POST ART LIBRARY + JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENT THE 2019

Joplin Writers' Faire

SATURDAY, 10.26 | 10am-2pm

FREE EVENT

Featuring

30+ writers

Book signings

Public readings

Door prizes

@JoplinWritersFaire

INSIDE JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY | 1901 E. 20TH ST. JOPLIN, MO | 417.623.7953

bookhouse cinema
independent cinema & pub

Cottage Small Coffee Roasters

Joplin Public Library

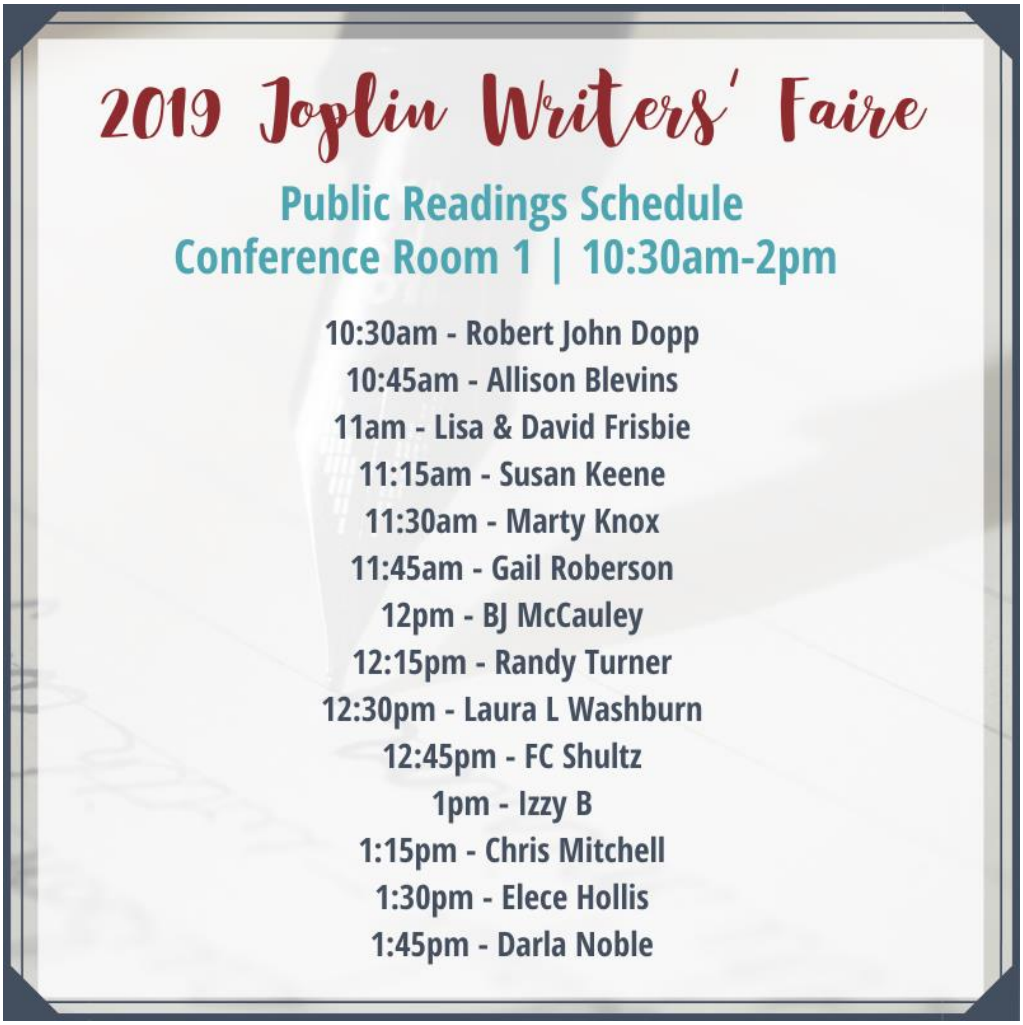
POST ART LIBRARY

2019 Joplin Writers' Faire

Post Art Library and Joplin Public Library are pleased to welcome you to the 3rd annual Joplin Writers' Faire. The purpose of the Joplin Writers' Faire is to connect all sorts of writers - published and non, established and emerging, of varying forms and genres, etc. - to their existing and potentially new audiences.

Also, we aim to encourage community support of local and regional writers and to help those who would like to become more involved in the wonderful world of writing learn how to get started.

This year, over 30 authors, writers' groups, and related organizations are hosting booths, signing books, and reading original works throughout the event. We hope that you'll engage and interact, whether by talking with writers, exploring their works, listening to their readings, asking questions, or perusing one of our book displays. Enjoy!

