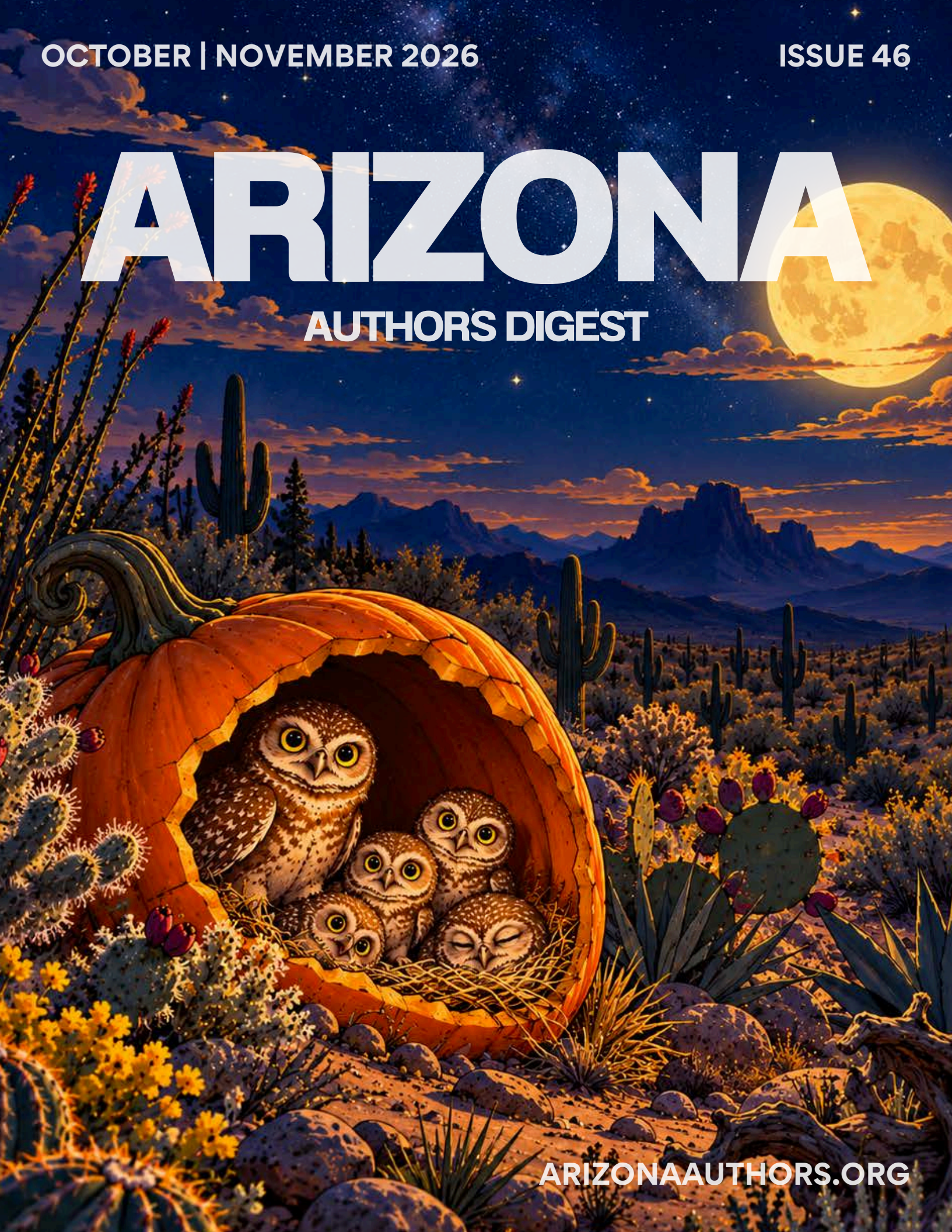


OCTOBER | NOVEMBER 2026

ISSUE 46

ARIZONA

AUTHORS DIGEST



ARIZONAAUTHORS.ORG

CONTENTS

4 Literary Contest Finalists

19 Reflecting On Our Author Journey

Jeanne Burrows-Johnson speaks of a memorable journey to Portland that offered lessons beyond book sales.

25 I'm Not the Author ... I Only Wrote the Book

Dan Baldwin talks about the importance of a good contract in a ghost-writing agreement.

28 Don't Fall for Fan Mail Fraud

Kathleen Cook warns members about an email scam and what to watch for.

29 Larry's Corner

Barbara Renner talks writing with the senses, with help from Larry, her canine sidekick.

32 New Releases

Recently published works from members of the Association.

50 Million Mile Walker

Mark D. Walker reviews *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.

53 Remembering Russell A. Azbill

BRIEFS

President's Message 3

Leadership 5

Membership Benefits 6

Welcome New Members 8

From the Editor 10

Literary Trivia 11

Upcoming & Recent Events 16

Congratulations! 23



A Writer's Tip 55

Columnist **Karen Odden** shares what eight minutes a day can accomplish..

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Cook

PRESIDENT
Arizona Authors Association



As we look forward to autumn after a blazing summer, I want to ask all of you a favor. I'd love for you to attend the Arizona Authors Literary Awards Brunch. It's an annual event and the highlight of our literary calendar. (It should be—it's the most expensive event we subsidize, but we love it!)

This year, we're pre-purchasing 75 tickets, but we're hoping to exceed that number of attendees by far.

We're doing something very different this year. In past years, the focus was only on the buffet and the literary contest award winners. This year, we've expanded the event to provide all our members with an immersive musical experience. While the awards buffet will last a little more than three hours (and you don't have to be there the entire time), the Musical Instrument Museum, where we are hosting the event, is a world-class venue for music lovers everywhere.

It wasn't easy to negotiate discounted museum admission as part of our event, but we managed to bring the cost down to a reasonable level. The cost to us will be just a few dollars more per person than what we charge our members—doable for us and enjoyable for our guests.

Do you have family members or adult children coming home for Thanksgiving weekend? What a wonderful gift this would make—and a way to keep them from getting bored during their stay. The event takes place on Saturday, Nov. 28. If you purchase tickets for your family, you can all enjoy the big buffet brunch together. Afterward, they can stay for the awards event or explore the museum on their own while you get to know other authors, editors, publishers, and industry professionals. They can also stay for part of the event and leave whenever they feel like exploring the cavernous museum, which houses thousands of instruments from more than 200 countries.

If you need just one ticket, click here:
arizonaauthors.org/_paylink/AZ-PTUS6

If you'd rather buy two tickets at a time, click here:
arizonaauthors.org/_paylink/K28mo6IDOVtN

There's no limit on the number of tickets you may purchase, and we heartily thank you for supporting our event. It means a lot to us—and to me personally—to see so many of our members come together.

Last year's luncheon was a wonderful experience—several hours of fun, excitement, and camaraderie. One member flew in from South Korea and returned the next day! Many others drove from Tucson. This year, I'll be flying in from Maine with my two eldest sons, who are big guitar fans and are looking forward to the museum. (They have big appetites, so I'm sure the buffet will get plenty of their attention, too.)

I'd love to meet all of you while I'm in Arizona. I don't get back as often as I'd like; my last visit was in the summer of 2024. I hope to speak for at least a few minutes with each of you. Thank you for being part of the Arizona Authors Association family.

—Peace, Katy

Kathleen Cook is the president of the Arizona Authors Association, as well as its web administrator and former editor. She retired from *Brighter Stars Editing Service* in 2017 and has since published numerous books. Her historical western set in 1880s Prescott, *The Sun Always Trumps*, features clerical sleuths known as the *St. Francis Gang*.



ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION LITERARY CONTEST FINALISTS

This year's competition attracted an exceptional number of outstanding entries, making the judges' decisions especially difficult. To recognize the remarkable talent submitted, we have created two categories: finalists competing for a cash prize and Honorable Mentions for works that earned high praise from multiple judges.

Congratulations to all the authors recognized below. Your creativity, dedication, and literary excellence deserve commendation.

FINALISTS COMPETING FOR A CASH PRIZE

(Winners will be announced on November 28.)

Ariosto, David
Bayer, Greg
Benton, Fraser
Bonn, Patricia A.
Cape, Darin S.
Cassino, Kip
Hersel, Irma
Holland, S. Marie
Hudson, Virginia Ewing
Korkidis, Dr. Katherine
Krockey, Al
Lennon, Tim
Liu, Tongyu
Marshall, Nancy Hicks
Molony, Janelle
Olsen, Cynthia
Reams, Olin
Russell, Dennis Eugene
Weitzenkorn, Steve
White, Dr. Timothy
Williams, V.C.
Wrenn, Jennifer

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Adelman, Charlotte and Blomquist, Mala
Anderson, John
Baldwin, Dan
Beachboard, Martine
Cantrell, Caren
Graber, Brad
Hudson, Virginia Ewing
Jimi's Shadow
Kurak, Jessie
Moul, Kevin
Noble, Rick
Sefton, Michelle
Smetek, Hannah
Taylor, Portia Lily
Trejo, Terrilyn
Walker, M.S.V.
White, Ray
Wrenn, Jennifer

NOTE: Some people appear on both lists due to multiple entries.



LEADERSHIP



PRESIDENT

Kathleen Cook

VICE PRESIDENT

Jane Ruby

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Toby Heathcotte

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark D. Walker

Daniel Dickinson

NORTHERN ARIZONA COORDINATOR

Cherrie Alexandra Smith

SOUTHERN ARIZONA COORDINATOR

Ken Weene

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kyle Patton

Contact Us

Editorial correspondence and newsletter submissions may be emailed to:

KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

Info@ArizonaAuthors.org



The Arizona Authors Association, including its staff, neither endorses nor takes responsibility for the opinions expressed in this publication.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Arizona Authors Association membership comes with practical benefits for writers at every stage.

This **Digest** is your bimonthly guide to workshops, events, and activities—many free or low-cost—created to help you strengthen your craft. Our **blog** and **newsletter** also share advice, ideas and insights to support your growth as an author.

Our annual **Literary Contest** gives you a chance to showcase your work and compete for prizes that can raise your profile. Have an older title that deserves a second look? The **Oldie but Goldie category** helps you reintroduce it to new readers. Members can also connect with audiences through **in-person book fairs and online events on Zoom**.

Advertising through the Association is an easy, affordable way to promote your work and expand your visibility.

Use the Digest to share your accomplishments on our **Congratulations** page, where we celebrate member success and inspire fellow writers. We also welcome author-related updates, literary news, helpful tips, and useful resources. When members share what they know, the entire community benefits.

One of the strongest benefits of membership is the ability to **promote your book releases and services** directly to fellow members.

You may submit one free quarter-page ad for author-related services.

Books released within the past six months—or launching soon—are also eligible for one free full-page ad. Members may promote multiple books.

See the Arizona Authors Association membership application on the following page for more info.

ARIZONA AUTHORS DIGEST **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Submit by **November 1** for inclusion in the next issue.

Advertising

Advertisements are subject to editing, formatting and content. The publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate or inconsistent with organizational standards and policies.

New Releases

Members may promote one new book or short release published within the past six months at no cost. [See the New Releases page for details.](#)

Feature Articles

Articles should inform, inspire or help writers improve their craft or promotion. We recommend pitching ideas before submitting a draft. Include a headshot and 50-word bio. Length: 600–1,200 words.

Congratulations & Upcoming/Recent Events

Share book signings, workshops, sales or other literary events in Arizona or nearby. Include a 50–100-word summary. Photos and links are optional.

What Are You Reading?

Tell us in 200–300 words about a book you're reading and whether you'd recommend it. Please do not review your own work.

Quotes and Photos

Submit a writing- or publishing-related quote or joke in 100 words or less. We also welcome Arizona landscape photos. Include your name and the photo location.

Submission Guidelines

- Label your email subject line, e.g., "Book Release for December–January 2027."
- Send text in the email body or as a Word document.
- Submit images as PNG or JPEG files at the highest resolution possible. Please submit only photos you have taken yourself and include photo credit.
- All submissions are subject to editing.

Send entries to: **KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com**





Application for Membership

Benefits of Membership

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

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
HOME PHONE _____
CELL _____
EMAIL _____
WEBSITE _____

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER? Yes ____ No ____ Maybe Later ____

We are in need of literary judges (during contest months), proofreaders, volunteers at events, etc.

Writers Published or Unpublished:

One year \$45
Two years \$80

Current Member's
Spouse/Partner/Child or any
person living in the same
household:

One year \$25
Two years \$40

Pay with Check, PayPal, Credit Card or Debit Card at:

www.arizonaauthors.org/join to either join
or renew your membership.

Or print this form and send it with your
payment to:

The Arizona Authors Association
Box 538
428 E. Thunderbird Rd.
Phoenix AZ 85022

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.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS of the Arizona Authors Association



Dr. Diane Holloway Cheney

Diane is a returning member and author of three books about the JFK assassination, drawing partly on her experience as a psychiatric nurse at Dallas' Parkland Hospital. She also belongs to the American Medical Writers Association.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Shane Matsumoto

Shane writes science fiction and fiction and nonfiction exploring religious themes. An audio and film professor, recording engineer, and musician, he also owns audiobook producer Positive Network Media and SER Soundworks recording studio.



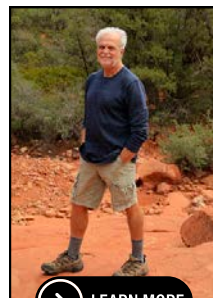
[LEARN MORE](#)

Jennifer Marcantonio

Jennifer fulfilled a lifelong dream with her debut novel, *Inside These Walls*, exploring lost love, family tragedy, and U.S. immigration. Her next novel, *Rigid Spines and Broken Lines*, is scheduled for October 1, 2026.



[LEARN MORE](#)



[LEARN MORE](#)

Roger Naylor

Roger is an award-winning Arizona travel writer and author whose work has appeared in *The Arizona Republic*, *USA Today*, and *Arizona Highways*. His many books celebrate Arizona's landscapes, history, scenic roads, parks and culture.

Vanshika Sindal

Vanshika is a whimsical storyteller and artist who creates fantastical worlds and legendary characters. Her first illustrated fantasy story, *The Rat King*, invites readers of all ages to see how even small creatures can become legends.



[LEARN MORE](#)

Rob Swannie

Rob is the author of *Leading Like a Human*, which reflects more than 30 years in cybersecurity, technology leadership and organizational transformation. His leadership philosophy emphasizes trust, developing people, and creating environments for strong performance.



[LEARN MORE](#)

FINISH your BOOK

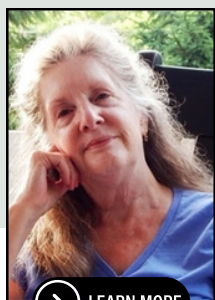
Come write with us!

Connect with our community of writers and experts for online work sessions, book coaching, and more.

prolificwriters.life

[JOIN NOW](#)

NEW MEMBERS of the Arizona Authors Association



Jessie Thorpe

Jessie is acquisitions editor for Mountain Lake Press and the author of two novels. Previously a freelance writer and copy editor, she supplied research and editorial support to international businesses and reviewed books for United Press International.

> LEARN MORE

Robert Zimmerman

Robert writes as R.S. Zimmerman and lives in the Phoenix area with his wife and dog, Jimmy Dean. Away from writing, he hikes and mountain bikes local trails and conducts lighthearted “research” at nearby breweries.



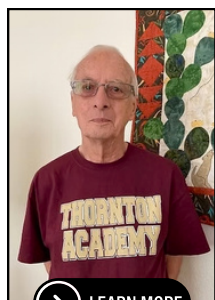
> LEARN MORE

Elaine Vail

Elaine wrote her book to share the warmth and calm of teatime with Mona, her English war-bride mother-in-law. Born and raised in Arizona, she now lives in Sedona and enjoys tea amid the red rocks.



> LEARN MORE



Frank Walmsley

Frank writes fiction after careers teaching chemistry, conducting research, teaching literature, and studying theology. A Professor Emeritus at the University of Toledo, he now lives in Arizona. His granddaughter designs his book covers.

> LEARN MORE

Charlotte Whitney

Charlotte writes award-winning historical fiction set in the rural Midwest, including *A Tiny Piece of Blue*, *The Unveiling of Polly Forrest*, and *Threads*. She holds a master’s in English and formerly led writing and arts programs



> LEARN MORE



AUTHORS WANTED!

