



*Soar Over the Rim of Imagination*  
**PAYSON BOOK FESTIVAL**  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual

*July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024*  
*Presented by the*  
*Rim Country Chapter of*  
*Arizona Professional Writers*

# Thank you, First Responders



... for your tireless service  
coming to our aid,  
protecting our families,  
our property, and our forests.  
We appreciate all that you do.

*"I have fallen in love with the imagination.  
And if you fall in love with the imagination,  
you understand that it is a free spirit. It will go  
anywhere and it can do anything."*

– Alice Walker



# Thank You to our 2024 Co-Presenters

## *Arizona Professional Writers*

APW is a statewide professional non-profit professional communications organization founded in 1953 by women journalists. The Payson Authors & Artists Festival is a project of the Rim Country Chapter.

Discover: [ArizonaProfessionalWriters.org](http://ArizonaProfessionalWriters.org).



provides our Festival accommodations in their beautiful ballroom and adjoining Maple room. Experience the best gaming excitement around as well as the friendliest staff. Mazatzal Casino is close enough to get away from it all. Come in now and experience the Magic in the Mountain. Discover: [MazatzalCasino.com](http://MazatzalCasino.com)

## *Locations*

**Silent Auction, Gift Baskets, and Raffles**  
are next to Registration.

**Ballroom: Authors!** Chat, buy books to have autographed.

**Bookstore: Step up to the Stage**  
to make payment if directed by the author.

**Kid Zone: Maple Room**, east of the stage.



# ***KID ZONE***

## ***Maple Room Schedule***

**On-demand Story Times!**

**Puppet Shows with Miss Susie**

Showtimes: 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**The Art of Storytelling**

- ✿ Write your own story or poem!
- ✿ Create your own book cover!
- ✿ Write a poem!

*Special thanks to:*





*Top Shelf Sponsor \$1000+*



*Rim Country's Radio Station  
Arizona's First Low Power  
FM Radio Station*

**GET THE KRIM 96.3FM APP  
AND LISTEN ANYTIME. ANYWHERE.**

**(928) 468-5746**



**www.krimfm.com**



*Top Shelf Sponsor \$1000+*

**PAYSON ROUNDUP**  
The Rim Country's News and Information Source



## 2024 AUTHORS FESTIVAL

For over 80 years we have encouraged readership through our newspapers, magazines, books, our digital newsletter and our website [www.payson.com](http://www.payson.com).

**"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free."  
- Frederick Douglas**

**To subscribe to the award winning Payson Round up...**

Please contact Circulation Manager,  
Robert Mavis 928-474-5251 x108 or go to  
[www.payson.com](http://www.payson.com) for more information

**To support the Payson Roundup,  
Rim Review, our books, magazines or digital products,  
please contact:**

Ann Fowler 928-474-5251 ext. 120

Debi LaBonte 928-474-5251 ext. 105

Claude LaBonte 928-474-5251 ext. 102

Lisa Wilker (Classified Ad Specialist) 928-474-5251 ext 103



*Top Shelf Sponsor \$1000+*



**The Gila County  
Board of Education  
congratulates the  
Payson  
Book Festival  
on its 9<sup>th</sup> annual  
community event.**



*Top Shelf Sponsor \$1000+*



**The Gila County Board of Supervisors  
is delighted to support the  
Payson Book Festival  
on its 9<sup>th</sup> annual community event.**



# Third Shelf Sponsors \$500+



431 S. Beeline Highway,  
Suite 1

Payson, AZ 85541  
(928) 472-2588

**mha**  
FOUNDATION

**\$232 billion a year in U.S. Health care costs is linked to low adult literary skills.**

**MHA Foundation** is committed to expanding health services, advancing education, and improving literacy levels for our Rim Country neighbors.

As the nonprofit community leader in promoting and enhancing rural health care issues, MHA has been an innovator and facilitator in a number of critical areas throughout Norther Gila County and across the state.

**POSTNET**

3500 N. BEELINE HWY  
PAYSON, AZ 85541  
928.472.4355  
AZ112@POSTNET.COM

**10% OFF**

SHIPPING ON YOUR NEXT  
PURCHASE WITH THIS COUPON

BRING THIS COUPON IN FOR 10% OFF YOUR NEXT  
SHIPPING PURCHASE. (EXCLUDES POSTAGE STAMPS AND CANNOT  
BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS)  
EXPIRES 06/30/25

**POSTNET**

THE SOLUTION TO ALL YOUR BUSINESS NEEDS

- Printing / Copies
- Large Format Printing / Blueprints
- Banners
- Canvas Wraps
- Car Magnets
- Coreplast/FoamCore Signs
- Business Cards
- Custom Office Forms
- Posters
- Shipping: UPS, Fed-Ex, USPS
- Private Mail Boxes
- Virtual Mail
- Flyers/ Brochures
- Letterhead / Envelopes
- Fax/Scanning Services
- Laminating
- Binding
- Bulk Mailings
- Design Work
- Calendars
- Notary
- Shredding
- Fieldprint / Finger Printing
- ...and much more

1000 N. BEELINE HWY  
PAYSON, AZ 85541  
928.472.4355  
AZ112@POSTNET.COM



## *Supporters*

Table 4

### **Gila County Libraries:**

Payson, Globe, Pine, Tonto Basin

### **Read On Northern Gila County**

Includes schools, libraries, and organizations  
in six Rim Country communities,  
First Things First, and Dolly Parton's  
Imagination Library.

### **Rim Country Literacy Program**

GED prep, English language and reading instruction.