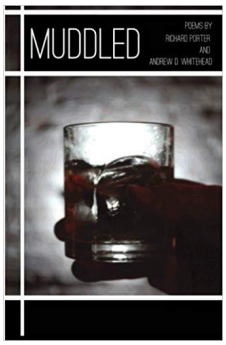


2019 JOPLIN WRITERS' FAIRE – WRITERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Note: All biographies contained herein were submitted or written by writers' faire participants. Any opinions or views expressed are the opinions and views of the authors and not Post Art Library *or* Joplin Public Library. *Biographies are organized alphabetically by first name.*

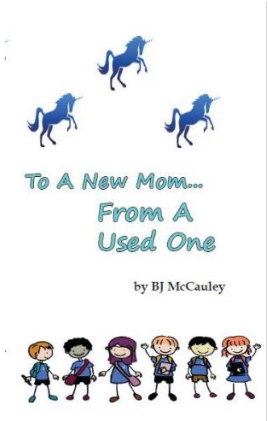
ALLISON BLEVINS received her MFA at Queens University of Charlotte. She is the author of the chapbooks *Susurration* (Blue Lyra Press, 2019), *Letters to Joan* (Lithic Press, 2019), and *A Season for Speaking* (Seven Kitchens Press, 2019), winner of the Robin Becker Prize. She is the Editor-in-Chief of *Harbor Review* and the Poetry Editorial Assistant at *Literary Mama*. Her work has appeared in such journals as *Mid-American Review*, the *minnesota review*, *Raleigh Review*, *Sinister Wisdom*, and *Josephine Quarterly*. She lives in Missouri with her wife and three children where she co-organizes the Downtown Poetry reading series. Contact: allisonblevins.com.

ANDREW D. WHITEHEAD is a pretty good accountant and an average poet. He enjoys beekeeping, baseball, and hoppy beer. He lives in perpetual political frustration and his dog is a pain in the neck. Thankfully he has the very best girlfriend, many great friends, and lots of good reading material. Andrew is co-owner of Pub Hound Press and co-author of *Muddled*, a chapbook of poetry that he published with his friend Richard. Contact: pubhoundpress.com; @pubhoundpress.



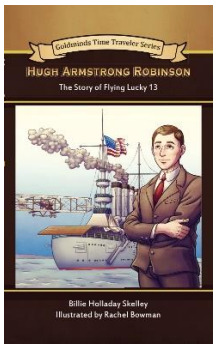
Pub Hound Press

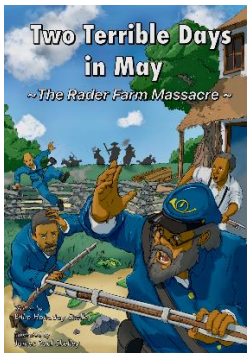
From **BJ McCAULEY**: "Life has offered so many experiences and adventures during my tenure as a human on this planet. The start of this lifetime for me was in North Dakota; Grand Forks on the east border with the Red River separating us from Minnesota. Educated in Grand Forks preschool to UND. Married and lived in Fargo and Bismarck. My primary career has been as an Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations; more commonly referred to as a 'mom'. Mom of 6 sons and 1 daughter, 14 foster sons, approx. 30 boarding babies, a few nieces/nephews, and some others, along with being owner of 2 daycares. In this book, you will find shared memories told with humor, sadness, joy, gratitude, and hope. It is not a "how to" but rather a "how I got through this and maybe you can to." Encouraging moms (new and used) to reflect on the memories, smile and let your heart be full. When you have finished reading this book, find your child (children) give them a hug and thank them for being in your world."



BILLIE HOLLADAY SKELLEY, a retired clinical nurse specialist, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A mother of four and grandmother of two, she spends her non-writing time reading, gardening, and traveling.

Billie's writing crosses several different genres and has appeared in various journals, magazines, and anthologies in print and online—ranging from the *American Journal of Nursing* to *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. An award-winning author, she has written eight books for children and teens. Contact: bhskelley.com.





A shout-out to **BOOKHOUSE CINEMA** of Joplin, Missouri for co-sponsoring the Writers' Lounge!

