

# ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

Issue 8

Arizona Authors Association

June-July 2020

**INDEX****Page**

Vice President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte	<a href="#">01-02</a>
Arizona Authors Association Leadership	<a href="#">03</a>
Literary Trivia	<a href="#">03</a>
Membership Benefits	<a href="#">04</a>
Submissions	<a href="#">04</a>
Recent and Upcoming Events	<a href="#">05</a>
Congratulations to our Members	<a href="#">06-07</a>
The Show Will Go On by Craig Sodaro	<a href="#">08</a>
Telling Their Stories by Sharon Sterling	<a href="#">09-10</a>
Making Lemonade by Kathleen Cook	<a href="#">10</a>
Need Some Encouragement? by Dick Waters	<a href="#">11-12</a>
The Road to Imagination by Cherie Lee	<a href="#">13-15</a>
What Are You Reading? by Jan Tenery	<a href="#">16</a>
Politically Incorrect by Marlene Baird	<a href="#">17-18</a>
Million Mile Walker by Mark D. Walker	<a href="#">19-21</a>
AAA Membership Form	<a href="#">22</a>
Where in Arizona?	<a href="#">23</a>
Books for Tough Times by Sharon Sterling	<a href="#">24</a>
Jericho Writers Summer Festival	<a href="#">25</a>
Write Now! Conference	<a href="#">26</a>
The Inevitable Author by Kathleen Cook	<a href="#">27-28</a>
Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest	<a href="#">29</a>
New Book Releases	<a href="#">30-32</a>
Members Webpages	<a href="#">33</a>
Back Page Quotes	<a href="#">33</a>



## Vice President's Corner by Toby Heathcotte

While casting around for "things to do while we're stuck at home," I went through the files to help me recall what was going on with Arizona Authors a year ago. I know that's boring. What can I tell you?

Looking back at a year ago, I find we were hoping to give the members value and find new recruits. We put our hopes in workshops by talented presenters, including Barb Renner, Al Quihuis, and Patricia Brooks, among others.

At the same time the contest closed and many of you began judging, some for the first time, with Jane Ruby at the helm. Now at the same time this year I'm happy to report the same is true. We could however use more contest entries, so I encourage you to write something new or check your files for something you wrote previously. The more members involved in the contest the better.

Then I was typing with one hand because I had broken my wrist. Thank Heaven that has healed, but I still spend more time in front of screens than I'd like. Besides writing on the computer, I know I watch too much TV. Also, I found a wonderful website to watch professional plays and musicals. It costs \$8 per month, but it's very much worth it if you're a theatre-lover like me. In case you're interested, it's [Broadwayhd.com](http://Broadwayhd.com).

Many of you have not taken advantage of one of your perks of membership. That is having a webpage on our website. There are some information items needed to complete your webpage. Check the list on page [33](#) in this newsletter, then send me your information. Send it to [toby@tobyheathcotte.com](mailto:toby@tobyheathcotte.com).

continued on the next page

Vice President's Corner, continued

If you've not already joined our Facebook page, please do so. It's an easy way to stay in touch with other members and other writers. You only have to be a writer to join, so some of those posting are not Arizona Authors members, but they contribute to our knowledge about the surrounding writing community. It's a fun way to interact and promote your writing and editing services.

When you're on Facebook, put Arizona Authors Association in the search box. Then ask to join. Here's the link, so you can copy and paste it: [FACEBOOK](#)

Besides the inconvenience and annoying details of the stay-at-home orders of the COVID-19 pandemic, we citizens are definitely having a unique experience in all our lives. For us writers, vocabulary we never wanted to know has become common knowledge: herd immunity, contact tracing, social distancing, ventilators, N95 masks, on and on.

If you've been touched by the virus or your friends or family have been, I send blessings on you. We are one in this treacherous time. This experience will bond us as Americans in ways we're not clear on now. It's important to stay sensitive to the needs of others and stay safe yourself.

Namaste

"The god in me sees and salutes the god in you,"

Toby

Toby Heathcotte

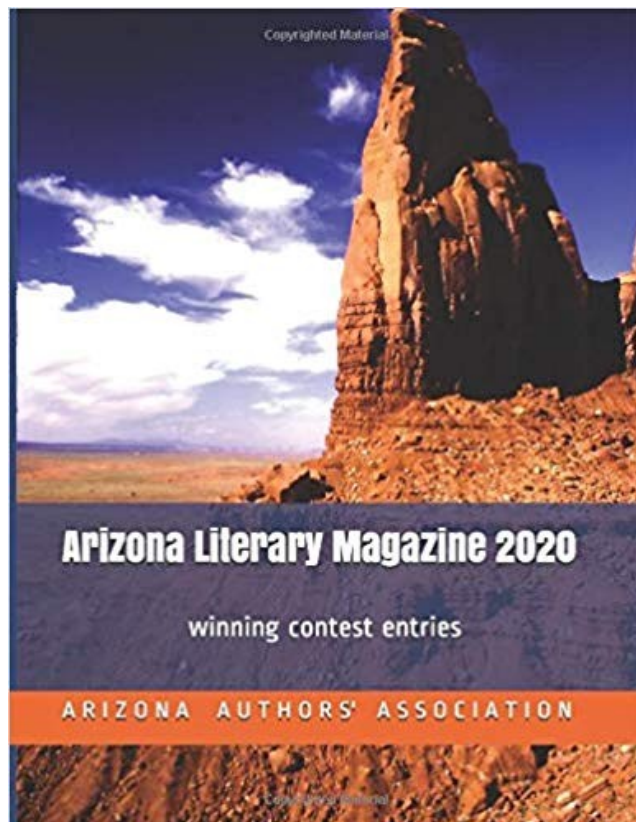


[Author and Publisher](#)

[Arizona Authors Vice President](#)

## SNEAK PEEK

The August issue of the Arizona Authors Association Newsletter will feature a special article on the history of this organization, from our flamboyant and brilliant founder to our endurance, tenacity and reestablishment as a viable and valuable authors' resource in 2020 and beyond. Make sure you don't miss the next issue. You'll want to keep it for reference, or to interest new members in joining the Arizona Authors Association!

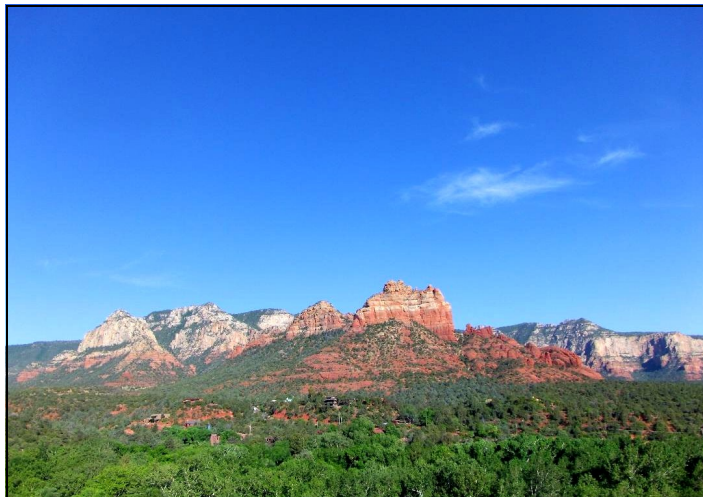


*Did you pick up your copy of the Arizona Literary Magazine 2020?*

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

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

*Thank you!*



**Bell Rock, Sedona**  
by AAA Member Marilyn Janson

### Arizona Authors Association Leadership

#### Board of Directors:

President.....Russell Azbill  
 Vice President.....Toby Heathcotte  
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 Secretary/Literary Contest Director.....Jane Ruby  
 Newsletter Editor.....Kathleen Cook

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

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

### Literary Trivia

(Answers on the Back Page)

1. Name the author and his book, which has sold more copies than any other fictional tale in history. (Note the hint in that clue!)
2. What story ends with the line: "It is a far better thing I do than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known"?
3. The sorcerer Prospero appears in which of Shakespeare's plays?
4. Which author published books in nine out of ten categories of the Dewey Decimal System?
5. Which novel includes the characters Broud, Iza, Creb and Ayla?
6. How many rejections did Louis L'Amour receive before first being published? (To all the unpublished authors out there, this one is for you!)

For more trivia, go to:

[UsefulTrivia](#)



**Monument Valley**  
by AAA Member Janet Crum



## 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, newsletter articles offer advice, suggestions, and insight to reinforce your expertise.

The yearly Literary Contest furnishes an opportunity to showcase your work and the possibility of earning prizes that will enhance your reputation as an author. As the relaunch of this association progresses, we plan to once again participate in book fairs or other events. The opportunity to advertise under the Arizona Authors Association banner will allow you to promote your work and increase your visibility with a minimum of expense and effort.

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

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



#### Submissions to the Newsletter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

## Recent and Upcoming Events

### RECENT

Although the Tucson Festival of Books canceled its main event due to COVID-19, it hosted several online events during the month of May. They featured famous writers such as Lori Gottlieb, author of the bestselling *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*, which is currently being adapted as a television series.

On May 20th, the organization featured W. Bruce Cameron, who wrote several best sellers including *A Dog's Way Home*, now a movie by the same name. And on May 27th, Tucson Festival of Books hosted Ginger Gaffney, whose book, *Half Broke*, chronicles her life as a top-ranked horse trainer. Check out [Tucson Festival of Books](#) for more online events.

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The Arizona Authors Association website's home page just got a facelift, thanks to Toby Heathcotte and her grandson, Aaron. Check out the new intro page at: [Arizona Authors Association Website](#)

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### UPCOMING

Award-winning author, publishing consultant, and community advocate Patricia L. Brooks will be featured in a Zoom Online Author Talk hosted by the **Desert Foothills Library** on June 23rd, 2020, from 10-12 noon. Her topic, *Advocating for Others in Memoir*, will explore ways in which to write truthfully about grief, domestic violence, love addiction, and recovery from alcohol. For an expanded explanation, please see the [Congratulations](#) page of this newsletter.



