Welcome to the

# 10th ANNUAL

# Joplin

## Writers' Faire

We're glad you're here.

Est. October 2017 | Joplin Public Library

# Our Story

In October 2017, we greeted a welcoming public to the inaugural Joplin Writers' Faire, an event inspired by the local author book signings we held when the library was located downtown.

Though at first we envisioned a complete and total takeover of the library, we at last hosted twenty-six local and regional authors, placing their booths throughout our lobby and gallery.

In the ten years since, we've grown into the library's Community Room, and, coinciding with our ten year anniverssary, we're at maximum capacity, thus making our **10th Annual Joplin Writers' Faire** our largest one yet: Huzzah!

We're glad you're here to help nudge us toward that complete and total takeover – thanks for being part of our story. We look forward to what's to be continued. But for now, let's meet this year's Joplin Writers' Faire participants...



# 2026 Joplin Writers' Faire

# Bios

*All content contained herein was written/submitted by Joplin Writers' Faire participants. Any opinions or views expressed are the opinions and views of the author and not the Joplin Public Library, Post Art Library, or Friends of the Joplin Public Library.*



# AZIRONA DRIFT

***Multi-year Participant***
***Biblical fiction, art***

Azirona Drift consists of an artistic couple: Alek and Juleah Miller. Alek writes biblical tangential fiction, taking perspectives of characters not focused on in classic Bible stories. Half of the fun is figuring out which biblical passage the story refers to halfway through each tale. Alek does his best to preserve Scriptural authenticity first, while ornamenting non-critical details second. Juleah draws the cover art and binds the booklets. All artistic skills Alek doesn't have, Juleah does. Besides cover art for Alek's stories, Juleah draws, 3-D prints, laser engraves, crafts, crochets, and more. Alek and Juleah have four children and live in Neosho, Missouri.

**www.azirona.com**




# AMANDA STACEY

***Multi-year Participant***
***Fantasy/mythology mashup***

Amanda Stacey is a local indie author. She self published her first book, *Born Out of Darkness*, in 2023. Since then she has continued working on writing, reading, and wrangling a herd of kids. *Born Out of Darkness* is a fantasy/mythology mashup that can be found almost anywhere books are available in ebook, and also can be found at Joplin Public Library to be checked out.

**www.amandastaceybooks.com**



# ATLAS IMHOF

***Multi-year Participant***
***Poetry & short stories***

Atlas Imhof is a poet & short story author known for her most recent collection, *That's Great, Put it on the Fridge!*. This year, her booth will feature on demand poetry! From thrilling high fantasy to gritty, heartbreaking realism, Atlas has it all.

**@WorldAtlas51 on all platforms**



# B.H. SKELLEY

***Multi-year Participant***
***Multi-genre &***
***Children's and Teen Lit***

Billie Holladay Skelley, a retired clinical nurse specialist, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has written several health-related articles for both professional and lay journals, but her writing crosses different genres and has appeared in various journals, magazines, and anthologies in print and online—ranging from the *American Journal of Nursing* and *Highlights* magazine to *The Almanac for Farmers & City Folk* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Her eerie, spine-chilling story, "Knowing and Not Knowing," represented the state of Kentucky in *The Haunted States of America* which was released in 2024 by Godwin Books-Henry Holt/Macmillan Publishers. An award-winning author, she has written thirteen 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 Will Rogers Medallion Award and a 2024 Spur Award. She was recently selected as a finalist for the Women Writing the West 2026 Downing Journalism Award.

**www.bhskelley.com**



# BONNIE K. TESH

***Multi-year Participant***
***Short stories, memoir, & poetry***

Bonnie K. Tesh is the author of *Monarch Moon*, the first novel in the Monarch Moon series. She also coauthored the inspirational book, *I'll Push, You Steer; the Definitive Guide to Stumbling Through Life with Blinders*. Her work has appeared in anthologies, regional magazines and newspapers. She has won awards for her short stories, memoirs, and poetry. Raised in the Ozarks, a lot of her writing reflects that region's atmosphere. She and her husband, Richard, lived in a quiet cove on Table Rock Lake, near Branson, Missouri, for twenty-one years. That's where she saw her first monarch butterfly migration. They now live in Joplin, Missouri. They love spending time with family and traveling.

