

ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

Issue 13

Arizona Authors Association

April-May 2021

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Vice President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

Our annual meeting turned out reasonably well, considering it was our first time using Zoom. Members who wanted to express their thoughts got the chance in our open-mic atmosphere. It was fun to see people whose only communication has been email.

One result of the meeting turned out to be the brainstorm for other ways to use the Zoom platform. It costs \$150 per year, about what we've paid in the past for treats and room rental for the meetings. Of course, it's always better to actually lay eyes on people, but consideration of the requirements of the pandemic made Zoom a good choice.

That thinking resulted in suggestions for four workshops on a variety of subjects. The topics and presenters are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. It's a sunk cost, so we may as well use it for other purposes. If you have suggestions, please write and tell me. I love new ideas and improvements on the way we do things around here.

Yours truly has been updating the membership rolls. If you owed dues this year, you received a notice to pay. If you did not owe dues, I didn't send you a notice. We hope you all want to renew, but if you don't please tell us why so we can make AAA better.

The contest is in full swing. Jane Ruby is an old hand by now in her third year running the contest. Please enter the contest for yourself and to support Arizona Authors. Because we had the lowest entry fee of any comparable contest, we've raised the prices. However, members get a reduced rate, so that should help.

continued on the next page

Vice President's Corner, continued

We're definitely hosting the banquet this year on November 6, so send us a winning entry. Then you can celebrate your writing too. You can print the entry blank from another page in this newsletter or go to our website and click on Literary Contest to print the [form](#) or download the pdf.

I spent time procrastinating instead of writing my column this time. I vacillate between worrying that you will think my comments are lame and chiding myself that it won't matter by the time the next newsletter rolls around.

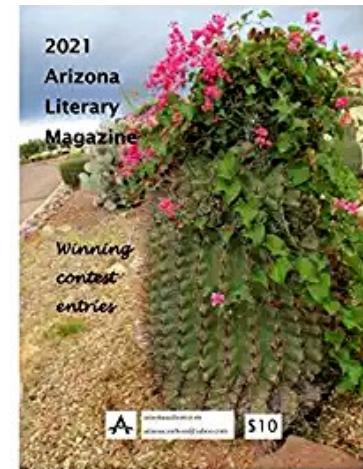
Sometimes I fear I'm too repetitive so I refer back to the year before to see what topics I covered. In the March 2020 column I gave you a homemade hand sanitizer recipe, a sign of the pandemic times. I was scared of what might happen during the year. Now we know what has happened was even worse.

I want to write about this time. I don't want to write about it. Does my drought of creativity even resonate in some ultimate sense?

This year of covid isolation has given me the fantods, but I survived to receive the vaccine. I pray that you do too. If you've suffered a loss of family or friend, I grieve with you.

Yours devotedly,
Toby

Toby Heathcotte
[Author and Publisher](#)
[Arizona Authors Vice President](#)



Did you pick up your copy of the Arizona Literary Magazine 2021?

It's on sale [HERE!](#)

Your purchase helps the Arizona Authors Association to grow and thrive.

Thank you!



All humanity is a dam, and water is its thirst for freedom.

-Kathleen Cook

Photo: Stewart Mountain Dam, which created Saguaro Lake
Courtesy of the US Bureau of Reclamation

Join **ZOOM** and become an Arizona Authors Association ZOOMER! It's EASY! Simply go on Zoom.com and follow the directions to register. It will take about a minute and you need NO credit card. It's free to join!

Once you're registered, you'll be able to enjoy all of Arizona Authors Association's online events. Just reply to our event emails, and we'll send you the date, time, and a special meeting code. Just type in the code at the proper time and ZOOM! You're IN!

Enjoy all the old faces you used to know at meetings, and get to know the new ones! Remember, even Boomers can be ZOOMERS! It's as easy as our favorite cliché ...PIE!



Literary Trivia

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. In *Moby Dick*, what is the name of Captain Ahab's ship?
2. Which Shakespearean prince had a rival named *Hotspur*?
3. Who wrote *The Yearling*?
4. In *The Andromeda Strain*, what is the name of the top secret government project?
5. What was the name of Thor's war hammer?
6. The *Da Vinci Code* opens with a murder in which famous museum?

For more trivia, go to:

[TriviaWell](#)

Arizona Authors Association Leadership

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

Editorial correspondence and newsletter submissions may be emailed to:

faerland@yahoo.com

All other inquiries should be sent to:

Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

Happy Easter



From all of us on the Board of the
Arizona Authors Association

Arizona Authors Association

Current Benefits and Submission Guidelines

Membership Benefits

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

The yearly Literary Contest furnishes an opportunity to showcase your work and the possibility of earning prizes that will enhance your reputation as an author. Do you have an older book that never got the recognition it deserved? Our new "Oldie but Goldie" category offers a chance to relaunch and renew interest in it. We also offer online book fairs or other events through our Zoom account. Advertising under the Arizona Authors Association banner allows you to promote your work and increase your visibility with a minimum of expense and effort.

I hope you will take advantage of the newsletter to report your accomplishments. Our "Congratulations" page is designed to applaud your efforts and inspire other members. We also welcome your input on anything author related, such as your own literary news, useful tips, helpful websites, etc. Ask questions that will be answered in the next issue. Together, we will all benefit from the combined knowledge of our diverse membership.

Lastly, one of the biggest benefits of your Arizona Authors Association membership is the ability to reach others with your book releases and advertisements. At present, members may submit a quarter-page ad for author-related services without cost. Books released within the previous six months (or about to be released) will receive a free, full-page ad.



Submissions to the Newsletter

Your input is welcome! The following categories accept submissions through midnight on the **15th** day of odd-numbered months. Send all entries to: faerland@yahoo.com.

Features are generally between 800-1200 words (lengthier or shorter submissions will be considered). We seek articles that motivate and inspire writers, enhance their skills, assist in promoting their works and more.

What Are You Reading? asks members to share their current reading material in 200 words or less. Tell us why you like or dislike a book (written by anyone except yourself). This will help other members in their quest for new reading material.

Road to Imagination seeks finished works of 800 words or less based upon the previous issue's story prompt. **Back Page Quotes** seeks jokes or quotes (200 words or less) on the foibles of writing, editing or publishing. We also need **Arizona landscape photos** as inspiring space fillers for our newsletter. If we use them, we'll credit you. Please be sure to state in your email that you own the rights to the photos.

If you published a book within the last six months, share it with the Arizona Authors Association newsletter. We'd love to advertise it in our next issue. We will also list any upcoming book-related events, meetings, workshops, book sales, book signings, etc., across the state or in nearby regions as space permits. If you offer editing, proofreading, or other literary services, submit a quarter-page ad with us, currently without cost to members in good standing.

Send your articles in Word, Notepad or Wordpad format. Articles will be standardized to a Times New Roman 11pt font. Pictures may be gif, png or jpegs. Send large pictures, if possible, (no less than 2"x4") since we can shrink any picture without losing quality, but small pictures cannot be enlarged without deterioration. Note that all submissions are subject to light editing/proofreading. You will be informed in advance of publication if extensive edits are needed.

Thank you!

Recent and Upcoming Events

RECENT



The Arizona Authors Association sponsored a Zoom workshop on Saturday, February 27, 2021, led by Patricia L. Brooks, MAOM, president of the Scottsdale Society of Women Writers and award-winning author of several memoirs, including [Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends](#) and [Sick as My Secrets](#). The workshop was titled **Choose or Create your own Critique Group**. In it, participants learned to choose the best group or assemble one unique to the critiquing needs of all its members. She also gave tips on how to avoid conflicts, time management, and enhancing critiquing skills, as well as how to face your fear of feedback and the challenges of sharing your work.

www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com

On Saturday, March 20, 2021, the Arizona Authors Association sponsored an online workshop led by Donis Casey, author of the award-winning [Alafair Tucker](#) and [Bianca Dangereuse](#) series, featuring down-to-earth, witty and brilliant female sleuths. Donis' workshop, titled **Beginnings: Writing a Fabulous First Page**, offered participants tools and tips to start their novels off with a bang. All of the Arizona Authors Association Zoom workshops are free and allow members to enjoy honing their craft in the comfort and safety of their homes.

www.doniscasey.com



The **Scottsdale Society of Women Writers** welcomed Jan Whalen, award-winning author of [Rock Solid Confidence](#), to their monthly Zoom meeting on March 31st. The SSWW meetings and dinners are held on the last Wednesday of every month. For more information on the SSWW, click [HERE](#).



UPCOMING

Patricia L. Brooks will speak virtually on Tuesday, April 6th, at 10-11:30 am PST on the subject, **Write a Memoir to Remember**. During these unprecedented times, be encouraged with this insightful presentation to help capture your story. RSVP www.hollandcenter.org, go to Events, scroll to April 6 and register, cost \$20. The Holland Center is a 501-C charity, thank you. For more on the speaker see: www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com

On April 10th, the Arizona Authors Association will host a free ZOOM Book Fair. AAA members are encouraged to apply for a 5-minute slot to discuss their books. Toby Heathcote will introduce authors while Kathleen Cook adds the links to every book, so that viewers may purchase the items during or after the book fair. View the full flyer for the event on [page 15!](#)

On Saturday, April 24th, Patricia L. Brooks will speak virtually on the topic **Create or Choose your Critique Group**. Learn from Patricia's Critique Guidelines, and what she has gleaned from 20 years participating in and leading critique groups. Free event. RSVP required for April 24th (10-11:30 am PST) to the Scottsdale Public Library at <https://scottsdale.libnet.info/events/4958245>. Patricia will also speak at the Phoenix Writers Club on May 15th. For more on these events go to Patricia's website: <http://www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com>



Marilyn June Janson, MS Ed., award-winning writer and editor, offers online workshops designed to hone writing skills and improve manuscripts. For questions and registration, contact Marilyn at:

www.janwrite.com

Each Student Receives:

- One-On-One instruction.
- All personalized materials, assignments, and expert critiques included in your fee.
- Learn at your own pace.
- 10% discounts for Arizona Authors Members only.

continued on the next page

Upcoming Events, continued

Enrollment: Contact Marilyn Janson at 480-699-6389 or via email @janlitserv@cox.net. Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend.

