



RIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

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A non-profit
501c3 organization

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Issue 28

Arizona Authors Association

October-November 2023

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President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

October/November 2023

Happy Halloween. Happy Thanksgiving.

Welcome new members. We are very happy you joined:

Joy Ball
 John Barelli
 Adrienne Bengtson
 Vali Benson
 Joe Broadmeadow
 Dr. Alisa Cooper
 Daniel Dickinson
 Dr. Lynn Fuentes
 Hannah Jacobson
 Gavin Kayner
 Valerie King
 Jason Pawloski
 Kay Clark Uhles
 Vicki Walker

Financial Resources as of September 30 included:
Savings: \$25.00, Checking: Beginning Balance: \$16,735.42, Credits: \$128.82, Debits: \$0, Ending Balance: \$16,864.24.

Congrats to Jane Ruby and all the judges for getting materials in on time for the contest and submitting all those who were qualified to make the finals. We had new categories and bigger prizes this year with an excellent response. We thank the judges profusely. We honor them by including their photos and bios in the literary magazine.

continued on the next page

President's Corner, continued

The 2024 *Arizona Literary Magazine* is in process with Penny Orloff as its new editor. We are excited to have her taking over with her great talents. We need more volunteers like Penny.

We celebrate the winners this year at the banquet, which will be held at Bottega's Pizzeria Ristorante, 59th Avenue & 101 in Glendale. I hope you are planning to attend. If you are not a contestant, it's still fun to see old friends and make new ones.

Banquet plans include toasts, book lottery, awards, speeches and readings by winners, photos, and magazine sales. It will be fun and yummy. Find details about the banquet on page sixteen in this digest.

I am beholden to Kathleen Cook and Jane Ruby for covering for me these past weeks. I've healed from the surgery, which was kind of a girl thing, but my health prospects are iffy because the AFIB meds are difficult to control and limit my options.

This is the end of my term, and it's time for someone else to take over the presidency. Those of you who have been on the board in the past are eligible. Think about serving your association in a new way. We also need to fill other responsibilities like membership and promotion.

It has been my honor to serve as president of this wonderful organization. Thank you all for accepting me and supporting me in that role. I hope to remain an active member for as long as possible. I want to watch AAA blossom under new leadership and to see all of you members grow professionally.

Don't forget to vote.

Love and blessings,
Namaste,
Toby

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<https://www.arizonaauthors.org/>
<http://www.arizonaauthors.com/>



*Have a safe and
enjoyable
Halloween, and a
Thanksgiving filled with
memories and loved ones.*

*Best wishes from your friends
at the
Arizona Authors
Association.*



**Cactus in Bloom, Tucson, Arizona
Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member
Gavin Kayner**



Arizona Sunflower

Photo by Arizona Authors Association Past President
Russell Azbill

Arizona Authors Association Leadership

Board of Directors:

President.....Toby Heathcotte
Treasurer/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby
Secretary/Editor/Website Admin.....Kathleen Cook

Additional Staff:

Literary Magazine Editor.....Penny Orloff
Proofreader.....Sharon Sterling
Forum Director..... Kyle Patton

Unless expressly stated, the 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:

arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com

Literary Trivia

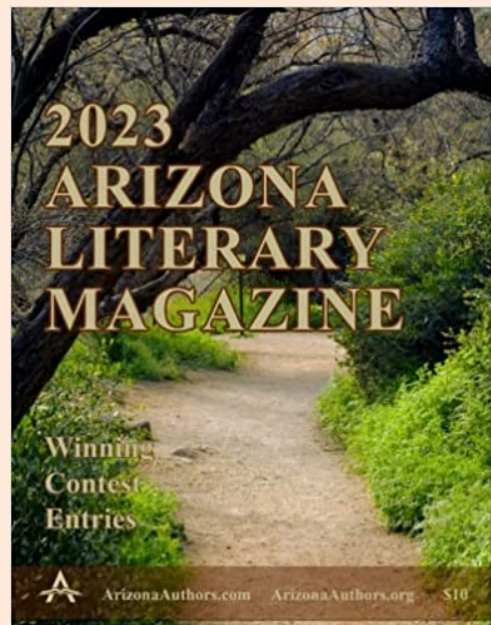
(Answers on the Back Page)

1. Which Stephen King novel takes place mostly in the fictional Overlook Hotel?
2. In the book, *Freaky Friday*, Annabel changes bodies with whom?
3. In George Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, what type of animal is Boxer?
4. Which Victor Hugo novel was adapted as a Disney movie in 1996?
5. Which of her own characters did Agatha Christie call “a detestable, bombastic, tiresome, egocentric little creep”?
6. First published in 1842, “The Masque of the Red Death” is a short story by which American writer?

For more literary trivia, go to:

[Bored Panda](https://www.boredpanda.com)

It’s not too late to pick up your copy of the 2023 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: arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.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 Events



Award-winning author Mary Coday Edwards conducted a free workshop on "Writing the Hard Stuff." It centered on trauma and how to write about it as you deal with it. The workshop took place on August 24 at Bookman's Flagstaff Entertainment Exchange, 1520 S Riordan Ranch St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001.

Mary Coday Edwards is the author of [*To Travel Well, Travel Light: An Adventure Memoir of Living Abroad and Letting Go of Life's Trappings: Material Possessions, Cultural Blinders, and a Patriarchal Christian Worldview.*](#)

To learn more about Bookman's and their ongoing activities, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about Mary and her work, visit her [website](#) or her Arizona Authors member [page](#).

Rodo Sofranac was the featured author at the Bright Side Book Shop, 18 N. San Francisco St. in Flagstaff, on the 13th of August and the 30th of September. A reading of his book, [*The Red Tail Tale on the Arizona Trail*](#), was taped at Bright Side Bookshop for showing during the Flagstaff Festival of Science, which started September 22 and will run through October 2.



The [Festival](#), which was held at various locations around Flagstaff, featured "10-days of engaging events and programs, all free, for the community to enjoy and celebrate the wonders of science."

For a YouTube link to the reading, click [HERE](#).

To find out more about Bright Side Book Shop, click [HERE](#).

To find out more about Rodo and all his activities, check out his [website](#) or his Arizona Authors Association member [page](#).

Patricia L. Brooks proudly announces the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers, the writing group she founded in 2005, celebrated 18 years of continuous existence in September. Ms. Brooks has served as president for all of that time and looks forward to many more years of outstanding meeting speakers, a dinner each month for camaraderie for members and support of outside author events. The opportunity to share their work in a separate critique group is also available. For more information contact her at info@brooksgoldmannpublishing.com



Elizabeth Ajamee-Boyer and her husband, TJ Boyer, attended the Prescott Valley Fandomania on August 12. The event took place at the Prescott Valley Public Library, 7401 E. Skoog Blvd, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. The author team had a booth and showcased all of their books, including Elizabeth's newest novel, [*Cheyenne on Her Mind*](#).

To learn more about the annual Prescott Valley Fandomania, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about TJ and Elizabeth, visit their [website](#) or Elizabeth's Arizona Authors member [page](#), or check out Elizabeth's blog [HERE](#).

Donis Casey's guest for September was Deborah J Ledford, the award-winning author of the Native American *Eva "Lightning Dance" Duran Series*, and the *Smoky Mountain Inquest Series*. Her latest novel, [*Redemption*](#), published by Thomas & Mercer, is available now.



Donis hosts a new guest each month on her **Tell Me Your Story** series. To find out more, visit her [website](#).

Upcoming Events



Are you ready to finally pursue writing your memoir? If so, join Patricia L. Brooks. She will be teaching her **Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write** at the V. G. Piper Writing House at ASU. Dates for October are the 4th, the 11th, the 18th and the 25th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Registration is required

<https://piper.asu.edu> or text

Patricia at 480-250-5556 with questions. The fee is \$200 for adults and \$100 for students. Bring your questions and a notebook or journal.

Patricia L. Brooks and Earl L. Goldmann, husband and wife memoir writing duo, will have their books displayed at the Desert Foothills Book Festival, Saturday October 21st - 9:00 am to 2: pm. The event is free and will feature 80 authors. The Holland Community Center is at 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale. For more details on the authors see <https://desertfoothillsbookfestival.com>

Books make wonderful Holiday gifts! Patricia L. Brooks and husband, Earl L. Goldmann will participate with their memoirs for signing and sale again Nov 4th at the Granite Reef Senior Center's 38th holiday festival from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. GRSC is located at 1700 North Granite Reef Rd., Scottsdale. The event is free and will showcase authors and artists, holiday crafts and jewelry items, and more! Over 150 vendors will be available to you.

www.ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Patricia is the president of the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers and an award-winning author of several books, including her memoir, *Sick as My Secrets*. For more info on her or Earl or any of these events, visit their [website](#) or text her at 480-250-5556.

On the Road with Rodo!

Rodo Sofranac will be featured at the following events:



October 1st – [REI Flagstaff](#) 1:00-3:00 pm – Presentation and book signing. The REI Sporting Goods Shop is located at: 323 South Windsor Lane Flagstaff, AZ 86001.

October 7th – 3rd Annual Urban Wildlife Conservation Day at [Rio Salado Habitat](#), 2801 South 7th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85041.

November 4th – 17th Annual Local First Fall Festival at [Margaret Hance Park](#) 67 West Culver Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

To learn more about Rodo, his award-winning books and his many events, visit his website [HERE](#).



Tree in Oak Creek Canyon, Arizona
Photo by Arizona Authors Association member
Janet Alcorn

Congratulations to Our Members



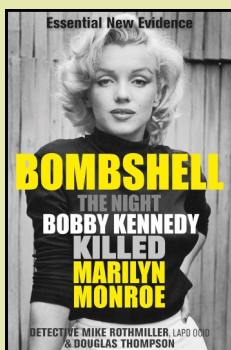
The latest issue of the [Million Mile Walker Dispatch: The Making of The Guatemala Reader](#) includes new reviews, the challenges for bilingual education in Arizona, and the making of his next book!

He starts off with: *For every world traveler, there is a place in one's memory that is a paradise - mysterious, beautiful, and full of alluring secrets—a place where one can return to by closing one's eyes. A place that will never change in one's memory; Guatemala is mine.*

Four of Mark's latest reviews, two by local writers, are featured in the September 2023 issue of the "Reviewer's Book-watch" of the [Midwest Book Review](#).

To find out more about Mark, visit his [website](#) or his Arizona Authors member [page](#).

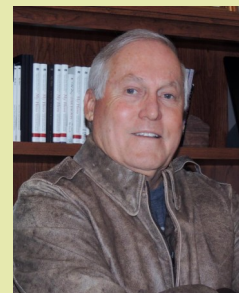
Mike Rothmiller and his writing partner just executed a contract for two new crime books. The publisher plans to release the first volume in early summer 2024.



The Kindle version of his book, [Bombshell, The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe](#), hit 2222 reviews as of August and ranked #2 on Amazon Best Sellers: Biographies of Organized Crime.

His [Frank Sinatra and the Mafia Murders](#) book recently passed 400 reviews and ranked number seven in the same category.

To find out more about Mike and his many books, click [HERE](#).