**www.bonniektesh.com**



# CHRIS M. DAVEY

***Multi-year Participant***
***Children's Books***

Hi, I am Chris M. Davey, I am from Lamar Missouri. I am married and have 5 kids and 7 grandkids. I have wrote 50 plus children's books that can be previewed at *https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/chris-m-davey*. And being a person of many interest. I enjoy Coaching my kids youth sports, watching movies/sports and listening to music, fishing, golfing, camping, kayaking, riding ATV/UTVs, working out, and keeping up with my Social Media accounts. I also like to travel and eat at restaurants I've never ate at before and attending Concerts. I am a Christian by faith. I like reading and writing books, and have been known to do some art work when I was younger. I have always had the mind-set and philosophy to live life with purpose, to contribute, give back, and try to make the world a better place.

**www.lulu.com/spotlight/chris-m-davey**

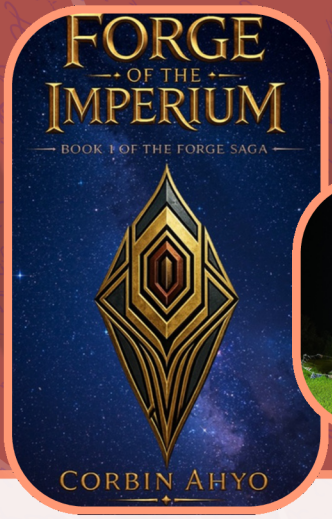



# CLAY H. DWYER

***Multi-year Participant***
***Children's Lit***

Clay H. Dwyer has a passion to write children's books, especially ones that empower young girls. The expectation should not be waiting for the knight to come and save the day, but instead provide the sword to the princess and watch her sley her own dragons. When Clay finished his 19-year career in aerospace, he was a stay-at-home father for two very precocious children. They inspired him to renew his life-long dream to publish his children's stories. While Clay has been writing for as long as he can remember, it wasn't until he was able to put a face to his protagonist Maggie that his stories came to life. Since then Clay has written 3 picture books in the Mighty Maggie series, his books focus on real-life struggles for kids at the first and second grade reading level. Clay currently lives in Joplin and says his best day is getting to read in front of a class and getting recharged from their excitement and being engaged in the story.

**www.facebook.com/clay.h.dwyer**




# CORBIN AHYO

***Multi-year Participant***
***Horror, science fiction***

Corbin Ahyo is the author of *Forge of the Imperium*. More importantly, he's a husband and father. He's a simple person who one day decided to write a book. He didn't know the expectations, requirements, or traditional rules that came with writing one, and he didn't care. He just started writing. His journey as an author has been anything but traditional. He doesn't outline or storyboard his stories. He simply writes what happens, allowing the characters, their choices, and the paths they take shape the story as it's told. Corbin loves writing dark, realistic science fiction, and he's currently working on the sequel to *Forge of the Imperium*, as well as his first horror novel. His books are written as archives of events that have already happened. When you read them, you aren't simply a reader following a story. You are a historian studying the records of what once was.

**www.amazon.com/stores/Corbin-Ahyo**



# D.L. GOLDEN

***Multi-year Participant***
***LitRPG***

D.L. Golden is a LitRPG author from southeast Kansas. He's written 3 novels in his Dreamcatcher Series: Origins, Odysseia, and Inferno. This completed trilogy is perfect for young adult readers who enjoy anime, video games, and light novels. D.L. has been writing since 2020 and continues to add to collections of work to this day.

**www.dlgoldenauthor.com**

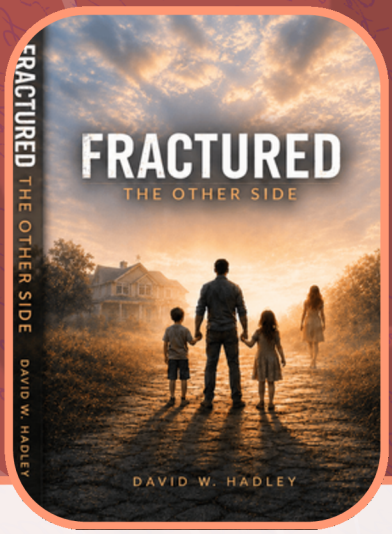


# DARLA HIGHTOWER

***First-year Participant***
***Inspirational & devotional***

Darla Hightower, aka ALRAD. That's how she wrote her name on the back of her first-grade school picture, from right to left. At that time, she never imagined she would one day write a book. Fortunately, her beautiful Mom taught her to write her name correctly. It wasn't until a college professor encouraged her by saying she was a gifted writer that she considered becoming an author. She holds a Master's of Science in Nursing and a Doctorate in Ministry with a major in Christian Counseling. Darla was ordained into the ministry in April of 2000. Her nursing career spanned forty-four years before retiring, while simultaneously serving in various areas of ministry for 30 plus years, which she plans to continue. Darla published her first book in 2024, and began writing the second. Darla loves and serves the Lord. Her prayer is that God will speak to her readers and minister to each one in an intimate way so that hearts are encouraged and lives changed. Darla resides in Joplin, Missouri with her husband. She is the mother of 2 sons, and has 3 grandsons, and 2 granddaughters, all of whom she describes as her greatest blessings and favorite companions.

