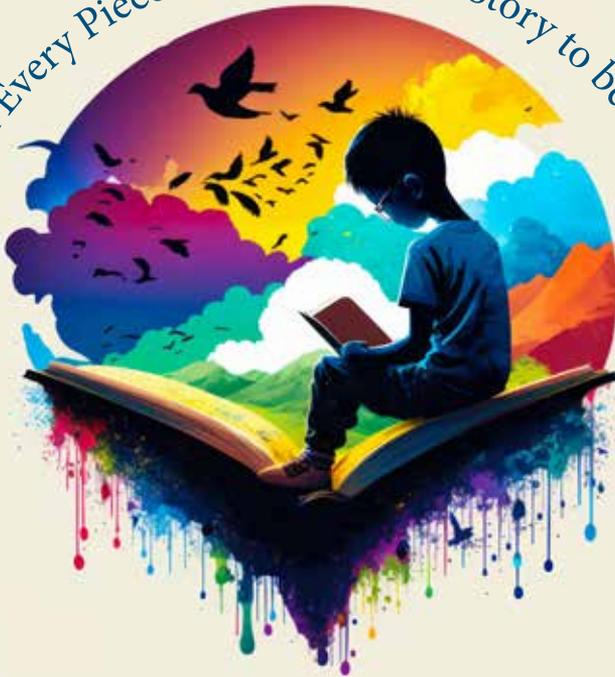


A U T H O R S

# Artists FESTIVAL

In Every Piece of Art There is a Story to be Told



*July 2023*  
*Presented by*  
*Arizona Professional Writers*  
*& Rim Country Artists*

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## *Arizona Professional Writers Association (APW)*

is a statewide professional nonprofit professional communications organization founded in 1953 by women journalists. The Payson Authors & Artists Festival is a project of the Rim Country Chapter. Learn more at [ArizonaProfessionalWriters.org](http://ArizonaProfessionalWriters.org).

## *Rim Country Artists*

Our mission is to promote all the Arts in Rim Country – through exhibition and performance, community involvement, education, and collaboration. Our goal is to stir up artistic talent and creativity in our community, both young and old. Come join us for a workshop or creative night out with friends!  
Info: [RimCountryArtists.org](http://RimCountryArtists.org).

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## *Locations*

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

**Ballroom: Authors!** Chat with them and buy books to have autographed.

**Bookstore: Step up to the Stage** for a fabulous selection of author books.

**Fireside Room: Artists!** Chat with them and buy a piece of art for you or your home!

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

## *KID ZONE Schedule*

### **On-demand Story Times!**

The Incredible Book Eating Boy by Oliver Jeffers  
We are in a Book! by Mo Willems  
Llama Llama Loves to Read by Anna Dewdney

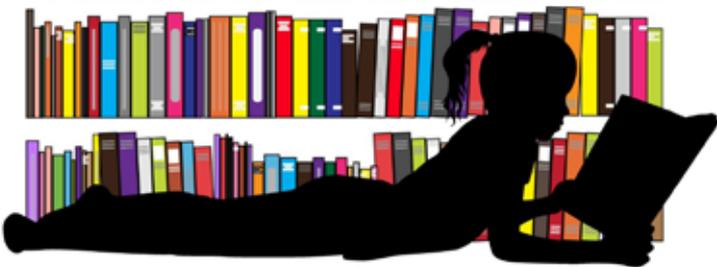
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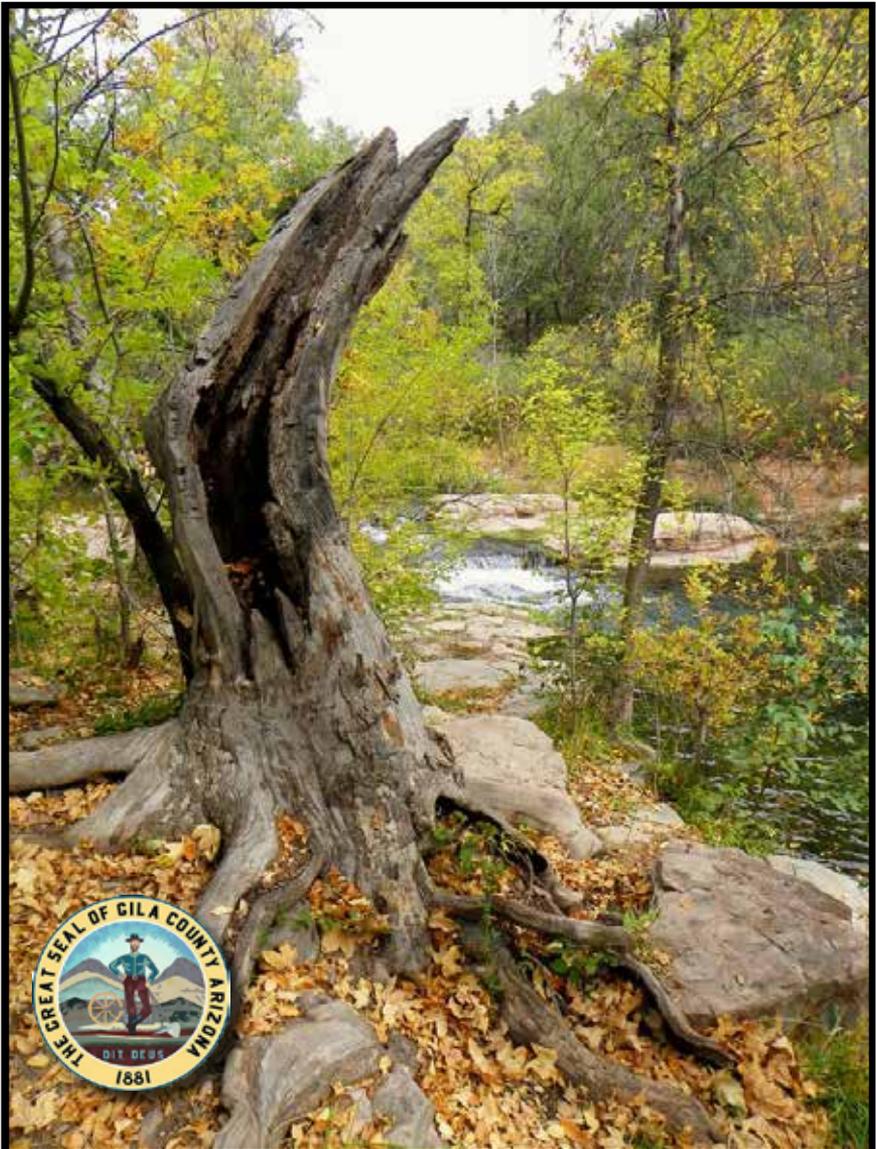
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*The 8th Annual*  
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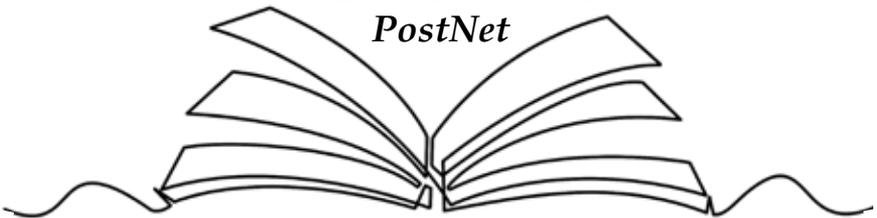
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# Authors

