

RIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

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ArizonaAuthors.org/com [Facebook Page](#) [Arizona Authors Blog](#) Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

Issue 18

Arizona Authors Association

February-March 2022

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President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

Dear Members:

We held the annual meeting January 8 on Zoom. Momentarily I feared we would have to cancel the meeting because it requires a quorum to do business. It's a puny quorum, 1/20th of the membership. That's seven out of 125. Thankfully we had seven members in attendance and so we proceeded. Since you stayed away in abundance, we're including all three officer's reports in this newsletter. Mine follows.

President's Report:

In 2021 we reinstated the banquet and continued with the contest, literary magazine, newsletter, website, book fairs, and workshops. We hope to build on our successes this coming year, including hosting a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books and more programs.

Workshops we presented included topics on skill development by talented members: Donis Casey, Peter Bernhardt, and Patricia Brooks. We hosted several book fairs for published authors to promote their books and get to know other authors.

The newsletter, edited by Kathleen Cook six times per year, gives members an opportunity to get publishing credits for writing columns, to display their photos, and to promote their books.

Moonfruit, the company which hosted our website, went out of business. They recommended Wix as a new host to their customers. Kathleen Cook took over the transfer of the pages. She researched and found Wix to be competitive in price as well as friendly to clients. Besides the new host and new webmistress, we upgraded

continued on the next page

President's Corner, continued

to .org. Whether you click on arizonaauthors.com or arizonaauthors.org, you go to our website. We also have new pages of resources, including previous issues of the newsletter. The individual webpages look professional. We've enhanced some pages with member photography too. Take a minute to look for yourself. I think you'll be proud of our website.

Two new categories were successfully added to the contest last year: Juvenile/Young Adult and Oldie but Goldie. This year we have a new rule, which will save money and add convenience by allowing pdf files for unpublished categories. Thanks go to Jane Ruby for continued coordination. Be sure to enter to help yourself and our association.

The 2022 Arizona Literary Magazine was larger because of more categories in the contest. It's very inexpensive to produce because we use kdp. We try to make it professional and showcase member photography as well as winners' contest entries. The best news is that Kebba Buckley Button has agreed to assist with editing for the 2023 issue. I'm looking forward to working with her.

The banquet was back but poorly attended because of covid. I believe it's a legacy event for AAA and has to be protected. When all the winners can attend again, it will break even or make a small profit. It's most important to honor writers and writing in this professional manner.

There are 125 total members now. Last year we had 110 so we've grown, but the pandemic has definitely slowed our promotion. All of you who owe dues this year have been contacted. Many have not been contacted because you paid for multiples years or because you have contributed time. Our members are our greatest recruiters, so if you have a friend, suggest they join. Our members are not just writers; we also have publishers, editors, instructors, and allied professionals.

The Tucson Festival of Books will be held on March 12-13, 2022, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. AAA paid the booth rental. Each member who participates will have to pay for a Tucson license (\$20) and a Pima County license (\$2) to sell books and cover their payment methods. Eight members have signed up, so we now still have a few openings. We can add four more for four shifts of three. I have links and other information to give the people who participate. Let me know if you want to be added to the list.

I'm looking forward to 2022, safe and covid free. I wished that last year, with a poor return.

Ever the optimist with blessings,

Toby Heathcotte
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Website News

We have experienced an increase in traffic on the new website, and I'm happy to say that a few members have emailed to express their enthusiasm for the new format. Our biggest news is that members now have the ability to pay their dues or entry fees through PayPal. You'll find the PayPal button on the "Join" and the "Contest" pages. Even if you're a member, you can renew your membership with the PayPal button. Just let [Toby](#) or [Jane](#) know that you've renewed through the PayPal button on the website, and they'll take care of it!

During the AAA Annual Meeting, Kathleen asked for **relevant** reciprocal links, in order to increase page rank for both our website and the members' own author sites. If you have a website that primarily displays content relevant to authors, publishers, editors, etc., then consider placing an Arizona Authors Association banner on your website, with a link to our arizonaauthors.org or arizonaauthors.com website. If you want to display the Arizona Authors book logo on your site, contact [Kathleen](#) and she'll send you the picture with instructions on how to add a link to it. Once you've done that, we will add your site to our Resources page, which gets more traffic than most members' pages. A win-win for both. Remember, though, the page must be author-focused, not just a generic personal page. Thanks!





Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Photo by AAA Member Janet Alcorn

Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Toby Heathcotte
 Treasurer/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby
 Secretary/Editor/Website Admin.....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. *I, Claudius* is the fictionalized autobiography of which ancient ruler?
2. Which author created the detective sleuth, Inspector Morse?
3. What is the name of the woman Shakespeare married in 1582?
4. Which Australian novel describes the struggles of a young man taken to Van Diemen's Land?
5. In Samuel Taylor Coleridge's epic, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, the ship is becalmed in which ocean?
6. What type of fish is the old man's nemesis in *The Old Man and The Sea*, by Ernest Hemingway?

For more trivia, go to:

Kidadl.com

Pick up your copy of the 2022 Arizona Literary Magazine, on sale [HERE](#)



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. Do you have an older book that never got the recognition it deserved? Our new “Oldie but Goldie” category offers a chance to relaunch and renew interest in it. We also offer online book fairs or other events through our Zoom account. Advertising under the Arizona Authors Association banner allows 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 (or about to be released) 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!

Recent and Upcoming Events

RECENT



Arizona Authors Association member Patricia L. Brooks gave a workshop entitled “Write a Memoir to Remember” on December 6th at The Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale. In an uplifting and insightful presentation, Patricia L. Brooks helped attendees to capture the essence of their untold story, to face

their fears, and to produce a memoir worthy of their legacy.

Patricia’s organization, Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, also hosted Lynn Marie at their monthly meeting on January 26th. Lynn Marie is the author of multiple books and the editor of Dancing Flamingo Press. Lynn Marie spoke about the art and craft of writing children’s picture books and discussed ways to embark upon this path. At the conclusion of the presentation, she answered questions. Find out more about Lynn Marie [HERE](#).

Patricia L. Brooks is the author of three memoirs, president/founder of both Brooks Goldmann Publishing Company, LLC, and the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. To find out more about Patricia and her books, go to: www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com or text her at: 480-250-5556. You may also email her at: patricia@plbrooks.com

Arizona Authors Association member and NYT bestselling author Mike Rothmiller recently gave a seminar at the Prescott Public Library at 215 E Goodwin St in Prescott. Mike spoke on all aspects of book writing, research, publishing, agents, marketing, PR, Q & A, and more. The seminar was held on January 25, 2022 at 6pm.



To find out more about Mike, click [HERE](#).

UPCOMING

Patricia L. Brooks will be conducting her workshop, “Write a Memoir to Remember,” on a Zoom call on February 4th, 2022, from 1pm-3pm MST. To participate in this workshop online via Zoom, contact Patricia at www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com or text her at: 480-250-5556. You may also email her at: patricia@plbrooks.com

The Tucson Festival of Books will take place on Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13, 2022, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm both days. The Arizona Authors Association will be represented at the event with its own booth and a brand new, nine-foot wide professional banner.

We are providing a space for our members to promote their books free of charge. Any authors wishing to take a time slot at the fair must secure an Arizona tax license as well as a Tucson city license, but these will be good for any other venues as well. They are not specific to the Tucson Festival of Books.

The Arizona Authors Association will also provide free of charge promotional materials, such as literary magazines, contest brochures, membership brochures, etc., to distribute to participants.

If you would like to volunteer to participate, contact Toby or Jane. See our informational flyer on page [10](#) of this newsletter.

Several Arizona Authors Association members will be reading their works at “**For the Love of Story**,” which will take place at Carefree’s Sanderson Outdoor Pavilion on March 27, 2022. Mark D. Walker will be reading “La Pulsera” (The Bracelet), which was published in the November 2021 issue of Literary Traveler. Patricia L. Brooks and her husband, Earl L. Goldmann, both Arizona Authors Association members, will be among the authors reading their works as well. For more information on this event, check out the flyer on page [22](#) of this newsletter.

Congratulations to Our Members



Arizona Authors Association member and columnist, Mark D. Walker, has had several of his articles published recently. “The Saddest Pleasure: A Journey of Two Writers,” was accepted in both [Literary Yard](#), in their January issue, and the February newsletter of Eland Press, London. You’ll find the story featured in our “Short Releases” on page [35](#) of this newsletter.

“Christmas in the Land of Eternal Spring” appeared in [Peace Corps Worldwide](#) in their December 25, 2021 issue. “Traveling Through the Land of Eternal Spring: A Literary Journey” appeared in the February, 2022 issue of *Revue Magazine*; Mark reprised the article for his column this month in our newsletter.

Mark’s review of *The President* appeared in the December issue of [Midwest Book Review](#). To see all of Mark’s reviews and publications and to learn more about his work, including his memoir and his film documentary, visit his website at: millionmilewalker.com.

Janet Crum, writing as Janet Alcorn, is delighted to announce that her short story, “Woe is Me, Poor Child, for Thee,” was published in *The Colour Out of Deathlehem*, the 2021 edition of the annual Deathlehem anthology of holiday horror. It’s available in paperback and ebook on [Amazon](#). It is also featured in the Short Releases section on page [35](#) of this newsletter.

Another one of her horror stories, “Open House,” was produced earlier this year as a full cast audio drama by the Storyteller Series podcast and is available [free online](#).

To learn more about Janet and her writing, visit <http://janetalcorn.com>.



Arizona Authors Association member Jack Hawn has just published an article that the newspaper re-titled, “[Remembering Good Times in SCW](#).” It was featured in the December 18th issue of the Sun City West Independent, a weekly Arizona publication serving nineteen communities in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Jack had written the article for Thanksgiving, but the paper delayed its publication until just before Christmas, and so it changed the word “Thanksgiving” and substituted “holiday.” Other than that, the article is true to the original.