**www.facebook.com/**
**Darla.Godsgirl**




# DAVID W. HADLEY

***First-year Participant***
***Fiction***

David W. Hadley was born in Joplin and is an online business owner, father of two, and author of *Fractured: The Other Side*, a novel exploring family, trauma, uncertainty, and what it means to move beyond survival. Through the Fractured project, copies of the novel have been released into Little Free Libraries in more than 40 states, creating a growing journey from community to community. Readers who discover a copy can check it in at www.readfractured.com, adding their location to an interactive map and allowing others to follow the book's journey as it continues.

**www.readfractured.com**



# ELTON GAHR

***Multi-year Participant***
***Science fiction & fantasy***

ELton Gahr has been writing science fiction and fantasy for over twenty-five years. That includes a dozen novels, and hundreds of science fiction and fantasy short stories. Each of those stories, whether hundreds of pages or hundreds of words long, allows him to look at the world from different perspectives. Whether imagining our world is being changed by a piece of technology, a world different in almost every way, or one that has magic, each of them allows him to examine world issues from a distance, which is difficult when you live in interesting times. He enjoys sharing what he finds in these worlds with his readers.

**www.eltongahr.com**



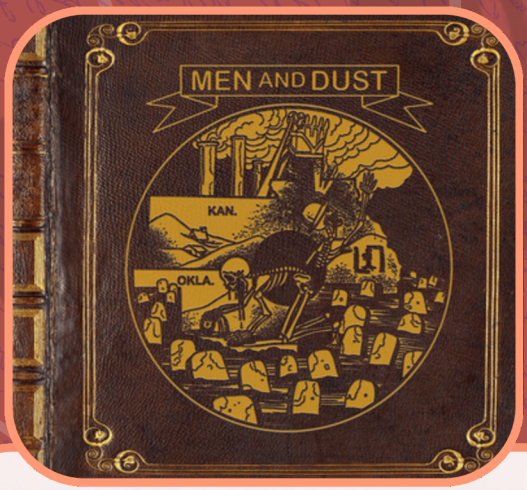

# F.C. SHULTZ

***Multi-year Participant***
***Fiction, poetry, & more***

F.C. Shultz has two goals: write stories people want to read and share. And help authors publish their books. So whether you're a reader looking for your next book, or a writer wondering how to get your book published, there's something for you at fcshultz.com.

**www.fcshultz.com**

# THE ITCH: MEN &DUST




***The One & Only Itch***
***First-year Participantt***
***Local history, rock 'n' roll***

In 2025, Joplin-based band The One & Only Itch released *Men & Dust*, an album/book steeped in local history that unearths the story of Joplin from the perspectives of local creatives.

Once their album-book came out, they dedicated the first pressing to the library. Earlier this year, the library hosted an unveiling and coffee talk-style program with them and *Men & Dust* now hangs on the wall in the local history department – check it out!

And check out The Itch at theoneandonlyitch.bandcamp.com.

**www.theoneandonlyitch.bandcamp.com**

# JHS CARTOONIST CLUB




***Multi-year Participant***
***Comics, coloring books, zines, & drawing commissions***

The Joplin High School Cartoonist Club has been helping students learn how to create and publish their own comics since 2008. They meet weekly after school to create original characters and stories which are eventually published in their two comic volumes each year, Clash of Champions and Scribbled Stories. They also create coloring books and zines and draw commissions for attendees at their various events.

**www.cartoonistclub.substack.com/**

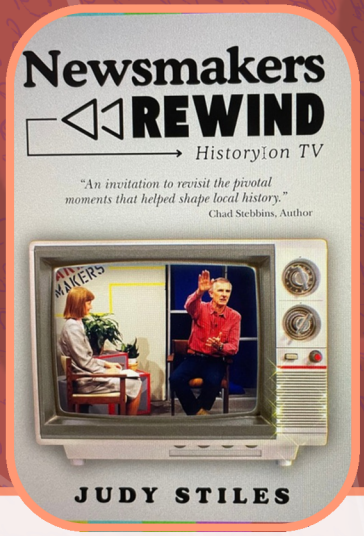


# JESSICA CROWDER

***First-year Participant***
***Editor & writer***

My name is Jessica Crowder, and I am an editor and writer out of Springfield, MO. I have been editing for over 10 years, and have been a writer since childhood. I am also earning my master's degree in publishing from George Washington University, and am part of an organization called the Children's Literature Festival of the Ozarks, which is hosted every year by MSU. I wrote The Writer's Workbook based on conversations with authors that I work with, to develop characters more in-depth, and make them feel more real, and thus more connected to the reader. Character development is one of the hardest parts of writing, and it's also one of the most crucial, so I developed this workbook to hopefully make it a bit easier on writers.