*In every creative work  
there is a story.*

## DITO ABBOTT

Table 55



Dito (rhymes with Cheetoh) Abbott once spent three and half years animating a stop motion music video for his band, Too Many Drummers, in his garage. After completing such an epic project, he thought writing novels would be easy. He was wrong. Dito was born in Puerto Rico, grew up in Saudi Arabia, and sailed around the world with his family by the age of twenty-seven. His debut YA Fantasy Adventure novel, *Debunked*, draws on his love for adventure, googly-eyed slime beasts, and sarcastic swords of legend. He currently lives in Phoenix with his wife, kids, and an invisible dragon named Clyde.

Visit: <https://ditoabbott.com/>

## 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 where he spent his nights reading novels and teaching himself to play guitar. He graduated from Arizona State University and worked as a natural resource conservationist, then a second career took him to Nashville, writing and teaching songwriting and guitar. His first two novels are historical fiction set in early to mid-twentieth-century Arizona. Both take readers on vivid journeys and adventures in a fascinating era of the state's history. Bart and his wife live near Tucson, Arizona. His hobbies include writing haiku, travel, and the pursuit of the perfect chili relleno. Visit: [bartambrose.com](http://bartambrose.com)

## SUSAN ANDERSON

Table 23



Susan Clare Anderson has an Associate Teacher Certificate and twenty-nine units in Child Development including two practicum courses. She also has a skill certificate in School-age Programs and one in Preschool. She has experience working with children as well and strives to create books that are age-appropriate and fun to read. In her books, she offers opportunities for children to sharpen their developmental skills along with colorful pictures and interesting characters in order to capture their imaginations.

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

## JENNI ARCHIBALD

Table 11



Jenni Archibald writes reimagined fairy tales with heroines who are feisty, funny and in charge of their own stories. While you may recognize the names of certain fairy tale characters, such as Sleeping Beauty and Prince—or rather—**Princess** Charming, Jenni's stories will take you on original and entertaining adventures. Jenni, who moved twelve times by the time she was 12, claims Arizona as her home state. She and her family love to explore, from the Sonoran Desert to the White Mountains where they live. On sunny days she's outside rockhounding, and on rainy days she's inside with a good book.

## BONNIE BAHN

Table 54



Bonnie Bahn graduated from Oregon State University, raised her family on a ranch in Eastern Oregon, and then moved to Arizona. Her first book, *Bumblefoot, Murder is for the Birds*, features a telepathic screech owl and a team of teenage detectives. Next, she wrote children's holiday books, *Christmas Alligator*, *Raccoon Rainbow*, *Saving Yankee and Doodle*, and *Moon Balls*. The heroes of these magical books were disabled. Recently she wrote *Fire Below* Mystery Mountain about a wildfire near Payson, Arizona, a family with two children and the golden eagle who shares their lives.

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

**CAROL JEAN  
BAXTER**

Table 52



Handmade quilts, home-baked rolls, and the meter of poetry filled Carol's childhood. Although it is a tossup as to whether the rolls or the poetry made the most impact, she is proud to re-release her grandfather's WWII and pilot inspired book of poems and essays, *Ballads of an Airport Bum*. Carol has made her living as a wordsmith since 2005. Her credits include awards as a features journalist, funded grants, and dynamic copywriting for classes, products, and websites. Carol has helped dozens of people write their memoirs, the truest family heirloom a person can share with future generations. Isn't it time to share yours? Visit: [www.talesofalifetime.net](http://www.talesofalifetime.net)

**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)

**PATRICIA  
BROOKS**

Table 39



Patricia L Brooks is president and founder of Brooks Goldmann Publishing, LLC and Scottsdale Society of Women Writers. She is currently writing a non-fiction book and has written and published three memoirs. Her memoir *Sick as My Secrets* is a powerful story of how she overcame alcohol. *Three Husbands and a Thousand Boyfriends* is her poignant tale of love addiction and domestic violence. *Gifts of Sisterhood* - journey from grief to gratitude is a tribute to her sister who died from lung cancer. Patricia holds a master's degree in organizational management, is formerly adjunct faculty at A.S.U. and holds the Who's Who of America's Teacher Award and a Non-fiction/Memoir Award from the Arizona Authors Association. Visit: [brooksgoldmannpublishing.com](http://brooksgoldmannpublishing.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 and 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 coauthored *Beyond the Broken Door*, 2020 Winner of the Anthology/Fiction Award, New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. Susan is currently working on a cozy mystery. See: [susanbudavari.com](http://susanbudavari.com)

