THE RUDY AGENCY

New Projects
Spring/Summer 2016
• **Culture/Society**
  - Burning Man and the future of the world
  - Gay marriage, with all the trappings
  - How a billion global thinkers are rebuilding the world
  - Secrets of *Breaking Bad*
  - Why some murders just aren’t important

• **Current Events/History**
  - What have Progressives done to the nation?
  - The heart and history of Calabria
  - “Kids for Cash” judge: a hoax exposed
  - Movie stuntman and humanitarian gives insider view
  - Forensic science uncovers a big WWII secret

• **Performance Improvement/Self-Help**
  - A Zen toolkit for the workplace
  - 5 steps to conflict resolution
  - Building profitable relationships through golf
  - A manual for aligning career with a sense of purpose
  - How to become a Jedi Knight
  - Wellness—not so complicated after all
  - Get something done the USMC way
  - Laughter: the medicine of survival

• **Science/Environment**
  - The neuroscience behind why we need wilderness
  - A field guide to wildland development

• **Memoir**
  - A Hollywood stylist’s secrets and scandals
  - Genius, crazy, an orange jump suit, and miracles
  - From a childhood on the streets to a college degree
  - A football original tells tales of scouting and agenting
  - A Marine Corps hero who runs every day, everywhere
  - Aryan and Jew together to tell a fresh WWII story
  - Tales told by the Baby Boomer “Erma Bombeck”

• **Children’s Literature**
  - Picture Book: *Stars Align*
  - Chapter Book: *Brigid’s Journey to the World’s Edge*

• **New Adult**
  - *Threads of Silk*

• **Adult Crime Novels**
  - *Bankhaus*
  - *Guns and Glitter*

• **Adult Historical Fiction**
  - *The Life and Times of Max Mueller*

• **Adult Humor**
  - Parody: *Beyond Malibu: Barbie’s Los Angeles*
  - Satire: *Caution: Spider in baggie in freezer*

• **Stage Play**
  - Drama: *A Diner on the Way*

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**Inside Back: Agent Profiles**

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Every year, more than 60,000 people gather in the remote Nevada desert to create a temporary alternative city. It is an experiment that has had surprising success. The movement is rapidly spreading throughout the world. There are now more than 100 Burning Man regional organizations across the United States and in 11 countries. They conduct thousands of cultural events throughout the year.

This is the first book to explore the fascinating phenomenon of Burning Man as an attempted utopia. It has increasingly captured the public’s attention through extensive coverage in major news media outlets such as The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Time, and all major television networks.

_Utopia 1.0_ digs into the intriguing reality of what is really going on inside the world of Burning Man. It explores the great successes of this strange experiment but also exposes its disturbing failures.

The story is based on the author’s 14 years of attendance and more than 100 interviews he conducted. The book explores the high points of creativity, social justice, generosity, spirituality, and freedom. However, it also takes a hard look at the weak points: empty hedonism, the pitfalls of anarchy, and some exclusion based on economics and race.

Eric has lectured and taught for 20 years on the topics of sociology, popular culture, current affairs, and politics. He is the author of _Changing Men, Transforming Culture: Inside the Men’s Movement_, a well-received academic book that is part of the Yale University Cultural Sociology Series (Routledge). Eric speaks regularly at professional conferences across the United States. He is an active member of the American Sociological Association and the Pacific Sociological Association.
Pride & Matrimony

The new traditional gay wedding

Earnest Diaz

Pride & Matrimony is the gay community’s version of a traditional heterosexual wedding. The book features experts in multiple fields—from fashion designers like author Earnest Diaz to relationship counseling to styling, and on and on—weaving in their advice to help readers achieve their dream day.

Earnest is known as the most diverse designer of our times. While a majority of designers express their talent in one area, Earnest’s creativity has guided him into many different directions. Earnest has worked with a host of clients, from the who’s who of celebrities, to major corporations. His assistance brings to life ideas to help further their ventures.

Men and women of all ages would find the advice relevant and appropriate, although the median age of the readership would be similar to that of Conde Nast’s Bride magazine, that is between 34 and 35.

The unique direction of Pride & Matrimony opens the doors for promotion through myriad types of vendors: cruise lines, hotels, caterers, bakers, chocolatiers, florists, hair stylists, and, of course, wedding planners. We will also open marketing doors through Pride committees throughout the US and in other countries.

As a fashion designer, the possible fashion lines and licensing deals correlated to the book could be endless. Also by tapping into and incorporating elements from history and combining them with elements of my ancestry, this would also open the doors of appeal to a great number of other groups interested in espousing historical and ancestral symbolisms and practices featured in Pride & Matrimony. With 115 countries with active LGBT communities, the opportunity for foreign rights sales is tremendous.
Making Global Sense

How One Billion Global Thinkers Are Building the World Anew

A book of realistic hope for the 21st century inspired by Thomas Paine’s Common Sense

Judah Freed
Two-Time Nautilus Book Award Winner

Making Global Sense exposes the causes of our world’s most urgent environmental, political and economic crises—male dominance, authoritarian habits and warped ideas of wealth. These ancient cultural and social patterns endanger our survival. The solution is a spiritual awakening to our deep connectivity in the web of life, so we use freedom responsibly and sustainably. The book offers evidence from 12 social trends to prove more than a billion people on earth are evolving an enlightened global consciousness. Acting alone and together, they are changing the world from within themselves. Readers are invited to trust their conscience, claim their natural power and join this growing movement to build our world anew in ways that make global sense.

