona Landscape](#)  
 Courtesy of  
 the US Fish and Wildlife Service

## What Are You Reading?

This month, I recommend the book, [City of Dreams: A Novel of Nieuw Amsterdam and Early Manhattan](#). Once I started reading it, I could not stop. The story of Lucas Turner, who came from England in the 1600s, and his succeeding generations of New Englanders, will make a lover of history even out of one who previously did not enjoy the genre. The Los Angeles Times called it, "A Near Perfect Historical Novel." I agree. –Editor





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

By Mark D. Walker



This month I'm introducing you to Moritz Thomsen, one of the great authors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, who is virtually unknown except among a relatively small group of travel writers and returned Peace Corps volunteers. Thomsen was an extraordinary writer and influential expatriate who spent thirty years in Ecuador studying the culture and identifying with those he lived.

His first book, *Living Poor*, is ranked as one of the best Peace Corps memoirs ever written, so it's only fitting that the book has reached its fiftieth anniversary amid a surge of interest around its author. His four remarkable books have been compared with the work of Thoreau and Joseph Conrad. And just a few months ago, his last manuscript was published, twenty-eight years after his death.

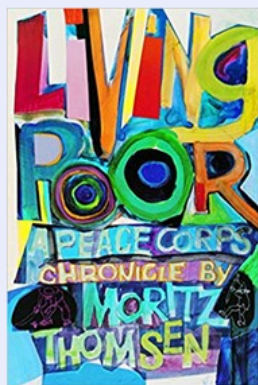
According to author Tom Miller, Thomsen's writing style "pledged allegiance to nothing except his station as an expatriate. And as an expat, he was free to judge us all, an undertaking he finessed with acute observations, self-deprecation, and a flavorful frame of reference that ranged from a Tchaikovsky symphony to a Sealy Posturepedic mattress."



Thomsen, among the first Peace Corps volunteers to arrive in Ecuador, was sent to an isolated site in the northwestern jungles. Despite the villagers' considerable resistance to change, he helped pull a number of families out of abject poverty, offering a semblance of hope for a better future. During this time he began his writing career.

As a Peace Corps volunteer, he put down roots, which allowed him to immerse himself in the local culture and economy and understand its dynamics like few other expats. This allowed him to enter the skin and psyche of his neighbors and describe their passions and ignorance with immense candor. As fellow returned Peace Corps volunteer and author, Paul Theroux, puts it, "Thomsen is one of those rare, gifted, inventive and courageous Americans with a strong stomach and a dark sense of humor, who went away and never came back—just kept going." Theroux went on to say, "Writing for him is a natural and instinctive act, like breathing."

These initial experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer would form the basis of Thomsen's first book, *Living Poor*. In contrast to his upbringing, Thomsen chose to experience and understand poverty and, through his writing, share it with the rest of the world: "Living poor is like being sentenced to exist in a stormy sea in a battered canoe, requiring all your strength simply to keep afloat; there is never any question of reaching a destination. True poverty is a state of perpetual crisis, and one wave just a little bigger, or coming from an unexpected direction, can, and usually does, wreck things."



Paul Theroux (the godfather of travel writing and a fellow returned Peace Corps volunteer) and Tom Miller, acclaimed author of the *Panama Hat Trail* and *The Revenge of the Saguaro* who set up an extensive Thomsen collection at the University of Arizona's "Special Collection," both befriended Thomsen. After his death in 1991 they organized the "Moritz Memories" project to bring together some of the many authors around the world who knew and respected Thomsen's work. Theroux said the following of my review of *Living Poor* in the Letters to the Editor in *WorldView Magazine*:

The article Mark Walker wrote in the winter issue ("Living Poor") about Moritz Thomsen's Peace Corps memoir is worthy of the man. A British publisher, Eland Press

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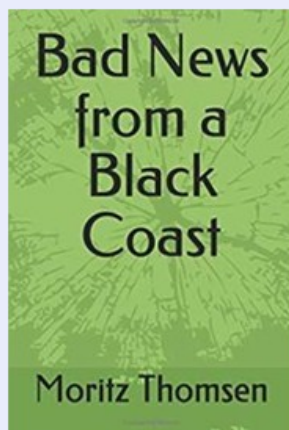


### The Million Mile Walker Review

in London, is reissuing Moritz's books; they just asked me if they could use my intro for mothering, and in the spirit of Moritz, I said yes . . .

