WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL

Joplin Writers' Faire

@joplinwritersfaire | @joplinlibrary | @postartlibrary

Featuring...

Local & Regional Authors

Door Prizes

Multiple Genres

Free! All ages!

Joplin Public Library

Sat., Oct. 12th | 10am-1pm

Presented by:

Joplin Public Library

Joplin Writers' Faire est. 2017

POST ART LIBRARY

Friends of the Joplin Public Library

1901 East 20th Street, Joplin, MO | Info: 417.623.7953

2024 Joplin Writers' Faire

Post Art Library, Joplin Public Library, and Friends of the Joplin Public Library welcome you to the 8th Annual Joplin Writers' Faire! This year's event features 45 local and regional authors, a Friends of the Joplin Public Library book sale, book signings, and a chance to win door prizes.

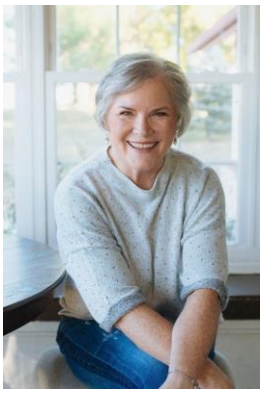
The Joplin Writers' Faire is a FREE annual event co-hosted by Post Art Library and Joplin Public Library. Its purpose is to connect all sorts of writers with existing and potentially new audiences while encouraging community support of local and regional authors. Friends of the Joplin Public Library is the premier sponsor for the 2024 Joplin Writers' Faire

2024 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.*

Aileen Gronewold | Booth #11, Community Room

From the time she read her first chapter book, Aileen has loved language and story. She dreamed of college and writing, but deferred those dreams to marry her sweetheart at age eighteen. Together, they left their beloved Wyoming roots and ministered at a children's home in Oklahoma for fourteen years, adding three children to their family along the way. In her thirties, Aileen pursued her college education, graduating with degrees in English and Communication just as her firstborn graduated high school. Once again, she postponed her writing dreams in favor of a more economically viable career in business. In 2015, her life was upended in the span of six weeks when she lost her father and career and became her mother's caregiver. Ill-prepared for such a role, she spent the next six years learning the art of caregiving and making tender memories with her mother, even as she lost her gradually to dementia. Today Aileen embraces the dream so long deferred, writing about faith, family, and her love of wild places. She loves to connect with her readers via her blog at comeonaileenblog.com.



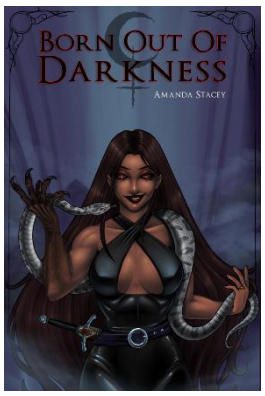
Amanda M. Goodwin | Booth #39, Lobby

Amanda Goodwin has spent her life traveling & with four kids, there's always somewhere to go! A painter at heart, she's been bringing everyday items to life with color since early childhood. Combining a love of books & encouragement from other artists, she began illustrating her first book. The new 'Let's Go' series, now available in English & Spanish, begins with 'Let's Go Somewhere Together', a colorful adventure about transportation & the important part of traveling. The Discovery Series features Hobbies, Celebrations & a fun kid's introduction to Real Estate via some interesting architecture from around the world. Most of Amanda's books include vibrant illustrations, vocabulary in multiple languages, geography, fun facts & other various information to make learning fun for all ages. Information about her Storytime Adventure Events can be found on her website. https://alinendapaint22.square.site.

Amanda Stacey | Booth #12, Community Room

Amanda Stacey is an indie author and full-time mom. She attended an art school and MSSU, but ultimately deserted both before finishing her education. Now, Amanda is a glorified personal chef, taxi, and secretary as a wife and mother. She spends her bits of spare time creating worlds

and deleting characters in her supernatural fantasy series, The Lilith Series. She wove together the first book, Born Out of Darkness, and self-published it in January 2023. She is now weaving together the second installment in the mashup of supernatural fantasy and mythology. Amanda hesitantly hopes to be finished by December 2024. Visit her website: www.amandastaceybooks.com for more info and social media links!