Share Your Expertise. Expand Your Impact.

Do you love helping writers bring their stories to life?

Join Prolific Writers Life as a workshop host, coach, or collaborative expert.

We are a supportive community where aspiring and published authors come together—face to face on Zoom—to learn what they need to finish their books.

Apply now to share your knowledge with writers who need your expertise.

prolificwriters.life/apply-to-be-an-expert/



> JOIN NOW

FROM THE EDITOR

Kyle Patton
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arizona Authors Digest



I have spent an unreasonable portion of my life in Microsoft Word. At this point, that familiar bright white rectangle follows me long after I've turned off the computer.

Sometimes I see it when my eyes are closed.

As I've spent a sizable chunk of my finite existence clicking around inside it, I've come across some surprisingly useful features. So, in the spirit of making all those hours count for something, here are a few lesser-known Word tricks that might save you some clicks and frustration.

Your eyes have an annoying habit of seeing what you meant to write instead of what's actually on the page. Your ears are harder to fool.

Word's **Read Aloud** feature can help you catch missing words, repetition, awkward sentences and other problems you've skimmed past a dozen times—including mistakes its spelling and grammar checkers may miss.

Go to Review → Read Aloud, or press Ctrl+Alt+Space. You can pause, skip forward or backward, and adjust the reading speed and voice. I find it especially useful for a final editing pass, when I've stared at a piece for so long that I'm no longer capable of actually reading it.

Sometimes you want someone to look at your document but not touch it. **Word lets you save a document as a PDF** by going to File → Save As and selecting PDF as the file type.

PDFs preserve your document's layout, fonts and pagination reliably across different devices. A Word document can reflow or look different depending on the recipient's software. A PDF is designed to keep everything where you put it. PDFs are also about as universal as file formats get: They can be opened on virtually any computer, phone or tablet without requiring Microsoft Word or other specialized software.

Maybe you forgot to turn on Track Changes. Maybe you hate Track Changes. Maybe someone sent back an edited version without tracking anything, and you don't feel like comparing two documents line by line. Or maybe you made the changes and now can't remember what you changed or which version is which. **Compare** can do the detective work for you. Go to Review → Compare and then select the original and revised versions. — iWord will create a new document showing every differences between them—particularly useful when you're staring at two "final" versions and trying to remember what past-you was thinking.

Ever wish you could cut or copy from several different places in a document and paste it all at once? You can. Word's little-known **Spike** feature does exactly that. Highlight a passage and press Ctrl+F3. Word cuts the text from your document and stores it on the Spike. Highlight another passage, press Ctrl+F3 again, and Word adds that one too. You can keep going, collecting text from different parts of the document. When you're ready, press Ctrl+Shift+F3, and Word pastes everything you collected, in order.

And finally, Ctrl+Z will **Undo** your last action. Abuse it freely. Word is one of the few places in life where the consequences of your immediate actions can simply disappear.

Kyle Patton is an Arizona native and Phoenix-based editor, writer and journalist. He has worked for a variety of publications and is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the State Bar of Arizona's Arizona Attorney Magazine.



LITERARY TRIVIA

(answers on the back page)

1 Who coined the word “folklore” in 1846?

- A. Thomas Hardy
- B. Joseph Conrad
- C. Elizabeth Gaskell
- D. William Thoms

2 RL Stine, author of the *Goosebumps* series, also started this humor magazine in 1975.

- A. *Mad*
- B. *Bananas*
- C. *National Lampoon*
- D. *The Onion*

3 Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Anne Sexton often focused on what subject matter in her poetry?

- A. Mythology and ancient battles
- B. Love and relationships
- C. Government and reform
- D. Mental illness and family

4 The Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award is a lifetime honor presented annually by which organization?

- A. The Academy of American Poets
- B. The Mystery Writers of America
- C. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association
- D. The National Book Foundation

SPOTLIGHT ON ARIZONA AUTHORS



The Luke AFB Base Exchange is proud to introduce an exciting new program designed to showcase the talent of Arizona authors!

This initiative will feature local writers, their books, their personal journeys, and unique merchandise—while giving you the chance to meet them in person.

Interested in being a featured guest author?

Email Jaime Layman at laymanj@aafes.com to learn more and secure your spot!



A boutique publisher of English language fiction from around the world.

A traditional publisher: No cost.
Read the submission guidelines at www.CactusRainPublishing.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME OUR NEW TRIBAL LIAISON, ROLAND RICK CHURCH

The Arizona Authors Association has teamed up with Roland Rick Church to provide outreach to Native American authors throughout the U.S. and Canada. We hope to bring new voices into the fabric of the association, and we welcome a chance to



help Native authors bring their work into the spotlight of the wider literary community.

Rick is an enrolled member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation and is a former Tribal Council member as well as a Director of Public Safety for his tribe. After retiring, he was appointed as a Tribal Police and Fire Commissioner. He is a decorated Marine Corps Vietnam combat veteran and had a 26-year law enforcement career, starting as a State Trooper and later as a Special Investigator working undercover for the DOJ Division of Criminal Investigation. Rick later served as a fraud unit supervisor for Arizona's Office of Special Investigations. He is a graduate of the FBI Academy Command College at Quantico.

Rick holds a master's degree in forensic psychology and has taught criminal justice coursework for both undergraduate and graduate-level students. He also owned private investigative agencies in Wisconsin and Arizona that included criminal defense work and had drug cartel exposure in Arizona. His private investigative work included criminal defense work in both Wisconsin and Arizona as well as the Federal court system.

Rick's books feature a Native American private investigator named Noel Two Horses, who runs his agency out of a mystery bookshop. Books in the

series include *White Doe*, *War Party*, *Counting Coup*, *Drums along the Fox*, *Bear Child*, *Dark Bull* and *Dog Soldier*.

Thank you, Rick, for taking on this responsibility!

ARIZONA AUTHORS MEMBER TO LAUNCH THIRD BOOK POSTHUMOUSLY IN DECEMBER

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of member and author Earl Llewellyn Goldmann. He passed away on July 17, 2026. For the past 25 years, he and his wife, author Patricia L. Brooks, have been partners in the writing world.

Earl was born on Dec. 23, 1934, in Tillamook, Oregon, a place that never left his heart. Earl lived his life with passion and purpose, authoring many stories about his beloved Oregon after a successful career as a high school teacher and coach.

Earl was an avid golfer and made a hole-in-one on two occasions, 50 years apart. One was at his home course, Alderbrook, in Tillamook, Oregon, and the other was at the Phoenician Resort in Scottsdale. He played golf from high school until age 80, when he gave it up and replaced his golf clubs with pen and paper.

He wrote memoirs, publishing his first book, *Bounce Back*, at age 82 and his second, *Intestinal Fortitude*, at age 86. His wife is currently working with an editor to finalize his third book for



posthumous publication, *Tillamook: It's Not Just About the Cheese*. This nonfiction work will be launched at the end of the year, just before what would have been his 92nd birthday. Mark your calendar!

Earl is remembered by friends and family in both Arizona and Oregon. He considered his fellow writers to be

ANNOUNCEMENTS

among his most important relationships. Earl requested that no services be held in Arizona. At his request, Patricia will take his ashes to the mouth of the Wilson River outside Tillamook, Oregon, next spring and scatter them west toward the Pacific Ocean.

Patricia will present both her books and Earl's at the Desert Foothills Book Festival at the Holland Center in Scottsdale on Oct. 17, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The books will sell for cost plus shipping, or \$10 each. Patricia will be ready to greet you. Earl's spirit will be there, too.



ARIZONA AUTHORS ON:



YouTube.com/@ArizonaAuthorsAssociation

The Arizona Authors Association has launched a YouTube channel featuring recordings of our Zoom workshops and meetings. If you missed a workshop or would like to revisit a past presentation, be sure to check it out.

Over the coming months, we'll be transferring older videos from our Resource page to the YouTube channel, creating a single, convenient location for all our video content.

Please like and subscribe to stay informed about new workshops and presentations. Your subscription also helps support the Association's growth and expands our ability to promote members and their books to a wider audience.

Thank you for your support!

ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION LITERARY AWARDS BRUNCH

The Arizona Authors Association Literary Awards Brunch is open to all members, guests, and anyone who is interested in learning more about the association, the contest, and the literary community at large. Come and join us for a day of fun, food, networking with professionals, and honoring our contestants.

Family coming for Thanksgiving week? Do they enjoy music? Bring them along! They can fill up on brunch and stay for the event or eat and then go explore the world-class museum while you enjoy "shop talk" with other writers, editors, publishers and related professionals. Your guests will be astounded by the thousands of instruments from over 200 countries. **ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM IS INCLUDED WITH EACH AWARDS EVENT TICKET!** That's a separate \$20 value, and there will be time for you to enjoy all of it yourself, too.

The brunch will include a buffet with assorted breads and bagels, jams, honey, and assorted cream cheeses, smoked salmon, dill eggs, mixed green salads with champagne vinaigrette, honey glazed ham, scrambled eggs with chives, maple glazed bacon, roasted breakfast potatoes with rosemary and paprika, assorted citrus and melons, assorted coffee and tea (decaf and regular), and assorted juices to suit every diet.

Musical Instrument Museum

4725 E. Mayo Blvd.

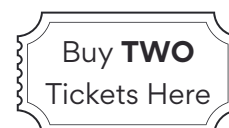
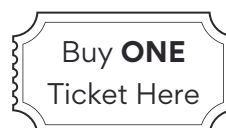
Phoenix, AZ 85050

480.478.6000

Saturday, November 28, 2026

11:30pm-3pm

Parking is free. The parking lot entrance is located on Mayo Boulevard, just south of Loop 101 in Phoenix.



ARIZONA AUTHORS

Literary Contest

AWARDS BRUNCH

[AT] MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM

NOVEMBER 28

ENJOY A DELICIOUS BRUNCH BUFFET FEATURING BREADS, BAGELS, SMOKED SALMON, EGGS, HAM, BACON, SALADS, FRESH FRUIT, AND MORE.

CELEBRATE OUR LITERARY AWARDS WINNERS AND CONNECT WITH FELLOW LITERARY PROFESSIONALS.

EACH TICKET INCLUDES ADMISSION TO THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM, A \$20 VALUE!

4725 E. MAYO BLVD.
PHOENIX, AZ 85050
FREE PARKING

1130A-3PM

TICKETS \$60 | [CLICK HERE TO BUY](#)

THE ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION IS SUBSIDIZING PART OF THE COST TO MAINTAIN AFFORDABILITY

CELEBRATE A WORLD OF MUSIC AT MIM

Open Daily 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Plan your visit to experience music from around the globe at [MIM.org](https://mim.org)



Phoenix's #1 Attraction

 TripAdvisor.

@MIMphx   

480.478.6000 | 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix

MIM
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM

UPCOMING EVENTS



October 17

Rick Noble will be exhibiting at the Desert Foothills Book Festival on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. at The Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85266

October 20

Donis Casey's “Tell Me Your Story” guest for October is Minnesota author Steve Linstrom. After a successful corporate career that culminated in a Regional Vice President position, Linstrom launched a second career as a writer, earning a master’s degree in English studies and publishing several short stories and two novels. A former adjunct English instructor at Southwest Minnesota State University, he is an active member of the Riverview Library writing group in St. Paul. Read about his inspiring writing journey beginning Oct. 20 at DonisCasey.com.

October 10:

Open Mic Night at the Historic Y in Downtown Tucson, AZ — 6p-8p

October 17:

Stop by our booth @ **Desert Foothills Book Festival** in Scottsdale, AZ

October 24 :

Zoom Workshop: **The Author's Tactical Promotion** with Jeanne Burrows-Johnson — 10a (see flyer on page 18)

SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

Send 50–100 words, a photo and a link (photo and link optional). You’re an author. Show off that authorship! Write a sharp, engaging summary, and you might see yourself featured in an upcoming issue.

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

November 14:

Zoom Workshop: **7 Deadly Sins of Writing Romance** with Donna Hatch — 10a
(see flyer on page 49)

November 28:

Arizona Authors Literary Awards Event held at the **Musical Instruments Museum** in Phoenix, AZ (see flyer on page 14)

December 5-6:

Stop by our booth @ **Mesa Holiday Book Festival**, Mesa AZ

December 12:

Zoom Workshop: Inspired by True Events: Adding Realism to your Fiction Writing with Nancy Hicks Marshall — 10a

December 12:

Open Mic Night at the Historic Y in Downtown Tucson, AZ — 6p-8p



RECENT EVENTS

July 18

SENSATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES
SATURDAY, JULY 18th at 6pm

ROBERT RONNING
WILDLIFE ADVENTURE FICTION AUTHOR

Wild Call to Boulder Field BOOK 1
Let Him Go Wild SEQUEL

A SPECIAL GUEST! Author of the acclaimed *Arizona Trail Adventures*. Hear about the inspiration behind his thrilling stories.

EVENT LOCATION
WHITE MOUNTAIN NATURE CENTER
425 S. WOODLAND RD. - LAKESIDE

ADMISSION FEES
Members: FREE | Non-members: \$5

[Flyer courtesy of the White Mountain Nature Center]

Robert Ronning presented a one-hour book talk in July as part of the White Mountain Nature Center's "Sensational Speaker's Series" in Arizona. His presentation featured photographs and stories from his first book, *Wild Call to Boulder Field: An Arizona Trail Adventure*. More than three dozen nature enthusiasts attended the event, which also resulted in strong book sales for both *Wild Call to Boulder Field* and its sequel, *Let Him Go Wild: A Coronado Trail Adventure*. Flyer courtesy of the White Mountain Nature Center.



SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

Send 50–100 words, a photo and a link (photo and link optional). You're an author. Show off that authorship! Write a sharp, engaging summary, and you might see yourself featured in an upcoming issue.

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com



September 20

Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest for September was Lisa Harkrader, a prolific author of children's and young adult books, including the award-winning *Airball: My Life in Briefs*, the *Adventures of Beanbag* series, and the *Misadventures of Nobbin Swill* detective series. Harkrader also expanded into adult mystery writing, publishing short stories in several anthologies, including *SoWest: Danger Awaits*, *A Right Cozy Culinary Crime*, *Colorado Mystery Merge 2*, and the Bouchercon anthology *The Lines We Cross*. Learn more at DonisCasey.com.

THE ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

The Author's Tactical Promotion

A practical Zoom workshop for creative professionals

SATURDAY
October 24, 2026

TIME
10:00 a.m. MST

FORMAT
Live on Zoom



Jeanne Burrows-Johnson is the author of the award-winning series, the *Natalie Seachrist Cozy Mysteries*, and is a regular columnist for the *Arizona Authors Digest*.

Jeanne's work as an author, marketing consultant, and motivational speaker spans many decades and draws on her experience in the performing arts and education in world cultures. For decades, her marketing projects for creative professionals, entrepreneurs, and non-profit organizations have aided positive public awareness of their work.

As we examine our experiences in this year... and consider our prospects in 2027...Jeanne will share ideas for strengthening success in the creative professional's self-promotion, answer your questions, and respond to your experiential suggestions.

<https://www.jeanneburrows-johnsonsimaginings.com/>

To Register for this October 24th workshop, click here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tazK9zE3QCW6rhq7e1dkcw>

REFLECTING ON OUR AUTHOR JOURNEY

By Jeanne Burrows-Johnson

*A journey to Portland for reunions,
book clubs, and classroom
presentations becomes a reminder
that every author trip offers valuable
lessons beyond book sales*



In Arizona, we are now through the worst of the heat. For months, you have been in and out of the house attending varied events, interacting with valued colleagues and greeting new people. Perhaps you have even managed to visit friends and family along the way! What do you have to show for your considerable efforts? Hopefully, the sale of books and other materials! And if you have been very fortunate, you may have received a literary award for a book, launched a new tome in a series, or even received a prize for your display at a book fair! Regardless of whether you have completed your summer sojourns, think about the many aspects of the travels and events you have experienced so far this year.

PLANS FOR ONE'S JOURNEY

No matter how much care you put into planning a lengthy trip or even a mere excursion, I am sure there have been unexpected occurrences along the way. When I am on the road, I'm usually so busy that I have little time to keep notes that might prove useful on future trips—something I always regret!