In addition to the article, Jack’s new book, *Insomnia: Two Wives, Childhood Memories and Crazy Dreams*, is nearing publication. It sprang from a short article he wrote about his father for *Reminisce Magazine*.

To find out more about Jack, click [HERE](#).

Congratulations, continued

As usual, Arizona Authors Association member and NYT bestselling author, Mike Rothmiller, has been a busy boy. The audio rights to Mike’s bestselling [Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe](#), have been sold in both the US and the UK. Along with his partner on Bombshell, Mike finalized a deal with a major British publisher for a book on Frank Sinatra’s secrets. It is scheduled for a late 2022 release.



Mike’s latest Amazon short read was posted December 7 and within 24 hours, it climbed to #2 in hot new releases within its category. It harkens to Orson Well's 1938 radio program “War of the Worlds,” as well Jules Verne’s *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. It's written as a live radio broadcast detailing a major earthquake in California that releases thousands of dinosaurs from a subterranean world. It's meant for sci-fi fans and kids who like dinosaurs. You’ll find it on [Amazon](#) and featured on page [35](#) of this newsletter.

Mike also gave a seminar at the Prescott Public Library on January 25, which is featured on page [5](#) of this newsletter.

To find out more about Mike, click [HERE](#).



Marilyn June Janson, a long-time member of the Arizona Authors Association, won a second writing award for her creative nonfiction essay “Small Steps,” published in [Tales2Inspire, The Moonstone Collection Book One](#). She is featured on page [35](#) of this newsletter in the Short Releases section.

Marilyn’s new children’s book, [What Happens Now](#), is available on Kindle and is featured in the New Book Releases section of this newsletter, on page [32](#).

Marilyn also conducts classes, workshops, and more. You may find her ad on the back page of this newsletter. For further information, visit Marilyn’s website at www.janwrite.com.

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Treasurer's 2021 Annual Report

by Jane Ruby

ITEMS IN ORDER:

After June 14, 2021, the Association's money was moved from Chase Bank to Desert Financial Credit Union.

Total Savings: \$25
Total Checking: \$7320

Since then, revenue was collected from literary contest entries, by check, cash, and Venmo:
At the close of the contest: Total Savings: \$25, and Total Checking: \$7942

The Literary Contest showed a profit, but the literary awards gala showed a loss.

Lit Contest earned \$531.70 (\$ collected minus awards)
Gala showed a loss of \$928.80 (\$ collected minus costs)

Magazine Publication and sales showed a net loss of \$25.70

Cost: \$210.70
Sales: \$185.00

2021 Membership earnings: \$270.00

As of January 1, 2022 the Association is operating in the black with a bank balance of \$5,097.46

This includes 2022 pre-payments for:
Annual Zoom Fee: \$111.30
Tucson Book Festival: \$600.00
Wix website hosting fee paid through Oct 2023

Jane Ruby, Treasurer and Literary Contest Coordinator, Arizona Authors Association

Jane Ruby is an award-winning novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She was the Secretary and Literary Contest Director for the past four years and continues to serve the Arizona Authors Association as the Literary Contest Director as well as the Treasurer. Learn more about Jane [HERE](#).





The Road to Imagination

by Cherie Lee

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

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

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

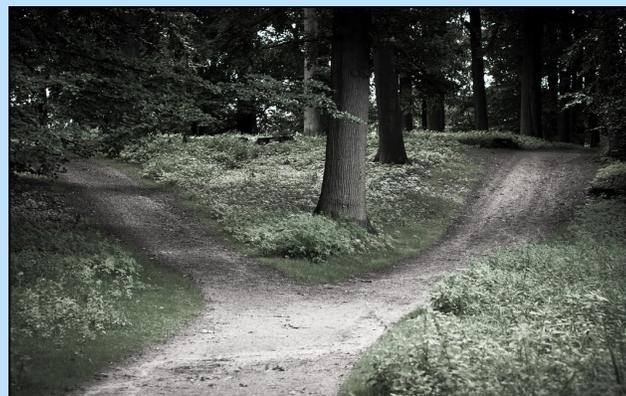
The Song

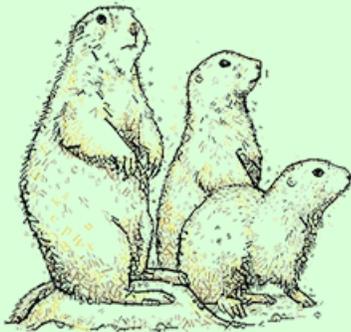
She put the CD into the car player and drove off. It played her favorite tune, but before it finished she turned it off and pulled over to the side of the road. She couldn't see. Tears streamed down her face. She grabbed her jacket and covered her head so no one could see her. She knew she had to stop crying and go to work to survive. Life always went on, no matter what emotions overwhelmed her. She dropped her jacket back onto the car seat and drove on.

Questions:

1. Did the song on the radio trigger her emotions?
2. Were the tears for a loved one who died, or because of a broken relationship?
3. What kind of work does she do?
4. Does she have a friend to talk to, or is she new to the area?
5. Does the woman have children or an elderly parent to support, or is she without a family?
6. What is the setting? Is she in a war zone or some other dangerous place?

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





Tucson Festival of Books

Saturday, March 12
Sunday, March 13
9:30 am-5:30 pm

According to the Tucson Festival of Books [website](#), it is a “free, public celebration of authors, reading & literacy.” Many authors will be featured at the festival, including such famous names as NYT Bestselling author Carol Anderson, actor/author Lou Diamond Phillips, and our own Arizona Authors Association member Jan Cleere.

Arizona Authors has rented an interior booth for the Tucson Festival of Books on March 12-13, 2022, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

We will provide a backdrop and promotional materials, including literary magazines, contest brochures, and membership brochures. We paid the booth rental, providing a space for our members to promote their books.

We will have two shifts each day with three members serving on each shift.

Saturday 9:30 to 1:30 and Sunday 9:30 to 1:30

Saturday 1:30 to 5:30 and Sunday 1:30 to 5:30

Each author who wants to sell books must provide an Arizona state license and a Tucson city license.

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 8 MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO SHIFTS AND CAN ADD 4 MORE. PLEASE EMAIL [TOBY](#) to VOLUNTEER.

See You There!





Interview of Rico Austin by Bridle & Bit Horse Magazine December 2021

Arizona award winning author Rico Austin was interviewed by Bridle & Bit Horse Magazine for the December 2021 Edition. The interview highlights his writing including his latest book, *BOY to Successful MAN, a Roadmap for Teens & Young Adults*, as well as his work as a manufacturer's representative for International Tire Company and his latest venture of developing his own brand of Tequila, set to debut in February 2022 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

Below are the first two questions. For the complete interview, click on this link: [INTERVIEW](#)

Bridle and Bit: Rico, you are a man of many passions—an award-winning Author, hold a PHD, travel non-stop and now a new business venture. How do you do it all?

Rico: Yes, I do like to keep moss from gathering on my boots. Well, the short answer is I'm a Gemini, born on the 4th of June, which is ultimately the center of the Gemini chart. And no, I'm not one of those star / galaxy guys who reads his horoscope every morning before shaving. I'm not even sure what my birthstone is??? Something blue or white, clear or turquoise maybe?

Now for the long, windy answer: as a child my world was pretty limited growing up in the small town of Marsing, Idaho along the banks of the Snake River. I was the oldest of five boys and my Dad wasn't around much, and then he unfortunately died at a very young age, so my mother pretty much raised us by herself. In order to pay the trailer house rent, the propane, put food on the table, all of us boys started working at an early age – milking cows, mowing lawns, feeding cattle, selling greeting cards, flower and garden seeds, shining shoes, sorting pop bottles, stocking shelves late at night, detasseling corn, changing sprinkler pipes, rolling bales of hay, picking up rocks out of fields, sacking groceries, picking fruit in the orchards – basically anything we could do, we did it. If anyone needed anything done, they would hire one of the Austin boys.

So, all I wanted to do when I grew up was to see the world, get a college education, someday own a company or land and move to a warm state where in the winter I wouldn't have to slip on ice and land on my ass, and most of all, to make my mother proud of her eldest son. After my mother met a good man and remarried, I enrolled in college. I have been blessed to have earned my first degree at the age of 26 – an associate degree in Sales and Marketing from Boise State University – and of getting to play one year on the Boise State Football team as a walk-on player, a year before the famous Blue Turf (of which there is a full chapter on that subject in my best-selling novel, *MY BAD TEQUILA* about a Spring Break Trip gone bad that spans for 50 years' of poor decisions).

I continued my education over the years, including earning an MBA from Thunderbird, American Graduate School of International Business, and YES, finally a PhD in Tequila! Yes, that is a real thing of which less than 800 people in the world have.

My motto, "I wasn't drinking, I was studying," when I'm asked about how much tequila I drank to get that degree. So, in finale, the answer is that I want to experience life to the fullest and feel thankful and blessed, and I thank GOD for this crooked road that led to one of the most incredible adventures I could not have imagined.



continued on the next page

Interview with Rico Austin, Continued

Bridle and Bit: What started you on the book journey?

Rico: As a child I've always loved to read. The books I read took me to far away lands and introduced me to people I had never heard about and worlds I had never dreamed about. I liked to write and to take photographs, but it was always a hobby as I was told by my mother that it would never pay the bills when once in a great while I might mention my dream of becoming a writer or a photographer. I was able to satisfy my writing and photography hunger by being elected the 4-H Reporter of the Eager Beavers and serving as the Reporter all three years in FFA (Future Farmers of America).