Moritz Thomsen died on August 28, 1991, dying as he lived most of his adult life, staying true to his values of living amongst the poor and rejecting the comforts that his father had envisioned for him. (His father was a multi-millionaire whom Thomsen despised.) According to his fellow author and confidant, Mary Ellen Fieweger, "I think he was ready to die, and determined to do it the way he had chosen to live most of his adult life. He died poor, with a disease that affects only the poor." (cholera)

Up to the end of his life, Thomsen was working on *From the Window*, stories about what he saw from his second-story window in Guayaquil, and he completed the manuscript of [\*Bad News from the Black Coast\*](#), which was to languish in the hands of reluctant publishers and family members for twenty-eight years. Ironically, on the cusp of the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Living Poor*, his last manuscript, *Bad News from a Black Coast*, finally appeared.



The first edition of *Bad News* was created from a photocopy of the original typed manuscript and includes his hand written notes. The book is over 300 pages, the chapters are untitled and the index only includes a brief Editor's Note. There is a foreword as well as endnotes, which list where "unreadable texts" were located. Thirty vignettes dating from his arrival in Ecuador as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1964 include snippets of characters from his previous books, which help make sense of the beauty and complex world of the Esmeraldas on the coast of Ecuador. I consider it on par with his other four masterpieces.

My [review](#) of *Living Poor* was published in *WorldView Magazine*, on *Goodreads*, as well as by the *Peace Corps Worldwide*.

My [review](#) of *Bad News from the Black Coast* was published by the *Peace Corps Worldwide* and on *Goodreads*.

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:

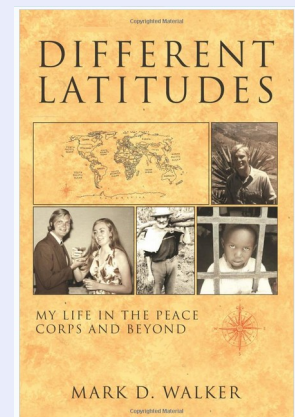
[Mark@MillionMileWalker.com](mailto:Mark@MillionMileWalker.com) or through my website: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com/>

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 Literary Association for nonfiction and according to the *Midwest Review*, "... is more than just another travel memoir. It is an engaged and engaging story of one man's physical and spiritual journey of self-discovery . . ."

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

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



Mountain View School is hosting its  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Authors' Day  
Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>



We would love for you to be involved!  
Help our 4<sup>th</sup> graders to improve their writing!  
Share ways to develop ideas!  
Explain your organizational process!  
Write a class poem!  
Teach journaling!

We are open to whatever you are most comfortable in doing with a class of 25-30 4<sup>th</sup> grade students! You can choose to work with just one class or several. Presentation times are 9:10–10:00, 10:05 –10:55, 11:00–11:45, 12:35–1:25, and 1:30–2:20.

With six teachers, we have thirty slots to fill!

If you are interested, please e-mail Karen O'Keefe at [karen.okeefe@wesdschools.org](mailto:karen.okeefe@wesdschools.org).

Mountain View School Young Authors' Day

Who: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

What: Young Authors' Day

Where: Mountain View School  
801 W. Peoria Avenue

When: Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>  
9:10–10:00, 10:05 –10:55, 11:00–11:45,  
12:35–1:25, and 1:30–2:20

Why: To encourage our students to write!  
To inspire our students to write!

How: Writing workshops on developing ideas,  
word choice, story structures, nonfiction  
research, poetry, writing process, any  
workshop to help our students improve  
their writing skills!

Contact Karen O'Keefe at [karen.okeefe@wesdschools.org](mailto:karen.okeefe@wesdschools.org)  
if interested!





## BECOMING THE WRITER YOU WERE MEANT TO BE

The Desert Sleuths annual WriteNow! Conference for authors and aspiring writers of all genres is scheduled to take place at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Paradise Village, Phoenix, on Friday and Saturday, September 27 and 28.