*Cover photo of The Mogollon Rim  
is courtesy Harold Rush.*

*"Imagination is like a muscle.  
I found out that the more I wrote,  
the bigger it got."*

Philip José Farmer

## *Hospitality Partners*

**Best Western**

**Majestic**

**Mountain Inn**

**Payson**

**Campground**

**& RV Resort**

**Mazatzal Hotel  
& Casino**

**Quality Inn**



# *Payson Book Festival*

## *The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Planning Committee*

*Festival Leader: Connie Cockrell,*  
President of the Rim Country APW Chapter

*Program, PR, Graphics, Badges: Carol Baxter,*  
President of Arizona Professional Writers (APW)

*Webmaster & Social Media:  
Jaimie Hall Bruzenak*

*Silent Auction Manager: Bobbie Bennett*

*Volunteer Manager: Ruth Fleming and  
our dedicated volunteers*

*Kid Zone: Elaine Vortruba*  
Public Services Librarian for Gila County  
*Kid Zone: Veronica Hernandez & Kiem Ta*  
Gila County Librarians

*Gal Friday: Marie Fasano*

**“The simplest way to make sure that we raise literate children is to teach them to read, and to show them that reading is a pleasurable activity.” - Neil Gaiman**

# Authors

*Soar Over the Rim of Imagination  
with a new book by one of these fine authors!*

**ELIZABETH  
AJANIE-BOYER**

Table 18



TJ Boyer, the creative genius for *The Mirror Gate Chronicles*, and his wife, Elizabeth Ajanie-Boyer, have co-written several books in the Sci-Fantasy genre. They are from Phoenix, Arizona. A writer in her own right, Elizabeth wrote a historical fiction series about the Underground Railroad and the Civil War, a biographical novel about her great-grandmother, and co-wrote with TJ, a murder mystery. Visit: [mirrorgatechronicles.wordpress.com](http://mirrorgatechronicles.wordpress.com)

**TOM ALBERTI**

Table 7



Tom Alberti is a fifty-one-year resident of Arizona and has enjoyed riding his horses all over the state. He has written a seven-book series, *The Horseman*. This series highlights the adventures and history of a young ranching couple and includes danger, romance, and historical background in the Arizona Territory. Tom has also published a book of western short stories, and two independent novels. Nine of his ten books take place in Arizona Territory. Most of the horses written about in his *Horseman Series* are his own horses, and the trails described in his books are actual trails he has ridden. Find out more: [TomAlbertiNovels.com](http://TomAlbertiNovels.com)

**BART AMBROSE**

Table 48



Arizona native Bart Ambrose grew up on an Arizona cotton farm. He graduated from ASU and worked as a natural resource conservationist. A second career took him to Nashville, writing and teaching songwriting and guitar. He relocated back to Arizona to pursue his writing interests with a focus on Arizona and the Southwest. His first three novels are historical fiction set in early to mid-twentieth-century Arizona. They take readers on vivid journeys and adventures in Arizona. Bart and his wife live near Tucson, Arizona. Bart's books, and music: <https://www.bartambrose.com>.



**SUSAN  
ANDERSON**

Table 23



Susan Clare Anderson has an associate Teacher Certificate and additional studies in Child Development. She has experience working with children and strives to create quality books that are age appropriate and fun to read. Her books have won awards from both the Purple Dragon Book Awards and the National Federation of Press Women Communications Contests. Susan currently resides with her husband in Southern Arizona.

Visit: [SusanClareAnderson.com](http://SusanClareAnderson.com)

**BONNIE BAHN**

Table 54



Animals, birds, and disabled children prompted Bonnie Bahn to write the Applevale Holidays series of books. Her goal is to encourage disabled children to think of themselves as heroes. There are four books – *Christmas Alligator*, *Raccoon Rainbow*, *Moon Balls*, and *Saving Yankee and Doodle*. Her first middle grade book, *Bumblefoot*, *Murder is For the Birds*, is about a trio of teenage sleuths who enlist the help of telepathic screech owl to solve a murder. *Fire Below Mystery Mountain* was inspired by the beautiful area around Payson, Arizona, local children, and a very special Golden Eagle.

Visit: [bonniebahn.wordpress.com](http://bonniebahn.wordpress.com)

**DEBORAH  
BARBER**

Table 5



From stories and poems in childhood to business manuals and blog posts, Deborah Barber has been writing her entire life. Fulfilling a dream, she now writes Christian fiction novels and inspirational material. Heartfelt and reflecting her faith, Deborah's writing touches the hearts of her readers. Retired from a career in financial services, Deborah lives in the mountains of Arizona with her husband, where she enjoys spending time with three adult daughters and their families, including seven amazing grandchildren. She still loves to read and write, as well as play the piano, paint, and travel.

**CAROL JEAN  
BAXTER**

Table 52



Carol Baxter combines words into extraordinary client memoirs, dynamic marketing copy for artists, successful grant proposals, and websites. Raised by grandparents, handmade quilts, home-baked rolls, and the meter of poetry filled her childhood. Baxter was an award-winning news features reporter for the Payson Roundup Newspaper. She is the President of Arizona Professional Writers and a member of the Northern Gila County Genealogical Society. A listener, a doer, and a dreamer – Baxter is never bored.

Visit: [TalesofaLifetime.net](http://TalesofaLifetime.net) or [CreativeWebsitesWrite.com](http://CreativeWebsitesWrite.com)

## K. A. BLEDSOE

Table 17



K. A. Bledsoe's writing journey began at the age of six with a short story about kids growing up on a space station. Even through other jobs like scooping ice cream, shoe salesman, pharmacy tech, band director, and parenting, writing has been a constant. Born, raised and still residing in Arizona, the author continues to pen stories in all genres despite the distraction of house cats underfoot and the occasional bobcat or roadrunner strolling through the backyard.

## PATRICIA BOOMSMA

Table 54



Patricia Boomsma is a retired Arizona lawyer now writing, crocheting, traveling, and enjoying life. Her award-winning novel, *The Way of Glory* (Edeleboom Books), came out in 2018. Her second novel, *Flotsam* (Bink Press), was published in September of 2023, and her third novel, *Lost*, is scheduled for release in August of 2024.

Visit: [PatBoomsma.com](http://PatBoomsma.com)

## TJ BOYER

Table 18



TJ Boyer, the creative genius for *The Mirror Gate Chronicles*, and his wife, Elizabeth Ajamie-Boyer, have co-written several books in the Sci-Fantasy genre. They are from Phoenix, Arizona. A writer in her own right, Elizabeth wrote a historical fiction series about the Underground Railroad and the Civil War, a biographical novel about her great-grandmother, and co-wrote a murder mystery with TJ. Visit: [mirrorgatechronicles.wordpress.com](http://mirrorgatechronicles.wordpress.com)

## JASON BRADFORD

Table 49



Jason Bradford grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, and now resides in Arizona with his fiancé and three children. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and dedicated himself to a career in public service. Endeavoring to tap into his passion for creative storytelling and heart-pounding action and suspense, he set to work on his Solar Ashes series.

Learn more and connect at [Bradfordbooks.com](http://Bradfordbooks.com) or [Solarashes.com](http://Solarashes.com).

