



# SASP

# NEWS

September 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.

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>Bonnie Stichert</b><br>wbstichert@gmail.com |
| (509) 675-9253     |  |
| 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/>

## OUR NEXT MEETING!

Please join us on **Thursday, September 1, 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 **J. D. De Witt**. She is a publishing industry *guru* and co-founder of **Ink Slinger Entertainment**.



## FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Are you ever frustrated with writing rules? I used to be. Sometimes I would write the perfect sentence and then discover that I had broken some rule. So then I would change my perfectly good sentence, only to find that I liked it better the way I had written it in the first place. What's a writer to do? After all, a rule is a rule and must be followed. Right? Right, unless--you are brave enough to break it. Since I have always believed in rules and tried never to break them, this was a mentally agonizing decision for me. But now after many years, I will break a rule if I believe it will make

my writing better. Besides, some of these rules are pretty silly.

One such silly rule was that you must never ever end your sentence with a preposition. This rule was drummed into my head by a college friend who delighted in correcting me whenever I forgot and ended a sentence with a preposition. When I began to write stories I didn't forget this rule, and I tortured myself endlessly trying to figure out how not to end this or that sentence with a preposition. The result was that often I couldn't or the sentences I did create were terrible. Then, one glorious day, I discovered that this wasn't really a rule and never had been. I was so relieved that I read through my manuscript, *Meadow Pond*, one more time, writing prepositions at the end of sentences wherever I pleased. I sent a copy of my finished book to my college friend and happily informed her that it was okay to end sentences with a preposition, for it wasn't, and never had been a rule after all.

Remember when your teachers taught you (and being a teacher I did this, too) that all paragraphs are always made up of two or more sentences, and you must never begin any of these sentences with "and" or "but"? I break these rules when need be. Plus, I like to use the word "and" and I use it often.

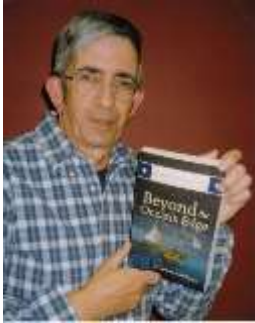
Another rule I think is dumb is that some "experts" think that in dialogue you aren't supposed to use contractions. Have you ever listened to other people and yourself talk? Contractions everywhere. You want your dialogue to sound real, don't you? Use contractions.

One rule that I like and will try to implement in my latest manuscript is to substitute lively, exciting verbs for weaker verbs, some adjectives, and adverbs. Example: Marie ate her breakfast quickly or Marie gobbled down her breakfast. I also will search for extra words that are not needed. But sometimes I'll leave an extra word in my manuscript just for effect. Happy Writing!

*Esther*

P. S. The topic for our "10 Minute Discussion" will be: "How Do I Find an Illustrator?"

## FROM THE EDITOR/WEB-MASTER



Recently I've stopped by two local Hastings stores, taking advantage of the going out of business sale. I didn't find much in the way of books I was interested in, but I did find some Star Trek items and some music CDs. I did find a *Dr. Who* book which I bought in hopes my daughter would like it. While in the stores, I felt a little like a scavenger, taking advantage of something that is injured. Curious if anyone else ever felt that way when shopping at a place going out of business.

I have the computer/web-site difficulties I mentioned last month figured out... I think. There is no real problem, other than things working a bit differently with Windows 10 when compared to before. I have to follow a different sequence, especially if I'm working with multiple pages on the site. As long as there are no more changes, I should be fine on keeping up to date with the site. If not, it is probably me and not the computer.

This issue of SASP NEWS is a bit bigger than most. I discovered that I had an extra *Writing Clinic* submission and decided to include it and the most recent one in this issue. (I've always tried to keep newsletters below a certain number of pages to keep the cost of printing and postage to a minimum. However, nearly everyone gets the newsletter via e-mail or views it on the SASP web-site. Currently we only mail one copy via USPS. A couple extra pages won't make that much difference, even if an extra stamp is needed.