New Workshop:

Writing For the Authors/Artists' Health. 6 Sessions. \$250. During this difficult time, isolation and social distancing continues to have devastating consequences on our physical and emotional wellness. Through inspirational, motivational, and comprehensive guided writing exercises and readings, Instructor Marilyn invites you to explore and learn how to remedy these feelings for better health.

Book Proposal Package Writing Workshop. 6 sessions. \$300. Have a finished manuscript to publish? Write the perfect book proposal that sells your work to traditional publishing houses. Lessons Include writing your book introduction, winning cover and query letters, chapter outline, manuscript synopsis, marketing strategy, book comparisons, chapter summaries, and your Publishing Vitae. Novels, nonfiction, business tools, short story collections, poetry, memoirs, family history, young adult, children's picture and chapter books.

Short Story Writing. 6 sessions. \$250. Instructor Marilyn guides you through her unique step-by-step fiction writing process including character and plot development, scene construction, dialogue, tension, and tone and mood. Receive affirmations and expert critiques on your homework assignments.

Novel Writing Workshop. 8 sessions. \$300. From story idea to plotting, chapter and scene construction, dialogue, tone and mood, pacing, Instructor Marilyn shares her foolproof story-telling process. Receive affirmations and expert critiques on your homework assignments.

Children's Picture & Chapter Book Writing. 8 sessions. \$265 Create irresistible, fun, kid friendly characters, and story lines. Fiction, nonfiction, concept, Edutainment, issue oriented, and inspirational manuscripts. Picture, text, and chapter formatting instructions are included. Receive affirmations and expert critiques on your homework assignments.



Scottsdale, Arizona
Photo by AAA Member
Patricia L. Brooks

Publisher's Weekly Recent Best Seller List

The week of March 20, 2021 top 10 overall best sellers, according to [Publisher's Weekly](#):

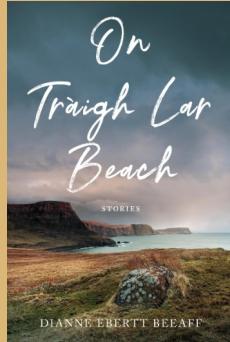
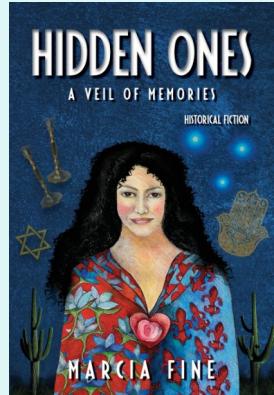
1. [*How to Do the Work: Recognize Your Patterns, Heal from Your Past, and Create Your Self*](#) by Nicole Lepera
2. [*Everything Will Be Okay: Life Lessons for Young Women \(from a Former Young Woman\)*](#) by Dana Perino
3. [*Green Eggs and Ham*](#) by Dr Seuss
4. [*Life After Death*](#) by Sister Souljah
5. [*The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*](#) by Walter Isaacson
6. [*The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*](#) by Charlie Mackesy
7. [*One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*](#) by Dr Seuss
8. [*The Cat in the Hat*](#) by Dr Seuss
9. [*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*](#) by Dr Seuss
10. [*The Four Winds*](#) by Kristin Hannah

Congratulations To Our Members



Arizona Authors Association member Marcia Fine appears in a film inspired by her novel, [HIDDEN ONES--A Veil of Memories](#). The film is titled, *A Long Journey: Hidden Jews of the Southwest*, and was aired on PBS, March 21 at 4:30 PM Arizona time. If you missed it, it will air again on April 8 at 11 PM. The film tells the stories of families who can trace their heritage to the time of the Mexican Inquisition in the late 1500s and early 1600s in the Southwest Territories. It was produced by Paula Amar Schwartz and directed by Issac Artenstein, who created the film, *A Day without Mexicans*.

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



Dianne Ebertt Beeaff is pleased to announce that her short story collection, [On Traigh Lar Beach](#), is a finalist in Adult Fiction with the UK's 2020 Wishing Shelf Book Awards. Winners will be announced in April. To find out more about Dianne and her books, click [HERE](#).



Adult and Children's Books
Honest and In depth Judging
Comprehensive Feedback
Run by Authors



Our own Mike Rothmiller is again in the news, and he's been having a great run of luck lately. [His True Crime Chronicles: Volume 1](#) has not dipped below 3rd in its category on Amazon since its release in October. And his UK publisher has just made his newest book available for pre-order, with a release date of October 2021. The book, [Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe](#), is featured in the New Book Releases section of this newsletter. It details "essential new evidence" concerning the death of Marilyn Monroe that Mike, in his role as an undercover detective with the LAPD, accessed and is now sharing with the world.

Not content to rest on his laurels, Mike has another ground-breaking book in this issue's New Book Releases, this one concerning Pearl Harbor. He obtained all the Japanese diplomatic decoded messages for six months prior to the Pearl Harbor attack and assembled the facts in a clear, concise book titled, [Pearl Harbor. The Top-Secret Japanese Messages: What did President Roosevelt Know?](#) In the book, Mike lays out all the information and allows people to determine for themselves if Roosevelt allowed the attack on Pearl Harbor to occur.

Mike Rothmiller is a *New York Times* bestselling author. To find out more about Mike and his books, click [HERE](#).

Congratulations to Our Members, continued

Our Arizona Authors Association columnist, Mark Walker, has just had another article published in [Literary Traveler](#). The article centers on an epic equestrian trek spanning three years, which took place in the 1930s. Mark dovetails it with some of his own stories from the 1970s, when he took a five-month trek through some of the same places. Vintage photos of both treks enhance the article.

Currently, Mark continues the search for a publisher for his next book, *The Moritz Thomsen Reader: His Books, His Letters and His Legacy as Told by the Writers Who Knew Him Best*.



Find out more about Mark [HERE](#).



After five years, Penny Orloff's piece for Rogue Machine Theatre's reading series, Rant & Rave, has finally been uploaded to YouTube. It was worth the wait. Penny relates her Jewish background and the fate of the Jews with poignant humor and tear-jerk laughter. As this newsletter editor watched the 12 minute clip, I laughed, cried, and got hungry looking at all those latkes. Penny showcases the indomitable spirit of the Jews and the reasons why they always survive, no matter what the odds. Watch it, laugh with it, cry with it ... and then go and eat.

To view this clip, click [HERE](#).

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

In February, 2021, Rico Austin signed a contract with an East Coast publisher for his new book, *Boy to Successful Man, a Roadmap for Teens and Young Adults*. The book, co-authored with Dr. Suave Powers, is a "teen boy to successful man self-help book."

The authors began this writing project as a guide for young boys and troubled youth who were raised with serious disadvantages, such as growing up in a one-parent family, in an orphanage, with a guardian, in a detention facility, or as a ward of the state. The book is written as an all-encompassing, instructional tool to assist each of them to navigate through life.



Nearly ten years in the making, Mr. Austin & Dr. Powers began this empowering guide in October of 2011. The duo have been perfecting and adding chapters for 117 months, to make it the most complete self-help guide ever put together for boys, teenagers and young men. The guide uses simple English, so that all young people can understand the contents without exception. The ultimate goal is that their readers absorb the life lessons of this book and apply them to their daily lives, to become great citizens and successful men. Austin and Powers truly believe that this book can change future generations of people. As the saying goes, "Knowledge is Power." Indeed, it is.

To learn more about Rico and his books, click [HERE](#).

Congratulations to Our Members, continued

Flagstaff Writers Connection First Ever Essay/Short Story Writing Contest: Grit, Grief, and Gratitude in the Time of Covid

One of our Arizona Authors Association members, Barbara Shovers, sent in this list of winners to their first annual essay/short story writing contest. She co-founded the Flagstaff Writers Connection along with Nancy Brehm, a long-time member and contributor to the Arizona Authors Association, and Cherrie Smith. Several of the winners are also Arizona Authors Association members. Congratulations to all winners, and to Barbara, Nancy and Cherrie for a great contest!

1ST PLACE--"Inside the Maze" by Mark Ford, Flagstaff

2ND PLACE--"Observations from Death's Doorstep" by Terryl Warnock, Williams

3RD PLACE--"What's in a Mask?" by Anita Howard, Flagstaff

HONORABLE MENTIONS (in no particular order):

"Books and Bras in the Time of COVID" by Violeta Armour, Sun Lakes

"Wounded Landscapes" by Naomi Morrison, Flagstaff

"Bread of Life" by Valerie Foster, Phoenix

You may read the top three winning pieces at FlagstaffWritersConnection.com. The authors will also be reading their pieces on [SunnySide Radio](#), 101.5 FM, on April 25th from 5-7 p.m.