Then many years later in 1996 while attending graduate school, I was frustrated by the horrible method of how enrollment was being done and wrote an article about it in the school newspaper – *Das Tor* – and it was put on the front page. The editor asked me if I wanted to write for the paper and I told him I already had two jobs, but he convinced me that I could write as little or as much as I wanted and would get paid by the article of which I could choose – voila, thus began my love again for writing and late one night after drinking mucho tequila on December 18th, 2007, I saddled up and began writing my first novel *MY BAD TEQUILA*, of which a memorable Spring Break in 1986 occurred. My one and only Spring Break Trip for a cost of \$200 included the bus trip from Boise, Idaho to San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico. It was the first time I'd ever come through Arizona and seen a live cactus and fell in love with the beauty of the desert.

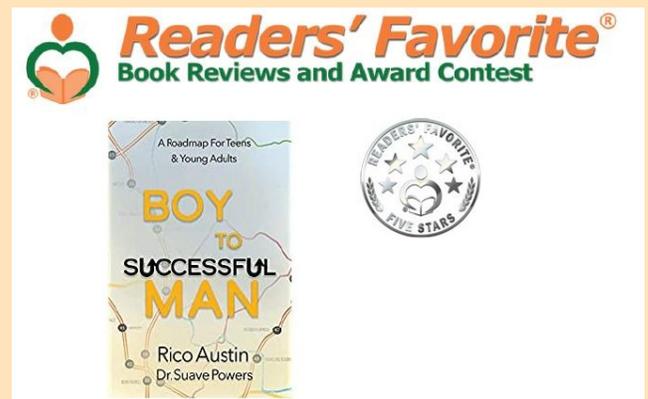
To continue the interview, click [HERE](#).

Rico Austin is the author of many books, his latest being *Boy to Successful Man: A Roadmap for Teens & Young Adults*, On 1-5-2022, Rico Austin received the elusive perfect score review from a **Reader's Favorite Judge** for his latest book: *BOY to Successful MAN, A Roadmap for Teens & Young Adults*, compiling 6 different categories all getting a 5 of 5, for a total of 30 out of 30 points. Check out the #1 review below by Tammy Ruggles for **Readers' Favorite**:

“Boy to Successful Man: A Roadmap for Teens & Young Adults, by Rico Austin, Ph.D., and Dr. Suave Powers, is more than a book. This guide is a tool of wisdom and good choices that young boys and girls can carry with them and use as they head toward adulthood. With many good, moral chapters about thinking before you act and doing the right thing, this book can be a solid foundation for young readers who may have had some instability in their upbringing, some gaps in their role models, or need a compass for heading in a positive direction. Being a former social worker, one standout story to me is Chapter 16: How to Treat a Woman. This is just one of the examples of the wonderful, impactful life lessons you'll find within the book's pages.

*“Austin and Powers write with authority and experience as they impart some of life's most important truths to young, vulnerable people. If you're a young person on the margins, who feels out of place, frustrated, different, without purpose, or challenged, this book is for you. The authors have lived-experience that they pass on to younger generations, and this is the best kind. You'll find advice on proper behavior, how to avoid being judgmental, maintaining a non-violent attitude, how to be more successful, and more. This would be the perfect book to use in a classroom, support group, mentoring situation, or as a gift to a young person in need of guidance. If you've ever wondered where all the handbooks for growing up are, *Boy to Successful Man* by Rico Austin, Ph.D. and Dr. Suave Powers would be one of them.”*

For more on Rico Austin, go to his website at ricoastin.com





Arizona Authors Association Annual Meeting Minutes

by Kathleen Cook

Arizona Authors Association Annual Meeting: January 8, 2022

Members Present: Toby Heathcotte, Jane Ruby, Kathleen Cook, Caren Cantrell, Janet Alcorn, Barbara Renner, Kebba Button

Meeting commenced: 10:10 am MST.

President's Report:

Toby reviewed the accomplishments of 2021, including reinstating the banquet, conducting workshops on memoirs and skill building, adding two categories to the contest as well as producing a larger literary magazine. She reported that we had gained 15 new members in the past year, for a current total of 125. She explained that Moonfruit, our former webhost, went out of business during 2021 and so we switched to using Wix as our webhost. She mentioned the success of the new website, and the fact that we gained the .org domain for Arizona Authors. Now, when you type either arizonaauthors.com or arizonaauthors.org, both domains point to the same improved website.

Jane asked about the cost of the Wix website, since there are several cheaper webhosting options available, and Kathleen explained that she chose Wix for several reasons. One, it is much easier for a non-techie to use. Two, Moonfruit, upon announcing their closure, suggested that Wix was our best option. Lastly, Kathleen reported that we received 2 years' worth of Wix hosting at 50 percent off, which meant that we paid no more for it than we had been paying for basic Moonfruit hosting service. The Wix format allowed Kathleen to create the entire website herself for free, rather than having to hire someone. Overall, therefore, the association saved money.

Toby congratulated Kathleen for her work on the website and Jane for her continued work on the literary contest. Toby also mentioned the online book fairs had not attracted the numbers that we wished to draw, but that they had been enjoyed by those attending. Kathleen mentioned that the fairs were useful to members in networking opportunities as well as for gaining information. Jane agreed, and mentioned a helpful segment on audio book creation in one of the online events.

It was decided in the previous board meeting that we would change the name of the web gatherings to reflect the typical focus on authors meeting authors. This change was relayed to the participants, and Kathleen and Jane agreed that "Meet the Author" events would still be conducted in the future, but without the "book fair" focus. Toby agreed.

Kebba Button asked if we had resolved the issue of theft on the part of the previous administration. Toby reported that the matter of \$20,000 absconded by the previous president was referred to Scottsdale Police, who refused to prosecute even after governmental agencies told them it was their duty to do so. Janet Alcorn asked if Scottsdale Police gave a reason, and Toby said that they had no satisfactory answer on that issue. As of this date, the matter is left unresolved. Toby mentioned that a new account was created, and that the Arizona Authors Association accounts were moved from Chase Bank to Desert Financial Credit Union.

Secretary's Report:

Kathleen gave an overview of the changes over the past 12 months, including changing the look of the newsletter and

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Annual Meeting Minutes, Continued

adding a photo to the header, originally taken by AAA co-founder David Rich, in order to reflect the association's origins. Kathleen also discussed the new website, saying that it was still a work in progress. She reported that she recently added a calendar page with member and other events, and placed all of the newsletters from 2019 and 2020 on the resource page of the website. The resource page includes an invitation to nonmembers to join Arizona Authors Association, in order to receive the newest newsletters. She believed that showing the older newsletters and the valuable articles therein would incentivize potential members to join our association.

Kathleen also urged members to review their member page for accuracy. In addition, those who submitted events for the Calendar should check that webpage to see that their event was recorded properly. She explained that the website has different requirements than Moonfruit did, and that the dynamic pages she is using for the website means that some things, such as "landscape" orientation pictures, are not easily accommodated on the new website. However, the new website includes other features unavailable on the former website, and as time passes, more and more features will be added. For the time being, though, the website is mostly complete and better features will have to wait until later in the year.

Treasurer's Report:

Jane began her report with an onscreen presentation of the details of the past year's budget. In June of 2021, the association had \$25 in savings and \$7,320 in checking. By July, after counting contest entries, that number had swelled to \$25 in savings and \$7942 in checking.

The 2021 Literary Contest gave us a profit of \$631, after accounting for prizes, postage, printing, and miscellaneous costs. The 2021 Awards Banquet afforded a net loss of \$928.80 to the association. The lack of attendance due to covid19 was noted, but all agreed that despite the loss, the banquet was still an important part of the Arizona Authors Association and its ongoing activities for members.

The Literary Magazine cost \$210.70 to produce and purchase copies, and resulted in \$185 in ad revenue, for a net loss (thus far) of \$25.70. It is hoped that sales of even a few copies will erase that loss.

The bank balance at Desert Financial Credit Union, as of December 31, 2021, stood at \$5,097.46, which also includes some prepaid items for 2022, such as payment for our professional Zoom account and the cost of the booth at the Tucson Festival of Books in March.

Jane went on to report that our largest category in the 2021 literary contest was Oldie but Goldie, which had 22 entries. The total number of entries in the contest was 68, and six critiques were requested. Member entries comprised 37 of the total, while nonmembers sent in 35 entries. Jane spoke about the new rules changes, to accommodate pdfs rather than printed copies for any **unpublished** works. The reason she gave was that the post office has grown not only expensive, but unreliable. One judge, who lives in Prescott, did not get the judging materials until 6 weeks after they were sent from Phoenix. Another envelope was delivered empty. By encouraging entrants to send pdfs via email rather than hard copies, Jane can simply email the entries to all judges and save the postage and the aggravation in dealing with the post office. Note that this is only for unpublished entries of all types, essays, poems, etc. The published entries will still need to be sent in hard copies, not pdfs.

Jane then spoke about members who didn't read the rules. She rewrote the rules to better highlight and clarify them. For example, on the new form for 2022, she underlined the part where it said that the Arizona Literary Magazine will have the right to publish the unpublished entries first, before the author publishes it in any other venue. One writer was disqualified from winning for publishing a work after sending in an unpublished entry, before we were able to exercise our "first right to publication" rights.

Annual Meeting Minutes, Continued

Jane asked when Kathleen would be able to update the contest rules on the website, and Kathleen assured that she would do so sometime within the next week. Kathleen then asked about PayPal, and if we would be able to accept PayPal payments for contest entries. Jane assured that she was working on it and had completed everything required by PayPal, including sending in our 501c3 nonprofit status. The only thing left was to remove the previous treasurer's name from the PayPal account. That was proving problematic, but she believed that it would be accomplished soon. At the current time, members can pay by snail mail or by Venmo.