**CAREN  
CANTRELL**

Table 56



Caren Cantrell is a children’s book author who writes stories about characters who capture her imagination. They might have a too short flipper or curly whiskers. Or they might just be curious about the world around them. Her most recent books are *The Sun Thief* (middle grade novel) and *Cosette and Oreo: The Case of the Night Raiders* (mystery picture book). Caren’s three favorite words are Read It Again! She lives in Cave Creek, Arizona, with her husband, Bill, and dog, Daisy, but travels frequently to visit her five children and ten grandchildren. Visit: [carencantrell.com](http://carencantrell.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. Before becoming an author, she slayed trolls for many years in the wilds of the internet. She was occasionally granted the legendary weapon, Ban Hammer. It was a relief to retire from such harrowing adventures, but for a coin and a stiff drink she might recount them over a campfire. She lives in Phoenix, Arizona, with her family and pets, including a vicious attack tortoise who guards the back yard. Visit: [tamchronin.com](http://tamchronin.com)

**JAN CLEERE**

Table 9



Award-winning writer, historian, and lecturer Jan Cleere is the author of six historical nonfiction books detailing the lives of early western pioneers. Her monthly column, “Western Women,” appears in Tucson’s Arizona Daily Star newspaper, and she is a presenter for the Arizona Humanities program Arizona Speaks. The Arizona Newspapers Association honored Jan for a series of historical profiles she wrote for Phoenix Woman Magazine, and the Nevada Women’s History Project named her to its Roll of Honor for her significant contribution in the preservation of Nevada women’s history. Her freelance articles appear in national and regional publications. Visit: [JanCleere.com](http://JanCleere.com)

**CONNIE  
COCKRELL**

Table 53



A 20-year Air Force career, a manager at a computer operations company, wife, mother, sister and volunteer, provides a rich background for Connie Cockrell’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://www.facebook.com/ConniesRandomThoughts).

## EMILY COOPER

Table 28



My name is Emily Cooper and I became a published author at age 17. I have written eight manuscripts, published seven, and am in the process of publishing another; I have many more novels to follow. I was born in Dahn, Germany, and grew up as a military brat, traveling all across the United States of America. In July 2013, I enlisted in the United States Army Reserves and completed my Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training. In 2016, I met my now husband. We were married in 2018 and now have two amazing sons.

Visit: [Inspiredproductions2011.com](http://Inspiredproductions2011.com)

## MARC DAVID

Table 38



Marc David is a veteran journalist whose writing career spans five decades, during which time he has covered the sports spectrum from world boxing champions to the Olympics. He has written for lifestyle and health magazines. A native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, Marc now resides in Chandler, Arizona, where he writes books, works with elementary school special needs students, coaches high school cross country, and is available for speaking engagements. Marc is an everyday runner who enjoys travel. He has written five non-fiction books, including *The Addicted Runner*, *Available Male Tale*, and *1,001 Things You Didn't Want to Know*, all available through <http://theaddictedrunner.com>.

## CHRISANN DAWSON

Table 5



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

## JODI DECKER

Table 54



Dr. Jodi Decker, Ed.D, is a college professor, family historian, and the granddaughter of Martha Nasch. She is a contributing writer for the book *Poems From the Asylum*, in collaboration with great granddaughter Janelle Molony. The book delves into committal to an insane asylum for seven years, medical diagnosis and treatment, medical analysis, narrative bio, poetry, and sensationalistic journalism.

Visit: [facebook.com/sevenyearsinsane](https://facebook.com/sevenyearsinsane)

**RUTH  
DOUTHITT**

Table 8



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)

**DECEMBER  
ELLIS**

Table 26



December Ellis is a poet from Phoenix, Arizona, who holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Fine Arts with a Concentration in Creative Writing Fiction from Arizona State University. She has been writing under the pen name d.ellis since 2014 and self-published her first book of poetry, *Things You Don’t Talk About*, in June 2022. When December is not working, you can find her reading poetry, practicing piano, or hiking desert mountains. Follow her at [ellispoetry.com](http://ellispoetry.com) or @d.ellispoetry on Instagram.

**SHERRY  
ENGLER**

Table 47



Sherry E. Engler is an author, illustrator, and writes articles for *Outdoors Southwest*. In her book, *Living with LEO: Law Enforcement Officer*, she shares light-heartedly her family life in roles as wife and mother. She delighted in writing and illustrating: *Daisy Doo! Daisy Doo? What? Who?*, *Holden’s Magical Blue Marble*, and *Princess Dixie, Princess Ella & 7 Crazy Hens*. She received diplomas from the Institute of Children’s Literature and the International Correspondence School in Master Art. Sherry has been featured in *Voyage Phoenix Magazine* and *Shoutout Arizona*. She enjoys family time and hiking. Website: [sherryengler.com](http://sherryengler.com)

**ANNEMARIE  
EVELAND**

Table 42



Annemarie Eveland, CPI, is a longtime resident of Rim Country, a magazine journalist, author of five books written from her true-life experiences. *Hurrah for Humans* – inspires and celebrates our human courage and kindness; with insights to apply to your life. *Real Women* – gather strength and beauty from stories that reveal how challenges bring us deeper insights. *Be the Ripple* – actions in our day can produce lasting insights for someone’s lifetime. *What Faces Reveal* – You are unique as your fingerprint. How to instantly read people! Understand human behavior through our physical structure. An easy-to-use self-help basics + free analysis with book purchase!