*The road is there;
It will always be there;
You just have to decide
When to take it.*

-Chris Humphrey

Catalina State Park, Arizona
Photo by AAA member Ashley E. Sweeney





Accuracy in Historical Fiction: Does It Matter?

by Ashley E. Sweeney

In children's literature, if a frog and a monkey wear striped pajamas and go on vacation to the moon, we think nothing of it. But give Wyatt Earp a cellphone or Calamity Jane a sports car and poof! Our credibility as an author is shot.

Back when I was a reporter at a rural weekly newspaper in Washington State in the 1980s and 1990s, the Five W's ruled first paragraphs. The thinking behind this formulaic style of journalistic writing is that if stories must be shortened due to space limitations, all the facts still appear in the story: Who/What/When/Where/Why.

And our editor drilled into our heads: Check your facts. Get them right. Period.

You might ask: What's the big deal? No ones cares. Or: Why attempt to "get it right"? I don't have the time for that.

I subscribe to the camp that authors have both a burden and a responsibility for being as historically accurate as possible, unless it gets in the way of the story (and, in that case, mention any discrepancies in the afterword). As authors, we want readers to trust us (and come back for more), which is why we can't risk making reckless mistakes.

It's important here to delineate the difference between material facts and immaterial facts. With material facts, i.e. what date was Abraham Lincoln sworn into office, there is no margin of error. What he ate for breakfast, what color socks he wore, or what time he retired that night are immaterial facts, and we, as authors, can color our manuscripts with our imaginations when writing in this type of detail.

How to do this? For each of my manuscripts, I begin collecting resources as soon as an idea surfaces. In the early stages of any manuscript, I amass 50-100 books on various subjects pertinent to the era and turn to librarians, historians, museum curators, authors, storytellers—and the Internet—to fill in holes.

Here are some other tips for sourcing data:

*Visit locale/setting of novel, if possible, to flesh out all sensory elements

*Read/research anything and everything about the era you are writing about:

Literature

Newspapers and Magazines

Advertisements

Maps

Art

Encyclopedias

Photos/Film

Diaries/Journals

Music

Census Data

School, Church, and Land Records

Calendars/Phases of the Moon/Tide Charts

Almanacs and Catalogues

Birth, Marriage, and Death Announcements

Recipes

*Visit museums/historical societies (actual or virtual)

*Use print, digital, audio, and crowd-sourced material

continued on the next page

Historical Accuracy by Ashley Sweeney, continued.

In writing *Answer Creek* and *Eliza Waite* (and in my current work in progress), I fact-check myself constantly. Did matchsticks exist in the late 19th century? Who was president of the U.S. in the 1840s and 1890s? What were accepted practices for births and deaths in remote settlements? Where did pioneers access herbal remedies commonly used for constipation and ulcer? When did women get the vote in each of the states? Why were oxen and mules preferable to horses? How did men and women cook and bathe without any modern conveniences, especially on overland trails or in rural areas?

When writing, I place a triple XXX as a placeholder to remind me to return to fact check that piece of information as I don't want to disrupt the flow of writing to check every detail when creative juices flow. It's easy to find this marker (or TK, i.e. "to come") in document searches. On days when I don't feel particularly inclined to churn out a thousand words or two, I use that time for historical research. It's one of my favorite parts of the writing process, but it can become very time consuming.

Some authors fear they'll get it all wrong and that fear stops them cold—this line of thinking is writer's prison. If you're scared before you put anything down on paper or computer, you're compromised every time you sit at your desk. Days and weeks turn into months of procrastination. Your story dies on the vine because you're worried that some aficionado/reviewer is going to tank your manuscript once it's published. You're not any closer to getting published if fear is crippling you.

Instead, try turning that fear around and calling it confidence—confidence in your skills as a researcher and a writer, confidence that you're aligning yourself with history and paying attention to detail, confidence that you will endeavor to get everything right (not just facts, but characters and settings and plot), but not at the expense of never getting anything down on paper or computer at all. Through this lens of confidence, you'll turn prison into permission. You've got lots of time to check and re-check facts.

That's why in my new manuscript, set in 1905 rural Arizona Territory, you won't find my protagonist driving a Jeep, reading a book or magazine that wasn't published yet, or saying something that wasn't in vogue at the time. Every day, I find myself going down proverbial rabbit holes doing historical research—but that's a topic for another newsletter!

Remember what Thomas Edison said: "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."

So get to work!

In the meantime, I'm back at it, too. Perched on my shoulder, my old editor keeps whispering in my ear. Check your facts. Get them right. Period.

Ashley E. Sweeney is the winner of the 2017 Nancy Pearl Book Award for her debut novel, *Eliza Waite*. A native New Yorker, she is a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, and resides in Tucson. *Answer Creek*, released in May 2020, is her second novel, and winner of the 2020 Arizona Authors Association Literary Award. She is at work on a third novel set in 1905 rural Arizona.

Find Ashley's books by clicking these links: [Answer Creek](#) and [Eliza Waite](#)

Visit Ashley's website [HERE](#).

Winner: 2020 Arizona Authors Association Literary Award

Winner: 2017 Nancy Pearl Book Award

Finalist: 2016 Sarton Women's Book Award

Finalist: 2017 WILLA Literary Award



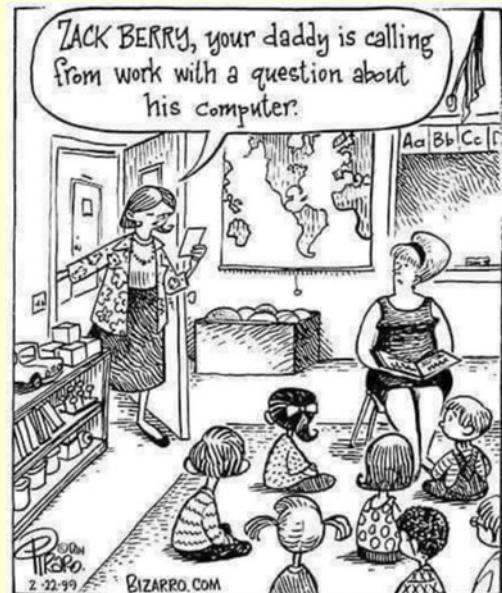
What Pounds My Cake!

by Jane Ruby

Know what pounds my cake? Not adapting to a pandemic. But I'm not going to cite all the national/local cases—we've all heard them a million times before. Instead, I'm going to cite how I almost blew a golden chance by passing up a virtual Read Across America at Mountain View Elementary School.

Recall that many Arizona schools have gone to virtual or hybrid learning. That means full- or part-time online instruction. My daughter Zooms most of her college classes at Northern Arizona University. As a musical education major, she's also had to Zoom her student teaching. So, she's on both ends of online education.

But adapting to this type of education was not problematic for her. She, like most members of "Gen Z" were born in this evolving technology. As a four-year old, she helped me hook up a VCR, DVD, and PlayStation to the family entertainment system. As a nine-year old, she guided me through building my author website. And I'm sure if asked right now, she could reconfigure a more efficient APS power grid—overnight. There just ain't nothing these Gen Zers can't do!



Not the case for me. As a Baby Boomer born in the era of vacuum tube technology, I marveled at the development of solid state circuitry and went dizzy with the dawn of nano-chip technology. But my adaptations were clunky. My once steep learning curve flattened. It may have something to do with aging brain cells. Or maybe I'm too complacent with the present technology and don't want to fix what ain't broke.

As an in-person elementary school presenter, I was happy with my *modus operandi* for six years. But this year when asked to present on-line, I balked at the offer.

First of all, I can count on three fingers how many Zoom meetings I've attended (the first being a baby shower). Secondly, I've never presented in Zoom. Thirdly, I've never presented on Google Meet—the local school's online meeting platform. With three strikes against me I wanted to turn the offer down.

Before the pandemic, I was comfy-cushy as an in-person presenter for the past six years; proud of only needing a few years to comfortably work a smart board with Power Point. Now in the heat of virtual learning I'm once again in unfamiliar territory. I got on YouTube and spent a few hours viewing tutorials, but because of the upcoming class presentation I felt pressured and didn't understand a thing. I spilled my inadequacies to the school's event coordinator, feeling naked in the rain!

She assured me that I was not alone; that many presenters were like me (OK, maybe not so naked), and that she'd schedule a few practice sessions. I felt a little better and joined one. I did so poorly I had to schedule another one. Then another one. So shameful!



continued on the next page

What Pounds My Cake, continued

With one day to go, I scheduled a practice meeting with my daughter, the Gen Z Queen. She'd never participated in Google Meet before but figured it had to be similar to Zoom. Well, she got it, and I still didn't. She recommended that I get help from the teacher since I didn't have enough time to jack up my confidence.

I emailed the seventh grade teacher my slides in case my internet dropped or I succumbed to hypothermia from being naked in the rain for two days. That made me feel a little better, knowing at least I had a Plan B. She emailed back, saying she'd be happy to facilitate the meeting in case I got washed away in shame.

The night before my presentation, I lay restless in bed. Once asleep, I had nightmares of all the YouTube tutors laughing, jeering, and scolding me for being a Google Meet moron. How could they be so cruel?! I closed one tutorial window, and it popped up in another window continuing to mock me!

