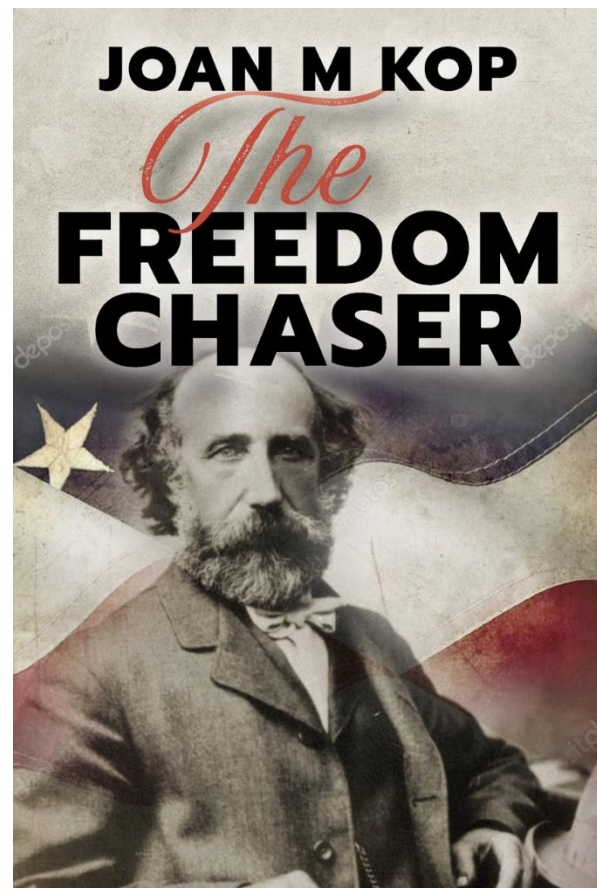




Literary Gazette

June 2024

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



Submissions Due by: June 25th for the July 2024 issue.

Spokane Authors and Self-Publishers (SASP), now known as **Spokane Authors**, began in 1998 when *Chuck O'Conner, Elmer Freeman, Joe Meiners, and Dan Vollmer*, Spokane area authors, formed a club to share knowledge and experience with those interested in writing and alternative publishing. Today, SASP is an organization dedicated to anyone interested in any aspect of writing and art. Members include aspiring (and successful) authors, poets, journalists, illustrators, editors, publishers, printers, writing instructors, and many others. Monthly 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 meets the **second Friday** of each month at the **Sans Souci West Club House**, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane.

Presentations and discussions begin at **2:00 pm**. Members and guests also have a chance to relate accomplishments and note upcoming activities. We usually draw for door prizes.

Spokane Authors also meets the **third Saturday** of each month in the social hall of **St. Francis of Assisi Church**, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane.

Meetings begin at **2:00 pm**. We must be out of the room and building by **4:00 pm**.

We often provide refreshments such as bottled water, cake, or cookies. We set up a collection jar for those who wish to help reimburse whoever brings such refreshments.

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.

Visit the "members" page on our website to connect with members' webpages. Our "links" page connects to interesting on-line locations.

Guest speakers inform, inspire, and entertain with a variety of topics designed to provide knowledge about writing and publishing.

SASP members are encouraged to purchase or trade completed works of and with fellow members. They are also encouraged to donate copies of their work as door prizes. Winners of other members' work are expected to provide a review.

Note: Your name tag is yours to keep and maintain. We provide space to display your books, but *you* must bring them to each meeting.

2024 Officers:

President: *Carl Northup (Nathaniel Bennett)*
(509) 445-0166
(509) 671-3949
ikneadedthat53@yahoo.com

Vice-President: *Bob Manion*
(509) 448-2901
heygunnerbob@gmail.com

Secretary: *Linda Sonntag-Noble*

Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master:
Dave McChesney
(509) 325-2072
(509) 768-6178
daveeva@comcast.net

Public-Relations: *Marilee Hudon*
(509) 325-9465
mjinoduh2@gmail.com

Equipment Manager: *Bob Hildahl*
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Advisory Board:

Member: *Esther Hildahl*
mr.inky@yahoo.com

Member: *Mary De Bord*
(509) 999-4797
violetpetalsbook@gmail.com

Member: *Bob Weldin*
(509) 514-2747
minersquest@comcast.net

"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/>

"Follow" us on "X": <https://twitter.com/AndAuthors>

Contact us at: authors@spokaneauthors.org
Or: saspworks4u@gmail.com

Videos of many of our presentations are available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/@spokaneauthorsself-publishers>

Cover: The Freedom Chaser by Spokane Authors member Joan M. Kop

THE BOOKS ON THE COVER...