## **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. Visit: [ReadLaurieFagen.com](http://ReadLaurieFagen.com)

## **CYNTHIA ANNE FINEFROCK**

Table 33



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 15



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)

## **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.

## **TERRIE GARDNER**

Table 6



Writing has been a passion since childhood. The sensation of writing with a great pen on a crisp sheet of paper still excites her. Although it has always been a passion, writing was placed on hold while Terrie taught elementary education and raised a family. In January 2021 she released her first book; *Landslide, a Story of Faith Hope and Love*, to inspire others that may be dealing with a similar circumstance, living with an addict. Along with releasing the book, Terrie has become a motivational speaker and shares her story to inspire and encourage others. Visit: [lifestreampublishing.com](http://lifestreampublishing.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 or visit his website at [gershwriter.com](http://gershwriter.com).

## **EARL GOLDMANN**

Table 39



Earl L. Goldmann launched his memoir *Bounce Back* in 2017 at age 82, and his second memoir titled *Intestinal Fortitude* in 2022 at the age of 88. He taught high school social studies and coached for twenty-five years in Oregon, sold textbooks, managed a golf course and owned a bar/restaurant before retirement. He played basketball and baseball at Oregon State University, only to lose his scholarships due to a horrific car wreck. His first memoir tells the story of his journey to survive and recapture his fractured future. It is inspirational, as is the second one, that offers more stories of his never give up attitude. Visit: [brooksgoldmannpublishing.com](http://brooksgoldmannpublishing.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



I have been a social studies teacher, principal, and founding owner of the Grand Canyon College Preparatory Academy in Tempe, Arizona. I grew up reading and watching science and historical fiction and am a big baseball fan. I have combined my 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, I now live in Arizona with the love of my life, Gwyn. We are dog people, and enjoy travel and food—Italian, Asian, Middle Eastern and Indian cuisines in particular.

## 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)

## BOB HERSHBERGER

Table 31



Robert Hershberger, PhD, FAIA, is a retired architect and educator living in Payson, Arizona. He received degrees from Stanford, University of Utah and University of Pennsylvania. He served as professor of architecture at Arizona State University from 1969-88 and dean at University of Arizona from 1988-2022. He published many articles and two academic books: *Architectural Programming* by McGraw-Hill, 1999, and *Predesign Planning* by NCARB, 2019. His architectural work received over a dozen design awards. His paintings are exhibited online and at galleries and resorts in Arizona. He cared for his wife as she battled Alzheimer's disease from 2010 to 2015. Visit: [Hershbergerartist.com](http://Hershbergerartist.com)

## PAUL JOHNSON

Table 10



A tour guide and author working in Sedona, Arizona, Paul has toured thousands of visitors to natural and cultural sites in Northern Arizona, sharing stories, geologies, and histories about the area. *Sedona Chi Mysteries* follow the adventures of Skip Rhodes, an Arizona guide with a secret past and his friend, Kulkulkan Balthazar. In *Tale of the Broken Spoke* and *Whitewater Honeymoon*, they encounter murder, mystery, and mayhem among Arizona's dramatic scenery and cultural history. Paul has an undergraduate degree in history and a Master's in city planning. Visit: [sedonachi.com](http://sedonachi.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/](http://myss.com/profiles/kathleen-kelly/)

## CHRISTINE KNOWLES

Table 27



Christine Knowles grew up reading books in Geneva, Illinois. She graduated from Northwestern University after studying Theater, TV and Film, a perfect storm for her later writing life. She is also the managing editor of an international scientific research journal. Christine lives in Tucson, Arizona, with her husband and dog. *The Caveman in the Backyard* is her debut novel. The story takes place at the Murray Springs Clovis site, just east of Sierra Vista, Arizona, both in the present day and 13,000 years ago.

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

## BARBARA LACY

Table 37



In collaboration with Vernon Mayes, a range-conservation instructor at The College of Ganado (Ganado, Arizona) and the staff at the NHA, Barbara put together the plant book, *NANISE', a Navajo Herbal*, a user-friendly resource that showcases the deep understanding Navajos have of plants that grow in the harsh Southwestern region. In 1990, the book earned an honorable mention in the annual National Federation of Press Women communications contest. Barbara was one of the authors of *Skirting Traditions, Arizona Women Writers and Journalists 1912-2012* and wrote *Pictures of the Navajo, Their Health and Environment* in 1980. Visit: <http://nanisenavajoherb.com/meet-the-creative-team/>

**SHARON  
LANGDON**

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](http://sharonlangdale.com)

**BETH LEWIS**

Table 14



Living in Mesa, Beth Lewis is an author, registered dietitian, wife and mother of two. With twenty years of hospital experience encouraging good eating and physical activity, she turned to writing children's books to motivate the next generation. Her writing, *The Boy Who Burped*, is inspired by life experiences and a family who loves to laugh and play. She knows the search for balance in food and movement is a journey, not a destination. You can find her online: [citruspress.org](http://citruspress.org)  
Instagram: [@bethlewisbooks](https://www.instagram.com/bethlewisbooks)

**NIKOS  
LIGIDAKIS**

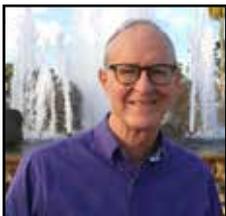
Table 50



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.

**ED LOUGHLIN**

Table 41



Ed Loughlin is a retired Faculty member from Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Arizona where he worked as a Counselor, Advancement 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 3



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. You can find her online: [betsylove.com](http://betsylove.com).

