

SASP

NEWS

June 2016

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



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.

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.

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.

2016 Officers:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| President: | Esther Hildahl
mr.inky@yahoo.com |
| Vice-President: | Sue Eller
sue@ellermarketing.net |
| Secretary: | |
| Newsletter Editor: | |
| Web Master: | Dave McChesney
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| Treasurer: | Bonnie Stichert
stichert@turboisp.com |
| Public-Relations: | Tina Bratcher
tabratcher@live.com |

Advisory Board:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Member: | James Parry
parry9922@q.com |
| Member: | Bob Weldin
minersquest@comcast.net |
| Member: | Chuck Lehman
cmlehman2@yahoo.com |

“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, June 2, 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.)

Our speaker will be SASP member **Bob Weldin**.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Do you know the difference between "editing" and "proofreading" a manuscript? I didn't when I joined SASP. I thought the two terms meant the same thing and I often used them interchangeably, until one day one of our more experienced members informed me that they meant two different things. Later I found out that it was not unusual for beginning writers to be confused by these two terms.

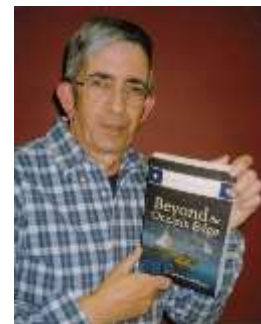
When you have your book edited, it means that the editor is reading through your manuscript to make it look more professional. They may rewrite sentences or get rid of extra words or improve dialogue. They may discover that you have a chapter or two in your work that needs to be reworked, taken out, or moved to another part of your manuscript. Or they may give you suggestions on how to make your work flow with no hiccups to distract the reader. In other words, they strive to make your finished book readable, interesting, and something that readers will want to read and enjoy.

When you are finished with your manuscript, you should do one final proofreading, even if you have had it edited and proofread by professionals. Proofreading includes reading your manuscript word by word, searching for extra words or wrong words that spellcheck doesn't correct, and looking for punctuation and grammatical errors. Ask yourself if you like what you have accomplished. Are you proud of it and ready to have it published for all to see? If you are, then you are ready to have your book published. The printer will often give you a sample of your book to look over before all the rest of your books are printed. Remember, no one cares about your book as much as you do. So be sure and go through the sample book page by page to make sure they are exactly as you wish them to be in your published book. All this can be very time consuming and tedious, but it is well worth it in the end, and you won't be sorry you did it.

Esther

P. S. The topic for our "10 Minute Discussion" will be: "The Best Rules of Writing!"

FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER



I'd like to amplify Esther's remarks if I may. Editing encompasses all we do or have done to improve or correct our written work. It can range from substantial developmental work, including attention from a book doctor, or even hiring a ghost writer, to simple checks for word usage, spelling, and grammatical errors. Copy reading is a final check of material we are submitting for publication. Our final read through our manuscript could be considered as

copy reading. Proofreading refers to a check of the final version, the “to be published” version. Proofs or galleys are the first items printed and we are advised to ensure no errors crept in during the transition from the final manuscript. This was especially important in the days when type was set by hand. Even though the manuscript the type setter worked from may have been perfected, it was possible for him or her to introduce additional errors.

On another note, we have been listing members’ books that are available on Amazon and/or Kindle for quite some time. If there is enough interest I’ll start a list or lists of books that are available on Barnes and Noble On-Line and Nook, as well as the other on-line book marketing locations.



FROM A SASP MEMBER



WRITING CLINIC:

Should I create my own website?

Several people at the May SASP meeting mentioned they did not have a website but were very interested in learning how they might set one up. Many folks say your own website is crucial to your marketing platform. So, should you or shouldn't you?

A first step could be to look at the websites for 5-10 of your favorite authors in the genre you write in. Take notes. What do you like or not

SASP NEWS

really care for? Would you like a website like this? The following questions may help you think about the different elements of a ‘good’ website.

1. Who are your favorite authors in the genre you write in?
2. What do you like best about their websites?
 - a. How does the website reflect their personality? Consider the tone and graphics the writer uses.
 - b. How the website is organized? Is it a ‘rolling blog’ (one page you scroll down to read older material) or a website with several pages (for example, home, books, blog, contact me)?
 - c. Is the website interactive? Does the writer make it easy to contact him or her – or to leave comments?
 - d. Are there ‘buy’ links to his or her books?
 - e. Is the content on the website fixed (doesn't change) or constantly fresh?
 - f. If the writer offers fresh content, what is written about? Does it seem directed to readers or other writers? Are you engaged by what the writer offers? Does the writer respond to comments?

The next step might be to ask: Do I have the skills to set up my own website or do I need someone else to create a website for me?

If you are comfortable working online – and that means keyboarding, saving documents, and maybe knowing a little HTML, one of the free blogging sites might be a good place to practice on a simple blog. Check out Blogger, Weebly, or WIX. Consider taking a class online or at a local community college or a

library. The industry leader just now is Word Press, which offers free and fee-based websites, but . . . there's a learning curve involved.