Several years ago, I went to Portland, Oregon, where I grew up. During my years of theatrical performance, I met Viki Gillespie, who became a friend and the editor of my *Natalie Seachrist Hawaiian Cozy Mysteries*. As I planned to attend the fiftieth-anniversary celebration of my high school class's graduation, Viki arranged an opportunity for me to speak about my authorship at a joint meeting of the American Association of University Women Mystery Book Clubs. In addition, I contacted my high school and scheduled a couple of presentations in advanced English classes.

While attendance at book fairs and literary organization events may require planning for varied weather conditions throughout a trip, I had fewer issues to consider. Since I was going in early September and the events in which I was to participate would be indoors, I was not concerned about the weather. But Portland is noted for changes in temperature and precipitation. As I should have realized might happen, cold weather and rain interrupted the sunny days with which I began my visit to "The Rose City," and I regretted not packing scarves, boots or heavy outerwear.

Except for needing a hotel near the airport the first night, I researched hotels appropriate for my west-side Portland events. For the remainder of the week, I needed a mobility-accessible room, food service, and transportation to nearby stores and restaurants. I also verified the availability of office space with computers, an internet connection, and printers for editing, duplication and communication. Depending on the events for which you have prepared this year, there may be additional needs to be considered.

In my June-July 2026 article, I discussed methods of transportation. On the journey I am describing, I traveled alone, with single stopovers between Tucson and Portland. Given my age and health challenges, I restrict travel and fly in business- or first-class seating, allowing me to be prepared for immediate activity when I arrive at my destinations. One lesson I have faced repeatedly is the value of paying for an option to reschedule transportation if necessary. In today's economic climate, this can be very important.

FINAL PREPARATIONS

Indoor and outdoor settings, daytime practicality, and nighttime elegance call for comprehensive preparation. Our choices are usually influenced by the types of events we are attending, as well as our personal sense of style and professional branding. I find this relevant to both what we pack and what we wear while in transit.

One issue I've mentioned previously is the possibility of luggage failing to arrive at one's destination as planned. For my trip to Portland, I knew this was a real possibility because, years earlier, a suitcase with costumes failed to arrive on my plane from the mainland to my home in Honolulu, from which I needed to travel to the island of Hawai'i to perform in the Hilo International Festival. I was fortunate to have scheduled my arrival in Hilo one day prior to the show, and my costumes arrived on time and in good shape!

For my Northwestern sojourn, I had a new set of luggage, including an excellent carry-on piece with many compartments—but no costumes, so there was no need to ship clothing or accessories in advance. However, as my plans developed, I realized it would be good to send copies of my books,

promotional fliers and bookmarks, plus a few display materials, to Viki to ensure they would be there when I needed them. Another item I have found invaluable in travel is Hawaiian macadamia nut candy for thank-you gifts. Shipping these items in advance meant that, if there was a problem with what had been shipped, there would be time to send replacements.

As always, I found increasing issues to meet prior to my departure. Hopefully, a last-minute prescription refill and trips to a shoe repair shop and the dry cleaners precluded me from forgetting anything important. I also checked in with the airline, Viki, the English teacher whose classes I would be addressing, and the high school reunion organizers to verify the times and locations of items on my schedule. I was glad there had been no changes.

Regardless of what I think is needed, I lay out everything I intend to take on a bed or large table—including electronic devices, their chargers, and a copy of my itinerary. Below, I place open pieces of luggage that have been airing for a few days. In the bathroom, I spread toiletries, cosmetics and health products. Once everything is in front of me, I know what to omit and what to place in a carry-on piece of luggage or a large purse.

LAUNCHING THE JOURNEY

The time of departure can provide a sense of anxiety or relief, depending on what has been accomplished in advance. If preparations have gone smoothly and you are not dependent on someone else, you are lucky. The day I left for Portland, I was dressed and ready to leave for the airport on time, and I was fortunate that my husband could drive me to Tucson International Airport. On boarding my plane, the only thing I discovered I had forgotten was a small pillow for my flights. A few hours later, a van took me from the Portland International Airport to a nearby hotel, where I met a few friends and had dinner with a former theatre director!

In discussing aspects of travel with creative professionals, some will say they see no need to harmonize their appearance with their products. I disagree. As my writing is somewhat formal, I strive for similarity in my personal branding. With book covers framed by a gold Hawaiian heirloom jewelry theme, my attire is Pan Pacific in theme and

coloration. In addition, I share gold-and-white business cards when tipping service providers. If I am nervous about having a sample of my work, I may carry a hard copy of the colorful *Murders of Conveyance*. While in a rehab facility, I was carrying one of my books from a worktable to my room when a nurse recognized it and exclaimed that she had not known who I was and that she had truly enjoyed one of my books!

Upon arriving in Portland, I found my luggage in good form. Similarly, arrival at my second hotel revealed that the supplies for my presentations were perfectly organized! That hotel provided every feature I could desire, including beverages and cookies upon arrival! Another surprise was a cocktail lounge with a great selection of wines. With no food service between their comprehensive breakfast buffet and dinner, I was pleased to access fruit for afternoon snacks. The professional office allowed me to edit and print promo materials for my last presentation. The hotel's van conveniently took me to replace forgotten nutritional supplements and join friends for lunch. One final benefit of my accommodations was being separated from a noisy youth sports team!

THE AUTHOR'S EVENTS

The events in which an author participates are varied. In town or beyond, we usually envision book fairs and formal discussions of authorship for literary organizations. Even when joining a group of authors like those of the Arizona Authors Association, book fairs and other sales activities usually have specific time limits for access to tables. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully plan the layout of appropriate books and marketing materials, as well as secretarial and financial tools.

Just before the pandemic interrupted the last Tucson Festival of Books in which I had planned to participate, I had made several changes to my displays. I had purchased a new compact acrylic bookstand and designed new marketing materials, including a large poster for the back wall of a tent. Unfortunately, when planning for my trip to Portland, I realized that, except for bookmarks, business cards, and fliers, my other display items would be too difficult to transport and too large for the unknown

venues in Portland.

Emptied of my personal belongings, my carry-on luggage was ideal for transporting supplies for my talks on authorship. Two days consisted of discussions with English class students. I knew how tight classrooms could be, but I correctly guessed there would be an available student desk. On top of one, I placed a small gold tablecloth that harmonized with my book covers. On it, I had small plate stands for the three mystery books then in my series and a clipboard with a contact-information form for anyone wishing to receive information about me, future events, or book orders.

For my interaction with the women's book clubs, I was completely unaware of the setting. Although I carried the same materials, I found that the only spaces for display were the table in front of me and the top of a cabinet behind me, which was already filled with beverages and cookies. Remaining in my carry-on luggage were gift bags in signature colors. Fortunately, Oregon does not have a sales tax, and purchasers of my books gave me checks or mailed them as payment.

For my presentations, I introduced myself, although I had printed short introductions on cards for my hosts. Ad-libbing my talks, I glanced periodically at an outline in large font. My interaction with the women in the book clubs was lively, and their questions were insightful. Sadly, the English teacher restrained her students, even preventing them from forming a circle with me. That might have been the reason there was no communication from them after my return home, but then, most were just beginning their final year of high school.

TRAVEL EXPERIENCES VS. EXPECTATIONS

It is always good to contemplate our sojourns, especially the professional ones! From the travel itself and the people we have met along the way to the activities in which we participated, there is always something to be learned—for either repetition or deletion.

Many aspects of my research and the actual journey unfolded as planned. In addition to connecting with people who were important to me, I met interesting fellow travelers. I was assisted by wonderful service professionals who deserved even

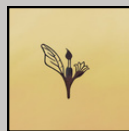
more than the gratuities and sweet treats I gave them. Because I was visiting the city of my youth, there were scenes that stirred memories I had not considered for decades: trees that were now magnificent in height, roads and restaurants that had changed, and people who were no longer there. Even my high school was in the process of changing its name!

Each professional presentation I have given in my life has differed in subject, complexity, and tone. I received a warm reception in both settings in Portland, and I believe I achieved the goals of my interactions with the students as well as the professional women. Although focusing on my Hawaiian mysteries, I introduced my experience in the performing arts, education in world history, oral history interview projects, and published writings in both fiction and nonfiction.

I was sorry that I had neither the time nor the means to visit bookstores or libraries, let alone my art director along the way. I did correspond with some people following my trip, and two women shared recipes for my website!



Jeanne Burrows-Johnson writes works of fiction and nonfiction. She is the author an award-winning mystery series. Drawing on her interdisciplinary experience in the performing arts, education, and marketing, her authored and co-authored articles have appeared in literary, professional, and general readership publications. Check out her new website and blog at ***JeanneBurrows-Johnsonslmaginings.com***.



FEATURE ARTICLES WANTED

Inspire, motivate or help writers improve their craft or promote their work. We recommend getting your idea approved before submitting a final draft. Include a headshot and 50-word bio.

Word count: 600–1,200 words.

Email: **KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com**

CONGRATULATIONS

Verona (V.L.) Jones recently published a short story on Metastellar.com. "Dark Love" was published on July 1, 2026. The short story explores the lengths people will go to when they are in love. It blends horror and romance, creating a complex love story that emphasizes what people will do for love, even at the cost of their souls.

<https://www.metastellar.com/fiction/dark-love/>

Ron Pullins' new novel, *Dollartorium*, published in February 2026, was awarded a finalist medal in the 2026 IPPY Awards for independently published books. The book is a biting satire on greed in American culture.



Bobbie Bennett's book, *Widowhood: The Next Chapter*, is now available at Noley's Bookstore in Payson, Arizona. More than just a bookstore, Noley's is a community gathering place featuring live weekend entertainment, specialty coffee drinks, monthly guest speakers, and book clubs that meet throughout the month. It's a welcoming destination for readers and book lovers alike. Bobbie hopes you'll enjoy discovering both her book and one of Arizona's favorite independent bookstores.

Lila Guzman has been named a featured author at the Word Wrangler Book Festival in Giddings, Texas, Sept. 25–26, 2026. Her unpublished reader/chapter book, *The Bat Who Stayed for Christmas*, is also a finalist in the ACFW Kingdom KidLit Contest.

SUBMIT TO THIS SECTION

Send 50–100 words, a photo and a link (photo and link optional). You're an author. Show off that authorship! Write a sharp, engaging summary, and you might see yourself featured in an upcoming issue.

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

Rick Noble's historical novel *King Cotton* has been named the winner of the 2026 PenCraft Seasonal Book Award (Summer Competition) in the Historical Fiction category. The novel, which begins during the Civil War, is also a finalist for the 2023 INDIES Book of the Year Award in War & Military and the 2025 National Indie Excellence Awards. The rest of Noble's award-winning trilogy has also received recognition. *King Cotton II: Kentucky Gold* was a finalist for Best Historical Fiction Post-1850 in the 2026 Colorado Authors League Awards, while *King Cotton III: Jack & the Ripper* earned a gold medal for Historical Fiction in the 2025 CIPA EVVY Awards and was named Best Western Fiction in the 2026 National Indie Excellence Awards. In addition, Noble appeared on "Voices of the West" on Sept. 5, where he discussed the *King Cotton* trilogy and its evolution from a Civil War story into a sweeping Old West saga. To listen, [click here](#).

<https://voicesofthewest.net/podcast/author-rick-noble-9-5-26/>

Heidi M. Thomas is thrilled to announce her novel, *Saving Her Prairie*, has won the WILLA Literary Finalist Award from Women Writing the West.



Dr. Sally Goldberg recently published two family-focused articles in the *Fountain Hills Times Independent*. “**A Language lesson for this year’s unique Independence Day**” appeared on June 25, 2026, followed by “**Finding fun, balance and confidence this August**” in July. Both articles were designed to educate and empower families in today’s high-tech times and are available on the *Fountain Hills Times Independent* website.

Anthony Parrish announced the publication of the second edition of *Joan of Miami*, released by Outskirts Press. Set in the early 2000s, the novel brings Miami vividly to life, making the city as memorable a character as its protagonists. The book offers an inspirational story and a thoughtful exploration of optimism.

Mark Walker, Arizona Authors Association Board Member and author of the *Yin & Yang of Travel* series, was recently featured in an interview by fellow travel writer Nick Russell for the “Gypsy Journal” from Arizona’s White Mountains. During the conversation, Walker discussed how travel experiences shape his writing and explored the connections between movement, memory, and storytelling. The interview offers readers a closer look at his approach to turning journeys into compelling narratives. Read the feature here.

<https://www.gypsyjournalrv.com/2026/07/author-spotlight-mark-walker/>



Roger Naylor, a longtime member of the Arizona Authors Association, recently concluded a 20-year run as the Arizona Republic’s primary freelance travel writer. Over the course of his career, he wrote hundreds of articles for the newspaper before turning his full attention to books and storytelling. Naylor is the author of several books, including his latest, *Arizona Boots and Burgers: A Guide for Hungry Hikers*. As he puts it, he’s now content to tell stories at his own pace. Congratulations to Roger on an outstanding career. Learn more at **RogerNaylor.com**.

Gavin Kayner’s piece, “The Last Parting Shot,” was published on Aug. 24 on Spillwords.com. You can find the piece at <https://spillwords.com/one-last-parting-shot/>



Michele Lee Sefton spent part of the summer visiting bookshops along Maine’s Mid-Coast to celebrate the release of the second edition of *Her Coastal Cottage: Where Truth & Love Rise* (Tumbleweed Spirit Press). Inspired by three poems she wrote, the novella is a love story of healing, renewal, and self-discovery set on Maine’s rugged coast. The new edition includes the original poems, additional scenes, a redesigned cover, and a travel-friendly format. Available at major online booksellers and **msefton.com**

I'M NOT THE AUTHOR ... I ONLY WROTE THE BOOK

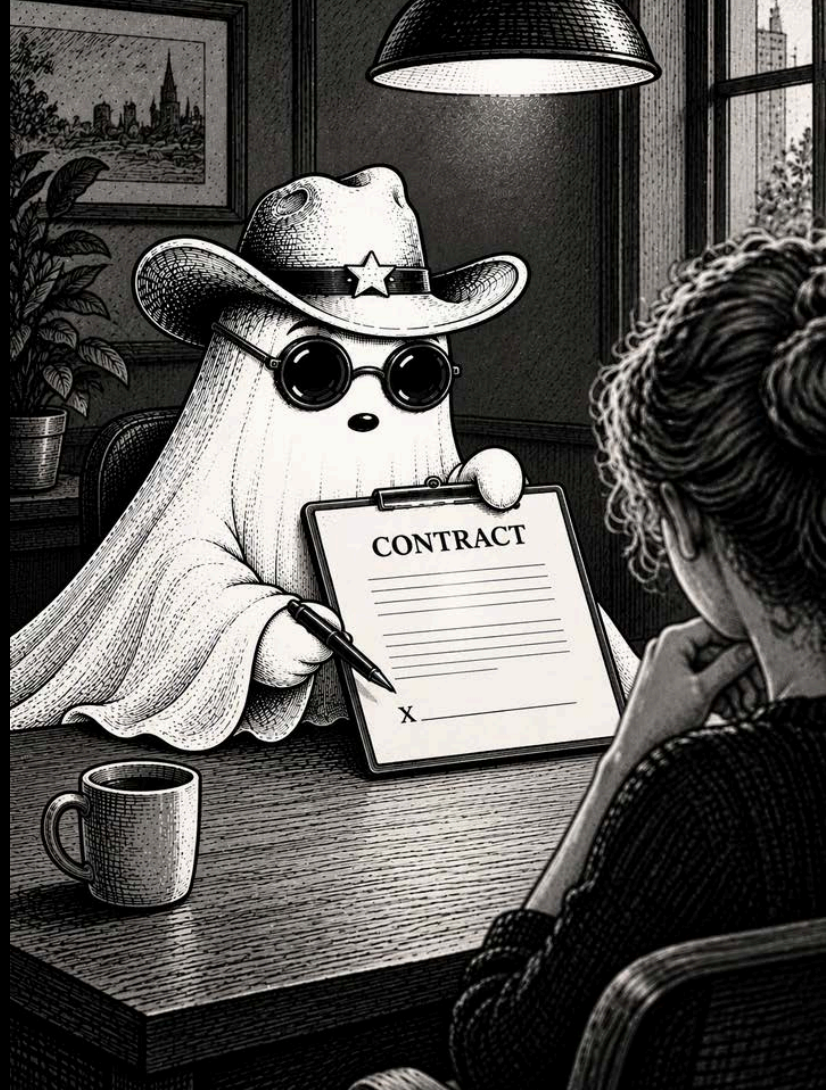
By Dan Baldwin

PART IV OF V A GHOSTWRITING SERIES

[**Editor's Note:** We are pleased to present the fourth installment of a five-part series by Dan Baldwin on the craft and business of ghostwriting. In Part III, Dan discussed five key steps for a successful ghostwriting project. Look for the final part of this series in the December-January 2027 issue. For a look at past issues, click [here](#).]