Due to COVID-19, Marilyn June Janson's workshops in Gilbert and Mesa have been canceled.

An award-winning writer and former Maricopa Community College instructor, Marilyn is now offering personalized workshops online.

Visit her website for more information at: [www.janwrite.com](http://www.janwrite.com). You may also call her at: **480-699-6389** or email at [arizona@aol.com](mailto:arizona@aol.com). Beginners and advanced writers are welcome to attend all classes.

#### Online Workshops Include:

One-On-One Instruction.  
Personalized Materials, Assignments, and Expert Critiques.  
Learn at your own pace.  
All writing exercises and materials are included in the fee.

#### **Short Story Writing.** 6 sessions. \$265

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.

#### **Memoir and Family History Writing.** 6 sessions. \$300

Instructor Marilyn provides memoir, family history excerpts from bestselling authors, and motivational writing exercises designed to trigger memories from all stages of life.

#### **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.

#### **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.

## Congratulations to Our Members

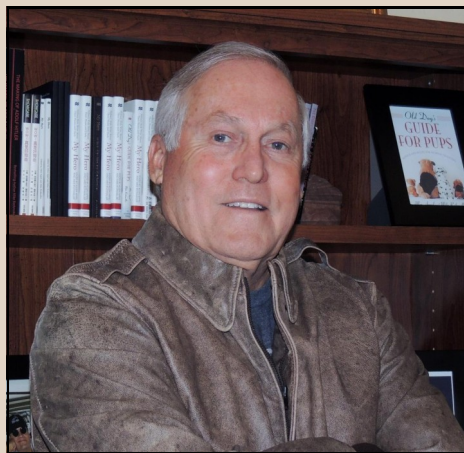
Arizona Authors Association member Marcia Fine recently had a three-page article published in the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society newsletter, **Legacy**. Her article, "Syncretism and the Mexican Experience," answers the question, "How did blending Judaism and Catholicism work inside the home?"

Syncretism is an amalgam of different religions, cultures or beliefs that fuse together. Marcia addressed this in her novel, [\*HIDDEN ONES: A Veil of Memories\*](#). It involved research into the roles of women who believed in Saint Esther and Mariology. The *Hermanos Penitentes* was a place of worship where men could practice both faiths. Marcia spoke on this topic in Denver, Colorado and in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The article can be read at: [Legacy newsletter, Spring 2020](#).

Award-winning author and speaker Marcia Fine has written seven novels, including [\*THE BLIND EYE--A Sephardic Journey\*](#), historical fiction chosen by the state library of Arizona for ONEBOOKAZ 2015. [\*PAPER CHILDREN--An Immigrant's Legacy\*](#) has been a finalist for three national prizes. [\*PARIS LAMB\*](#), her sixth novel, deals with anti-Semitism in the 1950s. She has also written the only satirical series about Scottsdale.

Her novel, [\*HIDDEN ONES: A Veil of Memories\*](#) released in 2017, examines Sephardic Jews in Mexico during the Inquisition. With an interest in epigenetics she examines how trauma is passed on in families.

Marcia has a BA from Florida State University and a Masters from Arizona State University. Find out more about her [HERE](#).



*New York Times* Bestselling Author and Arizona Authors Association member Mike Rothmiller recently signed with a US publisher to write two true crime books, titled, *True Crime Chronicles*. The books delve into criminals of the 18th century. The publisher plans to release the first book in the series by the end of the year.

His first book, [\*LA Secret Police\*](#), is being developed as a TV series. Mike, a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize, is a former cop, Army medic, television reporter, and historian. He's also written and produced various acclaimed documentaries for PBS, ESPN, and others. Congratulations to Mike from all of us at the Arizona Authors Association for this new accomplishment! Find out more about Mike [HERE](#).

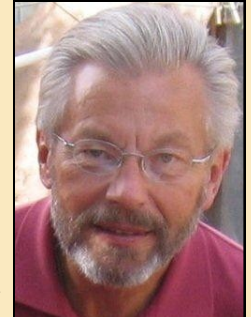


Congratulations to Our Members, continued

Arizona Authors Association member Peter Bernhardt recently secured a deal with the Metropolitan Opera in New York. The coronavirus caused the company to cancel the remainder of the season, resulting in a substantial financial shortfall. Peter offered to increase the level of his Met Opera Guild membership if the company agreed to carry his books in the Met Opera Shop. Since opera plays a big part in his novels, they seemed perfect for the Opera Shop.

A longtime lover of the opera and contributor to the Met, Peter says, “I made them an offer they couldn't refuse (not a Don Corleone type offer, mind you, but one where the Opera Shop will earn more on each sale than I will). But the idea is to let word of mouth do its work, which so far has treated my books quite well.”

Peter is currently translating [\*Kiss of the Shaman's Daughter\*](#), his New Mexico mystery-thriller with a historical twist (1680 Pueblo Indian Revolt) into German. It will join the German language editions of his two spy thrillers that have sold thousands of copies. Find out more about Peter at: [Sedona Author](#) and [Amazon](#)



Marty Feess' nonfiction book, [\*American Heroes: Fascinating Facts and Inspiring Voices\*](#), was recently awarded a 2019 Certificate of Excellence in Literature by Story Monster LLC, in the educational/reference books category. Marty also won first place for the book in the Arizona Authors Association Literary Contest last year. Congratulations, Marty!

A former Peace Corps volunteer and educator, find out more about Marty and his books: [Arizona Authors Biography](#) [Books on Amazon](#)

Award-winning author, publishing consultant, and community advocate Patricia L. Brooks will be featured in a Zoom Online Author Talk hosted by the Desert Foothills Library on June 23rd, 2020, from 10-12 noon. Her topic, *Advocating for Others in Memoir*, will explore ways in which to write truthfully about grief, domestic violence, love addiction and recovery from alcohol. Opening doors that lead into the deepest rooms of readers' own lives is even more difficult. Patricia accomplished this in three memoirs, settling her past and present as a witness and then as an advocate.

Desert Foothills Library, based in Cave Creek, Arizona, is a trusted provider of community events and services. There is no cost for the online event, but registration is required at [www.dfla.org](http://www.dfla.org). Upon registering, you will receive the online link to the class for this Zoom Virtual Meeting.

Patricia L. Brooks is passionate about storytelling in her award-winning memoirs. [\*Sick as My Secrets\*](#) is a powerful memoir told by a strong woman who overcame her desperate need for alcohol to handle stress in her young life. [\*Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends\*](#) is her poignant story of a dangerous journey through love addiction and domestic violence. Her first memoir, [\*Gifts of Sisterhood - journey from grief to gratitude\*](#) is a tribute to her sister who died from lung cancer. Patricia continues to serve as the president/founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing Company, LLC, and the extraordinarily successful Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. She is a sought-after workshop and keynote speaker while currently writing a nonfiction book entitled, *Write the Memoir You're Afraid to Write*.



**For more information contact:** [www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com](http://www.brooksgoldmannpublishing.com) [patricia@plbrooks.com](mailto:patricia@plbrooks.com) or call 480-250-5556.



## The Show Will Go On

by Craig Sodaro

Kids can get really passionate about their school activities, whether it's sports, debate, or student council. One of the most passionate groups are the drama kids—the ones involved in their school plays and musicals. So when COVID-19 slammed the school doors shut as the busiest school performance season got underway, there were thousands of very disappointed actors and crew members.

That's when Debra Fendrich, my editor at Pioneer Drama, called and told me she'd just finished a call with a teacher in California who was directing one of my plays which now had been cancelled. Would there be any way the actors could video a bit of their performances and email them to me so I could watch them? That way they'd have an audience—of sorts—and not feel like all the work they'd put into the show was a total waste.

After being in contact with the teacher, I've found out they're doing a lot of zooming and putting together a virtual version of the play—shortened, but still acted—that I'll be able to watch. That's exciting! As an old drama teacher myself, it's great fun watching student performances as they're developing their acting chops.

Since Debra's call, a number of us playwrights have taken to writing short plays specifically designed to be performed online. The experience drew me back to Playwriting 101, the "elevator play" in which all action takes place within a contained area. The most famous "elevator play" has to be Sartre's *No Exit*, a group of people trapped in a room, no way out, no way in. Often an "elevator play" is one of the first assignments you get in playwriting class and sometimes you have to set the play literally in an elevator. The idea is to learn how stage plays take place in a confined physical space where character development and human conflict become the most important elements of drama.

Because the "Virtual Plays" (as they are called) are ten minute sketches, I've had to go right to the heart of the matter quickly with only the barest of exposition. "Uh Oh!" is a rom-com of sorts with two kids, Jaxon and Addie, trying to put together a class project. Suddenly, a new girl enters the picture and complications arise. It's all for fun and the good thing about a virtual play is the actors find that everything is about their character. They can't rely on a set or props or anything else to create the drama, only their own talent.

I've also done a fun spy comedy called "Spies R Us" featuring four spies, A, B, C, and D. Great for nonspecific gender casting! The most recent one I've written is called "Who's There?" designed to be a bit spooky: Willow links up with three girlfriends because she's home alone and scared. As they converse, each of her friends exits the conversation and doesn't comeback. And that's when there's a knock at the door. A little bit of spooky fun!

These three plays are all available from Pioneer Drama Service and Eldridge Publishing Company. Needless to say, I'll be writing a couple more soon.

If nothing else, this horrible pandemic and our being sheltered in place have inspired a great deal of creativity in all walks of life. As a playwright, it's brought me back to my roots, but, believe me, I am as anxious as the next guy to see theaters opening again with curtains going up. Until then, though, the show will go on.