I've also added Amazon ASINs to the list of member's books on Amazon. This is the ten digit numeric or alpha-numeric code for each book or product. Hopefully providing the

codes will make it easier for folks to find the book(s) they are looking for.



## FROM OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR



**What's New?** At a recent SASP meeting, you filled out a survey to determine what priorities SASP public relations – and YOU – will be working on in the coming months. Here are the TOP 5 projects:

1. Write articles about writers and writing for radio/TV/newspapers/regional magazines.
2. Develop programs (workshops/panels) featuring SASP authors.
3. Prepare Welcome Packet for new SASP members.
4. Schedule readings/presentations/book fairs at local venues, retirement homes, community centers.
5. Create a bookmark for SASP to handout at events.

Please let me know by e-mail at [bluebethley@yahoo.com](mailto:bluebethley@yahoo.com) which of these projects **YOU** might want to work on. I'm recruiting people to work on panels now! Thank you.

**UPDATE:** Our first SASP Authors' Table at the Southside Senior Community Center was successful. Seventeen authors participated over the two-day event, leading to about \$300

in sales, several possible new members, and greater visibility for Spokane Authors.



## WRITING CLINIC

### Working on Chapter Openings

I've often heard that the opening of any chapter should intrigue the reader and compel him or her to keep reading. But when we're drafting, those opening lines that need to grab the reader by the throat can lay on the page as flat as a pancake, a kind of place-holder while we get on with writing the story.

When I'm reading, what pulls me into the story past those opening lines are the **RELATIONSHIPS** between characters -- their feelings, their actions, reactions, and attachments to each other. We can always ask: *How do my characters reveal their relationships -- through action and/or thought? How does my story drill down to the emotional life of my characters?*

This week, I hit one of my chapter openings that seemed flat. Well beyond flat, this chapter opening desperately needed revision. Seeking inspiration, I took out one of my favorite books, Ken Follett's *Winter of the World*, to see how his first lines worked at the chapter level. Note: I wasn't looking at his first chapter, for that requires a different kind of editing.

Surprise! Nearly every single chapter by Follett begins with a focus on the point-of-view character, specific images, and sensory-based

description! Here are a few examples at random:

"Ursula Dewar had her own small suite of rooms in the old Victorian mansion on Delaware Avenue" (116).

"It was a sunny Saturday afternoon in May 1936, and Lloyd Williams was at the end of his second year at Cambridge when Fascism reared its vile head among the white stone cloisters of the ancient university" (149).

"Volodya Peshkov bent his head against the driving snow as he walked across the bridge over the Moscow River" (226).

How could a reader not be curious about the lives of these characters?

So here's my new opening for a chapter from *Rivers of Stone* (1840s, historical fiction), most likely in revision until the end of this year.

OLD: As the *Prince Rupert* sailed north, Cat, Dougal, and Colin saw the first ice since they left the coast of Greenland.

REVISED: Cat was grateful to be on the deck and out of steerage. After Captain Herd read the gospel on this clear and cold Sunday morning, the crew, passengers, and those in steerage had a few hours of respite. While the passengers strolled along the quarter deck, Cat leaned on the bulwark, next to Dougal and Colin, to watch chunks of ice floating atop the waves by the hundreds, each chunk two and three feet across, the first they'd seen since leaving the coast of Greenland.

WHAT'S NEXT? Consider a book written by one of your favorite authors – just those chapter openings. Now, look at the draft you're working on to double-check a few of your chapter openings. Put yourself in the mind of your target audience. Are you intrigued? Do you want to read more? Do you have some ideas for revision? Persevere!

## WRITING CLINIC pt. II

At SASP's August meeting, we talked about book covers. The key elements of a 'good' book cover, one that readers will grab off a shelf in the bookstore or click on at your Amazon listing, are:

1. Compelling image that communicates GENRE, MOOD, and STORYLINE.
2. Dramatic and readable font for BOOK TITLE and AUTHOR NAME.
3. Optional: blurb from an early review or any awards.
4. Optional: Subtitle that shows this is a book in a series.