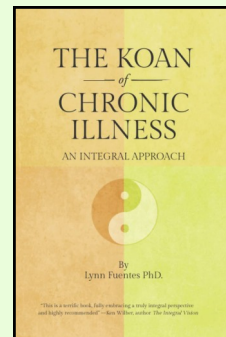


Lynn Fuentes, PhD., was recently a featured guest on podcasts and on YouTube. She discussed her book, [The Koan of Chronic Illness: An Integral Approach](#). A longtime caregiver and patient as well as an educator in the field, she offers multiple practical suggestions for how those living with chronic conditions might address these issues.

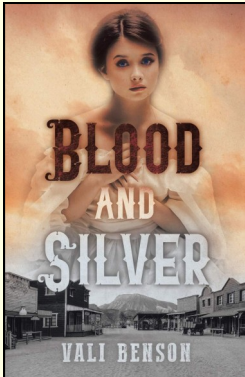
Click on [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#) of her interview on the Deep Transformation Podcast.

Or watch Llewellyn King's interview with her on YouTube [HERE](#).

To learn more about Dr. Lynn, visit her [website](#) or her Arizona Authors member [page](#).



Congratulations to Our Members



Vali Benson's book, [*Blood and Silver*](#), was named a finalist in the [2023 Page Turner Awards](#).

On August 29, the book was also named a winner at the [2023 Hollywood Book Festival](#). It took home top honors in the History category.

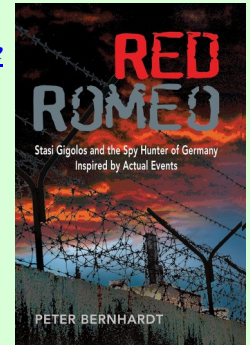


To find out more about Vali and her work, visit her [website](#) or click on her Arizona Authors member [page](#).

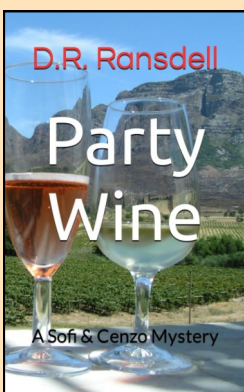


Peter Bernhardt, who recently moved from Sedona to Reston, Va, has received word from the Fairfax County Library that his three award-winning books, [*The Stasi File*](#), [*Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter*](#) and [*Red Romeo*](#), are approved to enter their library collection. Several of the books already have holds on them from the public.

Since his favored format is e-books, it occurred to Peter to ask the library to acquire his books in eBook format via Overdrive as well. To his delight, the Fairfax County Public Library did purchase them via Overdrive, and both formats are now part of the library collection.



To find out more about Peter and his books, visit his [website](#) or his Arizona Authors member [page](#).



D.R. Ransdell's book, [*Party Wine*](#), has just been named a finalist for the 2023 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award in the Investigative Category. See all of the finalists [HERE](#).

She was also named a finalist in the [Global Book Awards](#). Her short story "Right Turn to Tucson" just came out in the [*Desert Sleuths Anthology So West: Wrong Turn*](#). The short story is featured on page 37 of this issue.

To find out more about D.R., visit her [website](#) or Arizona Authors member [page](#).





Arizona Authors Association Literary Awards Finalists

by Jane Ruby

The 2023 Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest closed on June 1st of this year. We've selected the finalists and will announce the winners at the Arizona Authors Literary Awards Banquet held on November 4, 2023. Listed in alphabetical order, the finalists are:

Alcorn, Janet: Mourning Doves

Ball, Joy: Winnie Goes to School

Benny, Kris: Freester's First Easter

Bernard, Elizabeth: Sisters of Castle Leod

Bernhardt, Peter: Red Romeo: Stasi Gigolos and the Spy Hunter of Germany

Binsfeld, Lisa: Rootbound

Burgess, Melanie: The Fingerprints of God

Catron, McKenzie: Daughter of the Trolls

Cruz, Nora: Gracias Maestra!

Edwards, Mary Coday: To Travel Well, Travel Light

Foster, Daniel: Torment Descension

Hackman, Derek: A Machine Divine

Hart, William: Elephants Are Not Artists

Hershey, Joshua: Linden Falls

LaSaga, K.C.: Dragum

Malungu, L.: Marcus- King of the Dandelions

Merrill, Allison Hong: Ninety-Nine Fire Hoops

Norris, A.S.: The Wayward Mage Volume 1

Poplinger, Rick: Adventure in the Land of Changes

Schneider, David: The Map of Orbus Terrarum

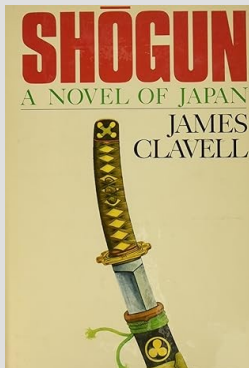
Solovey, Dev: Rebel Memories

Thomas, Heidi: Rescue Ranch Rising: Book 3

Volk, Christopher H.: The Value Equation: A Business Guide To Wealth Creation for Entrepreneurs, Leaders, and Investors

Congratulations To Our Finalists!

What Are You Reading?



In digging through the bargain bins of my favorite book stores, I find great old treasures that are still worth a mention. This month, I'm reading *Shogun* by James Clavell. If you just get the first of the volumes, you'll be left with a cliff hanger. Get both volumes, book one and two.

The book was turned into a movie back in the 80s and starred Richard Chamberlain and Orson Welles. Chamberlain played John Blackthorn, a sea pilot who was the first Englishman to venture into Japanese waters. His ship floundered off the coast of Japan, and Blackthorn found himself pitted between two rival warriors yearning for the title of Shogun.

Find the book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets. Or, pick it up in a bargain bin at your local independent bookstore, as I did. –Editor



Join like-minded people for literary conversation, to share your projects and to support the Arizona writing community at PEN America's Arizona chapter events. Founded in 1922, PEN America stands at the intersection of literature and human rights to support free expression in the U.S. and worldwide. Current and past PEN members include Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, John Steinbeck, Barbara Kingsolver, Salman Rushdie, Toni Morrison and many other prolific artists.

Arizona Authors Association member Michelle Beaver launched the Arizona chapter of PEN America in April 2022. Since then, the chapter has hosted events at Changing Hands Bookstore, Grassrootz Bookstore, Palabras Bilingual Bookstore, downtown Phoenix restaurants, and several other locations. Speakers have included poets, journalists, best-selling authors, Arizona Sen. Christine Marsh, *The Arizona Republic's* famed columnist E.J. Montini, a global human rights attorney, etc. We're now collaborating with groups such as ASU's Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, where Michelle serves as a teaching artist. The coming year will include more great panels as well as social events that feature complementary appetizers and drinks. PEN membership is not mandatory for attendance. If you'd like more information, please contact the founder and director of PEN America's Arizona chapter, Michelle Beaver, at:

Michelle.L.Beaver@gmail.com.



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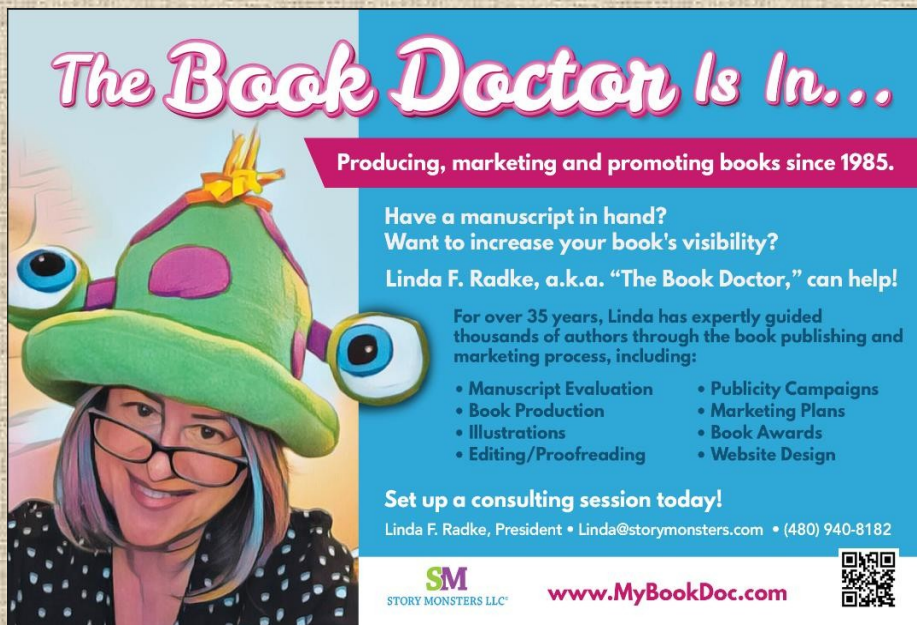
[Arizona Authors Association](#)



Nature is Not a Place to Visit; It is Home

—Gary Snyder

**Alamo Camp, Organ Pipe National Monument, Arizona
Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member
Karen Klink**



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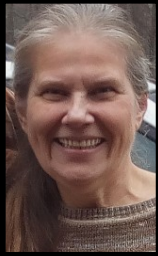
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23 Years of the Arizona Authors Association Literary Awards Banquet

by Kathleen Cook

With the 23rd annual Arizona Authors Literary Awards celebration soon to occur, I thought it would be fun to look at the banquet over the years. The very first one was held on Friday, November 10, 2000, at 6:00 pm at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel on 27th Avenue and Dunlap in Phoenix (pictured). Vijaya Schartz presided over the festivities in her role as Arizona Authors Association President. Board members Toby Heathcotte and Yvonne Masters assisted her in presenting awards, greeting guests and handling reservations.



The dinner featured live entertainment and radio coverage from Debbie Neckel and Pam Eckert of BookCrazy Radio, KCTK 960 AM. BookCrazy radio, at the time, boasted over 100,000 listeners. Debbie, a former police detective who wrote a [book](#) about a famous Arizona murder that she had investigated, and Pam, a former Arizona Authors member, hosted their BookCrazy show every Saturday at noon. It featured well-known authors from around the state and the country. They recorded several of the Arizona Authors events during the early part of the 21st century. Jani Magruder, a longtime reporter for the *Arizona Republic*, said of the duo: "Debbie Neckel and Pam Eckert are doing for books what Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert did for movies."

In addition, reporters from *The Glendale Arrow*, *Sun Life Magazine*, and *Arizona Corridors Magazine* attended the event and featured it in their respective media the next day. According to our website at the time, "The video cameras rolled, the still cameras flashed, and the crowd wore sequins, silk, red and silver lamé, black velvet, jewelry and furs." On BookCrazy Radio the following day Cathy McDavid, a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling romance author, said there was, "a lot of talent in this contest!"

For the first few years of the banquet, we always held them at the Sheraton Crescent on a Friday night. In 2004 we switched to Saturday nights and also switched venues. That year we occupied the Prime Hotel on Union Hills and I-17. The cost of a ticket at the Prime was \$35, payable at the door. It also featured media coverage and current member Wynne Brown won a prize.

When BookCrazy Radio signed off for the last time in late 2004, it was distressing to Arizona Authors Association members since they were often featured. Vijaya Schartz hosted one of the most popular shows on that network, called *Author's Secrets Radio*. You may read a story about the demise of BookCrazy Radio [HERE](#).