That morning, at 5:30 AM, I got up, took a shower, and washed my hair. If I'm going to be a moron, I may as well look like a well-groomed one. After getting a venti-sized Starbucks latte, I prepped my backlight, headphones and computer in my dining room—my back wall full of family photos and shelf of classic novels.

I entered the Google Meet meeting about 15 minutes early, about 7:30 AM. Thankfully the teacher was already there. She had viewed my slides ahead of time and really liked my presentation. That eased my mind a little. She also mentioned that her first class contained some gifted students who could assist both me and her should we encounter any technical glitches. After hearing that and sipping some latte, I really felt better.

Show time! At 7:45AM, the teacher thanked all the students for joining and offered incentives for participation. She introduced me, and I gave a brief bio. My presentation was an original, ~3000-word short story that I read entirely. I also included pictures on every slide. After every third slide, I inserted thought-provoking questions for the students to answer.

Sometime during my first few slides I got a chat message from one of the students: "Your voice is reverberating; push in your headphones jack more firmly." I must have bumped it when reaching for my latte cup. "Thanks," I chatted back and pushed in the jack. At least three more students acknowledged my sound correction. I am liking these seventh grade students; they're so much nicer than those YouTube tutors in my dream!

Many students engaged in the question/answer period—sometimes presenting arguments with supportive reasons. They must have been following my story closely! After the presentation, a lot of them chatted their gratitude for hearing my story. The teacher also seemed excited about her students' participation. After dismissing the students, she wanted to know if I could present more short stories if I had them—and I did!

After that first experience with Google Meet, I didn't feel so naked in the rain.

Take that, YouTube tutors!

The End

Jane Ruby is an award-winning novelist, essayist, and short story writer. She's judged many association literary contests and is now in her third year as the Literary Contest Coordinator as well as Secretary of the Association. Learn more about Jane [HERE](#).

2021 LITERARY CONTEST CALL FOR JUDGES!

The 2021 Literary Contest is underway, and we are collecting entries in published as well as unpublished categories:

Published

Fiction
Nonfiction
Children's Picture Book
YA/Juvenile
Oldie But Goldie

Unpublished

Short Story – max 15, double-spaced pages
Poetry – max 50 lines
Essays – max 15, double-spaced pages
Novel/Novella manuscripts - max 5-page,
double-spaced synopsis and max double-spaced, first 25 pages

To make this contest successful WE NEED JUDGES for all categories. During these pandemic times you may have some extra time to help out, so please consider judging.

In the past we've had great judging from authors, editors, and publishers. They have been duly rewarded with acknowledgement in our annual literary magazine (photo and bio!) and have also received a complimentary copy of that same magazine! We will continue with those perks this year.

In the past judging in some categories was burdensome because of the flood of entries. But this year, our goal is to enlist more judges to ease the work load and boost the quality of judging/critiquing.

As a judge, you'll receive entries, score sheets, and a ranking sheet. The score sheets will contain a rubric (criteria) for judging. All you have to do is judge, rank and send back results. You can choose one of two ways to send results back: 1) scan and email results, or 2) mail everything back via USPS.

Judges in unpublished entries may have additional critique requests, in which each entrant has paid an additional fee. These requests have been a money-maker for our association. So, if you get any critique requests, you will be helping us in more ways! The critiques will also need to be sent back, in order to get them back to the entrant (again by mail or email).

You can judge even if you've entered the contest, as long as you don't judge the same category you've entered.

If you're interested in judging please email me (moonvalleyisr@cox.net) and let me know which categories interest you. If you have additional questions, let me know.



Double Rainbow over Bullhead City, Arizona

Photo courtesy of:
AZ Mountain Frog
[Wikimedia Commons](#)

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Arizona Authors Writers Workshop

BOOK FAIR FOR MEMBERS

TOBY HEATHCOTTE & KATHLEEN COOK FACILITATORS

Saturday, APRIL 10, 2021 • 10:00 to noon, MST

Free and Open to the Public on Zoom

Zoom - Register with toby@tobyheathcotte.com
or 623-847-9343 (Voice mail only, no text)

Sign up to showcase your books for **FREE** in our first ever virtual Book Fair! Each author will be introduced by Toby with a short biography, and then will have five minutes to discuss a few of their books. Kathleen will enter the links to your books while you speak, so that other participants may check them out and/or purchase them. To secure your five-minute slot, you'll need to register with Toby. Be sure to include the following information:

1. A short (200 words or less) biography. Toby will introduce you before your five minutes starts.
2. The titles of the books you wish to showcase. Please limit your selections to no more than three books.
3. The links to your books where they are available for purchase.

Register by April 6th and we will provide you with the lineup no later than April 9th, so that you will know when your slot is coming up.

Final Deadline to Register for Your Free Slot: April 6th!

Enjoy the Arizona Authors Association Virtual Book Fair!



The Road to Imagination

by Cherie Lee

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

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

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

The Child

She was born on the luckiest day of the year, according to the old legend. She never cried, only smiled and brought peace to all who came near her. She made them happy and they sang her praises. She grew taller than all of the people around her, but her smile never left her face, even as she knelt to whisper to them. She provided the poorest with homes, food and clothing. She became the living legend of the good old times, until the day the stranger appeared.

Questions:

- What was the legend that told of the "luckiest" day of the year?
- Why did she never cry?
- Who were her parents, and were they magical or humankind?
- Was she raised by her parents or by others?
- Who was the stranger who changed everything?
- How did the girl feel about his or her arrival?

- What did the girl and the stranger look like?
- Did she love or hate the stranger?
- Was he someone from her past that she couldn't remember?
- How was she able to help the poor with homes, food and clothing?
- How did the villagers feel when the stranger arrived?

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



What Are You Reading?

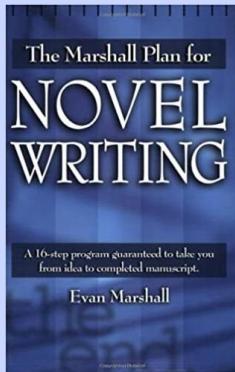
With the recent death of Bette Green, I was reminded of her groundbreaking work, [*Summer of My German Soldier*](#), and decided to reread it. I'm glad I did. Bette paints a very sensitive portrait of "the enemy" and makes one realize that the enemy in war is not a person, but a system. We must never lose sight of the fact that human beings, even good ones, exist on the "other" side. In our current contentious country, it is good to remember that. —Editor





What Makes a Good Reference Book?

by Dick Waters



I have found a potential good reference book for your novel writing: *The Marshall Plan for Novel Writing* by Evan Marshall. Unlike some books I have read and never pick up off the shelf again... his book is one I pick up often. I used his book to write my first novel, [Serial Separation](#). I then used it to rewrite a novel I had written ten years prior.

I could write a long story about my work career back East and in the Valley, but it would take your attention away from the subject matter. The key element of my work career is my ability to imagine how to do things more efficiently with computer-based applications. It is that creativity that has given me the emphasis to write and self-publish six novels and two anthologies, along with a constant interest in generating short stories, and even recently some poetry.

With many submissions to agents, I finally received some constructive criticism instead of either no replies or rejections. My novel was written in the *wrong style* for a mystery novel. I didn't even know there was a set style. There are many aspects to writing that we can learn, as I did, by mistakes or with good reference sources.

So, after reading several books on how to write a novel, and a mystery, and whatever... I found Evan Marshall's book. Why does his book work for me? Well, I was primarily an analyst and detail oriented, and found his book meeting those criteria. There were flow diagrams and pictures. That's me! The book is subtitled '*A 16-step program guaranteed to take you from an idea to completed manuscript*'.

Guess what? It did! Here are some of the chapters, which I personally still find helpful:

- Shaping Your Story Idea
- The Three Crisis Criteria
- The Story Goal
- Section Sheets and Section Patterns
- Creating You Lead
- The Art (and Craft) of Viewpoint Writing
- Interweaving Story Lines
- Surprising the Reader

His approach to "Viewpoint" character writing was an essential guide to me personally. It gave me the method to write sections of the novel from the main characters' perspectives.



You might want to check out the details in his newest version. While we are on learning, one of my other mistakes was falling for a Vanity Press. I learned that lesson the hard way, and it cost me some hard-earned money, but that is a story for another article. The objective of writing is to be paid for it – never to pay anyone else for publishing your work.

Good luck with your own writing. I strongly recommend his book to any of you needing some extra assistance. If you do read it, please let me know if it was helpful or not.

Dick (Rich) Waters lives in the Valley of the Sun near Phoenix, Arizona. A former resident of New England, he enjoys the beauty and sunny days of the Arizona desert. His novels include [Branded for Murder](#), [Serial Separation](#), [Scent of Gardenia](#) and others. Learn more about him [HERE](#).

Where in Arizona?

Each issue we'll add a photograph taken somewhere in Arizona along with a list of ten locations, one of which is correct. If you think you know which one, write to faerland@yahoo.com and let me know. The first one to guess the correct answer will have their name featured on this page in the next issue.