**SUSAN  
BUDHAVARI**

Table 60



Susan Budavari has always loved to read mysteries. After years as a scientific writer/editor and encyclopedist in the pharmaceutical industry in New Jersey, she moved to Arizona and began to write fiction. She writes the Merano & Bell Novel series featuring a small-town Arizona PI (and ex-NJ cop) and his physician wife. *The Past Remains*, is the fifth book in the series. She and Merle McCann, co-authored *Beyond the Broken Door*, 2020 Winner of the Anthology/Fiction Award, New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. Susan is currently working on a cozy mystery.

Learn more at: [susanbudavari.com](http://susanbudavari.com)

**KELLY  
BURTON**

Table 47



Kelly Fitzsimmons Burton, Ph. D., is a retired college professor. She is the president of The Logos Foundation, a non-profit educational organization in Young, AZ. She is also the founder and CEO of Public Philosophy Press, which has two imprints: Logos Papers Press and Valley Press. She is married to David Burton, a musician. They enjoy living in their tiny home, where they have two blue heelers and tend to a few cows.

Find out more: [PublicPhilosophyPress.com](http://PublicPhilosophyPress.com)

**TAM CHRONIN**

Table 34



Tam Chronin is a figment of the imagination, which might be why she lives there often enough to find her main characters and convince them to share their stories. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona, with her family and beloved pets, including a vicious attack tortoise who guards the backyard.

Visit: [tamchronin.com](http://tamchronin.com)

**CONNIE  
COCKRELL**

Table 53



Connie Cockrell is a 20-year Air Force career, a manager at a computer operations company, wife, mother, sister and volunteer, provides a rich background for Connie's story telling. She writes about whatever comes into her head so her books could be in any genre. She's published twenty books, has been included in five anthologies and been published on [EveryDayStories.com](http://EveryDayStories.com) and [FrontierTales.com](http://FrontierTales.com). Connie's always on the lookout for a good story idea. Beware, you may be the next one. If you'd like to know more, go to [ConniesRandomThoughts.com](http://ConniesRandomThoughts.com) or [Facebook.com/ConniesRandomThoughts](https://Facebook.com/ConniesRandomThoughts).

## CHRISANN DAWSON

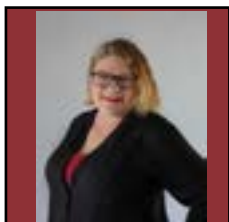
Table 5



For seven years, Chrisann Dawson lived in Congo doing mission work, providing her first-hand insight into the setting and culture. Her family has worked in the Congo since 1991. They were there for the 1995 Ebola Outbreak that shocked the world, experienced war, trauma, and the hardships of daily life. Chrisann speaks Lingala fluently. She has been married to her husband Gale for thirty years. They have three grown children. Their second daughter was born in the Congo. They currently live in Payson, Arizona. Chrisann works part-time with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension.  
Visit: [ChrisannDawson.com](http://ChrisannDawson.com)

## TRACY DAYMENT

Table 28

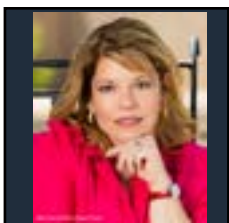


Tracy Dayment is an author originally from the suburbs of Chicago. She, along with her husband, Tim, have resided in Arizona for more than twenty years. In 2013, they adopted their beautiful daughter, Diana. Tracy wrote *Papercuts and Glitter Jars* based on her own experiences of international adoption on a budget and raising a special needs child. Tracy's first book *Learning to Live: Life Skills for ALL Ages* was created as a tool to help Diana learn important skills. Tracy is in the process of creating a children's book series to teach acceptance of those that have different abilities.

Follow: [facebook.com/tracydaymentauthor](https://facebook.com/tracydaymentauthor)

## C. K. DONNELLY

Table 27



While other kids read comic books under the covers with a flashlight at bedtime, C.K. Donnelly wrote stories. She used her love of writing to pursue a career in journalism, and eventually, wrote a novel. After 20 years, the self-described "unsuccessful quitter" published her epic fantasy in 2020, *Trine Rising, The Kinderra Saga: Book 1*. The sequels, *Trine Fallacy: Book 2* (2021) and *Trine Revelation: Book 3* (2022), soon followed. Together, the series has won some 18 awards and has received critical acclaim. C.K. resides in Arizona with her oh-so-patient husband and her little black dog (who is equally patient). She no longer writes under the covers by flashlight. Usually. Discover: [ckdonnelly.com](http://ckdonnelly.com)

## R. A. DOUTHITT

Table 10



Former writing teacher, R. A. Douthitt is an award-winning multi-published author of books for middle grade, YA, and adult readers. She is the winner of the 2022 Christian Indie Awards First Place in YA and the Moonbeam Children's Books Award-Bronze Medal for Best Book Series. Ruth currently works for Grand Canyon University and lives in Phoenix with her husband Scott and their little dog. When she isn't writing, Ruth loves to run, draw, paint, and garden.  
Visit: [artbyruth.com](http://artbyruth.com)



**LAURIE FAGAN**

Table 43



Laurie Fagen is a longtime “writer by habit” who has written for news, video, films, documentaries, murder mystery plays and more. An Honorable Mention in a contest led to three published anthology stories, and her crime fiction novel series *Behind the Mic Mysteries*. *Fade Out*, *Dead Air*, and *Bleeder* are available in e-book, print and audiobook. She’s working on *Raw Image*, the first in a new series, *Behind the Lens Mysteries*. Fagen is a member of Sisters in Crime and chapters including Los Angeles, San Diego and Grand Canyon Writers.

Discover: [ReadLaurieFagen.com](http://ReadLaurieFagen.com)

**CYNTHIA ANNE FINEFROCK**

Table 61



Cynthia Anne Finefrock lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, with her furry roommates, Winston and Sparrow. Before she ventured into the world of writing, Cynthia graduated from the University of Southern California before obtaining her Masters in Physician Assistant Studies from Cornell University. Cynthia’s true passion is experiencing as much of the world as possible through the lens of her camera. Designing a website to showcase her diverse photography, Cynthia decided to edit her dog Winston into her travel landscapes. A comical exchange between friends has transpired into a published book. To stay updated on Winston, please follow him on Instagram: [@WinstonTravels\\_](https://www.instagram.com/WinstonTravels_). Visit: [CynthiaAnne.com](http://CynthiaAnne.com)

**DIANA FISHER**

Table 44



Diana Fisher is an award-winning author, award-winning illustrator, and award-winning artist. She has been authoring and illustrating how-to-draw books, and other artistic products, for over 20 years. She is an expert at breaking down drawing into simple steps anyone can follow. The hundreds of 5-star reviews her books have received are testament to her ability to teach and reach children. After many years working with traditional publishers, she has now formed her own publishing company, Peewee Picasso®.