Jane brought up the small loss of revenue on the Literary Magazine, and Barbara Renner suggested that we raise the prices for advertising. Toby pointed out that we had raised the prices the previous year and she believed that we should not raise them two years in a row. She went on to say that the return on investment, for the authors who advertise, is small, and there are places where authors may advertise for free. She therefore was opposed to raising prices. Jane felt that we could make up such a small loss in other ways, and both Jane and Kathleen thought that the subject could perhaps be brought up again at a later date. The idea was tabled until sometime in the future.

Old Business:

Needs assessment: Volunteer Positions

Toby stated the need for volunteers to help with the Literary Magazine, proofreading, and in contest coordination. Jane said that she has a great deal of work to do in the contest, and that she could use a helper or two to handle the entries, etc. Toby needs help with proofreading the newsletter. Kathleen would like more Arizona landscape photos for the newsletter, as well as literary-related jokes, since it's difficult to spend the time searching for appropriate jokes and writing-related quotes. Kathleen thanked Janet for the many pictures she has provided to the newsletter. Janet assured that she has more to send, and will also see what writer-related jokes or memes she can find. She also suggested that the board members make a list of what is needed, and Jane endorsed that idea. The board members agreed to make a list of needs, and to post the list in the next newsletter.

Website: Reciprocal Links

Kathleen mentioned "reciprocal links," and asked the membership to consider exchanging links with Arizona Authors Association. She stated that the links **must** be relevant, such as a website with **primarily** author, publisher, or editor-related content. (Non-relevant links are unhelpful and may even lower a page rank, if Google considers them spam.) Personal websites that only contain minimal writing-related content are not what we seek; rather, we desire links to pages that are specifically designated to promote an author's books, editing business, publishing business, or writers group. By linking to the Arizona Authors Association **home page** and earning a link for your website on our Resources Page (not simply the one on your member page, which gets far less traffic), you will be helping to raise not only the Arizona Authors Association's visibility on Google, but also your own visibility for your website. Kathleen will provide details; write to her at faerland@yahoo.com for further information.

Booth at Tucson Festival

The Tucson Festival of Books was mentioned, and Toby gave the date of the fair as March 12-13. On both days the fair will go from 9:30am-5:30pm. Toby stated that Arizona Authors will pay for the booth and table, but that each author who volunteers to man the booth must pay for their own Tucson city license in order to be able to sell their books. Barbara Renner mentioned that this was between \$20-30.

Toby suggested 2 shifts per day, with three authors attending at each shift for a total of six authors daily. Some may return for both days. She called for volunteers for the festival; anyone who wishes to volunteer should contact: toby@tobyheathcotte.com. She also asked for volunteers from those attending the meeting; Kebba Buckley Button volunteered to take a slot at the festival. Janet Alcorn said to put her down as a "maybe," which depended upon if she needed to work.

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Annual Meeting Minutes, Continued

Toby also mentioned that Arizona Authors cannot accept payments for other authors; in other words, AAA cannot sell an author's books for them. The authors must be able to handle their own payments and their own tax licenses. Jane suggested putting the Tucson Festival of Books as an event on the Arizona Authors Association Facebook page. Toby stated that it was for members only, and the Facebook page has both members and nonmembers. Jane said that we can put that fact in the details on the event page.

New Business

The attendees mulled over the possibility of more Zoom events. Janet Alcorn suggested "write-ins," where authors get together to socialize and then write and share short passages with the group. She said that she may be able to lead the group if she could use the Arizona Authors Association Zoom account. Toby informed us that the account is not able to switch hosts. She is the only host currently on Zoom, and therefore the only one able to chair meetings. However, before the start of the meeting, Toby suggested that one of the other board members also be put on the account (at a cost of 100plus dollars per year) so that there can be an alternate host when needed. Jane volunteered to be the alternate host. Janet can still lead meetings, however; it would just mean that either Toby or Jane would need to launch the meeting. Janet will write a proposal on her idea and submit it to the board at a later date. The attendees all agreed that it was a good idea.

Janet also suggested a manuscript swap in order to find beta readers. This can be done possibly via email. The suggestion was enthusiastically received and Janet will formulate that idea further and submit it to the board.

Adjournment

Toby called for a motion to adjourn. Janet so moved, and Jane seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am MST.

*For every
sunset, there
is a moonrise*

-Kathleen Cook

**Organ Pipe Cactus
National Monument at
Sunset**

**Photo by AAA Member
Janet Alcorn**





The Million Mile Walker Review

Special Edition

By Mark D. Walker



Traveling Through the Land of the Eternal Spring: A Literary Journey

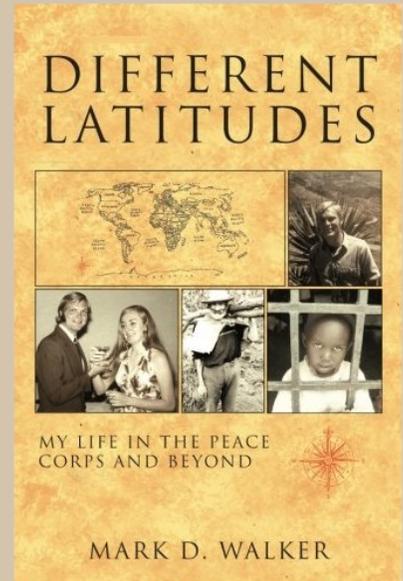
Several of my fellow writers asked why I'm so passionate about Guatemala and its people. The answer is simple: as a young man out of college, I lived in a Guatemalan village as a Peace Corps volunteer. I also married a Guatemalan, Ligia, who has been my life partner now for over 48 years. My children were all born in Guatemala. So, you might say Guatemala is in my blood.

I arrived in the highlands of Guatemala as a Peace Corps volunteer in the early 70s as I describe in my book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*. A third of the book takes place in Guatemala. Each morning at dawn in the village of Calapté, I'd stroll over to a nearby family for breakfast, which cost twenty-five cents.

One morning I awoke with a horrendous stomach cramp. I was sweating profusely and only semiconscious. I didn't have the strength to get out of bed, let alone walk the forty-five minutes uphill to the only daily bus that passed by.

Fortunately, when I didn't turn up for breakfast, Doña Martha, who was like a second mother, came looking for me with several friends and found me in bed in a daze and gave me a series of herbal drinks and Indigenous wisdom. These women saved my life and within three days, I was hiking up the hill to catch the bus to the Peace Corps headquarters in Guatemala City.

My medical ordeal was too risky to remain in such a remote village, so the Peace Corps staff sent me to San Jeronimo, closer to communication and potential evacuation roads. Shortly after my arrival, my eyes locked onto a strawberry blond girl who, it turned out, was visiting her father's small horse ranch. I was smitten with her and five months later, we married.



Michelle Walker, age 5, as plantation workers' children look through the window.

Over the years we often visited her grandfather's coffee plantation over Christmas. On one such visit, I came across my five-year-old daughter, Michelle, in the "Big House," hugging her gift, an Airedale puppy. Directly behind her, pushed up against the screen door, were a dozen small children. Although I couldn't distinguish their faces, these were the plantation workers' children who stood dressed in simple cotton shirts, jeans and flip-flops, silently peering into the room filled with unopened gifts and an ornate Christmas tree.

They were so cute, inquisitive, so innocent; yet none dared open the door and come inside. I kissed my daughter on the forehead and continued through the room to a porch on the far

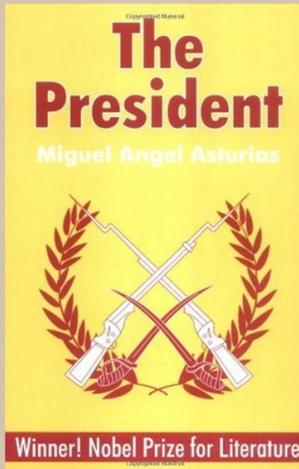
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The Million Mile Walker, continued

side of the “Big House” where I shared the encounter with Ligia. As we both gazed up the side of the volcano and took in the sweet aroma of the coffee blooms, I informed my wife that my calling would be to assure that children of the humblest families might receive a decent education and aspire to a career of their choice.

<https://peacecorpsworldwide.org/christmas-in-the-land-of-the-eternal-spring-guatemala/>

The Importance of Books



Books have always been an important part of my life. In the Peace Corps, volunteers were given a trunk of books, including works of Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, and Tolkien, but none on Guatemala. So, when I found out that Guatemala had a Nobel literature laureate, I read Miguel Angel Asturias’s, *The President (El Señor Presidente)*.

Although it was published before I was born, its relevance persists, as it portrays the damaging psychological impact of a totalitarian government and the brutality it exercised to maintain power—a phenomenon all too real to Guatemalans today.

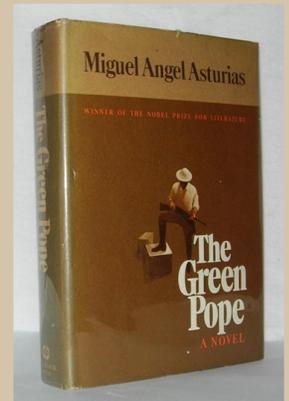
The dictator depicted in the novel is Guatemalan President Manuel Estrada Cabrera (1898-1920). The author started writing the novel in the 1920s when he was a young law student, but it wasn’t finished until 13 years later, in Mexico, due to strict censorship policies of the Guatemalan dictatorial government.

The author draws from experience as a journalist writing about repressive conditions, as reflected in this passage about the plight of political prisoners, “Two hours of light, twenty-two hours of utter darkness, one tin of soup and one of excrement, thirst in summer, floods in winter; that was life in the underground cells.”