The photograph was taken by Dick Waters:



Possible Locations:

Yuma	McNary	Page	Gila Bend	Globe
Pinetop/Lakeside	Sedona	Lake Pleasant	Greer	Apache Junction

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



arizonaauthors.com arizona.authors@yahoo.com

Arizona Authors Writers Workshop
**THE AUTHOR'S GUIDE TO
AVOIDING PESKY PITFALLS**

PETER BERNHARDT

Saturday, May 1, 2021 • 2:00 to 4:00 pm, MST

Free and Open to the Public on Zoom

**Zoom - Register with toby@tobyheathcotte.com
or 623-847-9343 (Voice mail only, no text)**



In this workshop, Sedona Author Peter Bernhardt will demonstrate by way of examples how to use advanced narrative techniques to elevate your creative writing while avoiding common pitfalls. He will lead a discussion of the following issues:

Best Novel Starting Point, Adverbs, Tag Lines versus Beats, Information Dumping, Descriptions, Deep POV with Indirect and Direct Thoughts a/k/a Interior Monologue, POV Switches, Overexplaining, Dialogue (mundane, ping-pong, expository), Passive Voice, »The Was Police« — Beware!, Foreshadowing without Telegraphing, Getting back and forth in Time, including Flashbacks, Imagery, Personification, Delay to Heighten Suspense, The Absolute Phrase a/k/a Nominative Absolute, Subjunctive, Grammar and Spelling.

Bio in Peter Bernhardt's own words:

As I approached my prime, I developed the powerful urge to write thrillers. My wife harbored the absurd suspicion mid-life crisis had struck. I was bound in those days to a courtroom and desk at the U.S. Attorney's Office, so my dream remained just that for a long time. When I retired, though, we moved to Arizona and I took things in hand by enrolling in a workshop for wannabe authors. The workshop was a bust, but it did push me into tackling my first book, *The Stasi File – Opera and Espionage: A Deadly Combination*, in which I wove together the unlikely combination of my German upbringing, a lifelong love of opera and my experiences as an attorney. Soon the challenge of creating characters and building an intriguing plot filled my waking hours, and a few sleeping ones too. "My" characters and their actions took over, leaving me to serve as their scribe and menial servant. I was on my way and what a journey it has been!

The Stasi File was named a finalist for Book of the Year and was ranked a bestseller on the former British-Arts-Council sponsored critique site YouWriteOn. The novel was a quarter finalist in the 2011 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award Contest. Its sequel, *Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter*, pits Stasi File protagonists, Sylvia and Rolf, against ruthless smugglers of Indian artifacts during Sylvia's engagement at the Santa Fe Opera, interweaving as subplot the story of a shaman's young daughter, Teya, who played a crucial in the Pueblo Indian Revolt of 1680 against the Spanish, and perhaps concealed the legendary treasure of a lost pueblo.

The fierce Cold War espionage battle between East– and West Germany inspired me to write *Red Romeo*, in which West Germany's premier spy hunter, ambitious Sabine Maier, faces off against ruthless Stasi General Werner Heinrich. Sabine has filled half a prison with communist spies, while Heinrich is the mastermind behind an army of spy gigolos who prey on lonely women working in the West German government's most secret divisions. Caught in the middle is ladies' man Stefan Malik, a reluctant Romeo, forced to do the general's bidding or rot in a Stasi prison.

EMAIL: sedonauthor@fastmail.net <https://sedonauthor.com>



The Beginner's Guide To Free Verse Poetry

by Marilyn June Janson, MS. Ed.

Memoir workshops are ideal for introducing the beautiful art of poetry writing. Many of my students have not yet experienced the joys of writing free verse. This blog post illustrates how I teach this workshop.

Free verse is not just another vehicle to tell your story. It's so much more than that. No worries about rules, syllable count, length of the lines, rhyming, correct forms, and grammar. Unbound, celebrate and relish in the infinite possibilities designed to express yourself and invigorate your writing.

Instructor Marilyn's Three Rules of Writing

Newbies learning to write poetry or any other literary form or genre, should consider my three rules for writing your first draft. Before the poem is completed, you may feel compelled to edit every word and line. This is often counter-productive.

First Draft:

1. Do not edit your poetry.
2. Do not judge your work.
3. Do not share your poetry with nonwriters.

Can you think of any reasons why?

Gathering Your Treasures

Decisions, decisions. Whatever stage of life you are living in now, or from years past, there are so many memories to choose from. How are you going to narrow down all the joyous experiences, challenges, losses, and knowledge you have amassed into your first free verse poem? A timeline of your life stages will trigger a memory bank full of ideas.

Have a pen and paper handy. While entering work into a Word file seems time-effective, writing longhand may feel less mechanical to allow your thoughts, feelings, and emotions to flow freely.

It is unnecessary to include every year from the day you were born, through the primary grades, college, young adulthood, dating, partnering, and marriage to the present time. Unless a monumental, emotionally jarring, moment of clarity, inspiration, and revelation occurred in your life, skip that year. Overcoming adversity, your successes, and lifestyle changes are the hallmarks of memoir writing.

Rather than planning every aspect of your poem, spontaneity may trigger moments in time, an event, or a connection to family heirlooms and mementos. Sit in a comfortable chair, close your eyes, and take in a few deep breaths. Choose the most significant year in your timeline, and hopefully, a snapshot of a compelling memory will appear in your mind's eye.

I am referencing examples from my free verse poem, "The Space Between Us." To benefit fully from this blog, please read my poem in its entirety. "The Space Between Us" is located at the end of this post.

continued on the next page

Beginner's Guide to Free Verse Poetry by Marilyn Janson, continuedSteps to Mining Your Poem1. Timeline Year.

"The Space Between Us." Elementary school. 1960.

Your Poem. Year.

2. Location. Name the city, town, state, or country where your memory occurred.

"The Space Between Us." Queens, New York. The location was the backyard of my childhood home.

Your Poem. City and state.

3. Layout. Draw a simple map of your setting.

"The Space Between Us." My drawing includes the unlocked gate, vegetable garden my father grew, a bare oak tree, the cement pavement, and a fence overlooking the houses below.

Your Poem. Include the interiors and exteriors of your childhood house, (garden, terrace, patio, basement, and kitchen), your grandparents' farm, cabin, or vacation destinations. Schools, colleges, the first house you bought and raised kids in, state parks and camp grounds, oceans, lakes, sleep-away camps, are other possibilities.

You may not need all these elements but you will have them handy if and when you want to include them in a collection of poems.

4. Inanimate Objects (Family Heirlooms and Mementos).

"The Space Between Us." I visualized my mom's easel, paint box, wide and thin oil painting brushes, her artist's pallet dotted with color, paint tubes, and thick splotches of red, rust, green, and orange color. Water, turpentine, and linseed oil-filled rusty, aluminum soup cans stained with dried and crusted paint cleaned these tools.

Your Poem: Envision the bedroom, dining, and living room furniture. Dirty attics and basements often hold Hope Chests and trunks full of tangible items: Dad's or Granddad's pocket watch, wedding dresses, handmade quilts, baby blankets, hand-written letters, Bibles, photo albums, and family recipes. Even if you don't have them handy, try to imagine yourself revisiting these objects.

5. Sensory and Visual Imagery. Sight, Hearing, Smell, Taste, and Tactile modalities.

"The Space Between Us."

Sight: Autumn leaves falling from boney branches
Henna curls fluttering like angel wings

Touch: A light breeze cools heat-soaked skin
Wool sweater scratches

Beginner's Guide to Free Verse Poetry by Marilyn Janson, continued

Hearing: A Downy Woodpecker tap, tap, taps
Roller skates scrape

Smell: Bitter, acrid turpentine poisons the space between us

Taste: Linseed oil tastes like almond butter

Bonus: Add a Foreshadowing element. Plant hints of an event that will occur in your poem.

Why does this work? What will it compel your readers to do?

Foreshadowing: Henna dyed curls move like angel wings
She lifts her instrument to the sky
Reaching, reaching

Your Poem. Can you feel the lacey pattern of a wedding veil under your fingertips? Or the weight of dad's money clip? The garlicky and oniony scent of grandmother's homemade spaghetti sauce? Do you hear the crack and snap of a night-time campfire, see the yellow and blue sparks wafting up to the velveteen sky, dotted with blinking stars? And the sugary taste of hot, fire-roasted marshmallows?

6. Emotional Words and Images. You want your audience to feel your passion, excitement, sadness, and all those warm and fuzzy moments. Without evoking an emotional response, your memory poem may not resonate with your readers.

"The Space Between Us"

Reaching, reaching, reaching
Bitter, acrid turpentine poisons the space between us
Wheels burn
Sounds of life end
I will remember her this way
Bones shatter
Lonely branches
Golden embers seethe
Drift to lonely branches

Your Emotional Words, Images, and Phrases

Dig deep, avoid clichés and common words. When my students describe a feeling using a cliché or overly used word, I ask, "How angry, sad, or happy were you?"

Be unique. What word and phrase choices set your poem apart from all the others?

Here are a few examples:

Anger – Rage
Sad — Heartbroken
Happy – Joyous

continued on the next page

Beginner's Guide to Free Verse Poetry by Marilyn Janson, continued

Conclusion. This free form of a memory poetry is actually a collection of images, emotions, and a setting and location. Memories can be recorded and written in many different formats. Some authors publish them in hard copy, eBook, audio, or on memoir and personal websites.