Visit the Peewee Picasso website: [peeweepicasso.com](http://peeweepicasso.com)

**SUSAN FLAIG**

Table 38



Suzanne Flaig is the author of the Missy Jenkins musical mystery series, *Terror in Double Time*, *Death in 3/4 Time*, and *Killing in Quarter Time*. Her short stories appeared in print and online, including several in various anthologies. Two books of original short stories, *Thrilled to Death*, and *Deadly Droplets*, are available on Amazon and Kindle. Suzanne is a past president of the Desert Sleuths chapter of Sisters in Crime and a member of the Mesa Writers Guild.

Visit: [missyjenkinsmysteries.com](http://missyjenkinsmysteries.com)

## ERIK FOGÉ

Table 46



Erik Foge's passion for history and writing began at age 14 when his parents sent him to Washington, DC. The characters in the *Project Pegasus Series* are drawn from within the Intelligence Community, the NRO; the NSA; the CIA; an Admiral and the Master Chief of the Sixth Fleet; Navy SEALs, Astronaut John Glenn, and others. Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBAs) 2020 named *One Way Roads* First Place in the Global Thriller Book Awards. CIBAs 2021 named *We Know Your Name* a Finalist in the Clue Book Awards. Erik was featured in Magic Image Hollywood Magazine, October 2022. Visit: [ErikFoge.com](http://ErikFoge.com)

## HOWARD GERSHKOWITZ

Table 12



Howard is 65, married (forty-two years) with one child (age 34), and has lived in Arizona since 1981. Maintaining a journal for most of his life, he's accumulated a significant amount of material to write about. To date, he has published a dozen short stories along with a poetry chapbook, *Observations*. His debut novel, *The Operator*, was published in October 2018 by All Things That Matter Press. His latest release, *Not on My Watch*, from the same publisher, is out now and is available on Amazon. Discover: [gershwriter.com](http://gershwriter.com).

## RITA GOLDNER

Table 40



Rita Goldner has a passion for the natural world, sustainability, and environmental responsibility. This agenda, coupled with a love of drawing and writing made picture book writing/illustrating a great fit for her. Through the written word and illustrations, Rita shows her love of nature, endangered animals in their habitats, and global ecology. Her story telling style, with colorful, whimsical pictures and lively action-packed plots, make learning fun. She hopes that bringing awareness of the environment's importance will ensure that her readers will join the fight to preserve all this when they grow up. Visit: [ritagoldnerbooks.com](http://ritagoldnerbooks.com)

## DAVID GORDON

Table 55



David was a social studies teacher, principal, and is a founding owner of the Grand Canyon College Preparatory Academy in Tempe. He grew up reading and watching science and historical fiction and is a big baseball fan. David has combined his various passions in the *Jigsaw* series, which focuses on time-traveling teens thrust into major historical events—many of which never made the standard history books. Born in New York, David now lives in Arizona with the love of his life, Gwyn. They are dog people, and enjoy travel and food—Italian, Asian, Middle Eastern and Indian cuisines in particular. David an Instructional Assistant at Roosevelt Elementary School in Mesa, , and a political writer for Blog for Arizona. [DavidAlynGordon.com](http://DavidAlynGordon.com)

## MARIA GREENHALGH

Table 42



Maria J. Greenhalgh is a bilingual author, a lifelong learner, wife, and mother of two. She learned English at the age of ten, when her family immigrated to the United States. Maria fell in love with learning and credits her education for helping her find a career she loved, leading teams in the financial services sector. Now her focus is on inspiring children to love learning, as well as appreciate and take care of the world we live in. Her bi-lingual books also encourage adults to value and love the uniqueness of each child. With her newest book, *A Turtle's Hero*, she is hoping to inspire the youngest of readers to be advocates for marine life and for conservation.

## MICHAEL HALE

Table 30



Michael Hale is an award-winning author and illustrator of picture books. He has illustrated over a dozen books with various authors, he also writes and illustrates his own stories. The books he writes are humorous, rhyming, read-out-loud stories for children. Michael lives in Phoenix, Arizona. You can see more of his work and books at: [michaelhale.me](http://michaelhale.me)

## P.J. HULTSTRAND

Table 17



PJ Hultstrand is the author of 14 books. She has also been a book publisher, managing editor for two newspapers, senior graphics designer and is a digital publishing specialist for a 46-year-old education material publisher. She is an author of Time-Travel Romance and New Adult Paranormal Fiction (aka Urban Fantasy). She also has an award-winning non-fiction, *The Jungle Survival Guide to Media Kits for Authors*, and a little duck series for children. Visit: [PJHultstrand.com](http://PJHultstrand.com)

## LESLIE KELLER

Table 21



Leslie Rager draws upon her experience in the restaurant business, and love of the Arizona desert, to create the characters for her cozy mysteries. As a technical writer, she has written software manuals for online and print. Both of Leslie's books in her first series *Menu for Murder* and *Cocktails at Sunset*, have received five star reviews on Readers' Favorites, Amazon and Goodreads. Book three is in process and continues the story of Jayne Stanford, the less than stellar server. Check out her contributions to the *Desert Sleuths Cookbook*, *Recipes to Kill For* and read her short story romance, both available on Amazon. Visit: [lesliekellerbooks.com](http://lesliekellerbooks.com)

## JAN KELLY

Table 43



Jan Kelly is a native Arizonan with an MFA in Creative Writing from Arizona State University where she taught for thirty years. She has one daughter and lives with her husband in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Visit: [Facebook.com/JanKelly55/](https://www.facebook.com/JanKelly55/) or  
[Amazon.com/author/jankelly](https://www.amazon.com/author/jankelly)

## KATHLEEN KELLY

Table 3



Kathleen Kelly worked as a Registered Nurse specializing in Critical Care and Emergency Medicine for over thirty years. Trained as a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner, she has worked with victims of violence. Kathleen is the Coordinator of Gila County Child Fatality Review for the Arizona Health Dept. She has studied extensively in alternative healing, embracing the richness of a holistic approach in her work as a medical intuitive. She believes her work lends the illuminating voice of each child after death. Her short stories, penned in her journals over the years, celebrate the best in all of us.