<http://millionmilewalker.com/2021/10/the-president-by-miguel-angel-asturias-reviewed-by-mark-d-walker/>

One of the things that attracted me to Asturias’s works was his interest in the Mayan Indigenous population, its culture, myths, legends, and plight, and how all those factors influenced his writing style and subject matter. His father was a judge who clashed with the dictatorship of Manuel Estrada Cabrera and he was forced to send his family to their grandparents in the town of Salamá, which is close to where I met my wife. His nanny was a young Indigenous woman who told him stories of their myths and legends, which influenced his work.

His deep concern for the Mayan culture led to a 40-year project to translate the Mayan sacred text, the *Popol Vuh*, in Spanish. It also inspired his second novel, *Men of Maiz*, perhaps his masterpiece, written in the form of a myth that contrasts traditional Mayan customs and beliefs with outside forces pushing, often brutally, for modernization on their terms.

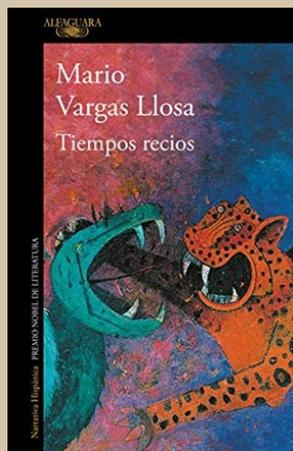


Following the Second World War, the United States increased its presence in Latin America and companies like the United Fruit Company manipulated politicians and exploited land and Guatemalan workers.

In *The Green Pope*, the second book in *The Banana Trilogy*, the founder of United Fruit explains that men should be ruled by force or left alone. The consequence of this force played out along the waters of the Montagua River, where the flood of dead bodies floated out to sea. *The Green Pope*, coincidentally, was published in 1954, the same year the reformist government of Jacobo Arbenz, which Asturias strongly supported, was overthrown by a CIA-led coup. Asturias was expelled by the government and fled to Argentina.

<http://millionmilewalker.com/2021/11/the-green-pope-by-miguel-angel-asturias-reviewed-by-mark-d-walker/>

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The Million Mile Walker, continued

Mario Vargas Llosa, a Peruvian author with a Nobel Prize for Literature Laureate, also wrote a book, *Harsh Times*, about the overthrow of the Arbenz government, perhaps the most seminal event in Guatemalan history.

The author does a laudable job researching the circumstances and enhances an appreciation of reality through the fictional characters he develops. The dialogue between the Guatemalan president and the U.S. ambassador reveals the power dynamics which existed between the two countries, starting with the U.S. ambassador asking the president to sack forty “communist” members of his government, to which the president responded, “*Have you forgotten that Guatemala is a sovereign nation and that you are an ambassador, not a viceroy or consul?*”

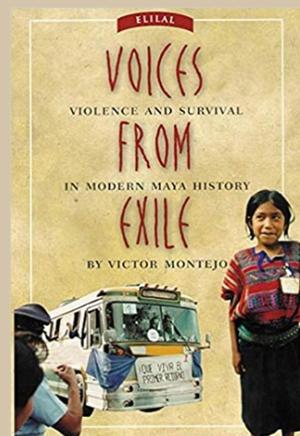
The press played an important role, along with the U.S. government, in protecting United Fruit against an imaginary “Red Threat,” as articulated by the head of United Fruit: “What threat? The very same one I have just told you Guatemala doesn’t represent: the Soviet Trojan horse sneaking through to U.S.A.’s back door.”

According to the author, the consequences of this debacle made Guatemala “a frantic country,” gripped by a ruinous and wholly unnecessary antipathy towards something that never threatened and is soon “racing backwards towards tribalism and absurdity.”

<http://millionmilewalker.com/2021/12/harsh-times-by-mario-vargas-llosa-reviewed-by-mark-d-walker/>

Guatemalan writer, advocate, and intellectual, Victor Montejo was born in a poor Mayan village in the Guatemalan highlands, where he was a schoolteacher during the bloody Guatemalan Civil War. In 1988, he and his family fled to Mexico and, with the help of members of the Maryknoll Order, he learned English and eventually obtained a Ph.D. in anthropology. I came across him through his book, *The Adventures of Mr. Puttison Among the Maya*, a historic, satirical novel whose principal character is an American adventurer.

Montejo returned to Guatemala in 2004 to influence the direction of the post-Civil War government in its efforts to establish a peace accord; he then won a seat in the Guatemalan National Congress and eventually was named the Minister of Peace. But what impressed me the most was his return to Jacaltenango, Huehuetenango, after he retired.



His book, *Voices From Exile: Violence and Survival in Modern Maya History*, tells the compelling story of the brutality and forced exile by a military junta. Thirty-six years of violence during the Civil War resulted in over 200,000 deaths and a million people displaced. <http://millionmilewalker.com/2020/06/book-review-non-fiction-voices-from-exile/>



More recently, the author wrote *Mayalogue*, as well as his memoir, *Entre Dos Mundos (Between Two Worlds)*. His life and his writing inspired me to interview him and write his profile for *Revue Magazine*.

<http://www.revuemag.com/2020/10/victor-montejos-dream-for-a-secure-maya-community-by-mark-d-walker/>

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The Million Mile Walker, continued

The recent HBO documentary, “**The Art of Political Murder**,” introduced many readers to the author of the book on which it’s based, Guatemalan American writer Francisco Goldman, whose mother was Guatemalan and his father Jewish American.

The Emmy-nominated HBO documentary closely follows Goldman’s book, a thorough dissection of the sensational murder of Guatemalan Bishop Juan Gerardi in 1998. Days before the brazen murder, Bishop Gerardi published a detailed account of the country’s military involvement in the atrocities committed during Guatemala’s Civil War.

<http://millionmilewalker.com/2020/06/book-review-non-fiction-the-art-of-political-murder-who-killed-the-bishop/>

Goldman provides insights into the writer’s role in sharing his reality:

I think everything you are, everything that engages you, eventually comes to bear on the novel you write. I think the creative energy in novel writing, obviously, comes from tension. From trying to fuse. From trying to make coherent disparate things that might not at all seem to belong together within a narrative.

Goldman has written a number of other award-winning books and based on that and his unique perspective, I wrote “**Uncovering the Art of Francisco Goldman**,” for “**Revue Magazine**”. <http://www.reuemag.com/2021/10/uncovering-the-art-of-francisco-goldman-by-mark-d-walker/>

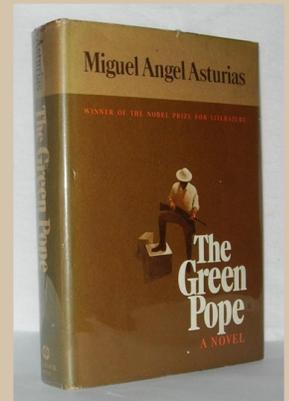
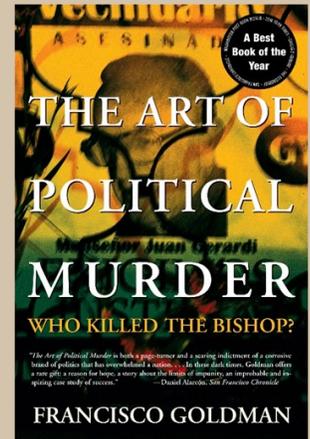
GUATE MALA GUATE PEOR

This is the title of the last chapter in my book *Different Latitudes*, based on a Spanish saying: Salir de Guatemala y entrar en Guatepeor—a play on words that means to go from bad (mala) to worse (peor). Many of the ailments I described four years ago have deteriorated. Guatemala still has one of the highest chronic malnutrition rates among children in the world. A small percentage of the population controls the country’s politics and economy. Only six of 109 congressmen are Maya, though they still represent over 50% of the population. The level of corruption and influence of drug cartels have forced the country to the brink of becoming a failed state.

Not surprisingly, major corporations continue to control important resources and displace Mayan farmers to increase their profits, all with the support of the Guatemalan government. According to a recent report from the North American Congress on Latin America, (NACLA), Mayan communities demanding to be consulted about foreign-owned nickel mines in their territory now live under a state of siege.

Guatemala’s President, Alejandro Giammattei, declared a state of siege (martial law) in El Estor, Izabal, in response to clashes between Indigenous Q’eqchi land defenders and the state police. The Indigenous community is protecting their land from toxic waste damage impacting local fishermen and farmers.

In 1965, the military government handed mining giant EXMIBAL a 40-year lease on 385 square kilometers in Q’eqchi territory, which involved forced removal of Indigenous communities and supporting extractive industries as part of a national economic development model. Today, the “Fénix Nickel Mine” is operated by a Swiss chemical company, Solvay. According to “Cultural Survival,” a not-for-profit group protecting Indigenous rights, hundreds of members of the National Civil Police and Army raided the community radio station located in El Estor.



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The Million Mile Walker, continued

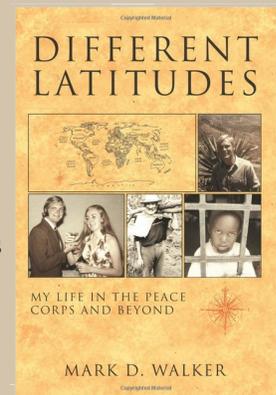
The Role of the Writer

So, what is the role of the writer confronting the injustices and human rights abuses so prevalent in Guatemala? Miguel Angel Asturias used his knowledge of the Maya to share their traditions with millions through his writing. Victor Montejo returned to his community in the highlands of Guatemala and continues to research and share the struggles and successes of the Indigenous community through his prolific writing and teaching.