A LOOK AT THE LEGAL SIDE OF THINGS

The obligatory disclaimer: This article is not legal advice. Before entering into any agreement, consult your own legal counsel. The following items are concepts for consideration only. In other words, if something bad goes down, I don't know you. I've never met you, never seen you, and it must have been my twin brother, Harvey, who was involved.



ALWAYS HAVE A CONTRACT

Every situation and every relationship is unique, but an author or writer's contract should at least cover the list that follows. Always listen to your IP attorney but also trust your common sense. I've seen lawyers so overprotective of their clients that the book involved took significantly longer to produce than necessary.

As the author, you can't publish your book if it gets stuck in your lawyer's inbox. I've also seen ghostwriters talk themselves out of a good piece of work by springing an overprotective agreement on an innocent and unsuspecting client. A good agreement should protect both parties without becoming an obstacle to the work itself.

Keep it simple. If you draft your own contract, don't use legalese. You're likely out of your depth, and your lack of legal knowledge can hurt you. Or at least make you look pretty damn silly. Be specific. In a legal proceeding, ambiguity works against

whoever drafted the agreement. My standard contract is a page and a half long and written in plain English.

Define the book. State the subject matter and a working title.

Responsibilities. State who does what. Generally, that means the author provides the information and does the fact-checking, and the writer provides the writing.

Compensation. State the full compensation and how it will be paid. Writers should insist on an initial payment before beginning the work. As Dr. Laura used to advise young, doe-eyed girls who were getting promises of wedding bells from a slobbering hunk of overzealous testosterone, she'd say, "Honey, if you don't have a ring (contract) and a date (initial payment), you don't have an engagement." I get paid in installments as certain portions of the book are completed, with the final payment due upon delivery of the final draft.

Royalties. If the writer is to receive royalties, state how much, how they are to be computed, and how they are to be paid. Also, make sure you, the writer, can audit the books. (Don't hold your breath on that one.) I don't participate in this form of compensation for many reasons. I want my flat fee paid on time, and then I am out of here.

Expenses. Be specific. For example, as a writer I don't charge for a 15-minute run to the post office and a postage stamp just to drop something off to an author. I don't nickel-and-dime a client for normal business calls. I will charge for hotel, food and travel expenses if I have to invest time on location researching the project. Any materials necessary for the project, such as research materials, should be covered by the author.

Exclusivity. Author and writer agree to work exclusively with each other on the project. It is reasonable to include a non-compete clause in which the writer agrees not to work on an identical project with another author during the book's production under the contract. Be careful with this clause. I worked with a traditional publisher whose exclusivity clause was so restrictive that I'd have been out of the writing business for five years. They backed down when I refused to sign. I agreed to

a one-year non-compete clause based on a very tightly worded description I wrote.

Deadlines. A reasonable deadline is one year from the initial payment date. The first draft can take six months. Three drafts are usually all that are required. The first draft is often called the "rough" draft for good reason. The second draft should incorporate the author's corrections, additions, deletions, specific suggestions and comments. A third draft should be the final version, in which the author and writer double-check facts, grammar and spelling, and make any final stylistic changes—whether you were feeling happy or elated, and that sort of fine-tuning.

It's a good idea for writers to include a limit on the drafts. Three is reasonable.

Credit. The cover credit is strictly up to the author. Often the writer gets some type of credit in the acknowledgments. I'm often credited as the writer. Something like: "Thanks to Dan who took all my crazy thoughts and ..." Sometimes the credit is more obscure, such as a thank you for an unspecified contribution. In most cases, this isn't a deal-breaker with me. The name I and most writers are concerned with is the one appearing on the paycheck.

Note, however, that if you are an author or if you are a writer working with an author on a budget, cover credit can be a negotiable item. If you need to cut a financial deal and reduce your price to close the deal, getting an "as told to" or a "with" credit can be a valuable negotiating tool and an effective marketing point in securing new ghostwriting projects.

Copyright. In virtually all cases, the author engages the writer in a "work made for hire" and therefore retains copyright.

Agents/Attorneys. If they're involved, state who and define their responsibilities and limits.

Premature termination of the agreement. State what happens to the project and project funds and payments should either party back out of the agreement before completion. A kill fee paid by the author to the writer if the author cancels the project is reasonable and a common practice.

Arbitration. It's a far better option than going to

court. If you and your writer are residents of different states, note the state in which any arbitration will take place.

CONCLUSION

A co-author I worked with a few years ago, tasked with research and fact-checking, claimed he had also authored the book. This false claim appeared in a letter from a copyright attorney. I suggested we put the matter to arbitration, where you put your evidence on one side of the table and I'll put mine on the other, and we'll let an independent judge decide. Faced with backing up his words in a legal setting, he backed down. (See my book: ***How Find Me Lost Me: A Breach of Trust Told by the Psychic Who Didn't See It Coming.***)



Dan Baldwin is an author, ghostwriter, multi-genre novelist, and published paranormal investigator. His work has earned multiple awards, including Best Book Awards, National Indie Excellence, Book Excellence, the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards, a national Telly, Addy, and honors from major film festivals and advertising networks. His public-awareness campaign for the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse was cited as a national model. He lectures on writing, paranormal investigations and the JFK assassination. Learn more at **DanBaldwin.com**.



CONNIE J. MABLESON, ESQ.

Copyright & Literary Attorney

connie@literaryattorney.com

602-277-8100

WWW.LITERARYATTORNEY.COM



DON'T FALL FOR FAN MAIL FRAUD

By Kathleen Cook

Before you celebrate your sudden discovery by a literary star, take a closer look. Modern publishing scammers are playing the long game, and AI is making their deception more convincing than ever

Our member Peter Bernhardt recently shared with me an article written by Dan Barry, a senior writer for *The New York Times*. He was being inundated by emails from well-known members of the literary community who had discovered his book (which was gathering dust in most bookstores) and really loved it. As he puts it, "Either I had finally been recognized as the Proust of my generation, or this frenzied attention was part of some insistent scam. Guess which one."

Emails from out of the blue, written by well-known authors, editors, publishers, agents, movie producers, etc., have an infinitesimal chance of having been written by the actual person. A one-in-a-quadrillion chance, folks, which means you might have to check out over 100,000 Earth-like planets and every one of their residents before you find that one case in which it might be true.

Okay, I confess I made up that statistic to illustrate the fact that it has a snowball's chance in hell.

As Dan Barry said, "It turns out that the fawning emails I've been receiving are mere specks in a virtual mudslide of fraud descending upon the publishing world. Scam artists overseas, using artificial intelligence, are impersonating publishing figures on illegitimate websites and in flattering emails to hoodwink both fledgling and established authors into paying fees for services never to be rendered."

The thing is, most of these scams don't start with a request for money. They're playing the long game.

The "famous" author becomes your friend. This may take four or even five email exchanges. Only once you're convinced you've hit the jackpot and made a very important connection will he or she tell you, "By the way, I've got a great publicist who is the reason for my success. Why don't you try him out?" The so-called publicist (editor, agent or whatever) is, of course, the one who will hit you up big time, but since your "dear" friend recommended him or her, how could you refuse?

The emails may come from official-sounding companies such as the National Book Foundation, with a seemingly legitimate website address of nationalbookfoundation.com. The real National Book Foundation operates through an official .org domain. The difference may go unnoticed by a naïve author. Most of these scams originate in far-flung places where you'll never get your money back. Scammers now use AI to clean up their English, and AI is doing a better job than it once did, when such emails were rife with spelling errors. No longer.

If you ever get an email from a famous person who loved your book, don't respond. Rather, check to see if they left a review. Nope ... they can't, because their Amazon account, if they have one, is not in that name. Check, too, the famous author's website (not the link given to you by the scammer; Google it yourself). Is the email address used by your contact associated with the real author's site? (For example, john@johnsteinbeck.com.) Nope, it isn't.

While you may be angry or frustrated that you've just wasted time on this loser, don't respond. It will only verify that your email address is viable, and even if they can't scam you, they'll sell it to others. Just hit that spam button and block their email address. Scam foiled, for now.

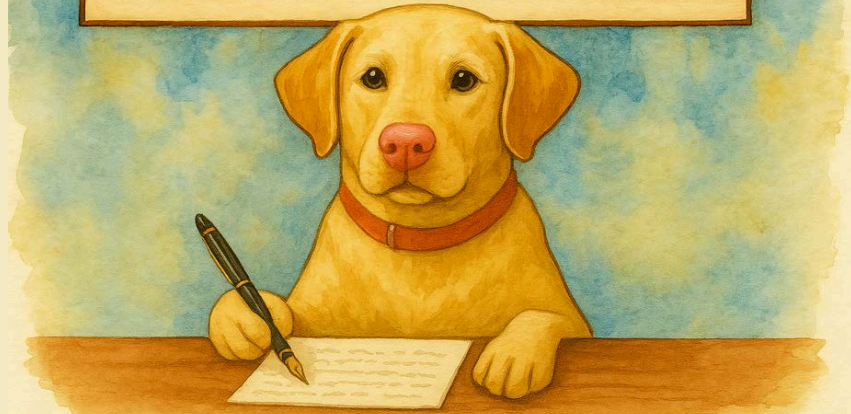
Stay safe, folks.



Kathleen Cook retired from her career as an editor in 2017. Afterward, she served for five years as editor of the Arizona Authors Association before becoming president in January 2024.



LARRY'S CORNER



MY MOM GETS EMOTIONAL OVER ROAST PORK

By Larry Renner

Edited by Barbara Renner (Mom)

I love being with my mom in the kitchen when she cooks dinner. She's a clumsy cook, and a delicious morsel of food always falls to the floor. Depending on what drops, it's usually a race to see who grabs it first. If it's an onion, she wins. Apparently, I'm not supposed to eat onions. But the sweet potato slice or chunk of turkey is mine to enjoy.

Sometimes my mom gets emotional when she's cooking. I'm not talking about when she burns the burgers in the pan, and several loud words exit from her mouth. I'm talking about when the aroma of a roast pork escapes from the oven after opening the door.

"Mmm, it smells just like my mom's Sunday dinner when I was a little girl," she says, sniffing, as a tear slips down her cheek.

To me, I can smell much more than pork. My nose can discern the potatoes, carrots, and even the sage, rosemary, and thyme sitting inside that pan, and the only moisture slipping from me is a dollop of drool from my cheek chops.

Writers can apply these emotions to the settings in

their stories. Take, for example, the smell of roast pork. The main character experiences warm and loving feelings when she remembers Sunday dinners as a little girl. Fast forward eight chapters, when she is invited to meet her date's parents and experiences those same smells. The writer describes the woman's

emotions as she realizes he must be the man of her dreams, and she wants to live the rest of her life with him. Okay, that's a bit of exaggeration, but you get the point. Maybe it's the man's mother she bonds with.

For me, it's thunder from a storm. I don't know where the noise comes from, and I

don't know when it will cease, but I'm so traumatized I bury my head under the bed and shiver until the noise stops. When I hear the thunder in a different environment, I look for the closest bed. The scared feelings that are transferred from one environment to another could change my normally calm self into a vicious animal. But don't worry, I'll never be vicious. I only use that as an example of how a character changes because of an event that triggers an

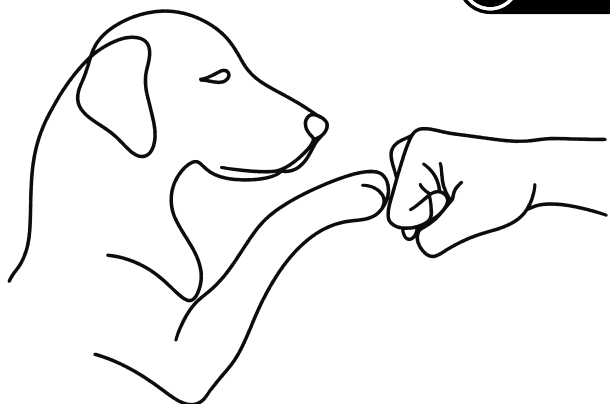


emotion.

I rely on my emotional settings all the time using my five senses. Did you see that bunny hop into the cactus? It reminds me of the time I got cactus stickers in my paws. Did you *smell* the scent on that bush? It reminds me of the time the German Shepherd chased me down the street. Did you *feel* the rain on your fur? It reminds me of the time we lived in Minnesota. Did you *hear* the doorbell? Maybe it's Chewy delivering my kibble. Did you *taste* those olives? Ptooeey, not edible, not edible! Gotta go now. Mom is serving roast pork!



Larry and his mom, **Barbara Renner**, are the authors of the award-winning coffee table book *Larry's Words of Wisdom* and the world-famous *Larry's Words of Wisdom* desk calendar. Larry has continued his writing career by publishing monthly articles in the *Neighbors of Sun City West* magazine.



Make every chapter unforgettable.

Editing that keeps readers hooked.



- **Manuscript review** – high-level exploration
- **Developmental edit** – page-by-page journey
- **Line edit** – line-by-line enhancement

See how we can help



WHERE ARIZONA WRITERS BELONG

Chapters across the state. One writing community.

Monthly meetings, guest speakers, open mics, an **annual writing contest**, and a two-day **conference and book festival** — open to novelists, journalists, memoirists, poets, and **emerging writers** still working up the nerve to call themselves one.

GENERAL & EVENTS

Kathleen Osborne Kathleen@kathleen-osborne.com

ENTER YOUR WORK

White Mountains Writer Contest

Entries open March 1, 2027

Deadline June 1, 2027

Categories, entry details, and guidelines at whitemountainsofapw.org.



Trish
Zaabel
1ST



Lauren
Buckingham
2ND



Kimberly
Waters
3RD

2026 CONTEST WINNERS

ENTER MARCH 1 - JUNE 1

MEMBERSHIP

Paula F. Winskye Author.Winskye@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES

Conference & Festival of Books

Conference — Friday, August 6, 2027

Festival — Saturday, August 7, 2027

Show Low, Arizona

Speakers will be announced when confirmed.



2026 GUEST JAMES A. OWEN, AUTHOR-ILLUSTRATOR
— FESTIVAL OF BOOKS EXHIBITOR AND CONFERENCE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1

CHAPTER MEETINGS & CONTACTS

CENTRAL

2nd Wednesday
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Monthly guest speakers.

Fawzia Tung
fawziamaitungwriter@gmail.com

RIM COUNTRY HOSTING FRIENDS WITH PENS

1st Thursday
9:30 a.m.

Noley's Bookstore, Payson —
corner of Hwy 87 and 260.

Connie Cockrell
connie.cockrell@gmail.com
Marie Fasano
mafasano1@gmail.com

WHITE MOUNTAINS

2nd Tuesday
6 p.m. on Zoom

Guest speakers each month.

Paula Winskye
author.winskye@gmail.com

SHARE YOUR WORDS

Open mic
2nd Friday, 5–7 p.m.

Arts Alliance, 251 Penrod, Show
Low. \$10 donation appreciated.

All writers welcome

Come as a guest — no membership required

WHY JOIN APW?