**www.jessicacrowder.net**

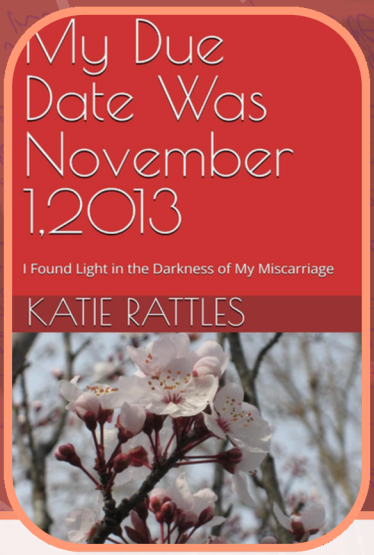



# JUDY STILES

***First-year Participant***
***Journalism***

Judy Stiles hosted and produced Newsmakers, a weekly half-hour television interview program on KGCS-TV in Joplin for close to 35 years. During that time, she interviewed more than 3,300 guests. After retiring from Missouri Southern State University, she pursued the goal of writing about some of those interviews. The resulting book, *Newsmakers Rewind: History on TV* features key moments in local history captured through TV interviews. Her interest in writing goes back to her youth. In elementary school, Judy started keeping diaries and helped create a newspaper for her Girl Scout troop. Her writing continued in junior high and high school, working on the newspaper staff. She was editor of her school newspaper during her senior high in high school. Her interest in journalism led her to the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. She shifted her emphasis to broadcasting and received a Bachelor of Journalism Degree. That led her to work as a news producer at KOTV in Tulsa, Oklahoma before coming to Joplin and starting work at Missouri Southern. She also earned a Master of Arts Degree in Communication from Pittsburg State University. She was inducted into the Regional Media Hall of Fame in 2024.

**www.facebook.com/judy.stiles.18**



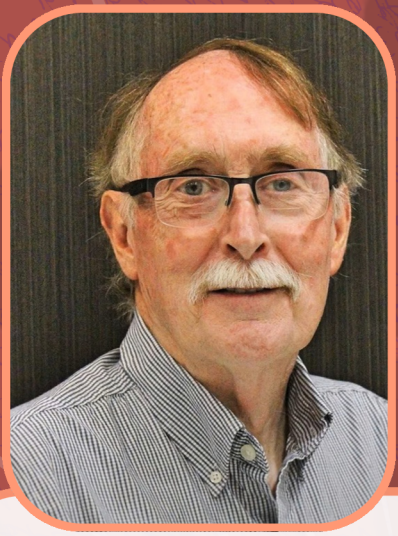

# KATIE RATTLES

***First-year Participant***
***Personal essay***

Katie Rattles is a mother, writer, and pregnancy loss advocate. After navigating the profound grief of a miscarriage in 2013, she began writing to provide comfort and hope to help soothe the silent heartbreak shared by so many women and families. *My Due Date Was November 1, 2013* is her deeply personal account of her own loss and journey to healing. Today, she lives in Joplin, Missouri with her family, where she finds immense joy and thrives while serving in public education and children's ministry.

**https://a.co/d/04emKk70**

*available online*



# LARRY WOOD

***Multi-year Participant***
***Freelance writer***

Larry Wood is a retired public schoolteacher and a freelance writer specializing in Missouri and Ozarks history. He has published 25 nonfiction books, eight novels, and over 500 magazine articles and stories. He is an honorary lifetime member of the Missouri Writers' Guild and the current president of the Ozarks Writers' League. Check out his blog at www.ozarks-history.blogspot.com.

**www.ozarks-history.blogspot.com**



# LEA CARTER

***Multi-year Participant***
***Fiction***

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.

**www.leacarterwrites.wixsite.com/flinch-free-fiction**



# LIAM R. WOODS

***First-year Participant***
***Fiction***

Liam R. Woods is a mysterious author who lives somewhere in the Ozarks. Ever since the age of five, he has wanted to be an author and has spent the last thirty years honing his craft. His anthology *All The Interesting People You Meet* is available for purchase through him or on Amazon. It spans nearly every genre in fiction and includes the horror short story "The Ossuary," which was featured on the podcast "Fear From The Heartland." He is also the winner of the Tremendicon fan favorite writer in 2022 and winner of the Tremendicon writing contest in 2025. His Devil May Cry fanfiction "Stylish Crusades" has close to 400 followers and over 500 reviews. There is so much more of his to read for free on the reading sites Booksie, Fan Fiction, Fiction Press, and Wattpad.