In 2005 the Arizona Authors Association banquet was held at the Four Point Sheraton Hotel at Metrocenter, which featured early Christmas decorations. Current member Emily Pritchard Cary won a prize in the contest that year and was photographed with outgoing president Vijaya Schartz. The next year, 2006, Toby Heathcotte took over as president of the Association. Toby and Vijaya are pictured together below at the 2005 banquet.



continued on the next page

23 Years of the Banquet by Kathleen Cook, continued

In her first year as president, Toby hosted the banquet at the Park Plaza Hotel in North Phoenix. That year, current members Katherine Atwell Herbert, Marcia Fine, Jeri Castronova and Patricia L. Brooks won prizes. Danielle Hampson (pictured, right) from Arizona Web TV attended the event and filmed it, which was aired on the station the next day. Danielle ([Bio](#)) is famous as "a pioneer in podcasting" and also created the popular "The Authors Show," which now serves as a platform for many well-known authors and reviewers including our own *Arizona Authors Digest* columnist, Mark D. Walker.



The literary awards banquet was moved back to its original venue at the Sheraton Crescent in 2007. Katherine Atwell Herbert won for the second year in a row, and Jan Cleere also won a prize.

In 2008, The Arizona Authors Association revamped many aspects, including our professionally-designed website, a boost in membership, and a change in venues to the Glendale Civic Center (pictured). Our website at the time said of the banquet: "contestant finalists, many from other states, attended the banquet, along with the press, bookstore managers, librarians, publishers. [They] attended in their best finery

this prestigious night, where the winners of the Arizona Literary Awards were revealed." JK Scott and K Patrick Malone, Dee Dees, Katherine Atwell Herbert and Jan Cleere won that year.

The cost of the banquet in 2009 at the Glendale Civic Center was raised to \$45 and included on the menu: Bistro salad, strawberries, Gorgonzola cheese, candied walnuts, choice of sautéed salmon with lemon herb sauce and creamy risotto or mesquite grilled flat iron steak with pasilla sauce and mashed potatoes. The dessert was chocolate lava cake with a molten chocolate center and whipped cream. Yum! A DJ provided music for dinner as well as for dancing afterwards. On our website, we encouraged people to bring their dancing shoes! Winners that year included John Sellars, Emily Pritchard Cary, and Kebba Buckley Button.

2010 was the first year we started taking PayPal in addition to cash and checks. Once again, we booked the Sapphire Room at the Glendale Civic Center, this time on a Saturday but a little earlier than previous years. The festivities started at 5pm and lasted until 11pm. The Italian buffet included Sicilian Lasagna, Tortellini with Alfredo Sauce, Sautéed Italian Vegetables, and a Gelatto Station with Spumoni, Strawberry and Chocolate, with waffle cones and bowls and assorted toppings. Winners that year included Emily Pritchard Cary, Marcia Fine, and K Patrick Malone.

K Patrick Malone also won in 2011, along with Rico Austin and Jan Cleere. All three of them won in 2012, along with Emily Pritchard Cary. The 5pm to 11pm slot continued for a couple more years. I guess people liked to party later in the evening back then!

In 2013 John Hansen received his first win along with Sandy Bremser, past president Russell Azbill and former Arizona Authors columnist Marlene Baird. The theme in 2013 was "Masquerade" and Arizona Authors editor Cherie Lee served as photographer, a role which she continued to play at banquets for several more years.

We stopped allowing payment with cash in 2014, and from then on, payments were made via either check or PayPal. The cost raised to \$55 for a dinner that lasted from 5pm-10pm. The theme for the year was *The Great Gatsby*. Dinner included Waldorf Salad with Champagne Vinaigrette, Roast Turkey, Whipped Potatoes, Fall Vegetables, Lemon Cookies, Crème Pies and Cupcakes. For the first time, we offered a gluten-free vegan option upon request. Winners that year included Sandy Bremser, Russell Azbill, Barbara Renner, Susan Harrison McMichael, and Albert Monreal Quihuis.

Although most of the photos from our former website are no longer available, here's one of the 2015 banquet:

continued on the next page

23 Years of the Banquet by Kathleen Cook, continued

Held at the Glendale Civic Center, winners included current members Nancy Scheneman-Brehm, Sheryl Brooks, Jo Ann Crooks, Russell Azbill, Cherie Lee, Albert Monreal Quihuis, K Patrick Malone, and Wynne Brown. Outgoing president Toby Heathcotte is pictured below with dedicated volunteer Beth Blake:

In 2016 the venue was changed to the Embassy Suites Biltmore on Camelback Road in Phoenix. Tickets went back down to \$50 per person. A Silent Auction was introduced that year, for members to "get some early holiday shopping in, pick up literary bargains, or to treat yourself to a lovely gift." We negotiated a discount with the Embassy Suites for members who wished to stay overnight. Winners that year included Katherine Atwell Herbert, Nancy Scheneman-Brehm, John Hansen, Marcia Fine, David Rich, Jane Ruby, Eileen Pieczonka, Roger Scott, Thomas P Collins, and Allan Spiegler. We added a Drama category, which was later dropped.



In 2017, our website was abruptly taken down. Two years later, we switched from azauthors.com to arizonauthors.com and also reinstated our themed events. 2019's banquet had a "Whodunit" theme, where members dressed like their favorite super sleuth. The banquet was held at Moon Valley Country Club (pictured left). Our 2019 winners included columnist Mark D. Walker, Julia Watson, Rico Austin, Janet Crum, Constance Osterlitz, K Patrick Malone, Richard McMaster, Martin Feess, Marcus Nannini, Albert M Quihuis, Vijaya Scharz, Craig Sodaro, Lynn Marie Lusch, and Caren Cantrell.

Pictured at right is Toby Heathcotte with her handsome grandson, Aaron, at the 2019 awards banquet.



In 2020, Covid struck and we were forced, for the first time, to postpone our banquet to the following year. Current members who won included Nancy Scheneman-Brehm, Jan Nichols, Rico Austin, Constance Osterlitz, Janet Crum (Alcorn), Richard McMaster, John Floyd, Thomas P Collins, Ashley Sweeney, DR Ransdell, Marcia Fine, Barbara Renner, Caren Cantrell and Rodo Sofranac. The Glendale Civic Center once again served as the venue for the 2021 "double year" banquet, and two years' worth of winners were honored that night.

The theme chosen was, "Those Were The Days, My Friend," and it harkened to a simpler era before Covid took its toll. Tickets remained at \$50 and the menu included Southwestern Salad, Beef or Shrimp Fajitas, Tortillas, Black Beans, Spinach and Cheese Enchiladas, Spanish Rice, Mixed Greens, Chips and Salsa, New York Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce. We started taking Venmo as a payment option at that time, but dropped it due to lack of interest. Winners for 2021 included Martin Feess, Mark Walker, Jan Nichols, Rico Austin, Barbara Renner, Janet Alcorn, John Hansen, Jan Cleere, Marsha Arzberger, Vali Benson, Dianne Ebertt Beaff, Lynn Marie Lusch, Marcia Fine, Penny Orloff, and Jeri Castronova.

Last year, for the 2022 banquet, we switched venues back to the Moon Valley Country Club and changed the banquet from dinner to lunch, in order to hold down the price yet again, as well as to make it easier for those who avoid driving at night. Winners included Andrew Means, Nancy Scheneman-Brehm, Janet Alcorn, Dawn Pisturino, Marsha Arzberger, Rico Austin, Jan Nichols, John Hansen, Monica Bauer, John Floyd, K. Patrick Malone, Wynne Brown, David Salvaggio, DR Ransdell, Brad Graber, Ashley E. Sweeney, Pam Schweitzer, Karla Moeller, Vicki Riske, Wayne Edwards, Peter Bernhardt, Dr. Diane Holloway Cheney, and Dana Davis. The menu consisted of an Italian buffet, with Fettuccini, Marinara and Alfredo Chicken, Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad and Assorted

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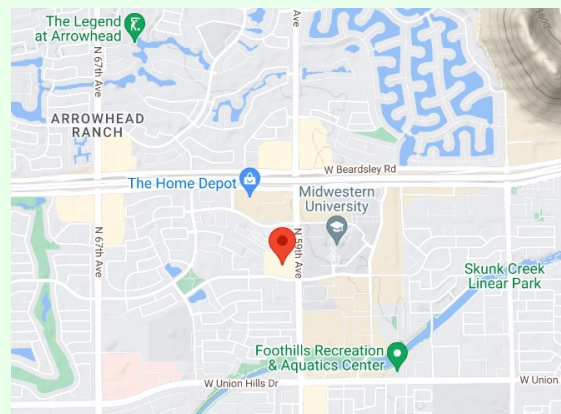
23 Years of the Banquet by Kathleen Cook, continued

Pastries. Pictured here at the 2022 banquet are, left to right, Constance Osterlitz, Toby Heathcotte, Vijaya Schartz, and Kebba Buckley Button (who served as our photographer that night, and has volunteered in that capacity for the 2023 banquet).

We've kept prices down again this year, by changing venues to Bottega's Ristorante. The restaurant won the 2023 Diner's Choice Award and is well loved by the Arizona community. The price is still \$50 ... lower than the \$55 cost in 2014! Bottega's should be a good choice. With excellent food and a banquet hall that seats 90 (plus an extra area for an overflow), the restaurant is located in Glendale, AZ, just off the 101 and 59th Avenue. Our menu will include Tropical Tea or Lemonade, mini meatballs, Bruschetta trio, Penne Salsiccia, Chicken Pizzaiola, Pasta al Pomodoro, and Mini Tiramisu.

The 23rd Annual Literary Banquet should be a great success with Penny Orloff as the MC, a Julliard-trained one-woman show who has entertained folks in famous venues for decades. Penny has promised great entertainment! And Toby Heathcotte, who attended the first banquet in 2000, will be there to take photo ops one last time in her official role as outgoing president of the Arizona Authors Association. Toby will remain a valued board member to provide input for the future direction of the Arizona Authors Association, but she will no longer have a major role in day-to-day operations.

If you haven't attended a banquet in the past, please try to be there for this very special one. It will be held Saturday, November 4th, at noon at Bottega's, 19420 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ.



**We Hope To See You
At Bottegas!**



You are cordially invited to:
The Arizona Authors Association Literary Awards Banquet
Saturday, November 4, 2022
12:00 Noon - 3:00 PM
Bottegas Italian Ristorante
19420 N. 59th Avenue, Glendale, AZ.

Master of Ceremonies: Penny Orloff
Surprise Live Entertainment!

Lunch - Bar – Awards – Speeches - Readings – Prizes – Photos – Literary Magazines

The 2022 winners will receive their awards and certificates. We hope winners will speak from the platform about their winning piece or read from their work with 3 to 5 minutes allotted for each. Published authors are invited to bring books for the lottery. Business/ “dressy” casual wear is fine. Tickets for writers and guests are \$50 each.

For more information, contact: Toby Heathcotte at:
toby@tobyheathcotte.com

Payment deadline is November 1st. Send check or money order to:
Arizona Authors Association
6145 West Echo Lane
Glendale, AZ 85302-5709

Or:

Pay to: arizona.authors@yahoo.com at [PAYPAL](#)



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 November 15 to arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com and we may publish it.