- Monthly guest speakers and craft of writing programs
- Book club and open mic readings
- Conference and book festival access
- Discounts on state conferences, webinars, and workshops
- NFPW national membership — contests, conferences, professional development, optional liability insurance



Empowering writers
across Arizona and beyond.

arizonaprofessionalwriters.org

whitemountainsofapw.org

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN

Members may advertise in one issue without cost any new book or short release published within the past six months.*

ADD YOUR BOOKS to the October-November issue of the Arizona Authors Digest no later than **November 1, 2026**

Email: KylePatton.AZ@outlook.com

Include:

- Book title
- Author name
- Book cover
- 100–150-word synopsis
- 100-word bio
- Author headshot
- Genre
- Publisher
- Link

**If you have been a member for 60 days or less, you may submit work published within nine months of the submission date to us. All dates are counted from the day you submit to us, not the publication date.*

Check out our members' new releases on the following pages:

BOOK RELEASES
33–48

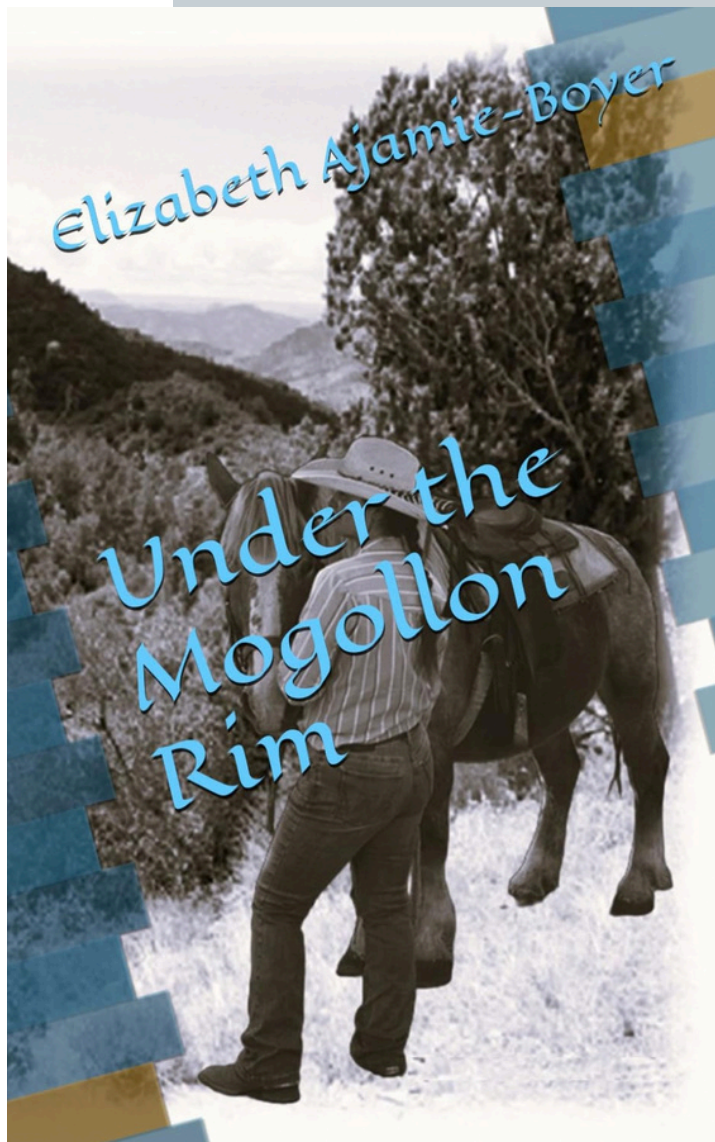
SHORT RELEASES
Moved to Congratulations Section

NEW RELEASES



NEW BOOKS

UNDER THE MOGOLLON RIM
Western Romance | Independently Published



North of the Salt River Valley and Under the Mogollon Rim, lays Cibecue, Arizona Territory. Here in the New Mexico/Arizona Territory of 1870, Lila, the daughter of a rancher, Ronald Sutter, liked the idea of finding true love on her own. Her father, on the other hand, wanted her to marry a landowner or his son so one or the other could take care of her. He wanted to pick the man she would marry, with the ulterior motive that the families would combine their ranches. Love wasn't necessary in his mind.

But was it?



As a writer, **Elizabeth Ajamie-Boyer** dedicates all her work to her Lord Jesus Christ. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from ASU. She's written six books, collaborated with her husband, TJ Boyer on a cozy murder mystery, and co-wrote several of the Mirror Gate Chronicle Books. She's lived in Phoenix, AZ for most of her life.



NEW BOOKS

WE WERE A NICE NORMAL FAMILY
Memoir | Suncoast Digital Press, Incorporated



Patricia A. Grenelle, PsyD, is a retired forensic psychologist, award-winning author, and survivor of childhood trauma and C-PTSD. Drawing on more than 40 years of clinical experience and her own healing journey, she writes with both professional insight and personal authenticity. Her memoir, *We Were a Nice, Normal Family*, gives voice to survivors of hidden family trauma while offering hope that healing is possible.

Patricia is passionate about educating the public about the lasting effects of childhood trauma and encouraging survivors to reclaim their lives. She lives in Arizona with her husband, Ed, and her service dog, JP.



What if the family everyone admired wasn't safe behind closed doors? In *We Were a Nice Normal Family*, retired forensic psychologist Dr. Patricia Grenelle shares her deeply personal journey of surviving childhood trauma hidden beneath the appearance of a loving, "normal" family. Blending professional insight with honesty and compassion, she explores the lasting effects of childhood sexual abuse, emotional neglect, abandonment, and C-PTSD.

Dr. Grenelle reveals how unresolved trauma can shape relationships, self-worth, and emotional well-being while offering an essential message: healing is possible. A memoir of truth, resilience, and recovery, this powerful book speaks to survivors, mental health professionals, and anyone seeking to understand the hidden impact of childhood trauma—and reminds readers that the past does not have to define the future.



NEW BOOKS

BROKEN WING, ECHOES OF UNKINDNESS
Fiction | Raven House Publishing, LLC



Broken Wing is a thoughtful and imaginative environmental adventure that blends human ambition with the lives of the natural world in a compelling way. Hurtubise builds a richly textured story in which a group of individuals seeking a healthier life inadvertently stumbles into ecological consequences far greater than they expected. Interwoven with this human journey is the poignant and evocative narrative of an unkindness of ravens, whose struggles and triumphs mirror the broader impact of human actions on the environment.

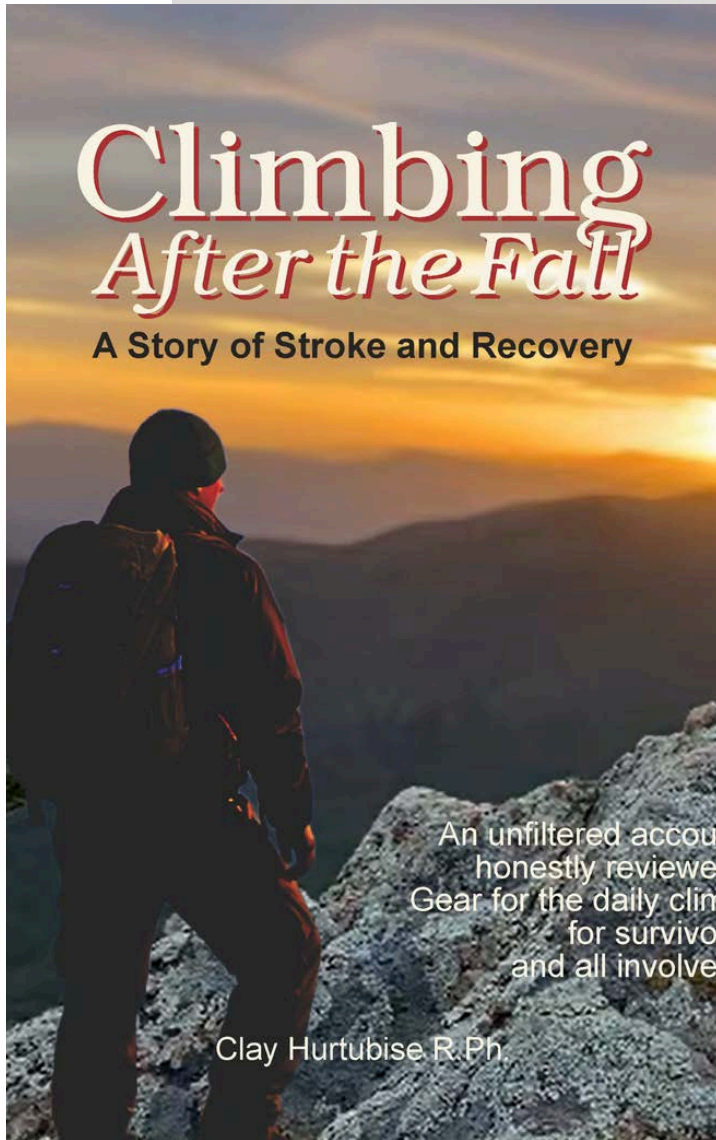


Clay Hurtubise, R.Ph., born in Maine, attended pharmacy school in Wyoming, joining Kappa Sigma. Facing early challenges, including bullying and abuse, he built a resilient life with a supportive partner of nearly 30 years. Their unique family values compassion and empathy, reflecting his enduring commitment to personal growth, strong relationships, and a deep appreciation for the support of his community throughout his journey.



NEW BOOKS

CLIMBING AFTER THE FALL
Memoir | Raven House Publishing, LLC



This manuscript, *Climbing After the Fall: Story of Stroke and Recovery*, presents a raw, unflinching, and deeply personal account of surviving a massive stroke and navigating the subsequent rehabilitation process. As a memoir written by a retired pharmacist (R.Ph.), it combines firsthand experience with clinical insight, resulting in a compelling narrative that balances emotional vulnerability with factual detail.

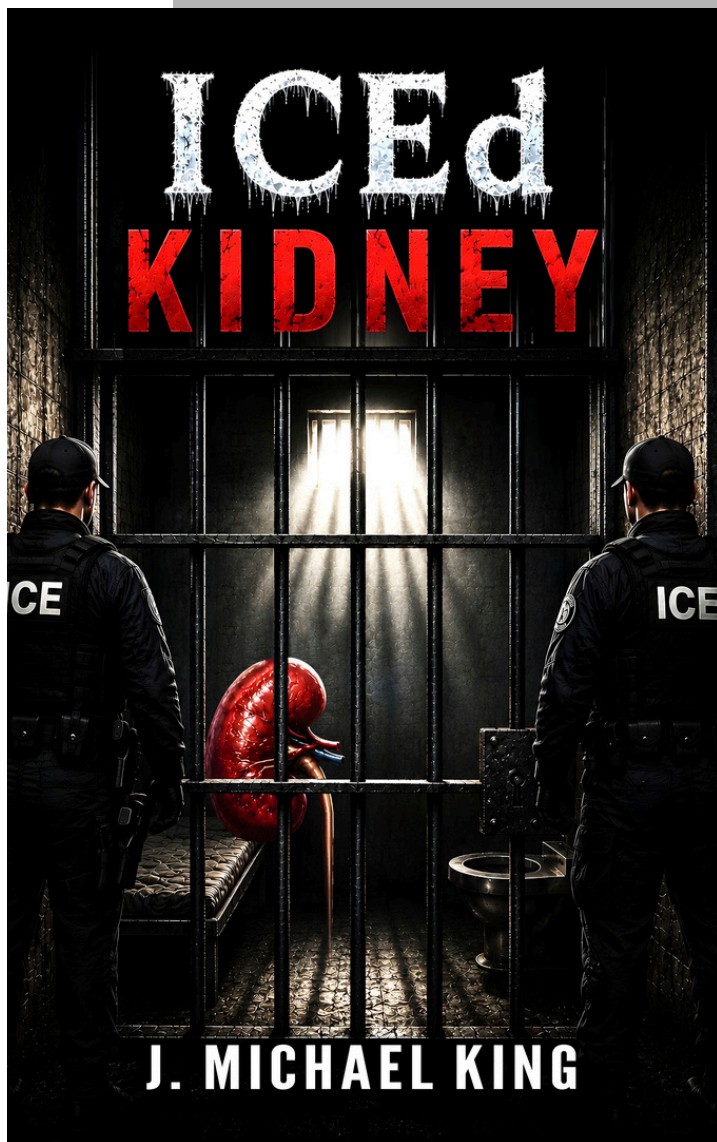
The structure, beginning with a vivid contrast between pre-stroke adventures and the abrupt "fall," then progressing through hospital care, rehabilitation challenges, and home recovery, effectively conveys the physical, psychological, and systemic hurdles encountered.



Clay Hurtubise, R.Ph., born in Maine, attended pharmacy school in Wyoming, joining Kappa Sigma. Facing early challenges, including bullying and abuse, he built a resilient life with a supportive partner of nearly 30 years. Their unique family values compassion and empathy, reflecting his enduring commitment to personal growth, strong relationships, and a deep appreciation for the support of his community throughout his journey.



NEW BOOKS



ICED KIDNEY
Fiction | Independently Published

Richard “Dick” Hertz has a comfortable life in sunny Miami with his wife, teenage children, and a job at ICE that he loves. Everything changes when his brother-in-law needs a kidney transplant. When a matched donor is deported to Colombia, Dick’s wife, Karen, expects him to use his influence to bring the donor back. He fails, her brother dies, and their marriage falls apart. Fired from ICE and spiraling into alcoholism, Dick makes increasingly reckless and illegal choices. After being placed under house arrest, he removes his ankle monitor and travels west to seek revenge against the donor’s daughter, Ana. His plan fails spectacularly, leading to his arrest and incarceration. Now Dick must face prison, rejection, and the question of whether he can rebuild his life.



J. Michael King earned engineering degrees from North Dakota State University and the University of Texas at El Paso. He was employed by a large U.S. manufacturer of diesel engines, holding various positions. He worked and lived in Spain for eight years, traveling throughout western Europe. He also worked in numerous Latin American countries, including Mexico, Colombia, Panama, Chile, Peru, Argentina and the Dominican Republic. J. Michael King resides in southern Arizona, USA, and enjoys traveling, learning, hiking, practicing Spanish, wine tasting and attending concerts.



NEW BOOKS

INSIDE THESE WALLS
Contemporary Family Drama | Independently Published



 **BUY NOW**

In Riverdale, Arizona, contractor Kevin Langley lives in the wreckage of grief after losing his wife. His home is a prison, and his relationship with his son, Brian, has crumbled into hostile silence. Everything changes when Kevin rescues Martha Cabral and her three children from a horrific car crash on Route 89, sparking a newfound sense of purpose.

As Kevin and Martha grow closer, threats emerge from two sides. Brian is spiraling into a desperate crime that could land him in prison, while Martha lives in constant fear of authorities closing in as she flees a tragic past in Mexico.

With his fractured family on the brink of total collapse, Kevin must decide how far he will go to protect the people he loves.

Inside These Walls is a powerful contemporary drama exploring grief, redemption, and the boundaries of love.

For **Jennifer Marcantonio**, becoming an author has been a lifelong dream. After over two decades as an educator and school principal, she channeled her passion into storytelling with her debut novel, *Inside These Walls*. Her writing tackles deeply resonant themes, weaving together lost love, family tragedy, and the realities of the immigration crisis.

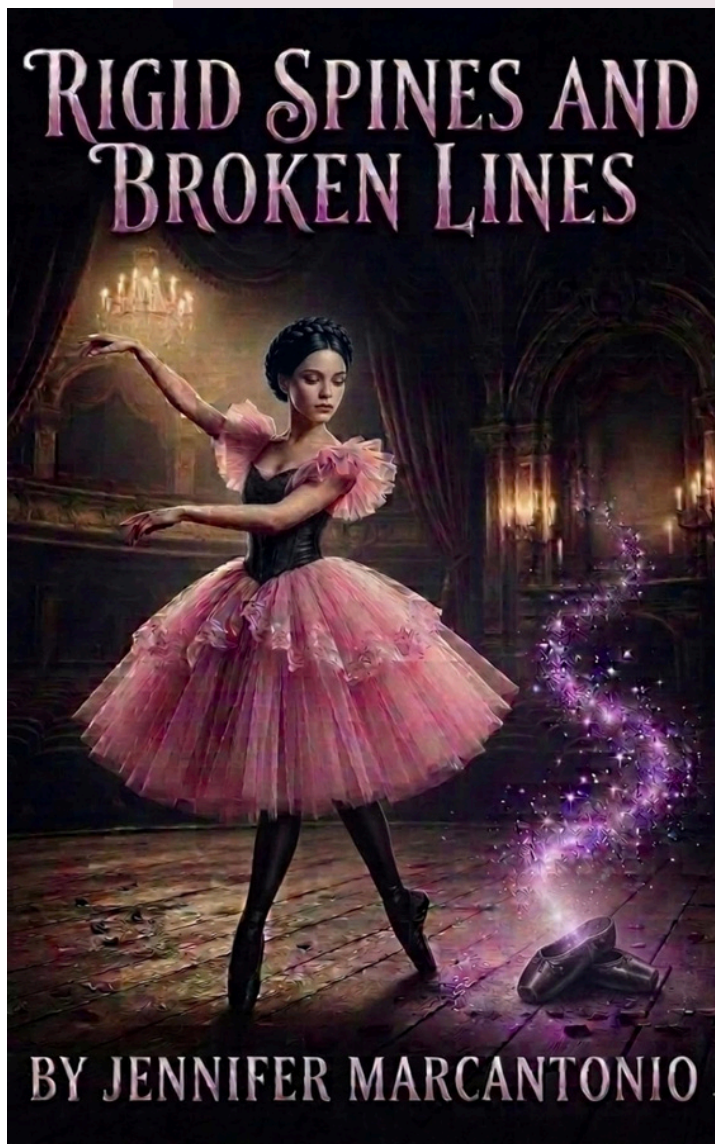
Now a multi-book author, Jennifer lives in the scenic landscapes of Northern Arizona, where she is celebrating her debut and preparing for her next release. Her second book, *Rigid Spines and Broken Lines*, hits shelves on October 1, 2026.



