

SASP

NEWS

August 2017

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
P. O. Box 18573
Spokane, WA 99228-0573



2015: August wild fires cloud the skies and dim the sun.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP) began in 1998 when *Chuck O’Conner, Elmer Freeman, Joe Meiners, and Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors formed a club in order to share their knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative ways of publishing. Today, SASP is a large non-profit organization dedicated to anyone with interests in any aspect of writing and art. Members now include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly luncheon meetings provide inspiration and education by way of knowledgeable and entertaining guest speakers, and the cheerful camaraderie of people sharing common interests and goals. Membership is open to all who love writing, art, and interesting people.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers meets the first Thursday of each month at **Golden Corral**, 7117 N. Division Street, in Spokane

Presentations begin at **2:30 pm**. The room opens at **2:00 pm** so members and guests can dine, visit, join, pay dues, browse, and perhaps buy each other’s books. After short break, members and guests relate their accomplishments, mention upcoming activities, and we draw for door prizes.

Members and guests are requested to buy lunch upon entering the establishment, and to leave an appropriate tip for the waiter/waitress.

Members need to be present to win door prizes.

(Schedule variations will be posted on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org, and current members notified via e-mail or telephone.)

Membership benefits include listing on the SASP website, www.spokaneauthors.org. Many members provide short biographies and links to external personal websites, creating more marketing exposure. Current members may list and describe their published works on the SASP website and offer their work for sale at meetings. (Be sure to visit the “links” page on our web-site. It will connect you to many interesting on-line locations, including those of many SASP members.)

Guest speakers at our monthly meetings inform, inspire, and entertain members and guests with a variety of topics, all designed to provide knowledge pertinent to writing and publishing.

SASP members are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works of and with fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate examples of their work for use as door prizes. Those who win other members’ works are expected to provide a review of that work.

Note:

SASP no longer transports name tags and display books to and from our meetings. Please take your name tag with you. It is yours to keep and maintain. Please take any books you have provided for display with SASP. We will provide space and stands for you to display your books, but you must bring them for each meeting.

2017 Officers:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| President: | Esther Hildahl mr.inky@yahoo.com |
| (509) 489-2136 | |
| Vice-President: | Sue Eller sue@ellermarketing.net |
| (509) 499-2012 | |
| Secretary: | |
| Newsletter Editor: | |
| Web Master: | Dave McChesney daveeva@comcast.net |
| (509) 325-2072 | |
| Treasurer: | Kate Poitevin kate@murphyscorner.com |
| (509) 326-3434 | |
| Public-Relations: | Beth Camp bluebethley@yahoo.com |
| (509) 863-5536 | |

Advisory Board:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Member: | James Parry parry9922@q.com |
| (509) 325-9922 | |
| Member: | Bob Weldin minersquest@comcast.net |
| (509) 327-2897 | |
| Member: | Chuck Lehman cmlehman2@yahoo.com |
| (509) 299-7802 | |

“Like” the SASP Facebook Page:

www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679

“join” the SASP Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1646364128981815/>

OUR NEXT MEETING!

Please join us on **Thursday, August 3, 2017, 2:30 pm**, at the **Golden Corral, 7117 N. Division**. (The room opens at **2 pm** for dining and mingling prior to the actual meeting at **2:30**.)

So, one character was talking to another. I got a little closer, wanting to catch what they were saying. Shock! They were speaking DIALOGUE!



Come to this month's meeting of **SPOKANE AUTHORS & SELF-PUBLISHERS** for a panel featuring SASP Members Sue Eller, Esther Hildahl, Dave McChesney, and Kate Poitevin. They will focus on "The Art of Dialogue" or how to talk back to your characters!

**Ten Minute Discussion:
"Clarifying the difference between
Voice and Narration"**

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



A few months ago, as many of you know, I finally had my books put on Amazon and Kindle. When I sold a couple of print books, I thought my royalty would be paid the following month, but it wasn't.

I remember our group having a discussion on this topic. There seemed to be a fair amount of confusion as to when Amazon paid authors their royalties for book(s) sold. Since I hadn't put my books on Amazon at that time, I listened to many of you relate your own experiences concerning late payments.

One of the things I wondered about was whether or not Amazon would notify me by email to let me know how much I made and when they would pay me. Well, after two months, I'm happy to say, they finally sent me an email notifying me that I would be paid this coming month. I also sold some books on Kindle. Now I'm wondering if they will email me on that, too. Time will tell.