A Chicago native, playwright Craig Sodaro has published over 200 full-length and one-act plays that have been presented all around the world, from Mongolia to Australia, South Africa to Norway. He began writing plays in high school and by the time he graduated from Marquette University, he was seeing his work presented at the University theatre. Publishing success came later during his 33-year teaching career. As an English and drama teacher, Sodaro had difficulty finding scripts that worked for his students, so he began to write plays that fit his classes. These plays turned out to be popular with schools and community theaters throughout the country. Plays coming out next fall include "A Play to Die For" from Heuer Publishing, "Brushstrokes" from Pioneer Drama Service, and "Frankenteen" from Eldridge Publishing Company. Find out more about Craig [HERE](#).





## Telling Their Stories

by Sharon Sterling

*Honoring and supporting local writers brings a special pleasure. Sharon Sterling*

Maybe I did it, in part, because as the subsequent news story said, I have "a soft spot for authors." That is just a pale shadow of the reason that in March of this year, I organized and conducted an Author Event/Book Fair in Arizona's Green Valley.

A more explicit reason for organizing the event was that throughout my childhood I was an enchanted reader of books, and as an adult I realized how much I respected the intelligent and articulate people who wrote them, as well as those who write the books I read now.

Soon after beginning my job as psychiatric social worker at the La Posada retirement community in Green Valley, I met my first resident author, Carolyn Ingle Filigenzi. Her book is titled, *In Defiance We Call Them Mangoes*. "Why become defiant over mangoes?" I wondered.

Reading Carol's charming memoir, I learned she was born and lived in Defiance, Ohio, where the grocery store produce clerk persistently labeled the green bell peppers—you guess it—"mangoes." One can only guess about the culinary concoctions that may have inspired!

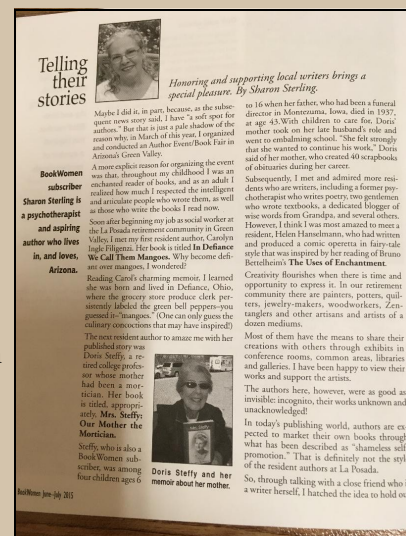
The next resident author to amaze me with her published story was Doris Steffy, a retired college professor whose mother had been a mortician. Her book, titled appropriately, is *Mrs. Steffy: Our Mother the Mortician*.

Steffy, who is also a Book Women subscriber, was among four children aged six to sixteen when her father, who had been a funeral director in Montezuma, Iowa, died in 1937 at age forty-three. With children to care for, Doris's mother went to embalming school and took on her late husband's role in the business. "She felt strongly that she wanted to continue his work," Doris said of her mother, who created forty scrapbooks of obituaries during her career.

Subsequently, I met and admired more resident writers, including a former psychotherapist who writes poetry, two gentlemen who wrote textbooks, a dedicated blogger of "Wise Words From Grandpa," and several others. However, I think I was most amazed to meet Helen Hanselmann, who had written and produced a comic operetta in fairytale style that was inspired by her reading of Bruno Bettelheim's *The Uses of Enchantment*.

Creativity flourishes when there is time and opportunity to express it. In our retirement community, there are painters, potters, quilt makers, jewelry-makers, woodworkers, Zen-tanglers and other artisans and artists of a dozen mediums. Most have the means to share their creations with others through exhibits in conference rooms, common areas, libraries and galleries. I have been happy to view their works and to support the artists. The authors here, however, were as good as invisible, incognito, their works unknown and unacknowledged.

In today's publishing world, authors are expected to market their own books through what has been described as "shameless self-promotion." That is definitely not the style of the resident authors at La Posada. So, through talking with a close friend who is a writer herself, I hatched the idea to hold our own author event.



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Telling Their Stories, continued

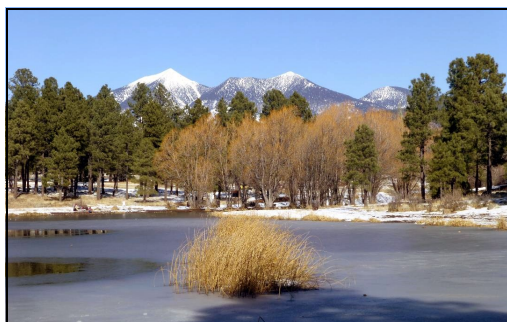
It would allow these special people to tell their stories, share their ideas and their histories and become acquainted with new residents as well as with each other. Seven authors took part.

The event was held on the patio of the La Posada community's coffee shop, where writers sat at a long table with copies of their books around them, ready to talk with people about their books and sell copies. The comic operetta played on a TV in the background.

As a social worker, I had little experience in event planning and the process was exhausting and sometimes frustrating. I made mistakes and the outcome was not perfect but I believe it was immensely worthwhile. A half-page story about the event ran in the main section of the local newspaper.

There must be many other unsung wordsmiths out there who are too modest for self-promotion. I hope this account may inspire their delighted and respectful readers to celebrate them in whatever way they can.

Sharon Sterling is a psychotherapist/social worker and author. She earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and her Master's degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, and began her social work career as a crisis counselor. Over the years she worked in Cottonwood, Yuma, Tucson, Flagstaff, and Prescott. Her work experiences include community mental health agencies, psychiatric and medical hospital settings and private practice. The intense experiences and fascinating people encountered during those years inspire and inhabit her books, while the flavor of Southwestern locales spice her writing. Her mystery/thriller novels include [\*Fatal Refuge\*](#) and [\*The Well\*](#). Both are set in Arizona and feature a young Apache woman and a mental health counselor. Ms. Sterling completed her *Arizona Thriller Trilogy* with [\*A Killing at Lynx Lake\*](#). Find out more about Sharon [HERE](#).



**Frances Short Pond/View of San Francisco Peaks**  
Photo by AAA member Janet Crum

**Making Lemonade**

by Kathleen Cook

Seems like everyone is complaining about the boredom of indoor activities. If you're like me, your mind can only handle the routine for so long, and no longer. You need a change, but what can you do inside your home that is one, fun, two, worthwhile, and three, (with many people unemployed, this is a biggie) FREE?

Easy ... take a course from a top university! Many universities have contracted with online resources to provide free education on a wide variety of topics. While you won't earn actual credits toward a degree with the free option, you *will* get the same educational opportunity as well as the same instructors and universities as those who spend thousands of dollars for their parchments.

Several online educational resources exist, including Coursera, Future Learn, and Iversity, to name a few. Check out their course lists and sign up for one today. Many of them are available "on demand," with no set dates, so you can dive right in. I've completed over forty courses over the past ten years and all were free. Here are a few you might enjoy:

For 18th and 19th century English Literature lovers, this course from Wesleyan University will shine:

[The Modern and Post-modern Part 1](#)

Do you have a good command of English grammar but want to polish your skills? This course by UCI will help you do that:

[Advanced Grammar and Punctuation Specialization](#)

Just starting out as an author and want some basic education in short story, memoir and other writing? This course from Wesleyan is for you!

[Creative Writing Specialization](#)

Here's another course from Michigan State University for budding novelists: [Write Your First Novel](#)

For those who would like to delve into other subjects besides writing, how about soothing your creative beast with some music? This course is offered by Yale.

[Introduction to Classical Music](#)

There are many, many more courses available. Check them out!



## Need Some Encouragement?

by Dick Waters

### Suggestion for a “first” book— Why not an anthology?

If that first published book seems to be elusive, maybe this suggestion will help. How about an anthology? A collection of short stories, your thoughts, or life events. Have you written down things over time? Do you have a folder or a file of those?

For the last eight years, I have developed a habit of coming up with a story for a visual prompt. That habit has prompted me to write my thoughts to many things in life. As an elder, every day is precious. I try to pay-it-forward with a recognition of being here. For example – I had nothing to do with my having a life. That, I thanked my parents for.

Have you ever given thought how unlikely your existence is? What if –

They hadn’t done the things they did to meet?  
What if they didn’t find each other worthy of a relationship?  
What if Life Events had intervened?

There are many things that had to fit just so, for you to be here. We live our lives making constant decisions that change our paths. Life is so precious, and some of my stories still bring tears, even when I read them. Think about your own. Getting off track here, but I am trying to give you some incentive to write what comes to mind.

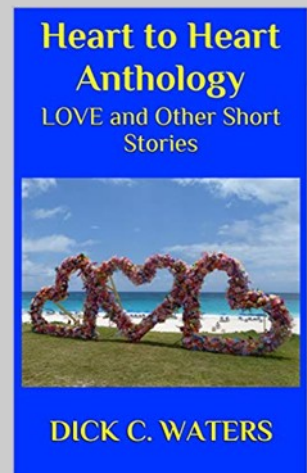
Back to my habit –

Many Saturday mornings, I get on Indies Unlimited website to see what their Flash Fiction prompt is for that week. I challenge myself to write a story under 250 words and submit it. It is not to win the weekly contest, but to have a story for later use. With that habit has come an ability to create a story for every prompt, and many other things in life. Indies Unlimited publishes selected stories in an annual Anthology, and some of mine have been lucky enough to be selected for inclusion.

However, what I am suggesting to you is that you publish your own anthology of your stories and thoughts. It is not whether your entry wins or not in the weekly competition, it is that you have a story, and over time, a collection to include in a publication.

Think about this – the bathroom can be a place to have your published book – I call it a “Bathroom Reader.” Another thought is to have your extended family have your creations. One of my grandkids read one of my anthologies and commented I am a good writer. I consider myself more of a story teller than a good writer. I wonder if my self-publishing is any encouragement to my grandchildren...I can only hope it is. I just learned my ten-year-old granddaughter just did her first radio commercial.