Joan Kopczynski has been a Spokane Authors member for several years. The Freedom Chaser is the story of one of her ancestors and his journey to America and Freedom. Learn more on her Member Web Page. Visit

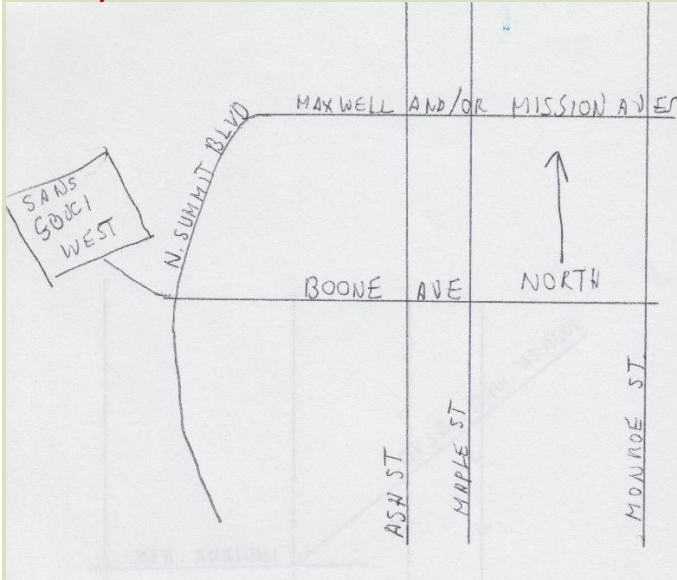
www.spokaneauthors.org Go to "MEMBERS," scroll down and click on her name.

OUR JUNE MEETINGS!

We will meet at 2:00 pm. on Friday, June 14, 2024, at the San Souci West Club House, 3231 W. Boone Ave., Spokane, WA.

(Go west on Boone Ave. and cross N. Summit Blvd. Once through the gate, bear to the left, then down the hill, turn right at the sign that says "office," and then turn right again at the next sign that says "office.")

PLEASE MIND THE 10 MPH SPEED LIMIT.)



This will be another first meeting at another new location. If all goes well, this should be our home for the foreseeable future. Amongst other things we are likely to have more members read what they have written based on the writing prompts we drew in March.

We will also meet at 2:00 pm. on Saturday, June 15 18, 2024, at St. Francis of Assisi, 1104 W. Heroy Ave., Spokane, WA

SPOKANE AUTHORS LITERARY GAZETTE

99205. The conference room in the social hall is available from 1:30 to 4 pm.

Yes, with the way June lines up on the calendar, our meetings this month are on consecutive days.

We plan to continue to use this meeting to share ideas and thoughts about writing. It is likely these alternate meetings will feature group discussions.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

They say that time flies when you're having fun. If that's true, then this has been one hilarious year so far.

It's June! Five minutes ago, it was January. What's up with that?

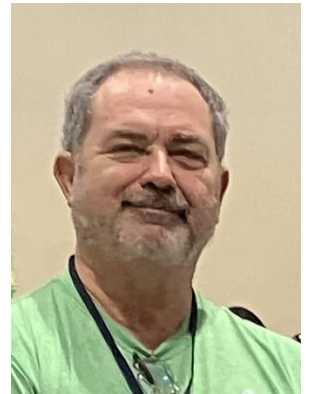
Be that as it was just May, things have been happening in rapid succession and don't show any signs of slowing down in the foreseeable future.

My youngest Grandson turned two in February. My oldest Grandson turns fourteen in August, and I found out I have a Granddaughter coming in September. My second book was released in May and my third might be out this month with a fourth coming by the end of the year.