**www.facebook/LiamRWoods**

# LOYDTENDERBOY PUBLICATIONS



***Multi-year Participant***
***Autobiography & Memoir***
***Michael Lloyd Gregory***

Thrice-retired local author Michael Lloyd Gregory has collected a lifetime of observations about which he's always eager to relate to anyone who will listen. A natural storyteller, Michael has long been fascinated by the myriad ways people share their own experiences and feelings with each other in both expected and unexpected ways: poetry, books, movies, art, song, dramatic performance, clothing, spoken word, and non-verbal communication, because even a stance or a facial expression can tell its own story to a keen observer. Michael started his first book the summer after third grade, setting up a writing desk and chair in his bedroom closet. That book never came to fruition, but about sixty years later, a different book took shape. *LOYD: Tender Boy in a Rugged Land* is a collection of memories from Michael's youth, told as short stories about a boy named Loyd. Loyd's home was in a large city, but his heart lived in McDonald County, Missouri, with his dad's family. As a sensitive, Michael has collected many paranormal experiences. Some of the most exciting ones are chronicled in *LOYD: Unexpected Tales*, the second volume of his autobiography.

**www.facebook.com/loydtenderboy**



# LUNA DUMU PRESS

***First-year Participant***
***Anthony Angel***

Anthony Angel is the author of the *Moon Gun Sam* saga, a literary speculative family saga spanning Luna and Mars in the mid-to-late 25th century. Writing under his Luna Dumu Press imprint, he builds worlds where miracle and machine sit on the same porch — "hopecore, with teeth," as he puts it, or Heavy Metal meets The Prince of Egypt. By day, he works as a senior software engineer; by night, he drafts from a garage studio in southwest Missouri. He lives there with his wife, Trish, and daughter, Zoe — both early readers of the series, and among its harshest and most trusted critics. He has been told he has a crazy sense of humor. Or maybe he's literally crazy. The *Moon Gun Sam* saga follows one family across grief, faith, and the long work of rebuilding — one porch, one meal, one vow at a time. Books One and Two, The Dolphin — Vow and The Dolphin — Ember, launch October 13, 2026. LOCUS NON VIA: ROOMS, NOT STREETS.

**www.lunadumupress.com**




# M.K. FRANKLIN

***Multi-year Participant***
***Urban fantasy & dark romance***

M.K. Franklin is a wife, and mother of three beautiful girls. In between her family's busy schedule, M.K. reads and writes at every spare chance. She began writing in middle school and passed her stories around chapter by chapter. As she grew, her love of reading and writing grew as well. She now has three books of an eight-book urban fantasy series published, as well as book one of a dark romance trilogy.

**www.mkfranklin**
**@wordpress.com**

# MSSU SPIVA LIBRARY

***First-year Participant***
***MSSU Zine Collection***
***w/ Librarian Melissa Forsythe***

Have you heard? MSSU's Spiva Library started a zine library! Its purpose is to collect short-form creative works that showcase the voices, visual art, and creative writing of the MSSU community.

They primarily collect zines created by MSSU students, staff, faculty, and alumni. Local creators may be considered for inclusion if their zines represent diverse or underrepresented viewpoints and/or are of local/campus interest.

Collected zines can cover any genre or topic, but might include poetry, comics, social issues, history, activism, music, feminism, politics, LGBTQIA+, DIY, creative fiction, mental and physical health, folklore, trave l, and more. They do not collect marketing material, brochures, newsletters, or the like. They do not collect zines containing hate speech or misinformation.

Visit with Librarian Melissa Forsythe, the catalyst for the collection, and learn more about their collection or MAKE A ZINE!

**www.facebook.com/spivalibrary**




# MARGARITE STEVER

***Multi-year Participant***
***Fiction & blogger***

Margarite Stever is an award-winning author who grew up in Asbury, a tiny Missouri town of just over 200 people. Though she now lives in a much larger city, she stays true to her roots. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Missouri Southern State University. She is a member of Joplin Writers' Guild, Missouri Writers Guild, Sleuths' Ink Mystery Writers, Ozarks Writers League, and Ozarks Romance Authors. She has published two books, *Sally's Secret Legacy* and *Moonbeams and Ashes*. Her work has appeared in several journals, magazines, and anthologies including: *Romance*, *Poetry, Mystery and More: An Anthology by Ozarks Romance Authors Members*, *Chicken Soup for the Soul: It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*, *Seasons of the Four States*, *Anthology 2019 Sleuths' Ink Mystery Writers*, *Missouri's Emerging Writers*, *Legends: Passion Pages*, 50-Word Stories website, and *Writer's Digest: Show Us Your Shorts*. You can visit her website at www.margaritestever.com. Her seeds of wisdom and joy can be seen on her blog at http://ozarksmaven.com.