So, my suggestion is that you can also participate in some of the Indies Unlimited weekly prompts, and/or write what you are thinking. The weekly IU Flash Fiction process is limited to 250 words, which requires developing a skill to hook the reader quickly, and put an interesting story together concisely.



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Need Some Encouragement? continued

One other thought about publishing your anthology is not to have a goal of making money, but having copies to give out to relatives and friends. Some of them are probably hard to buy for, and this just might make the right gift. You never know, after publishing your anthology, you might just have the right incentive to write and publish that novel. Self-publishing is another skill, and Amazon makes that a pretty easy process.

Indies Unlimited ([www.indiesunlimited.com](http://www.indiesunlimited.com)) is a good source for helpful articles with that process as well, and also has many other articles helpful for the writing processes.

Here's a picture of Sedona, which I took, to get you thinking and hopefully writing. Word prompt - MISSING?



I hope you will give this anthology suggestion some consideration.

**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. Dick has agreed to serve as the new Arizona Authors Association Literary Magazine editor. Learn more about him at: [Arizona Authors Association](#) and at [Amazon](#)



**Dory Through the Rapids, Grand Canyon**  
Photo by AAA Member David Rich



## The Road to Imagination

by Cherie Lee

Cherie's story prompt last issue was entitled "**Light.**" To refresh everyone's memory, I'll repeat it here:

*William crouched next to the thick oak tree and shivered. Darkness was everywhere with no stars in the sky and heavy clouds hiding the moonlight. Wind blew and animals rustled in the thick growth of the forest. His buckskins were wet. He needed a fire, but light of some sort was needed to dig a fire-pit and line it with rocks. His flashlight had fallen out of his pocket when he swam across the river. He'd even lost his pack as he struggled in the rapids when he first escaped. Snow was forecast for the night, too.*

Dick Waters added to that story prompt in a very creative way and offered a photo to enhance the tale, so he earned a spot on this page. Thanks, Dick, for taking this prompt and remaking it into your own unique story!



"William, are you okay?" Hannah asked, barely able to catch her breath.

"I think so. We can't stop long. If they find those bodies, they will track us and be on us before we know it. We need to decide which path to take to get to the river."

She looked at the large Oak trees around them and the two paths. "But we crossed the river."

"When they brought you to camp, didn't they have you cross a very wide river?"

"Yes, but they had canoes. They used the canoes, but put ropes around our necks and made us swim across. There was still some snow on the river bank, and the water was freezing."

"It is still going to be freezing, but we need to get to the main shore and find some help."

"If they catch us, what do you think they will do with us? I can't believe we killed them...all of them. Where's the pack?"

"I lost it when we crossed the rapids."

"What about the scalps?"

"I have them in my pouch." He noticed her feet bleeding. They stripped two of the natives they killed and took their buckskin vests and pants. He took the knife they had used, and cut the bottom of each pant leg. He pulled a length of

continued on the next page

Road to Imagination, continued

each to make a lacing. He had her sit down and wrapped the cut pant leg around her foot and tied it with the lacing, and did the same for her other foot. "That might help." He held up his hand. "They're coming; we need to move quickly." They started running, taking the left fork.

God must have heard their prayers when they got to the river's edge; there were many canoes pulled up on the shore. He pushed all but one of them into the rushing water, both climbing into it.

Hours later they had navigated several small waterfalls and rapids and decided to hold up overnight in a small cove. When they pulled the canoe up out of sight, they soon found a pine grove to settle in. Their buckskins were wet and rubbing uncomfortably on their skin. They hung them to dry.

They huddled together on the dry pine needle bed with the sweet smell of pine giving them some relief. "Hannah, you said they killed two in your group."

She had tried to put what happened out of her mind, so she could will herself to stay alive. "I was still nursing my daughter when they raided our Haverhill house early in the morning. My husband had our kids follow him into the woods, hoping the natives would follow them and not find my nurse and me. We were hiding behind the fireplace when the natives came into the bedroom. They found us because Martha cried out. The natives dragged us into the front yard by our hair. They didn't care that I was holding Martha in my arms. There were many families huddled there, and without warning they attacked and killed half of them. When we left, I counted twelve adults and Martha, and as best I could tell, about thirty natives.

Two of the women were naked, and all I had on was a sleep shirt and one shoe. One native looped a rope around a woman and then her husband, another woman and then her husband, Mary and then me. Another did the same to the remaining group."

The two natives started running, pulling on each roped group. They became furious that we were slowing them down, and it wasn't long before they killed two of the men, bashing their heads into a tree. Later, Martha started crying and ..."

"The natives were raiding towns in New England and taking captives to sell to the French."

"William, what happened to you?"

"My wife and I were captured when they raided our home in Concord, New Hampshire. When they attacked her, they made me watch what they did. She was sold to another tribe. I still don't understand why they didn't kill me at that point. We have a lot to be sorry about, but we are free." He put one of the two hatchets on the rocks just outside their pine grove. "How many children did you have?"

"Eight including Martha. I'm sorry about your wife."

She thought about what she had been through, along with their ability to unite and kill their captors. She realized that she never would have been able to kill anyone if they had not killed her child. He wiped her tears and held her close.

\* \* \*

Still wrapped in each other's arms, they woke to light filtering through the pine branches. As if God heard their prayers again, there was a large white house just beyond the pine grove.

continued on the next page



Road to Imagination, continued

Thanks again, Dick, for a very special ending to a special prompt. If anyone else would like to finish one of these story starters (800 words or less), please send it to [faerland@yahoo.com](mailto:faerland@yahoo.com) and we may publish it.

Now, let's turn to this month's story prompt by award-winning author Cherie Lee:

**Raindrops**

The sky turned dark, but no raindrops fell. Wind blew so hard the tree limbs broke. I stood in my backyard and thought about trying the rain dance my friend had taught me. Lifting my foot and tapping my fingers on my drum, one raindrop splashed in my face. I looked up as thunder roared and lightning danced across the sky. "Hooray. Now the flood will come as I promised."

**Questions**

Who is this person?

Why do they want a flood to come?

Why did this person hesitate doing a rain dance?

Who was the friend who taught the storyteller that dance?

What did the drum look like?

Did this person wear a special outfit or normal clothes?

Where is this taking place?

Would revenge be a motive for wanting a flood to come or was this flood needed to fill a lake or wash away junk or to hide something that the storyteller didn't want found?

Would the time of year make any difference for this tall tale?

How many characters would be needed to keep tension in this story?

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



Finish the story and send it to [faerland@yahoo.com](mailto:faerland@yahoo.com) no later than July 15th.



## Advice From A River:

Go with the flow.  
Immerse yourself in nature.  
Slow down and meander.  
Go around the obstacles.  
Be thoughtful of those downstream.  
Stay current.  
The beauty is in the journey.  
Ilan Shamir

**View from the Bottom of the  
Grand Canyon**

**Photo by AAA member  
David Rich**

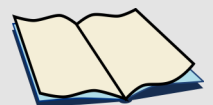
## What Are You Reading?

**Review by Jan Tenery**

Anyone suffering from information overload on our current pandemic might wonder why they should read a whole book about flu. When this book popped up on my Kindle recommendations list, I realized I didn't know very much about the 1918 pandemic known as the Spanish Flu. Why was it called Spanish Flu when it originated elsewhere? How does the 1918 epidemic compare with what we are experiencing today? Who were its vulnerable populations, and how did different countries respond to it? Most importantly, what have we learned about this disease that has plagued humans for thousands of years?

[Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World](#) by Laura Spinney offers scientific details as well as personal stories that help explain the common yet complex illness known as the flu. In addition to science journalism, Spinney writes literary novels. It is with a novelist's touch that she draws you into this multi-faceted story of an epidemic which changed societies and governments. Instantly engaging, augmented by maps and vintage photographs, "Pale Rider" provides insight into a major event in human history that has ramifications far into our future.

Jan Tenery is a novelist living in Oracle, Arizona.





## Politically Incorrect

by Marlene Baird

### AARON THE ERRANT MUSE

Aaron's legs shook inside his thigh-high shiny black boots. He wore a matching belt with a scabbard hanging along his right-hand side. Brass buttons marched down the front of a red jacket and golden epaulets adorned the shoulders.

He'd been called before the Head Muse, whose voice sounded like James Earl Jones on Demerol.

"Aaron, first of all, why do you dress like that? You look like you're going to war."

"With all respect, sir, it is war. This assignment is hopeless."

"All I ask of you is that you get her through the first five pages. You've had three weeks with no results."

"With all respect, sir, she starts every single morning at the beginning and never gets anywhere. I cajole her, I tease her, I urge, I beg—on my knees. I get nothing."

The Head Muse stretched to his full, intimidating height of two inches. He strode toward the door, motioning Aaron through it. "Well, that is our purpose, to help get her over the starting line. Do your job. You have one more week. No results and you go back to proofing."

Aaron hung his head as the door closed none too quietly behind him. *Proofing? Heaven help me. Commas, semi-colons, exclamation points, repetitions, to say nothing of spelling. I must do better with Cynthia.*

The next morning, Aaron waited impatiently for Cynthia. The mouse pad beside her computer had lovely pink flowers on it. He stamped over them as if they were chunks of charcoal. Finally she appeared in her usual get-up. Wrinkled flannel pajamas under a loose robe, hair in such disarray it might have been in a cyclone. Aaron did not look down at the slippers. They had long since turned to fluffy patches of gray. As she sat at the computer he perched on her left shoulder. Aaron straightened his shoulders and put his chin in the air. With the Head Muse in mind, he calmed himself and whispered in her ear. "Okay, my darling. Here we go. Success today!"