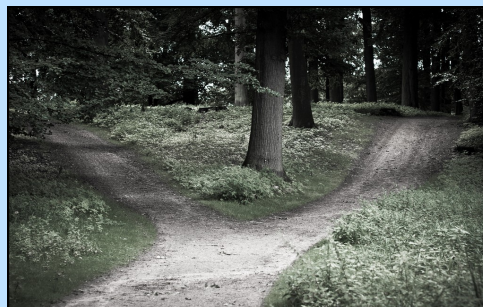
The Talker

The time clock dinged and the man began talking. He kept talking even when everyone in the audience left. He sipped water through a straw and talked while he drank. The words sounded liked he spoke underwater, but he did not stop. Lights turned on automatically and still the talk continued. A man carried a tray of food and drink to the speaker's side. "You'll have to eat, Sir. It's part of the game." The talker nodded his head and kept right on speaking, but striding back and forth by the food tray, he tore pieces from a tuna sandwich to chew while he talked. He didn't spit any food out of his mouth. It took him longer to eat the pieces of taffy candy, but he did it while talking. The clock in the hallway struck midnight. An envelope slid across the stage and landed at the talker's feet. He picked it up, but kept talking even though his words didn't make sense. The talker's eyes were blood-shot. He had trouble standing or walking, but somehow he continued to speak.

Questions:

1. Who is the talker and why did he have to speak for so long?
2. What is the game and is there some reward?
3. Did he have bathroom or rest breaks?
4. Was this some kind of punishment?
5. Who were in the audience, and were they enjoying themselves?
6. What were the rules of the game?
7. Did the man hope to win a prize?
8. Would the prize he won be for himself or for others?
9. What would be the consequence of failure?

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





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

By Mark D. Walker



A FINGER OF LAND ON AN OLD MAN'S HAND

· ADVENTURES IN MEXICO'S BAJA WILDERNESS ·



Earl Vincent de Berge

Two local writers I respect and appreciate are the focus of this issue's book reviews: Earl Vincent de Berg and Jody Sharpe. I met Earl and his wife, Suzanne, several years ago over lunch in Phoenix, discussing fundraising strategies for an NGO they set up in Guatemala, "Seeds for a Future," which provides training to impoverished rural women on the South Coast. I soon learned that we shared a love and appreciation of Guatemala and the Desert Southwest and that Earl was also a writer and, in his case, a poet.

I was surprised to learn that he started writing as far back as 1959. This spring he is publishing an autobiographical novel, [*A Finger of Land On An Old Man's Hand*](#), which is laced with poetry and photos about his adventures as a young man in the Sonoran deserts of Baja California, Mexico, and Arizona. As a high school senior, he came across one of the best Chinese poets, Li Po, noted for his elegant romantic verse regarding some of the various women in his life. Earl was soon writing about nature, the environment, cities, and social issues, and his imagination was fueled by his travels through Central America,

the Sonoran Desert, and the Andes. "Everything I experience has potential for a poem—even the increasingly dreadful business of politics."

Stories from this book take place in 1962, when de Berg and three other rebellious students set out for a three-month trek looking for adventure. Earl provides stories and photos of young men putting themselves to the test on the longest peninsula in the world. I visited the area between La Paz and San Lucas thirty years after the author did. I will never forget the stunning contrast of giant Saguaro of the Señora Desert looking off into the Sea of Cortez.

Baja provides numerous challenges to the men and their equipment as they trek over its mountainous, sometimes barren, desert environment. They encounter wild animals and first experience Pacific storms as oceans bracket them. The local population is to be protected, and they came across gold prospectors, hermits, and more than one-of-a-kind characters.

Earl provides a brief history of the area where the natives repelled the Spaniards twice, starting in 1533. The Mexican Revolution of 1910-20 provided "an indelible romantic tincture into Mexican culture that is powerfully expressed in folklore, art, and music."

The adventure is broken up with many humorous sidebars, starting with, "After six months of preparation, I'm thrilled to be underway. Suddenly, Adel slams on the brakes, slaps his forehead, and declares, "I forgot my single-egg fry pan!" I curl my arm and form a fist. He laughs, grabs the steering wheel, and motions us forward like a cavalry colonel."

De Berg is an accomplished poet, which enhances his powerful writing style. In his 80s, he used notes from an adventure in his 20s. His book is more than a memoir or biography but a series of travel adventures at their best and worthy to appear on the big screen someday.

The Author:

Arizona native Earl de Berge is a writer, photographer, and poet. His education includes Antioch College (BA) and U of Arizona (MA). A political scientist, he founded the Behavior Research Center, created the respected Rocky Mountain Poll, and was its Editor for 35 years.

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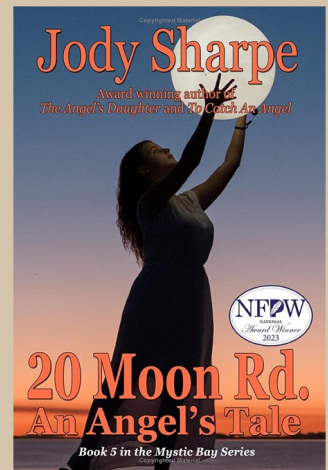
The Million Mile Walker, continued

Earl has recently published three collections of his poems, *Allegro to Life*, *Swans to Carry Me*, and *Wind in the Elephant Tree*, which touch on nature, human nature, love, desert silence, and life in Guatemala. He is currently assembling *The Man Who Ate His Dreams*, a biography of a rags-to-riches businessman, artist, and poet, and a collection of short desert stories for young readers.

Earl and his wife Suzanne split their time between Arizona and Guatemala, where they founded the nonprofit Seeds for a Future to help impoverished rural women improve their families' access to adequate food and nutrition with home gardens and small animal protein sources. You can find him at: <https://www.earldeberge.com/>

I've read and reviewed three of the author's *Mystic Bay* series books, starting with *Town of Angels*, and appreciated that this inspirational book, like all books in the series, proved the power of the human spirit to move on despite incredible tragedy and personal loss. The author's daughter, Kate, was killed in a tragic accident, and then her husband died. During a difficult period where many would have succumbed to despair, Jody had a dream in which a voice told her to read a children's book, *Charlotte's Web*, by E.V. White. Initially, she didn't know why she should read it until the last line of the text revealed that, "Nobody would take the place of Charlotte in the heart of Wilbur." This thought helped the author go on and honor her beloved daughter and her husband.

Last year, I read *When the Angel Sent Butterflies* to several of our youngest grandchildren, and although I didn't feel qualified to review it, my granddaughter did in the act of drawing butterflies at the end. Like all the author's work, it's uplifting, and my grandchildren seemed enthralled with the story and the excellent drawings about how love conquers fear and that angels are close by and can sweep away any fears they might have.



[20 Moon Rd an Angel's Tale](#) is a story like no other. Miracles still happen in the town of Mystic Bay, California. Angels live as humans there. A former football coach, Angel Ken, is surprised when his late best friend, the indomitable psychic Madam Norma, appears in spirit form and asks him to write her life story through the memories she will send him. Surprising to Angel Ken, Madam Norma has seen thousands of angels since childhood during her 100 years.

Pet lovers will appreciate an entire case of animal companions: Boots the Owl, Bondo, Jaimie Bond's dog, and Cookie, Madam Norma's late dog. Jody has dedicated her life to rescuing animals and keeps their preservation and safety at the forefront of her mind.

The last paragraph reflects the unique vision and mysticism which exudes throughout this book:

As we fly away from the beach on a mission to help someone in need, I know what God and all angels know and what Madam Norma always shared. Only love can mend our hearts and our Earth. Only love can set us free. Madam Norma's life was made of pure love, as she told me, "Kindness is the first ingredient of love."

I look forward to someday seeing the Mystic Bay Series on the Hallmark TV channel!

The Author:

Jody Sharpe had a rewarding career as a Special Education teacher. Over a decade ago, Sharpe faced the most difficult

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

challenge of her life when her daughter Kate died tragically. She was determined not to survive merely but to live, to honor the life of her beloved daughter, her twins, her husband, and the rest of the rich life she had created before the tragedy. Blessed with an inherently positive outlook, these trying times were strengthened by influences from the late Norman Vincent Peale to the children's book character Wilbur the Pig. For Sharpe, ministers of spirit and guidance took the form of angels. Sharpe's openness to change led her to write her first novel, *The Angel's Daughter*. The story occurs in Mystic Bay, California, a fictitious town, and encompasses Sharpe's attitudes about goodness, healing, and moving on. Her second novel, *To Catch an Angel*, is about her late husband, Steve.

Visit her website at <http://www.jodysharpe.com>. Jody has a blog on her website called Tuesdays With The Angels!

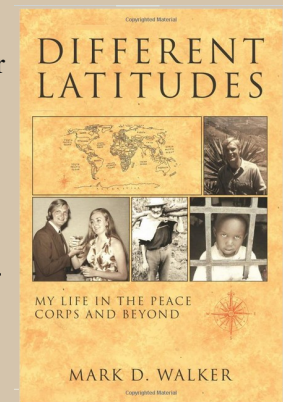
The opinions stated in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Arizona Authors Association. You can find the entire reviews of these two books and 70 others on my website under the "Library" tab.

Please let me know what you think - about this newsletter, my reviews, and most importantly, what you are reading so I can ponder all of it and share some of your comments in my next column.

You can email me at Mark@MillionMileWalker.com or through my websites: <http://www.millionmilewalker.com/> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/millionmilewalker/>

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

His book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*, was recognized by the Arizona Authors Association for nonfiction and according to the *Midwest Review*, ". . . is more than just another travel memoir. It is an engaged and engaging story of one man's physical and spiritual journey of self-discovery . . ." 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 or follow him on his [Facebook](#) page.



*Flowers are ... sunshine, food,
and medicine for the soul.*

- Luther Burbank

Arizona Sage

Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member
Vicki Riske



Arizona Authors Election

Through the next issue, we will be promoting participation in the **Arizona Authors Association Board Election**, asking for candidates for leadership as well as support positions. All offices are open, so throw your hat in the ring and become a board member! We can't do this job without you; with Toby slowing down, Jane and Kathleen are overwhelmed. We'll need help in the coming year if we are to continue our 45-year legacy. Thank you!!

Open Board Positions:

Leadership Positions (Two-years minimum membership)

President: Oversees policy and administration, collects and distributes funds, chairs meetings, and advises all other departments. (Must have served at least one year as a current or past board member.)

Vice President: Assists the president in all tasks and assumes the role of acting president when necessary. Provides secondary oversight in the collection and distribution of funds and in the overall departments.

Treasurer: Keeps a record of all incoming receipts and outgoing expenditures in the bank/PayPal accounts. Makes available to board members a bylaws-required ledger that is updated monthly.

Secretary: Keeps minutes of board meetings, copies of all important documents, treasurer's accounting reports, and a membership roster (updated monthly). Answers emails and communicates with board members and membership about events, digest entries, and meetings. Makes available all documents to any board member upon request.