A few strategies that can help you pick out that great cover are:

*Scroll through Amazon's listing of books in your genre.* Study the covers to see which ones attract your attention, which ones are readable, and which ones are hard to read. Keep in mind your cover will appear at 1" x 2" on Amazon's listing and 3" x 4" on your Amazon page.

*Know your readers.* Who reads your genre and why? For example, studies of readers who love historical fiction show that men read for action/adventure, while women read for relationships. Most (but not all) covers feature images with people and action.

*Work with a professional designer or graphic artist.* Some resources for images include: Shutterstock.com and for the budget-minded, Fiverr.com You might also consider talking with Gray Dog Press, a local independent publisher right here in Spokane.

SASP member and Spokane author **Beth Camp** writes historical fiction and blogs at

<http://bethandwriting.blogspot.com>

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.*

## AUGUST'S MEETING

The featured speaker for the Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers August 4<sup>th</sup>

meeting was Dawn Troxel. She is a local artist and photographer who talked at length about creating cover images for books.

Linda Shane and Laura Hotchkiss attended as guests. New member Pat McAuley was also at the meeting. While they were unable to be there, we welcome new members Allen Dorfman and Carol Wirth.

Sue Eller talked briefly about the upcoming conference involving writers connecting with Hollywood, and mentioned that next month's speaker would be J. D. DeWitt, the individual in charge of that event. Bob Manion offered information about the recent Pacific Northwest Writers Association conference.

Beth Camp noted that her second book was ready to come out as an audio book. As the group's publicity person, she passed along information concerning SASP's participation in the Southside Senior's Artisan Market on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. She also mentioned plans for Indie Author day on October 8<sup>th</sup> of this year. Finally she listed results of a survey taken amongst the membership. Of the most interest were interviews, welcome packets, and readings.

Dave McChesney mentioned that he would have nametags made and available for new members at the next meeting. A call for someone to volunteer as SASP Treasure was made as current Treasurer Bonnie Stichart will be stepping down in October. Tiffani Harvey informed us that she had had two sales in Australia. Mark Hoffmeister offered some thoughts about creating and designing book covers.

There was a bit of discussion regarding the difference in pitching religious work versus secular work. President Esther Hildahl announced that next month's ten minute discussion topic would be, "How do I find an illustrator?"

Once again, door prizes were in abundance. Winners included Lewis Meline, Cindy Silliman, Jim Parry, Beth Camp, Jim Silliman, Bob Weldin, Sue Eller, Chuck Lehman, Joan Carter, Fred Jessett, Bonnie Stichart, Kate Poitevin, Bob Hildahl, Nancy Hartley, and Tiffani Harvey.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup>. Our guest speaker will be J. D. DeWitt of Ink Slinger Entertainment. She is instrumental in putting together the upcoming Film and Lit Event. On October 6th, SASP member Mark Hoffmeister will speak on "The Art of the Book Presentation." 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.

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. (More names are reappearing all the time!) You may also send a check or money order to: Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers, P. O. Box 18573, Spokane, WA 99228-0573.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

As of October, Bonnie Stichart will be stepping down as SASP Treasurer. If anyone would like to take over those duties, please contact any SASP Officer or Advisory Board Member.

## 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)

### 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* 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* 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* 1533497926

**Allen Dorfman:**

*Reaching: A Vietnam War Novel* 1500489638

**Fred Jessett:**

*Mountains Melt Away* B00KD5KWIW

**Lewis Meline:**

*Lies Exposed! The Truth about Diets...*  
0997915501

# Springer's Heart



By Bob Manion

Reviewed by Joyce Caudel

All I ever needed to learn about the Marine Corps, I learned in Springer's Heart. Marine Sergeant Hank Springer loves his life as a Marine but when the love of his life, Lori dies, Hank retires and moves his family to a ranch in Montana. There Hank fills his life with his growing family, orphaned children, ranch hands and the vast land of the beautiful Montana country side. Hanks heart is full of love for all of this but there is still something missing, a hole in his heart until the lovely Bess Clemons comes on the scene.

Springer's Heart is a story full of adventure and romance. Anyone interested in cowboys, cowgirls, rodeos and all the excitement of a good western romance will love this story.