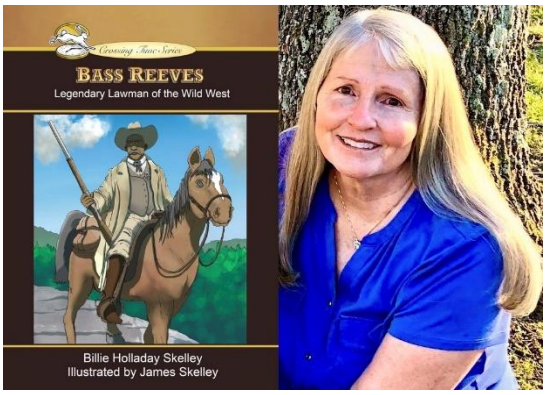
Becca Turner | Booth #20, Community Room

Becca Turner was raised in Missouri except for a couple of formative years in southwest Oklahoma that left her with an Okie accent. At 11, when her best friend announced she was going to become an author, Becca said, “Me, too!” And the idea stuck. Becca began her author journey under a different pen name in 2008. Along the way she met good editors, bad editors, self-published, and signed on to her dream publishing house, entertained loyal readers, and had plenty of writing adventures that held both ups and downs. In 2018, after personal struggles led to a battle with depression, Becca set her computer aside and put her writing on hold. While she pursued other skills, including learning how to do podcasts, she occasionally dabbled at writing but never put in serious effort to finish a novel. Until a car wreck in early 2021, where she whacked her head and apparently jiggled the words loose again. Since then, she's focused on publishing contemporary western and historical romance novels set in a small Oklahoma town. Her motto is, "The West isn't won until a cowboy holds your heart." She lives in Missouri with her husband and two dogs.

Betty Rose Dixon | Booth #10, Community Room

Billie Holladay Skelley | Booth #42, Lobby

Billie Holladay Skelley, a Pushcart Prize nominee and a Best of the Net nominee, received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Now retired from working as a clinical nurse specialist and nursing educator, she enjoys focusing on her writing. Billie has written several health-related articles for both professional and lay journals, but her 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 12 books for children and teens. Her book, *Ruth Law: The Queen of the Air*, received the 2021 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Children's Literature Award, and her book, *Bass Reeves: Legendary Lawman of the Wild West,* received a 2024 Spur Award and a 2024 Will Rogers Medallion Award. Visit her website at https://bhskelley.com.

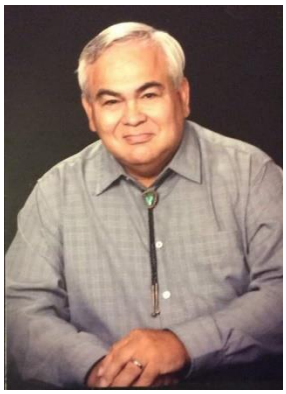


C. Britt | Booth #28, Community Room

C. Britt lives in the midwestern United States with her husband, cat, and dog. She enjoys spending time sewing, photographing nature, playing video games, and (of course) dreaming up fictional worlds to write about. She's always been an avid reader, but in recent years, she's grown more and more excited about creating her own stories. In the past year, she's published a zombie apocalypse novel, *Monstra Inter*, and contributed a short story to the anthology *The Last Day Under The Sun*. Later this year, she will release her fantasy novel, *Crimson the Chromaveiled*.

Calvin Cassady | Booth #8, Community Room

Calvin Cassady is an accomplished writer and spiritual seeker known for his inspirational memoir *Bridging the Gap, A Spiritual Journey to Heaven and Back*. With a background in education, Calvin's faith journey led him to explore the intersection between spirituality and everyday life. As an author, Calvin is committed to sharing stories that offer hope, solace, and deeper understanding of Christianity. When he's not writing, Calvin spends quality time with his loving family, participating in church activities, and immersing himself in the beauty of nature. His unwavering faith and dedication to sharing his message makes him a beacon of light in the world of Christian literature.



Chase Dearinger | Booth #29, Community Room

Chase Dearinger's debut novel, *This New Dark*, was published by Belle Point Press in 2024. His fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in magazines like *Bayou*, *Electric Literature*, *The Southampton Review*, *Eclectica*, and *Short Story America*. He is a professor of creative writing and literature at Pittsburg State University and serves as the Chief Editor for both *Emerald City* and *StoryBottle Co*. He lives in Kansas with his wife and two daughters.

