



SASP

NEWS

January 2017

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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.

2016 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, January 5, 2016 at 2:30 pm**, at the **Golden Corral, 7117 N. Division**. (The room opens at **2 pm** to allow for dining and mingling prior to the start of the meeting.)

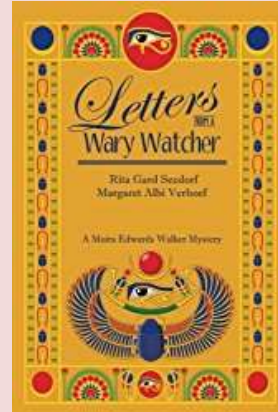
SASP members are in for a real treat as we welcome Margaret Verhoef and Rita Seedorf at our January 5 meeting. The two will talk about their collaborative writing process and their recently released, *Letters from a Wary Watcher* (2016).



Margaret Albi Verhoef and Rita Gard Seedorf, both retired educators living in Spokane and Cheney, became reacquainted as they planned their high school reunion. Drawn by an interest in historical fiction, they wrote *Letters from Brackham Wood* (2014), about two cousins living in World War II in England and Spokane, Washington. Their second book, *Letters from a Wary Watcher* (2016) brings the cousins together again, in postwar England, Hanford, and Spokane, and puts them right in the middle of an espionage ring.



The two books tell a story through a series of letters that begin in 1937 and end in the early 1950s. Moira Edwards Walker, a maid of all work living in England, and her cousin, Margaret Walker, a doctor living in Spokane, Washington, reflect on their lives, the world's condition, and changing times for women. After World War II, Moira, still close to her cousin, continues to exchange letters as she moves to Richland, Washington, and finds herself surrounded by intrigue – and a case of espionage at the Hanford nuclear site.



Letters from Brackham Wood and *Letters from a Wary Watcher* are available at Auntie's Bookstore, 402 West Main, in Spokane, and are available on Amazon in paperback and Kindle formats. Visit Rita's Amazon Author page at: <https://www.amazon.com/Rita-Gard-Seedorf/e/B00JD3EPH4>

Ten Minute Discussion: "Creative Writing for Children and Adults with ADHD and Other Disorders."

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I heard recently on TV that only around 10% of the people who make New Year's resolutions for the coming year actually keep them. Last year for our Newsletter I wrote down my six resolutions for the year. How did I do, you might ask. Well, let's see how I would grade myself on keeping these goals. My first resolution was to believe in myself--A; Pray--C; Exercise--D, my husband says F. Okay, maybe a D-.

Second resolution--lose ten pounds. I had been trying to lose ten pounds for years. I wrote it down each year. And, I failed each year. Usually, I didn't lose any weight at all and often I gained a pound or two. But not this year. I lost twelve pounds! However, I've gained two of them back, thanks to all the goodies on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. But I did lose those pesky ten pounds, so I give myself an A+. It was actually pretty easy once I discovered the secret to losing weight--cut way back on the amount of sugar I eat. Before, I always concentrated on all the fat and salt I consumed. It never worked because I don't eat that much fat or salt. Finally, it dawned on me that the culprit might be sugar. I really didn't think it was, but I decided to give it a try, anyway. You see, I didn't think I ate that much sugar, so I was pleasantly surprised when I lost weight the very first week. I soon discovered that if I stay off sugar, the weight stays off, but if I eat just one sugar cookie, back it comes. A lesson learned.

Third resolution--get up by 9 a.m. or earlier. I give myself a C. I am very much a night person and will probably always be, but I will continue to make the effort.

My fourth resolution was to finish illustrating my latest children's book and publish it. I tried very hard to accomplish this goal, but certain circumstances, which I couldn't prevent, got in the way and cost me lots of working hours. Otherwise, I would have come very close to finishing this book. I give myself a B-.

Fifth resolution--donate to as many charities as possible--A.

Sixth resolution--have fun. I need to work on this more. At times I'm too serious, a workaholic and a perfectionist. I have trouble relaxing and doing nothing. I give myself a C.

So there you have it. My overall grade is a C+.

This month I have started walking up to 10,000 steps a day three to four times a week. After all, I need to bring that D- up. I hope to finish my current book and start another one that doesn't have illustrations. And, oh yes, I plan to have more fun.

Happy New Year! And don't forget to write, write, write!

Esther

FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER



While we lament the demise of Hastings Entertainment as independent authors, I find that as the Holiday Season approaches, I simply miss the store. It was always a place I could go, roam around and come up with a few gifts for my wife and daughter. Invariably I would be able to find odds and ends satisfying Jessica's Dr. Who obsession.

Over the past couple of months I've noticed a local writer posting on Facebook about being at various high school craft fairs. This is something I hope to investigate and take part in next year. I'm not sure it is something we would want to do as a group, or if it is something we might want to do on our own?

Don M. [Signature]

FROM OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR



What's Dropbox and Should I Use it?

Has your computer ever crashed, taking all your files with it? Or has someone stolen your computer, with equally disastrous results?

Backup is important. Thumb drives and external hard drives are a pretty easy solution. But you have to drag out the equipment, hook it up, and keep it current.

How about that Cloud we've been hearing about? Lately I've been wondering, which is a better fit for me – Dropbox or the Cloud, especially as my new computer came with one year of free access to the Cloud. Both offer online backups of documents and photos. File sharing and the ability to sync files from your phone are other benefits.