More than 40,000 Guatemalans were deported by bus from the U.S. last year, making this an ongoing, unnatural disaster worthy of our best minds and talents to find viable solutions. Beyond writing a series of articles about Guatemala, I'm helping produce a documentary, **Trouble in the Highlands**, which will deal with many of the issues raised here. The documentary will include interviews with writers, as well as the stories of local Indigenous leaders. And I always try to identify and support the local leaders and community efforts, which are meeting the needs of Indigenous communities while strengthening their culture.

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 . . .” 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.



*Not All Those
Who Wander
Are Lost*

J.R.R. Tolkien

Photo:
[Monument Valley](#)
[Luca Galuzzi](#)

For the **Love of Story**

10 LOCAL WRITERS
SHARE PERSONAL
SHORT STORIES

"Telling our stories
brings communities
together..."

Nancy
Gutfreund



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Sunday, March 27, 2022 • 3pm

Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion
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Nancy Gutfreund
writer / therapist

- Enjoy autobiographical excerpts written and read by each author.
- Meet writers of all genres and levels of experience.
- Be a part of this new storytelling experience.

Entertaining · Enlightening · Inspiring



Public Speaking for Authors Part One

By Jeanne Burrows-Johnson

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE...and it awaits the imprint of your brand!



The success of a branding program rests on harmonizing the look, sound, and feel of all of its components, including the setting in which an author speaks publicly. While you may not be able to completely control the physical environment of your presentations, you can enhance the overall positive impact of the experience for yourself and your audience.

THE VENUE

If you have never spoken at the venue, you'll be relying on the event's organizers to provide the correct information regarding lighting, voice amplification, and projection of materials you'll utilize to highlight your speaking points. In addition, they'll be scheduling the podium, table, and/or chair from which you'll speak. If possible, visit the venue in advance of the event. While this may be easy in your hometown, it can be impossible when you're working in another city [let alone country]. Therefore, it's good to arrive a day in advance of your presentation. If you're lucky, you will be delivering your remarks at the hotel in which you are staying. As this is seldom the case, travel with the basics you require to be effective.

FROM A STAGE, OR...

Depending on your height and weight, and position in relation to the audience, you may need to modify your hair, clothing, shoes, and/or accessories to maximize your facial and overall visibility. Speaking engagements often occur in rooms with a stage that is at least a step above the floor on which the audience is seated. This enhances your visibility as a speaker, but it means you must look good from the top of your head to the bottoms of your shoes. And although many stages are carpeted, older wooden or tiled stages may have uneven surfaces, for which you will require sturdy and slip-resistant footwear.

SOLO PERFORMANCE

Sole presenters in a public venue usually have access to a podium. Free-standing or tabletop, it should offer sides that mask your script, notes, watch, and other items you may need to reference. Unless a free-standing podium is constructed of a tubular frame, it is probable that you'll be visible only from your chest up. That gives you more flexibility in your stance and movement of your feet. If the podium is comprised of a hollow frame or positioned on top of a table that has no tablecloth, you will not have that luxury.

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Public Speaking, Continued**WHISPERS TO SCREAMS**

The quality of your natural speaking voice can be either an asset or detriment in public speaking. Depending on your audience, even the strongest of voices expressed in the wrong tonal range can be hard for some listeners to hear properly. Many podiums are set up with a microphone fixed in position. If you learn you'll be using a hand-held mic, you may want to obtain a small stand in order to free your hands for gesturing, pointing to overhead projections, etc. Having said this, I must note some presenters like to speak off the cuff rather than from written material and prefer a hand-held or wireless mic so they can roam freely—sometimes even moving within their audience.

Be aware that the effectiveness of the microphone you use [especially lavalier or headsets] can depend on your neckline, arrangement of hair, and any chain or necklace you wear. Also consider that dangling earrings and loose watches or bracelets can interfere with sound projection. Having a strong voice may lessen the need to provide your own electronic equipment. However, if you are embarking on a lengthy tour, you might consider acquiring sound equipment that can make you more independent of the facilities in which you appear—if it is compatible with the speakers to which your equipment will be connected. In making such a decision, you will want to seek the input of an electronics specialist.

INVITING DISPLAYS

Will you be able to set up a display that greets and enlivens your audience? At the minimum, you should be able to drape a banner over the front of a podium [using double sided tape, if nothing else]. I carry the banner from the release of my first book. I also travel with varied sizes of my shipping boxes on which I can place color-coordinated tablecloths to create elevated surfaces for displaying signage, products, and handouts. Stands of varying proportions allow me to maximize visibility across a room. Of course, be cautious about displaying valuable items which could disappear...

Enlargements of colorful book covers, pictures of previous appearances, and banners with both your image and the works you're presenting make a wonderful background for highlighting fliers, future project descriptions, and business cards. I always order hardcover books with embossed jacket fronts which are durable event samples [and are popular with libraries concerned with their collection's longevity]. By presenting them on stands, as well as on the tabletop, I am inviting people to pick them up. If there's a theme to your work, you can add decorative items that reinforce such a reference. As most of my work centers on Hawai'i, I display a shell lei or two, a golden fish business card holder, and tablecloths that harmonize with my book cover colors.

BE PREPARED

If you're speaking in your hometown and have checked out the venue, you'll know what you need to carry with you. The one thing that may affect your preparations is a change in the size of your audience, thereby impacting the number of books and handouts required. When traveling to a long-distance destination, try to send a box of books and promotional materials ahead to a friend, colleague, or even the hotel at which you'll be staying. Generally strategize the items you should carry personally, rather than check into a plane or train's luggage compartment.

I recall my gratitude for arriving in Hilo, Hawaii, two days ahead of an engagement following a trip to the U.S. mainland. I was performing Scottish Highland Dancing and was shocked to learn that my costumes were never transferred from my original plane and thus they sat in Honolulu for a day. As an author, I now keep the following items with me personally when traveling to author appearances: memory sticks and master copies of materials needed for display and distribution; one copy of pertinent books and project samples; one small tablecloth and a shell lei to personalize my displays; a couple of copies of a short biography; two 3 x 5 inch cards with an introduction of me and my presentation; a name badge with large print and pertinent professional organizational pins; a beautiful artificial

continued on the next page

Public Speaking, Continued

orchid for my hair; and, one elegant jacket to dress up even an emergency wardrobe purchase if my luggage does not arrive with me!

Wishing you the best in your creative endeavors,

Jeanne Burrows-Johnson, *author, narrator, consultant, and motivational speaker*

For other branding tips visit my marketing website: <https://www.ImaginingsWordpower.com> and my blog for authors and other creative professionals: <https://www.Blog.JeanneBurrows-Johnson.com>. You are welcome to send me an email at Info@JeanneBurrows-Johnson.com.

Jeanne Burrows-Johnson is a published author who now lives in Tucson, Arizona. To find out more about Jeanne, go to her website at: <https://www.jeanneburrows-johnson.com/>



DESERT FOOTHILLS
BOOK FESTIVAL

Calling All Authors!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 4, 2022 for the inaugural Desert Foothills Book Festival presented by the Holland Community Center and the Desert Foothills Library!

We will hold the festival from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Holland Community Center—34250 N 60th St., Scottsdale, AZ 85266. Fifty-plus tables will be available for you to meet and greet, sell, and sign your books. The Holland Center draws crowds from Cave Creek, Carefree, North Phoenix, and North Scottsdale. It will be the first book festival held in this area, and we're expecting great attendance.

The Desert Foothills Book Festival is a celebration of the importance of reading in our community. Offered free to the public, the festival exists to promote literacy and a love of reading among adults and children by creating an interactive and inclusive venue for readers and authors to connect. Net proceeds from the festival go to support local literacy programs.

Our website is currently under development. If interested in being notified when registration begins, or if interested in volunteering to work at the festival, please email Caren Cantrell, Desert Foothills Book Festival Committee Chair, at caren.cantrell@gmail.com with Desert Foothills Book Festival in the subject line. We hope to see you all there!



Application for Membership

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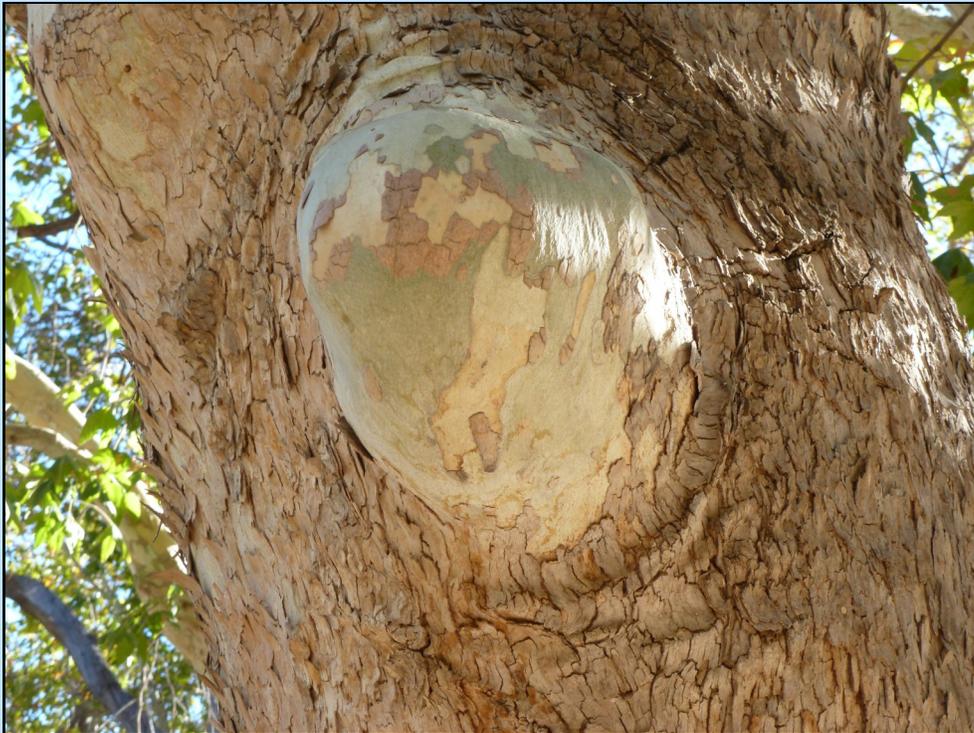
ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW EACH JANUARY

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

Where in 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.