 **LEARN MORE**

NEW BOOKS

RIGID SPINES AND BROKEN LINES
Young Adult Urban / Contemporary Fantasy | Independently Published



Competitive dance is a blood sport masquerading as a pastel daydream—and Tuesday Graves is about to turn it into a nightmare. At Elite Dance Institute, perfection is enforced by the icy Madame Victoria Vane, who uses a stolen supernatural relic, the Slipper of Baba Yaga, to fuel a forty-two-week winning streak.

Tuesday Graves, a grim student of the funerary arts from Marrowglen Seminary, goes undercover to retrieve it. Trading mourning shrouds for lavender tulle, she must navigate a ruthless hierarchy ruled by toxic dance mothers and survive the mandatory confessional logs. As Tuesday climbs from "The Pit" to the "Marquee," she faces psychological warfare from the parents and the horrific physical toll the relic demands from dancers.

Will Tuesday secure the relic, or will the slipper curse her into a state of perpetual jazz hands? *Rigid Spines and Broken Lines* is a dark, satirical Gothic horror meets reality-TV drama.

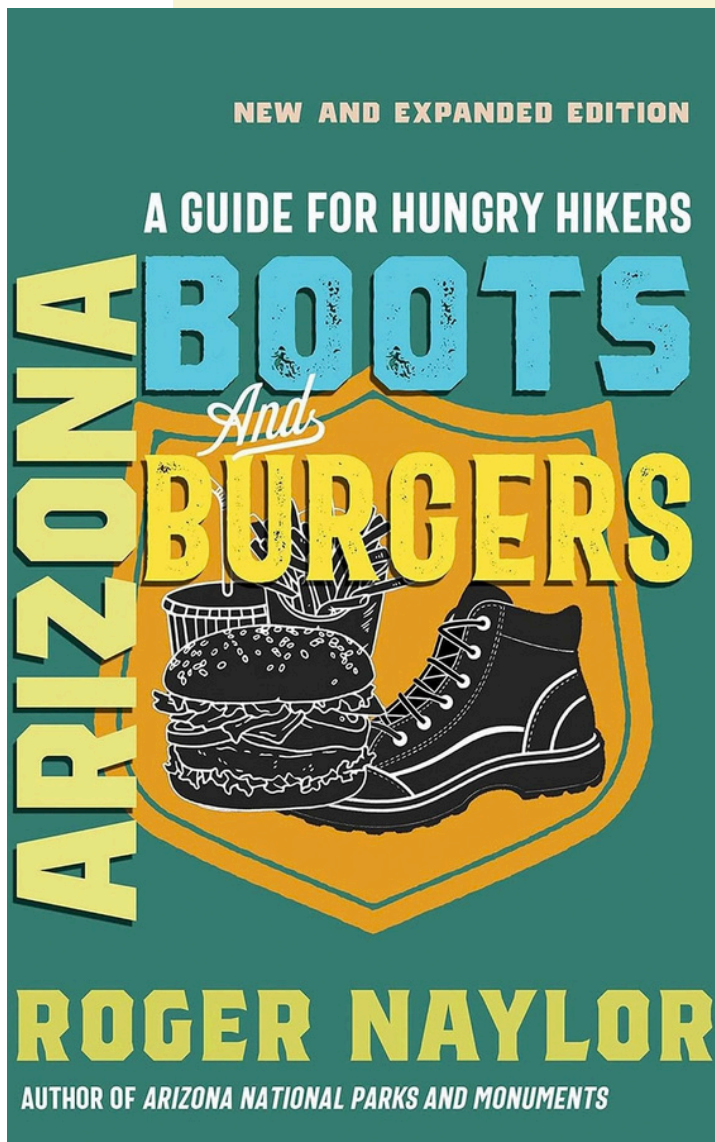
For **Jennifer Marcantonio**, becoming an author has been a lifelong dream. After over two decades as an educator and school principal, she channeled her passion into storytelling with her debut novel, *Inside These Walls*. Her writing tackles deeply resonant themes, weaving together lost love, family tragedy, and the realities of the immigration crisis.

Now a multi-book author, Jennifer lives in the scenic landscapes of Northern Arizona, where she is celebrating her debut and preparing for her next release. Her second book, *Rigid Spines and Broken Lines*, hits shelves on October 1, 2026.



NEW BOOKS

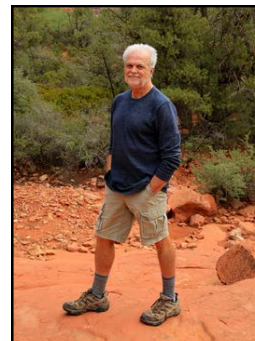
ARIZONA BOOTS AND BURGERS: A GUIDE FOR HUNGRY HIKERS
Guide | UNM Press



A rizona is a hiker's paradise, and according to travel writer Roger Naylor, it's also a burger lover's dream. In *Arizona Boots and Burgers: A Guide for Hungry Hikers*, Naylor combines two of his favorite things, hiking and great food, to create the ultimate culinary adventure across the Grand Canyon State. From Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon to Sedona, Phoenix, Tucson, the White Mountains, and Arizona's West Coast, each featured trail is paired with a locally owned eatery serving everything from burgers and Sonoran hot dogs to barbecue, pizza, and Indian tacos. Packed with 70 trails, 70 restaurants, maps, fun facts, stories, attractions, and more than 100 photographs, this book is a love letter to Arizona and its unforgettable food and scenery.

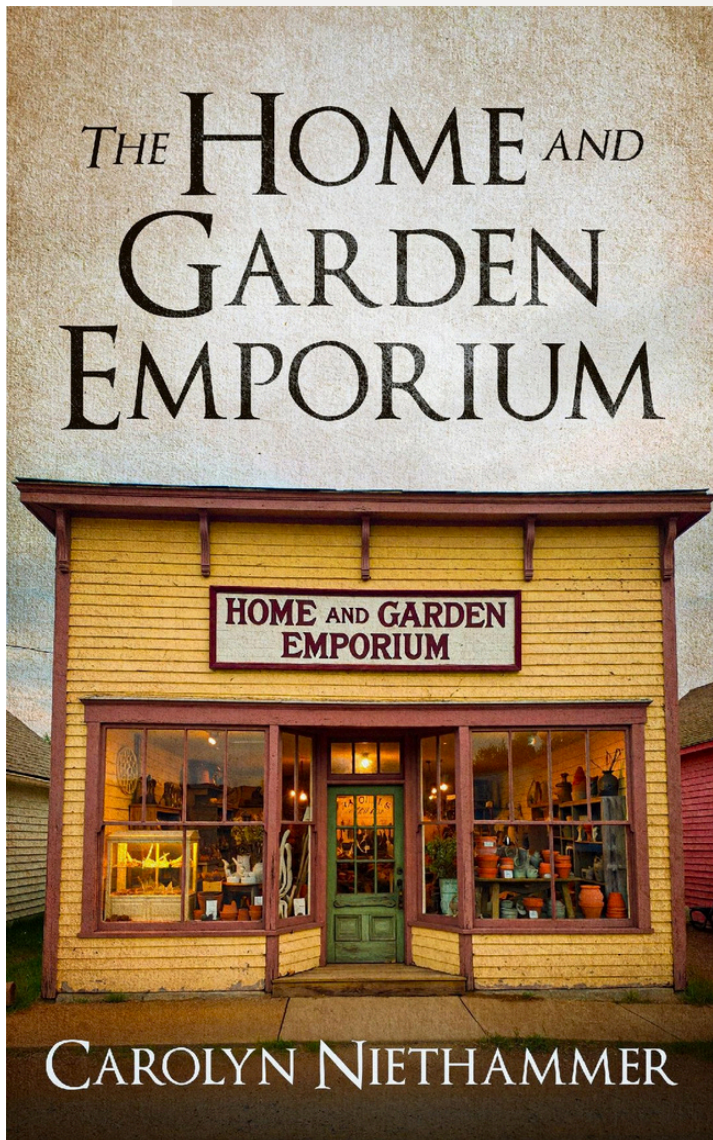


Roger Naylor is an award-winning Arizona travel writer and author who has spent decades exploring and writing about his adopted state. His work has appeared in *The Arizona Republic*, *USA Today*, *The Guardian*, *Country Magazine*, and *Arizona Highways*, among many others. He was inducted into the *Arizona Tourism Hall of Fame* in 2018 and serves as the narrator for the *Verde Canyon Railroad*. Naylor has authored numerous books, including *Arizona Route 66 Road Trip*, *Arizona National Parks and Monuments*, *Awesome Arizona*, and *Arizona's Scenic Roads and Hikes*, along with several other books celebrating Arizona's landscapes, history, and culture.



NEW BOOKS

THE HOME AND GARDEN EMPORIUM
Historical Fiction | Sweet Lime Press



Desperate to escape the New York tenements, Irish immigrant Ellie enters a marriage of convenience with handsome banker Edward. But soon Edward leaves for the Great War in Europe, leaving Ellie stranded in 1917 desert Tucson with his imperious Southern aunt, a string of overdue bills, and a hardware store sealed in dust and silence since 1914. She doesn't know a turnbuckle from a brace drill, but dreads a return to a dead-end future in New York. So with little money but plenty of grit, she begins to reinvent the store as a place for women—The Home and Garden Emporium.

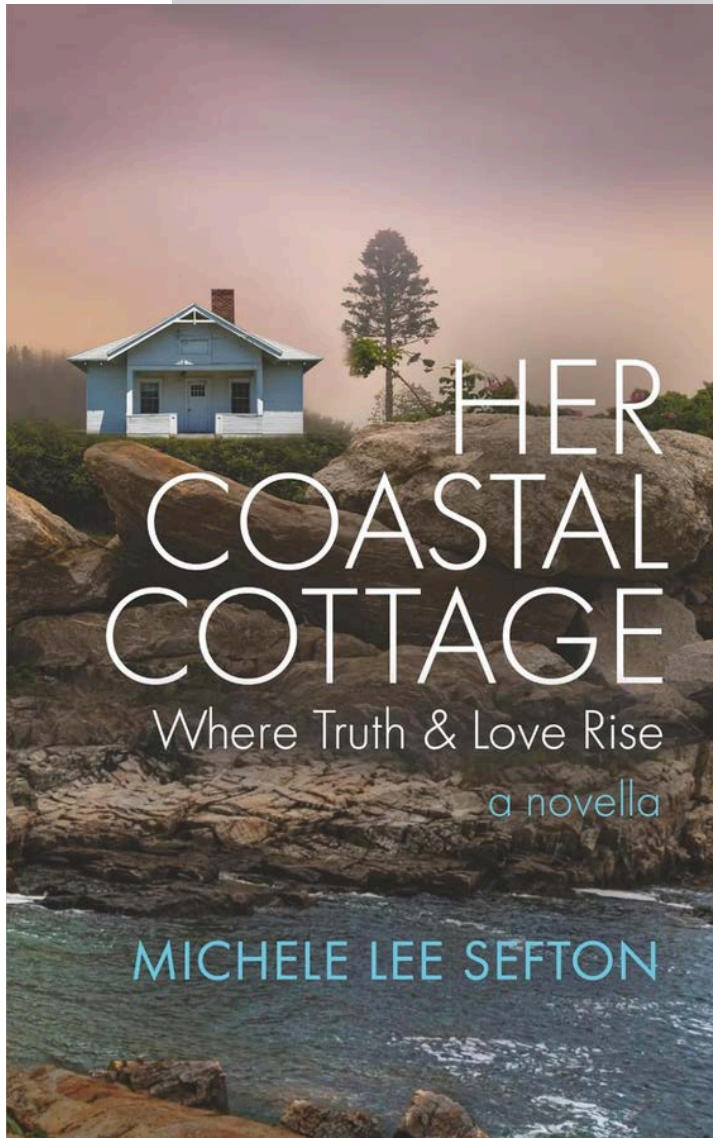
With a roster of eclectic women neighbors and customers plus the handsome bachelor next door, Ellie must decide what kind of life she dares to claim when the future is up to her.

Carolyn Niethammer has been writing about the food and people of the Southwest for six decades in books and newspaper and magazine articles. Four of her eleven books are cookbooks, three are books about Native American women, one is a travel book. She has recently segued into historic fiction with three novels featuring plucky heroines who manage to work their way out of challenging situations. She recently received the 2025 Jim Griffith Foodways Keeper Award.



NEW BOOKS

HER COASTAL COTTAGE: WHERE TRUTH AND LOVE RISE
Women's Fiction | Tumbleweed Spirit Press LLC



Along the rugged coast of Maine, a neglected beach bungalow becomes a powerful symbol of refuge, renewal, and rebirth for two people searching for something more. When Mackenzie and Jason, two unlikely souls drawn together at a crowded ballroom, meet for coffee halfway between their homes, they take the first step toward a future that will transform them both. As their relationship deepens, they confront the wounds and uncertainties that have shaped their lives and discover that healing can come from unexpected places. *Her Coastal Cottage: Where Truth and Love Rise*, now in its second edition, is a lyrical novella filled with heartfelt emotion, windswept mystery, unexpected turns, and the enduring belief that truth and love can restore even the most weathered hearts.



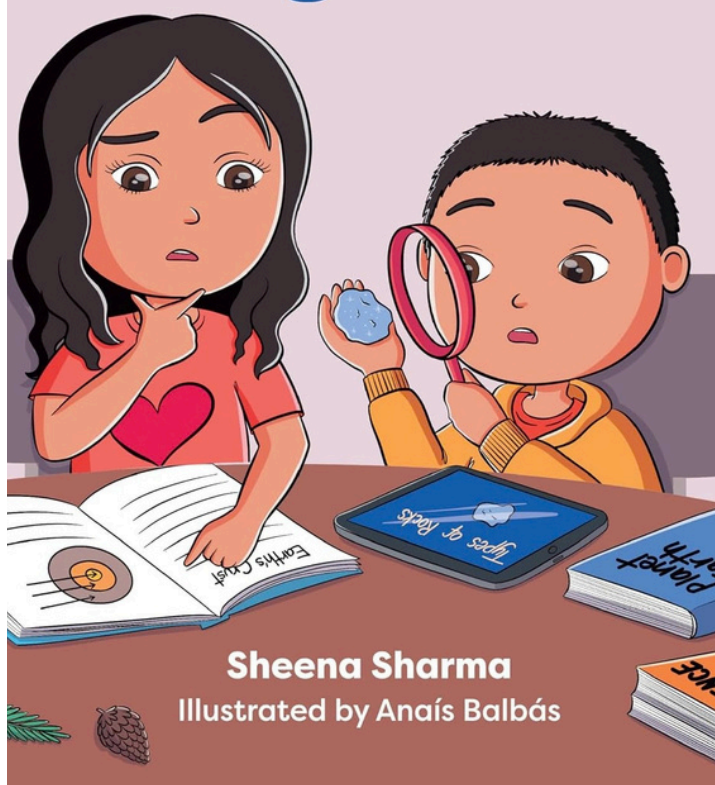
A writer of poetry and poetic prose, **Michele Lee Sefton** is a veteran English teacher who left the classroom in the fall of 2019 to develop her writing voice. She has since been published in various anthologies and platforms, including *Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University* in its *Piper Poetry Month Anthology*.