Contest Director: Directs the Annual Literary Contest, works with volunteer judges, keeps track of all entries and payments, and ensures each entry is counted and judged by a panel of judges. The CD also calculates scores to determine winners, submits copies of score sheets to the Secretary, and keeps the membership informed of contest updates, rules, finalists and winners. Co-hosts (with the Events Director) the annual awards banquet.

Arizona Authors Digest Editor: Compiles submissions, edits and distributes the bimonthly Arizona Authors Digest.

Support Positions (One-year minimum membership)

Membership Director: Prepares and updates membership records and gives copies monthly (if any changes made) to the Secretary. Works with President/VP to grow membership.

Literary Magazine Editor: Compiles winning contest entries, edits, and prepares the annual Arizona Literary Magazine.

Zoom Director: Plans, hosts and schedules all online events, such as the Zoom workshops, and works with presenters.

Events Director: Promotes, hosts, and directs all physical events, such as the Tucson Festival of Books, in-person workshops or book fairs, etc. Also co-hosts, with the Contest Director, the Literary Awards Banquet.

Website Administrator: Oversees the website and updates the calendar, contest info, member pages, etc.



Each candidate may run for up to three offices (one leadership and two support). For more information and rules, please email: arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com



Arizona State University

Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writer's Conference

Starts: Thursday, Oct 12 9:00 am
Ends: Saturday, Oct 14 2:30 pm

Single Day Pass: \$150
Entire Event: \$275

For More Information, Click:
[Desert Nights, Rising Stars Writer's Conference](#)



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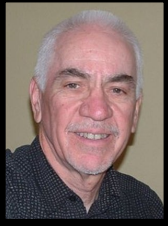
Have questions? Ask Marilyn @ arizona@aol.com, www.janwrite.com, or call her at 1-480-699-6389



Fall Leaves, Lynx Lake, Arizona

Photo by Arizona Authors Association Member

Mike Rothmiller



What's in a Name?

by Robert Ronning

What's in a Name?

*"What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By other name would smell as sweet."*

◇ *Romeo & Juliet, Act II, scene 2*

When people hear you do a bit of writing, naturally they want to know what you write. If it's a book, they ask what it's about or what it's called. Let's face it, a book needs a name with some pizzazz. If you can't come up with a snappy attention-getter, will a reader bother peeking at that first chapter you worried over?

There's a lot riding on *the name*. Would a rose really smell as sweet to Juliet if Romeo called it a radish? We're drawn to the sound as much as the scent of a rose. Labels matter. *The Agony and the Ecstasy* is an awesome title. But conjuring a title like that might have involved more agony than ecstasy.

There are tons of tips on how to come up with zippy labels that supposedly sell books. You can make a list of words and phrases relating to the story or characters. You alter and rearrange them as you write your story, until you have a good feel for the right combos. Then test market on your friends or beta readers; with any luck, you might end up owning that name. An original title might even end up a cliché you and everybody else owns forever (*Catch 22*). Better to double check on Google or Amazon, where you could find authors who already "own" your title, from books published years ago. You end up in a *Catch 22*.

Titles are better when brief, relevant, and provocative, but not always all three. Take a 1970's movie called *Love and Pain and the Whole Damn Thing*, hardly brief but so sweeping and all-encompassing it seems to embrace . . . well, every damn thing. Consider titles of books, movies, plays, and songs that really grab you. Some are simple and direct (*Psycho*), some a tad exotic (*Casablanca*). Imagine if Bogart had insisted on calling it *Rick's Café* (or, even more inept, *Everybody Comes to Rick's*, which sounds like a sitcom but actually was the title of the original play the film was based on.) Some hit on a core word or phrase (*Spellbound*) that echoes through your head with a certain tonal vibration just short of eliciting an ear worm. (The *Spellbound* soundtrack is kind of ear worm stuff.) Others stick with you (*Rear Window*), vivid images lingering in your mind's eye long after a forgotten story. Some lure you in (*Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) as opposed to its earlier version (*Watch the Sky*), which might induce a stiff neck. Then there's a special one for me (*Sophie's Choice*) that compels you to read about the choice this Sophie person has to make.

In future plagues, if and when, what provocative titles will help tell our stories? Lawrence Wright's *The End of October*, a recently published thriller he imagined prior to COVID-19, tells of a virus that "brings the world to its knees." Wright is an award-winning journalist and author; even so, such a scenario demands a doozy of a title to encompass the boredom, anxiety, terror, and death—and everything in-between—that would be heaped on humanity.

Audacity tempts me to launch my next project with a primal heading that I can build a story around. Writing instructors recommend the other way around—fit a title to what you've written. But scribes often practice a kind of reverse engineering, creating the very end of the story first, then a plot and characters to fit the ending. Why not a bolder approach: start with a title you adore and buckle up for a wild ride of crafting a whole story to fit it.

continued on the next page

What's in a Name by Robert Ronning continued

I like to jot down terse phrases I consider rather catchy or curious, like, *He Didn't Know What Hit Him . . . It All Happened So Quickly . . . Gone in a Puff of Smoke . . . The Geeks Have a Word for It*, the latter likely a slow nonfiction. Of course, there are titles relating to heartbreak and regret that authors keep using because they're irresistible (*Hindsight is 20/20*).

My list includes titles from old black and white Hollywood movies. Writer-director Preston Sturges had some winners (*The Lady Eve*, *The Miracle of Morgan's Creek*) that don't disappoint, especially when you learn in the latter film what the "miracle" is. While dictating his memoir at New York's Algonquin Hotel, sadly, Sturges died of a heart attack. His memoir title proved prophetic: *The Events Leading Up to My Death* ... not to mention inevitable.

French chanteuse Edith Piaf's autobiography *The Wheel of Fortune* seems a rather humdrum title. But to match her stormy, passionate life of only 47 years, what could be better than the label for her collection of French songs: [*I Regret Nothing*](#), words Piaf will own forever, a testament to a life of courage, passion and pain.

I'm unlikely ever to write a memoir, but Piaf inspires me with a title I might own. I could call it *I Have Forgotten Everything*.

Robert Ronning is author of [*Wild Call to Boulder Field—An Arizona Trail Adventure*](#). More of his writing can be found on his Web site www.RobertRonningAuthor.com or visit his Arizona Authors page [HERE](#).

*We cannot
lower the
mountain;
therefore, we
must elevate
ourselves.*

-Todd Skinner

Sedona, Arizona
Photo by Arizona Authors
Association member
Janet Alcorn





Puzzle it!

A Logic Puzzle for Mystery Lovers by Kevin Gundlach



Autumn leaves, crackling fires, what could be better than a good autumn-themed paperback? You will be given a list of four authors, their book titles, the paperback publisher and the year of its publication. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to match all authors with their own book, the paperback publisher, and the date the paperback was first published. We've even thrown in a couple of children's books this time, to read to the kids on a cool, crisp night.

While the easiest method is simply to Google the answers, that would be cheating! You may know or deduce some of these without the need for clues, and if so, then congratulations! You're a smart cookie! The rest of the answers will be revealed by the clues on the next page.

You may make your own list, write your answers or create a grid on scratch paper, or use the grid on the next page to simplify the process of elimination. Just right click on the page; you'll see a "print" icon (or the word "print," depending upon your browser). Click the print icon and then ... very importantly ... **set the page** that you wish to print in the document (page 26). If you just click "print" without selecting the page, you'll wind up printing the whole newsletter!

You may copy the grid to use in conjunction with the clues to eliminate answers. Put an "X" in any boxes that connect two implausible choices and an "O" in the boxes that connect two correct choices, until you eliminate all wrong answers. Happy Puzzling!

Authors:

Melissa McClone, Norman Partridge, Kenard Pak, and Jim Arnosky

Books:

Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn; A Cup of Autumn; Every Autumn Comes The Bear; Dark Harvest

Paperback Publisher:

Tor, Puffin, Tule, Scholastic

Date of Paperback Publication:

2017, 1996, 2022, 2007

All of the clues as well as the grid are on page 26. If you print the page, you will have all the clues handy along with the grid for easy puzzling.

continued on the next page

Puzzle it! by Kevin Gundlach continued.

If any member does the puzzle without Googling within 30 minutes, let us know and we’ll congratulate you in the next issue! You may use this grid in the “process of elimination” method. X out the boxes that align with answers you know could not be true. For example, if you know that a particular author did not write *Dark Harvest*, then put an “X” in the box where those two answers converge.

To print this grid, right click on this page and open the “print” icon. Be certain to select **the page number, 26**, to print **ONLY** the page with the grid, rather than the whole newsletter.

Clues

- 1 The four books are: a) The one published in 1996. b) The one written by Norman Partridge. c) *Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn*. d) The one published by Tule.
- 2 Kenard Pak published his book before *A Cup of Autumn*, but not with Tor.
- 3 Tule did not publish Arnosky’s book.
- 4 *Every Autumn Comes The Bear* was not written by Pak or Partridge
- 5 Scholastic published either *Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn*, or *A Cup of Autumn*.
- 6 The book by Pak was published before the one by McClone.
- 7 The book published by Tor came before the one published by Tule.
- 8 2007 is either the publication date of *Dark Harvest* or the one published by Tule.
- 9 1996 is the publication date of either Pak’s book or the one published by Puffin.

		Goodbye Summer	A Cup of Autumn	Every Autumn	Dark Harvest	M. McClone	K. Pak	N. Partridge	J. Arnosky	Tor	Puffin	Tule	Scholastic	2017	1996	2022	2007
Title	GS, HA	O	X	X	X												
	A Cup of A	X	O	X	X												
	Every Autumn	X	X	O	X												
	Dark Harvest	X	X	X	O												
Author	M. McClone					X	X	X	X								
	Kenard Pak					X	O	X	X								
	N. Partridge					X	X	O	X								
	J. Arnosky					X	X	X	O								
Pub.	Tor									O	X	X	X				
	Puffin									X	O	X	X				
	Tule									X	X	O	X				
	Scholastic									X	X	X	O				
Pub. Date	2017													O	X	X	X
	1996													X	O	X	X
	2022													X	X	O	X
	2007													X	X	X	O

Kevin Gundlach was a senior software developer who, unlike most, undertook the flight between academia and industry in reverse order. With his mother, Arizona Authors editor Kathleen Cook, he co-authored a series called, *Tryn, Just An Ordinary, Time-Traveling, Alien High School Teacher*. The first three episodes will be out in 2024. Find out more about Kevin [HERE](#).



Application for Membership

Benefits of Membership

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

CELL _____

EMAIL _____

WEBSITE _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP _____

PUBLICATIONS OR CURRENT PROJECTS: _____

Writers Published or Unpublished:

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

Send Check or Money Order To:

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

Professional Membership:

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

Or Pay With:

Paypal.com to:

arizonaauthorsassociation@gmail.com

ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW EACH JANUARY

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



Where in Arizona?

by Janet Alcorn

Can you guess where in Arizona this picture was taken? Be the first to guess correctly and we'll publish your name along with the correct answer in the next issue! Send your guesses to arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com.



Last issue's photo was taken at Walnut Canyon near Flagstaff. No one guessed the location correctly. We had one incorrect entry. Remember, even if you guess wrong, we appreciate the participation!