Visit: [myss.com/profiles/kathleen-kelly/](https://myss.com/profiles/kathleen-kelly/)

## SANDRA KINDT

Table 26



It's no surprise to those who know Sandra well that she chose communication and relationships as her course of study--earning an MA in the field of Organizational Communication, she refers to her degree as her "passport..." the thing that allows her to practice what she's learned. Sometimes by teaching communication and organizational behavior skills at a university, or by sharing Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People at various corporations. Now turning simple observations into stories for her grandchildren or anyone's kids is her idea of living with purpose. Visit: [SandraSorensonKindtAuthor.com](https://SandraSorensonKindtAuthor.com)

## SHARON LANGDALE

Table 31



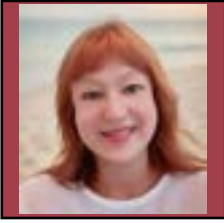
Sharon's novel, *Vein of Justice*, is based on a true murder case. It takes place in a historical Colorado mining town. Living in such a town enabled her to draw characters that speak truth with boldness; a trait necessary to vanquish hard winters along with evildoers. Her twisty tale of greed, adultery, murder, and bravery is a result of her own loss of a loved one due to an unsolved murder. Her fictional story earned an Honorable Mention award from the Arizona Professional Writers Contest 2015.

Visit: [sharonlangdale.com](https://sharonlangdale.com)



## IVORY LANOUE

Table 56



Ivory LaNoue is a respected angel communicator based in central Arizona. She's the author of *Let Your Angels Lead* and *Celestial Connections Angel Journal*. Ivory is the host of The Angel Room, a podcast popular around the world. She teaches angel communications, does spiritual counseling and angelic healing. Visit: [ivorylanoue.com](http://ivorylanoue.com)

## NIKOS LIGIDAKIS

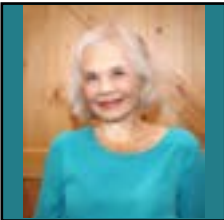
Table 50



Award-winning author, Nikos Ligidakis, writes with clarity and passion in an ardent voice, not to just recount adventures, but with an expression of feelings, to encourage the reader to think, to find hope in the eternal struggle for the meaning of life and the awareness of harmony. Today Nikos devotes his life to coaching new authors, encouraging and assisting them to write and publish their books. Nikos has founded several charitable organizations, with the most notable his Thanksgiving Project to Feed the Hungry, a program that provided food to tens of thousands during its 21-year run. His selfless work with people has earned him several humanitarian awards over the years. [facebook.com/nikosligidakis/](https://www.facebook.com/nikosligidakis/)

## VENETIA LEWIS

Table 32



Venetia Hobson Lewis worked at several stock brokerages and for almost eighteen years as a corporate paralegal for a motion picture studio. She is the author of several award-winning Western short stories.

Discover: [VenetiaHobsonLewis.com](http://VenetiaHobsonLewis.com)

## ED LOUGHLIN

Table 41



Ed Loughlin is a retired Faculty member from Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Arizona where he worked as a Counselor, Advisement Coordinator and Health Instructor. Ed attended Northern Arizona University where he received his undergraduate, graduate and nursing degrees. He has worked as a psychiatric nurse and taught both elementary and junior high school. Ed was also a radio announcer and loves to chat about music from the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

Visit: [selfishservice.com](http://selfishservice.com)

## BETSY LOVE

Table 25



If Betsy Love had a horse, she'd be out riding. Instead, she writes small town contemporary romances. Betsy Love has loved to write from the moment she could hold a pen and has been creating stories since she was in elementary school. In high school, her creative writing teacher told her one day she would be published. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's in secondary education/English. When not writing, she loves spending time with her children and grandchildren, so much so that she and her granddaughter wrote a picture book together.  
Online: [betsylove.com](http://betsylove.com).

## WILMA MacLIVER

Table 11



Wilma MacLIVER began writing at age 10 to relieve the pain of her mother's unrelenting abuse. She discovered that writing brought some relief. Years later, she searched for a book on mother-daughter sexual abuse (MDSA), from a daughter's perspective and found none. She decided then, that if she found the courage, she'd write her story for other daughters searching. *Life Behind the Masks* is the true account of the unspeakable abuse she suffered and her inspiring healing process. Wilma is a public speaker on the issues of child abuse and bullying and she works with trauma support groups.  
Discover: [LifeBehindTheMasks.com](http://LifeBehindTheMasks.com)

## NANCY MARSHALL

Table 6



Nancy Marshall was born in New York and moved to Arizona in 1975. She was Executive Director of the Arizona Civil Liberties Union for almost five years. Nancy spent many weekends with her family at a cabin outside Prescott. There, she encountered an Arizona Black Rattlesnake that had stories to tell about his fellow wild creatures. Nancy defended an activist jailed by Sheriff Joe Arpaio in 2008 and learned many stories of his reign of popularity—and abuse of power. Nancy believes in your capacity to read, think for yourself, talk with friends, and act on your new awareness.  
Visit: [www.nuggetpress.com](http://www.nuggetpress.com)

## JAN MARTIN

Table 15



Jan would rather write than eat or sleep, which is handy for authors—not so much for husbands. Favorite writing moment: meeting famous moonshiner Popcorn Sutton during research for “Heir of Deceit.” She has won national contests for her comedic poetry on subjects such as Black Friday, Eskimo Pies, and her messy kitchen. She wrote for a local newspaper at age 11, and worked for her high school and college journalism departments. She is the author of novels *Heir of Deceit* and *Impressions of Innocence; My Word, That's Absurd!* (Humor); and *Maintaining a Youthful Appearance* (in progress).  
Website: <http://janmar916.wix.com/janmartin>

**MERLE  
McCANN**

Table 60



Merle McCann was first known for her National award-winning *Longjohners Mystery Series* for middle readers. Her first adult novel, a thriller entitled *The Permanent Solution*, placed fourth in the Arizona Authors' 2016 National competition. McCann's *Vagabonds and Kings*, a five-star adult historical saga, won best in all categories and genres in the Dixie Kane Memorial competition. *The Parameter File* was released in 2022 and enjoys a first place ribbon. Her latest novel, *Murder at Harmony Farm, a Molly Raines Story*, launches this summer. Merle and her husband, Don, live in Cave Creek, Arizona, and have two grown children. Visit: [MerleMcCannAuthor.com](http://MerleMcCannAuthor.com)

**SUEWONG  
McFADDEN**

Table 39



Suewong D. McFadden is an accomplished educator based in Phoenix, Arizona. With over nine years of experience, McFadden provides high-quality education. In 2020, she published her first children's book, *In Ms. McFadden's Class*, and later launched the *Amir & Asia Series*. Her latest book, *Bossy Asia*, was released in July 2023. McFadden is currently on her Bossy Asia Book Tour and her work will be featured in 5 out of 8 Barnes & Noble stores in Arizona. McFadden's journey and achievements were recently highlighted in her first magazine article by Shoutout Arizona. Looking ahead, she plans to open her own Micro-School, The Suewong McFadden Academy in Fall 2024.