Making Global Sense is the first nonfiction title to:

• Offer a big-picture context for the well-documented billion global thinkers on earth who hunger for a visionary yet pragmatic book that puts their feelings into words.
• Unite spirituality, politics, economics, and ecology into one book for the “cultural creatives” and “conscious consumers” worldwide who see these topics as interconnected.
• Report reliable evidence from 12 trends that a global sensibility is now entering the cultural mainstream, so readers feel safe jumping on the bandwagon of global sense.
• Reveal our addiction to male dominance (alpha male rule) as the ancient cause of our modern environmental, humanitarian, economic, and political woes.
• Revive the ideas and ideals of Thomas Paine and others from the Enlightenment, quoting their 18th century wisdom to spark enlightenment in the 21st century.
• Restore the forgotten morality of Adam Smith, telling how his progressive 18th century vision of ethical capitalism was twisted to justify exploiting people and the earth.
• Explain how global consciousness empowers us to change the world from within ourselves, persuading readers that it makes global sense to be activists and leaders.
• Apply journalistic rigor to bring high ideals down to earth where we can use them.
Did you know that *Breaking Bad* has three endings? That its outlook is partly Victorian? That the show has enough kitsch to stock a museum? It has also caused panic attacks and nose bleeds among viewers.

There are the obvious reasons for loving and hating the show, and then there are the reasons found in this guide, designed as a wake-up call about a wake-up show. *Breaking Bad* explodes a lot of half-truths and pieties but it has also generated some of its own—“best show ever” and “Mr. Chips to Scarface” among them—which now also need to be exploded. *A Love-Hate Guide to ’Breaking Bad’* goes a step beyond revealing how the show messes with your head: it has the nerve to mess back.

On the love side, learn why the “anticlimax” factor helps take this show from good to great; what to make of its sex appeal, vinegar included; and how it packs moral force even as it spirals down further into amorality. On the hate side, read about the show’s sketchy treatment of meth and addiction; about its scrambled politics; and about its four-and-a-half-season cat-and-mouse fake-out. Other sections assess how the term “suckerpunch” applies to this show, and invite readers to dive into central character Walter White’s world, complicate the hell out of it, and then unfriend him.

This intellectual blockbuster dares to ask why all books about *Breaking Bad* must be either dry or fawning, given that the show was neither. *A Love-Hate Guide* is designed for viewers who were upset by the show, as well as for those who feel a vacuum created by its departure—preferably both.

**Kelly Cresap** has written about culture and the arts for decades, as a film and theater critic, literary blogger, NPR commentator, news editor for *The Japan Times*, and author of the Andy Warhol biography *Pop Trickster Fool*. He teaches English at the University of Maryland-College Park.
Second-Rate Murders

Why Some Victims’ Deaths Are Sensationalized While Others Are Ignored

When it comes to murders, the more well-known the victim the more apt he or she is to receive disproportionately high attention in the news. So, who is likely to receive less coverage? The disenfranchised, the marginalized, the poor, minorities, and especially those thought to be “bad people.”

By zeroing in on how television news programs cover murders—and whose murders are given the most coverage—Emmy-award winning reporter and WGN-TV news anchor Robert Jordan sheds light on the process used by journalistic gatekeepers to decide which murders to cover and which ones to overlook. In life all people may have been created equal, but in death news coverage discriminates, unashamedly; inequality is the norm. The process of selecting news stories is uneven—who you are and where the murder occurs will determine the level of news coverage you receive.

This book takes readers behind-the-scenes inside Chicago’s WGN Television station as split-second decisions are made on breaking news murders. In this respect, Chicago is representative of major cities across America: the principles and prejudices at work in Chicago are also at work in other cities large and small.

Combining his own observations with the results of an exhaustive questionnaire that was sent to assignment editors and producers at television stations, Robert Jordan uncovers the key drivers and motivations behind news construction in the United States today. The results are surprising. In an era of data-driven market-based decisions, journalists rely on mostly “gut” feelings to help them decide which murder stories to cover. But these decisions are not made in a vacuum. Pressures on newsrooms are forcing revolutionary transformations in news coverage, brought on by financial complexities, the deadline pressures of the Internet, and the explosion of social media technologies.

One thing has remained constant throughout the years: Murders have long been the “perfect” breaking news story, and Robert Jordan has covered some of the biggest and most gruesome: John Wayne Gacy, Jeffrey Dahmer, and Richard Speck, among others. Jordan gives readers a close-up look at how producers feel about victims and killers—and who is more important to the story.
The United States is not the nation it was when founded. That could be good; that could be bad.

The change started at the turn of the 20th Century when a debate began between:

1. Those who believe the Constitution created by the Founders is as close to a perfect document for self-governance as an imperfect human race will likely ever achieve, and therefore we should adhere to it as originally constructed, and only change it through the constitutional-amendment process included in that Constitution.

2. Those who believe the Constitution is a “living document” that must be highly adaptable and flexible in order to meet the ever-evolving political, economic and cultural needs of an ever-changing society.

Those who profess to the second belief were called Progressives at the turn of the 20th Century, and the movement was led first by Progressive presidents Teddy Roosevelt (President, 1901 – 1909) and Woodrow Wilson (President, 1913 – 1921), and later Franklin Roosevelt (President, 1933 – 1945). Two other Progressive presidents, although they are more commonly referred to as Liberals today, were Lyndon Johnson (President, 1963 – 1969), and, most recently, Barack Obama (President, 2009 – 2017).

*Original Nation* is about the differences between the original government and nation the Founding Fathers created, and the government and nation that the Progressive political movement (the forebears of today’s Liberals) has attempted to recreate.

Bruce G. Kauffmann is a syndicated columnist, historian, speaker, and author who has been writing on historic topics for nearly 30 years. His early career was as a speechwriter for CBS News managing editor and news anchor, Dan Rather, and head writer for the CBS News radio program, “Dan Rather Reporting, News Analysis and Commentary.” He has been honored by the Writer’s Guild of America for excellence in new writing. Bruce currently engages readers of all ages with his short Bruce’s History Lessons columns and website where he explore oddities and ironies of history and today’s politics.
A Torrid Splendor: Finding Calabria

Catherine C. Robbins (All Indians Do Not Live in Teepees) offers an adventure that takes readers into the history, soul, brilliant sunshine, spectacular landscape, cultural treasures, and moral murkiness of Italy’s Deep South. For centuries, Italians and outsiders have embraced the boot as split between the rich, sophisticated North and the impoverished, illiterate South; Calabria is the toe kicking Sicily into the Mediterranean. Stereotypes, albeit tinged with reality, have overwhelmed not only Calabria’s illustrious history but also the story of how its people have struggled to survive.