On another note, my husband downloaded my books on his tablet. As I was looking through them, I noticed that Kindle doesn't include the back cover of the book. I miss that. And with one of my books, *Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude*, the back cover is very important, since the picture on the back completes the story. So if you are thinking of downloading this book, please go back to the Amazon site after you have finished reading it and look at the back cover.

Call me an old-fashioned reader, but I still prefer reading a print book. They are more "cozy." Until next month, happy writing!

Esther

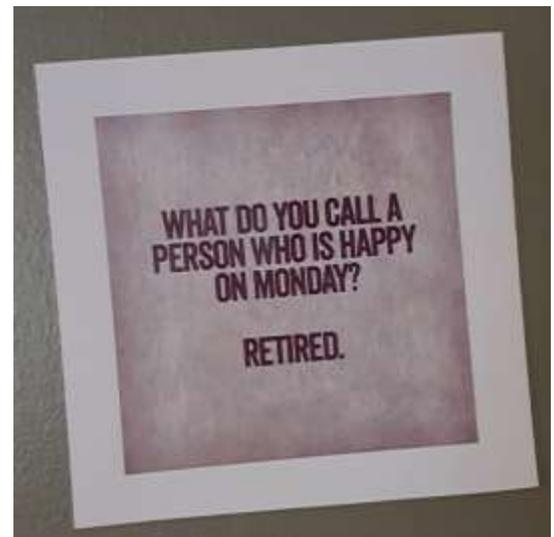
FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER



Whether I meant to do so or not, I have been somewhat distracted over the past month. I suppose some of it might be attributed to my pending retirement, and event and status that I have long looked forward to. Because of that distraction I find I've been even more tardy in getting things done for the Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers' web-site and newsletter.

So as the deadline for sending out SASP NEWS approaches, I'm scrambling to ensure it does indeed go out. And yes, I am now officially retired! (Or as I prefer to think of it... transitioned from working for someone to working for myself.)

Anyway, once I acclimate to not going to work every day, I hope to begin some improvements and updates to our web-site and newsletter. Who knows, I might even get around to continuing work on my third Stone Island Sea Story... and more.



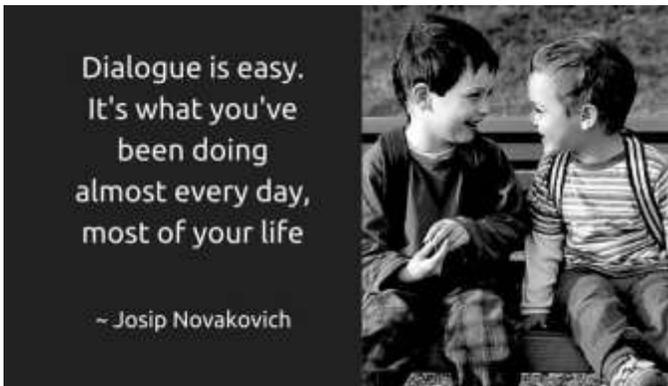
Found these posted outside of the laundry room on Friday morning, my final day on the job! To be honest, I think I'll miss certain aspects of it, the people I worked with, the sense of purpose, and the feeling of accomplishment. I will not, however, miss waking up at 3:00 am in order to be at work at 4:00 I'm also very grateful that my co-workers took the time and effort to say "good-bye" and let me know my efforts over the past years were appreciated.

FROM OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR



“Dialogue: How Do We Get Our Characters To Say What We Want?”

We have a great panel set to talk about dialogue at our August meeting, and I’m sorry I can’t be there (a prior teaching commitment).



The more I write, the more I appreciate that dialogue is the number one way to bring our stories alive. It doesn’t matter what we are writing about; readers care about people, identify with our characters, and want to know what they are thinking about and what they have to say. For example:

George wrote relentlessly, his fingers flying over the keyboard “Dammit. Gotta get this done,” he muttered. “Not now, Martha,” he shouted. “I’m working a deadline.”

Martha stood in the kitchen, the oatmeal almost bubbling over on the stove as she slid

another bullet into her Baby Glock. “But breakfast is ready, honey.” *As if he cares*, she thought. *Sooner a dog would talk.*

SOME NOTES ON DIALOGUE:

Notice that the **dialogue is written in present tense**, even when the story is told in past tense (third person). In this way, the dialogue gives a sense of immediacy and energy to the story. Inner dialogue also is written in present tense, showing what the character is thinking right now.