**KATHIE  
McMAHON**

Table 62



Kathie McMahan is the author of the humorous, award-winning chapter book series, *Mortimer and Me*, about eight-year-old Jimmy and a moose named Mortimer. Kathie taught elementary school for thirty-two years, where she composed several school musicals. She also collaborated on many youth theater musicals, receiving four ariZoni awards for Original Music Composition. She is a member of SCBWI and hosts the East Valley KidLit Mingles. Kathie lives in Gilbert, Arizona, where you won't find any moose, but plenty of snakes, Gila monsters, and mountain lions. For the latest news involving the adventures with Jimmy and Mortimer, visit [kathiemcmahon.com](http://kathiemcmahon.com).

**RON MEALKA**

Table 2



Ron Mealka served in the US Air Force as an aircraft mechanic during the Vietnam era. Upon discharge, he spent a few years as a sixth grade schoolteacher and enjoyed challenging his students to be creative. Many years ago, he scribbled down on paper an idea to write a children's book and custom write and illustrate it only for his two small children, Jennifer and Jason. It was supposed to be a family book only, then he realized that teachers and parents could use his book as a teaching tool. That is how *Jason, Jennifer, and the Fun House* came to be. Visit: [facebook.com/ron.mealka](http://facebook.com/ron.mealka)

**R. GREGG  
MILLER**

Table 13



After twenty-five years of chasing the bad guys on the streets of Los Angeles, the author retired from the LAPD to chase his toddler around the house. Instead of dragging a war bag to the trunk of a police car every day, he began tossing a stroller and a diaper bag into his SUV for another “daddy and daughter adventure day.” Now, with his daughter working on her PhD, the aging street cop lives in the White Mountains. When he isn’t building furniture or strolling through the forest, he’s working on another entertaining novel that blends his personal experiences with history.

Visit: [GoodGuyPublishingHouse.com](http://GoodGuyPublishingHouse.com)

**VIRGINIA  
MOHLER**

Table 14



Born in Lancaster, Ohio, Virginia Mohler attended colleges in both Kentucky and Indiana where she received her degree in Elementary Education. Virginia began her teaching career in Ohio but moved to Arizona shortly after her marriage. She has taught kindergarten through high school students during her fifty years of teaching. After retirement, Virginia began writing children’s books that inspire and encourage young minds. She wrote her first historical novel in 2022 and continues to write for children and adults. She enjoys speaking to audiences about the importance of reading, attending Book Festivals, and reading to children in area schools. Visit: [virginiamohler.com](http://virginiamohler.com)

**TOM  
MORRISSEY**

Table 22

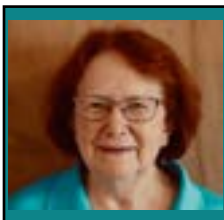


Tom Morrissey is a retired Chief Deputy US Marshal, martial artist, veteran of the US Army, former member of two hit rock groups and a song writer for Ray Charles and Richie Havens. He was born and raised in Brooklyn NY, to a blue-collar family, in a culturally diverse neighborhood. An animated film based on Tom’s children’s book is in the pre-production stage. He is co-writing an action thriller series with actor/martial artist Steven Seagal. He loves to tell a good story about his dream of the return of this country’s founding principles, with power back to the people.

Discover: [facebook.com/5thpalacepublishing/](https://facebook.com/5thpalacepublishing/)

**MARGARET  
MORSE**

Table 16



Margaret C. Morse writes about a lawyer with magic powers, a witch. In the most recent, *Murder Hexes the Reunion*, attorney Petra Rakowitz solves a murder to save her newly discovered birth mother from arrest. When characters can kill with magic, the ways to dispatch a victim dramatically increase. After 25 years as a Public Defender Margaret knows a lawyer can transform into a witch. She lives in Phoenix with her wonderful husband Duane and many mutts. If Margaret is not planning how to kill someone, she loves cooking, bird watching, and visiting stark landscapes.

Visit: [margaretmorseauthor.com](http://margaretmorseauthor.com)



## R.L. NELSON

Table 51



Randee Lee, professionally known as R.L. Nelson, has been writing stories as long as she could hold a pencil. What started as a childhood passion for storytelling, has become her lifelong passion. There is nothing Randee enjoys more than writing (and reading) stories that are heart-wrenching, with some humor and a hint of romance. When she's not dreaming up new stories to tell, you can find Randee spending her time with family, playing video games, and painting, or binge-watching true crime dramas.

Discover: [AuthorRLnelson.com](http://AuthorRLnelson.com)

## KATHLEEN OSBORNE

Table 33



Kathleen's dream of becoming a fiction writer came true in 2020. She became an author in the same year as her contribution to the anthologies she founded. Since then, Kathleen has produced and published three anthologies, *Tolerance – A collection of Short Stories*, *Autumn—An Anthology*, and *Spring—The Unexpected*, with nine other authors. The fourth book and final book of the Seasons series, entitled *Summer—When Doors Open*, will come out April 2023. They are called the Transcendent Authors and can be found at [transcendent-authors.com](http://transcendent-authors.com).

Visit: [author-kosborne.com](http://author-kosborne.com)

## GLENDA PARADEE

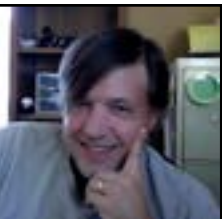
Table 25



Born in California, Glenda Sue Paradee moved to Arizona in the 1970's. She got her certificate in Computer Programming in 1981. She loved her career as a computer programmer for 30 years. She created her company, Thanks For The Music, in 1993. She publishes an online music website at [www.thanksforthemusic.com](http://www.thanksforthemusic.com). She is the author of two books, *Tinkerbelle*, *the Long-Haired Chihuahua*, and *Taffy Travels Around the World* to see what she could find. She lives in Gilbert, Arizona with her husband and in the summer months they live up at their cabin in the pines in Overgaard, Arizona.