She jumped up so suddenly he almost fell. To the kitchen she went, to wait while the coffee brewed. Aaron took off one of his boots and massaged his foot. He put it back on. She wandered to the table and looked through a couple of catalogs. He desperately wished she would buy something to wear. Aaron rubbed his neck. *Patience, patience.*

Cynthia poured her coffee, added two spoons of sugar and some cream and returned to the computer. She brought up a virginal screen and stared at it.

"Come on, Cynthia. What will we work on today? A mystery? I've got clues and solutions." She didn't move. "Okay, how about a thriller with gadgets and gizmos and secrets and spies?"

She placed her hands on the keys and began by centering the title in Bradley Hand.

continued on the next page



Politically Incorrect, continued*My Life*

Aaron wanted to scream. How many times had he told her to use an easy-to-read typeface? And what life? She had no life.

It all began when I was two years old.

Aaron gathered himself. “No my darling,” he whispered. “Never start by going backwards. That comes later. You fill it in with little bits and pieces.”

Or was I three? No matter. The birthday party was such fun. Maybe I was four, because I remember it quite vividly.

As if she was actually taking his advice, she brought up a new blank screen.

*The Demented Clown*

Aaron perked up. This might be fun.

Something was chasing her. She ran as fast as she could.

Aaron de-perked. *Ran as fast as she could? How about, her heels pounded out a tattoo on the slick street as she gasped for air. Or, her new tennies were worth every cent of the ninety-five dollars she had paid. They carried her faster than she'd ever run before.*

She tripped over a tree stump, hit her head, and died.

*Chapter One*

How it began

It all began when I was two years old.

Aaron got the chills and sneezed. Maybe he was coming down with a cold. Maybe he just wished he was coming down with a cold. A bad one. One that would keep him in bed for weeks. He tucked himself into a fold of her robe, dusty though it was. He would call in sick. He would sleep and dream of working with Trenton Witherspoon. Trenton wrote of red-haired maidens, pirates, swords, raging storms at sea. And everyone drank rum.

Marlene Baird is a long-time member of Arizona Authors Association, and a judge for our annual writing contest. She has won the contest for both a novel and an essay. Marlene also enjoys writing short stories, having taken 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Lorian Hemingway writing contest in 2008. She lives in Prescott with husband, Bob.

Find out more about Marlene at <http://marlenebaird.com/>

Marlene's Books:

[Murder Times Two](#)

[The Filigree Cross](#)

[Minnie and the Manatees](#)

[Claire Walker](#)





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

By Mark D. Walker



[\*American Dirt\*](#) is a timely novel about the impact of the cartel in Mexico, and yet the most interesting aspect of the book might be the polemic around who has the right to tell the story of suffering in another country, which is not the author's. The second book, [\*Speak from Your Heart and Be Heard\*](#), by local author Kixx Goldman, shares a life-long commitment to helping others deal with their hang-ups and promoting a proactive approach to mental health and contentment. The last book, [\*The Adventures of Mr. Puttison Among the Maya\*](#), is a revealing story about an American adventurer/traveler who stumbles onto a Maya village in the highlands of Guatemala and the clash of culture that ensues.

As someone who has traveled through and around Mexico multiple times, I was attracted to *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins, a number one blockbuster for Hispanic Literature. Recently, I reviewed Paul Theroux's [\*On the Plain of Snakes: A Mexican Journey\*](#), and that, plus the brutal murder of the defenseless Mormon family by the cartel in the northern state of Sonora recently, made this a must read for me.



At least as fascinating as the story itself has been, the polemic that broke out around this novel after Oprah selected it for her Book Club is equally captivating. Although the author considers herself a "bridge" between some of the brutalities of Mexican society and the reader, she has been accused of "peddling the very same racism and stereotypes she is claiming to deride." According to Concepcion de Leon of the *New York Times*, "After a scathing review by the writer, Myriam Gurba, who claims that it relied on racist stereotypes, other Latinx writers and community members expressed similar criticism. And although the novel became a best seller, its publisher, Flatiron Books, canceled a planned book tour and more than 100 writers signed an open letter asking Winfrey to reconsider her pick."

One Latino author in the article claimed that writers of color are expected to write only about issues such as race and immigration, while white writers have much more liberty. Others would go on to say that Ms. Cummins was not "Latino" enough (although her grandparents are from Puerto Rico). And on more than one occasion, I've heard the criticism that the author is taking the space of "legitimate" Latino authors.

As someone who writes about people from around the world, my feeling is that I've seen a lot of things that most people don't. In the case of Guatemala, for example, I've probably seen more isolated places than over 90% of the population, including many places most Guatemalans wouldn't want or couldn't get to. So, should I wait for a local author to tell my story? In most cases, I try to tell the stories told to me by the locals I meet along the way.

In regard to getting published, writing does not include citizenship requirements. Authors must identify the publications that are most apt to consider their work. The latest "Poets & Writers" has an article, "A Prize for New Immigrant Writing," which is the focus of an independent publisher, Restless Books. I do my research and avoid the growing number of publications that are focused specifically on "diversity" in regard to gender, race and sexual orientation, among other things. Still, I'm turned down way more often than I should be, from my perspective, but that's life in the literary publishing world, and good writing is the great equalizer, to a degree.

And yet, possibly the greatest dilemma represented by this novel is the growing impact that advances and publicity

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The Million Mile Walker, continued

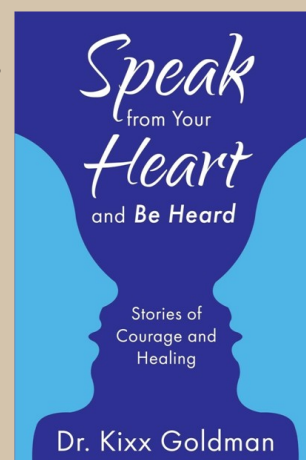
campaigns have on the success of a book. In this case, the author received an advance of some \$600,000. Then you have the marketing power of Flatiron Books, a division of Macmillan, making the publishing field less than even.

Despite its flaws and the issues this novel raises, *New York Times* bestselling author of [The Border](#), Don Winslow, considers it the “*Grapes of Wrath* of our times.” Ms. Cummins has introduced many readers to the human element behind the existing immigration crisis and helped them accept their humanity, which deserves the public’s compassion and understanding.

I’ve known Dr. Kixx Goldman for several years through our involvement with several writing groups, including the Phoenix Writers Club and the Phoenix Writers Network, and appreciate that she’s bringing her considerable experience as a psychologist to help her readers deal with the complicated realms of truth, emotion, trauma and healing. Fortunately, she followed Tony Morrison’s challenge, “if there’s a book you really want to read but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it,” a valuable mantra for any writer.

The author often reiterates one basic tenet, which drives much of her work, “Simply put, to heal, you must speak from your heart.” As a therapist, she made every effort to give good advice and she went on to say, “I want to share the wisdom I’ve gained in my life and lifework. I hope to inspire you to find something inside that you’ve been wanting to say for years, and to say it.”

The author explores the nature of intuition and resilience and advocates that one “listen to your little voice” and speak openly about your feelings. All eight of the author’s stories tell tales of courage that lead to triumph over their challenges and they heal and grow. The stories offer the reader a guided tour of unique and powerful approaches to healing trauma. A section at the end of the book is most useful by revealing the sources of the stories, “Behind the Scenes.”



I read [The Adventures of Mr. Puttison Among The Maya](#), by Victor D. Montejo, years ago in Spanish and decided to obtain the English version to review it for a broader audience. I have interacted with the author during my research for the production of a documentary on immigration, “Guatemala: Trouble in the Highlands.” He is a distinguished anthropologist, author, poet and a native speaker of the Maya Popb’alti language. The principal character, an American traveler, turns up in a remote Maya village in the Department of Huehuetenango in the 1930s. Initially, the community assumes that he’s a missionary and will lead their religious ceremony, since the Catholic priest hadn’t visited them in quite some time.

Over time, the American, Dudley, begins to get to know their culture, but the author also reveals many of the injustices the Maya population endured, such as the fact that they were considered beasts of burden and were used as horses to carry heavy cargo and even individuals. Forced labor would also take its toll: “When the day of the men’s return (from forced labor mandated by the Guatemalan government), they were received with great joy in every home. The men, however, returned with an air of sorrow and despair. Some were ill.

Their provisions had run out sooner than expected, and they had gone hungry, lacking the necessary nourishment to keep themselves strong and healthy for the heavy work of breaking up rocks, and digging with picks, shovels and hoes...”

At the end of the book, Puttison’s adventures take a very dark and tragic turn, as he invites two friends to stay with him and they pillage the local cave where many artifacts and religious items are kept. “The three foreigners then

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The Million Mile Walker, continued

dragged the sack into the bushes and, unseen by Xhuxh Antil, divided up its contents. Each one carried his own share, and suddenly bidding a hasty farewell to Xhuxh Antil, they headed up a shortcut through the mountains to the Mexican border. Like souls possessed by the devil, the three thieves began to run like crazy, trying to get out of Guatemala as quickly as possible.” The book is beautifully written, comical in places and yet reveals much about the Maya people and injustices they’ve endured over the centuries.

The author is a Jakalteq Maya and an internationally recognized author, scholar, and intellectual. As a young school-teacher in Guatemala in 1982, Montejo was forced to flee his home to escape being murdered by the Guatemalan Army during that country’s decades-long civil war. After a period in a U.N.-sponsored refugee camp in Chiapas, Mexico, he managed to make his way to the United States, bringing his family shortly thereafter. Once in the United States, he received a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut in 1993. He later taught at the University of California-Davis in the Department of Native American Studies, eventually becoming its chair. In 2004 he returned to Guatemala to serve first as Ministro de Paz [Secretary of Peace] in the cabinet of Guatemalan president Roberto Berger, and then as a member of Guatemala’s National Congress. He currently lives in his hometown of Jacaltenango.