It’s OK to use ‘said’ more than once. Readers can get distracted from the story if they can’t figure out who is talking OR if a different verb is used whenever someone speaks (as George does above). But notice how George’s verbs express emotion. It’s also OK to leave ‘said’ out entirely when action tags are used (as Martha does).

Follow the guideline of one person = one paragraph. This means we create a new paragraph whenever a different person speaks.

Inner dialogue (what the character is thinking) is typically shown in italics. Use ‘he thought’ or ‘she thought’ to let the reader know when the character is thinking and not speaking aloud. Sometimes what’s revealed with inner dialogue contrasts with what the character says and with what the reader expects.

Characters come alive with dialogue. Their personalities, their inner thoughts, their emotions. They can cuss, use slang, and think or speak in fragments. When your characters are in a highly stressful situation, their speech patterns become simpler and shorter. Almost as if words fail them. They may even use clichés!

Once we’ve written our first draft, read that dialogue aloud to make sure it sounds ‘natural.’ **Edit ruthlessly to take out any extra words.**

Free-write dialogue whenever your story seems a little stuck or flat. Set up a situation and just let your character’s words roll onto the paper. You may be surprised by what your characters reveal -- and what you learn about them.

JULY'S MEETING

Have fun at SASP's August panel on dialogue. If you miss our meeting, here are some **additional resources** about dialogue.

James Scott Bell, "The 7 Tools of Dialogue."
<http://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/the-7-tools-of-dialogue>

Harvey Chapman, "9 Rules for Writing Dialogue."
<http://www.novel-writing-help.com/writing-dialogue.html> <--Source for image. This was my favorite article as it provides many examples of 'good' dialogue as well as helpful advice.

Liternauts, "Ten Keys to Write Effective Dialogue."
<http://www.liternauts.com/ten-keys-to-write-effective-dialogue/>

Ali Luke, "Ten Easy Ways to Improve Your Dialogue."
<http://writetodone.com/10-easy-ways-to-improve-your-dialogue/>

Joanna Penn, "9 Easily Preventable Mistakes Writers Make with Dialogue."
<https://www.thecreativepenn.com/2012/10/04/dialogue-mistakes/>

And if you like PODCASTS, Joanna also recommends "Improve Your Dialogue with James Scott Bell, Podcast Episode 190."
<https://www.thecreativepenn.com/2014/07/28/writing-dialogue/>

Beth

SASP member and Spokane author Beth Camp writes historical fiction and blogs from time to time at
<http://bethandwriting.blogspot.com>

She currently serves as SASP's public relations person.

Visit [Beth's Amazon Author Page](#)

Audiobook now available for *Standing Stones!*

Scottish proverb: "Bend, don't break."

Have a writing tip? Why not send it to daveeva@comcast.net for inclusion in a future edition of SASP NEWS.



Niki Breaser Tschirgi was the guest speaker at the July meeting of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers. Currently residing in Spokane, Niki talked about creating a book from a blog as was done with her *Growing up Alaska*. She also talked about her latest project, *Stretchmark my Heart*, the story of her and her husband's adoption of six foster children over the years. Niki also offered insights into writing, marketing, crowd-funding, and the use of social media.

We had one new member join during our meeting. Welcome Linda Harris.

Esther Hildahl noted that she had finished and published her third children's book. It's called *Tomato*. Andy Brown, author of *Warnings Unheeded*, said he'd sold over 2,000 copies and had received sixty-five reviews to date. Congratulations! That is a definite "bell-ringer!" Bob Manion mentioned that new books were about ready to come out and that he would be attending the Pacific Northwest Writers Association's Conference in Seattle later in the month.

Tiffani Harvey told us she was in the process of having her books produced in audio-book format, as that might allow them to easier reach those they are meant for. Chuck Lehman updated us on the progress of the screenplay for his novel *Asher*. Fred Jessett, an active participant and Clan Chieftain, passed out brochures for the Highland Games being held later this summer in Enumclaw,

Washington.

As President, Esther Hildahl called for us to write and submit more reviews of other members work. She also initiated our Ten Minute Discussion about using Facebook as an Author Page. Next month we'll clarify the difference between voice and narration.

Once again we had a good number of door prizes, including three copies of *Depop* by SASP member Russell H. Ford. (Russell joined the group via the USPS and recently sent the three copies to the group. He expects to move to Spokane later in the year. If anyone who happened to take home a copy of his book would like to get in touch with him, notify Dave McChesney and he will put you in touch.) Prize winners include Sharon O'Shaughnessy, Bob Manion, Larry Danek, Andy Brown, Linda Harris, Dave McChesney, Tiffani Harvey, Bob Weldin, Bob Hildahl, Joan Carter, Jim Silliman, Fred Jessett, and Chuck Lehman. (If anyone won a door prize and isn't mentioned, your secretary/editor/web-master was also a winner and thus away from his notes momentarily in order to select a prize.)