A Torrid Splendor shows how a corner of Italy fell from grace into chaos. As conflict washes across the world today, tiny Calabria is the canary in the global coal shaft, and this bird’s rattling its cage. Borrowing from Eudora Welty: learning about a place is to know about all places.

The narrative arc for this book reaches from around 800 BCE, when peoples from the Peloponnese arrived on the boot and founded prosperous settlements that even today are collectively called “Magna Graecia.” But it is not linear. Rather, it leads the reader through a gallery of events and people. The overall theme is that even successful nations can slip and slide into danger and catastrophe and that the people in such places survive. Readers will emerge from this adventure not only understanding a somewhat overlooked place in a beloved country, but also knowing more about one of the cornerstones of western civilization.

Much writing about Calabria is memoir, material for travel brochures or deprecating political commentary. At the broader level, Cathy Robbins brings a new perspective to Calabria, seeing it as a locus for resistance, creativity, and fervor.

In addition to her 2011 non-fiction book about contemporary American Indians (Bison Books/University of Nebraska Press), Cathy has a career as a staff and freelance journalist. Her articles have appeared in local and regional publications such as the San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury-News, Albuquerque Journal, Santa Fe New Mexican, High Country News, and New Mexico Magazine. She was also a national desk stringer for The New York Times for more than two decades.
Presumption of Guilt
The Bogus Conviction of the “Kids for Cash” Judge

In 2009, national media pounced on Judge Mark Ciaverella, now serving a 28-year sentence. They called him the “kids for cash” judge—accused of accepting money from the builder of youth detention centers in exchange for sending juvenile offenders to the facilities.

This book proves the scandal was a hoax.

Presumption of Guilt exposes the flagrant prosecutorial misconduct that caused a public hysteria not seen since the Salem witch trials. Lorna Graham is a former Assistant US Attorney with inside information regarding how the scandal was perpetrated. She is not just the best person to write the book—she’s the only one. She left her position to tell this story.

Ciaverella was railroaded by a publicity hungry federal prosecutor who blindsided him with false claims that he took the money in exchange for jailing kids. National media reinforced the salacious allegations with a tsunami of diatribes denouncing the notorious “kids for cash” judge. The presumption of guilt was palpable. No one suggested the prosecutor was lying; the story was too juicy and profitable to be questioned despite the judge’s repeated denials. Without proof of guilt, public officials went on a rampage to distance themselves from his presumed acts of depravity. The criminal records of thousands of juvenile delinquents were irrevocably dismissed, leaving the victims of those crimes betrayed by the criminal justice system and petrified their offenders would attack again. Trapped by a relentless frenzy, the judge was sentenced to spend 28 years in jail for crimes he did not commit and which the government had actually dropped.

The public’s appetite for the “kids for cash” scandal is voracious. Film director Michael Moore highlighted it in his 2009 film Capitalism: A Love Story. A recently published book, documentary film, numerous websites and blogs relentlessly discuss the scandal, assuming the scandal actually occurred.

The New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, Huffington Post, New York Post, CNN, and other national news networks extensively covered the scandal. This book would call the accuracy of all of these reports into question and would become a topic of intense national debate.
Two professional stuntmen, who have dealt with the callous machine of the movie industry, take a leap of faith to open up and help some of the world’s top NGOs in their humanitarian efforts. Through this, they travel to locations they never thought they would see, meet Presidents, trudge through jungles, wander through ancient temples, tour landmine fields, and help raise awareness to those dedicating their lives to humanity.

Their skills as stuntmen were put to use in the real world, in real hair-raising situations. *Karma’s Rebels* has a strong narrative arc about the increasing commitment of Kevin Ball and John Evanko to humanitarian efforts in the United States and overseas. It is thrilling stories of their globe trekking explorations, all with the purpose of helping people in dire need. Starting with a single idea and a plane ticket to Cambodia to document the removal of abandoned landmines, these two embarked upon an adventure that neither could have predicted. When the two of them, freshly on their first trip, were introduced to Cindy McCain, wife of Senator John McCain, their idea went from being a modest dream to becoming a globe sweeping opportunity to make a positive difference in the world.

Witnessing their passion to do good in the world, Ms. McCain took the two stuntmen-cum-cameramen on board as her personal film crew to document her global humanitarian travels. And travel they did. Whether it was filming children’s surgeries in Vietnam, Africa and India with “Operation Smile,” touring international locations with “The World Food Program,” or documenting the removal of unexploded ordinance in the war torn mountains of Kosovo, Kevin and John learned to look upon the world through the lens of life.

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Through all his humanitarian efforts, Kevin has made a living as a Hollywood stuntman. As a result, his excellent ties to celebrities who are similarly tied to humanitarian efforts around the world are strong. Endorsements from them—and a second Foreword from an A-list celebrity—are expected.

Kevin doubling an actor on Unsolved Mysteries; they were recreating a motorcycle crash.
On Memorial Day, 2016, Clay Bonnyman Evans was the featured speaker at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, visited by more than 600,000 people every year.

Why?

His efforts to use forensic science to solve a mystery of WWII are an Indiana Jones-style story.

**Bones of My Grandfather**

*Reclaiming a World War II Hero in Body and Spirit*

On May 29, 2015, Clay Bonnyman Evans did something he never thought possible: help exhume his grandfather, First Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient killed in the bloody 1943 Battle of Tarawa whose remains were lost along with those of hundreds of other U.S. Marines.