"The Space Between Us" by Marilyn June Janson

In the backyard of my childhood home
Autumn leaves fall from boney branches
The sun creeps down
Lower and lower
Roller skates scrape
Round and round on stony concrete
Wool sweater scratches
Warms as dampness chills
A Downy Woodpecker tap, tap, taps
Halt
Wheels burn
Sulphur sparks
Eyes shift
Deep breaths
Linseed oil tastes like almond butter
Bitter, acrid turpentine poisons the space between us
Watching her
Henna curls fluttering like angel wings
Face hidden
A steady hand grips an oil painter's brush
She lifts her instrument to the sky
Sounds of life end
I will remember her this way
Reaching, reaching, reaching
A reason
An escape
A prayer
Brush falls from translucent fingertips
Skin melts
Bones shatter
Golden embers seethe
Drift to lonely branches
And die
Darkness

Marilyn June Janson M.S. Ed. and CEO met her first clients during the hundreds of Writing and Publishing Workshops she has facilitated. Passionate about writing and publishing, her students and aspiring authors hired Marilyn to prepare their manuscripts for publication. She is the author of Recipe For Rage, a suspense novel, Tommy Jenkins: First Teleported Kid, and The Super Cool Kids Story Collection. Her short stories, poetry, articles, memoir pieces, and personal essays appear in publications worldwide. Visit her website [HERE](#).



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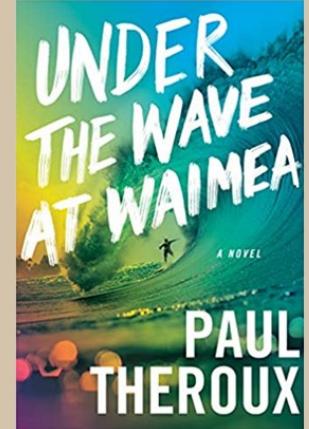
The Million Mile Walker Review What We're Reading and Why

By Mark D. Walker



I've read and reviewed the last six books from the iconic travel writer Paul Theroux and was fortunate enough to snag a copy of the uncorrected proof of his next book, which will be available in mid-April. Initially, I was unenthusiastic about reading of the life of an aging surfer in Hawaii, but after reading *On the Plain of Snakes* about Mexico, I felt sure he'd manage to turn Hawaii into one of his ebullient tomes—and I was not disappointed. After all, the author has lived there for over 30 years during which time he's been gathering stories and materials about this unique 50th State.

Although he's traveled the world, he lived the longest in Hawaii, whose complexity has fascinated him all that time. In an article in *Smithsonian Magazine* entitled, "Paul Theroux's Quest to Define Hawaii," the author revealed, "My love of traveling to islands amounts to a pathological condition known as nesomania, an obsession with islands. Each island is a small self-contained world than can help us understand larger ones." He has written several fiction books like *Hotel Honolulu* but said, "I have struggled as though against monster surf to write nonfiction about the islands." Although he's connected with people from different social classes and places of the world, he asked, "So why are the islands so difficult and why is a place like Hawaii, one of the 50 U.S. States, so uncooperative, so complex in its division?"



The book begins with a quote from legendary Hawaiian surfer, Duke Kahanmoku, "Out of the water I'm nothing." The protagonist, Joe Sharkey, "The Shark," meets the Duke and seems to emulate his perspective on the meaning of life. Initially, "The island has no bad days—he surfed like an otter on acid". Sharkey's philosophy of life is summed up as, "I don't want more than I have—therefore I have everything. It's the economy of enough." Sharkey is revered by many, but ignored by some of the younger surfers.

His life changes forever when driving through a tropical thunderstorm with his British companion, Olive, he runs into and kills what he thought was a homeless man on a push bike. From this point on the author takes us on a journey through what had been an unexamined life up to this point. From a young, mediocre student, Sharkey constantly ditches school in order to hit the beach and surf. His father is in the Special Forces in Vietnam and is more of a commander than a father. Surfing became his obsession and escape.

Theroux brings his tale to a closure like few other writers with the funeral for the deceased bike rider Max:

Round him, in the lacework of sun-flecked shade, the surfers young and old, the young ones chattering, the older ones solemn and silent—Jock, Garrett, Brock, Ryan, the Florence brothers, and others on the beach sitting cross-legged, some pacing. Sharkey recognized Stickney and Wencil, Alex, Fonoti and Frawley, and from the kapu camp Rhonda, Winona, and Kimo, the schoolchildren gathered near them. Skippy Lehua had come with some of his grommets, and Sugar with her three children, May and her Chinese husband. All of them tense and tearful in their gaudy shirts. Moe was there. So was I. "Insane," Sharkey murmured.

As we gathered on the foreshore, three black-and-white HPD police cruisers drew up at the edge of the parking lot. Six officers got out and marched to the beach, where they stood in a line, at attention, and saluted. Onlookers too, early risers, rock jumpers, beachgoers, gawkers, tourists, crowding the surfers. A hoarse haole voice: "Some kind of Wayan ceremony?"

continued on the next page

The Million Mile Walker, continued

Only to be topped off with this memorable last scene with Sharkey who, "...tipped his board into the wave's shallow sloping face and got to his feet. Without effort, like a hero on a flying carpet, not tensed in a surfer's stance but standing confidently upright, a fearless boy again. Hands on hips, he slid."

The author definitely dispels the popular image of some writers who stay for a week, gushing about the marvelous beaches, the excellent food, the heavenly weather, filling travel pages with holiday hyperbole. As Theroux points out, "Hawaii has a well-deserved reputation as a special set of islands, a place apart, fragrant with blossoms, caressed by trade winds., vibrant with the plucking of ukuleles, effulgent with sunshine spanking the water..." and none of this is wrong, although Theroux's book shows that there is so much more.

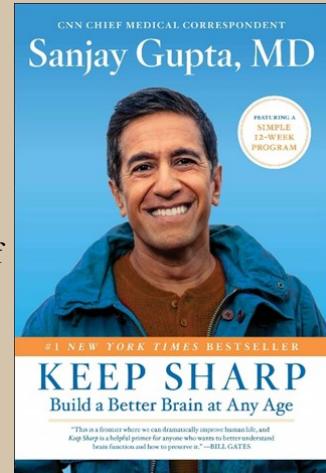
William Finnegan, author of *Barbarian Days* and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, sums up the mastery of this book: "Extraordinary. A frightening ride to the bottom of the soul of a man with a previously unexamined life. This is contemporary Hawaii as it's rarely evoked, with surfing strangely near its troubled heart."

My youngest daughter handed me this book and said, "Dad, we don't have time to read this, but this is important. Could you read it and report back to us?" So I did. And I believe that all adults should take responsibility for our health, especially our mental health, so this looked like a timely book to review and reflect on with my family.

The author caught my attention with a study that indicated 47 million Americans have some evidence of preclinical Alzheimer's disease, which means that their brains show signs of adverse changes but symptoms have not yet developed. Globally, the number of people living with dementia will swell to 152 million by 2060.

Sanjay begins one of the last chapters, titled, "Navigating the Path Forward Financially and Emotionally, with a Special Note to Caregivers," with a quote from Lao Tsu: "From caring comes courage." The average cost of a semiprivate room in a nursing home in the U.S. is over \$7,000 a month, which is daunting at best and explains why the majority of people with dementia in the U.S. live in their homes. For approximately 75% of these individuals, family and friends provide their care. At least 60% of unpaid caregivers are wives, daughters, daughters-in-law and granddaughters. All told according to Sanjay, 60 million Americans are caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease, which is twice the number of people living in Texas. As if this isn't depressing enough, the author goes on to reveal that caregivers of spouses with dementia are up to six times more likely to develop dementia than others.

The author provides invaluable resources, especially for caregivers, at the end of his book. He also tells of a city outside of Amsterdam which proves it "takes a village" to care for patients with dementia. It is a grand experiment taking place over a decade to change the way patients live out the rest of their lives. *Keep Sharp* is an owner's manual you'll need to keep your brain young and healthy regardless of your age.



Please let me know what you think—about this newsletter, my reviews and most importantly, what you're reading, so I can ponder all of it and share some of your comments in my next column. You can email me at:

The Million Mile Walker, continued

Mark@MillionMileWalker.com or through my websites:

[Million Mile Walker.com](http://MillionMileWalker.com)

[Trouble in the Highlands.com](http://TroubleintheHighlands.com)

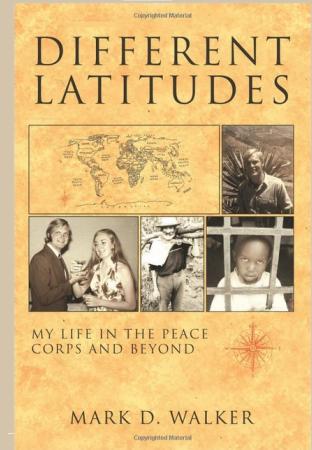
[Facebook](#)

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

His book, *Different Latitudes: My Life in the Peace Corps and Beyond*, was recognized by the Arizona Authors Association for nonfiction and according to the *Midwest Review*, “. . . is more than just another travel memoir. It is an engaged and engaging story of one man’s physical and spiritual journey of self-discovery . . .”

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

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



Old Carnegie Library
Prescott, Arizona

*A Book is a Dream
You Hold in Your
Hands*

-Neil Gaiman

Remember, National Library Week is April 4-10! Check out your local library's plans for any special events they may hold in that week, and pay them a visit. If you can't visit in person, go online to check them out. Some are moving their events online!



Southern Arizona Book Heroes Golf Tournament

by Rico Austin, PhD

Arizona Authors Association member Rico Austin PhD was one of the Arizona authors of children's books who earned recognition for his educational children's book, *ARIZONA Is Where I Live*. This book was showcased by the charitable "Book Heroes," at the Inaugural Birdies 4 Books Golf Tournament in Tucson, AZ. The golf tourney took place on Sunday, March 21st at the semi-private Rolling Hills Golf Course and Country Club. Rico played in a foursome with three friends who live in Tucson and who also support the 401C Charity of Southern Arizona Book Heroes.