## BILL LYNAM

Table 38



Bill Lynam's children's books, *Bernie, the Flying Squirrel*; *Lucky Foxes*, editor; *Bernie, la ardillita voladora*, a dual language book in English and Spanish; and *Shorty, Alien Dog*. Young Adult: *Steampunk Mashup*, Coauthor of *Footloose Pilgrims*, a coming-of-age travelogue – all available on Amazon and Kindle. Coming soon: *The Confederate Canuck* about a Canadian lumberman who rafts the Mississippi to Natchez, marries a plantation belle, becomes a Confederate Officer as the Yankees are coming upriver to recapture the South. Website: [billynam.com](http://billynam.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.

## NANCY MARSHALL

Table 58



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)

**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.

**ANDY  
McKINNEY**

Table 22



Andy McKinney writes a movie review column for the local paper. *A Gross of Zombies* is his second non-fiction book after *The Armed Forces of Iran*. Both can be purchased on Amazon.com. These reviews of zombie movies will educate the reader as to which films are worthy of the time of the movie watcher. Some movies are just as good as any other, some watchable but not great, and some are absolute rubbish. Author Andy McKinney names names and tells it like it is. As he says about some zombie movies, "I watched this one, so you won't have to."

**KATHIE  
McMAHON**

Table 62



Kathie McMahon 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](https://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.

**VIRGINIA  
MOHLER**

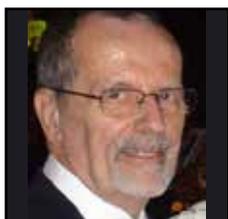
Table 16



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.

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

**KEVIN  
MULLANEY**

Table 17



Kevin Mullaney is a retired Public Works service professional who retired in 2009 after thirty years with the City of Flagstaff and later returned for an additional three years as the Division Director of Environmental Services. He has also served as a District Administrator for Little League for the past twenty years and is the co-chair for the Arizona State Little League Association representing Northern Arizona. Kevin has called Flagstaff home since 1976, raising two boys with his wife, Cely. His hobbies include working with stained glass, gardening, and hiking with his pal Remy. Kevin is currently working on his fourth book of inspirational poetry. Visit: [kevinmullaney.org](http://kevinmullaney.org)

## 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. For more information visit her website [AuthorRLnelson.com](http://AuthorRLnelson.com)

## JOSEPH NEWCOMER

Table 49



Joseph D. Newcomer is a speculative fiction, social commentary, and children's book writer. His work includes *Darkest Day*, *Diminishing Return*, *El Camino Blue*, the *Thought and Other Absurdities* book, blog, and podcast, *Let's Make S'mores*, and *Ari and The Armpit Mouse*. He is also the founder and owner of Dead Star Press, an indie publisher created to support writers who revel in the weird and, generally, languish in obscurity. Someday, he hopes to be sucked into an episode of *The Twilight Zone*, though he has a sneaking suspicion that we already were. Visit: [deadstarpress.com](http://deadstarpress.com) or [facebook.com/deadstarpress](https://facebook.com/deadstarpress)

## DEBI NOVOTNY

Table 27



Debi Novotny is the author of several Children's picture books, including *The Case of the Missing Title*, and *Hop Vroom Skitter*. She enjoys writing humorous stories with positive messages. Debi is a former Teacher and Library Program Specialist. If she wasn't an author, she'd love to be a chocolatier! Visit: [debinovotny.com](http://debinovotny.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). More information about Kathleen can be found on her website: [author-kosborne.com](http://author-kosborne.com)

**GLEND  
PARADEE**

Table 28



Glenda Sue Paradee grew up in the Bay Area of California. She moved to Arizona following her parents move there in the '70s. Eventually, her brother and three sisters also moved to Arizona. Ms. Paradee is a retired Computer Programmer. For the love of music, Glenda started her company, Thanks for the Music in the '90s and still publishes country music news on her website ThanksfortheMusic.com. Ms. Paradee lives in Gilbert, Arizona with her loving husband, Sam, and her cocker spaniel, Taffy. They all enjoy the summer months up at their cabin in the cool pines in Overgaard, Arizona.

**CYNTHIA PECK**

Table 61



Cynthia Peck was raised on a historic ranch in Jackson Hole Wyoming where she formed her values and independent character. Her playmates, siblings, and teachers were primarily ranch animals. At age 10, she started attending boarding school to become socialized and to gain culture. She married, had children, divorced, survived cancer, and has made her home in Young, Arizona, for forty years. She served on the Young Library Board, Pleasant Valley Community Council, and the Pleasant Valley Historical board. Working for Tonto National Forest Service as a Wilderness Ranger camping for ten-day-tours-of-duty, she packed mules, rode horses, and built trails. Her book *Wyoming Ranch Girl* is a memoir.

**JOHN  
PELLETIER**

Table 44



John Jay Pelletier has had a life full of Adventure. Starting out in Boy Scouts where his troop raised enough money selling fireworks to travel down the Grand Canyon on a river trip. He became an explorer, worked at Disneyland as a Matterhorn climber, and joined the Army where he earned his Green Beret. He attended Survival Schools and eventually became an Instructor at the Air Force Academy teaching survival skills. Now retired, he teaches Desert Safety and Survival at the Superstition Mountain Museum and has written the *Desert Safety and Survival Guide*.

**JONATHAN  
PEMBROKE**

Table 1



A lifelong fan of fantasy fiction, Jonathan Pembroke is the author of five books, including the trilogy *The Holly Sisters*, about a gang of drug-running faeries, and Pilgrimage to Skara, a finalist in a contest for self-published fantasy. He served twenty years in the military and now resides in the highlands of Arizona with his wife and their unruly dogs.