NEW BOOKS

SAANVI AND PRAKASH LEARN TOGETHER
Children's Book | Mascot Kids

Saanvi and Prakash Learn Together



Sheena Sharma

Illustrated by Anaís Balbás

When Saanvi is assigned a school project on endangered animals and her younger brother Prakash wrestles with long division, both soon discover that learning requires dedication and effort. Armed with their curiosity, they embark on a learning adventure that leads them to discover that no one has all the answers, not even their parents!

Join Saanvi and Prakash on a journey that celebrates inquisitiveness, persistence, and the joy of discovering new things together!



Sheena Sharma is a pediatric nephrologist in Phoenix, Arizona, and has dreamed of writing since she was a young girl. She was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, and eventually moved throughout the Northeast before settling in Phoenix. Sheena loves spending time with her husband and two young children, who are her constant source of inspiration. Her first book, *Saanvi's Family Tree*, navigates the difficult subject of familial estrangement with honesty and love. Her second book, *Saanvi's Bad Day*, teaches young readers that grown-ups can have bad days too.



NEW BOOKS

FERAL
Holiday Children's Book | Independently Published



Chaos ensues when Feral, a mischievous elf, is banished from the North Pole. Will he wreak havoc on Earth and ruin Christmas...or can he finally prove himself worthy?



Vanshika Sindal is a 14-year-old whimsical storyteller and artist who loves dreaming up fantastical worlds and unforgettable characters. *The Legend of the Rat King* is her first illustration fantasy story, and she has published two more since then. Her other books, *Windows to Windows* is a wondrous collection of short stories; *FERAL* is a hilarious and unhinged holiday novel. Vanshika hopes readers will enjoy, laugh through and be inspired by her imaginative, original stories.



NEW BOOKS

THE LEGEND OF THE RAT KING
Children's Book | Independently Published



Born with a glorious crown and a scarlet cloak, cursed by destiny. The Rat king embarks on a journey filled with love, grandeur, and vengeance. Yet his tale is greater than anyone could have imagined. As his name echoes through the ages, a young rat transforms into a legend- shaping history forever.

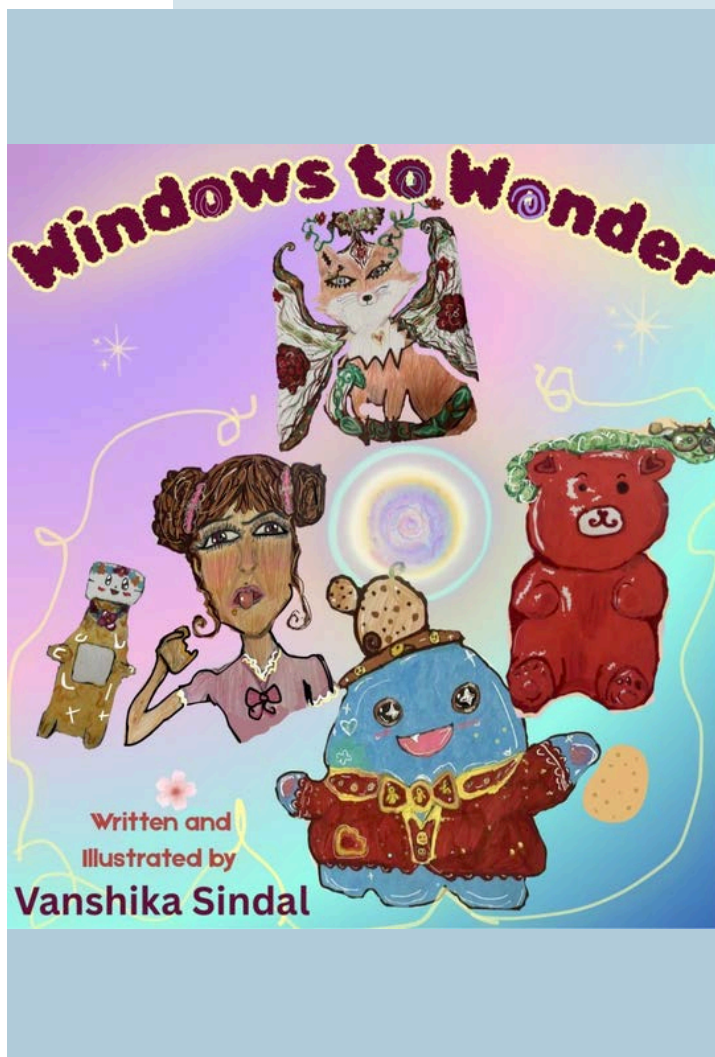


Vanshika Sindal is a 14-year-old whimsical storyteller and artist who loves dreaming up fantastical worlds and unforgettable characters. *The Legend of the Rat King* is her first illustration fantasy story, and she has published two more since then. Her other books, *Windows to Windows* is a wondrous collection of short stories; *FERAL* is a hilarious and unhinged holiday novel. Vanshika hopes readers will enjoy, laugh through and be inspired by her imaginative, original stories.



NEW BOOKS

WINDOWS TO WONDER
Children's Book | Independently Published



Three unforgettable adventures await... open a window to extraordinary worlds unlike any you've ever imagined. Whether it's Lulu facing her greatest fear, Blank the Blob, too curious for his own good, or Jello and Einie traveling through dimensions. Each tale is filled with laughter, friendship, and just a touch of magic! Peek through the window and discover the wonder within.

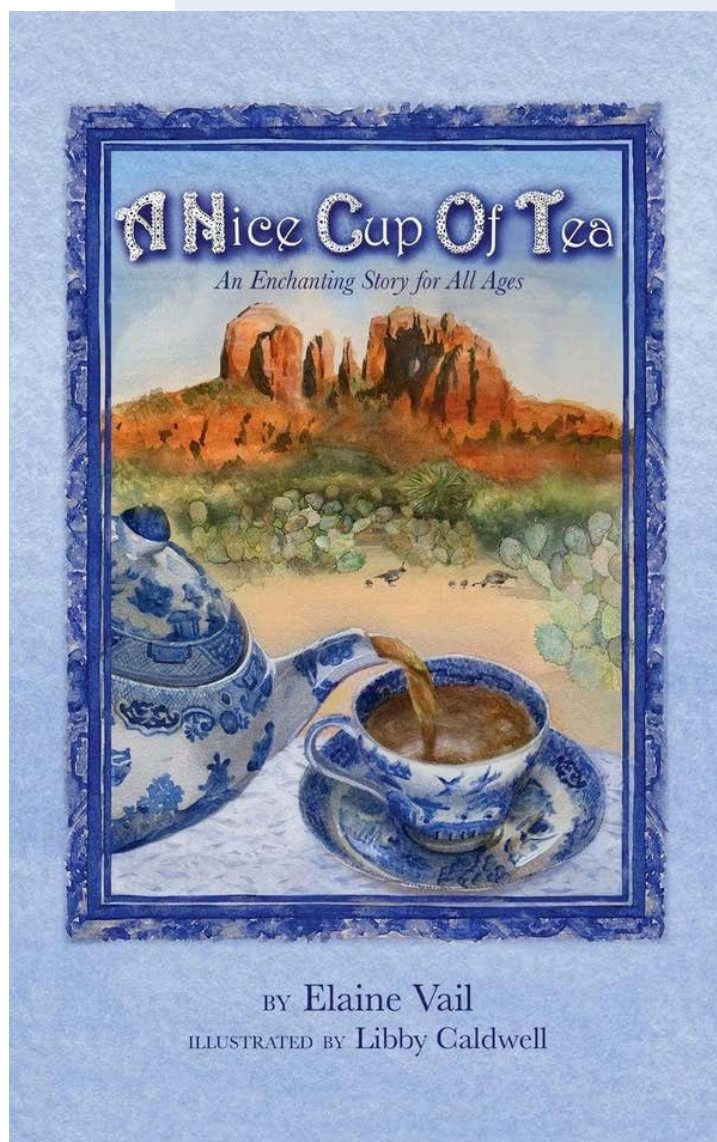


Vanshika Sindal is a 14-year-old whimsical storyteller and artist who loves dreaming up fantastical worlds and unforgettable characters. *The Legend of the Rat King* is her first illustration fantasy story, and she has published two more since then. Her other books, *Windows to Wonder* is a wondrous collection of short stories; *FERAL* is a hilarious and unhinged holiday novel. Vanshika hopes readers will enjoy, laugh through and be inspired by her imaginative, original stories.



NEW BOOKS

Picture Book for All Ages | A NICE CUP OF TEA
Palmetto Publishing



A *Nice Cup of Tea* is a delightful, lyrical short story that gently unfolds the life of Grandma, a courageous English war bride. Swept off her feet by a charming American soldier during the tumultuous times of WW2, she bravely leaves her hometown of St. Helens, England, to start a new life across the Atlantic.

Grandma introduces the comforting ritual of a simple cup of tea. As the narrative unfolds, we are invited to join these intimate tea time sessions. Her gentle demeanor and the comforting predictability of her tea time ritual provide a safe space where everyone feels heard and valued. This beautifully illustrated book is perfect for calming a busy mind. Plus it offers historical information, recipes and much more!

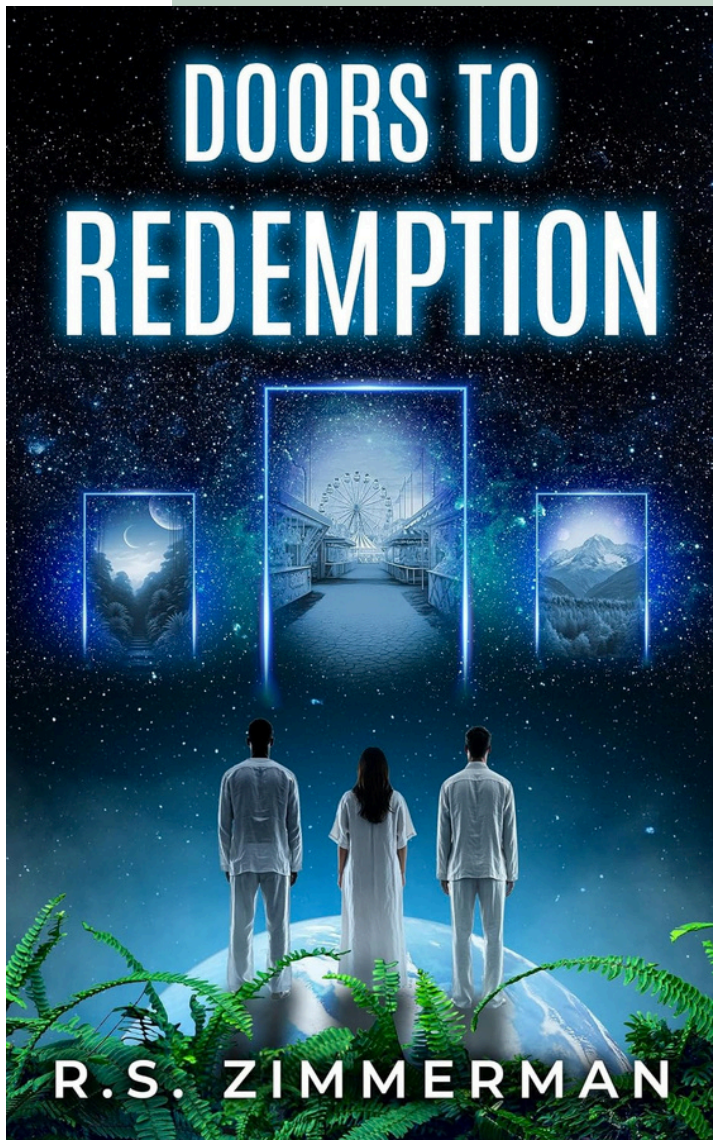


Elaine Vail was born and raised in Arizona. She spent decades sharing a nice cup of tea with her mother-in-law, Mona, a war bride from England. The author was inspired to write this book so that all who read it may experience the warmth and calmness of having tea-time with Mona. Vail currently resides in Sedona, Arizona, where she never tires of sipping a nice cup of tea and gazing at the stunning red rock views.



NEW BOOKS

DOORS TO REDEMPTION
Dark Sci-Fi Fantasy | JimmyDeanBooks



R.S. Zimmerman lives in the Phoenix area with his wife and dog, Jimmy Dean, who is convinced he is the true creative force behind every book. When not writing, he can be found hiking or mountain biking the Phoenix trails or conducting inspirational research at local breweries.



Andy Haden wasn't reckless or cruel —just exhausted by life.

When a desperate heist goes wrong, he doesn't fight the end. But death doesn't grant him the mercy he expected.

He awakens in a sterile white room, surrounded by strangers who should be as dead as he is. Three doors stand before him. No voice explains their purpose, but instinct and his new reality whisper one truth: there is no going back.

Each door opens to a different world, strange, ancient, and eerily reflective of the souls who enter. The trials within them are part of something ancient and vast. A cosmic judgment in which failure means erasure or something far worse.

As the doors open and the worlds grow darker, Andy and the others must decide what they are willing to sacrifice, who they are willing to save, and whether redemption is something given...

Or something earned.

THE ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

The Seven Deadly Sins of Romance Writing

A free workshop with award-winning author Donna Hatch

SATURDAY
November 14, 2026

TIME
10:00 a.m. MST

FORMAT
Live on Zoom



Award-winning author Donna Hatch has written over two dozen best-selling historical romances set in the captivating Regency Era. Her meticulously-researched stories follow the tradition of Jane Austen, Georgette Heyer, and Lord Byron, weaving tales of courage, second chances, and redemption with plenty of chemistry. What distinguishes Donna's work is her commitment to incorporating virtue and values into her narratives while delivering the swoony heroes and courageous heroines readers crave in every "Sweet" and "Clean and Wholesome" romance.

If this is the kind of romance novel you would love to write, please join us for this free workshop!

Donna will share a snarky discussion of cliches and mistakes often found in romantic subplots and romance novels that readers hate, and how to write fresh, new, page-turning stories readers love.

To Register for this workshop, click here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Dvu8SC2MR16jQGm6CzHjBQ>

THE MILLION MILE WALKER **WHAT WE'RE READING AND WHY**

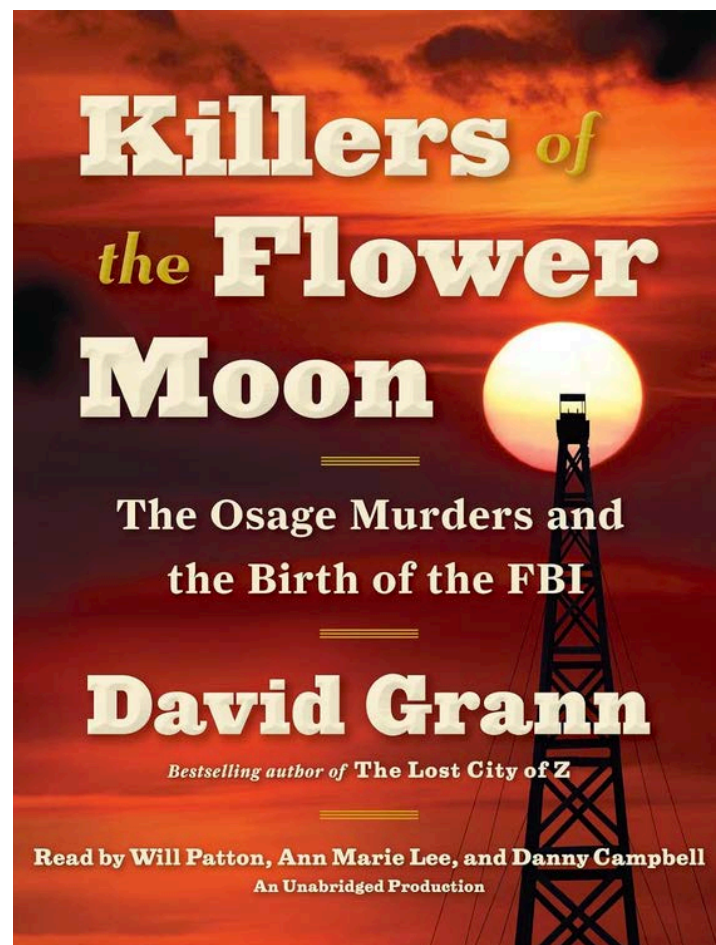
By Mark D. Walker

David Grann's book is a masterwork of narrative nonfiction—a meticulously researched, elegantly written, and morally urgent account of the Osage Reign of Terror of the 1920s. It is also a book that forces us to confront a broader truth: the murders of Osage citizens were not an isolated tragedy, but part of a larger pattern of racialized violence that shaped Oklahoma's early history.