## JONATHAN PEMBROKE

Table 1



A meteorologist in a former life, Jonathan Pembroke now spends his days crafting a completely different type of made-up tales. His adult fantasy series include *The Holly Sisters*, *Tales of Bleakwater*, and *Way of the Pathfinder*, and his middle-grade fantasy series is called *Protectors of Palladia*. When not writing, Jonathan reads, gardens, and fiddles in his shop. He lives in northern Arizona with his wife Lisa.

Visit: [flinthatchet.wordpress.com/](http://flinthatchet.wordpress.com/)

**Dr. ARTHUR PHOENIX**

Table 19



Dr. Arthur Phoenix is an acclaimed author, Board-Certified Life Coach, and Motivational Speaker with a Ph.D. in Philosophy. He has worked with numerous renowned celebrities over the past 30 years. He received the prestigious President's Lifetime Achievement Award from President Donald J. Trump for his accomplishments in 2018. Dr. Phoenix received a Letter of Recognition personally signed by President Barack Obama in 2013. Dr. Phoenix has written four books: a music autobiography that intertwines with his life story; an insightful, celebrity tell-all book; *Phoenix Rising: Life's New Beginning*, an inspiring guide for personal success and his brilliant masterpiece; and a fun-filled fantasy tale children's book. Discover: [spiritpublishingbooks.com](http://spiritpublishingbooks.com)

**LAURA PLANCK**

Table 61



Laura Planck has been blessed as a graphic designer for 40 years. After retiring, she started to illustrate and write children's books, a dream of hers since high school. Laura's experience comes from a fulfilled life of being a Christian mom, wife, and business owner. She desires to continue to use her talents for God. All her books show the joy of helping those in need. They are about funny, loving, little animals with Christian values. She enjoys story time with the children, using lots of cool props and music. Laura encourages them to find their God-given talents, so life can be more meaningful and blessed.

Visit: [www.bigcheeksatsquirrelybeach.com](http://www.bigcheeksatsquirrelybeach.com)

**BARBARA RENNEN**

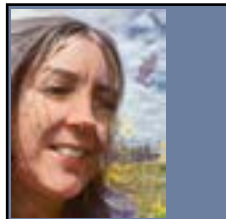
Table 59



Barbara Renner started writing children's picture books when she retired from teaching. Inspired by nature, the stories in nine of her books revolve around wildlife main characters and include animal sounds and facts. Avid dog lovers, Barbara and her husband rescued a yellow lab mix, Larry, who became the subject of a photo book filled with feel-good messages as seen through the eyes of a dog. When not writing, Barbara can be found walking Larry, hiking the desert foothills, gardening, traveling, and occasionally attempting to play a round of golf. Visit: [rennerwrites.com](http://rennerwrites.com)

**JEN RINALDI**

Table 63



Along with my artistic endeavors, I always kept a journal. That practice sustained my love of the written word. I have worked as an artist or writer in some capacity in almost every job since. I started as a glass designer and restoration specialist in Wisconsin. I then moved to Arizona and began exploring graphic design and print media. I managed events and designed visual media for horse races, rodeos, and county fairs, the experience teaching me how to speak publicly. I write a monthly article for "OutdoorSW" magazine <https://www.outdoorssw.com> My website: <https://www.jen-rinaldi.com/>

## ROBERT RONNING

Table 16



From Washington State, Robert Ronning had an early career in theatre, earning a Ph.D. in communication arts. He directed two plays Off Broadway: a comedy about George Bernard Shaw and a concert docudrama on Albert Einstein at Lincoln Center. He taught performance literature at City University of New York. His writing has appeared in local, regional, and national publications. He made a pivot to write about wildlife and conservation, including his adventure novel, *Wild Call to Boulder Field*. He and wife Kathleen Alden live in Tucson and summer in a cabin in Arizona's White Mountains, just a few minutes daily dog walk from National Forest and wildlife. [RobertRonningAuthor.com](http://RobertRonningAuthor.com)

## HAYLEY ROSE

Table 20



Hayley Rose is a chocolate-loving writer and goat yoga enthusiast. The author of several successful children's books, and an award-winning line of gratitude coloring journals, Hayley hopes to inspire a love of reading through education and humor. Over the years Hayley has been invited to speak at bookstores including Barnes and Noble, Borders, and Bookmans, and for the last few years Hayley has been a featured author at the Children's Learning and Play Festival which garners crowds of 10,000 and up. Hayley has been interviewed on the Author Learning Center alongside authors Stan Lee and R.L. Stine. Visit: [HayleyRose.com](http://HayleyRose.com)

## JANE RUBY

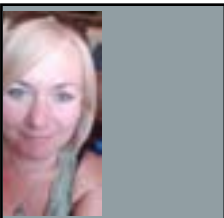
Table 45



Jane Frances Ruby has authored two YA Arizona Adventures, *The Azurite Encounter* and its sequel, *Voicelless Whispers*. She's also written several award-winning short works including "Surviving the Catholic School from Hell," an essay describing abuse at her elementary school; *Brutal Hackage*, a sci-fi YA short story about an assassin drone terrorizing a local high school golf tournament; and *Theories of Decay*, a sci-fi thriller about media personalities gripping with crashing satellites. Ruby also contributed to Toby Heathcote's *Women Wronged*; an award-winning essay compilation. Ruby is currently polishing her short works for an upcoming compilation. [www.arizonaauthors.org](http://www.arizonaauthors.org)

## TERRI-ANN RUSSELL

Table 56



Terri Ann is a Healing Heart Specialist, and Author. She is an intuitive empath healer with abilities in clairsentience and clairaudience. In her book, *From Death to Life: The Incredible True Story of Anthony Joseph*, was written just 4 months after the passing of her middle son, Anthony, about their connection. She is currently finishing a series of books, the first one, *Reaching for You - A Workbook for Spitiual Transformation with Mother Mary* is that shares a deep connection with Mary through transmissions that help you heal your heart and align you with your higher self. Follow: [facebook.com/sassysoulhealing/](https://facebook.com/sassysoulhealing/)

**MYLEE M.  
RYAN**

Table 33



M Ryan is an author local to the White Mountains of Arizona. Her first book—*The Monster Hunter*—debuted in August of 2023, and was quickly followed by the sequel—*The Court of Monsters*—the following October. When she is not hacking out a story furiously on her laptop, she can be found spending time with her husband, their animals, and family. M looks forward to releasing more projects and is always pleased to find young adults reading her books.