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

**EILEEN  
PIECZONKA**

Table 63



Meet Eileen Pieczonka, an award-winning author for *Blueberry Bear*. She is the founder of Loving Literacy Authors, Board Member for the Artists of the Superstitions, a freelance writer with a degree in Photo Offset, and tutors. On the fun side, Eileen is a wannabe cowgirl who loves animals and surf music. Eileen also volunteers for Tommy Two Shoes Literacy Project for Children, SW Human Development, and Pawsitive Friendships as an assisted-therapy dog team with her dogs Suki and Kong. Eileen's passions are *Blueberry Bear* and children's literacy. Her compassion is in animal welfare. Eileen supports rescue shelters and children's organizations. Visit: [blueberrybeartales.com/](http://blueberrybeartales.com/)

**LAURA PLANCK**

Table 37



Laura was a graphic designer for 40 years. After retiring, she started to illustrate and write children's books, a dream of hers since high school. When Laura and her family lived in southern California, they frequently took their dog, Angel, to the dog beach where the first two Big Cheeks stories take place. Ground squirrel families play around the rocks and enjoy being fed by the visitors. She has since moved with her husband to Prescott AZ and has two books that take place in the local area. She wants her books to put a big smile on children's faces.

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

**JENIFER  
RATLIFF**

Table 63



Jenifer Ratliff is a teacher who started writing at fourteen. She loves guiding children to read better. She visits elementary schools during Reading Week and Career Days getting kids excited about reading and writing. She loves gardening, and spending time with her three dogs and three cats. Jenifer received the prestigious award for being a finalist at National Indie Excellence Awards 2023.

**GREG  
RAYMOND**

Table 35



Audiobook narrator Greg Raymond was born in Williamsport Pennsylvania, home of the Little League World Series, and grew up in Prescott Arizona. Greg is a retired firefighter and has done public service announcements for radio and T.V. throughout his 24-year career. Greg has teamed up with author Dr. Robert B. Marcus Jr to create audio versions of several works by Dr. Marcus. He is currently in production for a third book by this author. Genres include space adventure and political action thrillers. Greg currently resides in Arizona with his wife Polly and their Border Collie Smuckers.

## BARBARA RENNER

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)

## SOHRAB REZVAN

Table 10



In 2019, Sohrab Rezvan started writing children's stories in his free time to entertain his two young children. He wrote off and on for about a year and a half before getting serious about writing in mid-2021 with the founding of his company, Flat Mountain Publishing. Between January and December 2022, he self-published *The Adventures of Princess and Goose Book 1: Chase Away the Dragons*, *The Adventures of Princess and Goose Book 2: Sir Logan and the Witches*, and his third book, *The Toot Vortex*. He is hard at work on several more books for release in 2023.

## VICKI RISKE

Table 61



Vicki Riske has been interested in puppetry and storytelling for many years. Vicki has her own business, We Are Puppeteers. She writes and illustrates children's books, designs and builds custom puppets. She has written and illustrated four books, *The Polka Dot Tea Party*, *My Teeth Are Too Big*, *Fishy Tales*, and *Los pececitos aventureros*, the Spanish translation of *Fishy Tales*, translated by Sonia Elizabeth Urrutia de Soto. Vicki also wrote *Grandma Bibi*, and collaborated with local Phoenix artist Laura Best, who provided illustrations for the book.

We Are Puppeteers website: [wearepuppeteers.com](http://wearepuppeteers.com)

## HALEY 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, *Voiceless 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.

## 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 [authorrrscott.com/](http://authorrrscott.com/)

## PATRICIA SELLARS

Table 42



Patricia wrote *Kickin' Eighty Nibbling at Ninety* to look back on her own life and to continue to learn from it. She also thought in some small way she might be able to give some insights to those who face the challenge of living. She's been writing since she was five, but this is her first book, and she started it on her eighty-eighth birthday. So, she feels she might have a little experience on the subject. Written in her conversational manner, it is in no way intended to be instructive. The reader can glean from the book what is of value to them.

## CHARLIE SERAPHIN

Table 17



Charlie Seraphin, from Rhinelander, Wisconsin, population 7,800 was a senior executive at CBS News, Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Hockey League and Major League Soccer. Charlie managed radio stations in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, and San Diego. Adventures include college professor, living with monks at a monastery, and helping convince David Koresh to release children the night of the shootout at Waco, Texas. His first two books in retirement have 5-star Amazon ratings. A Payson resident since 2019, he hosts the Forum weekday mornings on KMOG and is working on two new books. Visit: [OneStupidMistake.com](http://OneStupidMistake.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](http://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](http://katrinashawver.com).

## VAL GREGORY SIMONE

Table 35



Amazon Best Selling Author Val Edward Simone was born in Seattle, Washington, and has been writing since 1980. Val has published action/adventure novels; historical fiction; western novels; short stories; a collection of thoughts, musings, and observations; a collection of children's short stories; and several children's picture books. He continues to work on many other novels, short stories, and screenplays. He is also a strong advocate of early childhood development through the arts and continues to support all efforts toward helping children discover their own creativity through reading, writing, and drawing. Val currently lives and writes in Arizona.

## SUSAN STARR

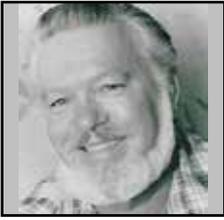
Table 11



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

**BRUCE  
STRATTON**

Table 5



Bruce Stratton had been drawing and painting since he was a child. That is until his high school aged daughter needed a cartoon strip for her art class. She thought about copying Disney characters, but Bruce thought an original character would be better. It was a process of false starts and abrupt stops but then they decided on an airplane. With tentative scribbles then some more sketching, a shape began to appear. A small plane with large eyes, a big grin and flappy wings came to life at the end of his pencil. *Lil' Cub* was created.