Photo by Janet Alcorn

Possible Locations:

Tombstone

Winslow

Benson

Wickenburg

Sonoita

Globe

Bisbee

Willcox

Williams

Nogales

Write to arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com no later than November 15th if you know the location of the photo. If you are the first to answer correctly, we'll publish your name in the next issue.

Janet is a librarian, published short story author, and aspiring novelist. She writes mostly suspense and horror with the occasional foray into other genres. Learn more about Janet and her writing at <http://janetalcorn.com>.

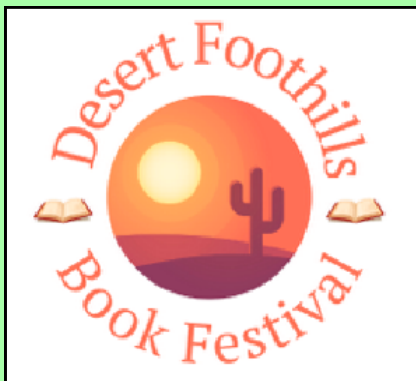
Desert Foothills Book Festival

From the Website:

The Desert Foothills Book Festival grew from the desire of a group of local authors to connect personally with book lovers and to promote an appreciation of reading and the literary arts. With the Tucson Book Festival to the south and the Payson and Prescott Book Festivals to the north, this small group felt the greater Phoenix, Scottsdale, Cave Creek, and Carefree areas were missing a valuable opportunity to meet and engage with local authors from all genres.

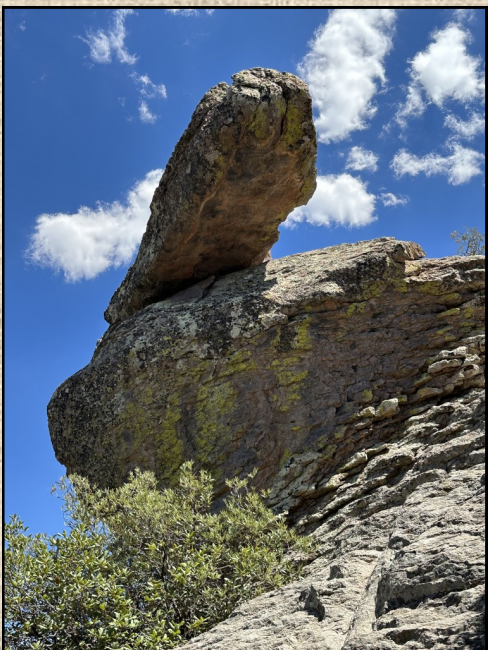
Registration is open for local authors wishing to exhibit their books at the 2nd Annual Desert Foothills Book Festival. Presented by The Holland Center and Desert Foothills Library, the event will take place at:

The Holland Center
34250 N 60th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85266
Saturday, October 21, 2023
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Many Arizona Authors Association members have signed up, including Bart Ambrose, Patricia Brooks, Caren Cantrell, Mimi Francis, Earl Goldmann, Diana Grillo, Penny Orloff, Eileen Pieczonka, Barbara Renner, Vicki Riske, Robert Ronning, and Jane Ruby. You'll meet lots of friends there. Interested authors can register to purchase a table at the festival's website at:

www.desertfoothillsbookfestival.com



*The Most Important Thing in Life is
Learning How to Fall.*

-Jeannette Walls

Chiricahua Mountains, Arizona

**Photo by Arizona Authors Association member
Janet Alcorn**



The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

For my column this time, I'd like to write an open letter to our membership. A lot of you have been wonderful over the years, contributing your time and effort to the Association, and I thank you. But I was disheartened by the response to our August call for candidates for board positions, in both a full-page ad as well as in my column. We're holding elections in January, per our bylaws, but since our August digest went out, not a single person has decided to run for office. If Jane or I (and it's a big if; we'll announce our intentions in the next issue) run for president or vice president, we cannot take on the additional workload without giving up some of our other jobs in the Arizona Authors Association.

According to our rules, no volunteer should take on more than one major plus two support jobs. Jane and I are both breaking that rule, with each of us in two major roles plus additional support ones. Jane is serving as both Contest Director and as Treasurer. If she takes on the presidency she must give up her two current jobs, since the bylaws state that unrelated people must handle the major financial offices for the organization. These tasks cannot be in one person's hands since all three jobs, presidency, contest director and treasurer, oversee our financial assets. Those rules were set up to avoid the problems experienced in the past, and while Jane is handling the tasks with integrity, we need to ensure that the offices remain separate, to re-establish protocols going forward.

I am serving as both the Digest Editor and as Secretary. Each issue of the digest takes me between 60-70 hours to complete. I also created our current website in 2021, spending hundreds of hours on it, and I now serve as its web administrator. I am involved in numerous other areas, such as judging 31 books in the Oldie but Goldie and Nonfiction categories. As Contest Director, Jane judged more books than I did.

When Toby fell ill, I took on the additional job of Membership, maintaining the roster and sending out welcome emails to all new members. Thankfully, Toby has regained strength and returned to those duties as well as her Presidential ones. But since she is stepping down in January, those roles will again have to be taken up by someone ... probably me or Jane. We are lucky to have Penny Orloff, who has taken on a large portion of Toby's work by editing the Annual Literary Magazine as well as doing workshops and hosting the upcoming banquet. Kyle Patton has done a great job monitoring the forum and Sharon Sterling is my great new proofreader, a role that Toby once performed admirably. While these jobs are critical and I thank god for our volunteers, we need others to help reduce Jane's and my hours as well.

We do not have anyone who is willing to take on a major office. I understand how daunting it is ... all of these jobs require skills and time. For years, the Arizona Authors Association has been a labor of love, and because of that love, both Jane and I have taken on additional work, and additional work, and additional work. We foresee more work coming in January when Toby steps down, and we're frustrated. We can no longer remain in a job with more hours than we ever anticipated for zero pay. Something has to give before we are completely burned out.

The many tasks of an organization our size cannot be done by two people on a volunteer basis. They are real jobs that require a real commitment. Over the course of the year, Jane's and my activities encompass a minimum of 100 hours per month each and often more (an annual estimate, since certain months skew the average). There have been months when I've volunteered as many as 250 hours, and I'm sure Jane can say the same. While that's not the norm, it prevents us from earning an income elsewhere in a consistent job. Even those who are self-employed and write or edit to supplement their incomes cannot pursue those endeavors when their volunteer tasks take up so much time.

continued on the next page

The Inevitable Author, continued.

Bottom Line: We need a minimum of 3-4 volunteers who have some experience in the following fields to each take one of these jobs:

Digest Editor: has total responsibility to publish an issue every 2 months, such as this current issue, works with contributors and columnists, writes a column, and adds fillers, literary trivia and quotes.

Contest Director: handles all aspects of the contest, secures judges, sends emails, and works with board members to insure that the contest is fair, accurate, and adheres to nonprofit guidelines.

Website Administrator: creates new members' web pages, updates member, contest and calendar pages, adds new features, increases SEO, answers emails, and analyzes data.

Treasurer: maintains meticulous financial records in a ledger and makes it available to board members upon request.

Secretary: organizes paperwork, keeps copies of every transaction or decision and makes them available upon request by a board member, and also takes minutes of meetings.

There are other major roles, but these would ease Jane's and my burden and allow us to assume Toby's duties in January, as President and Vice President (and don't ask which, because either of us would be glad to see the other as president, lol). We have two options ahead of us. Either we gain volunteers who will take on major roles with integrity and perseverance, or we will need to raise revenue in order for the Arizona Authors Association to provide a stipend to its few officers. I will never expect to match the \$35-40 an hour earned when I was a professional editor years ago, or even half that. But if I'm going to stop working elsewhere and devote myself to increasing tasks here, and if Jane is going to take on a slew of extra work as well, we must be compensated. With such incentive, I can do more for the association, spending more time and offering more features to our web visitors, which will ultimately benefit everyone and increase revenues to absorb costs.

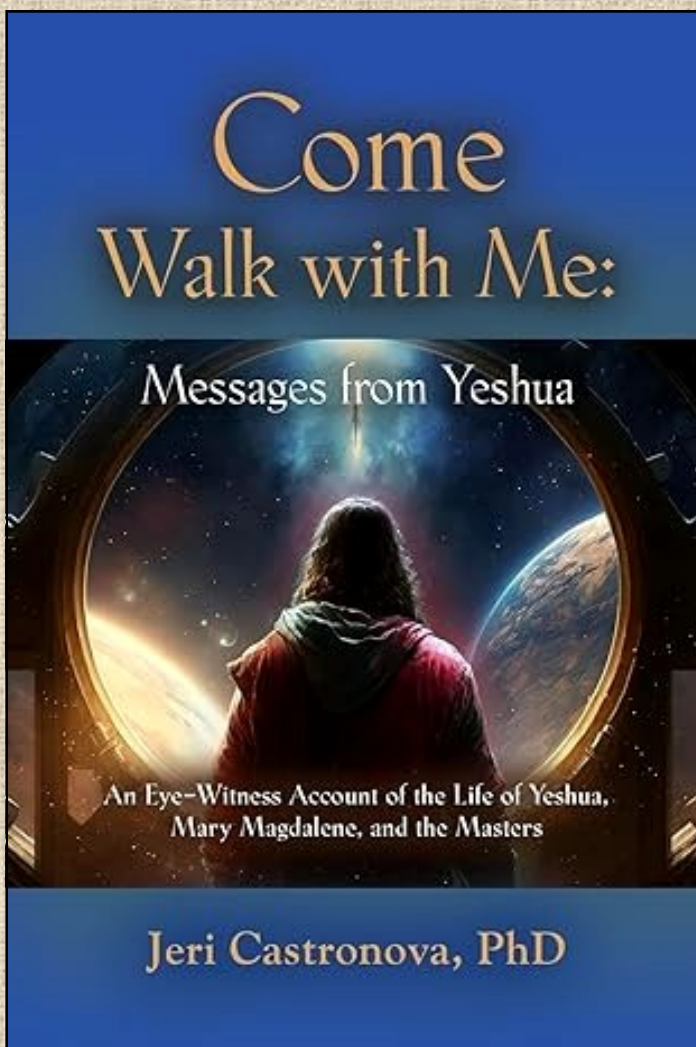
Which should it be? Will three or four others step up and take on at least one major job each? Or if that's impossible, can we count on you to remain with us if the prices raise by fifteen or twenty dollars a year? We offer discounts in economic hardship cases, and will continue to do so. We also have a donation button at the bottom of the "join" page on our website for those who cannot serve, but would like to help us with a tax-deductible gift.

I dream of a world-class association, where our writers, editors and publishers blossom. We are under-utilizing our strengths and our ability to become the most prestigious authors association not just in Arizona, but in the entire United States. There are so many things I envision, if only I could find the time. I would like to give each of you what you most need: exposure, marketing, a path to financial independence, and recognition for your efforts with increased value. Arizona Authors can provide the launching pad for all of our literary dreams, but we either need enough volunteers to make that happen or we need to pay the few workers we have for their many hours of service. Thank you.

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 late 90s. She is currently the Arizona Authors Association Editor as well as its website administrator. Find out more about Kathleen [HERE](#).

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Jeri Castronova PhD.



Come Walk With Me

Messages from Yeshua

An Eye-Witness Account of the Life of Yeshua, Mary Magdalene, and the Masters by Jeri Castronova, PhD.

