

OUR June 2024 MEETINGS

Compiled by Linda Sonntag-Noble and Dave McChesney

Spokane Authors met on Friday, June 14th at the Sans Souci West Club House. It was our first meeting at that location. Members present included Caryl Briscoe-Michas, Beth Camp, Larry Danek, Mary De Bord, Sue Eller, Denise Guy, D. J. Guy, T. Hammond, Esther Hildahl, Bob Hildahl, Suzanne Holland, Kevin Hostbjor, Joan Kopczynski, Steve Lalonde, Amy Logan, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Carl Northrup, Kate Poitevin, Elena Smith, Linda Sonntag-Noble, Mikel Stevenson, Terry Stratton, and Sarah Vail. Lily Reiersen attended as a guest, along with other family members, and later joined the group. Other guests included Brenda Dill, Kay Stevenson, accompanying Mikel, and Shandra Tanner.

As we began, several members made announcements. Sarah Vail mentioned she was working on new projects and that her *Snow Country Lane* recently won an award. Steve Lalonde has finished his memoir and is beginning a new historical fiction series set in ancient Egypt. Suzanne Holland is beginning to write historical fiction. Larry Danek's next ghost story is western themed and a sequel to *Pioneer Ghost*. Joan Kopczynski has republished her memoir, *Spies, Lies, and Psychosis*. Carl Northrup has published his second book, *A Penny for your Thoughts*, and is working on a children's book, amongst other things. Carl mentioned the Spokesman Review article from June 6th featuring fellow writer Bob Weldin, retired geologist & mining engineer. The article features his collection of mining gear and artifacts he had saved & collected after he retired. T. Hammond mentioned she was restarting a series of books that had fallen by the wayside.

Bob Manion again brought up the idea of a Spokane Authors catalog that could be shared with other writing groups and the public in general. Dave McChesney passed around some basic ideas of layout and content. Sue Eller and Beth Camp both volunteered to help with the catalog project. Carl Northrup suggested that it might be time for the group to put together another anthology. As the subject of author branding had come up, he noted he had branded himself as Red Shirt Publications.

Beth Camp talked a little about the Inland Northwest Writers Guild presentation and recent Northwest Indie Bookfest workshops regarding branding by

Colin Conway and said she would try to set up for him to do a presentation for Spokane Authors in the future.

Esther Hildahl wondered if there would be a need to have someone talk about writing humor.

More members read their stories based on the prompts we drew from paper bags a few meetings ago. Readers included Larry Danek, Bob Manion, Kevin Hostbjor, and Amy Logan.

The door prize raffle was held and the meeting ended.

Due to an unique coincidence of the calendar, Spokane Authors met the next day, Saturday June 15th at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Attending were Larry Danek, Kevin Hostbjor, Marilee Hudon, Bob Manion, Dave McChesney, Pat Moreno, and Carl Northrup.

Pat Moreno talked about writing the same story using different points of view or developing characters along different lines. Kevin Hostbjor mentioned working with an outfit called Book Baby and was trying to figure out how it worked and if it would be worth dealing with. Carl noted publishing A Penny for your Thoughts and said he is in the final stages of preparation to publish two more. Currently he is waiting on illustrations. Larry Danek mentioned working with Reader's Digest to publish his first book and noted he was not happy with the results.

Bob Manion talked about writing ultra short stories with less than 100 words and also suggested we should learn how to write query letters, just in case anyone wanted to follow a more traditional route to publishing. He suggested that anyone who has written a query letter should bring it to our next Saturday meeting, either as an example of how to write one, or as one to be critiqued. Dave McChesney mentioned Anne Mini's Author! Author! Blog from a few years ago had a lot of good, detailed information on all facets of traditional publishing. While the blog is no longer current, it might be possible to find it and use it for research. (Anne Mini was at one time the advice columnist for the Pacific Northwest Writers Association or PNWA. She has spoken to Spokane Authors twice in the past. Her blog can be found at www.annemini.com).

There was some general discussion about our plan to create and distribute a catalog of our members' books, another anthology of members' works, and those companies who appear to help independent, self-published authors, but who are primarily in business for their own gain.



Page created 07/05/2024 dam
©2024 www.spokaneauthors.org