In 2013, Rico wrote his first children's book, *ARIZONA Is Where I Live*, and it is wonderfully, colorfully illustrated in pastel crayons by the talented Ms. Cindy Work. It is an educational and fun book for children ages four through twelve, teaching and giving descriptions of the various wildlife and plants that make Arizona unique and a great place to not only live, but also visit.

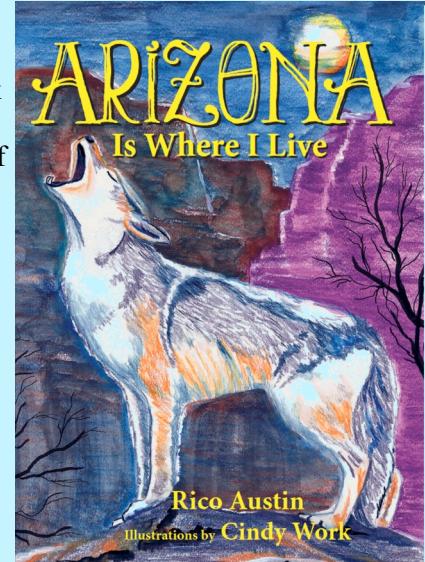
A young woman named Jennifer Dillon founded a program in 2016 in Tucson, Arizona, under the name "Books to Rescue-Pima County." In 2019, it officially became a non-profit and changed its name to "Southern Arizona Book Heroes." This organization is very dear to Rico and other Arizona authors because it helps take young children's minds off of tragedies with books and their illustrations. From violent acts to car crashes to a growing opioid epidemic, "Southern Arizona Book Heroes" (SABH) has joined the front lines with first responders giving comfort to the youngest and most vulnerable citizens. SABH provides resources that help treat children's unseen injuries—their emotional wounds. Jennifer and her volunteers equip first responders, victim advocates, social workers, and child-centric agencies with new books and new plush toys to distract, comfort, and soothe traumatized children.

Reading a book is just the first step in building a strong relationship with children in our community. We support our first responders and believe this program helps to build partnerships with our most important community members—our kids. Upon inception of this program in 2016, a good friend of Rico's, Mr. Manuel "Abby" Cady, purchased thirty of Rico's children's books to donate, inspiring both Rico and his wife Connie to donate another thirty books. Since that time, both Abby and his wife Kim Cady have donated another fifty of Rico's children's books, as have Connie and Rico.

In April 2019, Jennifer was on the local Tucson television show, "Tucson Morning Blend," where she and Southern Arizona Book Heroes showcased *ARIZONA Is Where I Live*. You may watch that clip [HERE](#).

Rico is so very proud to be a part of this program. If there are any other children's book authors who belong to the Arizona Authors Association who would be interested in donating their books, here is the web address:

www.soazbookheroes.org



Rico Austin, PhD is the author of many award-winning essays and books including *My Bad Tequila*. His first children's book, *ARIZONA Is Where I Live*, was featured in this newsletter and on television. Find out more about Rico [HERE](#).

Oldies but Goldies—Where's Yours? Come on, Arizona Authors!



You know you have one—that special book you self-published years ago that never received any recognition. It just faded into oblivion. It's time to dust off your treasure and **RELAUNCH IT!** And what would do that better than a win in the 2021 Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest?

Our Literary Contest is **UNIQUE** in its opportunity to writers, since most contests will not allow entries older than two years. What could bring more pleasure than a win or an honorable mention for a book you thought long forgotten? Enter that book now in the **Oldies but Goldies** category, and find out how much **GOLD** you have buried on your book shelf!

While we can't guarantee you'll win, we can guarantee that your older treasure will have an equal shot at wowing our judges with its enduring and timeless value. So enter that old book today!

ANY publication date, no matter how old!

The catch? The self-published book title you enter must never have won a prize or honorable mention in a previous year in the **Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest**. That's it! If you wrote and self-published it, you can enter it, even if it won other contests!

**ANY GENRE! ANY DATE!
SEE THE ENTRY FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE!**



What long-forgotten buried treasure is sitting on your book shelf?

PUBLISHED ENTRIES

(\$30 for members, \$35 non-members)

 FICTION: Novel/Novella/Short Story Compilation

=\$_____

 NONFICTION

=\$_____

 CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK

=\$_____

 JUVENILE/YOUNG ADULT

=\$_____

 OLDIE BUT GOLDIE

=\$_____

UNPUBLISHED ENTRIES: POEM

(\$20 for members, \$25 non-members)

=\$_____

 SHORT STORY, ESSAY, PERSONAL NARRATIVE, REVIEW

(\$25 for members, \$30 non-members)

=\$_____

 NOVEL/NOVELLA

(\$35 for members, \$40 non-members)

=\$_____

CRITIQUES For Unpublished Only: POEMS (\$25 for members, \$30 non-members)

=\$_____

 SHORT STORY, ESSAY, PERSONAL NARRATIVE, REVIEW

(\$30 for members, \$35 non-members)

=\$_____

 NOVEL, NOVELLA

(\$35 for members, \$40 non-members)

=\$_____

 TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
(for entries & critique requests)

=\$_____

Checks payable & entries mailed to:
 Arizona Authors Association
 1119 East Le Marche Ave.
 Phoenix, AZ 85022
 Arizona.Authors@yahoo.com

Write one check for multiple entries & critiques. Delivery confirmation OK
 No signature confirmations please

**Sponsor of the 2021
 Arizona Literary Contest and
 Awards**

**For A Larger Entry Form
 Click [HERE](#)**
TITLE OF SUBMISSION:

1. _____

(Please make a copy of this form
 for each additional entry.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ STATE: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Check the categories you wish to enter on the left, fill in the price and pay the Total Amount Due

First Prize:

\$100 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Second Prize:

\$50 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Third Prize:

\$25 & publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

Honorable Mention:

Publication or feature in Arizona Literary Magazine

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

Contest and Submission Rules

Contest starts January 1, 2021 and ends midnight July 1, 2021.

ALL BOOKS/E-BOOKS IN PUBLISHED CATEGORIES must include ISBN, copyright date, and publisher information. E-Books must be submitted in print & bound form like a gallery or ARC.

OLDIE BUT GOLDIE entry can have any publication date, but must never have won this contest. Must be indie work. ALL OTHER PUBLISHED ENTRIES must have 2020 or 2021 publication date.

Submit two copies of book. No submissions by publishers unless entry is a compilation.

Winning entries will be featured in annual literary magazine. Feature includes author photo, bio, and cover design. After judging, books will be donated.

UNPUBLISHED CATEGORIES – Submit 3 copies
 Poetry entries - 50 line maximum in 12-point plain font.
 Single-spacing within stanzas OK.

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

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

Winners in unpublished categories automatically consign first serial rights to Arizona Authors' Association (right to print an excerpt in Arizona Literary Magazine before anywhere else).

Multiple entries – need an entry form for each entry. You may print extra forms from our website (www.ArizonaAuthors.com) or photocopy this form.

We reserve the right to switch an entry's category, cancel a category, or not award any winners if they don't meet publishing industry standards. Any entry not following rules will be disqualified without notification or refund.



The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

This year, I am really excited about so many things. It's like my body has finally emerged from a cocoon and my wings are spreading. While we still remain vigilant with the Covid-19 pandemic, I see a light at the end of the tunnel and I'll be getting my vaccine soon. Spring has arrived in my very rural neck of the woods and the temperatures have soared into the 60s. The country is "relaunching" itself out of its winter malaise, and so am I.

I am relaunching something else as well . . . one or two of my older novels. I've decided to enter the Oldie but Goldie category of the 2021 Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest. This is the perfect time for relaunches, with the pandemic winding down and the country getting back on track. Why not relaunch old books as well?

The Oldie but Goldie category is something I've dreamed of for a long time. If any of you remember the old Create Space literary contest, you'll know that they took self-published books from ANY year. I entered that contest every year and made it into the "semi-finalist" category a couple of times. When they stopped doing the contest, I was devastated. I looked around for other contests that allow older books, since so many of mine were published long ago before my editing career took off. The only contest I could find that allowed older books were either wayyy overpriced or not very prestigious. I couldn't afford the first and I didn't really like the second. When we managed to open a new category in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest, I was thrilled. I finally had a venue again in which to relaunch my older works.

The Arizona Authors Association, with its 43-history of excellence, would provide the perfect prestigious "bandaid" to my ailing and discarded but still noteworthy older books. I often have friends tell me that my books should be on the NYT Best Seller List. Okay, I know, I know, they're FRIENDS, lol. But at the same time, I hate to see those books never reach a wider audience because of the difficulty of relaunching your old treasures.

A win in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest is the perfect ticket to allow an author of an older book to contact local papers, literary societies, and more. When you say, "My book just won third place in the new 2021 Arizona Authors Association contest," you take the emphasis away from the fact that the book was written in 2005 and instead focus on 2021. You relaunch, renew and regenerate.