Chris Davey | Booth #43, Lobby

Chris Davey is from Lamar, Missouri. He and his wife have lived in Southwest Missouri most of their lives. He is a children's author with over 20 published books, half of them being the *Lil Champ Sports Book Series*, inspired by his kids' sports activities. He also has three Christian-based books. He began writing children's books in 3rd grade and won The Young Authors Award in his class. That inspired him to continue writing as an adult. He is married and has five children and six grandchildren, along with one dog named Dolly. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, writing, watching sports and movies, and listening to music, as well as getting outside and exploring the great outdoors. His youngest son, who also is the inspiration for some of his books, likes to go kayaking, fishing, camping, and trail riding in their UTV and on their ATVs. He enjoys coaching his kids' youth sports teams: archery, baseball, basketball, football, softball, soccer, floor hockey, and volleyball. He and his wife also like to go to shows, concerts, and local events while enjoying different local dining establishments. He tries to live by the motto of faith, family, and fun, keeping the good Lord above as his guide, always open to trying and experiencing new things while having an adventurous spirit. He looks at life this way.....if everyone was the same, the world would be a boring place. You can preview and purchase his books on Lulu.com bookstore. A percentage of his book sales are donated to St. Judes to help fight childhood cancer and the local Ronald McDonald House of the 4-states.

D.A. Power | Booth #41, Lobby

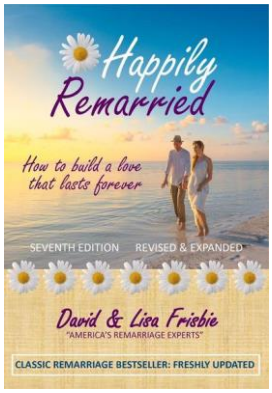
D.A. Power read her first sentence in a book independently at the age of four. Ever since, she became a lifelong book worm and lover of stories. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and has been a professional pianist for over 30 years. This is her debut novel. Power makes her home in Joplin, Missouri with her husband, Aaron, and their three sons. If you're interested in learning more, follow her on Twitter, D.A. Power@DonnaPo54536348; donnapower2022 on Instagram; and D.A. Power on Facebook.

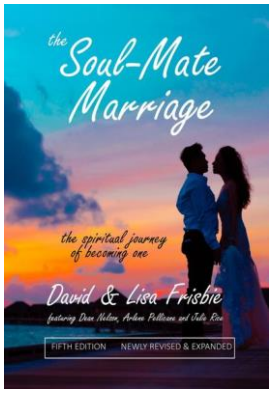
D.L. Golden | Booth #25, Community Room

D.L. Golden is a LitRPG author out of South Eastern Kansas. He has been writing since he was young, but only recently decided to publish his first novel Origins: Book 1 in The Dreamcatcher Series, which he started working on in the spring of 2020. He is currently working on the sequel story, Odysseia, which he plans to release in late spring or early summer in 2024.

Dr. David & Lisa Frisbie | Booth #24, Community Room

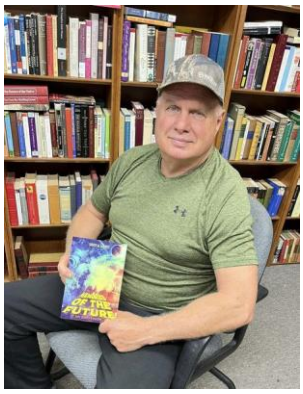
David and Lisa are family counselors and authors, frequently traveling to teach and train counselors. To date, their travels have taken them to 48 nations, and to all 50 United States. They have had 43 books published; none self-published.





David W. Loomis | Booth #30, Community Room

David W. Loomis is a professional photographer, and writer, having graduated from the New York institute of Photography. He has lived in the beautiful White Mountains of northeastern Arizona, for the past 25 years. He also lived in Modesto, California for 35 years. He now lives in the beautiful small town of Sarcoxie Missouri. He is also a member of. The Mutual UFO Network, where he is a Star Team UFO Investigator. He was in the US ARMY and served in many areas of the United States, as well as being involved in Special Ops in South Korea on the DMZ. He is also a graduate of Penn Foster Career School as a Private Investigator.



Debbie Compton / The Purple Vine | Booth #34, Community Room

Debbie Compton is a compassionate three-time primary caregiver for parents with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and vascular dementia. As a speaker, she brings hope and laughter to caregiver and dementia issues, easing the stress of her audience. Since 2017, Debbie has been a Community Educator for the Alzheimer's Association and is a Certified Caregiving Consultant and Certified Caregiver Advocate. She has authored ten books, including *Caregiving: How to Hold On While Letting Go*, where she shares her hard-earned knowledge, perspective, and faith.