This month's photo was taken by Dick Waters.



Possible Locations:

Mayer

Jerome

Gila Bend

Grand Canyon

Bisbee

Flagstaff

Camp Verde

Prescott

Apache Junction

Cottonwood

Write to faerland@yahoo.com no later than March 15th if you know the location of the photo. If you answer correctly, we'll publish your accomplishment.



The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

February ... my favorite time of the year! I love the energy I experience in tackling my New Years' resolutions with gusto. By May, I'll be tired of them, but February? I'm just getting started!

My biggest goal this year revolves around the Arizona Authors Association. It's such a thrill to see the website coming together, and knowing that I have a role in making it happen. The site is humming along ... if you haven't checked out your authors' page on Arizona Authors.org or .com, please do so. If there are any typos or errors, email me at faerland@yahoo.com and I'll get to them pronto!

While the new members' pages only allow for one book cover, I think you'll find that the website is more inviting now, and will attract more visitors to your webpage. Overall, it's a more professional look for you as you grow your reputation as an author. All of the text links to your books are clickable, so visitors may easily see all of your books, not just the one pictured. Please check out the site and let me know what you think. I welcome your input.

Last month, I added all of the newsletters from 2019 and 2020 to the website. Now you may easily peruse the archive of old issues. There is even an issue from 2015 on the resources page, for those who wax nostalgic for the old days. (Okay, not so old for us fogies, lol, but fun to look at anyway. Ah, for the good old, pre-pandemic days!) I will be updating the archive at least twice yearly, so that we will have a record of our progress as an association in the years to come. I'm sure a decade from now, some of us will look back at the current issues and think, "Wow, we've come a long way since then!" I hope to be around to make that observation along with the rest of you.

Another of my New Year's resolutions is to finish the series of historical puzzle books that I'm working on with my son, Kevin Gundlach. He conceived the idea when he was working in a Glendale high school as a math teacher. He discovered that in order to teach any subject, whether math or history or language skills, you first had to ensure that your students knew how to logically tackle the subject. Without honing their logic skills, all other subjects proved difficult. He designed logic puzzles geared toward that end, to first teach a teen to reason, and then to teach them the other necessary skills.

He broached his idea with me, and I came up with a storyline to mesh with his historical puzzles. Together, we created Tryn, a superhero, alien, time traveling, high school teacher. Tryn travels through earth's history to fix the little messes that his rebellious, genius students make, in their desire to perfect the present by tinkering with the past. The books combine real history with language and logic skills, geared toward thinkers from 12 to 92. (I've done the puzzles and I love them; other seniors might get a kick out of them, too.) So far two are finished, *The Altered Alphabet* and *Alexander the Late*, and I'm currently taking up my pen again to create the third.

Have you started on your New Year's resolutions yet? February's a great time to start! What books will you write, or at least start, within the next couple of months? What will you leave behind in 2022 that, in ten years, will make you smile and say, "My, I've come so far since then!"?

It doesn't have to be big, but it should be significant. It must be something that you can look back on with pride. What stirs your fancy? Make a list, check it twice, cross out things until you get to that one doable, special, wonderful thing, and then do it. Finish that resolution, move forward, and grab your star. You'll be stepping into the future not with merely a sack full of excess baggage, but with a portfolio full of accomplishments. That's what New Year's resolutions, and Februarys, are for!

continued on the next page

The Inevitable Author, continued.

Kathleen Cook is a retired editor and the author of more than twenty books. A former copy writer/editor for Demand Studios, she also served as the Fictional Religion Editor for the ODP (Open Directory Project) in the internet's early days. She is currently the Arizona Authors Association Editor as well as the new Secretary and Webmistress. Find out more about Kathleen [HERE](#).



“The family is one of nature’s masterpieces.”

– George Santayana

Five Javalinas Crossing Navahopi Road in Sedona, Arizona
Photo Courtesy of [Wikimedia](#)

First Prize

\$100 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Second Prize

\$50 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Third Prize

\$25 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Honorable Mention

Publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

1st and 2nd Prize Winners in Poetry, Essay & Short Story get nominated for the National Pushcart Prize (value: PRICELESS)



www.ArizonaAuthors.com
Arizona.authors@yahoo.com

**ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION
2022 LITERARY CONTEST
DEADLINE: July 1st!**

**Unpublished Categories
Poem**

**Short Story/Essay/Personal
Narrative/Review
Novel /Novella**

**Published Categories
OLDIE BUT GOLDIE
Fiction
Nonfiction**

**Children's Picture Book
Juvenile/Young Adult**

CRITIQUES OFFERED (For unpublished works only with an extra fee.)

See entry form on Next Page!

continued on the next page



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

TITLE OF SUBMISSION: _____

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BELOW, check category you wish to enter, fill in price and TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AT BOTTOM

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TOTAL AMOUNT DUE (for entries & critique requests) = \$ _____Pay by check or Venmo (see QR code below):
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Or scan the code:Now available on our [website](#), you may also pay with **PayPal!****venmo**

Scan QR code for payment

Contest and Submission Rules**ALL BOOKS/E-BOOKS IN PUBLISHED CATEGORIES**

– Submit 2 copies. Books must include ISBN, copyright date, and publisher information. E-Books must be submitted in print & bound form like a gallery or ARC. No books returned; all will be donated after judging.

OLDIE BUT GOLDIE entry can have any publication date, but must never have won this contest. Must be indie work. ALL OTHER PUBLISHED ENTRIES must have 2021 or 2022 publication date.

No submissions by publishers unless entry is a compilation of authors.

UNPUBLISHED CATEGORIES – IF BY MAIL: Submit THREE (3) copies; **IF BY EMAIL:** Submit PDF file (See payment section for addresses)

Poetry entries - 50 line maximum in 12-point plain font. Single-spacing within stanzas OK.

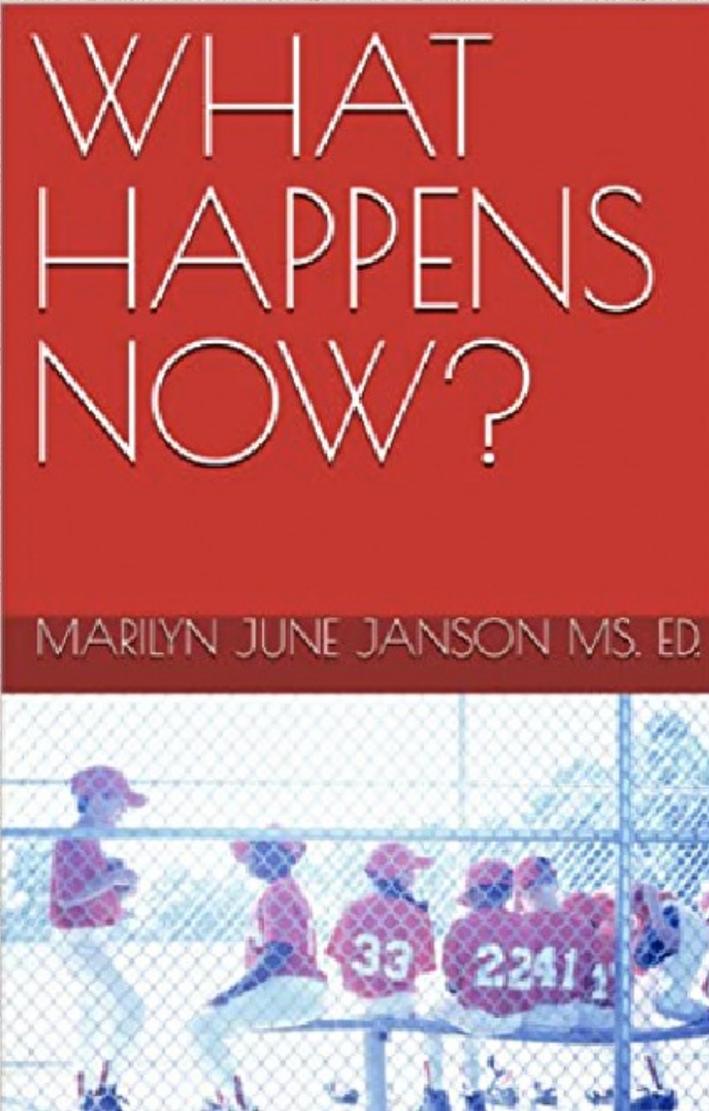
Short Story/Essay/Personal Narrative/Review entries cannot exceed 15 pages and must be printed in 12-point plain font, double-spaced lines, 1-inch margins, title and page numbers in header. Author's name cannot appear anywhere in text—only on entry form.

Novel/Novella entries must include a synopsis (max. 5 pages) and the first 25 pages of manuscript. The synopsis must summarize entire story. Must be printed in 12-point plain font, double-spaced lines, 1-inch margins, title and page numbers in header. No author's name in text – only on entry form. Manuscripts must be completed and available upon request. They will not be returned except if critique is requested.

Winners in unpublished categories automatically consign first serial rights to Arizona Authors' Association, our right to publish in the Arizona Literary Magazine in November, 2022, before anywhere else.Multiple entries – need an entry form for each entry. You may print extra forms from our website (www.ArizonaAuthors.org or [.com](http://www.ArizonaAuthors.com)) or photocopy this form.We reserve the right to switch an entry's category, cancel a category, or not award any winners if they don't meet publishing industry standards. Any entry not following rules will be disqualified without notification or refund.**Good Luck To All Our Contest Entrants!**

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Marilyn June Janson



What Happens Now?