Bookhouse Cinema (BHC) is an independent cinema and pub at 715 E. Broadway-Langston Hughes in Joplin, MO. BHC offers beautiful, fresh foods, a full bar, and new films every week in a safe, comfortable, and welcoming unique third space. Enjoy a movie and grab a bite! Contact: bookhousejoplin.com; @bookhousecinema.

bookhouse cinema
independent cinema & pub
715 e broadway. joplin. mo

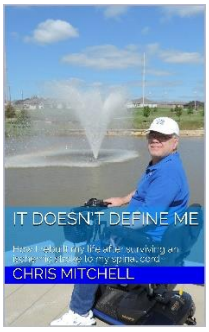
CARTHAGE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS, under the direction of a multi-member Board of Directors, is a non-profit organization created in the 1980s to promote the visual, oral, and written art forms. Specifically, it has presented an annual 3-concert Summer Concert Series for the past 6 years. It provides funding assistance to local theatre and music productions, as well as annual art events throughout the year. Also, it funds and presents

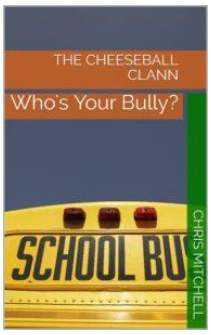
16 programs each year to senior assisted and independent living facilities, featuring art, music, and literary readings. In addition, it provides 3 major scholarship awards to students attending Carthage and Sarcoxie high schools. Currently, the Carthage Council on the Arts is developing plans for the creation of a Writers and Composers Guild to be launched in the spring of 2020. Contact: @carthagecouncilonthearts.

CATHERINE VALENTINE was born in Brazil, but grew up in Arkansas. She now lives in a tiny house in Missouri with her two cats. She was homeschooled until college and graduated from Berea College in Kentucky with a degree in English. She has self-published two children's books, an anthology, and 4 books of poetry. Her book about her tiny house, *Mockingbird Landing: April to April*, will be available fall 2019.

CHRIS MITCHELL is an inspirational and motivational author, blogger, writer and speaker. He is the author of *It Doesn't Define Me: How I rebuilt my life after surviving an ischemic stroke to my spinal cord*, a memoir; *The Cheeseball Clann: Who's Your Bully*, a fictional story for middle graders about bullying; and *10 Steps to #DefineYourself: How to succeed in life despite any obstacle*, a free eBook available on his website. Mitchell's

writing has earned him awards from the Joplin Writer's Guild and publication in the *Wolfner Connection*. Mitchell has earned recognition for both his traditional work experience and volunteer work despite his disabilities. His story of overcoming adversity and succeeding has been shared on KODE and KSN and in a special edition of *Entrepreneur* magazine. He enjoys empowering others to succeed in life despite any obstacle. Contact: www.imchrismitchell.com; www.facebook.com/IMChrisMitchell; twitter.com/IMChrisMitchell; linkedin.com/in/IMChrisMitchell.





CHRISTINE SMITH is a writer living in southwest Missouri with her husband and three children. When she's not putting miles on her minivan driving her kids to activities, you can find her exploring the region, discovering people and places that make life interesting. In addition to being the blogger for the Joplin Convention & Visitors Bureau, she shares her travel experiences on JoplinMOLife.com, and her musings about life on ChristineSempetrean.com. She has written for various travel publications including *Missouri Life* and *Show Me the Ozarks*, as well as digital publications such as *Role Reboot*, *Feminine Collective*, and *Literal Shyft*. You can view her portfolio on Contently. Contact: christine@joplinmolife.com.

JoplinMOLife.com

CONNECT2CULTURE (C2C) is a not-for-profit arts organization founded in 2009 to enhance community through culture. Unlike any organization in the Joplin area, C2C is a respected community arts agency, a champion of the Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex, and a performing arts presenter. C2C strives to expand audience and resources needed to ignite a passion for the arts, culture, and entertainment in the City of Joplin. C2C visits the Joplin Writers' Faire to promote two literary-centric programs: Poetry Out Loud and National Poetry Month in Joplin, MO.

Poetry Out Loud (POL) is a national recitation contest open to all high school students and conducted in all 50 states by the National Endowment for the Arts.

National Poetry Month (NPM) is the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, bloggers, and, of course, poets marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives every April. C2C partners with Post Art Library and Pub Hound Press to organize an intentional collective effort to celebrate National Poetry Month (NPM) each year in Joplin. Contact: connect2culture.com; @connect2culture.com.

A shout-out to **COTTAGE SMALL COFFEE ROASTERS** of Carthage, Missouri for co-sponsoring the Writers' Lounge!

Cottage Small is a micro-roaster located on the square in historic Carthage. What began as a hobby in 2008 quickly became a growing business dedicated to the fabulous coffee bean. Focusing on high-quality, socially responsible, and environmentally-sustainable

coffees, they roast in small batches to provide the freshest coffee possible. Contact: Joplin Empire Market (Saturdays, 10am-3pm); cottagesmall.com; @cottagesmall.