**FAWZIA TUNG**

Table 14



Fawzia Mai Tung, born in 1957, grew up internationally in a Chinese (Taiwan) diplomatic family. After retiring as a journalist, a psychiatrist and an educator, this mother of seven and grandmother of seven turned to full-time writing, publishing *The Wonderful Tale of Donkey Skin* (MG) in November 2016. A member of the Society of Children's Books Writers and Illustrators, Arizona Chapter, Fawzia Tung is presently working on a series of retold fairy tales (MG picture books), a collection of *Best Loved Chinese Tales* (MG/YA), a non-fiction book about spiritual awakening through gardening, and her memoirs (as a series). Visit: [fawzia-mai-tung-writer.constantcontactsites.com](http://fawzia-mai-tung-writer.constantcontactsites.com)

**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 Odum, A Lifetime of Radio, Records & Racehorses*.

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

**ANDREW  
WIERENGA**

Table 48



Dr. Andrew P. Wierenga grew up in Wisconsin and went to college in Iowa. Completing college, he moved to Florida to work in the corporate world and there he completed his master's degree in business. Working full-time, he also worked part-time as a director of the IT department at a local university and taught courses at one of the local naval bases in the area. From Florida he moved to Arizona, and after twenty-four years he joined the world of law enforcement. During this time, he returned to school and completed his Doctorate in Homeland Security.

Visit: [andrewwierenga.com](http://andrewwierenga.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.

# Artists

*In every work of art  
a story is told.*

**ROXANNE  
ALMBLADE**  
Maple Room



Roxanne was born and raised in Arizona, with a passion for her home state. She moved to Payson, Arizona, in 2019 to escape the heat, after living in the Valley most of her life. She can often be spotted on the many scenic hiking trails and lovely spots in Rim Country, painting her heart out plein air style. She loves landscapes and wildlife — anything to do with the great outdoors. Roxanne paints in the studio too, but restlessness catches up to her, and off she goes again! Roxanne works full-time as an independent professional artist and teaches acrylics painting at the college in Payson. She just completed a successful exhibit at a three-month show, the prestigious Celebration of Fine Art, in Scottsdale. Roxanne uses her artwork to show everyone the beauty she sees in the world. Her work is currently on exhibit in Mimi's Gallery, in Jerome, and can be found online. Visit: [RoxanneFineArt.com](http://RoxanneFineArt.com)

**EMMIE DERISE**

Maple Room



Artist Statement: I create photography with my HeartFull Moments in mind. The intention is to inspire and uplift every viewer. Sometimes the message comes to me when I capture a beautiful image. Often, a message comes to mind, and then I create an image to give the thought a visual context. Software lets me enhance the images I find in the natural world, to share my vision and create a unique experience. Thankfully with the internet my work can reach many people far and wide. An even better experience is having the images and messages in hand. The tactile experience is even more meaningful. Visit: [HeartFullMoments.com](http://HeartFullMoments.com)

## JANICE HOYT

Maple Room



Janice is a contemporary watercolor painter who lives and works in Payson, Arizona. A native of Nebraska, her colorful paintings pay homage to her Midwestern farmland upbringing and current Southwestern mountainous region homelands. Her distinctive personal style emanates joy and peace and expresses the vibrational spirit and atmosphere of her surroundings. Picturesque landscapes, area landmarks, sunsets, sunrises, birds, wildlife, horses, ponderosa pine trees, aspen, and high-country lakes are all brought to life with contrasting and harmonious colors and bold compositions. As the artist explains, “I am a visual storyteller and I welcome you to join me on this journey.” Janice has lived and worked in Payson since 1996. She is a fourth grade teacher at Julia Randall Elementary School.

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

## JADE LYN

Maple Room



I must be the person in the world that loves to make jewelry the most. I have loved and made jewelry since I was a Girl Scout. My parents were rockhounds, hence I love rocks and jewelry. It became Jade Lyn Jewelry. I love buying new beads, designing and making lovely pieces, as well as meeting the people I get to talk to while selling my wares. I have been at this for over seventy years. I take pride in the quality of my work. Pieces include necklaces, bracelets, earrings, pendants, and other beaded objects. Most items are crafted from combinations of semi-precious gemstones, freshwater pearls, crystal, and glass beads. The finishings are sterling silver and copper.

## PHYLICIA McCORMACK

Maple Room



Phylicia loved art as a child, but her dad tried to discourage her by saying that she wouldn't amount to anything if she pursued it. Nonetheless, after high school she applied and was accepted at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, graduating in 1976 in the field of Visual Communication with an Associate's Degree in Fine Arts. Having lived in various states since then, she and her husband have happily settled in Payson. A multi-media artist, Phylicia has developed her own style & technique depicting wildlife, landscapes, western scenes, and family pets. She says, “I thank God that I didn't give up my artist path, as He inspires me with the beauty that surrounds us all.” Visit: [PaysonArtists.org/Phylicia-Mccormack](http://PaysonArtists.org/Phylicia-Mccormack)

## DOROTHY PERRY

Maple Room



Dorothy had three careers in her life. She was a junior high school teacher, a mental health and substance abuse counselor, and then a healthcare administrator, retiring in 2021. As an adult Dorothy started dabbling in arts and crafts including crocheting, topiary, basket weaving, photography, scrapbooking, and rug weaving. After completing her Ph.D, she found mosaics. She loves that mosaics have an endless number of materials one can use in this art form. She enjoys making art that people can use such as tables, mirrors, lazy Susan's, and serving trays. Yet, she also enjoys making mosaic wall art that can be hung in one's home. She loves working with copper – melted copper, wire, ground copper, tiles, and accent pieces.