**www.margaritestever.com**
**www.ozarksmaven.com**



# MIKE CLEARY

***First-year Participant***
***Fiction***

Mike Cleary is an accomplished author, speaker, and creative professional with more than two decades of experience in theatrical performance, broadcast media, and inspirational communication. A Distinguished Toastmaster—the highest level of achievement offered by Toastmasters International—Mike brings authentic voice, dynamic storytelling ability, and genuine connection to his literary work. His debut novel, *Back In Time*, represents the culmination of his extensive experience exploring themes of personal transformation, courage, and the power of unexpected second chances. Mike has published more than a dozen books on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. His first nine books of the James Talbot mystery series follow the hardboiled private detective in the early 1950's through the dark backstreets and smoky pool halls of the city, working with seedy informants and skirting dangerous mobsters in order to solve his cases. Mike continues to serve as an inspirational speaker at churches and organizations throughout the region, bringing authentic passion and genuine connection to his audiences. His speaking engagements demonstrate his commitment to meaningful communication and his ability to inspire personal transformation—themes central to his literary work.

**www.mikeclearypresents.com**




# NANCY HUGHES

***Multi-year Participant***
***Children's Lit, nonfiction, & devotional***

I have lived in Missouri all my life and have yet to figure out the humidity. If you saw my hair, you would totally understand. My life is filled with joy as I love three children, two son-in-laws, and six grandchildren. I have written two books on becoming a widow, a devotional book for women, six children's books, and a book of over 100 true stories, just to make you smile! I love speaking at women's groups, churches, and wherever the Lord leads me. With all my heart, I can tell you that nothing happens to us that has not first passed through our Father's hands . . . and He is faithful. Now if He could just do something about my hair!

**www.nancyhughesencouragement.blogspot.com/**

# NELDA VILLINES

***First-year Participant***
***Memoir & photography***




Nelda Villines is a retired diplomat. She served 31 years overseas at numerous American embassies, and 27 years on the continent of Africa. Follow Nelda's journey from her rural roots in tiny Wolf, Seminole County, Oklahoma to Washington, D.C., Europe, Central America, and Africa as she walks the path of God prepared just for her. From Finland and the USSR, now Russia, to a military invasion in Lesotho, collaring an elephant in South Africa, trekking gorillas in Uganda, photographing leopards in Kenya and Zambia, her encounters will introduce you to people from various cultures and traditions, bringing insight into their lives and challenges. In 2006, Nelda received the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad for Africa. Hundreds of African children have benefited from her generous and caring assistance over the years. She continues to support HIV/AIDS women and children in Eswatini (Swaziland) in Southern Africa. Nelda is an avid photographer and has published 46 photo books about African wildlife and people.

**www.facebook.com/nelda.villines**

# OZARK HOLLOW PRESS

***Multi-year Participant Publishing***

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, a part-time Twitch streamer, an anthropologist and RPG writer, graphic design students from Missouri State University, local artists, and an English doctoral candidate 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.

**www.ozarkhollowpress.com**

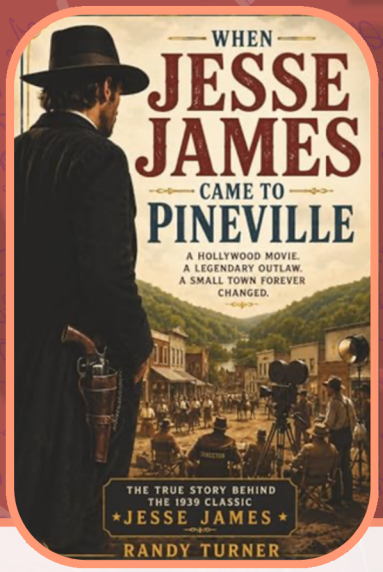


# PAUL CECCHINI

***Multi-year Participant***
***Children's Lit***

Since childhood, Paul Cecchini has been enamored with storytelling in all its forms—books, television, movies, video games, and everything in between. If there was a means of telling a gripping tale, Paul was there to embrace it. It has always been a dream of his to pen his own stories that can spark the imaginations of children the world over, just as those from his youth did for him. He's scratched his writing itch over the years as both a copywriter and award-winning journalist, but his true passion lies in fiction writing for kids. The thought of walking through a bookstore or library and seeing a reader enraptured in a book with his name on the cover and a wide grin on their face inspires him every day to keep writing. He lives in Springfield, Missouri with his two cats.