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 3rd. We are scheduled to have a forum or group discussion on dialogue. Currently scheduled speakers include Sue Eller, Esther Hildahl, Dave McChesney, and Kate Poitevin.

Please note that we are well into 2017. Names have disappeared from the list of members on our web-site. To prevent that, or to restore your name to the list, make sure that your dues of \$15.00 are paid for 2017. If you joined later in 2016, you should have paid a pro-rated portion of the yearly dues, with membership expiring at the end of the year. If you joined very late in the year, you may have also paid for this year. If you are uncertain, please contact the SASP Treasurer or SASP Secretary. To continue membership status you need to be paid for 2017. Dues may be paid in person at our meetings, or you may mail a check or money order to: Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers, P. O. Box 18573, Spokane, WA, 99228-0573.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact daveeva@comcast.net to get your event listed.

The Inland Empire Chapter of RWA
presents:

THE MARKETING WORKSHOP

LED BY

NYT Best-Selling Author
Melody Anne

With over forty contemporary romance and young adult titles, both indie and traditionally published, she has earned numerous best-seller list accolades.

LEARN HOW TO:

Promote your new release
Strategically promote your backlist
Tried and true ways to market
Create a loyal fan base
Maximize results through distribution

Saturday, September 9, 2017
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

The Service Station
9315 N. Nevada St.
Spokane, WA 99218

Register at: www.iecrwa.com
(learn how to join IECRWA)

\$20 for members \$40 for non-members
Lunch will be provided

HISTORICAL WRITERS OF AMERICA WRITERS CONFERENCE

Albuquerque, New Mexico
Thursday, September 21, through Sunday,
September 24, 2017.

Information available at:

www.historicalwritersofamerica.org

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers
members Anya Carlson and J. B. Rivard will
present two workshops.

1. Pictures Without an Exhibition: Creating
a Screenplay from Your Writing
2. Unique, Clearheaded and Quick: The
Organized Web-site

For more information, contact:

Anya at anyacarlson5@gmail.com

J. B. at jbrivard@hotmail.com

The Inland Empire Chapter of RWA
presents:

THE WRITING WORKSHOP

LED BY

NYT Best-Selling Author
Cherry Adair

A fast-moving, informative, two day class on
plotting, building characters who leap off the
page and creating luminous dialogue. This fun
and intense class might require two cups of
coffee! Be prepared to be put to work!

Saturday, September 30, 2017

Sunday, October 1, 2017

Washington Cracker Co.
304 W. Pacific Ave., Suite 201
Spokane, WA 99201

Register at: www.iecrwa.com

(learn how to join IECRWA)

\$150 for members \$180 for non-members

Event meals will be provided

WRITE ON THE SOUND WRITERS' CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

NYT Best-selling author

Kristin Hannah

Pre-conference

Full Day workshop with **Mary Buckham**

**October, 6, 7, & 8, 2017 (Friday, Saturday, &
Sunday)**

Registration open July 20th, 9:00 am (PDT)

Schedule and information available at:

www.writeonthesound.com

To receive conference information
electronically, sign up for newsletter at:
tinyurl.com/WOTSnewsletter

Contact: (425) 771-0228

wots@edmondswa.gov

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON & KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are
available on Amazon and/or Kindle™

(Contact the editor/web-master at
daveeva@comcast.net to get your
Amazon/Kindle books listed)

To speed your search, add the provided
ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code
(ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www(dot)amzn(dot)com/dp/)
(You may not need the "www.") For example:

www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332

or: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044

(Note: Alpha-numeric ASINs indicate a
Kindle™ book. Numeric ASINs are for hard
copy editions. Generally, one can find links to
alternative editions on the chosen site.)