This is not a religious book. This book comes before religion, revealing untold true stories of Yeshua's life the patriarchy deleted.

Channeled by Yeshua, Mary Magdalene, the Masters, and the Beloved Apostle John who walked, talked, and witnessed Yeshua's life, crucifixion, and resurrection.

This book answers many questions, such as: Were Yeshua and Mary Magdalene really married? Why was the truth about Mary Magdalene deliberately deleted by the orthodoxy?

Yeshua brought powerful teachings of the Divine Feminine. He reveals the Time is Now for the release of his Truth.

This is the generation that is seeing the Prophecies and Revelation come to fruition. Yeshua calls to You who feel lost, controlled, or beaten down by life. His Light and Love surround You, sustained by the Holy Breath of Creator.

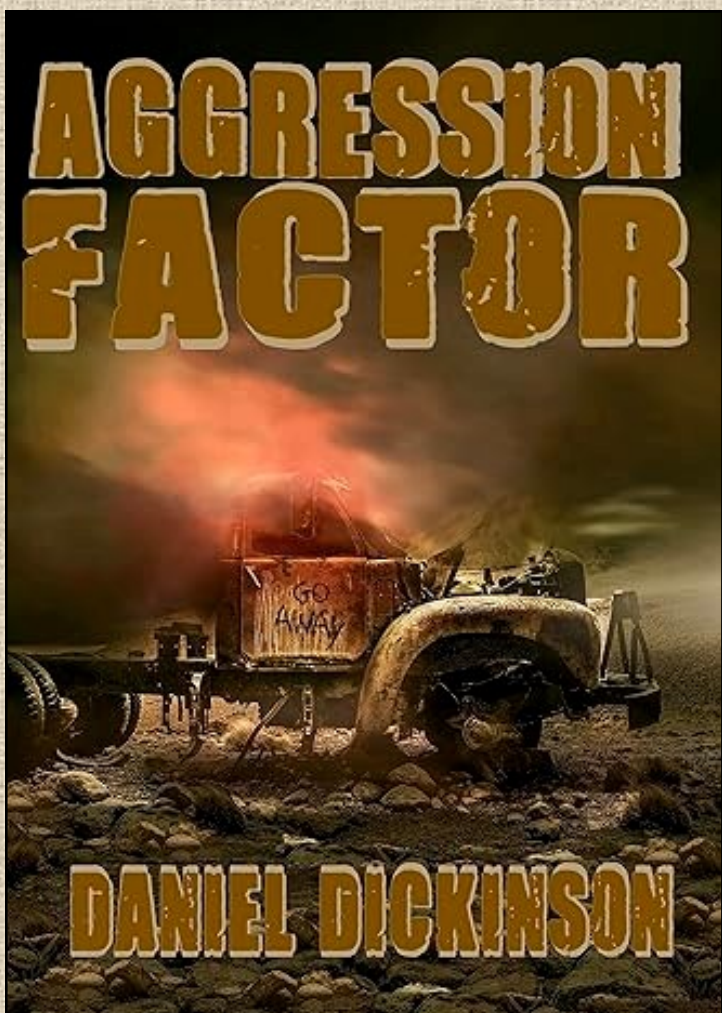
Find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets. See the trailer for *Come Walk With Me* on Jeri's [website](#).

Jeri Castronova, PhD, Spiritual Psychologist, Award-Winning Author, Artist, Poet, World Traveler, Energy Healer and Mystic Channel for the Masters. Past Board Member of AZ Authors. Past President of Prescott Writers. Conference Presentations and Workshops: Sacred Egypt with Goddess Isis, Discovering Our Past Lives, Seducing the Muse, Freeing the Inner Goddess. As a Clinical Psychologist, she worked in psychiatric hospitals with the severely mentally ill designing treatment plans based on psychological testing, individual and group therapy, art and poetry therapy, and trained psychology interns. After several life-transforming experiences in Egypt, Israel, Italy, Britain, and Greece, her focus changed dramatically and she began working with the Divine Masters. With 30 years experience in the mystical healing arts, she is dedicated to opening the portals to inner sacred truth to enhance creativity, lift the veils on our talents and skills, and shine Yeshua's and Mary Magdalene's brilliance into our lives. Find out more about Jeri on her [website](#) or her Arizona Authors member [page](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Daniel Dickinson



Aggression Factor

The Horde sweeps across the Earth, an unstoppable force with advanced technology. The desperate human nations fight a losing battle, facing destruction as the best defenses they can muster fall before the relentless advance of the enemy. They must find a way to defeat the invaders or face destruction.

Experience the strife and sacrifice, the fear and heroism of the human race in their battle against the invading Horde, in four stories:

Fallen Iron – Seen as inferior and outdated, Mike and his squadron of A-10 pilots have one more trick up their sleeves.

Ellie – When the Horde strikes at the heart of the Arizona desert, Ellie and her father flee the last bastion of civilization.

Three of Spades – A routine scouting mission escalates into a fight for survival in the foothills of the Rockies as the Horde advances.

Losses – Ellie made a new home in Vegas, but when the Horde arrives at her doorstep, she's unprepared for what happens next. Can she pull the trigger and end the war?

Find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.

Daniel Dickinson was first published in an annual publication with the short story “Escape from Ogre Island.” He is also self-published with the short story horror book, [Don't Close Your Eyes: Two Thrilling Tales of Terror](#), as well as [Gathering Tide](#) and the newly released [Aggression Factor](#). His writing is based upon a lifetime of creating a realistic realm in which his characters come to life, allowing the reader to become a part of that world.

Daniel has a wonderful family and is a proud father with a beautiful wife. He enjoys traveling and photography, as well as food and art. One of his many hobbies is taking his daughter and grandkids camping at least twice a year. He currently lives in the greater Phoenix Area, surviving in the grind and writing when he can. He enjoys giving presentations about creating worlds and fantasy genres in general. He looks forward to the challenges of growing as a writer and continuing the adventure that is life. Find out more about Daniel on his [website](#) or on his Arizona Authors member [page](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Joy K. Ball



Winnie's Christmas Treasure Hunt

The hunt is on! Will Winnie find the treasure she's searching for?

Winnie has a question! Where do all the schoolchildren go at night? With the help of her friend, Dusty the Desert Packrat, Winnie is determined to find out what special treasures can be found if only she can get inside a person's home.

This heartwarming Christmas adventure is filled with exciting things kids love about the holiday season—including treasures!

The book just came out in September and has already garnered quite a few five star reviews.

Mike Lenderink said, *"As a science teacher, I liked the summary at the back of the book about pack rats. I also think the message of celebrating with all friends, and not excluding children is a great message to teach at an early age. I'm looking forward to reading this to my first grandchild!"*

Find this book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.

Joy K. Ball is a busy pediatrician, wife, and mother.

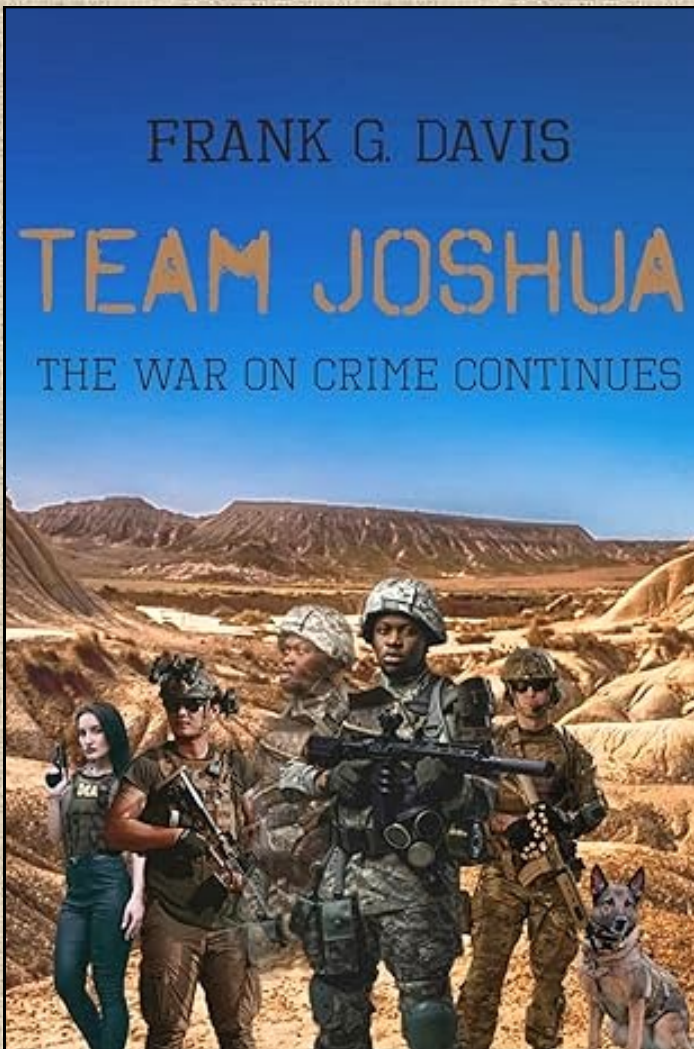
She feels fortunate to have spent several years living in Arizona, in the beautiful Sonoran Desert, where she and her family loved exploring the vast variety of plants and animals. Having lived most of her earlier life in the Southeast, Joy was amazed to see the desert actually bloom in spring! Her debut children's book, [Winnie Goes to School](#), was inspired by an event that occurred one dazzling spring day when a feathered friend attempted to join her daughter's first-grade class.

Joy currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina, with her husband and 2 teenage daughters, where life is busy and always an adventure. Find out more about Dr. Joy on her [website](#).



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Frank G. Davis



Team Joshua

The War on Crime Continues

Team Joshua is a story about a select group of individuals who became special government agents assigned to take down criminals who think of themselves as untouchables. The group is lead by Joshua Brown, a 6'-7" former active duty Recon Marine. With him are three other former Marines, Pham Bin Minh, sniper, Mark Riley, demolition expert and Sarge, a large German Shepherd trained to identify explosives and to attack the enemy. A fourth member of the team is Simone Cantrell, a DEA special agent until she hooked up with the team.

The last member of the team is Caleb Brown, Joshua's twin brother, also a former Recon Marine. Both Joshua and Caleb served in Afghanistan for two tours. A week before their last tour ended Caleb was killed by an IED. But his spirit survived, bonded to his brother, and became a super sleuth, providing intel no human could gather.

They have successfully completed all four missions over two and a half years, each one more complex than the last. It was time to stand down and enjoy some well earned R&R. However, that was not to be. This mission was by far the most complex they had ever been assigned to. It was like going back to combat again, but this time in Oregon.

Find this book on [Amazon](#) and other outlets.