This incredible story was the culmination of the author’s five-year search for a lost World War II hero in both body and spirit. In *Bones of My Grandfather*, Evans reveals not just how the graves were lost, but also how the military hid the truth from families and the story of Mark Noah, an unlikely latter-day Indiana Jones who made it his life’s mission to find the missing Marines.

Even as that search began, Evans embarked on an equally fascinating quest to reclaim his grandfather’s story from myth, legend … and Wikipedia. Based on scores of interviews with surviving Marines and family members, as well as hundreds of original letters, photographs and documents, the author creates a vivid portrait of an adventurous, fearless black sheep whose ultimate sacrifice not only made him a hero, but also left terrible tragedy in its wake.

That Evans worked directly and intimately with the archaeological team to recover his grandfather is unheard of in a field dominated by government agencies accustomed to working out of sight of press and public.

Readers love heroes. Better yet, real, flawed human heroes like Louis Zamperini of *Unbroken* fame and Medal of Honor winner Pappy Boyington, whose still-popular World War II memoirs were the inspiration for the TV show *Baa Baa Black Sheep*.

At the heart of *Bones of My Grandfather* are two distinctive heroes, separated by seven decades — a daredevil Marine and an indomitable civilian named Mark Noah, who refused to abandon his quest to find the lost graves of Tarawa despite slander, sleaze and petty turf battles at the government agency tasked with battlefield recoveries.
Zen Goes to Work

More than mindfulness: master the changing world of work, make a difference, and reclaim your [whole] Self in the process

Ginny Whitelaw, PhD

From the author of *The Zen Leader* comes a step-by-step guide by which you can master the changing workplace and make a difference. You’ll learn how to work with One Breath, embrace Two Sides, cultivate Three Centers, and develop agility using Four Energy Patterns. You’ll get practice bringing these tools to work through five ways of contributing value: through presence, perspective, ownership, partnership and leadership. You’ll discover barriers that can get in your way and how to clear them, as well as connections that foster your work and how to strengthen them. But most importantly, you’ll discover how *Zen Goes to Work* in you, enabling free and full expression of who you are, and deeper realization of your whole Self in the process.

This book invites you into your own experiment, to explore your own workplace challenges, and equips you with 10 tools – your Zen toolkit – for bringing your whole self to work, and ultimately expressing your whole self through your work. You may be a leader of others or you may not regard yourself as a leader at all. But wherever you work – in an organization large or small, for profit or not-for profit, in healthcare, education, government or running your own business – you swim in the whitewater of these times.

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Zen master. Biophysicist. Senior leader at NASA. Leadership expert and executive coach. These streams are how *Zen Goes to Work* in Dr. Ginny Whitelaw to bring you a book that only this author could write.
In *Quiet the Rage*, Richard W. Burke, MBA, CPC walks readers through his five fundamental steps for managing conflict—steps that he’s developed over the course of nearly 30 years of professional coaching. They are the core of the program that led him to become the top coach on Ford Motor Company’s Consumer Experience Movement (CEM) project.

Richard’s program is based on principles that he has seen in operation throughout his career:

- *All* human behavior is a function of personal values.
- Conflict exists when we feels as though a personal value has been offended; or, when we feels like another is imposing his or her personal values on us.
- We sometimes create the behavior in others that we don’t want.
- Identifying specific situations that are prone to offend our personal values give us the ability to anticipate them, manage them, and proactively avoid them.

Aligned with those principles are his five steps:

1. Identifying and declaring your personal values
2. Recognizing “hot” situations, those prone to offending your personal values
3. Understanding your default style of emotional reaction
4. Learning to interrupt your emotional reaction
5. Discovering how to transform your negative emotional reaction into a positive response

The project is backed by a robust plan to drive sales through, among other activities, speaking/events, social media and online activities, high-profile endorsements, and media outreach managed by a Massachusetts-based firm specializing in book promotion and marketing.
Ji Kim has a personal email list that celebrity hunters would crave, particularly people who see CEOs of major companies as celebrities. What do these famous, wealthy people have in common? They take golf lessons from him and/or they ask Ji to coordinate golf events for them that are designed for customer retention, networking, and incentive programs.

60,000 executives have gone through his programs and he has contact information for each one.

Business has been done on the golf course ever since the game was invented at the Old Course in St. Andrews, Scotland, in the early 1400s. In The Hidden Green, Ji and Kimberly feature their interviews with 25 Top CEOs and executives who have used golf to succeed in business. They share the dollar-and-cents specifics of brand extension, profitable networking, and other career success stories that happened through golf.

Hidden Green shows how to build relationships for life through golf. Golf is a sales tool that has helped to create immeasurable success for men and women in business. It has helped them to become world-class executives. Golf has helped to secure the top positions for executives at companies such as GE, IBM, and Goldman Sachs. It has helped them to make millions—even billions—of dollars.

With Impact Golf, founder Ji Kim envisioned and brought to reality a unique concept of interacting and rewarding companies’ best customers while providing a memorable sporting experience. Impact Golf customers have experienced an immediate return on their investment.

Ji Kim has been honored with Nomination as Top 100 Best Instructor on the planet by Golf Magazine and Top 50 Best Instructor by Golf Digest, expert speaker with over 60 speaking engagements for Fortune 500 Companies such as Waste Management, Kohler Company, Ferguson Enterprise, and many more for the past 12 years as the CEO of Impact Golf. His billionaire clients, business mentors, and friends include Herbert Kohler Jr. and David Kohler with the Kohler Company, Henry Kravis; KKR, Joe Lewis; Tavistock Group, Ralph C. Stayer; Johnsonville Foods and many more, along with many of recognized top CEOs on the former and current lists of Fortune 500 Companies.
Steve Miller has been at the forefront of the career-development field since 1987 and is known worldwide as a speaker and consultant on his program, The Implicit Career Search (ICS).

Working On Purpose is a how-to manual for those who want to align their careers and lives with a sense of purpose. It is unique in offering a practical, step-by-step approach to defining one’s work purpose while also providing a planning process to develop that purpose into a successful career. Working On Purpose provides readers with this process, along with the insights and experiences of many others who have taken this journey, in a quick, easy to read presentation.