**Linktr.ee/peachykeeny**
**@peachykeeny (Facebook, Bluesky)**
**@paulcecchiniauthor (Instagram)**




# RANDY TURNER

***Multi-year Participant***
***Fiction, nonfiction,***
***& investigative reporting***

Randy Turner, a Joplin resident, is the author of 21 books, including the newly published *When Jesse James Came to Pineville*, as well as *5:41; Stories from the Joplin Tornado*, *Justice for Rowan Ford*, *The Buck Starts Here: Harry S. Truman and the City of Lamar*, *Running Circles Around the Globe: 20 Years of The Turner Report*, 13 other non-fiction books and three novels, *Devil's Messenger*, *No Child Left Alive* and *Small Town News*. Turner is a former middle school English teacher in the Joplin R-8 and Diamond R-4 school districts, and was a newspaper reporter and editor for 22 years. He is the recipient of more than 70 national, state, and regional awards, including 30 for investigative reporting. Turner is the publisher of *The Turner Report*, *Inside Joplin* and *Inside Joplin Obituaries* blogs, as well as the nightly *Turner Report Newsletter*.

**www.rturner229.blogspot.com**



# REBECCA HAINES

***First-year Participant***
***Freelance writer***

Rebecca Haines is from Carthage, Missouri. She graduated with the Carthage High School Class of 2003, and obtained her bachelor's of science degree in mass communications from Missouri Southern State University in 2007. She treasures her memories on the university's magazine, *Crossroads*, and its newspaper, *The Chart*, and was honored to be the outstanding graduate in the department. After graduating, Rebecca (Watts) married Chris Haines the following September. Together they have two kids – Nolan Paul, 15, and Nora Michelle, 13. They all live in a new home in Carthage and care for the critters that came with it. Rebecca has written for various publications – including but not limited to *The Carthage Press*, *The Joplin Globe*, *JMag* magazine and the *Christ In Youth* ministry, and will always love sharing stories and other fun literary works.

**www.facebook.com/p/Rebecca-Haines**

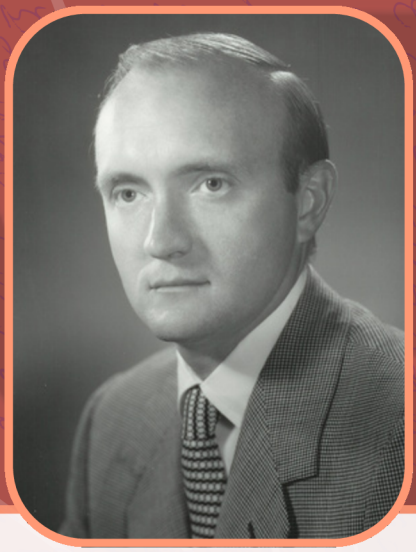
# ROBERT JOHN DOPP

*Multi-year Participant*
*Memoir*



Robert John Dopp is a simple individual who enjoys life and constantly learning life lessons. He taught youth Bible Study. He is always helping and is willing to lend an ear to anyone. His focus is on God, family and country. He served in the United States Air Force. Robert supports the men and women of the armed forces. He believes that service to humanity is the best work of life. He worked as a Behavior Support Tech with autistic and behavior-troubled individuals. Currently, Robert is a veteran/volunteer with Charlie 22 Outdoors, a veterans support group, and a volunteer driver for the Economic Security Corporation CARS program. Robert's sayings: "In school you learn the lesson to take the test. In life you take the test to learn the lesson." And, “That earth's great treasure lies in human personality; and that service to humanity is the best work of life.” Robert believes a person is never too old to learn something new each day, and that life is a lifetime learning process from the day you are born until the day you die. That we all must learn together to live in peace and harmony. No matter who you are, life is precious and we are to care for and help one another. Robert over the years has inspired young lives to better themselves as well as those around them.