**R. S. SCOTT**

Table 29



R.S. Scott hails from Canyon Diablo, Arizona, born to a Navajo Christian preacher. As the last unruly sibling of four brothers and three sisters, he grew up herding sheep while armed with a rifle and a horse named Prince for company. He currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona, where he continues his education studying theoretical math and collecting vinyl records of jazz and blues greats of yore. As a self-professed geek, he expertly juggles school, work, and his love of writing and music while surviving on pub food, pizza, and the occasional binge on sushi. Genres: Native American, Paranormal, and Thrillers. Visit: [facebook.com/AuthorR.S.Scott/](https://facebook.com/AuthorR.S.Scott/) or [authorrscott.com/](https://authorrscott.com/)

**JODY SHARPE**

Table 24



Awarding winning author Jody Sharpe's loss of her daughter set her on a course to write books about angels. Her background teaching children with special needs inspired her to write her memoir. She's written five novels in *The Mystic Bay Series*, a children's book and now her first mystery. Visit: [jodysharpe.com](https://jodysharpe.com)

**KATRINA  
SHAWVER**

Table 57



Katrina Shawver is a writer, experienced public speaker, and lifelong history geek. She wrote for the *Arizona Republic* newspaper for eleven years. During that time, she met Henry Zguda, a Polish Catholic survivor of German concentration camps, and soon offered to write his story. She is the recipient of the 2018 Polish Heritage Award, and many other accolades. Her book *Henry: A Polish Swimmer's True Story of Friendship from Auschwitz to America*, reveals a lesser-known chapter in WWII history. Give her a good book, cozy chair, and a glass of Merlot and she sighs contentment. Find her at [katrinashawver.com](https://katrinashawver.com).

## SUSAN STARR

Table 11



Susan Starr moved to Payson from Phoenix in 2007, to take a job as a Certified Veterinary Technician at Star Valley Veterinary Clinic, where she is still employed. She joined Tonto Rim Search and Rescue in 2009, and became Dog Team Leader the following year, and at this time is on the board, as Secretary. Susan taught accounting for seven years at Gila Community College. She has her MBA and her Associates in Veterinary Technology from Mesa Community College. Susan has four dogs, three that are Search and Rescue certified, two cats and three birds. Her book is *Ringo Starr: Search and Rescue Dog*.

## KENT THOMPSON

Table 58



Kent Thompson's original goal was to teach history and coach football and basketball, but God had other plans. What started as a summer job at an oil refinery to replenish funds so he could continue his education turned into a career in the oil industry. While supervising three offshore platforms off Long Beach, California, he worked with Navy SEAL TRADET to plan SEAL training on those platforms. He is a lifelong student of the U.S. Constitution and the Federalist Papers. Kent and Susan live in a small mountain town in Arizona. They will never actually "retire." They have three grown children and two grandsons.

## JIM WEST

Table 2



Indianapolis, Baltimore, Albuquerque, Tucson, and Phoenix. He served on the Board of the Academy of Country music in Hollywood. Jim was a finalist for the Country Radio Hall of Fame in Nashville. He volunteers his time with the Arizona Music & Entertainment Hall of Fame where he got the idea to document the early Arizona recording and rockabilly music scene in his book *The PHOENIX SOUND*. Jim also helped co-write the book *Ray Odom, A Lifetime of Radio, Records & Racehorses*.

Visit: [JimWestMedia.com](http://JimWestMedia.com)

## BRENDA WHITESIDE

Table 6



Brenda Whiteside is the award-winning author of romantic suspense, cozy mystery, and romance. She writes children's books with her granddaughter under the names of Brenda Sue and Sadi Belle. She's a born and bred Arizona native who sets her fictional stories in imaginary, but recognizable, Arizona locations. After marrying, she and her husband lived in six states and two countries, but a few years back they settled in Central Arizona. They admit to being gypsies at heart so won't discount the possibility of another move. They share their home with a rescue dog named Amigo. While FDW fishes, Brenda writes. Visit: [brendawhiteside.com](http://brendawhiteside.com)



**PAULA  
WINSKYE**

Table 1



Paula F. (Pfeiffer) Winskye, a North Dakota native, began writing stories about horses at age 12. She released her first novel in 2003 and published her twenty-fourth this year. *The Reverend & the Writer* is the twelfth in her *Tony Wagner Mystery Series*. It also features the protagonist from her Randy McKay mysteries. Her current project is her second Lunar Enforcement science fiction mystery. Winskye has also penned a middle grade novel, three romances, and four volumes of *The Collins Family Saga*. Winskye and her husband John live near Snowflake where she is a Navajo County Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer. Discover: [WinskyeBooks.com](http://WinskyeBooks.com)



Public Philosophy Press



We publish philosophy, theology, and general interest books.

[www.publicphilosophypress.com](http://www.publicphilosophypress.com)



## *Arizona Professional Writers (APW)*

is pleased to support the Rim County Chapter on its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Payson Book Festival.

Affiliated with the National Federation of Press Women, APW is a nonprofit organization of women who work as professional communicators, journalists, educators, writers, editors, freelancers, photographers, social media, and public relations specialists.

Through APW, members sharpen career skills, network with top professionals, and enjoy the camaraderie of peers.

Membership includes monthly meetings (in person and Zoom) book club, speaking opportunities, special conference rates, and more!

[ArizonaProfessionalWriters.org](http://ArizonaProfessionalWriters.org)  
or contact APW President Carol Baxter  
[Carol@TalesofaLifetime.net](mailto:Carol@TalesofaLifetime.net)





# The Book Doctor Is In...

Producing, marketing and promoting books since 1985.

Linda F. Radke • Story Monster LLC

Selected as one of the 5 Best Book Marketing Companies in the US!

Set up a time for a consultation:  
[www.lindafradkeconsulting.us.me](http://www.lindafradkeconsulting.us.me)



[www.StoryMonsters.com](http://www.StoryMonsters.com)

Scan this code to learn more!