Crazy!

SASP has seen changes also. We moved out of the senior center and into the Canaan Buffet. Then another offer for a forever home came up, we voted on it and here we go again. I have been to our new home, and it is nice. It's big and the acoustics are fabulous. Then there's also the bonus that we might pick up a half dozen new members. Dave will have directions in the newsletter and possibly a map. The easiest way is to get on Boone, drive west until you run out of Boone.

As always, looking forward to our next meeting. Still working on a speaker. The one I was hoping for is up to her eyeballs in work.



But I will get her eventually and she will disseminate much knowledge about marketing.

See you all on the 14th in our new digs.

Carl/Nathaniel

The Prez.

Author of *The Ant Doctor*

and three other books that will be out soon.

FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

The Summer months are now upon us. It's time to take our notebooks to the park or the lake and write. About what, we ask ourselves? Look around, watch the people playing in the sunshine. Children testing the water. Yeah, its wet and cold, but who cares. Away from the computer games, outside where children belong. If we look, there is always something to write about. Open your eyes, grasp the scene. Watch and see what is in front of you. Slap your imagination awake and create. Write the story.

When I look around the room at our meetings. I see an room full of creative people who are there to learn and share. Every day and at every meeting, I learn from those around me. I want to write and share my experiences and imagination with my peers. Don't hesitate to share. Take charge of your talents and share with us. Give us your thoughts and ideas to help us along in our quest for writing. Help us to improve our work. A couple of meetings ago, I challenged: to write a complete story in 100 words or less. If you want to share, share.

Now that we have done the writing, it is time for us to get our products out to those folks who are our readers. If you have an idea



for doing that, let's hear it. You're a writer, sketch it out and present your idea or that opportunity you have discovered. I have proposed a catalog, to present our work to the public and other groups; help me with that...
Happy writing to you all,

Bob Manion Vice-President

FROM YOUR EDITOR, WEB-MASTER, TREASURER

After sending last month's issue went out, I received a suggestion about the name of our newsletter. I thought it was fitting and now this is the **Spokane Authors Literary Gazette**.

Thanks to long time member Joan Kopczynski for the idea. As luck would have it, her book is featured on this month's cover. If anyone wonders how we determine which author, which books will appear on the cover, we simply go to the next individual on the website's MEMBERS Page who has published one or more books. Thus, books featured are those by current, paid-up members. We've been doing this for nearly two years now, and I think we are about halfway through the list. Of course, that list changes with time, as new members join and as others eventually leave. It has happened that a person joins one month, and because of where we are on that list (alphabetically), their book or books are featured on the cover a month later. We currently have over 50 paid members, so it is going to take some time to work our way through the entire list.

I'll have new name tags at upcoming meetings. You can use your old holder if you wish, although I'll have a few new holders available for those who want one. These are clip-on, rather than pin-on. Alternatively, these can be used with a lanyard and worn around the neck.

Don't forget to let me know about any upcoming writer events you may have coming up. I'd like to be able to list them in the newsletter, as well as on the web-site

At our second meeting in May, Bob Manion, our Vice-President suggested we put together a catalog of our books. I've been playing around with some ideas and



hopefully will be able to share them with you at our next meetings.



OUR MAY 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors held its first meeting at Canaan Buffet at 2:00 pm. on Friday May 10th. Present were Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Larry Danek, Jennifer Day, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Tiffani Harvey, Bob Hildahl, Esther Hildahl, Marilee Hudon, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Jon Miller, Carl Northrup, Kathy Peterman, Kate Poitevin, Linda Sonntag-Noble, and Terry Stratton. Visitors included Mark Lee Golden, Tina Hammond, Melody and Lily Reiersen, and an individual assumed to be Kathy Peterson's spouse (Tina Hammond, and although she wasn't present, Carolyn Eller are now members of Spokane Authors.)

Even though this was our first meeting at our recently chosen location, new member Tina Hammond invited us to meet at the Sans Souci Club House. A vote was taken, and Sans Souci garnered fifteen votes to three for Canaan Buffet. Thus, it looks like we'll be meeting at a new location again next month. Ideally, we'll be there for the foreseeable future. (San Souci is at the far western end of Boone Ave. More complete directions will be included soon.)