You can find the reviews in their entirety on my website or at GoodReads:

[American Dirt](#)

[Speak from Your Heart and Be Heard](#)

[The Adventures of Mr. Puttison Among the Maya](#)

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

[Mark@MillionMileWalker.com](mailto:Mark@MillionMileWalker.com) or through my websites:

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

[Guatemala Story.net](http://GuatemalaStory.net)

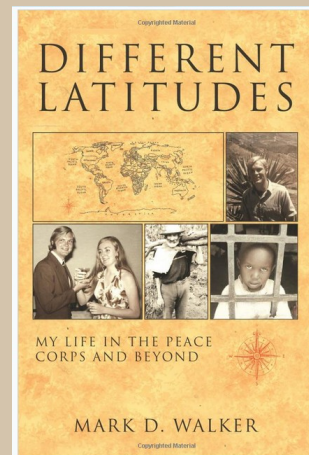
[Facebook](#)

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, *On the Plain of Snakes: A Mexican Journey*.

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





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**ALL MEMBERSHIPS RENEW EACH JANUARY**

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## Where in Arizona?

We're continuing this feature, conceived by Dick Waters. 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](mailto: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	Bisbee
Pinetop/Lakeside	Sedona	Prescott	Greer	Apache Junction

Write to [faerland@yahoo.com](mailto:faerland@yahoo.com) no later than July 15th if you know the location of the photo. If you answer correctly, we'll publish your name in the next issue.





Above: Curio Shop outside Lost Dutchman's Mine, Arizona

Below: Evening Primroses near Holbrook

Photos by AAA member Janet Crum



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!

## Books for Tough Times

by Sharon Sterling

Over a lifetime, the quality and intensity of one's need for reassurance changes. When I was a child fearful of and bewildered by the physical world, books like [\*The Wind in the Willows\*](#) and those by Beatrix Potter inspired and supported my love for animals and the natural world.

A little later, I went to the writings of Laura Ingalls Wilder, whose works taught me that parents are fallible, better times follow hard times and love holds families together.

As a young adult with a family, I found that Will Cather in [\*O Pioneers!\*](#) and Elizabeth Goudge in [\*Green Dolphin Street\*](#) helped me understand that most "ordinary" people are, indeed, courageous, wholesome, kind and worthy of trust.

My current vocation of psychotherapist was probably foretold by my fascination with self-help and pop psychology books, especially one by Alan Cohen titled [\*The Dragon Doesn't Live Here Anymore\*](#). I went back to it many times for its down-to-earth, anecdotal style underpinned by true wisdom. It always reminded me to have faith in myself and faith in the human race.

Strange as it may seem, the sonnets of William Shakespeare gave me insight into the mystery of love. When read from start to finish, the sonnets form an arc, much like the arc of plot action in a mystery novel. Seen through the eyes of the Bard, love begins with inspiration, exultation, splendor. It proceeds through disillusionment and resignation to end (if it ends well) in gratitude and deep acceptance of flawed humanity.

*"As this world becomes increasingly ugly, callous and materialistic, it needs to be reminded that the old fairy stories are rooted in truth, that happy endings do, in fact, occur, and that the blue spring mist that makes an ugly street look beautiful is just as real a thing as the street itself."* --a quote from Elizabeth Goudge

First published in the Dec. 2016-Jan. 2017 issue of [\*\*BOOK WOMEN - a Readers' Community For Those Who Love Women's Words\*\*](#). Reprinted with permission from the author and AAA member, Sharon Sterling.



## JERICO WRITERS SUMMER FESTIVAL OF WRITING

[Book Your Ticket](#)

# THE SUMMER FESTIVAL OF WRITING 2020



## June

We kick things off with workshops covering writing, wellbeing, editing, publishing and self-publishing. Highlights include:

- ★ Mini course – Practical plotting
- ★ Folio Literary
- ★ Adam Croft
- ★ Juliet Mushens
- ★ Joanna Penn

[See Full Programme](#)



## July

Things are heating up with some of the biggest names in traditional and indie publishing on hand to answer questions. Highlights include:

- ★ Clare Mackintosh
- ★ Mini-course – Self-editing
- ★ Dave Gaughran
- ★ Bookouture
- ★ Amazon Publishing

[See Full Programme](#)



## August

With two mini-courses and extra-special guests, August brings incredible sessions to your living room. Highlights include:

- ★ Neil Gaiman and Chris Riddell
- ★ Mini-course – Commercial Fiction
- ★ Mini-course – Self-Publishing
- ★ Sam Copeland

[See Full Programme](#)



## September

We bring things to a close with some more outstanding workshops and an extra-special competition for ticket-holders.

- ★ Mini-course – Sophie Hannah
- ★ Picador Books
- ★ Friday Night Live
- ★ Closing party

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**Jenny Milchman**, *USA Today* bestselling author, and speaker & educator on writing & publishing.



**Matt Coyle**, Popular podcaster and best-selling, Anthony Award-winning author.

# Write Now!

## ANNUAL WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE

### WRITENOW! 2020 – Craft + Publish + Market

Voted "BEST writers conference in Arizona" by *The Writer* magazine

[Desert Sleuths](#), the Phoenix Chapter of [Sisters in Crime](#), a national mystery writing organization, presents the conference for aspiring and established writers of all genres.

Our 17th annual conference features a lineup of bestselling authors and writing professionals offering insight, workshops, and community. Breakout session workshops will focus on helping writers hone their craft, detail the publishing process, and offer marketing strategies.

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**Jessica Morrell**, top-tier developmental editor and author.



**Naomi Hirahara**, Edgar award-winning author, writer of both fiction and non-fiction.



Literary Agent Kirby Kim of Janklow & Nesbit Associates will help us navigate the publishing world. His current clients include rapper Common, ASU Professor Matt Bell, and Sci-Fi award winner Ted Chiang. He's looking for both literary (rich sweeping stories with award potential) and commercial authors (thrillers, mysteries, speculative fiction, and young adult).

## The WriteNow! 2020 Conference September 18-19, 2020

## [Embassy Suites Phoenix-Scottsdale](#)

Featuring award-winning and critically acclaimed authors Jenny Milchman, Matt Coyle, and Naomi Hirahara; plus top-tier developmental editor Jessica Page Morrell, and Literary Agent Kirby Kim (Janklow & Nesbit).

[Register Now!](#)

**Reception** - Friday, September 18, 2020 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Full Day Conference and Breakout Sessions** - Saturday, September 19, 2020 - 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
4415 E Paradise Village Parkway  
Phoenix, AZ 85032  
602-765-5800  
(Special price link available upon request)

#### Registration Prices:

Desert Sleuths Members: \$115 through March 2020, then \$139 through Sept. 17, 2020

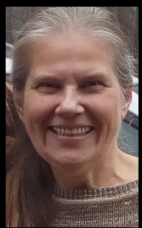
Non-Members: \$139 through March 2020, then \$159 through Sept. 17, 2020  
At the door: \$179 on Sept. 18 and 19

Registration includes Friday Welcome Reception, Saturday continental breakfast, lunch, workshops, and speaker presentations. Hotel lodgings not included in conference registration.

Register for **WRITENOW! 2020**: <https://desertsleuths.com/write-now/2020conference/>







## The Inevitable Author

by Kathleen Cook

### Too Exhausted to Write!

Do you ever find life interfering with your writing craft? When you have a million other things to do, writing can seem like the last priority. I've felt that way this past month. Early in April, we had a snowstorm that dumped nearly three feet of white and left our little rural homestead without power for more than four days and completely snowed in. We weren't in any danger, having enough food, bottled drinking water, and wood for the fire. But it was a pain to haul snow daily and boil it on the woodstove (when you've got an electric well pump, no electricity means no water for flushing, bathing, etc.) And it was a pain, too, to write by flashlight with a pen. I pushed off my creative urges, figuring, "Why waste all that time when I would just have to transfer it to the computer later?" Tomorrow, for sure, we'll get power back, I thought. Always tomorrow.

After that quick trip to the 1800s, I was happy to reenter the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Of course, I forgot everything I'd intended to write, but I didn't have time to remember. Late April was glorious, so we spent more than a week breaking ground for a new grain plot. Once that was done, we figured we'd prep our main vegetable plot for planting in mid May and I'd have time for writing after that. Tomorrow, maybe.

A very late (May 9<sup>th</sup>) snowstorm and another foot of snow destroyed that plan. We couldn't get the veggie garden prepped until this week, and we've been working like crazy to avoid a huge delay in getting the crop in. (In short-season Maine, a late start could mean no harvest at all come August.) I figured I'd get to my writing tomorrow.

My son did the back breaking work of broad forking the plot, while I amended the soil with wood ash, bone meal and compost. I hardened hundreds of seedlings and got them ready for their new homes outside in the rich black earth, dodging rain and getting soaked in the process. I planned to do some writing in the evening, but I wasn't able to keep my eyes open for more than five minutes after sunset this whole week. I figured I'd get to my writing tomorrow.

Does that sound familiar? Maybe you don't have a grain plot, but you have other tasks that get in the way. It's always something, and you always plan on getting to it "tomorrow." When I woke up today, I ticked off all the things I needed to do: finish the last 1/4 of the vegetable plot. Get the last of the grain in the field. Bake a few loaves of bread for the week. I felt exhausted just thinking about it. But then I read something by Jennifer Niven, a *New York Times* bestselling author.

She said that when life gets in the way of writing, she "checks it in the bus locker." In other words, everything is compartmentalized into its little slots, so that she can focus on that writing slot as if it were the only thing she had to do during that time. How much time would that veggie plot take? Maybe an hour. The grain? Probably 30 to 40 minutes. The bread? Heck, the bread is mostly waiting while it's rising ... three rises of 45 minutes each makes for a wonderful flavor.

That's it, I thought! Those 45 minute risings would be the perfect time for me to write. Maybe five extra minutes to get to my computer between kitchen trips would give me 40x3 ... 120 minutes, or two hours, of writing time. I'd hear the timer, get up, fold down the dough, cover it, and get back to my computer within five minutes (or less, actually). Eureka! I compartmentalized and I wound up with a whole two hours of writing today!