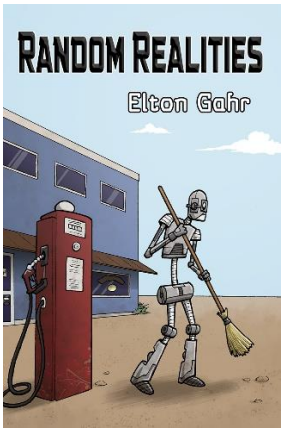
DARLA NOBLE has been writing inspirational nonfiction, historical nonfiction, memoirs, Bible studies, parenting/family resources, and curriculum for over twenty-eight years. Darla's popularity as an author, ghostwriter, and speaker come from her ability to entertain, encourage and educate through storytelling and practical advice.

Darla's faith, wit, and wisdom are enjoyed by readers across the United States, the UK, Australia, the Philippines, South Africa, and Canada. In addition to speaking to students and various other organizations, Darla does a great deal of freelance work and ghostwriting, as well as writing the faith-based and "Momma D" columns for the "Phelps County Focus" newspaper.

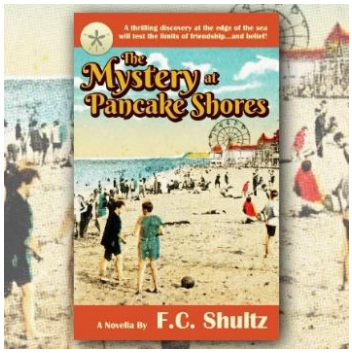
Darla and her husband John have been married for thirty-eight years, are the parents of four grown children, four children in-law, and seven adorable grandchildren. When Darla is not writing or speaking, she enjoys raising vegetables and flowers, camping, spending time with her family and friends, and hanging out with her miniature dachshund, Charlotte. Darla is an active member of Glendale Christian Church, where she helps with MOPS, leads a small-group Bible study and is involved in a lady's Bible study group. Contact: dnoblewrites@yahoo.com; @dnoblewrites.

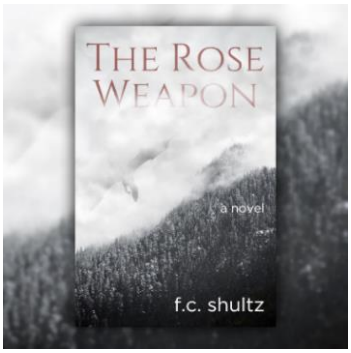
ELECE HOLLIS is mother to seven and grandmother to 25. She lives in Oklahoma where she is retired from homeschooling and writes full time. She is the author of several books with a new book Prayers for Teachers. During this year's event, she'll have Life with Mama, What's Good about Home, and Heart of Spring available for sale. Hollis likes to paint, write poetry, and take photographs of nature, especially flowers. She helps her husband on their 80-acre farm, where they grow pecans and raise beef cattle. Contact: elechollis.com.

ELTON GAHR was born in Kalispell, Montana, a small town deep in the Rocky Mountains. He spent his days in the library reading and dreaming of exciting far-off places. Sixteen years ago those dreams led him to Joplin, Missouri and he has lived here ever since. Gahr writes in the science fiction and fantasy genres. He's published four novels, including the Middlemen series, and two anthologies of his favorite short stories and is hard at work creating more. Contact: andscifi.com; @eltongahr.



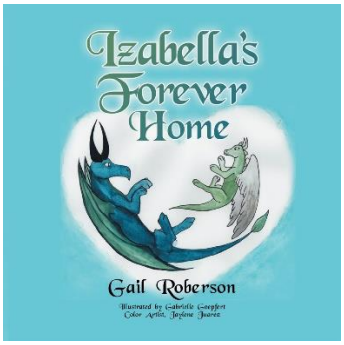
F.C. SHULTZ writes stories that place one fantasy element into an otherwise realistic world. His books are about dragons and sea people and honor and family. He loves Ray Bradbury and peanut butter, and lives in SW Missouri with his wife, Sammi; his son, Milo; and his cat, Batman. Contact: fcshultz.com; patreon.com/fcshultz; @FCShultz.



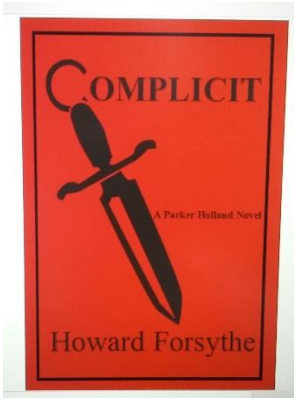


GABRIELLE GOEPFERT is the illustrator of *Izabella's Forever Home*, which is based on Drachenmoore, a destination in Joplin, MO. Goepfert began with a full complement of art supplies in her nursery. She is the daughter of graphic designer, Marian Goepfert and animatronic engineer, "Dan the Wizard Man". She was raised with the Drachenmoor creatures as a "part of her family", Gabby brushed Izabella's long teeth each day when she was learning to brush her own. Gabby considered the Drachenmoor creatures to be her siblings. She was fortunate to grow up in the fantastic fantasy world of these magical creatures. Now at 16, Gabby loves bringing her creatures to life in the Drachenmoor series. Every detail, every expression, and every perspective in her illustrations tell the story of Gabby's magical childhood memories.