The underlying message here is: Expect to learn as you go, make mistakes, and keep learning as the technology changes.

So we're really back to square one: What kind of a website would meet your needs as an indie and/or self-published author? Do you want to do-it-yourself OR hire someone?

For an easy and fast start to get online, why not take a look at HomeTown Reads – Spokane? They offer a free one-page website profile that highlights Spokane authors. Bring your thoughts to share at the next meeting of Spokane Authors & Self-Publishers.

A few resources:

- HomeTown Reads: <http://hometownreads.com/city/spokane/>
- WordPress: <https://wordpress.com/>
- Google's Blogger: <https://www.blogger.com>
- WIX: <http://www.wix.com/>
- Weebly: <https://www.weebly.com/>

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



MAY's MEETING

As our May meeting approached, we discovered that Jan Cline, our scheduled speaker would be unable to attend, due to a family emergency. Beth Camp, SASP Member and participant in the Spokane Authors Speakers Bureau graciously agreed to step in. Beth's presentation was entitled, "Strategies for the Self-Publishing Writer: Tackle that Marketing Dragon." It was an interactive event, with ideas, thoughts, and discussions being elicited from those present.

We had one guest, Kate Poitevin's granddaughter, join us for the afternoon. We also welcomed back Diana Wickes who rejoined our organization after a several year absence.

President Esther Hildahl announced that we would welcome thoughts on writing from the membership and publish them on the website's "President's Page," along with messages from the President and the overview of our latest meeting. Those wishing to contribute are asked to send their thoughts to the Web-Master at daveeva@comcast.net.

Sue Eller announced a number of signings scheduled over the next several weeks, some of which will be with Kate Poitevin. Sue also mentioned that her books had been accepted by the Spokane County Library system. She was made aware of this by comments and posts on social media. Chuck Lehman noted that he had been having signings all over the country, and that his book, *Asher*, was now available as an audio book.

Stan Parks recently had his first book signing following publication of Jakob's Ladies. It took place at Touch Mark where he lives and was well attended. He sold a significant number of copies to his fellow residents. Bob Weldin mentioned an upcoming signing and told us that he now has a web-site.

Upon mentioning the topic for next month's Ten Minute Discussion, Esther realized we had not bothered to delve into this month's topic. In response, several ideas were put forth regarding marketing books via Kindle™ and other electronic publishing

venues. By the way, the topic for discussion at our June meeting will be, "The Best Rules of Writing."

As always, we had a large selection of door prizes. We should remember to thank all those who donate and make this a fun and exciting part of our meetings. Prize winners included Helen Foster, Tiffani Harvey, Bob Manion, Esther Hildahl, Sue Eller, Joan Carter, Jim Silliman, Stan Parks, our guest, Dave McChesney, and Billie Bennett. (As your Secretary/Reporter was amongst those winning prizes, it is possible that one or two names were accidentally omitted from this list. If so, apologies are extended.)

Our speaker for the June 2nd meeting will be SASP member Bob Weldin. Bob is also a member of the Spokane Authors Speakers Bureau. At this time he has not disclosed the topic of his presentation.

Please note we are well into the new membership year. Names of unpaid members have disappeared from the roster on the web-site. You can return your name to the list by bringing your \$15.00 dues for 2016 to our next meeting. (A few names have reappeared as of late.) You may also send a check or money order to: Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers, P. O. Box 18573, Spokane, WA 99228-0573.

NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

D. Andrew McChesney...

Signing:

Saturday, June 18th at 2 pm

South Hill Hastings

Don Brockett

Reading

Wednesday, 22 June at 7 pm

Auntie's Bookstore

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. Please ensure your books can be found!)

Go to amazon.com and search for the following titles:

D. Andrew McChesney:

Beyond the Ocean's Edge:

A Stone Island Sea Story

Sailing Dangerous Waters:

Another Stone Island Sea Story

James Parry:

Book All the Teachers:

An Irreverent Ride through Middle School

Bob Weldin:

The Dry Diggin's Club

The Adventurists

Sue Eller

Return from Armageddon

Meadowlark Madness

The Gluten Free Gourmand

Taming of the T-Bird

Beth Camp

The Mermaid Quilt and Other Tales

Standing Stones

Years of Stone

Kate Poitevin

Saving Tir Gaeltacht

James Vasquez

Men Who Knew Jesus Well

Women of the Bible: their Story in Verse

Prophets of the Old Testament: A Classic

Collection of Bible Heroes in Verse

Words Jesus Spoke: In Verse

The Psalms: In Verse

Prayers from the Bible: In Classic Verse

Joyce Caudel
The Hat Pin Murders
The Hat Box Mystery
A Hat to Die For
Helen Christine (Foster)
Full Disclosure
The Lenders

Chuck Lehman
Angels Three Six
The Big Woods
Asher
Lazarus Arise
The Shepherd

T. A. Bratcher
The Road Chosen
B. J. Campbell
Close Calls: True Tales of Cougar Bob

Bob Manion
Santa's Heroes
The Tree House
Springer's Heart
Summer Rain
Vampire and the Cop

Sandra L. Mason
(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)
N is for Nativity