Think of all the things you do ... are there minutes to squeeze out *between* jobs, or minutes *within* those jobs, like that

continued on the next page

Inevitable Author, continued.

rising dough? Compartmentalize each task; figure out where you have a decent block of time (at least thirty minutes) that you can snatch out of your day. You'll find yourself sleeping better and waking more refreshed because you satisfied your creative urge to write. You'll stand tall and proud, having accomplished something more important, over the long run, than baking bread or what have you.

The thought for today is: pencil in time for yourself and your craft each day, somewhere in your busy schedule. Compartmentalize. Check everything else into the bus locker and focus on your writing. You'll be glad you did.

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



**Red Rocks of Sedona**

**Photo by AAA Member Marilyn Janson**



**First Prize All Categories**  
\$100 and publication or feature  
in Arizona Literary Magazine

**Second Prize All Categories**  
\$50 and publication or feature  
in Arizona Literary Magazine

**Third Prize All Categories**  
\$25 and publication or feature  
in Arizona Literary Magazine

**Honorable Mention All Categories**  
Publication or feature  
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**First and Second Place Winners**  
In Poetry, Essay, Short Story  
Nomination for the Pushcart Prize  
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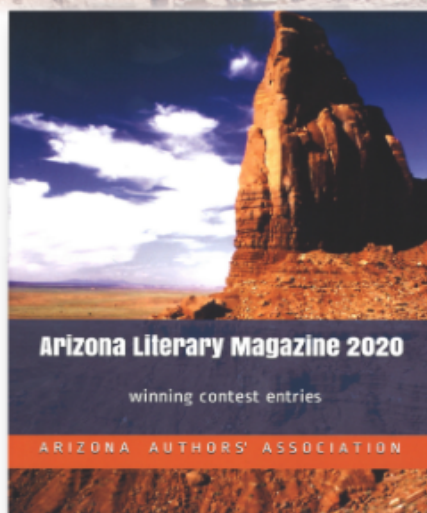
#### CRITIQUES OFFERED

To request a detailed critique of all  
aspects of your work with suggestions:

- \* Mark your choice of critique on the entry form
- \* Critiques cost extra and are available only for unpublished works

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

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**2020**

## ARIZONA AUTHORS ASSOCIATION LITERARY CONTEST & AWARDS

### Unpublished Categories

Poems

Short Stories

Essays/Articles/True Stories

Novels/Novellas

### Published Books Categories

Fiction

Nonfiction

**NEW** Children's Picture Book

**NEW** Juvenile/Young Adult

#### Contest Rules & Submission Guidelines

- Winners in unpublished categories automatically consign first serial rights to Arizona Authors Association (right to print an excerpt in Arizona Literary Magazine first). If an entry is published after the deadline, the author must withdraw that entry.
- Winning entries will be published or featured in the 2021 Arizona Literary Magazine.
- Entries accepted January 1, 2020, until postmarked no later than July 1, 2020.
- Unpublished categories: Three copies of each entry must be provided. No author name anywhere other than on entry form.
- Except for poems, all unpublished works must be double-spaced, with 12 pt font, 1-inch margins, and all pages must be numbered and titled in header.
- Unpublished novels and novellas must be completed and available upon the judge's request.
- Manuscripts will not be returned except with critiques.
- Published categories: Two copies of each book by author only. No publisher entries except for compilations.
- Published E-books must be submitted in print & bound form like a gallery or ARC.
- All published books including E-books must include ISBN, copyright dates, and publisher information.
- For multiple entries, fill out a separate entry form for each entry. You may copy the form from our website or photocopy from an original.
- Published books will be donated. Unpublished works will be shredded or destroyed.
- All finalists will be notified in advance of awards.
- The judges reserve the right to switch a category for an entry, to cancel a category if the number of entries is not sufficient, or to decide not to have a winner if the level of the best entries is not up to publishing industry standards.
- Any entry not following guidelines will be disqualified without notifying author. No refunds on disqualified entries.

**Title of Submission:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Each entry must be accompanied by a copy of this entry form and completely filled out)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zipcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check category, enter price of entry and TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

#### Unpublished Entries:

\_\_\_\_\_ Poem \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(50 line maximum)

\_\_\_\_\_ Short Story \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Essay/Article/True Story (15-page maximum)

\_\_\_\_\_ Novels/Novellas \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Send a 5-page synopsis and the first 25 pages of manuscript)

#### Published Entries:

(Only 2019 OR 2020 publication dates eligible. Judged on literary merit first, production quality second.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Fiction: Novels, Novellas, Short Story Collections \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Nonfiction \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children's Picture Book \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Juvenile/Young Adult \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Critiques: (For unpublished entries only)

\_\_\_\_\_ Poetry \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Short Stories \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Essay/Article/True Story \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Novels/Novellas \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Paid:** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(For All Entries and Critiques)

#### Checks payable and entries mailed to:

Arizona Authors Association  
1119 E. Le Marche Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85022

You may write one check to cover price for all entries and critiques  
Delivery Confirmation OK  
No Signature Confirmation please

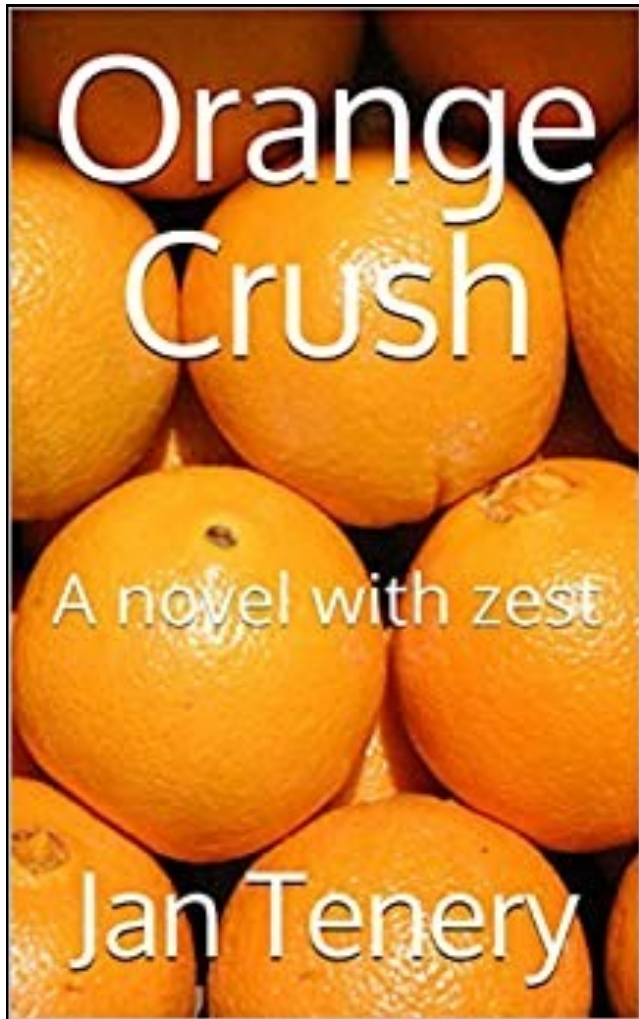
Entry Form Available on our Website:  
[www.arizonaauthors.com](http://www.arizonaauthors.com)

**Deadline: July 1, 2020**  
**Awards: November 7, 2020**



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Jan Tenery



### Orange Crush

A novel with zest

Back east they called her Win, because she always did. Now, a twist of fate has brought stylish urbanite Martha Winfield to Arizona's low desert, where she takes the unlikely job of managing Paul Harriman's citrus orchard. Harriman is under scrutiny by a pair of private investigators who suspect he is involved with the Mexican drug cartel.

When the new orchard manager arrives wearing high heels, senior PI agent Sonny Butterfield questions Harriman's reasons for hiring her. Martha becomes a person of interest in the investigation, especially to Sonny's young associate, Colton Frye, whose eye has been caught by the classy, curvaceous blonde. Suddenly, everyone's motives and loyalties come into question. Whether victim or accomplice in Harriman's scheme, Martha is certainly a complication in this humorous, fast-paced story about love, money, and other intoxicants.

You will find *Orange Crush* on [Amazon](#) and on [Goodreads](#)

Jan Tenery spent most of her childhood on the road with her military family. This wanderlust continued into adulthood, inspiring trips to such places as Kenya and Australia, sometimes as an amateur astronomer but often simply as a tourist and observer. After a rewarding career in healthcare quality improvement, she decided to retire and pursue creative interests.

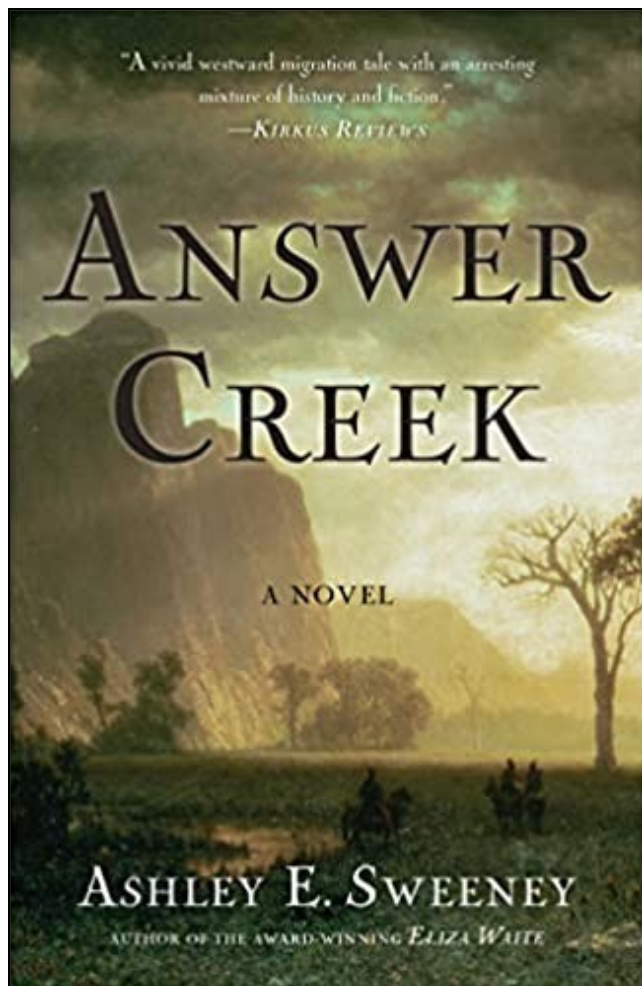
In 1999, she moved to Arizona and lived on a seven-acre citrus farm in east Yuma County. In between climbing ladders and harvesting fruit, she also indulged in woodworking, playing percussion, and pastel painting. Some of her early fiction and essays appeared in "Foxtail," the literary magazine of the University of Maine, Presque Isle. Jan now lives in the Tucson area.