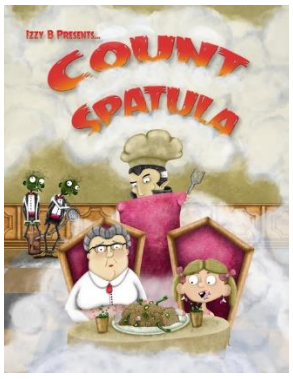
GAIL ROBERSON is the author of *Izabella's Forever Home*, which is based on Drachenmoore, a destination in Joplin, MO. Roberson is a Licensed Professional Counselor specializing in the treatment of children. She understands that little people sometimes have big problems requiring real solutions. Children can learn real life lessons and coping skills from a fantasy world, such as Drachenmoor. Gail has passed down the stories of Drachenmoor characters for over 20 years. Now, they have finally made it into print for all children everywhere to enjoy. Contact: drachenmoor.tumblr.com; @drachenmoorejoplin.



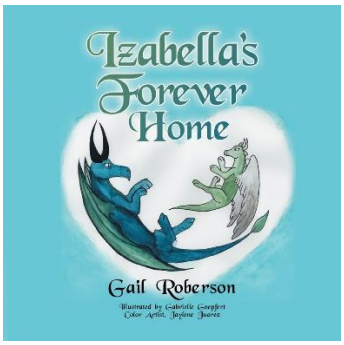
HOWARD FORSYTHE retired from the Joplin business world in 2018. After attending the University of Kansas, he enlisted and served as a Medic at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas and served the Kansas Army National Guard. In addition to writing, he is an avid guitarist. Though originally from Kansas City, Howard, his wife, three children, and grandson are long time Joplin residents. He is a member of the Joplin Writers Guild. His first novel, Complicit, is available on Amazon and at the Joplin Writers' Faire.



IZZY B is an author illustrator of humorous picture books. When he's not writing and illustrating he is an elementary school teacher at Carl Junction 2-3. Izzy B has two kids, Maxx and Gideon, two cats named Callie and Poe, and a beautiful wife named Autumn. His first book A Tighty-whitie Wind is a gut buster that will not only make you laugh, but also keep you weary of giving goats your underwear.



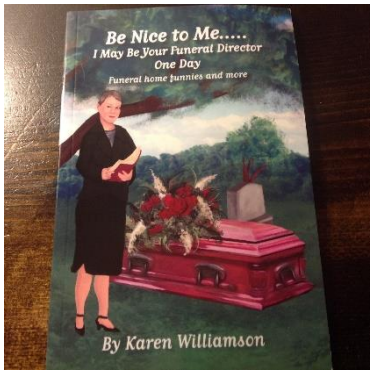
JAYLENE JUAREZ is the color artist of *Izabella's Forever Home*, which is based on Drachenmoore, a destination in Joplin, MO. Ever since Juarez can remember, her art ushered her into a world of inner-peace and playfulness. During childhood, her art became a magical doorway that allowed her to escape everything bad and boring in her life. Jaylene credits her art teacher and mentor, Mr. Seth Wolfshorndl, (lovingly called "Mr. Wolf", by his art students at Joplin High School), who inspired her to move into adulthood as an artist in her own right. Jaylene is now delighted to bring her magical world to life in the Drachenmoor series.



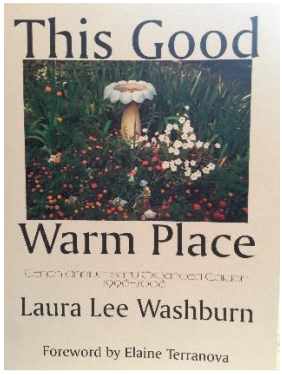
THE JOPLIN WRITERS GUILD is an affiliate of the statewide Missouri Writers' Guild. The Missouri Writers' Guild was established in 1915 and the Joplin Writers' Guild has been in continuous existence since at least the early 1960's. They meet the second Thursday of each month at the Joplin Public Library at 6 PM and anyone interested in writing is welcome to attend. Their purpose is to help and encourage one another in their development as writers and to recognize one another's achievements. Meetings include guest speakers, critiquing of one another's work, and writing exercises and contests. Members vary from veteran writers with many published works to beginners just starting out. Contact: https://www.facebook.com/groups/266894820055092/.