Although I lived in Oklahoma for four years, I never heard of this tragic story or the Tulsa Race Massacre, which occurred in the same historical period. These events reveal two distinct but parallel eruptions of white supremacist brutality. The Tulsa Race Massacre was a two-day mob assault on a prosperous Black community known as "Black Wall Street." White mobs, some deputized, burned more than 35 blocks and killed up to 300 Black residents. One was a two-day mob assault; the other, a years-long conspiracy. Both were rooted in the same cultural soil.

The book opens with an extraordinary paradox. In the early twentieth century, the Osage Nation was, per capita, the richest community in the world. Forced from their ancestral lands and relocated to several states, and eventually to what was thought to be barren territory in Oklahoma, the Osage discovered that their new home sat atop immense oil reserves. Because the tribe retained mineral rights, Osage citizens received headrights—legal claims to oil revenues—that transformed their lives. They built fine homes, hired chauffeurs, and lived with a level of prosperity unimaginable only a generation earlier. Prosperity in a white supremacist society is never simply prosperity. It is provocation.

White settlers, bankers, lawyers, and opportunists descended on Osage County, seeking access to headrights. Under federal law, many Osage were declared "incompetent" and forced to accept white guardians who controlled their finances. This paternalistic system created fertile ground for exploitation—and ultimately murder.



Grann brings the Osage Reign of Terror to life, focusing on its peak between 1921 and 1926. Killings were disguised as accidents, poisonings, or unexplained illnesses. Homes were bombed. Doctors falsified death certificates. Local officials looked the other way.

At the center of the conspiracy was William Hale, a powerful cattleman who cultivated an image of benevolence while orchestrating a network of fraud, intimidation, and murder. Hale's scheme involved marrying white men to Osage women, then eliminating family members to consolidate headrights. The cold calculation behind these crimes is chilling. Grann's narrative exposes how racism, entitlement, and economic ambition intertwined

to create a system in which Indigenous lives were expendable.

Grann structures the book around the story of Mollie Burkhart, an Osage woman whose family becomes the target of a series of murders. Her sisters are killed—one shot, another poisoned—and her mother dies under suspicious circumstances. Grann's portrait of Mollie is one of quiet resilience. She is a woman navigating the terror of realizing that those closest to her, including her white husband, may be complicit in the destruction of her family.

Through Mollie, Grann personalizes the tragedy. She is not merely a victim but a witness to the unraveling of her community. Her story anchors the book emotionally, reminding readers that behind every archival document lies another possible murder story.

A fascinating story within the book concerns the emergence of the Bureau of Investigation and its young director, J. Edgar Hoover. Hoover's ambition to professionalize federal law enforcement leads him to assign Tom White, a former Texas Ranger, to the Osage case. White's investigative approach—methodical, collaborative, and grounded in fieldwork—contrasts sharply with Hoover's bureaucratic style.

White uncovers the conspiracy piece by piece, revealing how deeply local institutions were compromised. His work becomes a proving ground for the modern FBI, though Grann is careful not to romanticize federal intervention. The Bureau initially mishandled the case, and its eventual success came only after years of failure by local authorities.

The book's third section is perhaps its most insidious. After recounting the official investigation and trials, Grann reveals that the murders documented in the book represent only a fraction of the violence inflicted on the Osage. Through archival research and interviews with descendants, he uncovers dozens of additional suspicious deaths—poisonings, shootings, unexplained illnesses—that were never investigated. This revelation reframes the entire narrative. The Reign of Terror was not a series of isolated crimes but a widespread campaign of dispossession. The true number of victims may never be known.

For members of the Arizona Authors Association—

many of whom write about history, culture, and social justice—*Killers of the Flower Moon* offers a model of how narrative nonfiction can illuminate hidden histories. Grann's work restores the Osage murders to national consciousness, insisting that they are essential to understanding the American story.

The book also challenges us to consider how similar dynamics persist. Wealth extraction, racialized violence, and institutional failure are not relics of the past. They are part of an ongoing struggle for justice and recognition.

Killers of the Flower Moon stands alongside two of my favorite classics: Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and Isabel Wilkerson's *The Warmth of Other Suns*—books that illuminate hidden histories and challenge dominant narratives. Grann's contribution is distinctive in its blend of investigative journalism and literary storytelling. He brings clarity to a complex historical moment while honoring the voices of those who lived through it.

Grann ensures that the Osage murders will never again be forgotten. And for readers of the Arizona Authors Association, his work offers a powerful reminder of why writers must continue to uncover, preserve, and amplify the stories that shape our collective memory.

Learn about the author at davidgrann.com.



Find over 80 book reviews on my website under the "Library" tab. I'd love to hear your thoughts on the newsletter, my reviews, and what you're reading—your insights could inspire future columns and may be featured in the next edition.

Reach me at **Mark@MillionMileWalker.com**, MillionMileWalker.com, or facebook.com/millionmilewalker.

Sign up for the Million Mile Walker Dispatch, a monthly review of my latest articles, book reviews, cultural insights, favorite quotes, and the occasional surprise.





**IMPROVE YOUR
DIGITAL
MARKETING
WITH A BOOK VIDEO**

Stay ahead in the digital world—start by having your own short video about your book!

- 1 EMAIL MARKETING WORKS**
Personalize emails with your video to increase engagement.
- 2 POST YOUR VIDEO ON YOUTUBE**
- 3 LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA**
Post your video on Instagram, LinkedIn, & TikTok.

\$125

For more information GetPublished777@gmail.com




Experienced Audiobook Production
(40+ titles currently on Amazon/Audible)

Author-read in-studio or professional narration/casting

Remote recording options with editing

Audiobook spec compliance and global distribution!

We can help with as much or as little as you need!

Contact:
PositiveNetworkMedia.com
(480) 649-8074

**POSITIVE
NETWORK
media**



REMEMBERING OUR DEAR FRIEND

By Kathleen Cook



We would like to pay tribute to our former president and dear friend, **Russell A. Azbill**, who died late last year in New Mexico. Russ served as president of the Arizona Authors Association from 2018 to 2021, after previously serving as treasurer and a longtime board member. He presided over our popular 2019 “Who-Dun-It?”-themed awards event, portraying Russ Azcura, a part-time Uber driver and suspect in the evening’s mystery. In the story, Russ was the last person to see the enigmatic “V” alive after driving her from New Mexico to a Phoenix library, where she left him a poor tip. He wanted retribution—or at least enough for an oil change. It was a memorable and entertaining evening for everyone. It was also the final awards event over which Russ presided. The following year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of our annual gathering.

Russ was instrumental in bringing the Arizona Authors Association back from the brink and reestablishing it as a thriving, growing organization.

During a difficult period, he worked tirelessly to restore stability while running the organization, recruiting new board members, and rebuilding the newsletter, website, and other programs disrupted by turmoil in 2016 and 2017.

Issue 1		Arizona Authors Association		April—May 2019	
Index				 Message from the President	
Table of Contents		Page			
President's Message		01		Greeting fellow members! I am proud to announce that we once again have an Association newsletter. We can now announce your newly published books and provide you with interesting articles and notices to enhance your membership experience. The Board continues its work to restore our website to what it once was. I will be sending an announcement to the membership soon with the specific details for submitting your updated biographies and photos for inclusion in the new website. The restoration of the website is being done by a select few trustworthy individuals with a lot of work ahead of them, so I ask your patience during the reconstruction period. Rest assured that we will have the website fully completed as soon as our busy schedules permit. You may view its ongoing progress at www.arizonaauthors.com.	
Vice President's Corner		02-3			
Arizona Authors Association Leadership		03			
Arizona Authors Association Relaunch		03			
Membership Benefits		04			
Submissions		04			
Calendar of Events		05			
Congratulations to Our Members		06-07			
Literary Contest		08-09			
Arizona Authors Association April Workshop		10			
Arizona Authors Association May Workshop		11			
The Road To Imagination by Cherie Lee		12			
Treasurer's Report		13			
What Are You Reading?		13			

[Screenshot of the first newsletter, what would become the Arizona Authors Digest, back after the turmoil of a few years earlier.]

Russ moved to New Mexico and resigned as president in July 2021. He remained a valued member of our organization, and I treasured our many email conversations and Christmas cards. At the time of his death, he was working on a new book, and I was privileged to read an advance copy. With so many losses this year, I did not learn of his death until recently. We miss you greatly, Russ. You were one of the finest and most selfless people I have known.



[Russ at the 2019 Arizona Authors Literary Awards "Who-Dun-It" themed event with former President Vijaya Schartz.]

The Book Doctor Is In...

Producing, marketing and promoting books since 1985.

Have a manuscript in hand?
Want to increase your book's visibility?

Linda F. Radke, a.k.a. "The Book Doctor," can help!

For over 35 years, Linda has expertly guided thousands of authors through the book publishing and marketing process, including:

- Manuscript Evaluation
- Book Production
- Illustrations
- Editing/Proofreading
- Publicity Campaigns
- Marketing Plans
- Book Awards
- Website Design

Set up a consulting session today!

Linda F. Radke, President • Linda@storymonsters.com • (480) 940-8182



www.MyBookDoc.com



WARTHOG PRESS



FORMATTING AND BOOKCOVER CREATION FOR AUTHORS

So... where do you keep yours? You know. That novel that rattled around in your head for years. The one you spent day and night, night and day writing, editing, and polishing. I'll bet your characters became your best friends. You know them inside out, but like any friend, sometimes they'd surprise you and take you places you'd never been. Places you had never expected them to go. And you followed. You chronicled. You might have even worried a bit. But, dark or light, they saw you through. Now it's your turn to see them through. Take them someplace new. Let your characters breathe. Let them live. Let them laugh and smile and cry with the rest of the world. Let the rest of the world enjoy their company. Publish!

Contact

deboraklewis@yahoo.com

Mention this ad and receive
15% off on your first manuscript.

Pricing for most formatting ranges from as low as \$75.00 for an ebook to \$325.00 for ebook, print and full cover for publishing through Amazon and Draft2Digital.

A WRITER'S TIP

FROM KAREN ODDEN

THE MAGIC OF 8 MINUTES A DAY

Think of it this way. What would you say if your dentist said, “You can brush your teeth for a few minutes every day, or you can brush your teeth once a week for 20 minutes”? (Ew.)

I think the do-it-every-day method is better for many tasks. This is the premise behind language programs like Duolingo, too. Daily practice, even in small amounts, works.

I first recognized the truth of this after my son was born. I had two young children, one of them a newborn, and a husband who traveled a lot. It may sound ridiculous, but some days I didn't get a shower. At one point, I saw my doctor and made the offhand wry comment that I wondered if I was ever going to get back in shape. He smiled. “Can you find eight minutes a day to get on your elliptical?” I allowed that I could probably find eight minutes in my day. “That's about an hour a week,” he said. “And some days you might get 10 or 15 minutes.” Sure enough, it worked. I eventually got back to hiking.

This also gave me a model for writing.

So now I ask my students to commit to writing eight minutes every day. If they write more, great. But I keep the goal small because most people agree they can find eight minutes.

This daily practice keeps your project current and top of mind. It's my experience that if I write every day, I have two advantages. One, I slip into writing mode faster when I get to my desk, and two, my brain stays “on” the topic, which enables what

my friend Bill calls “pre-writing”—the thinking you do when you're not at your desk, when you're washing dishes, or right before bed, when you scribble down an idea you have, and this happens more readily when it's never been more than 24 hours since you've thought about your project.

Writers: what kind of commitments do you make to yourself?



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 or visit her website.

You may also visit her Arizona Authors Association page.



Great stories don't just happen.

They're crafted—with intention, structure, and emotional resonance.

As a certified book coach and experienced freelance editor, I help writers like you shape the stories of your heart and bring them to life on the page. Whether you're stuck in the messy middle, unsure how to revise, or just getting started, I'll meet you where you are—with support, clarity, and craft guidance that moves your writing forward. Together, we'll untangle your plot, deepen your characters, and polish your prose—without losing your voice or your passion.

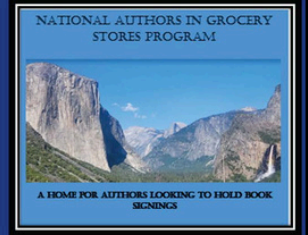
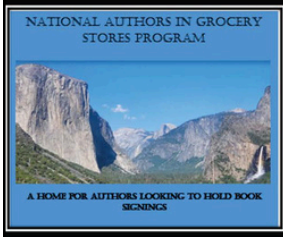
Your story matters. Let's bring it to life!



BookCoachingBySharon.com



NATIONAL AUTHORS IN GROCERY STORES PROGRAM



A Home for Authors Looking to Hold Book Signings

The National Authors in Grocery Stores Program provides authors whose books are not distributed in grocery stores the opportunity to hold book signings in affiliated locations. With over 1,850 locations across 23 states, we connect independent authors with local readers in high-traffic retail environments.

How to Participate

Fill out the Contact Us page at authorsingrocerystores.com/contact-us.

- Receive a registration packet

Ensure each book has a valid ISBN and barcode.

- Pay fees: \$100 registration, \$25 per ISBN (discounts for 5+ books), and \$100 annual renewal.

Receive your welcome letter and verify your barcode scans at a participating store.

- Once verified (approx. 30 days), email your requested schedule (Store #, Date, Time) to Groceryauthors@gmail.com.

Receive your approved schedule 2 weeks before your first signing.

Event Day Guidelines

- Check in at the Customer Service Desk upon arrival.
- Set up near the entrance or registers. Bring a 2'x4' table, tablecloth, and books.
- Use a sign that says 'Meet the Author' or 'Get Your Book Signed Today' to attract visitors.
- Sign books and direct customers to pay at the store register.
- Earn 60% of sales, with payments processed within 2-3 weeks.
- Note: We do not shelf books; remove all materials at the close of your signing.

Active Locations

Participating States: Alabama (Northern), Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina (Southern), Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

Visit us: www.authorsingrocerystores.com

Contact: groceryauthors@gmail.com

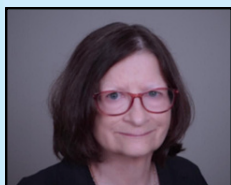
ODDS & ENDS

***“A word after a word after
a word is power.”***

— Margaret Atwood

Literary Trivia Answers (from page 11)

1. D. William Thoms
2. B. *Bananas*
3. D. Mental illness and family
4. C. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association



Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. CEO of Janson Literary Services, Inc. offers her literary expertise to both new and veteran authors.

*"Personalized and Professional Services
For Every Client"*

Choose From the Following Services:

Text Editing and Manuscript Analyses
Book Proposal Writing
Manuscript Submissions and Tracking
Indie and Traditional Publishing Guidance
Author Marketing and Advertising
Website Content Writing
Writing and Publishing Workshops

Specializing in Memoirs, Fiction, Nonfiction, Personal Essays, Young Adult, Children's Picture and Chapter Books, Novels and Novellas.

Fees vary depending on your manuscript's word and page count.

20% Off for First Time Clients

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

MISSED AN ISSUE?

Explore our online archive and revisit past editions anytime. Click the cover below to browse featured articles, interviews, and more from years gone by.



Websites
Editing
Book
Formatting



Contact me for
Author Discounts

20+ yrs Web Development

Leslie Rager

<https://LeslieRagerAuthor.com>



The Arizona Authors Association

Established 1978

*Whether you live in, love, or dream of Arizona,
come to the place where writers flourish.*

ArizonaAuthors.org

The Arizona Authors Association Box 538 428 E. Thunderbird Rd. Phoenix AZ 85022

Contact

Info@ArizonaAuthors.org