This year's offering includes such award-winning authors and industry experts as the following:

Agatha, Macavity, and Bruce Alexander Memorial Lefty Award winner and international bestselling author, Catriona McPherson.

Dennis Palumbo, award-winning screenwriter and bestselling author of mystery thrillers and the internationally praised *Writing from the Inside Out*.

Bestselling crime writer, Jess Lourey, an Agatha, Anthony, and Lefty-nominated author of the critically-acclaimed *Mira James Mysteries*.

Literary agent, Abby Saul, who is open to submissions in adult fiction in the following genres: mystery, thriller, suspense, women's fiction, historical fiction, and select literary fiction. There are limited, optional "pitch" sessions

Senior Acquisitions Editor for Crooked Lane Books, Terri Bischoff. Terri's open to mainstream suspense, thrillers, quirky and humorous cozies, LGBTQIA, and diverse characters and/or storylines. There are limited, optional "pitch" sessions still available with Ms. Bischoff.

The conference begins on Friday evening, Sept. 26, with a welcoming reception and meet-the-authors mixer, followed on Saturday with break-out sessions, panels and speakers.

EVENT:           Becoming The Writer You Were Meant to Be  
Desert Sleuths 2019 WriteNow conference

LOCATION:       Embassy Suites by Hilton  
4415 E. Paradise Village Parkway South  
Phoenix, AZ 85032

DATE/TIME: Welcome Reception: Friday, Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Workshop: Saturday, Sept. 28, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CONTACT:       Kate Herbert, 602-604-1827

NOTE:           Continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included.

PRICE: \$159 – members  
\$169 – non-members

## Baker and Taylor's Exit from the Wholesale Distribution Market

Baker and Taylor, one of the oldest and largest wholesale distributors of books to independent retailers, announced its exit from that arena after 180 years in the field. The company, which was acquired by Follett last year, decided to shift gears and concentrate solely on their library services. Their exit this past spring leaves only Ingram as the sole national wholesale distributor of books to small retailers in the United States.

What does this mean for independently operated book stores? As reported in [Publisher's Weekly](#), Larry Law, the executive director of the Great Lakes Independent Booksellers Association, had this to say: "I believe removing that competition in the retail/wholesale market is a huge detriment to the independent bookselling industry." As more and more businesses move toward conglomerations and mega-holdings, the trend overall is worrisome for most small independent businesses.

There are several reasons why Baker and Taylor is abandoning the wholesale distribution business. One of the biggest factors is the fact that many retailers are now dealing directly with publishers, rather than going through a middle man or wholesaler. Michael Tucker, owner of Books Inc., concedes that his own business has shifted away from wholesale distributors. In the past, more than 60 percent of his books were acquired through either Baker and Taylor or Ingram. Now, that percentage has dropped to 40 percent. Books Inc. has ten stores in California and is one of the more successful independent chains.

In some parts of the country, the loss of Baker and Taylor will be felt most acutely by the smallest bookstores. Heather Duncan, executive director of Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association, said this to *Publisher's Weekly*: "Lots of rural stores in particular don't often have accounts with publishers." Without access to direct sales, therefore, wholesalers helped to fill the needs of their customers in a timely manner. The smaller communities in particular have no advantageous relationships with publishers, which large book chains benefit from through discounts, deals and enhanced shipping strategies. Wholesalers served even the smallest bookselling outlets and helped to mitigate such "David and Goliath" differences. Without Baker and Taylor, some fear that Ingram will

be able to charge more, which will widen the gap between large and small sellers even further.

How does this affect indie authors? It might mean that smaller bookstores may not be able to acquire their titles at a cost that allows the retailer to make a profit. But all is not bleak; there are some small booksellers who hope the demise of the national wholesaler may open the door for regional wholesalers that once thrived in America's heartland. If more regional wholesalers come into being or revive that part of their business, it may facilitate more sales and ease of distribution for authors trying to sell their titles in small communities.