Bob Manion offered some thoughts regarding marketing, while Tiffani Harvey spoke briefly about transportation for members. Someone suggested checking into the possibility of signing and selling books in supermarket entrances, much like the Girl Scouts and other organizations do. Carl Northrup suggested we put together and publish another anthology. Our last one came out in 2017. Steve Lalonde noted that his books are available at

<https://www.ouranianpublishing.com>

Dave McChesney passed out new

member name tags to those who were present. These tags feature our new logo. We conducted a drawing for a small number of door prizes, milled around smartly for a while, and eventually headed our separate ways.

Spokane Authors also met at 2:00 pm. On Saturday May 18th in the social hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church. Attending were Larry Danek, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, and Terry Stratton. Our guests were Mike and Lily Reiersen.

As President Carl Northrup was unable to be there, Vice-President Bob Manion took the helm. He mentioned an online seminar that all could sign up for and attend, taking place the next day, Sunday May 19. (Members of Spokane Authors should have received an e-mail about this event a few days prior to the meeting.) Bob also noted that local author and one time SA member Asa Bradley would be at the Shadle Library at 6:00 pm on Wednesday May 22.

It was noted that Gray Dog Press has moved and has combined with Minuteman Press. The phone number is 509-534-2355. Russ Davis is still involved, but for the time will be working from home.

Recently we received information and sign-up forms for this year's Garland Summer Market. However, there were some requirements listed that might cause problems for some authors, so Marilee Hudon said she was trying to get ahold of those in charge to ask about it. She'll let us know as soon as she finds out. Marilee also reminded us to let her know about any upcoming author or writer events we may have so she can get the word out on social media. She also reminded us that our meetings are recorded and posted on U-Tube.

Bob Manion went on to suggest an association with the Pacific Northwest Writes Association (PNWA) and encouraged members to attend their writers conference coming up in the fall. If one is a PNWA member, the conference price is discounted by the \$65.00 membership fee.

Bob further suggested that we put

together a catalog of members' books that we could share with other writing groups, and possibly have as a handout when signing and selling books. He also noted that we could advertise our books in The Exchange.

Kevin Hostbjor said he'd made some updates to *Musher Man* on Amazon and passed around some artwork connected with a story he is working on called *The Fourth Cohort*. Terry Stratton advised us he would read his prompt-based story at our next meeting. Larry Danek did read his and mentioned he was about two-thirds of the way through his next ghost story.

Dave McChesney passed out new name tags to those who didn't already have them and noted that he had new holders available for those who would want one. He also noted that he tried to forward or pass along via email, anything that might be of interest to even a few of our members. This could include information on webinars, meetings of other groups, contests, etc.

Final comments included the possibility of a class, probably at a Saturday meeting, on writing query letters for anyone inclined to go that route in publishing. The idea of title suitability was talked about briefly, and it was pointed out that in many ways we are or could be a resource for each other.

MEMBER WEB-PAGE GUIDE

1. Name and photo/headshot
2. Brief biography
3. Links to any web-site, blog, or other on-line locations.
4. Information about any books published.
 - a. Book cover shot/thumbnail
 - b. Brief description/blurb.
 - c. Amazon ASIN, ISBN or other catalog number
 - d. Locations where physically available.

In many cases your editor/webmaster can find much of this on-line, if it is there. If it's not and you would like to have a member web-

page that is as complete as possible, please e-mail information to daveeva@comcast.net, authors@spokaneauthors.org, or send via USPS to:

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

Please note: We are always ready and willing to update and correct any webpage. Do not hesitate to contact your webmaster if you think your page needs attention.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Auntie's Bookstore:

Local Authors Book Club

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday June 5, 2024, at 2:00 pm. (Author Nishita Parekh, *Night of the Storm*.) For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com or Auntie's Bookstore at: auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

In Person meeting, Saturday June 8, 2024, at 2 pm. **Coffee with Linda** at The Meeting House, 11th and Pittsburg, Perry District. Looking for volunteers or just to socialize. Please RSVP at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Asa Maria Bradley, Colin Conway, Tamara Berry, and Frank Zafiro