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



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Ashley E. Sweeney



### Answer Creek A Novel

Following the Donner Party as they trek west on the Oregon-California Trail in 1846, *Answer Creek* chronicles one young woman's experience as a member of the ill-fated expedition. From the 2017 Nancy Pearl Book Award winner comes a gripping tale of adventure and survival, based on true events.

Nineteen-year-old Ada Weeks confronts danger and calamity along the hazard-filled journey to California. After a fateful decision that delays the overlanders more than a month, she—along with eighty-one other members of the Donner Party—finds herself stranded at Truckee Lake on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, stuck there for the entirety of a despairing, blizzard-filled winter. Forced to eat shoe leather and blankets to survive, will Ada be able to battle the elements—and her own demons—as she envisions a new life in California?

"Majestic, moving, and layered with beauty and horror, *Answer Creek* is a bittersweet and satisfying historical novel." —*Foreword Reviews*

Find *Answer Creek* on [Amazon](#) and on [Goodreads](#)  
Read the review on [Publishers Weekly](#)

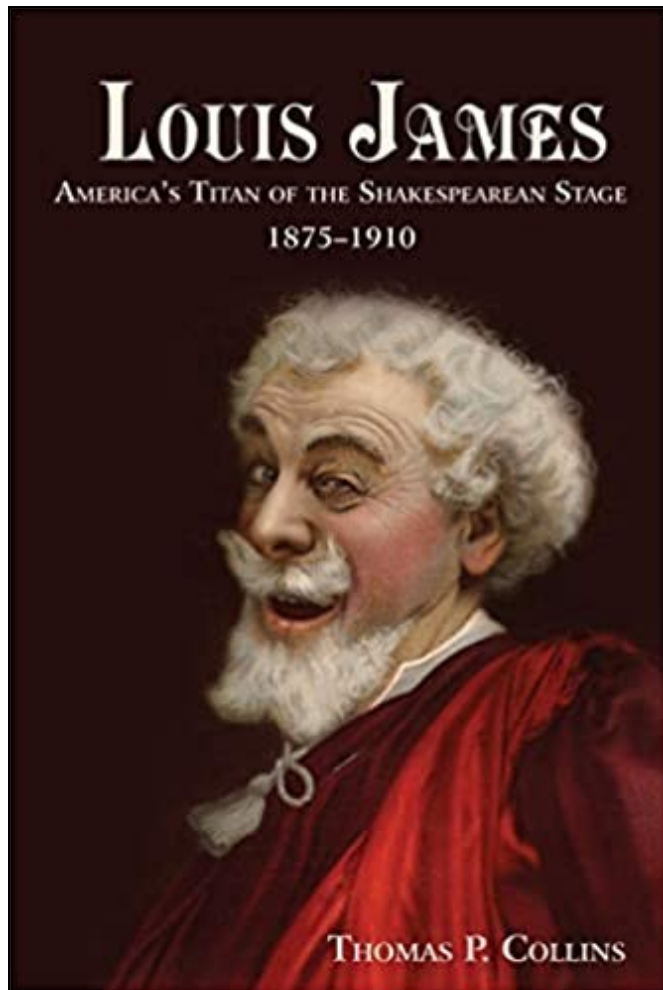
Ashley E. Sweeney is the 2017 winner of the Nancy Pearl Book Award for her debut novel, [Eliza Waite](#), set on a remote island in Washington State and in Skagway, Alaska, during the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898. Sweeney's second novel, *Answer Creek*, follows the Donner Party as they journey west in 1846 on the Oregon-California Trail. Kirkus Reviews calls the novel "A vivid westward migration tale with a arresting mixture of history and fiction." A native New Yorker, Sweeney is a graduate of Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts, and has a long career in journalism and education. She lives with her husband, D. Michael Barclay, in Tucson.

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



## NEW BOOK RELEASE

by Thomas P. Collins



### Louis James

America's Titan of the  
Shakespearean Stage 1875-1910

Back in the glory days of professional touring theater companies, the name Louis James was an American household word. He launched his professional career in the late 1860s, and by the 1880s was nationally renowned as the rising star of Shakespearean drama.

Although he first drew attention in the great melodramas of the day, he became one of the greatest Shakespeareans of the Gilded Age. Handsome, virile, and tall, he rolled out the Bard's iambic pentameter in a magnificent rumbling baritone voice.

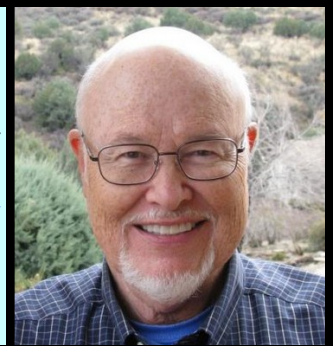
He kept the spirit of Shakespeare and the classics alive and well during his nearly fifty-year career, bringing his astonishing portrayals to Western and Midwestern audiences in a time when New York prided itself as the theatrical center of the United States.

In *Louis James*, author Thomas P. Collins brings this long-forgotten actor's career and most notable productions vividly to life. Lovers of Shakespeare will revel in the story of the once-famous and beloved Louis James.

Find this book on [Amazon](#) and [Barnes&Noble](#)

A professor emeritus of theater, California native Thomas P. Collins lives with his wife, Wendy, in Prescott, Arizona, where he volunteers at the Sharlot Hall Museum Library & Archives, conducts research, and presents entertaining programs about the theater. Collins taught at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville for thirty-one years and cofounded the Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival. He has written two books about the theater in the Arizona Territory: [Stage-Struck Settlers in the Sun-Kissed Land](#) and [Arizona on Stage](#).

Find out more about Thomas [HERE](#)





## Members Webpages

If you haven't yet updated your page on our Arizona Authors Association website, please do so now. We'd like to see all of our members get the recognition they deserve, and the webpage will enhance your professional presence on the web. The following items will be needed:

**Photo:** Color or B/W, 3x5 inches, 300 dpi minimum.

**Name:** Write your name as you wish it to be listed on the website (two or three names).

**Trade:** This line will list your trade, i.e. Author, Editor, Publisher, Literary Judge, Journalist, Blogger, Technical Writer, etc. Be sure to stay within a 21-character limit.

**Genre:** This section contains three lines. The first line has 21 characters; the next two each have 28 characters. State the genres of your work, i.e., Fiction, Nonfiction, Sci-Fi, Biography, Drama, Comedy, Screenplays, Technical Manuals, Blogging, etc. Be sure to stay within the character (not word) limit for each line.

**Email:** If you wish, provide an email address where anyone who accesses our site may contact you.

**Website:** Supply an http web address, if desired. Go to your website and then copy the link, such as: <http://www.debbieweiland-author.com>. Indicate whether you are published or unpublished.

**Biography:** Write your biography of up to 2000 words. You may list your published works here or save that for the next section. Include your works in whatever order you like. Be sure to group series together. If you write under more than one name, group your works by name. Include the title, book cover photo, and the link where buyers may purchase your book.

Note that our staff may edit any section as needed.

Please send your completed updates to:

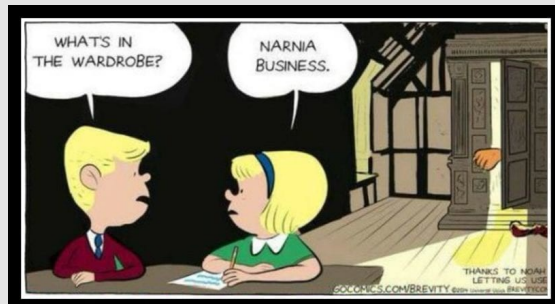
[toby@tobyheathcotte.com](mailto:toby@tobyheathcotte.com). In the subject line of the email, insert *Website Bio Update*. Thank you!

## Literary Trivia From Page Three

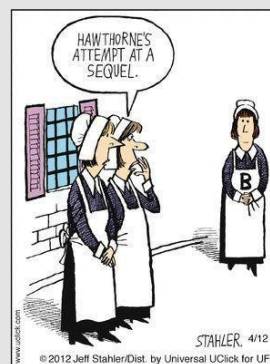
### Answers

1. Miguel de Cervantes; Don Quixote
2. A Tale of Two Cities
3. The Tempest
4. Isaac Asimov
5. Clan of the Cave Bear
6. 200

## Back Page Quotes



— Narnia cartoon by Dan Thompson



— Hawthorne cartoon by Jeff Stahler

How did Voltaire like his apples?

Candide.



What makes *Civil Disobedience* such a great work? Thoreau editing.

These and other jokes can be found at: [We Are Teachers](http://WeAreTeachers.com)

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](mailto:faerland@yahoo.com) before the 15th of odd-numbered months, and it may appear in the next issue.