The Arizona Authors Association Newsletter will keep tabs on this development and report any future opportunities or challenges for authors, particularly those who self-publish their works. If more regional players get involved, we may yet see a thriving small community market for all of our titles. —Editor

[Publishers Weekly: Industry Reacts to B&T Exiting the Retail Wholesale Business](#)

[Baker and Taylor Yahoo Finance News](#)



Monument Valley  
Picture by [Bernard Gagnon](#)

## A Special Story Monsters Gift For Arizona Authors Association Members

The Editor of the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter, yours truly, recently received an email from Cristy Bertini, Editor-in-Chief of *Story Monsters Ink*. I'm thrilled to be able to share some wonderful news with you!

*Story Monsters Ink*, which *School Library Journal* has endorsed as one of the "great" resource magazines for children and teens, recognizes members of the Arizona Authors Association as valuable contributors to the literary world. Over the years, many of our members have entered Story Monsters contests and quite a few have won prizes, including Barbara Renner, who is [featured](#) in this issue on the Congratulations page for her first place and honorable mention wins in the Story Monsters Purple Dragonfly contest.

Linda Radke, the publisher of *Story Monsters Ink* and

our own Arizona Authors Association member, and Cristy Bertini, a past winner of the Book Publicists of Southern California Irwin Award for Best Editorial Director, are now sharing their spirit of giving with all of us. I've worked with Cristy as a judge in the Purple Dragonfly Contest and know her to be a kind-hearted and generous person, so I'm not surprised that these wonderful people have made this offer.

*Story Monsters Ink* is providing us with a full year's digital subscription free of charge. Just enter the code AZAUTHORS on their website. I want to thank Linda, Cristy, and Story Monsters for this gift. To learn more go to:

*Story Monsters Ink* [Website](#)

Linda Radke [Webpage](#)

Cristy Bertini [Webpage](#)

## Arizona Authors Read for **FREE!**

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## Tips from Mark Bowden

As the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter Editor, I like to keep abreast of writing methods and helpful hints to pass along to our readers. I recently read a few articles by Mark Bowden, who shared tips on how to improve our techniques as writers. He is the author of 13 successful books including *Black Hawk Down*, which was made into a movie. I say *successful* books with emphasis, since most of us have written books that languished on Amazon with perhaps fifty copies a year sold—in a good year.

One of Mark's most important tips, and one to which I as an editor can relate, is "write, rewrite, and rewrite some more." He mentioned an early mentor, Charles Layton of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, with whom he often butted heads. He didn't like editors, back then. They tore his "babies" apart and basically ripped them to shreds, forcing him to rethink every line and even every word. After he earned his place as a famous author, they still ripped his new drafts to shreds. By then, however, he had learned to accept the criticism with aplomb and understand its value.

That reminded me of a workshop I once attended, conducted by Vijaya Schartz. I had already worked as both a writer and an editor for several years. I wasn't a new kid on the block, but I figured I'd learn a few new tricks. Besides, I was eager to see what she thought of my new novel. That eagerness turned to fury when she critiqued the first five pages and basically ripped it to shreds and stabbed me in the heart. I hated her—for about 24 hours—until I realized she had just made my novel a whole lot better. She gave me a badly needed kick in the pants. Looking back now, she was probably quite kind, but all writers are far too sensitive about their work. It's like being told you have an ugly baby; World War Three could not evoke more outrage. When you get over it, you learn, grow, and eventually soar.

Even famous writers need that kick every so often. Mark Bowden says, "I still listen closely to my editors and usually take their advice. They are your first readers, and they get to talk back. They can tell you if your prose is confusing, boring, boorish, or simply wrong. A writer who doesn't listen is a fool."

When you think your draft is finished, go through it again. And again. Check every fact scrupulously, even if it's fiction. Make sure your premise is plausible. Keep editing until you can read your novel all the way through without improving a single word. Then, it's ready for publication (as long as you didn't "cheat" and avoid improvements because you were tired of it. Been there; done that.) If you've edited anything more than a comma or two, wait a week or longer and then read it again. Whatever you do, don't read it the next day. You'll get too sick of it to be objective.

Mark also shares a tip that he received from the novelist John Barth. John told him that when you're finishing up your draft writing for the day, always end the session in the middle of a sentence. "That way you'll know exactly where to pick up the next day." That tip proved useful to Mark, and so he shares it in blogs and articles with the rest of us. I have to admit it works. You finish the sentence and then find you are in the groove and able to finish the paragraph, the page, and the chapter.