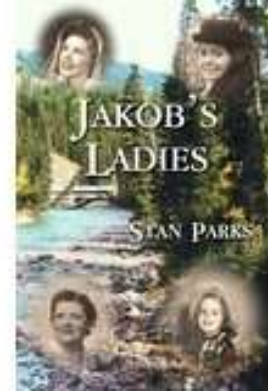
Don Brockett
Tyrannical Rule of the U. S. Supreme Court

Stan Parks
Jakob's Ladies

Tiffani Harvey
A Journey to Independence
Growing Independent

Jakob's Ladies

(Western Historical Fiction)



By Stan Parks

Reviewed by E. J. Deuber

The book cover of *JAKOB'S LADIES* gives a curious view of the story and complements the information in the blurb on the back cover giving an accurate impression of a story.

SUMMARY: Even though, his mother had already had his life planned as well as had chosen his bride, young Jacob Miller, a graduate of dental college leaves his home in Milwaukee for Sheridan, Wyoming. His first office located in a back room of the local MD's office seemed a bit dreary, but he felt grateful to have any place to work. He and Doctor Kelly become great friends. Assisting Doctor Kelly in many surgeries, Dr. Miller DDS discovers he's also a good surgeon.

As his clientele grows in Sheridan, he travels once a year to a nearby town and offers his service. He also provides dental care to the local Indian Nation. About the time he rents an office of his own, he realizes he's in love with Liz, the local schoolteacher. They marry against his mother's wishes. (Have Conflict with religious preference.) When their baby, Beth Ann is born about a year later, they expect to live happily ever after. Real life intervenes. On Beth Ann's second Christmas, Liz succumbs to cough and fever.

"Jakob was emotionally broken, numb, as he received mourners."¹

¹ JAKOB'S LADIES. PAGE 203

Although struggling with Liz's death, Jakob continues to take loving care of Beth Ann with the help of the housekeeper. When members of the community convince him to participate in community affairs, he becomes a well-respected community servant, and leader in the annual *Sheridan Fair*.

At seven years old, Beth Ann begs her daddy for a pony. He thinks about buying her a pony. At the perfect time, Jakob runs into an old acquaintance, Geraldine Widicker.

Jakob and Liz had met James and Geraldine Widicker several years before at a birthday party for Oliver Henry, the owner a large ranch that was an overnight ride from Sheridan.

At their first meeting, Geraldine discovers Jakob is a widower and Jakob learns she's a widow who now owns the Oliver Henry ranch and raised horses on it.

EVALUATION: Kudos to Stan Parks. This story seems more like a memoir than a novel. The style used in introducing and developing characters is believable and charming, but sometimes too sweet. The plotting is timely. This Western novel is unusual because the hero is a dentist rather than a sheriff, or marshal, and it replaces the theme of lawlessness with one of late 1800 early 1900 dentistry.

The vernacular dialog interrupts the story sometimes, but the clichés identify the period.

Unable to know what year this story began until page 116 was frustrating; I kept flipping pages to find out. I would have like to have seen Beth Ann have a closer relationship with her maternal grandparents.

Gary Cooper strutted along the streets of Sheridan, Wyoming as Dr. Jakob Miller. I recommend Stan find a professional writer of western movie scripts.

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Jakob Miller arrived by stagecoach in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1895, just having graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery. Sheridan was a frontier town expecting the railroad to arrive within a few

months. Then Sheridan would really start growing.

The last Sheridan dentist had died four years ago. The local doctor, Doc Kelly, rented Jakob his storeroom for a dental office. Later, Jakob found an old barber chair in need of repair to use for his dentist chair. After doing a few more things to get his office ready, Jakob was ready for business.

Zeke, Jacob's first patient, walked in, grinning his toothless smile. He wanted to buy *some of those store bought teeth*, but he didn't have enough cash to pay for them. So he offered to take Jakob elk hunting in the Bighorn Mountains in exchange for his teeth. Jakob agreed.

On their hunting trip, Jakob was able to shoot a large elk. But later he was attacked by a big grizzly bear. Zeke shot the bear, but not before it shredded Jakob's right arm.

Jakob met his wife-to-be, Liz, the local schoolteacher, who helped take care of him as he recovered from his injury. Eventually they were married and moved into a small one room cabin. They were both very happy.

As time went by, Liz gave birth to a daughter, Beth Ann, and they were able to move into a much larger house. Then their happiness took a tragic turn when Liz became very ill and died, leaving Jakob and Beth Ann, who was only two years old at the time. With the help of his housekeeper, Chucha, Jakob was determined to raise his daughter by himself.

However, five years later, Jakob fell in love with Geraldine, one of England's aristocrats living in Wyoming. Beth Ann loved her, too. Before they were to be married, they traveled to England so that Jakob could meet Geraldine's family, which they did. But due to circumstances, Jakob returned home alone.

Will this be the end of their relationship? Will Geraldine ever come back to Wyoming? Will they ever get married? Read and find out.

I enjoyed reading *Jakob's Ladies*. It tells a very good story. It's never boring, and I recommend it to one and all.