The book is rooted in Steve’s popular ICS workshop, based upon the powerful results from the thousands of people who have participated.

A common misconception is that career planning and decision-making began in the industrial age. Not so, the career planning we are familiar with has evolved to meet the changes created by the industrial age, specifically the concept of “job”. Prior to that the elders and wise people of the tribe or culture handled career planning. And, as has been magnificently documented by the noted American scholar, Joseph Campbell, this planning was based on the myth of the Hero’s Journey. The young people of the tribe were encouraged to “venture forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.”

It was clear to those wise elders that the survival of the tribe depended on how many of its youngsters would heed the call to provide solutions for the problems facing the tribe.

And now, as we have moved beyond the industrial age and are, indeed, preparing to move on from the information age, global survival depends on how many of us base our careers on a sense of contribution to this planet and its inhabitants rather than on a sense of “What’s in it for me?”

The pleasant paradox here is that by basing a career plan on contributing rather than receiving one ends up reaping greater rewards than were ever imagined at the start of the adventure.
Living the Jedi Way

Science-fiction, video games, comics, movies—these are media directing the current generations. A wine gets mentioned in a movie and sales increase. A video game talks about Stoicism and Marcus Aurelius’ Meditations go up in sales. There is room for growth in this trend in the area of personal improvement. Movies and games can inspire, but they do not offer a process to act on that inspiration.

This is what Living the Jedi Way offers: the connection from inspiration to action. World-betterment through self-betterment as inspired by fiction. Peace of mind, patience, self-discipline, equanimity, erudition, inspired by Star Wars made reality through this book. In Star Wars, the Jedi Knights are stoic, honorable, Zen-like warriors who face tough challenges both personally and universally. Since 1977 they have inspired millions of people to seek out something comparable to live by.

During his 18 years in the Jedi Community, author Kevin Trout has risen to the top ranks. In 1999 he was presented with a Jedi Master title honoring the work he had done with the Force Academy web group. In 2000 he created and ran his own Jedi web group for two years. In 2001 he was voted Head Administrator to the largest Jedi online organization at the time. In 2002 he was put in-charge of the Solo Training course at the JEDI Academy online training program. In 2006 he was made administrator of the JEDI organization. In 2007 he created the Jedi Academy Online web-based learning group which is still running to this day and where he has been serving as the head instructor for the past seven years. In 2014 he was honored with a Knighting Ceremony at the Annual Jedi Gathering.

Kevin’s academic and career training combine to make him a perfect “Jedi package”: He majored in philosophy and subsequently graduated from the Ventura Sheriff and Police Reserve Academy.

He has been featured in international magazines such as Shortlist, which has the biggest circulation of any men’s lifestyle magazine in Britain, and Details, with a print readership of 2+million and an online following of 3 million. He also had a major role in a documentary about the Jedi, currently in post-production.
Over the past decade, the trend of Wellness has swept the world.

Wellness experts and thought leaders have pushed back against Big Food, Big Pharma, Big Tobacco, and even Big Government, enlightening us with information about our health that is both helpful and startling. But an unintended consequence of all of this messaging on how to thrive is a new wave of anxiety and fear. We’re no longer sure about which food is the best to eat, how to exercise, how to fall asleep, which manufacturers to trust, what personal care products are safe.

Alena Gerst has good news. In *Can I Take My Vitamins With Wine?*, she greets readers with the promising message that getting healthy and staying well does not need to be another source of stress. In the age of wellness enlightenment, amid endless and often conflicting information, Alena illuminates readers on steps they can take to make achieving robust health less of a chore, and more about pleasure.

A New York City based psychotherapist, yoga teacher, and wellness enthusiast, Alena has made helping people feel better her passion.

Amid the latest onslaught of health related rules, *Can I Take My Vitamins With Wine?* is the first book to address steps that will inspire wellness without all the stress of Too Much Information.
Complex and simple military operations both require appropriate planning to accomplish a mission. The more complex the operation, the more complex the plan. Done correctly, planning is an invaluable process that increases efficient performances. A bad plan wastes time.

*On Time, On Target* synthesizes Captain Chris Bolender’s military planning and execution expertise with Gerald Sherman’s business experience and success. It offers practical, easy-to-use concepts, and methods to apply to everyday life and work. *On Time, On Target* simplifies the planning processes necessary to manifest long-term and short-term goals. Ultimately, these methods will help shape the thinking of readers to evolve into disciplined expert planners.

Military planners utilize simple concepts to generate effective plans necessary to seize their objective right on time, and right on target. It’s time that these methods are brought into the personal and professional world. This requires the proper framework. The US military has its own structure and lexicon to process extremely effective plans.

All US Army and US Marine officers understand that the DNA of military plans is coded in the acronym O-SMEAC: Orientation, Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration, and Communication. O-SMEAC is one of the many effective devices used throughout *On Time, On Target* that will improve the situational awareness required for a successful planner—each is simple to remember and apply.

Ultimately, *On Time On Target*, reverse engineers the US military’s battle tested planning processes to evolve the planner’s proficiency in both the art and the science of expert planning.

**Chris Bolender** retired from the US Marine Corps as a Captain after 16 years of service. He specialized in cryptology, missile/air defense, and armed tactical aircraft control. He was a qualified Weapons and Tactics Instructor, Air Battle Manager—one of the most prestigious qualifications in the Marines.

