



**ASJA
Pacific Northwest
Chapter**

June 2026

**For ASJA members in
Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon and Washington**

<https://asjapnw.org>



In This Issue

Our Next Meeting

From the President: Reinventions

M. Carolyn Miller

An Editor's Note

Randy Stapilus

An Infographic on the Writer's Evolution

Bruce Miller

Member News and Announcements

Our Next Meeting

Our next chapter meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, 2026 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada). We are using a new online meeting platform that is browser-based. Direct your browser to this URL:

<http://meet.jit.si/ASJAPNW-meeting-room>

This is the same platform (but different room) that the ASJA Coffee chat (via ASJA HQ) uses every Tuesday at 1:00 PM Eastern.

From the President

M. Carolyn Miller



Reinventions

This will be my last Prez Note for this chapter. I have decided to step down as the chapter president, a role I have had since I first founded this chapter. Ever since I began my current writing project—a book project I call the “magnum opus” of my career—I have felt the pull to put everything in orbit around it, to paraphrase author Stephen Cope in *[The Great Work of Your Life: A Guide for the Journey to Your True Calling](#)*.

I started this chapter because I had a personal need to bring together professional writers like myself to talk shop, socialize and brainstorm solutions to the challenges of being a working writer. All of those needs have been met, and then some. Indeed, the greatest takeaway of my time as the president has been getting to know so many of you personally.

When I first joined ASJA, I was in a place of reinvention, from that of an instructional designer and writer to that of a professional content marketing writer, as I learned to name what I’d been doing most of my career. Now, I am doing that again, this time as an author.

I’ve recently joined the Authors Guild and in one of their emails, a phrase caught my eye. “Your book is a start-up,” and so it is with mine. (“Oh no, another start-up phase,” I thought to myself as I remembered those steep start-up climbs of the past.) But this start-up, this reinvention, this time, feels larger than all the others, and demands my full attention.

I still plan to attend monthly meetings when I can, but I will no longer be facilitating them. It’s time for someone else to take the helm and “reinvent” their own careers. I invite you to consider that. You won’t regret it.

Much warmth,

Carolyn

M. Carolyn Miller, MA, spent her career designing narrative- and game-based learning. Today, she consults and writes about narrative in our lives and world, the inextricable link between the two, and the critical role of self-awareness in transforming both. www.mcarolynmiller.com

An Editor's Note

Randy Stapilus



A Breather

What we have here is an abbreviated issue, in advance of a summer break and a period of transition.

A big part of the transition is highlighted in the president's column just previous: M. Carolyn Miller, the founder, mainstay, president and chief ramrod for the Pacific Northwest ASJA chapter since its founding, is leaving her role as president.

At the last chapter meeting in May, that prompted a wide-ranging discussion about what will and should come next for the chapter – sand many options for many things were put on the table.

We do now have some time to consider where we go next, since our next meeting isn't until August (at the usual day and time – though our future means of conducting meetings, which we have done until now through Zoom, may well change. Watch your email for updates on that front. Bruce Miller has been looking at options, and he has suggested we try “using Jit.si instead of Zoom for future meetings -- the same platform used for the weekly ASJA Coffee chats.” See the new link on the “next meeting” page.

More on this soon.

And by all means join in and let us all know what you think we ought to be doing. If you haven't been attending meetings up to now, this would be a very helpful time to start.

And especially if not urgently: Please consider contributing to the newsletter on anything that might be helpful or of interest to fellow writers.

Randy Stapilus is editor of the ASJA Pacific Northwest Chapter newsletter. He is a writer and publisher based in Carlton, Oregon, and contributes a weekly column to the Oregon Capital Chronicle. He can be reached at stapilus@ridenbaugh.com.

An Infographic on the Writer's Evolution

Bruce Miller

This is an infographic I prompted from Gemini.google.com.

THE WORKING WRITER'S PIVOT IN THE AI AGE

EVOLVING FROM DISPLACED TO DOMINANT

THE AI ANXIETY TRAP

- 1 FIGHTING VOLUME WITH VOLUME**
Exhausted writer at a keyboard drowning in countless generic AI-generated documents and clocks.
- Chronic Burnout
- 2 SUPPRESSING YOUR HUMAN VOICE**
Writer wears a mask, writing with a broken quill, producing bland, uniform content.
- Becoming Generic
- 3 RELYING ON AI FOR CREATIVITY**
A giant AI brain reaching into a small writer's head and extracting weak thought tendrils.
- Stifled Originality
- 4 QUESTIONING YOUR OWN VALUE**
A lonely figure looking into a deep, dark abyss filled with floating code and empty text blocks.
- Existential Dread

THE AI-EMPOWERED WRITER

- 1 LEVERAGING AI FOR RAW SPEED**
Determining write of AI energy to rapidly generate countless drafts and research points.
- Scale Ideas Fast
- 2 DOUBLE-DOWN ON HUMAN NUANCE**
Smiling writer carefully polishing a complex jewel - creates deep emotion, unique experiences, and intricate storytelling.
- Deep Emotion & Story
- 3 MASTERING PROMPT ENGINEERING**
Precisely adjusting controls and steering a large-glowing AI engine to produce specific high-quality outputs.
- Architect of Narrative
- 4 BUILDING AN UNREPLACEABLE BRAND**
A powerful writer of original work, a supportive community of real people.
- Trusted Authority

Member News and Announcements

Interested in becoming the chapter president?

M. Carolyn Miller is stepping down from the post, and we need a new president.

The president keeps the organization moving, organizes and chairs the monthly meetings and reaches out to current and prospective chapter members – and more.

If you'd like to know more, contact Carolyn at carolyn@mcarolynmiller.com and she can tell you more about what's involved. We'd like to fill the position at our next meeting in August.

Thanks, and give it some thought!

Darlene West's essay, [*Saskatoon*](#), appeared in Object Lessons Impressions, a column about the hidden lives of ordinary things, published in the Pittsburgh Review of Books.

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