KAREN WILLIAMSON began her career managing a cemetery in 1983 in Oklahoma. By 1986, she attained her funeral directors license in Missouri and was working in Kansas City, MO. She and her husband, Craig, met while they both worked for the same cemetery and funeral home in Kansas City. She denies getting married in the funeral home chapel, but rather at the office of the Justice of the Peace.

She has two daughters from a previous marriage and four outstanding grandchildren. William's working career has awarded her a path to be able to serve others. Her involvement in the community has included past president of Soroptomist International of Carthage, past president of Carthage local chapter of American Business Women's Association, member of the Joplin, MO Writers' Guild, and sponsor of Ulmer Funeral Home Surviving Spouse support group.

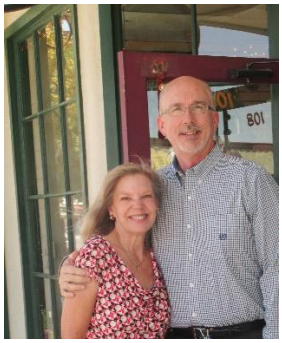


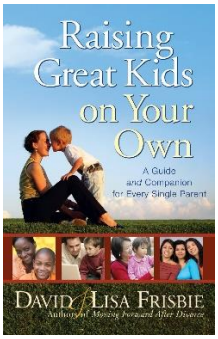
LAURA WASHBURN,Director of Creative Writing at Pittsburg State University, is the author of This Good Warm Place (March Street) and Watching the Contortionists (Palanquin Chapbook Prize). Her poetry has appeared in numerous journals including Poet Lore and The Sun. Harbor Review's Washburn Chapbook Prize is named in her honor.

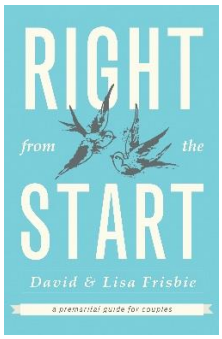


LISA & DAVID FRISBIE are family counselors and authors, specializing in the post-divorce family: single parents, remarried couples, and blended families. Their books have won numerous awards from family-focused organizations.

Recent titles include Raising Great Kids On Your Own (single parents); Dating After Divorce; Moving Forward After Divorce; Happily Remarried; and more. Their articles and columns have appeared in magazines including Family Life, Baby Life, Refreshed and others.



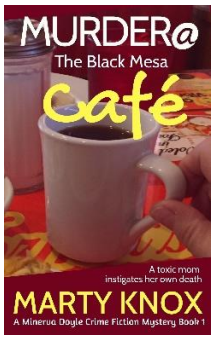




MARGARITE R. STEVER grew up in a tiny town of just over 200 people. She writes stories and essays that touch a person's heart. She's the 2019 President of Ozarks Writers League and a member of Joplin Writers' Guild, Missouri Writers Guild, Sleuths' Ink Mystery Writers, and Ozarks Romance Authors. She has two upcoming publications in the *2019 Joplin Writers' Guild Anthology*. Her work has recently appeared in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*; *Anthology 2019 Sleuths' Ink Mystery Writers*; *Missouri's Emerging Writers*; *Legends*: *Passion Pages*; 50-Word Stories website; the 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2016 issues of *The Crowder Quill*; the Fall 2015 issue of *The Maine Review*; *Mamalode Magazine's 2015 Better Together*; and *Writer's Digest 2014 Show Us Your Shorts Collection*. Her seeds of wisdom and joy can be read at ozarksmaven.com, which has been read in 54 countries.

MARTY KNOX is a retired math teacher and computer science instructor. She lived in Arizona for thirty-eight years. She's a member of professional writing groups SINC, Sleuths Ink, and Joplin Writers Guild, as well as AEA and NEA. A note from the author:

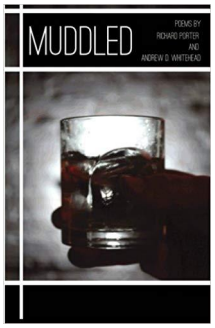
"I love Arizona. If you have ever wanted to visit, Northern Arizona here is your armchair chance. Share the adventures of Minerva Doyle, cyber sleuth, and Michael Doyle, retired ATF, who live in a small town in Northern Arizona on Old Route 66. They meet new friends, solve mysteries, and save the innocent from villains. Grab a big bottle of cold water (it's a dry heat), sweet tea (dry or not, it's still hot) or a cup of coffee (yes, it will cool you off). Find a comfy chair, turn up the AC, and lose yourself in a good classic mystery."