Sam Landon's mom tells him some news about his classmate, Tyler Reed. Sam has lots of questions. With Mom's help, Sam learns how to say goodbye to a teammate, friend, and classmate.

What Happens Now? tells a story about covid19, the pandemic, and how it affects children and parents alike. It is a story that helps children to cope with these modern times and what we, as a global community, are currently enduring.

The author, Marilyn June Janson, has a Masters Degree in Education and relates the frightening and difficult events with sensitivity, in a comforting manner. She explains things clearly but carefully, to enable children to move forward and live with hope in these challenging times.

You'll find this book on [Amazon](#) and other outlets.

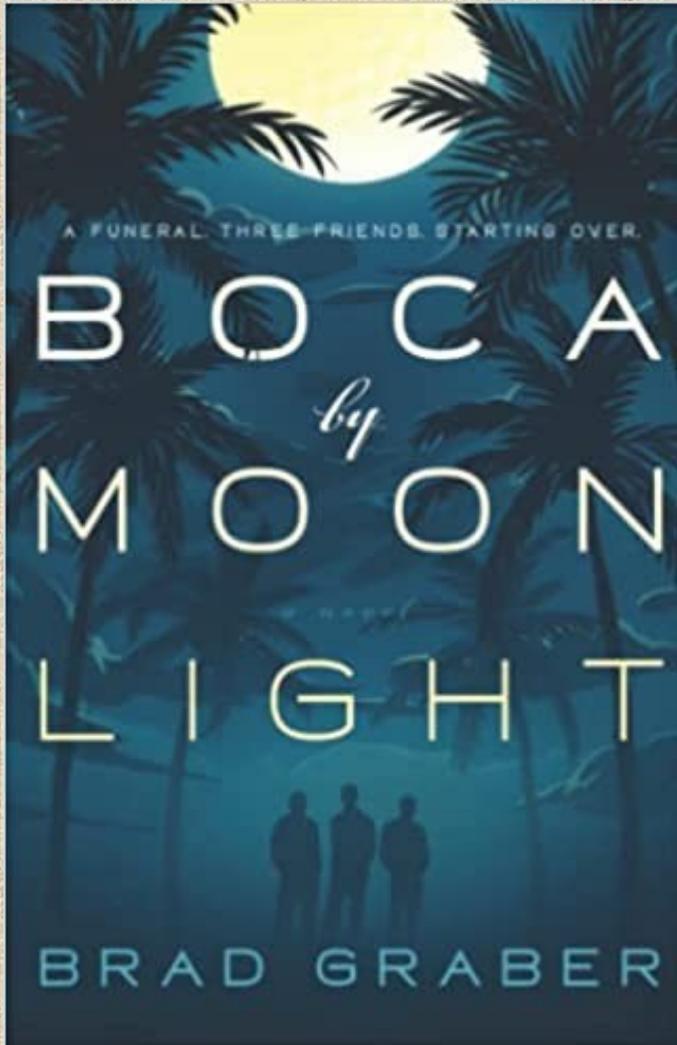
Marilyn June Janson, M.S., Ed., is the owner of Janson Literary Services, Inc., specializing in editing, proofreading, and manuscript analysis.

Find out more about Marilyn and her works on her website, www.janwrite.com.



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Brad Graber



Boca by Moon Light

George Elden had it all. A lovely wife. Two beautiful adult children. A condo on the grounds of the Boca Raton Resort & Club. But when his wife dies, he's suddenly alone in retirement. A lost man. Sure, he has his golf buddies to console him, but when his friend Willy dies, George is caught off-guard. **Why did Willy's family stay away from the funeral? Why did the check to the mortuary bounce? And why did George and his buddies have to pay to bury him?** More importantly, what can George learn from Willy's life to escape making the same foolish mistakes?

From the award-winning author of *The Intersect*, *After the Fall*, and *What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?* comes a tale of redemption. The story of a man coming to grips with his mortality and the complications of human relationships. Told with the wit, humor, and emotional power that Brad Graber brings to his novels.

You can find *Boca by Moon Light* on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), [FoxTale Book Shoppe](#), and other outlets.

Brad Graber writes novels because he grew up in a family where no one listened to him - so he made up stories about them. He is the award-winning author of *The Intersect*, *After the Fall*, and a collection of essays, *What's That Growing in My Sour Cream?* *Boca by Moonlight* is Brad's latest novel. He also writes a humor blog: *There, I Said It!* Brad lives in Phoenix with his husband, Jeff.

For more information on Brad, check out his website at: www.bradgraber.com



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Stacey Goodman



The Dust Never Settles

The Dust Never Settles is a riveting, first-hand account from inside Ground Zero. Stacey Goodman was a female police officer with federal disaster training who was pulled out of the suburbs of Long Island and thrust into the heart of the 9/11 mayhem of the World Trade Center devastation.

With high security clearance, she worked at the very center of the rescue and recovery efforts on the Pile for 23 days, and witnessed firsthand the horrific details of the terror attacks that decimated the world's financial center.

Stacey relives her experience on the Pile in her 20-Year Anniversary book commemorating the event, and shares aspects of her life and career that prepared her for the grueling episode.

You'll find this book on [Amazon](#), or for a signed copy, get it directly from Stacey's website [HERE](#).

Stacey was a police patrol officer on Long Island on 9/11. What many didn't realize was that she had been receiving ongoing and extensive training in disaster response and was a member of a federal disaster response team that was always ready to deploy in the event of a major disaster.

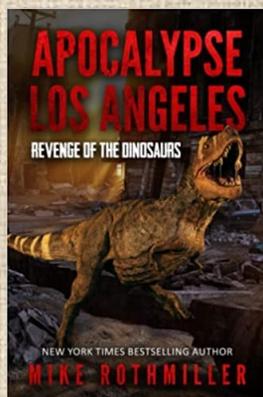
On the morning of September 11, 2001, Stacey had just finished a shift and was getting ready to run some errands as she heard chatter about an airplane hitting the Twin Towers in lower Manhattan. Stacey was immediately activated for duty with the federal government and reported to the heart of chaos, right in the middle of Ground Zero, where she spent the next 23 days.

For more on Stacey, visit her website at <https://staceygoodmanbook.com>



SHORT RELEASES

New Feature! If you have a short story, article, essay or other work that has recently been published, submit it by contacting our editor, Kathleen Cook, at faerland@yahoo.com. The work **must contain at least 2000 words**, fiction or nonfiction, on any topic of general interest published within the past six months.

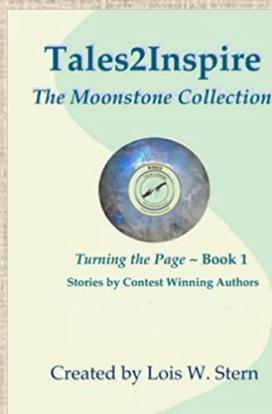


Arizona Authors Association member Mike Rothmiller has come up with another best selling short release, [Apocalypse Los Angeles: Revenge of the Dinosaurs](#).

Mike's tale echoes that of Orson Welles' broadcast, War of the Worlds. This time, an earthquake has released dinosaurs into Los Angeles.

The short book climbed to #2 in its Amazon category within a day of release.

To find out more about Mike, click [HERE](#).

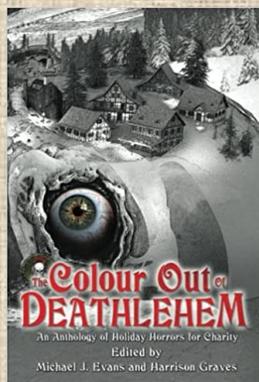


[Tales2Inspire, The Moonstone Collection](#), contains the short story, "Small Steps" by Arizona Authors Association member Marilyn June Janson.

From the book: "Marilyn June Janson gives us an eye opener into her world as an agrophobic, outlining the steps she took to help herself reenter her outside world."

To find out more about Marilyn and all of her works, visit her website at:

www.janwrite.com



[Colour Out of Deathlehem](#) includes a short story by Arizona Authors Association member Janet Alcorn. Her story is entitled, "Woe is Me, Poor Child, for Thee."

The authors of this anthology of holiday horrors are donating profits to The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation.

To find out more about Janet Alcorn and her works, visit her website at

<http://janetalcorn.com>.



[The Saddest Pleasure: A Journey of Two Writers](#) is a review written by Arizona Authors Association member and columnist Mark D. Walker in the January 2022 edition of the Literary Review. It tells the tale of both Mark and Moritz Thomsen who, in Mark's words, was an iconic author of five extraordinary books. The story relays the travels of both men in their separate journeys throughout Latin America.

To find out more about Mark, visit his website at:

www.millionmilewalker.com

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Back Page Jokes and Quotes

I can’t decide if I want to be a novelist or a barber, so I’m going to flip a coin ... heads or tails.



Which dinosaur is a writer’s best friend?

A bigthesaurus.

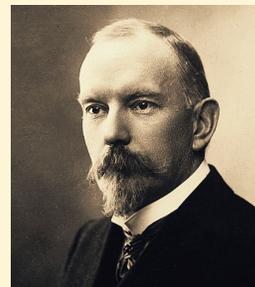
I wanted to be an author, but I make so many errors! After going to the doctor and getting some blood work, I finally found out why. He said I had “typo!”



Literary Trivia From Page Three

Answers

1. Emperor Claudius, fourth in the line of Roman emperors
2. Colin Dexter
3. Anne Hathaway
4. *For the Term of His Natural Life*, by Marcus Clarke
5. Pacific
6. Marlin



Writing is the best way to talk without being interrupted.

Jules Renard

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