D. Andrew McChesney:

Beyond the Ocean's Edge:
A Stone Island Sea Story B008TXC332
Sailing Dangerous Waters:
Another Stone Island Sea Story
 B00HF9Y05K

James Parry:

Book All the Teachers:
An Irreverent Ride through Middle
School 1501042211

Bob Weldin:

The Dry Diggin's Club 0578106825
The Adventurists 153027253X

Sue Eller:

Return from Armageddon B005JVAJKQ
Meadowlark Madness B0097D599I
The Gluten Free Gourmand 150853134X
Taming of the T-Bird 1505963982

Beth Camp:

The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales
 B0090VHKBC
Standing Stones B00I3RYFW6
Years of Stone B00LF3FY4S

Kate Poitevin:

Saving Tir Gaeltacht 1503167844

James Vasquez:

Men Who Knew Jesus Well 1604941901
Women of the Bible: their Story in Verse
 1604942703
Prophets of the Old Testament: A Classic
Collection of Bible Heroes in Verse 1615661166
Words Jesus Spoke: In Verse 1452077894
The Psalms: In Verse 1449710344
Prayers from the Bible: In Classic Verse
 1449727794

Joyce Caudel:

The Hat Pin Murders 1936178397
The Hat Box Mystery 1481959107
A Hat to Die For 1530028612

Helen Christine (Foster):

Full Disclosure 0990722201
The Lenders 0990722228

Chuck Lehman:

Angels Three Six B00KMJXQR8
The Big Woods B007SQ4CTE
Asher B00HNZ6TTG
Lazarus Arise B007R0NPW6
The Shepherd B00HJBN4P6
Rogue 6 B01H7N8G2G
Exposure: A Story of Survival and Intrigue
 B01H5W4V64

T. A. Bratcher:

The Road Chosen 1495293165

B. J. Campbell:

Close Calls: True Tales of Cougar Bob
 1936178044

Bob Manion:

Santa's Heroes 1936178095
The Tree House B004IZLHLE
Springer's Heart 0978850742
Summer Rain B00ZM3S2IM
Vampire and the Cop B00ZM4BBOS

Sandra L. Mason:

(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)
N is for Nativity 1517614880

Don Brockett:

Tyrannical Rule of the U. S. Supreme Court
 B01GW712VU

Stan Parks:

Jakob's Ladies 1532910762

Tiffani Harvey:

A Journey to Independence 1533499438
Growing Independent 1533499926

Allen Dorfman:

Reaching: A Vietnam War Novel 1500489638

Fred Jessett:

Mountains Melt Away B00KD5KWIW
My Name is Tamar B00DH3REWO

Lewis Meline:

Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets...
0997915501

J. B. Rivard

Illusions of Magic:
Love and Intrigue in 1933 Chicago B01EGSC8N8

Larry Danek

I'm the Ghost in this Body:
The Nomadic Ghost B01I0Z500Q

Republished as:

I'm a Ghost in This Body:
A Story of the Nomadic Ghost 148971183X

Diana Wickes

Home is Where the Heart Is 1523381841
Elegy to a Montanan: A widow's Song
1523382414

Andy Brown

Warnings Unheeded:
Twin Tragedies at Fairchild Air Force Base
0997863404

Esther J. Hildahl

Meadow Pond 154244828X
Mr. Inky: Spider with an Attitude 1542451248
Marie's Marvelous Tomato 1548307653

Kathy Rae:

The Jewel of Hope: Book 1:
The Hope Trilogy 1500236578
Ducky Day or Yucky Day...You Choose
154139142X

Deprogramming a Bully: Book 1:
The Barber Chair Series B06W5NP6Y1

Margaret Albi Verhoef &**Rita Gard Seedorf:**

Letters from Brackham Wood B00JEMX656
Letters from a Wary Watcher B01EKOH02C

FIFTY COMMON INTERVIEW QUESTIONS.

In his recent presentation, SASP member Bob Weldin mentioned a list of fifty questions commonly asked during author interviews. He used approximately half of them during the mock interview portion of his presentation. He has since provided the entire list. Over the next several months we will endeavor to include a few in each issue of SASP NEWS.

Courtesy of John Fox at BookFox

<http://thejohnfox.com/2016/06/good-questions-to-ask-an-author/>

"50 Good Questions to Ask an Author"
(Questions 1 – 15 appeared in previous months)

16. What was the best money you ever spent as a writer?
17. What authors did you dislike at first but grew into?
18. What did you do with your first advance?
19. What was an early experience where you learned that language had power?
20. What are the most important magazines for writers to subscribe to?
21. What's your favorite under-appreciated novel?
22. How do you balance making demands on the reader with taking care of the reader?
23. As a writer, what would you choose as your mascot/avatar/spirit animal?
24. What do you owe the real people upon whom you base your characters?
25. How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?

Consider your answers to these questions. It may be of help in the future. We'll have a few more next month.