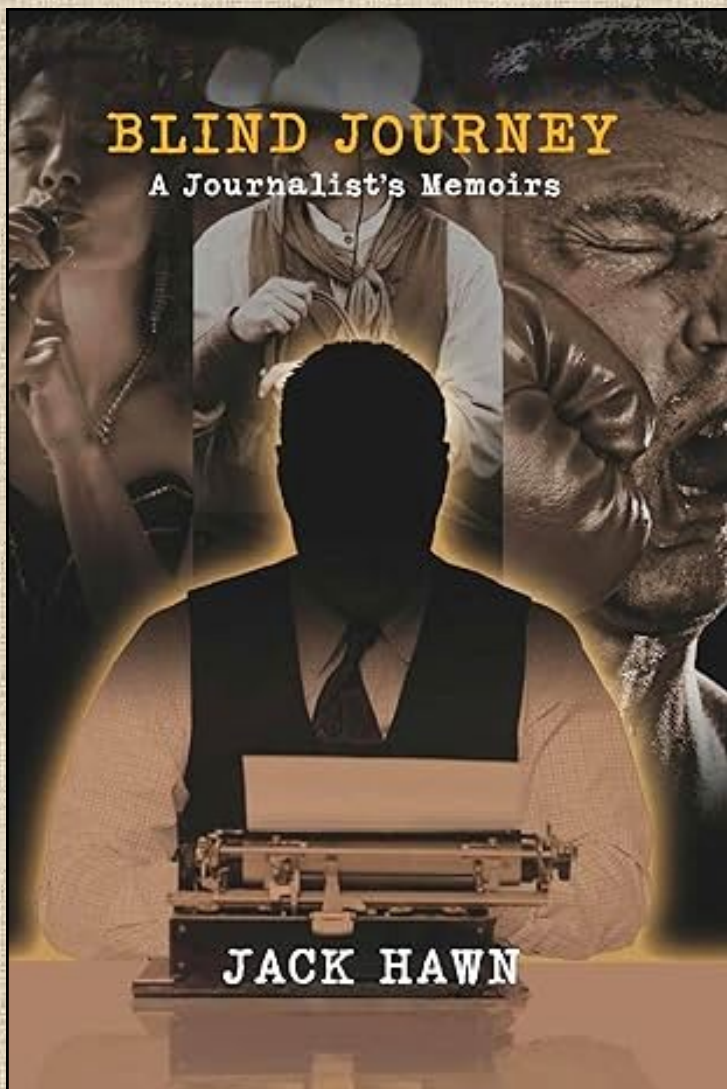
Frank G. Davis is an award winning local author from Chandler. During the last three years he has self-published ten science fiction novels. An eleventh novel is currently being edited. He is also involved in generating an audio book of one of his novels, *The Book of Caleb*. It's a prequel to the Joshua series. He has written two four-book series; the first is the *Generation* series, a space opera that covers 200 years and multiple generations. The second is titled, *Joshua*. It is an action/adventure series set in the near future.

Frank has been focusing on marketing and has made arrangements with several Barnes and Noble stores in the Phoenix area to add some of his books to their Local Authors displays. In March, he held his first book signing event at the Barnes and Noble store at Tempe Market Place. There are eleven Barnes and Noble stores in the greater Phoenix area. His goal is to hold book signings monthly at their various stores. To find out more about Frank, visit his [website](#) or his Arizona Authors member [page](#).



BOOK RE-RELEASE

by Jack Hawn



Blind Journey

A Journalist's Memoirs

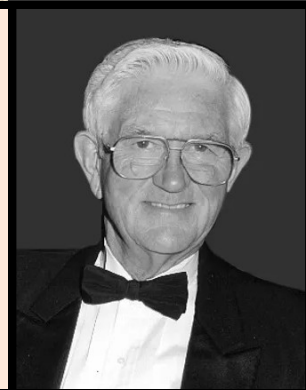
Uncharted and beyond his control for the most part, Jack Hawn's career simply happened. He never studied journalism and never aspired to be a writer. After almost four years assigned to the army's public information offices, he faced civilian life with a wife, infant daughter, wild ambition, bursting optimism, unshakeable confidence -and no job. Eventually, he found work as a copyboy at a Hollywood newspaper, was paid \$5 to review plays and nightclub acts. As years passed, he earned extra income as a television dramatist and wrote TV and radio scripts for sportscasters.

During Jack Hawn's amazing 43-year career, he covered Muhammad Ali title fights, boxing at the 1984 Olympics, and wrote about Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and other celebrities until his retirement in 1991. Whether you're an aspiring or veteran journalist or just want a genuine page turner that details the author's own life and career, it's a work you'll keep pulling from your bookshelf time and again. As one critic summed up his review: "His book is terrific."

You can find Jack's book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.

Jack was born in Kearney, Nebraska, January 25, 1930, raised in the San Fernando Valley, a suburb of Los Angeles. He and his wife of 63 years moved into their Sun City West, Arizona, home on Christmas Eve of 1991. He and his present spouse celebrated their first anniversary July 11, 2021 (lucky seven-eleven). Jack never studied journalism or aspired to be a journalist. It simply happened thanks to an Army lieutenant colonel, the Fort Ord public information officer with whom he shared a midnight Greyhound bus ride when he was an 18-year-old recruit fresh out of basic training. Jack is an active opportunistic optimist with a strong sense of humor, having a "target date" of at least 104 years. That's when his identical 18-year-old triplet great-grandsons will open a time capsule that contains his book among other treasures. Their brother also should be present. He's two years older.

Find out more about Jack and his other book, [Insomnia: Two Wives, Childhood Memories and Crazy Dreams](#), on his Arizona Authors member [page](#).

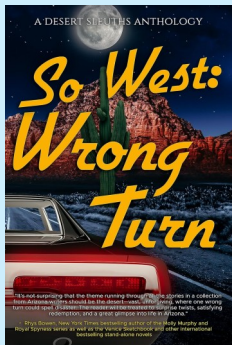


SHORT RELEASES

If you wrote a short story, article, essay or poem that was published by any outside source (not your own) within the past six months, send it to our editor at arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com. Articles should be submitted no later than the 15th of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November) and will be published in the following issue.



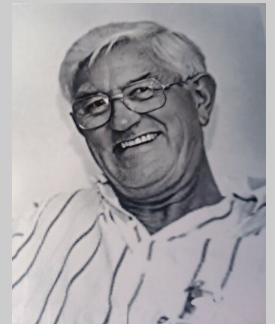
D.R. Ransdell's short story "Right Turn to Tucson" was recently published in the 10th edition of the *Sisters in Crime Desert Sleuths Anthology*. The volume is titled, *So West: Wrong Turn*. You may find the anthology on [Amazon](#) and other outlets.



Find out more about Ransdell, a Killer Nashville and Global Book Awards finalist, on her [website](#) or check out her Arizona Authors member [page](#).



The Sun City West Independent did a feature on Jack Hawn and the re-release of his first book, *Blind Journey: A Journalist's Memoirs*. The article appeared in the August 21st issue of the Independent. You may read it [HERE](#). *Blind Journey* is featured on page 36 of this issue of the Arizona Authors Digest; you may pick up your copy of the book on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and other outlets.



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

Gavin Kayner's poem, "Write to Me," has been published in the 4th volume of *The Write City Review*. The *Write City Review* is a publication of the Chicago Writer's Association.



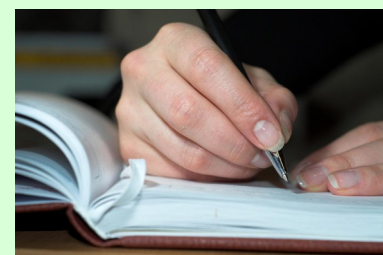
You may purchase the book on Eckhartz Press [HERE](#). To learn more about the Chicago Writer's Association, click [HERE](#).

To learn more about Gavin Kayner and all of his works, visit his Playwrights Center [page](#) or his Arizona Authors member [page](#).



Have you written an article or short story and has it been published by any newspaper, magazine, or online blog (except your own)? Share it with us, and we will publish it on this page! The deadline for all submissions is on the 15th of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November).

Send items to: arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com





A Writer's Tip

by Karen Odden

Dip your toe into different waters - the short forms.

This past summer I worked on my new novel, and there were times when I felt like I was fighting it. This isn't normal for me. But I'm wrestling with some heavy themes that require delicate handling. At times, each paragraph felt overwrought and yet trite and underwhelming. I know when this happens, it means I need to step away and clear my head.

Hiking helps. Also, knitting. No joke, I'm like the mad hatter these days, knitting all these beanies. I need to make some more friends, so I have people to give them to!

Sometimes I step away by writing short essays and blog posts, and I've done a few this summer. One of them, on the tension between truth and verisimilitude in historical fiction, is [HERE](#) on Debra Goldstein's wonderful blog.

But this summer I decided to step away from that knotty novel by dipping my toe into the waters of short stories. Not because they're easy -- in many ways, they're more difficult. I tend to lean into historical context and backstory ... and there's not a lot of room for those in shorter fiction. Not to mention, if it's a mystery, fitting in all those twists can make the whole thing feel like a mutant pretzel.

Some years ago at the Tucson Book Festival I went to a panel on short stories, with four writers. And when an audience member asked, what's the difference between a novel and a short story, one of the panelists (I wish I could remember her name) responded with a story. She'd been a ranger in a national forest for some years. She patrolled a certain section and she knew every path, every tree, every waterhole, every animal track. One day she rounded a corner and saw a mountain lion. It growled, and she growled back; it showed its teeth, and she shouted, waving her pickaxe over her head; it took a step forward, and she held her ground, and eventually it turned and left. She concluded by saying that writing a novel is like patrolling a piece of ground, and a short story is like an encounter with a mountain lion.

I thought this was a fantastic metaphor for short stories -- brief, intense, and challenging, with very little back story! -- and it stuck with me. This summer, I wrote three short stories, exploring one of the themes from my novel in each one ... although of course I didn't figure that out until later. As usual, my writing shows me what I'm wrestling with better than I can see it myself.

To me, the short story is also akin to a playpen. Small, square, padded. With toys. Overhead mobiles with small, sparkly objects.

If you've written a short story you'd like to tell me about -- or if you have a good way to step back from your manuscript -- please share! email me at karen.odden@gmail.com I'll share your tips (anonymously, if you like) in a future Tips column.

Karen Odden is a USA Today bestselling author; her latest book is [Under A Veiled Moon](#), an Inspector Corravan mystery. For more writer's tips and other news, subscribe to Karen's newsletter [HERE](#) or visit her [website](#). You may also visit her Arizona Authors Association page [HERE](#).

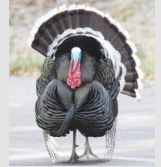


Prickly Pear Cactus Flowers

Photo by Arizona Authors Association member
Jennifer Wrenn

Back Page Quotes

Why did the turkey cross the road on Thanksgiving?



He was pretending to be a chicken!



*Autumn is a second spring,
where every leaf is a flower.*

-Albert Camus

*I would rather sit on a
pumpkin and have it all to
myself, than to be crowded
on a velvet cushion.*



-Henry David Thoreau



Why do robots always marry in October?

Because they are autumn-mated!

Literary Trivia From Page Three

Answers

1. *The Shining*
2. Her Mother
3. A Horse
4. *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*
5. Hercule Poirot
6. Edgar Allan Poe

Why did two ghosts walk into a bar?



They came for the boos.

Do you know a seasonal or writing-related joke, or a quote from a famous author? Send it to arizonaauthorseditor@gmail.com before November 15th and we may use it in the next issue.