**DEBRA  
SCHWALM**  
Maple Room



Debra Reich Schwalm is an Arizona-based artist. Deb loves the looseness, energetic textures, whimsy and transparency of watercolor batik on paper. Her art is featured in galleries and has numerous won awards. Growing up in the Midwest, Deb has always found creative ways to express herself within daily life whether it be home decorating, large mural painting, or photography. She has studied Commercial Art and has a Web Design degree. Deb considers herself to be a self-taught artist and continues to hone her skills.  
Visit: [AZMountainGirl.com](http://AZMountainGirl.com)

**STRAWBERRY  
PATCHERS**  
Maple Room



The Strawberry Patchers welcome anyone who is interested in quilting at any skill level. The group participates in several local events, make comfort quilts for others, offer classes to members, and engage in a wide variety of fun activities throughout the year. Advancement of quilting art is the group's goal. was granted a charter from the Arizona Quilters Guild in 1994. Strawberry Patchers meet at 9 a.m. the first Thursday of the month in the activity room of the Isabelle Hunt Memorial Library.  
Visit: [www.strawberrypatchers.com](http://www.strawberrypatchers.com)

**SHERIE TAUS**  
Maple Room



Originally from Moab, Utah, Sheri has been a cosmetologist for thirty years. She has lived in Alaska and on both of USA's coasts and several central states as well. In 2019, she and her husband landed in Payson, and have loved every minute of it ever since! Living in Alaska in 2005, Sheri discovered her passion for photographing wildlife and landscapes. Since then, she has pursued her art professionally, training with highly experienced teachers. She is currently close to receiving a master photographer certification. She says, "My desire is to capture the beauty of the world God created and share those images with others."  
Connect with Sheri: [facebook.com/sheritausphotography](https://facebook.com/sheritausphotography)

**KATHY  
WALKER**  
Maple Room



Kathy has always had a passion for horses, wildlife, and the West. Her acrylic paintings reflect that love—especially horses. Kathy attended Northern Arizona University where she majored in commercial art. She worked as an art director in advertising agencies and had her own graphic design business for thirty-five years in Denver, CO. Kathy began painting in high school in Phoenix where she also sold many of her first paintings. She has continued painting throughout the last fifty years and has recently begun teaching at Eastern Arizona College. Her work has been displayed in several galleries throughout Colorado and Arizona. She has an ongoing exhibit at the Wickenburg Country Club.  
Visit: [KathyEWalker.com](http://KathyEWalker.com)

**JULIE  
WITTWER**  
Maple Room



I retired from 35 years in Information Technology in 2015, started painting, and moved to Payson from the valley in 2017. What I love most about art is that there is no “bad” art, only “unappreciated” art. \Art comes to life when it invokes a feeling within its viewer. You can apply paint upon a canvas or clay upon a wheel, but until it lightens the eye of a patron, it can only bring feelings to its creator. Every day, my eyes capture something or someone that inspires me whether it be a landscape, a person or animal or simply how light is hitting something. My art is ever changing and evolving, and that inspiration comes at me from every direction. I work mostly in acrylic, do some struggling with watercolor, and oil, and recently started my hand at macrame. It’s a journey that keeps me going.

**BARBARA  
ZIRINSKY**  
Maple Room



Barbara Zirinsky is a contemporary sculptor who lives and works in Payson, Arizona. A life-long resident of Arizona, her whimsical sculptures pay homage to her love of nature. Her distinctive personal style emanates fun and thoughtfulness and expresses her vibrant spirit and creativity. Imaginative shapes and silhouettes that create vision and joy while being functional too is what this artist strives for, “I am a storyteller and I welcome you to join me on this visual journey.” From a young age she has always dabbled in art. Her bronze wildlife sculptures were exhibited in galleries from coast to coast. She earned an Associates of Arts degree in Graphic Design and graduated with honors. Barbara’s artwork is intended to spark joy as well as being useful. While continuing to make a place for herself in the art world, we hope that you make a place for her art in yours.

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In Memoriam

***PATRICK HODGES***

Our condolences to Patrick's family and friends from the Payson Book Festival Committee and all of its authors.





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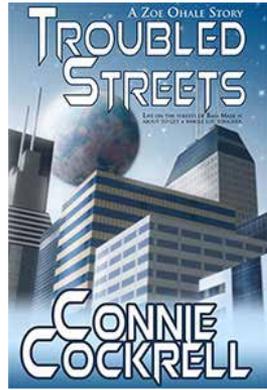
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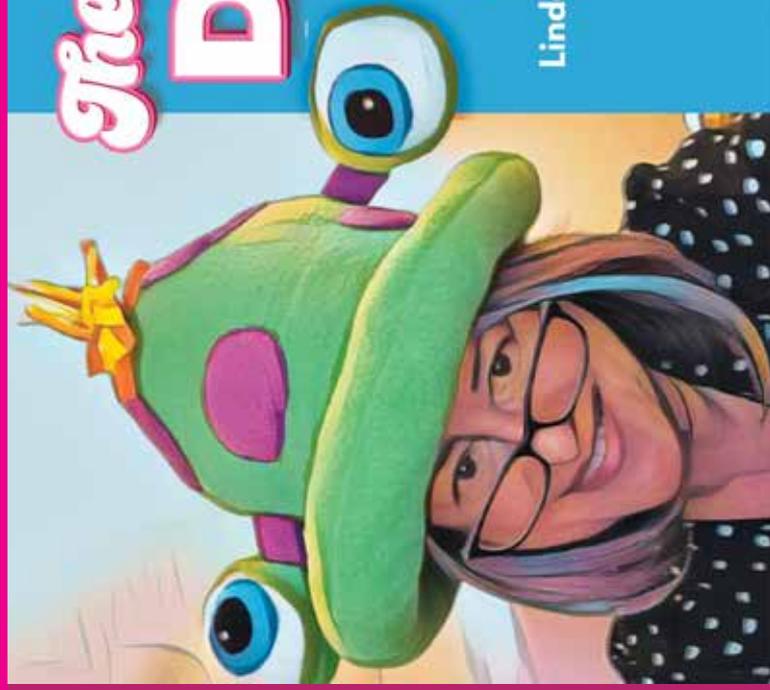
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