Debbie's latest book, *The Caregiver's Advocate, A Complete Guide to Support and Resources*, is a collaboration between 21 authors in 4 countries. It is an International Bestseller and an Amazon #1 New Release. Debbie is the founder of The Purple Vine, where she supports caregivers through one-on-one zoom consultations, a blog, and a weekly newsletter.

Elton Gahr | Booth #4, Gallery

Elton Gahr was born in Kalispell, Montana in 1977. He lived there until 2002 when he moved to Joplin, Missouri. He wrote his first short story in kindergarten, and continued to handwrite stories

throughout school, writing choose your own adventure stories, short stories, and comic books, some alone and some with friends. He began to write more seriously once he graduated high school and has published twelve novels and hundreds of short stories. He works as a full-time writer.

F.C. Shultz | Booth #37, Gallery

F.C. Shultz is an author and poet whose work has appeared in Ekstasis Magazine, Every Day Fiction, and the Of Gods and Globes anthologies. He's the poetry editor for The Joplin Toad and lives in the Midwest with his wife and two kids. He's trying to cultivate a deep appreciation for the simple pleasures, which means writing a lot of poems about birds (and novels about dragons). You can find free books and poems at fcshultz.com.

Gary Nodler | Booth #14, Community Room

Gary Nodler served as a Republican in the Missouri State Senate. He was born in Champaign, Illinois, raised in Neosho, Missouri, and attended Crowder College and Missouri Southern State University, where he received his B.A. degree in political science in 1972. In 2007 he was awarded

an Honorary Doctor of Education degree from Western Missouri State University. He has served in the United States Army and in the Missouri National Guard. He is a member of the First Christian Church of Webb City and the American Legion. He served as Congressman Gene Taylor's district staff director from 1973 to 1988. He became a regional administrator of the Small Business Administration in 1989, serving through 1992. He was appointed by President George H. W. Bush the Cabinet level Rural Economic Policy Working Group of the White House Economic Policy Council from 1991 to 1992. He served as staff for the Missouri Congressional delegation from 1997 through 2000. He served on Governor Bob Holden's Commission on the Future of Higher Education. He was first elected to the Missouri State Senate in 2002. Nodler wrote Senate Bill 55 elevating Missouri Southern State College to university status and renaming it Missouri Southern State University. He also authored Senate Bill 389 which included the Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative, providing capital improvements to Missouri higher education institutions, including $20 million to Missouri Southern State University for the schools Health Sciences Building. He served as Assistant Majority Floor Leader and on the following committees: Appropriations-Chairman, Education-Chairman, Joint Committee on Legislative Research and Oversight-Chairman, Pensions/Veterans Affairs and General Laws, Joint Committee on Capital Improvements and Leases Oversight, Joint Committee on Education, Joint Committee on Government Accountability, Joint Committee on the Life Sciences. After leaving the Senate, Nodler served 3 years on the Board of the Joplin Sports Authority and also served as a member of the Joplin School Board. In August 2018 he was appointed by Governor Mike Parson to the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education; in December 2022 he was elected chairman of the board. In late 2022 Nodler became an author publishing *Experiencing Life and the Universe*. The book surprisingly is not about politics but metaphysics.

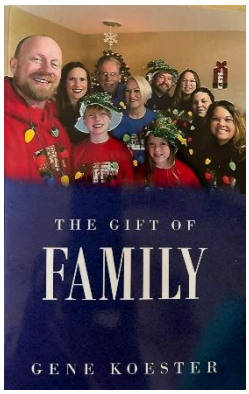
Gene Hogg | Booth #9, Community Room

Gene, a student of the Word since his youth, went to Bible College where he received his bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry with a minor in counseling. He has been a preacher of the word, an elder, and has been on several mission trips. For 25 years, he has been an educator of

physical things through his job as a critical care nurse. Now he is feeling more led to be a teacher of spiritual things.

Gene Koester | Booth #31, Community Room

Gene Koester is a former Principal of McAuley Catholic High School, a graduate of Missouri Southern University, and the author of three books entitled: *The Gift of Grandchildren*, *The Gift of Friendship*, and *The Gift of Family*. Gene is married to Nancy Koester and they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, friends, and family!