Presentations at the South Hill Library, Wednesday June 12, 2024, 6:00 pm. Info available at: <https://events.spokanelibrary.org/event10715925>

Book Club Discussion

ZOOM Meeting Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 4:00 pm. Kerry Anne King and Jennifer Moorman host author Maddie Dawson. *Let's Pretend This Will Work*. If interested in attending: contact@kerryschafer.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday June 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm. (Colin Conway presents "Building Your Brand.") For more information

and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

5th Annual Books & Brews

Palouse Writers Guild, Saturday June 22, 2024, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the 1912 Center in Moscow, Idaho. Details at: khaliela@gmail.com

Book Presentation

Author Chris Bieker and her new book, High Stakes at Hoopfest, Sunday June 23, 2024, 5:00 to 6:30 pm, Auntie's Bookstore. <https://www.auntiesbooks.com/event/high-stakes-hoopfest-chris-bieker>

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

In Person meeting, Tuesday June 25, 2024, at 2 pm. Location TBD, hopefully Perkins. More with Colin Conway and some critique action. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

Sandpoint Writers on the Lake

Meet twice, both in person and via ZOOM for critiques. Information at bonniemcdade@gmail.com

Auntie's Bookstore:

Local Authors Book Club

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday July 3, 2024, at 2:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com or Auntie's Bookstore at: auntiesbooks@gmail.com

Inland Northwest Writers Guild

ZOOM Meeting, Wednesday July 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm. For more information and to possibly join in, contact Linda Bond at lindathewriter@gmail.com

SASP BOOKS ON AMAZON/KINDLE

Many SASP members' books are on Amazon and/or Kindle™ (We print short parts of the list on a rotating basis. The complete, and hopefully up to date list is available on the web-site, under "NEWS")

To speed your search, add the provided ten digit numerical or alpha-numerical code (ASIN) to: [www\(dot\)amzn\(dot\)com/dp/](http://www.amazon.com) Example: www.amazon.com/dp/B008TXC332 or: www.amazon.com/dp/1936178044 ASINs for each book are the same, regardless of what Amazon Marketplace you use.

Kate Poitevin:

Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part One) 1986153959
Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Two) 1986179486
Saving Tir Gaeltacht (part Three) 1986179923

Joyce Caudel:

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

Bob Manion:

Santa's Heroes 1936178095
The Tree House B004IZLHLE
The Tree House (new edition) 1946882003
Springer's Heart 0978850742
Summer Rain B00ZM3S2IM
Vampire and the Cop B00ZM4BBOS
Retitled *Vampire Justice* 0996864415
Sabrina's Promise 0996864407 097885070X

Sandra L. Mason:

N is for Nativity 1517614880
(Illustrated by Natalie J. Apodaca)
Into the Fire B08Z2GX2TC

Stan Parks:

Jakob's Ladies 1532910762
Jakob's Legacy B09HLCNG21

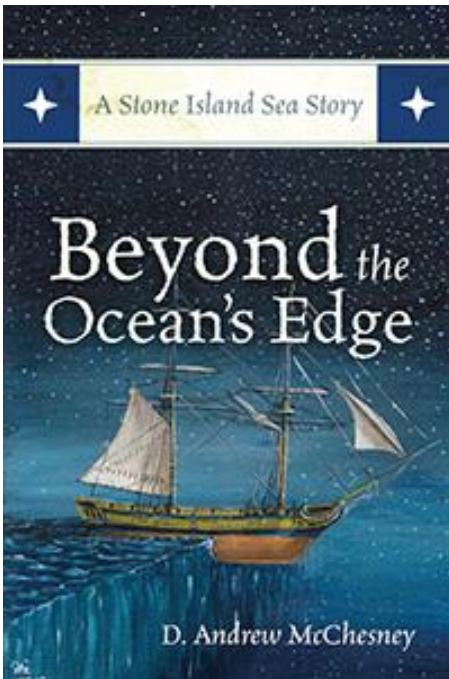
Tiffani Harvey:

A Journey to Independence 1533499438
Revised and retitled
Freedom Seeker
Growing Independent 1533499926
Revised and retitled
Freedom Seeking

FEATURED BOOK REVIEWS

This month we have the review of *Beyond the Ocean's Edge* that we didn't have

room for last time, along with a couple of newly written and submitted reviews. After those, we resume our normal rotation through the reviews in our files and on our website.