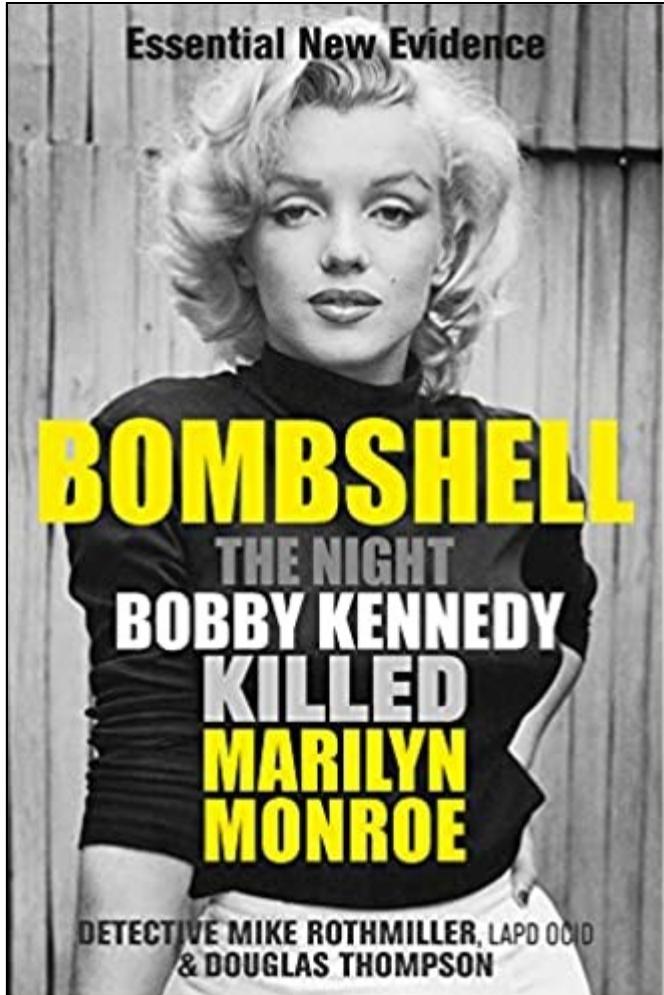
I know I'm probably increasing my competition by endorsing this contest category so heartily, but you know what? I welcome that competition. Competing against hundreds or thousands of entries, and winning, feels great. Competing against five, particularly if you're in fourth place, takes away some of the thrill. I may be exaggerating on the numbers, but you can see where I'm going with that. Therefore, I'm hoping that hundreds of people will enter this category. We'll all have an equal shot, with no one gaining an advantage because he or she is known or unknown. We all have to tick the same boxes on the judges' checklists.

So come on and enter. Let's all share in the joy of a great competition, a great relaunch of our own works, just as our country is relaunching into a new, hopefully Covid-free era. May all of us find success in those endeavors.

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

NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Mike Rothmiller



Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Killed Marilyn Monroe

Pre-Release Ordering Now Available

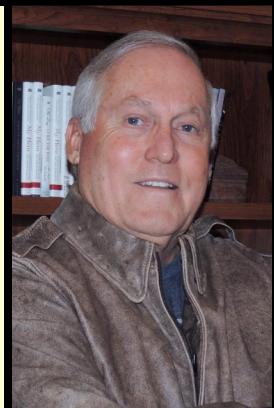
Bombshell: The Night Bobby Kennedy Murdered Marilyn Monroe tells the essential truth of the death of Marilyn Monroe at the hand of Robert Kennedy, US Attorney General. Drawing on unseen police files, Marilyn Monroe's private diary, and first-hand testimony, this book proves that Robert Kennedy was directly responsible for her death. It details Marilyn Monroe's tumultuous personal involvement with him and his brother, President John Kennedy.

The new evidence and testimony is provided by Mike Rothmiller who, as an agent of the Organized Crime Intelligence Division (OCID) of the LAPD, had direct personal access to hundreds of secret files on exactly what happened at Marilyn Monroe's Californian home on August 5, 1962. With his training and specialist knowledge, Rothmiller used that unseen information to get to the heart of the matter, to the people who were there the night Marilyn Monroe died—two of whom played major roles in the cover-up—and the wider conspiracy to protect the Kennedys at all costs.

Available for pre-order with price guarantee through [Amazon](#), [Barnes and Noble](#), and other outlets.

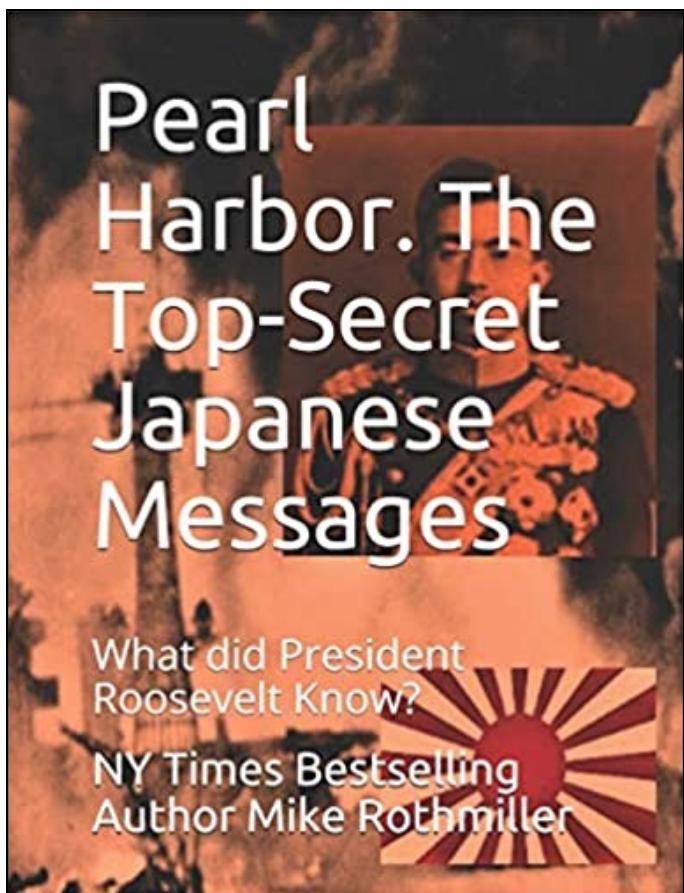
From [Wild Blue Press](#):

"Mike Rothmiller is a New York Times Bestselling author, historian, a former cop, and an Army medic. He's a former TV Reporter, an award-winning documentary television producer, and television host for ESPN, PBS, and other international television markets. His nonfiction book, [*My Hero, Military, Kids Write About Their Moms and Dads*](#) (St. Martin's Press) received international acclaim and is the only book to have forwards written by three living Presidents and General Norman Schwarzkopf. Additionally, he's been a corporate President/CEO and directed three divisions of Sony Electronics EMCS-America, and he briefed the President of the United States. Readers of his books include; three Presidents, former First Lady Laura Bush, the late Charlton Heston, and Queen Elizabeth II." Find out more about Mike [HERE](#)



NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Mike Rothmiller



Pearl Harbor The Top-Secret Japanese Messages What did President Roosevelt Know?

Since the attack on Pearl Harbor, historians have pondered two profound questions, "Did President Franklin D. Roosevelt have advanced knowledge of the attack?" Records indicate he strongly suspected or knew the United States would ultimately enter the war against Nazi Germany, Italy, and perhaps Japan. A few years earlier, Germany and Italy became allies as their militaries marched across Europe and North Africa. During the same period, Japan's military invaded China.

Roosevelt certainly understood the dire conditions in Europe, China and North Africa, but, "Did he allow the attack on Pearl Harbor, thereby giving the US a reason to enter the war against Japan?" Those are the fundamental questions with profound consequences. This book contains all the Japanese top-secret ciphers relating to the Pearl Harbor attack. They were used by congress to investigate the attack immediately after WW2. The decoded messages have not been edited.

Available for purchase on [Amazon](#) and other outlets.

From [Wild Blue Press](#):

"Mike Rothmiller is a New York Times Bestselling author, historian, a former cop, and an Army medic. He's a former TV Reporter, an award-winning documentary television producer, and television host for ESPN, PBS, and other international television markets. His nonfiction book, [*My Hero, Military, Kids Write About Their Moms and Dads*](#) (St. Martin's Press) received international acclaim and is the only book to have forwards written by three living Presidents and General Norman Schwarzkopf. Additionally, he's been a corporate President/CEO and directed three divisions of Sony Electronics EMCS-America, and he briefed the President of the United States. Readers of his books include; three Presidents, former First Lady Laura Bush, the late Charlton Heston, and Queen Elizabeth II." Find out more about Mike [HERE](#)



**Estrella Park****Photo by AAA member Patricia L. Brooks**

Submissions to the newsletter are due no later than the 15th of the month in May, July, September, November, January, and March. Entries received after that date will be considered for a later issue. Thank you!

Literary Trivia From Page Three

Answers

1. The Pequod
2. Hal
3. Marjorie Rawlings
4. Project Wildfire
5. Mjolnir
6. The Louvre

Back Page Quotes

What do you get when you mix alcohol and literature?

Tequila Mockingbird



My English teacher gave me a difficult assignment that I was sure to fail. She demanded that I give her two pronouns. I just sweated and said, "Who, me?" I don't understand it, but I passed!



Why did the comma break up with the apostrophe?

Because it was too possessive.

And lastly, food for thought:

The most depressing part of *Little Women* (1869) is not when Beth dies, but when Jo's short story wins a prize of \$100, reminding any fellow writers that freelance rates have remained roughly stable SINCE THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA

-Jennifer Morrow

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