MELISSA WALDO is a writer and preschool teacher. She has been writing stories since she was a kid. She has published two young adult novels and a poetry book. She lives in Joplin with her husband, son, and cat. Contact: @melissawaldoauthor.

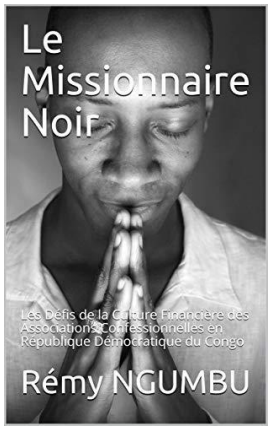
PUB HOUND PRESS catches talent that slips through the cracks. An independent publishing house in Joplin, MO they are dedicated to printing the works of local poets and authors who have, for whatever reason, hitherto gone unnoticed. Pub Hound Press

is co-owned by Andrew D. Whitehead and Richard Porter. Contact: pubhoundpress.com; @pubhoundpress.

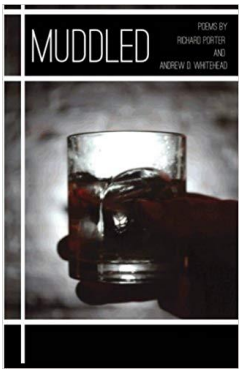


RANDY TURNER is a retired middle school English teacher, who worked in the Joplin and Diamond school districts. Also, he worked 22 years as a newspaper reporter and editor. He is a native of Newtonia, Missouri and a graduate of East Newton High School, Crowder College, and Missouri Southern State University. Contact: rturner229.blogspot.com; insidejoplin.blogspot.com.

Rémy NGUMBU is a Congolese writer who was born in Kinshasa. Father of two girls, he is a missionary and a consultant in Organizational development. He has a degree in International Law from the Centre Universitaire de Bukavu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He also graduated from Missouri State University with a master's degree in business administration. When he is in the USA, he is based in Joplin, MO, where his wife's family lives. Award winner of Prix Makomi2017, Kinshasa, with his short story La locomotive infernale.



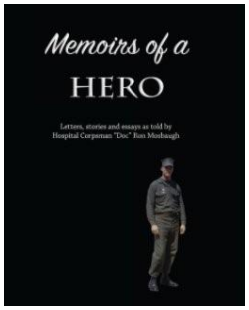
RICHARD PORTER is a co-founder of Pub Hound Press and the co-author of Muddled. His work has appeared in Asses of Parnassus and the occasional bathroom stall. Contact: puhoundpress.com; @pubhoundpress.

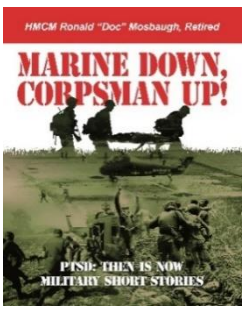


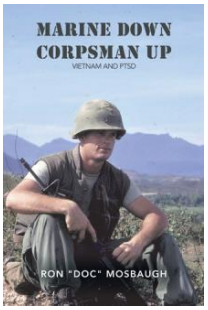
ROBERT JOHN DOPP is a simple individual and enjoys life and has learned much from it. He is constantly studying the Bible and teaching the Bible to the youth in Sunday morning Bible Study. Robert is always helping family, friends and strangers and is willing to listen to anyone who needs an ear to listen. What is most important to Robert is God, followed by family and country. Robert has served in the United States of America Air Force for one year. He is very patriotic, supporting the men and women of the arm forces. Robert believes that service to humanity is the best work of life. He is currently working as a Behavior Support Tech dealing with high functioning autistic and behavior troubled individuals. A saying of Robert's is, "In school you learn the lesson to take the test. In life you take the test to learn the lesson." Robert believes a person is never too old to learn something new every day, that life is a constant learning process from the

day you are born until the day you die, that we all must learn to live in peace and harmony with each other. No matter who you are, life is precious and to care for and help one another. Robert over the years has inspired young lives to better themselves as well as those around them.