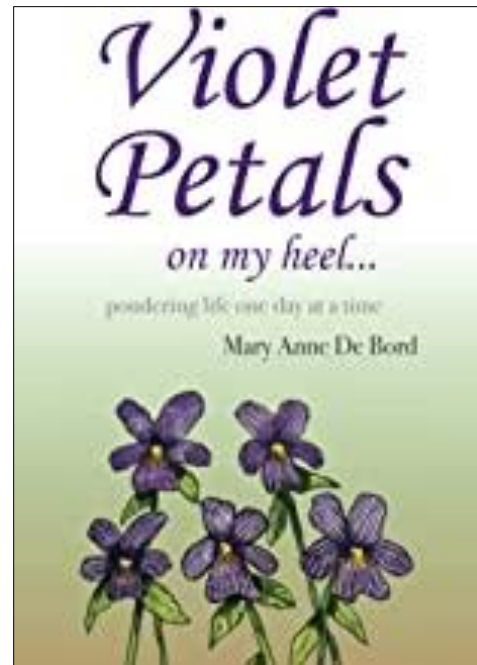
Reviewed by Beth Camp

Beyond the Ocean's Edge effectively recreates that time in the early 19th Century when Britain ruled the seas. McChesney's seamanship shows through with impeccable knowledge of the daily routines of men at sea, the storms, the battles, and the very rigid class boundaries that separated everyday sailors from officers.

We follow Edward Pierce, at first a third lieutenant of humble beginnings, as he seeks to improve his skills and as he searches for his brothers who had earlier been impressed into service. Throughout the first half of the book, Pierce seems balanced between two possible worlds, the life at sea and the life on land.

Those two worlds become more tangible (and more fantastic) in the second half of the book. At the end of the Napoleonic War when many sailors were dismissed from service, Pierce has an amazing opportunity to sail a new ship to a mysterious island far from all he knows – except that the voyage will take him back to his first love, the sea.

Pierce's integrity and inner conflicts, his doubts and hopes, his yearning for a relationship, even scenes that reveal him as demanding and irascible, add depth to his quest as he confronts very different cultures and becomes a well-respected commanding officer. A rewarding read well-grounded in history that will require Book 2 to fully resolve the issues raised in Book 1.



Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Violet Petals on my heel... is a wonderful inspiring book of stories for every day of the year. Each day of last year I read what the author had written for that day, often reading it to my husband. De Bord wrote of personal experiences and her thoughts of daily life. Each selection ends with a question or two that makes you think about what she has written about that day and how it pertains to you. For example: "Can you look up for the stars when the world is bringing you down?" Also, many times she quotes a famous person to make her point. For example: "Crying does not indicate that you are weak. Since birth, it has always been a sign that you are alive." –Charlotte Bronte.

The first thing that attracted me to this book was the title and the cover. The reason being, I love violets. They are my favorite

flowers. This book is well written and interesting. I will read it again and again. Plus, it's a great coffee table book. I recommend it to all.

Dandelion

(No Cover Image Available)

By Linda Sonntag

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Dandelion is a memoir of the author's life as she battled one trauma after another. Her first trauma happened when she got hit by a car while riding her trike, where she wasn't supposed to be, and receiving no sympathy from her mother. Her older sister died when the author was eight years old, leaving her parents in so much pain that they didn't pay much attention to her emotionally after that. In grade school, she was the target of bullies. During middle school, she fell in love with a boy named Jeff, who was later killed in a motorcycle crash. She was devastated and never truly got over it. At the age of twelve, she was sexually abused, but when she told her parents about it, they didn't believe her. When she was fifteen, her parents suddenly decided to send her to boarding school, which resulted in her being very homesick and missing her friends. All of this eventually led to poor choices concerning her relationships, taking pills, and drinking too much at times.