**Gerald J. Sherman**, M.B.A., D.B.A., served as sergeant in the US Army Air Corps. He is a marketing and PR consultant, author, former adjunct professor for prestigious colleges and universities and business columnist. He has conducted workshops and seminars in the USA, Japan, Israel, for the Fashion Institute of Technology, (FIT), N.Y., and organized and conducted workshops and seminars for the Miami International Mart, Miami Florida.
“Cancer books” are a tough sell, we’re told, unless the author has a strong platform and the book has practical and inspirational value. With that in mind, here’s Why Buy A Wig...When You Can Buy Diamonds! by author, activist, and humorist Randi Rentz. Loosely structured as a memoir, it is really a how-to guide along a path—a guide by someone who values her sex appeal, loses it during the “nuking” of chemotherapy and radiation, and then discovers how to physically and psychically reinvent herself.

Randi makes a bold assertion: “The story will swallow readers up and give confidence to women to uncover their own magnificence and bravery. For a little while, I will become the reader’s best friend.” Here’s the twist that gives credence to her statement: She came to the agency and to me, Maryann, just as I had been diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. I personally found that she had every right to assert what she did.

Randi inspires with laughter and candor. She helps women see themselves on the stage, starring in a drama in which they shift the odds in their favor—and triumphing. Women facing cancer need this to get things into perspective. We are not victims. We are warriors.

In A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens said, “There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter.” How true that is. Why Buy a Wig...When You Can Buy Diamonds! offers you access to Randi’s approach through an understanding of the process which led up to Randi’s warrior mentality and humorous outlook, and you will laugh. Her good humor will hopefully spread good vibes to you and yours.

Andrew S. Kirschner, D.O.
Founder & Medical Director, Back Together, LLC
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Author, Back Together-Hands-On Healing for Couples
Medical Contributor for Martha Stewart Living Radio

Randi appeared on the award winning On Call with Dr. Rob show, which was featured in WebMD’s special breast cancer segment. She is a prominent volunteer for organizations that include BreastCancer.org, Living Beyond Breast Cancer, Susan G. Komen, and the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, where she assembled a team called, The Pink Chicks. She writes monthly for Living beyond Breast Cancer with comments from readers all over the world. Her articles have appeared in More magazine during Breast Cancer Awareness month, Healthline.com, and Everyday Health, among others. Fran Drescher’s website, cancerschmancer.org, has featured her work. Randi is a contributing writer for the Bee Well for Life, Bumble Bee Tuna Health and Wellness Program.

Randi graduated with honors from The Johns Hopkins University with a Masters in Special Education. She was an editorial assistant for a publishing company in Washington, DC before becoming a special education teacher in a school district outside Philadelphia, PA. Randi is an Asperger’s Support Teacher for grades kindergarten through fifth and also has her own consulting company for children on the autistic spectrum. She writes for the Autism File, speaks nationally on autism, and has been featured on PBS NewsHour for her work with children on the autistic spectrum. She has also been nominated for awards including A Woman of Note for the Wall Street Journal. She has appeared on ABC News, NBC News for her work in autism.
Recent advances in brain imaging allow us to confirm empirically what is intuitively true: The human mind needs nature, spiritually and biologically. Without it, we are quite literally not ourselves.

A Habitat for Our Brain offers reasons behind a common attraction for people around the world of a lovely landscape, night sky, wildlife viewing and other attributes of the natural world. It posits the broader effects of the loss of wildlands on human health.

Steve Berwick employs the narrative vehicle of two cases he personally observed, chosen because they represent contemporary extremes of the human experience—activities of a defense attorney from Los Angeles in the woods and bushmen of Botswana’s Kalahari Desert. It includes

- Exploring how the lawyer and bushmen attended to their emotional and cognitive health: what they did, what occurred
- How western literature interprets these encounters
- The relationship between the loss of wildlands and health, such as cognitive dysfunction
- Descriptions of what likely occurred in the brains of the lawyer and bushmen.

By connecting the distinct disciplines of wildland ecology, land use, and neurobiology, the book is unique.

Steve’s teaching, research, and private sector consulting in 49 countries produced the perspective to see the implications of complex problems of landscape and wildlife conservation as well as the spectrum of attitudes people bring to nature-related problems around the world. He has taught at Yale, Texas A&M, and other universities as well as The Wildlife Institute of India. As a consultant for over 20 years to the World Bank, US Fish and Wildlife Service, EU, and USAID, he has led numerous study tours, given over 400 public lectures, and served as an expert witness at hearings.
The Red Queen Runs: Institutions in Wildlands
A Field Guide to Development beyond the End of the Road

Steve Berwick, PhD has led environmental projects in 49 countries, and taught at Yale, Texas A&M, and The Wildlife Institute of India. World Bank, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, EU, and USAID have all hired him for environmental consulting. He has a lot to say about how billions of dollars spent annually by development banks and non-profits to develop wildlands have produced mixed results.

In this book, he shows us how and why we must work with the target beneficiaries past “the end of the road,” impoverished and isolated people in the bush often marginalized by their history and by governments—republican or autocratic.

Provision of development assistance has a history stretching back to colonial issues and attitudes. The recent acceleration began with the post WW II interventions of the Bretton Wood organizations (World Bank, et al.). Development, overseas and domestic, is poorly understood both by practitioners and the rest of us who pay for it. Steve introduces each development institution and then offers vivid descriptions of projects in which he has participated that were supported by these development agencies.

There significant market for such this book includes students at the 180 universities with environmental curricula and members of groups concerned with land use topics like the Sierra Club.
This Is What You Missed

From bank robbers to movies stars, things I should finally tell my mother

Diana Alouise

Stand-up comic, Hollywood stylist, and author Diana Alouise has always loved her hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska. She just didn’t fit in. And after she left for Beverly Hills, quite a few things happened—some documented in the National Enquirer—that she never told her mother.

This book is her playful confession to her mother, and one that will keep readers entertained and connected to her. She stumbled into a career styling A-list clients. Some of them wanted to give her “opportunities;” some found her comedy at least as good as her hair cuts. Guided by her interests—hair and men—she earned a living in prestige salons and on movie and TV sets and tried to find true love.

Readers will connect deeply with her feelings, hopes, and reactions all the while they find her experiences with celebrities like Richard Dean Anderson (MacGyver) and Mel Gibson (Lethal Weapon) titillating and outrageous.