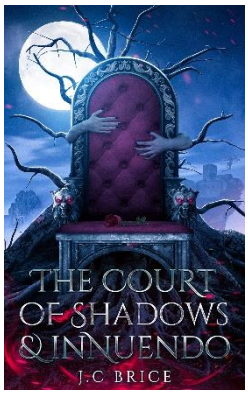
Gil Miller | Booth #32, Community Room

Gil had a normal upbringing, which means his parents aren't to blame for him going into crime (fiction). Instead, he blames a steady diet of movies, shows, and books, from Miami Vice and Scarface in the '80s to Breaking Bad and Justified in the '00s. To cap it all off, he discovered authors such as Michael Connelly, Robert Crais, Don Winslow, and the late, great Elmore Leonard. Gil is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Writers Workshop, whose members

sometimes wonder where he gets his inspiration. He makes his home outside Fayetteville, where he is at work on the next of his Rural Empires novels.

J.C. Brice / Your Metal Author | Booth #21, Community Room

J.C. Brice writes fantasy and dark romance from her cozy bed when she's not wrangling her three kids or studying for exams. Writing is not her full time career, but a hobby she loves. She applied to medical school this year and is very excited for the release of The Court of Shadows and Innuendo Friday, November 24th. She will have early release copies available during the event. Her tiktok is also @your_metalauthor as well as her Facebook.



Jeanne Brummet | Booth #35, Gallery

Jeanne Brummet is a Missouri native who was drawn to the Southwest when she saw a picture of Chaco Canyon. This interest was the beginning of a journey that ended with the writing of the book *Beware of the Wind and the Darkness*. She learned a lot about life from the many different jobs she has worked in her lifetime and the interesting people she got to know along the way. Her experiences taught her that people can be different in many ways but still be the same on

the inside. She took an interest in Native American culture and hopes that her research and passion for that will inspire others to learn about it as well. Jeanne Brummet is now retired. She enjoys volunteering, birding and hiking.

Jenny Caldwell Westbrook / Polka Dot Pickle Books | Booth #2, Lobby

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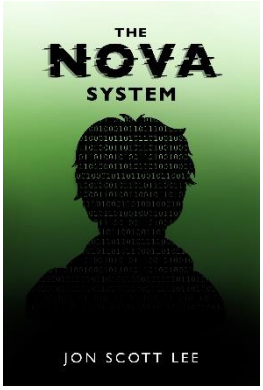
Jon Scott Lee | Booth #26, Community Room

Jon Scott Lee lives in southwestern Missouri. His first novel, *The NOVA System*, debuted in September 2023. Its sequel, *The Mental Take Over*, was released in 2024. Lee is currently working on the third installment. Lee began as a fanfiction writer, which helped him learn about the process of self-publishing and marketing. *The NOVA System* won the Regal Summit Book Award for best Action/Adventure book in 2023 and is currently a semifinalist of a Kindle Review Book Awards. He is looking forward to continued success with his future writing journey.

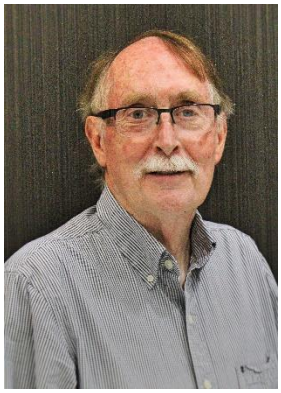


L. Ballew | Booth #23, Community Room

L. Ballew is a long-time reader with an affinity for the romance genre. When the idea for her debut novel, *His Ringsend Rose*, came to her she couldn't stop writing once the floodgates opened. Determined never to let anyone read her words, she kept the first half of the novel hidden away until a few of her friends demanded to read what she'd written. After receiving positive feedback, she was encouraged to finish the book and share her story with the rest of the romance-loving community. Now she spends her time writing new stories, and when she's not writing, you can find her reading and drinking coffee while being surrounded by her husband, two kids, and a ridiculous amount of animals.

Larry Wood | Booth #36, Gallery

Larry Wood is a retired public school teacher and freelance writer specializing in the history of Missouri and the Ozarks. His books include Wicked Joplin and the Two Civil War Battles of Newtonia. He maintains a blog on regional history at www.ozarks-history.blogspot.com. Find him on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/AuthorLarryWood/.



Laura Lee Washburn | Booth #27, Community Room

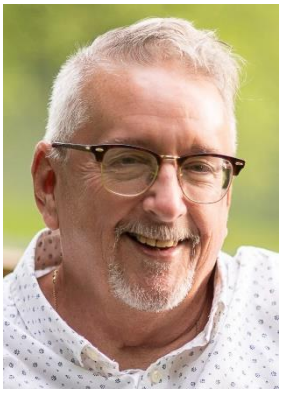
Lea Carter | Booth #5, Gallery

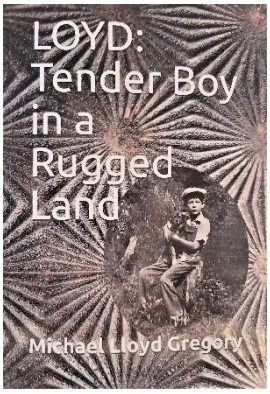
Lea Carter doesn't remember a time before books. Raised on classic authors like Louis L'Amour, L.M. Montgomery, Emilie Baker Loring, and Isaac Asimov, she has a strong appreciation for clean, character-driven stories. If book passports existed, she'd have a stack of them, with many return visits to her favorite places and people. She writes mostly to satisfy her imaginary friends' desire for fame.

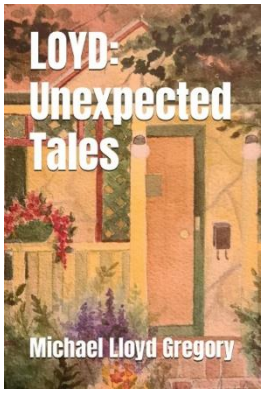
M.K. Franklin | Booth #33, Community Room

Michael Lloyd Gregory | Booth #15, Community Room

Memoirist, artist, singer, storyteller, tailor, gardener, cat fancier, car enthusiast, and retired public school teacher Michael Lloyd Gregory has long believed that no one should be limited by their environment, the expectations of others, or gender norms in any pursuit that brings them happiness. Gregory has published two volumes of autobiographical work: LOYD: Tender Boy in a Rugged Land, the story of his upbringing, delightfully influenced by his family in rural McDonald County, Missouri, and LOYD: Unexpected Tales, which focuses on paranormal experiences of Gregory and his family. Both books are available on Amazon.com or can be purchased with special pricing at the Writers' Faire. Email: loydtenderboy@gmail.com; Facebook: www.facebook.com/loydtenderboy; Amazon: Amazon.com/author/michael-lloyd-gregory.







Murray Bishoff | Booth #7, Gallery

Murray Bishoff is a 36-year writer, editor, and reporter for *The Monett Times*, as well as a local historian, having appeared in three documentary films speaking on local history. In addition to winning numerous first place awards through the Missouri Press Association and being presented the key to the city of Monett upon his partial retirement in 2020 (never fully retired), Murray has written two novels about life in small-town southwest Missouri: *Ragamuffin* and *Fire Eats Its Children*. He is president of the board of the Ozark Festival Orchestra and plays viola. He also serves on the boards for both the Monett and Pierce City museums.

Ozark Hollow Press | Booth #3, Lobby

Ozark Hollow Press is a small, hybrid publishing company originating in the Ozarks of the Midwest. Among our ranks is a business owner of over 20 years, an undergraduate college student and part-time Twitch streamer, a medical intern, an anthropologist and RPG writer, and an English teacher with more degrees than letters in her name. We believe everyone has a unique story inside them, even those who don't think they do. You don't need to be a

professional writer to write and share your stories. We seek out and celebrate the unconventional in any form - be it author, story, or writing situation.

Pub Hound Press | Booth #38, Gallery

Sometimes talent slips through the cracks. Pub Hound Press is an independent publishing house in Joplin, MO that is dedicated to printing the works of local poets and authors who have, for whatever reason, hitherto gone unnoticed. This year, Pub Hound will be joined by Cody White, who walks around and looks at things. He is also responsible for *You/True, Maybe/Baby*, a collection of poetry, and the photography book *Lost Soles*.

Randy Turner | Booth #16, Community Room

Randy Turner is a retired teacher and former newspaper reporter and editor who received more than 30 national, state, and regional awards for investigative reporting and feature writing. He is the author or co-author of 18 non-fiction books, including *Running Circles Around the Globe: 20 Years of the Turner Report*, *5:41: Stories from the Joplin Tornado* (10th anniversary edition), *Only in Lamar Missouri: Harry Truman*, *Wyatt Earp and Legendary Locals and Newton County Memories*, and three novels, *Devil's Messenger*, *No Child Left Alive* and *Small Town News*. He is the editor and publisher of the Turner Report and Inside Joplin blogs.

Ravin DeMarco | Booth #17, Community Room

Ravin DeMarco is a baby author from the Midwest who loves reading and writing in equal proportions. When not writing, Ravin enjoys her time behind the camera lens, capturing all the spooky vibes she can to go along with her year-round aesthetic. With her very spoiled husky at her side, Ravin dives into creating fantastical multi-genre worlds that her readers can't get enough of. She can be found at home, like the hermit she is, cuddling with her fur babies, drinking coffee, or making playlists and character inspirations for her books.

Renne Hayes | Booth #40, Lobby

Renee Hayes is a children's book author, travel enthusiast, and CEO of The Teacher Tourist, LLC. As a former teacher of 15 years, she brings extensive experience to the education field, holding two Master's degrees in Elementary Education and Library Science, as well as a Gifted & Talented certificate. Renee uses her combined expertise while serving as a book coach for aspiring authors.

Renee enjoys connecting with students through literacy and enriching school author visits. Her book topics are inspired by the numerous times she heard herself say, “I wish I had a book for that!” With her teacher’s heart in mind, she strives to connect her books to all student’s interests and abilities.

In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, reading, crafting, and spoiling her cat (who appears in each of her books)!

Robert John Dopp | Booth #22, Community Room

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 is very patriotic, supporting the men and women of the arm forces. Having served in the Air Force, Robert is a veteran and volunteer with Charlie 22 Outdoors, a veteran support group. Serving those who have already served.Robert believes that service to humanity is the best work of life. He has worked 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.” He believes a person is never too old to learn something new everyday, that life is a constant learning process from the day you are born until the day you die, and we all must learn to live in peace and harmony with each other. No matter who you are, life is precious and we are to care for and help one another. Over the years Robert has inspired young lives to better themselves as well as those around them. May God bless you always.

S.V. Farnsworth | Booth #18, Community Room

High Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Romantic Suspense Novels: S.V. Farnsworth writes noble characters battling dark worlds. She is a woman of international experience with a slice of life sense of humor and a love of nature. The first on her father's side to graduate from high school, she overcame dyslexia to become a teacher at Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri. She uses the four languages she speaks to bless the lives of her English language learning students and helps them feel at home. Having lived in South Korea, she appreciates the gift of acceptance. As the author of six books, she provides entertaining escapes into the human condition, providing the reader with a full range of emotions and a triumphant ending.See for yourself at https://svfarnsworthauthor.com/books/.

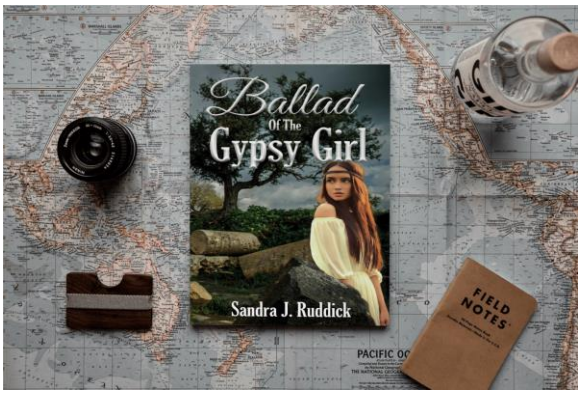
Sandra Parrill | Booth #19, Community Room

A Michigan native, Sandra Parrill has made Joplin, Missouri home for over 50 years. A former long-time employee at Ozark Nursery, Sandra has been a life-long gardener, artist and writer, and with her husband Jim Parrill, gardens at Chaos, their acre of the Ozarks in Joplin, Missouri. Now beginning her twelfth year as garden columnist published weekly in the *Joplin Globe*

Weekend edition; she pens “Speaking of Gardens”; tales of Chaos, the force that drives Nature and is also the usual state of the garden; the natural world and gardening as a metaphor for life. Sandra was winner of The Missouri Writers Guild 2018 first place award for Best Newspaper Column. She is a Master Gardener, past member of the Missouri Landscape and Nursery Association and is currently serving as vice president of the Joplin Regional Artist Coalition board. Her paintings inspired by Chaos can often be seen at several regional galleries and shows and she is often a featured speaker at local garden clubs.

Sandra Ruddick-Darr | Booth #6, Gallery

Sandra Ruddick-Darr was born and raised in Joplin, Missouri. She is both a writer and an artist. She loves the moon and coffee, but, most of all, she is a proud mother of two amazing kids. She has been writing and drawing since she was 12. She has four books of poetry out and one novel so far. She looks forward to sharing more of her writing that is in the works. You can find her on Instagram @sruddickdarr or visit linktr.ee/Sruddickdarr.



Seth Wolfshorndl | Booth #44, Lobby

Born and raised in northwest Montana, Seth Wolfshorndl currently resides in Joplin with his wife and daughter. He has taught art at Joplin High School for over twenty years, where he is also the sponsor of the JHS Cartoonist Club. He keeps busy freelance illustrating for such clients as Glacier National Park, and he has been a featured artist for the Joplin Toad magazine. He writes and draws graphic novels that include Random Ink, Duel, and Rook City.

Shelby McDowell / McDowell Books | Booth #45, Lobby

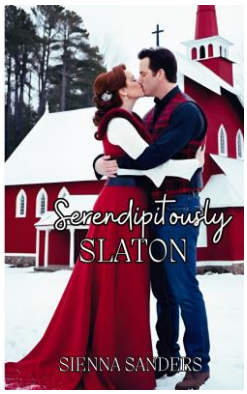
Shelby McDowell is fresh to the author world but has big plans. With a background in early childhood development, Shelby has enjoyed using imaginative play to help children work through struggles which brought about her newly published book, *Opie Stays Home*. Complete with a parent guide in the back, this is the first book in a series. Along with books to support struggling families, Shelby loves writing silly books that encourage children to fall in love with reading. Shelby and her husband Michael are currently raising three boys which allows her imagination to stay sharp for writing and creating.

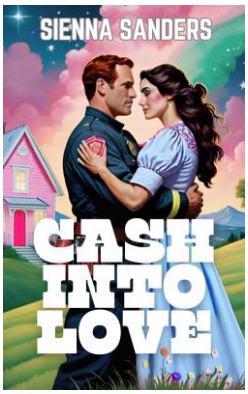
Sienna Sanders | Booth #10, Community Room

Sienna Sanders is a lifelong Kansan, also known as a Jayhawker. The author's heritage is the inspiration for her series, The Jayhawker Chronicles and Slaton Farms. As a Kansas City native, Sienna found herself in a situation during her mid-life that led to her return to her family's roots in Southeast Kansas. Sienna's books reflect the life she once lived near the city and her life currently in the Four State region. She began writing The Jayhawker Chronicles and Slaton Farms to connect with the hometown she missed so much. Now, as her writing progresses, she has moved on to what she herself reads, paranormal and romantasy novels with intrigue. Sienna's love of books began as a teenager after her mother's friend gifted her a romance novel. She went from a child who refused to read to an adult who always has her nose in a book.

When Sienna isn't immersed in the world of books, you'll find her in her grandfather's hometown, a place far removed from the bustling lights of Kansas City, which she once called home. Here, she shares her life with her husband, her two boys, a mutt that was born in her backyard, and a white meat rabbit-turned pet from a failed attempt of trying to be self-sufficient. Her love for gardening, genealogy, and various projects seeps into her writing, reflecting the time she spends away from the computer.

Sienna wants to welcome you, the reader, into a world where romance isn't pretty; it's real. And second chances at love aren't lost; they are fulfilled.





T. Michael Burt | Booth #1, Lobby

I was born and raised in Missouri. As a child, my imagination ran wild. On the school playground, I gathered all the sparkling limestone knowing I had found gold, and struck it rich! Needless to say, my gold mining venture didn't pan out (pun intended) and I was forced to get a "real job." Okay to be honest, I had to get several jobs, shaping me into a jack-of-all-trades. I now write fiction books full of adventure and excitement, making me feel like that young boy on the playground again. I live with my sweet wife and my own Guardian, Pickles, the Morkie dog. I have two daughters, but they grew up without my permission, got married, and left home. I also have

one talented son that has flown the coop, off on his own adventure. I am blessed with one granddaughter who happens to be the light of my world.

THANK YOU for supporting the 2024 Joplin Writers' Faire. Applications for the 2025 event will open on or around August 1, 2025 on the Joplin Public Library website. If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, then contact Joplin Public Library Adult Programming Coordinator Sarah Turner-Hill or Post Art Library Director Jill Halbach at 417-623-7953.

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Save the date for the 2025 Joplin Writers' Faire: Saturday, October 11th!