The last tip I read was one that is near to my heart, having recently moved so far away from my desert-based comfort zone. Mark says, "Perhaps the greatest pleasure in my professional life has been going places I would otherwise have never gone, and meeting people I otherwise would have never met. The internet puts so much information at our fingertips that young people in particular think they can research and report without leaving their chair. Where's the joy in that? And, by definition, whatever you find online has already been reported. If you want people to read you, tell them something new." In other words, use the internet as one tool among many. Don't always put it at the top of the list. Get out there and experience life for yourself, so that you can truly write something unique, fresh, and altogether yours.

- Editor

[Mark Bowden's Tips](#)

## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by John Sandifer



### Kaetennae

Having won the Arizona Authors Association contest for nonfiction with his Apache saga *Chatto's Promise*, Buckeye author John Sandifer is bringing out a new book about the Chiricahua Apaches.

#### From the Kindle Edition:

He was born into the Warm Springs Apache band at a time when two wars: the Civil War and Cochise's War would stamp the direction of his life. Like no other Chiricahua Apache, Kaetennae fought for Victorio, Geronimo, Juh, and Nana and even served as an Army scout. Why did he go to prison in Alcatraz and spend most of his adult life as a prisoner of war? The sage of Kaetennae is the history of the Apache Wars.

#### From the Back Cover:

In the Chiricahua enclave called Ojo Caliente, Kaetennae was known as "He who fights without arrows." It was a tribute to his bravery. Growing up during the American Civil War and Cochise's War against invaders, Kaetennae soon learned that his tribe was destined for extinction. His life was the story of the Apache Wars as he rode with Victorio, Geronimo, Juh and Nana, then turned to the pursuit of peace.

Former award-winning broadcast journalist John Sandifer lives in Buckeye, Arizona, and Seattle, Washington, still chasing news and history in retirement. His six books have garnered national awards for nonfiction. He is an avid researcher, fly-fisherman, watercolor artist and writer.

Read more about John and his books:

[Kaetennae](#) on Kindle

[Kaetennae](#) in Paperback on Amazon

[John Sandifer](#) Biography Page on Amazon

[John Sandifer](#) Book Page on Amazon





## The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

It's summer now in Maine, and my fruit trees are covered in blooms. I can no longer see the sky from my second-story office window; the trees are so lush, tall and verdant green, they block every inch of that layer-cake sky I'd grown used to in winter. I'm sitting here at my desk in Maine and thinking about my family still in Arizona.

As they look out their windows, their views cannot compare with mine, nor mine with theirs. They survey an array of small geometric shapes, where grass is hemmed in by gravel borders that separate the prickly pears blossoming in neat patches of sand. They revel in a cornflower sky that hovers over a huge maze of little boxes with little gardens, 8-lane freeways and shopping malls. At the center of that warren called Phoenix, skyscrapers dominate the landscape for thirty miles in all directions.

Where I live, there isn't a mall within 40 miles; the Wal-Mart is 38 miles away and the nearest freeway about 30. There are state routes—our big roads—but in most places they are still only one lane in each direction and you have to wait for the pullout to pass a slow driver, since the roads are so country-woodsy-windy (with a long i). Pullouts occur about every two miles, but some drivers try their luck on slightly straighter patches and hope their 90-miles-an-hour spurt can pass your 50 before they see the Pearly Gates.

My eldest son, by contrast, lives in Scottsdale and bikes 10 minutes to get to Mill Avenue in Tempe, where he hangs out in museums, book stores, arcades, and art galleries. I no longer visit those. The main attraction here is the "two-buck Tuesday" movie at the Center Theater, the only theater in the nearest "large" town six miles away (as the county seat, it boasts a whopping 4600 population).

Natural wonders abound, however, especially in summer. Sebec Lake at Peaks Kenny State Park is breathtaking, even for one jaded by the astounding vistas of Arizona landscapes. You'll occasionally find up to a 100 people at the park, all enjoying a cool dip in the summer heat. Then again, if you go on a weekday around 11 am, as I did once, you're likely to have the 900-acre

state park all to yourself. It's an eerie feeling to be alone in a huge state park, with the rows of boats waiting to be rented by no one and playground swings attracting no children. That's hard to find in Phoenix except perhaps at 4 am . . . but no, even then you'll find some poor soul asking for a buck.