Wickedly funny, heartfelt, and provocative, this tell-all memoir offers an intimate look at a celebrity hairstylist’s adventures in life and love. Readers will find a new friend in Diana and reasons why they should go a little easier on themselves. If there is one thing readers learn from Diana it’s this: None of us needs a bully inside us. There are enough of them on the outside.

Diana is still a styling presence in Hollywood and has a growing career as a stand-up comic. Her upcoming documentary One Minute Comic is the last to capture Mickey Rooney’s humor and story.

Diana and Mickey Rooney after she interviewed him on October 14, 2013. She asked him whether or not he invented the “one minute comic” in his vaudeville days—a rumor around Hollywood. He then told her a few of his favorite jokes and ...a few other things!
About 2:30 in the afternoon 15 years ago, I was in my office and got a call. At the other end of the phone was the chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology. He said he was very concerned about a baby who wasn’t born yet...I concluded that the baby had a very serious infection that had spread all over the body, including the brain. The prognosis was not good...

The Infant Whisperer
From Babies to Rebirth

Saroj Parida, M.D. practiced medicine for almost three decades in some of the most prestigious medical institutions around the globe. He has numerous publications to his credit including articles in peer reviewed journals as well as chapters in textbooks. He made presentations in numerous national and international seminars and received many awards.

And then the renowned neonatologist known as “the infant whisperer” went to prison.
He wasn’t alone, though. When Saroj entered the minimum security prison camp in Otisville, New York to do time for insurance fraud, his 13 other personalities came with him. At the time, Saroj suffered from dissociative identity disorder (DID), which used be known as multiple personality disorder.

Saroj is now well, has developed fascinating perspectives on his experiences, and walked out of prison and into a medical practice at the Quittie Glen Center for Mental Health earlier this year. He is pioneering the Glen’s programs in integrative medicine.

He credits three people, in addition to his wife and children, for helping him integrate—that is, come together in a single, core personality—and experience prison as a profoundly liberating experience that helped him discover the gifts that were at the core of “the infant whisperer’s” ability to heal.

The three people are his psychiatrist, John Biever (The Wandering Mind); his writing partner, Maryann Karinch; and a friend who strode into his life because he understood the devastation of mental illness—Mark Whitacre, whose whistle blowing and felonies were chronicled in the movie, The Informant, starring Matt Damon as Mark.

Mark is helping Saroj launch his ancillary career as an inspirational keynoter, a role that dovetails with that of doctor and author.
My Way Home

*Growing up Homeless in America*

**Michael Gaulden** was a homeless inner city youth for a decade before entering college. In 2014, he graduated with a degree in African-American studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. His national media appearances and speeches to audiences ranging in size from 200 to 2,000 have helped him build a large and powerful network that includes US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and the 55th president of Mexico, Vincente Fox.

*My Way Home* is his journey to fulfill his aspirations of higher education and help others to succeed in the same journey. He is the Director of Corporate and Community Relations for Reality Changers, a college prep program geared toward first generation college students.

Michael experienced the double-consciousness of being homeless in the inner city among violence, gangsters, and starvation, and grappling with the caricature he was: In the eyes of mainstream America, he was just a marginalized and criminalized individual with a lack of resources. His success holds amazing inspiration.

Football Pioneer

*The Story of Scout, Agent Jack Wirth*

This is the story of **Jack Wirth** (with writer/producer **Dick Lind**), the agent who recruited more than 200 players into the NFL. It is a Cinderella story.

Jack had no experience in scouting or recruiting, but he became the ultimate success through hard work and a never-quit attitude. This story catalogs Jack’s life as an NFL player agent, especially his triumph in breaking into the NFL through his laser-like goal to become a scout in professional football.

He worked as a construction carpenter in suburban Chicago until he got a call from Carroll Hardy of the Denver Broncos. Hardy took Jack under his wing but needed to test his scouting aptitude, so Jack graded 30 players who had already been graded by the Broncos. He turned in the assignment—“Great job!” Hardy said. Jack had the aptitude to do NFL level scouting.

But it was Jack’s idea on draft picks that really got the Bronco’s attention. The idea: Trade draft picks in one round for a higher pick the following year. That was revolutionary. Today, it’s standard.

Jack Wirth achieved his dream of becoming a scout for an NFL team. But that was just the beginning. Player agents were just emerging and the general manager of the Broncos suggested to Jack that he give that a look. He was soon drawn into the agency business by Art Arkush, publisher of *Pro Football Weekly*. Arkush knew everybody in the business. Before he knew it Jack was a part of a start-up recruiting agency with limited and general partners, the money to operate, and success.
Captain Christopher J. Bolender has gone for little runs at each place they have taken him since he was a teenager out of high school. Today, he’s run more than 1,000 consecutive days to treat his mental disorder, so severe that the Marine Corps medically retired him after 16 years of service. *Little Runs Big World: A Marine’s Path from Mania to Peace* is a memoir told through brief eclectic runs in unique places around the world that most people only read about or see on the Internet. His little runs combine to form one incredible story about worldly adventures with the emotional journey of a nomadic service member.

Soon after he made the rank of Captain, he was blindsided by a manic episode so overwhelming that the doctors told his wife that he may “never return to reality.” After recovering from the hospital, his disorder not only threatened his sanity, but also loomed over his career and family. After extensive therapy and experimenting with medication, doctors determined that Chris’ love of running wasn’t just healthy for his body: Running was the most effective part of the treatment plan for his mental illness.

Chris takes readers from the deck of an aircraft carrier to a turquoise beach in Okinawa; we run with him inside a sea cave and on a top of a mountain made of trash.

**

“Chris Bolender writes honestly and with candor. *Little Runs Big World* reveals the realities of military service and how running became his ultimate salvation. An engaging read, spirited and stirring.”