Throughout her life, she's had more than her share of traumas, including deaths and illnesses. One good choice she made was her first husband, Vince, father of her three children, and in later life a rock for her, by being very supportive. Through all her traumas, many moves, jobs, and her everyday trials and tribulations, the author had a fierce belief in God and that He had a plan for her that has helped her thrive and survive her ups and downs.

Sonntag's story is well worth reading. It's well-written, honest, and never boring. I

recommend this book for one and all, and especially for those who have suffered trauma.

Banana Grama's Bible Nobodies Who Were Really Somebodies

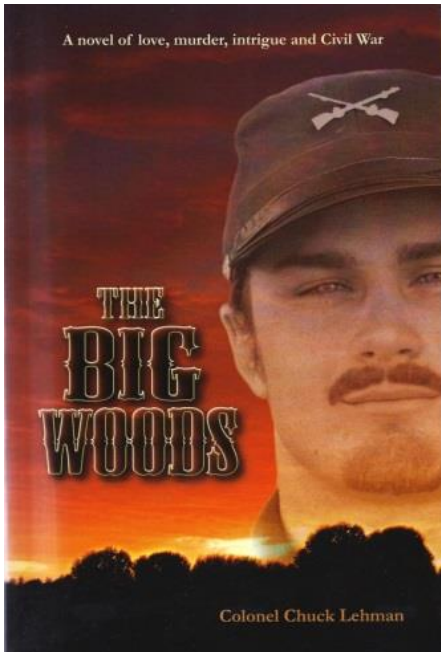
Written & Illustrated by Banana Grama

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

This book is different than your usual Bible stories for children. Instead of only writing about the famous people in the Bible, this author chose to write about those who were considered by their peers and themselves a nobody but were in reality a somebody for something they did. Take for example, Elisha, who saved a town's water system, or the blind beggar who managed to get his eyesight back by making sure he got the attention of Jesus. Then there was Jubal who made musical instruments to make people happy and Mordecai who gave Queen Esther the courage to talk to her king about a very important matter. Another nobody was the princess with no name who saved baby Moses from being thrown into a river to be eaten by alligators! This is just a few of the nobodies that you can read about.

I think the idea for this book was a clever one, and I enjoyed reading this book and looking at its many colorful illustrations. I recommend *Bible Nobodies Who Were Really Somebodies* for anyone interested in getting children interested in the Bible and Biblical times. Plus, I'm sure it would lead to lots of lively discussions about what makes a person a nobody or a somebody.

The Big Woods



By Colonel Chuck Lehman

Reviewed by Robert G. Hildahl

Based on a true story, *The Big Woods* is a very exciting historical novel that tells the story of a young man's life and problems and adventures around and during the Civil War. It's also about his love of a young woman and all the problems she goes through to help her young soldier.

It's a real page turner that keeps you reading and not wanting to stop. The adventures and life changing times keep the excitement going and really makes you aware of the hard times people went through back in the early and mid 1800s.

Lehman is a very good writer and, as with his other books, *The Big Woods* is an enjoyable story that does not disappoint.

Reviewed by Esther J. Hildahl

Once while out to dinner with relatives, I found that they had all read the book *The Big*

Woods. While I listened to their lively discussion about why they enjoyed this book so much, I decided that maybe it was time for me to read it, too. When I did, I discovered that everyone was right. It is a great book!

I liked the fact the book was based on real people and true events. It's a love story between Willie Meyer and Louisa Kiekenapp (the author's great-grandparents) who lived in Southern Minnesota near the Big Woods. And it's the story of their separation for many years when Willie goes off to fight in two wars-- the Indian Wars, where he finds himself fighting against his two Sioux Indian friends, and then the Civil War.

It's also about the murder of Willie's father who disappeared in the Big Woods when Willie was sixteen years old. Being the oldest of six children, he was now the head of his family. His many responsibilities included building a permanent log home for his mother, sisters, and brothers. And finally, many years later, it's about the clever way Willie goes about figuring out how his father died, and eventually, discovering who killed him.

The Big Woods is an interesting and well-written book. If you like romance, history, a good murder mystery, or you just want to learn how to build a log house--then this book is for you!