Come to think of it, that's another thing that's surprised me about Maine . . . no one has ever asked me for anything, except for charitable organizations that set up tables in front of the only real supermarket in town (on par with an average Fry's. I wish the prices were the same!) We have no homeless in my part of Maine, at least not visible homeless, even in summer.

The comparisons and contrasts between my life in Phoenix and my life here in tiny Sebec are huge. I write about them constantly in blogs or in my local newspaper (which serves the entire county of 17,000 people . . . a county as big as the state of Connecticut). Comparisons and contrasts are what make writing come to life. They separate the here and now from the there and was, the dismal reality from burning fantasy, the exotic excitement from the dull humdrum.

How many comparisons or contrasts do you use in your writing? Let's take a dull sentence, "I walked through a door," and bring it to life with these tools. "I walked through a massive steel portal unlike anything back home in Springfield. There, craftsmen make doors of spruce and pine finished with a hand planer, the same method used during the Revolutionary War. Things never change in Springfield. This door, on the other hand, resembled a gateway to an alien, metal world, without any signs of life except for unrecognizable humans in white scrubs and masks."

As you can see, comparing and contrasting evoke two sides of a coin, one familiar and comfortable and the other strange and alien. They liven up writing and also generate memories in readers, who make their own comparisons and contrasts as they read. The next time you write, I encourage you to ask yourself where a comparison or contrast can spice up your work and draw readers in with their own experiences.

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The Inevitable Author

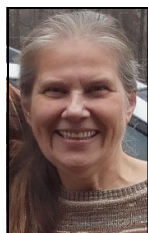
Well, that's all for this column ... I've got cabbages to harvest. If I were in Phoenix, the cabbages would have been ready in April and I'd be hauling in cantaloupe right now, which won't be done here until September. I don't know if I'll ever stop comparing and contrasting my new life with my old, but one thing I do know; I love both Maine and Arizona! I hope that all inevitable authors find interesting contrasts in their lives, wherever they live them, and that they write about them always.

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



Bill Williams River  
Arizona

Photo by [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

**Brighter Stars Editing Services**

Kathleen Cook offers editing, proofreading, formatting help and other services. Full-service editing includes extensive comments, suggestions and storyline assessments at 4¢ per word. Basic editing offers a similar manuscript without comments or explanations. This choice is ideal for those who have opted for full-service editing in the past and have benefited from previous assessments. At 3¢ per word, it's an affordable option.

Please write to [faerland@yahoo.com](mailto:faerland@yahoo.com) if you have any questions and check out my new client special, just \$25 for full-service editing of the first thousand words of your novel. Thank you!

**Back Page Humor**

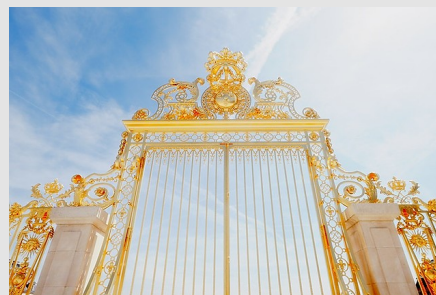
If Moses were alive today he'd come down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments and spend the next five years trying to get them published.

- Anonymous



It took me fifteen years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn't give it up because by that time I was too famous.

- Robert Benchley



A writer died and was given the option of going to heaven or hell.

She decided to check out each place first. As the writer descended into hell, she saw row upon row of writers chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop.

"Oh my," said the writer. "Let me see heaven now."

A few moments later, as she ascended into heaven, she saw rows of writers, chained to their desks in a steaming sweatshop.

"Wait a minute," said the writer. "This is just as bad as hell!"

"Oh no, it's not," replied an unseen voice. "Here, your books are best sellers."

- Joel Diffendarfer

Have a joke about writing, publishing or editing? Share it with Back Page Humor and we'll credit you with the entry. Send it to [faerland@yahoo.com](mailto:faerland@yahoo.com) before the 15th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue.