

# SASP

# NEWS

November 2016

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



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**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](http://www.spokaneauthors.org), and current members notified via e-mail or telephone.)*

**Membership benefits** include listing on the SASP website, [www.spokaneauthors.org](http://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:         | <b>Esther Hildahl</b><br>mr.inky@yahoo.com     |
| (509) 489-2136     |  |
| Vice-President:    | <b>Sue Eller</b><br>sue@ellermarketing.net     |
| (509) 499-2012     |  |
| Secretary:         |  |
| Newsletter Editor: |  |
| Web Master:        | <b>Dave McChesney</b><br>daveeva@comcast.net   |
| (509) 325-2072     |  |
| Treasurer:         | <b>Kate Poitevin</b><br>kate@murphyscorner.com |
| (509) 326-3434     |  |
| Public-Relations:  | <b>Beth Camp</b><br>bluebethley@yahoo.com      |
| (509) 863-5536     |  |

**Advisory Board:**

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

**“Like” the SASP Facebook Page:**

[www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Spokane-Authors-Self-Publishers/1640079982945679)

**“join” the SASP Facebook Group:**

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



**Spokane Authors  
And  
Self-Publisher's  
First  
VETERANS' DAY  
READING!**

SATURDAY, November 12<sup>th</sup>  
4-6 pm  
Moran Prairie branch, Spokane  
County Public Library  
(6004 S. Regal St, Spokane, WA)

Eight SASP authors: *Herb Batterson, Joyce Caudel, Allen Dorfman, Nancy Hartley, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Lewis Meline, and San Parks* will read from memoir, fiction, and poetry inspired by World War II, Viet Nam, and later periods.

Book signings will follow!  
Alert writing and reading friends by text, e-mail, or twitter!  
Hope to see you there.

**OUR NEXT MEETING!**

Please join us on **Thursday, November 3, 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 special guest speaker will be Coeur d'Alene graphic artist **Michelle Cline**.



She will go over some of the finer points of what makes a cover great and what to avoid at **OUR NEXT MEETING**. Bring your book covers and questions and plan for a great meeting.

**FROM OUR PRESIDENT**



My hair has always been a problem for me. Thank goodness for hairspray, which helps keep it somewhat under control. Once when I was having the worst hair day ever, I was especially frustrated since I was scheduled for a book signing. I was convinced that everyone would be looking at my hair and not buying my books. But to my surprise, I had a wonderful time and sold the most books ever at a book signing. A valuable lesson learned.

Recently I finished redrawing one of my more difficult illustrations. It took me several hours of hard work and I was proud of the improvements I had made, until, that is, I noticed that one of my character's hair looked better in the original drawing. In other words, she was having a bad hair day! Since the final work was in ink, I couldn't change it. At once, my perfectionist tendencies set in. Should I do the whole illustration over, which had taken several hours, or let it be? I showed the picture to my husband who thought everything looked "just fine." But I *knew* her hair was better looking before. Even though common sense told me it was no big thing, I couldn't let it go. Luckily it was close to my bedtime, so I finally decided I would make the final decision after I had had a good night's sleep.

The next morning I thought about how the longer I work on a book, the more real my characters seem to me. Even my relatives speak of Mr. Inky, my talking spider (black spiders are not killed for they might be a relative of Mr. Inky) or the mean Red Boat kids of *Meadow Pond* as if they are real. Suddenly my decision was made. If my characters take on a life of their own, I will treat them like they are real and let my current character have her bad hair day. Lesson learned.

On another subject: After some serious thought and discussion with my husband, and since no one has stepped up to run for president of SASP, I have decided that I will run for president one more time.

*Esther*

## FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER



I'm sure many of you have noticed that membership in Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers constantly fluctuates. We have those individuals at the core who renew their membership each year. As time progresses we have those who join for the first time, and those who let their membership lapse. That is to be expected in any organization such as ours.

However, fluctuating memberships can cause some administrative problems when it comes to things such as the web-site and even the newsletter. We all know our membership year ends as the calendar year ends. Yet many of us wait a few months into the New Year before paying dues for the now current year. To take information down from the web-site for all the people who aren't paid up by the beginning of the year, only to have to put it up a few weeks or few months later when they do pay would be impractical. Not to mention, it's a lot of extra work for your Web-Master.

With implied approval, that is, with no direct objections, I propose the following: Leave unpaid members on the "Members" page of the web-site until after our April meeting. Continue to run former member's books on Amazon in the Newsletter and on the web-site for the next year. Leave former members books on the web-site's "Authors' Books" page for the next year. If members do not renew by the April meeting of the current year, they will be removed from the "Members" page. If they do not renew by the end of the current year, any books listed as being available on Amazon or other on-line source will be removed, and their books taken off the "Authors' Books" page on the web-site.

Book reviews are another story. Many that we have posted were written by non-members, or by former members. Some are for books by individuals who are no longer members of SASP. My current thought is that reviews in which neither the reviewer nor the book's author has been a member within the past three years should be removed.

Lastly, if you are a current member and your information is not listed on the web-site nor mentioned in the newsletter, let me know. If possible, e-mail me a cover shot of your book



or books, the ISBNs, price and a brief synopsis. The back cover blurb works well for this. Also, if you can provide the Amazon stock number or ASIN, that would be helpful. (If I'm feeling particularly generous, I can sometimes look these things up. However, I've found that the pictures accompanying Amazon listings are not always the best. In addition I'm not always aware of who has new books out and available.)

Sometimes I put these IN ALL CAPS right into my working draft.

- *Read those writing magazines* like *Writer's Digest* or *The Writer* to be inspired by what others are doing. Note the early-bird deadline for entering the Self-Published Book Awards sponsored by *Writer's Digest* is April 3, 2017 – just around the corner.

Here's an example from my Daily Work file this week:

10/17-23	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun = 728 words so far
Writing	--	--	584 words	--	144 words		
Research	--	1 hour	--	1 hour	--		
Other	#16	#17	Writing Group	WS Q	#18		
Exercise	Swim	--	Walk	--	--		

*Donna M. [Signature]*  
**FROM OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR**



What keeps us writing? Sometimes the story pushes us along, sometimes we get stuck with editing, and just sometimes, we need a little more research. Here are three suggestions that might help.

- *Make a commitment to a schedule AND measure your progress.* Some of us use Excel to track daily words towards monthly goals. I identify monthly goals for my writing projects, set up a weekly table to track progress, and write a short daily entry in my Journal (using Word).
- *End each work session by writing down a FOCUS QUESTION* that outlines what you want to work on next. This helps me bridge into the draft. Even if I jump sideways into another part of the draft, my questions/issues do not get lost.

**Friday, October 21.** Up at 6 this morning. OctPoWriMo: Wrote #18 The Quilt Show is Over . . . Fighting off cold. This morning, Leda from 8:45 to 11am. Writing? Need to prep PR for SASP. Now work on writing. Continue working on scene started on Weds. 7:30am ROS start 14,514. End 8:10 am. 14,658. Mostly research on French names. Scene re bison hunters arguing. FOCUS TOMORROW: Build back story on Metis. Where are native names? Need to understand conflict between Hudson Bay Company, fur traders/settlers at Red River, bison hunters, and Sioux.

What strategies help you keep writing, revising, publishing, and/or marketing?

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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) for inclusion in a future edition of SASP NEWS.

## OCTOBER'S MEETING

A respectfully sized crowd gathered at the Golden Corral on North Division Street in Spokane on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Featured speaker at this meeting of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers was fellow member Mark Hoffmeister. His subject was "The Art of the Book Presentation," and rather than explain it, he showed us an example of what he was talking about. Mark presented a lot of facts and background information about one of his latest books, and at times indicated that more information was available in the book. The general consensus was that this was another way to get folks interested in one's books, and hopefully convince them to buy.

Joining us as a guest was Guy L. Pace. Brett Smith and Edmond Bruneau attended as well and are now members of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers. We can also welcome Russell Ford, who joined via the mail in the recent past.

Courtney from the Spokane County Library presented a bit of information regarding library services. Member Lisa Langlier has a new book out about working with wild life. Dennis Held also has a new book available, and Tiffani Harvey mentioned she is now on Twitter and on Home Town Reads. Guest (now new member) Brett Smith has recently published a book dealing with phishing e-mail for non-techies.

Our ten minute discussion dealt with book signings. One thing mentioned was that it might be better to say one is independently published as opposed to stating one is self-published. While self-publishing is fast becoming more acceptable, to some the term still means shoddy work by a vanity press.

Our Public Relations Person, Beth Camp noted that several members of Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers will be participating in a Veterans Day reading event on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of November. The event will be at the Moran Prairie Library from 4 to 6 pm.

Door prizes were plentiful once again, but circumstances prevented any attempt at recording the names of those who won.

Our November 3<sup>rd</sup> speaker is scheduled to be Michelle Cline, a book cover designer from Coeur d'Alene. December 1<sup>st</sup> will be an open mike session in which we will have an opportunity to share our work with each other.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Contact [daveeva@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:daveeva@comcast.net) to get your Amazon/Kindle books listed. Please ensure your books can be found!)

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/) It should look like this:

[www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332](http://www.amzn.com/dp/B008TXC332)

or this: [www.amzn.com/dp/1936178044](http://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 Digger'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* B0013RYFW6  
*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* B007RONPW6  
*The Shepherd* B00HJBN4P6

**T. A. Bratcher:**

*The Road Chosen* 1495293165

**B. J. Campbell:**

*Close Calls: True Tales of Cougar Bob*

**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

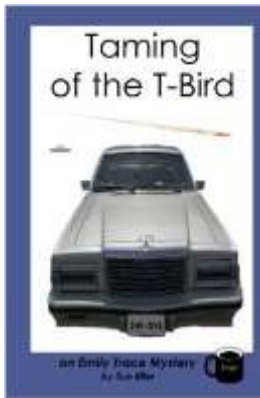
**J. B. Rivard**

*Illusions of Magic:*  
*Love and Intrigue in 1933 Chicago* B01EGSC8N8

**Larry Danek**

*I'm the Ghost in this Body:*  
*The Nomadic Ghost* 1532863764

## Taming of the T-Bird



By Sue Eller

Reviewed by D. Andrew McChesney

Private investigator Emily Trace is called upon to determine why the classic car runs great, except at a certain spot along the road. Delving into that situation also reveals problems with the internet and strange lights in the sky. As Christmas time approaches, and as the coldest snowiest winter in years engulfs the town, she tackles these mysteries while also investigating the deaths of her late husband, his grandfather, and most recently, an arson fire. She is aided by a deputy sheriff, her office staff, a former teacher, and friends who are not from this world. Is there an extraterrestrial plot to conquer Earth? Will she discover and stop it in time?

Sue Eller writes in an easy conversational manner. The story is in first person; as if the reader is listening to Emily relate her tale while sitting at the kitchen table drinking cup after cup of coffee. Even the little asides, which writers today are admonished to avoid, fit right in with the casual tone and add, rather than detract from the narration. While the story is for the most part light and perhaps even *cozy* in nature, it also touches on some deeper darker aspects of human nature.

This blend of Science Fiction and Mystery is enjoyable, easy to read, and hard to put down. *Taming of the T-Bird* is available on-line in both e-book and paperback versions, and in bookstores near the author's home of Spokane, Washington.

Reviewed by Bob Hildahl

This is the second book of the *Emily Trace Mystery* series. It's about Emily Trace who has a detective agency in Spokane, Washington called "E.T. Investigations." She drinks coffee to excess, which I can clearly identify with, and she has an amusing "bird" clock in her office that sings out different bird songs on the hour. It's wintertime, snowy and freezing cold.

The story begins with her first client telling her a strange tale. He purchased a used T-Bird, but every time he drives it home from work, it quits on him at the exact

same spot. At the same time, bright lights swoop over him and seem to be headed for Tekoa Mountain. Then the car starts right up again! Can Emily solve this mystery?

While she is working on the T-Bird mystery and the possibility that aliens are trying to take over our planet, her mother-in-law's house burns to the ground. And the fire marshal suspects arson. Could this be related to her husband, Jared's unsolved murder? After all, this was the reason she started her detective agency to begin with.

If you like science fiction and mysteries, you must read this book. It is well written with great characters. The story is exciting and it's a hard book to put down from the first chapter to the end.

Available in Spokane area bookstores and on Amazon and Kindle.

Reviewed by James Parry

In this, the second in the Emily Trace Mystery series, Emily, through her E.T. Detective Agency, continues her relentless pursuit of her husband's killer. However, she, once again, (because of the misinterpretation of "E.T.") finds herself entangled with clients wanting to find the cause(s) of supernatural happenings. Emily is able to solve all of their extraterrestrial problems, but we will have to wait for the third book to find out who caused her husband's death. Is it related to the alien problem or is it a totally separate case? Stay tuned.

A well-written, fast-paced book in which Emily speaks to the reader in a first-person, conversational tone. A wonderful, easy read that's out of this world! Great for the sci-fi fan and/or the murder mystery aficionado.

Available at Auntie's, Hastings, & Amazon (*I think?*)

Reviewed by Kate Poitevin

Well, Sue Eller has done it again! The sequel to *Meadowlark Madness* is every bit as engaging and entertaining. The whole gang is there with a few new additions. Emily is getting used to clients "from out of town" and handles them with her usual humor and quirky asides. But all is not fun and games. There are sinister things happening in her private life and Darla might also be in danger. Ms. Eller touches on the pain and fear of domestic violence with grace and sincerity. If you liked the first one, you must get 'Taming of the T-Bird'. Dang, I must have a cup of coffee ...