**www.facebook.com/eaglejop**



# ROBERT H. SCOTT, JR.

***First-year Participant***
***aka Haywood Roberts***

50 books in publication - 28 non-fiction books, 22 novels in three series. Write under my name and for some non-fiction books pen name Haywood Roberts. 13 books in Peter's adventure series under my name then 6 Dancer series, 3 Ozark series, under pen name Carol Roberts. Amazon.https://www.amazon.com/stores/Robert-Scott/author/B00G1OJNTS Many free for e book download during event. Graduate of Kenyon College, member of Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, high honors in economics, college nominee for the Rhodes Scholarship. Duke Law School, second in class, member of Order of Coif, JD with distinction and law review. After law school, Captain, USAF Judge Advocate, Chief of Litigation and Claims 16 SE states, 31 air bases for three years. Last year in USAF Military Judge, Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force base NE Thailand on the Mekong River during Vietnam War serving with an Air Commando Wing. Back in the US after two years KC tax firm joined Federated Department Stores (now Macy's) where was Operating Vice President and Senior Counsel. Returned Joplin when friend appointed Federal Judge and joined Roberts, Fleischaker and Scott. Retired devoting time writing, business and charitable interests.

**www.amazon.com/stores/Robert-Scott**



# DR. H. RUSSELL SMITH

**aka "Rusty" or "THAT guy!"**

***First-year Participant***

***"Microwave-friendly poetry in science fiction, speculative, & gothic genres"***

Dr. H. Russell Smith (better known throughout the galaxy simply as "Rusty" or "THAT guy") spends most of his free nights recounting dubious tales of misadventure or spinning new knots in the fabric of space-time. A proud citizen of the Cherokee Nation, he primarily delivers self-serve microwave-friendly poetry in science fiction, speculative, and gothic genres. | Rusty is an electrical engineer by profession and holds degrees in electrical engineering (University of Arkansas), mathematics (Missouri Southern State University), and data analytics (Southern New Hampshire University). He is most proud, though, of his Jesuit education from Rockhurst University (Doctor of Education). | You can find his handiwork scattered in various literary journals including *Southwestern American Literature*, *Star*Line*, and *The Flying Saucer Poetry Review*, three books: *Time Machines, Annoying Minotaurs, and Other Childish Pursuits*; *Windmills*; *Saints & Sunflowers*; in works by fellow local author, Michael Gregory; and in an occasional editorial or piece here and there. | An avid Ham Radio Operator (Morse Code forever!), history buff, and fan of New Mexican food, Rusty lives in proximity to his mom, Debbie Smith (illustrator extraordinaire), Golden Retriever Cupcake Nessie, loveable felines Luna, Neville, and Kiera Killmouski, along with a box of amiable Roswell alien bendies.

**www.linkedin.com/in/dr-h-russell-smith**



# S.F. ROGERS

***Multi-year Participant***
***Romantic adventure***

S.F. Rogers writes romantic adventures about finding love, finding yourself, and discovering you had the power all along. Whether her stories unfold in cursed Fae courts, contemporary chaos, or the glittering world of K-pop idols, she loves writing men who fall first, women who rise, and the shenanigans that bring them together. When she isn't writing, she's usually adventuring with her husband, her own version of a High Fae Prince, and their three dogs.

**https://linktr.ee/s.f.rogersauthor**



# SANDRA PARRILL

***Multi-year Participant***
***Joplin Globe Columnist***

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 fourteenth 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 and past member of the Missouri Landscape and Nursery Association. Holding membership in local art galleries, 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.

**www.facebook.com**
**A Parrillel Universe of Wonderful Things**

# SANDRA RUDDICK-DARR



***Multi-year Participant***
***Fiction, poetry, & short stories***

Sandra Ruddick-Darr was born and raised in Joplin, Missouri. She is both a writer and an artist. She loves the moon, anime 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 five books of poetry, a book of short stories, and one novel published 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

**https://linktr.ee/Sruddickdarr**



# SETH WOLFSHORNDL

***Multi-year Participant***
***Comic creator, graphic novels, art books, prints, & zines***

Local comic creator and educator Seth Wolfshorndl has self-published graphic novels in a variety of styles over the years, such as *Rook City*, *Duel*, and *Random Ink*. He has also created art books, prints, and zines. He is the sponsor of the JHS Cartoonist Club, where he teaches teenagers how to do the same thing.

**www.illustratorwolf.com**

# ‘Til next time!

Thank you for visiting the 10th Annual Joplin Writers’ Faire! It’s not too early to save the date for next year:

## Saturday, October 2, 2027

Until then, follow @joplinwritersfaire on Facebook for important announcements, such as when the 2027 application opens, and other tidbits and whatnots throughout the year.

The Joplin Writers’ Faire was collaboratively established in 2017 by the Joplin Public Library & Post Art Library. In 2024, the Friends of the Joplin Public Library became JWF’s premiere event sponsor – we thank them for their continued support!

If you’re interested in volunteering for JWF, then contact event coordinators at 417.623.7953 x1030 (Sarah) or x1041 (Jill).

JOPLIN WRITERS’ FAIRE

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