So, how did I start using Dropbox?

About ten years ago, my mathematician brother-in-law recommended I use Dropbox to back up my writing. He uses the professional version (about \$99/year), but I, being a frugal writer, opted for the freebie Basic Account which offers up to 2 GB (gigabytes) of memory at no cost. If I upgrade to the professional level, I could then back up files to 1 Terabyte of memory (about 1,000 GB) – which amounts to mucho space for my documents and photos.

But I'm not ready to upgrade because Dropbox allows you to earn more memory by completing their "Get Started Guide" and by referring other folks to Dropbox. You can earn

500 more MB (roughly half a gigabyte) for each friend who adds Dropbox.

Dropbox is pretty easy to use. After I finish my writing and save my documents on my desktop, I use the 'save as' command to save my files into the Dropbox folder on my desktop. This action automatically backs up my files on my husband's computer and, at the same time, online with Dropbox. One click. Pretty neat.

Any new benefits from using DropBox?

Apparently I can now save documents and photos from my phone. According to Dropbox, once I link my 'devices' to Dropbox, they'll automatically sync. That means if my phone gets misplaced, for example, I can retrieve those precious photos.

For more about Dropbox and its costs, check out <https://www.dropbox.com/en/help/73>

Disclaimer: I'm not earning any memory at Dropbox by telling you about this online resource. I do think the Basic Account (still free) at Dropbox is a pretty good way to have a reliable and systematic way to back up those precious files and photos. And, while I don't need the memory just now, \$10/month is just about the cost of two cups of coffee.

So, how do YOU back up your files? What works best for you?

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.

DECEMBER'S MEETING

In what has become an annual tradition, Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers devoted the December meeting to sharing bits of their work with each other. In an open mic session several members of the group read from current or past writing projects. Amongst those reading were Stan Parks, Dave McChesney, Lisa Langelier, Dennis Held, Chuck Lehman, Tiffani Harvey, Fred Jessup, and Sue Eller.

Joining us as guests were Sharon O'Shaughnessy, Mel Murphy, Kylea Card, Molly Mou, and John A. Gaetano. Sharon has since joined the group. Welcome! (Your reporter/editor/web-master apologizes for possibly misspelling any names as often he is attempting to interpret written signatures instead of printed names.)

Jim Parry brought up questions about payments for book sales from Amazon and Create Space. In reply Bob Manion suggested a visit and presentation by a representative from Create Space. We will be looking in to that possibility. Jim further noted that he is now on Home Town Read. Chuck Lehman mentioned that he and Marion had spent time with the team writing a screen play from one of Chuck's books.

Our Ten Minute Discussion topic was Research Tactics. Several people suggested on-line research, travel, personal history or experience, interviews, contacting experts, using libraries, and making phone calls. Next month's topic will be, Creative Writing for Children or Adults with ADHD and other disorders.

Door prizes were once again quite plentiful. Those taking something home included Sharon O'Shaughnessy, Bob Manion, an unidentified guest, Stan Parks, Dave McChesney, Chuck Lehman, Larry Danek, and Cindy Silliman. (As your reporter/editor/web-master was amongst the winners, it is quite possible that one or two winners were not recorded while he was selecting a prize. He apologizes to anyone who was inadvertently left out.)

We'll start out the New Year on January 5th with a return visit from Margaret Albi Verhoef and Rita Gard Seedorf. The two will talk about their collaborative writing process and their recently released, *Letters from a Wary Watcher* (2016). Their first book was *Letters from Brackham Wood*.

Please remember that with the start of the New Year, our membership year begins anew. Yearly membership is \$15.00. You may pay dues at the meeting or you may mail it to: Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers, P. O. Box 18573, Spokane, WA 99228-0573. If you have already paid, thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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, "www.")
www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332
or this: www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044

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

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

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 1532863764

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

A Survey

At our last meeting, there were some questions raised about whether our members were getting paid enough money for books sold or not getting paid at all for books sold on Amazon. I think we need to find out more about this. Please take the time to answer the questions below and email them back to me.

Thanks. 😊

Esther

1. How did you get your book(s) listed on Amazon? Did your publisher or printer list them for you or did you do it yourself?

2. Did you receive a contract of any kind, stating the cost and fees involved to have your book(s) listed?

3. How many copies of each book did you start out with on Amazon? How were they supplied? Did you send them in yourself or did a site like Create Space do it for you?

4. When you sold a book, did Amazon notify you and you sent the book to the buyer yourself or was the book printed up at Create Space and sent out for you?

5. How do you know when you have sold a book? Does Amazon notify you in a timely manner? Is there some place to go on the Amazon site that tells you how many books you have recently sold?

6. Did you get paid for all the books you have sold? Are you satisfied with the amount of pay you received for your sold book(s)? Do you understand how Amazon arrived at the amount they paid you?

7. Please write any other comments, good or bad, that you may have about selling your book(s) on Amazon. Thanks.

(E-mail your responses to Esther, our President or Dave, our editor, web-master, and secretary. E-addresses for both are available on the inside front cover.)



Monday evening, December 12th. The moon tries to shine through the clouds. One can imagine Santa's sleigh silhouetted against this background in a few days!