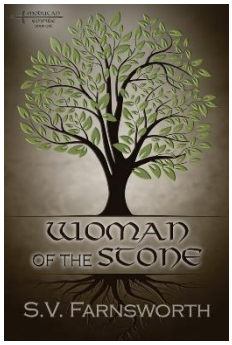
RON MOSBAUGH, along with his twin brother, enlisted in the Navy Reserve as high school juniors and left for active duty after graduation. After his training as a medical corpsman, Mosbaugh was assigned to a naval hospital where he was the personal corpsman to Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz until the admiral's death. He was then sent with the Marine Corps to Vietnam where he served thirteen months. During his tour, he was awarded two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star and the Silver Star. Mosbaugh remained in the Naval Reserves, advanced to the highest enlisted rank, E-9, and completed 31 years before retirement. He held a county elected office as wells as jobs with the newspaper and in coaching despite suffering PTSD from his combat experiences. Memories he couldn't process even years after he returned to the United States finally prompted Mosbaugh to seek treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder. Writing down those recollections was part of his therapy. This convinced him that he needed to share his stories with others. Contact: ronmosbaugh.com.







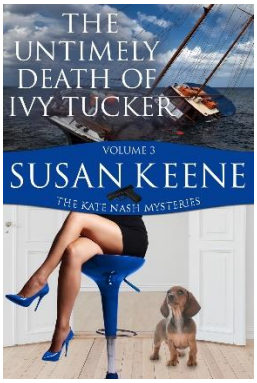
S.V. FARNSWORTH is a linguist librarian who has spent time in Asia. Issues with grit give her multicultural novels the traction to move you. She is writing book two in the Modutan Empire Series, Monarch in the Flames. It's an epic fantasy with an appeal to readers who connect with #MeToo concerns and admire strong female characters. She graduated with a B.S. from SUU in 2002. She completed advanced writing courses at MSSU and frequently takes classes and attends workshops on writing. She belongs to the Ozarks Writers League. She is serving a second year as president of the board for the Joplin Writers' Guild, successfully coordinated the July 2019 conference, and is editing the guild's 2019 anthology. Contact: svfarnsworthauthor.com.



STEVEN MANN began writing when he retired from teaching at Cassville High Shcool and Crowder College. He's married with three children and four grandchildren. He has three publications: The Secret Chronicles of East Aby, episodes 1 & 2 and Oh! The Humanity: a collection of Short and Very Short Stories. Mann is currently working on his first novel.

SUSAN KEENE can whip up a gourmet meal or build a table in her workshop. A lot of her spare time is taken up with eight rescue dogs. Chili, her dachshund, is featured in the Kate Nash Mystery Series. She comes at the end of volume one and becomes a part of the fictional family. Susan writes full time and lives on a working farm in the beautiful

Missouri Ozarks. Spending time with her grandchildren is a high priority. She loves long walks, good books, flowers, hanging out with her friends, and quiet mornings on the patio with her coffee. She is active in the Juanita Day Garden Club, Sleuth's Mystery Writers, Ozark Writer's Guild, and Ozarks Romance Authors. She is a Pen Gypsy, one of a group of teaching authors. The first book in her new Arizona Summers Mystery Series will be out in late November. Contact: susankeeneauthor.com; @susanskeene.



ZINES! The best introduction to zines is to be handed a stack and start flipping through them. The simplest definition of 'zine' is it's a small-circulated, self-published original work, whether textual or visual, whether solo or collaborative (and some are compilations).

Topically, zines can be about anything. That's right, *anything*: animals, trees, politics, a city, a concept, a genre, music, art, a region, poetry, a movement, a relationship, a person, subculture, etc. Also, zines can be fictional, comedic, abstract, experimental, artistic, poetic, artistic, and much more. Zines tell stories, convey ideas, and give voice to their creators, some of whom might not otherwise feel heard.
Physically, zines come in all shapes and sizes. Some are literally cut and pasted together, photocopied, bound by staples, and distributed. Some have hand-sewn bindings. Others are more professionally bound, like a magazine. Some are typed, while others are hand written. Some are in color, though most are in black and white. Some are made on a letterpress. And so on.

In her book, *From A to Zine: Building a Wining Zine Collection in Your Library*, Julie Bartel wrote, "the only thing all zines have in common is that their existence is the result of

passion rather than a desire for profit." Like snowflakes, no two zines are alike. Zines are unique expressions of their creators.

We invite you to stop by and browse our ZINE display to learn more about this wonderful medium, as well as to have a hand at getting started publishing one of your own. That's right, *one of your own*!

(*Psst!* One might consider this compilation of writers' biographies a zine of sorts.)

THANK YOU for supporting the Joplin Writers' Faire. Held on the 4th Saturday of October, the Joplin Writers' Faire is a collaboration between Post Art Library and Joplin Public Library. For information on how to become a sponsor, volunteer, or a participating writer, then contact Post Art Library Director, Jill Sullivan, at jhsullivan@postartlibrary.org or 417.623.7953 x1041. Save the date for next year:

2020 Joplin Writers' Faire
Saturday, 10.24.2020 | 10am-2pm

@JoplinWritersFaire