Dean Karnazes, ultramarathoner and *New York Times* bestselling author
**Don’t Say Anything to Anybody**  
*World War II survival and discovery from a German girl’s point of view*

**A True WWII Story from a Fresh Perspective:**

The child of a German soldier, **Brigitte Yearman** never heard anyone criticize the Nazis until she was sent to live with a foster family. Her hometown had become a bombing target and, like thousands of other German kids, she was transported to a rural farm village. She was supposed to be safe there. But, when the Russian Front arrived and Polish settlers moved in, Brigitte and her foster family became refugees.

*Don’t Say Anything to Anybody* is Brigitte’s memoir of surviving the war and reconstruction years. During the war, she smuggled jewelry, outran Russian soldiers, became her family’s scavenging breadwinner, and saw a friend’s ship blow up when it hit a mine. In post-war years, she survived child abuse and rape and found ways to create a life after it all. Her memoir portrays cultural tyranny from a child’s perspective, and shows how one girl eventually broke free and discovered greater truth about the war.

**No Longer Taboo:** While the German refugee story has rarely been heard, there is a growing interest in memoirs like this one—recollections from a German child’s POV. Members of that generation are now more willing to share their stories in recent years, and younger generations want to hear them. Perhaps the sheer span of time that has passed allows for more open curiosity about German culture. Perhaps the child’s viewpoint feels more accessible too.

**Co-authoring Partnership:** In 2011, Brigitte asked ghostwriter and co-author **Anika Hanisch** to help write her book. Anika has worked as a freelance writer, co-writer, and book coach for more than 15 years. Their co-authoring partnership—Aryan and Jew—was an especially healing experience, providing a source of additional content for interviews, blogs, and print articles.
In her frank and funny memoir, **Linda DeMers Hummel** takes her reader — via a collection of connected essays—from the sweet but inherent awkwardness of growing up in a 1950s Long Island suburb, to her coming of age smack in the middle of the sexual revolution, to her days as a grown woman who was all ready to follow in her mother’s footsteps until the 1960s changed everything. *I Haven’t Got All Day* is wickedly charming—whether Linda is finding old boyfriends on Facebook, jumping into online dating after 50, or recounting the pratfalls of her life with unflinching truth. Her fine storytelling proves there is no roadmap for how we’re supposed to age, and that Baby Boomers are still making it up as they go along, as they always have. *I Haven’t Got All Day* will speak to those who remember their pasts with just a little wincing, lots of laughter, and gratitude for a journey during a most captivating time.

The National Association of Baby Boomer Women, whose constituents are the primary target market, serves 38 million women in the United States between the ages of 52 and 70. They won’t be around forever, of course, and this comes as a great shock to them, so they read about their generation as much as they can.

Linda’s print credits include *Newsweek, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, Writer’s Digest, Family Circle, Baltimore Sun, Newsday, Reader’s Digest, Woman’s Day, McCall’s, Ladies’ Home Journal, Sasee, Maryland Magazine, The Sun, Parenting*, and others. Her most recent online credits include Washingtonian, The Big Jewel, 1010 Park Place, Author Magazine, Syracuse.com, NPR This I Believe, and NYPress.com. She is a member of the Midlife Bloggers Association, BAM Bloggers at Midlife, and the Maryland Writers’ Association. For ten years, she taught writing courses at Johns Hopkins University.
Children’s Literature

Picture Book

STARS ALIGN

This is Kristina Kaufman’s debut picture book. Reminiscent of Oliver Jeffers’ *The Heart and the Bottle*, Dr. Kaufman’s *Stars Align* tackles the complex emotional theme of a child passing through a pivotal life cycle: first friendships.

Summoning the magic of the celestial bodies, Kaufman’s 710-word story recounts that precious moment when a small child steps outside of the family unit and into new worlds with first friends.

Perhaps these children lived in the neighborhood, or belonged to the same religious community, or were the children of their parent’s friends and maybe those new worlds were just a neighbor’s backyard, or a local playground?

Then, as quickly as those new bubbles of friendship and joint experiences seemed to arise, they burst. The child moves on: on to another school, or a new house or a different neighborhood and in new bubbles, with different friends.

*Stars Align* expresses the desire to relive those early experiences and to somehow get them back – to return to the bubble under realigned stars.

Chapter Book

BRIGID’S JOURNEY TO THE WORLD’S EDGE

*A folktale in the Irish Tradition*

Playwright Harry Bagdasian makes his debut as a novelist by taking readers (7-10) on a journey with Brigid, a girl of long-ago County Clare in Ireland who just wants to be normal.

Brigid cannot leave her house without being shunned by everyone in her village for a misshapen foot. She is isolated by her parents until, one day, she sets off to ask the help of the legendary Sea Mither. This powerful spirit gives Brigid a magical Bards Rod to point her way to the well at the world’s edge where Brigid will find a sage who will answer her plea. But getting there will not be easy. Along the journey, Brigid must pass three tests—one of her heart, one of her mind, and one of her courage. She meets talking animals, fanciful creatures, and a dangerous bog serpent that all challenge her to question what it means to be different.

Steeped in Irish culture and legends, *Journey to the World’s Edge* is about Brigid’s journey toward self-esteem and courage. She finds not only the sage but also a surprising answer for the girl who was always Brigid (meaning “strength”) Sean (meaning “one-of-a-kind”) O’Grady.
New Adult

Threads of Silk
A debut novel by
Emily Westervelt

You are a college senior. The house where you grew up is a short drive from the school. You are the younger of two daughters. You’ve stopped home this afternoon in search of old photos for a project. You think you want photos of your dad, because he died before you were born and your feelings about this remain unresolved. It feels universal, though, this idea you think you have, of loss and unexpected complications and remembering. You think this is a simple enough place to start.

You go into the closet downstairs by the front door – the one you know intimately because you’ve lived in this house your whole life – with the coats and the vacuum and the box of photo albums on the top shelf above the hangers. For some reason, you find yourself holding your breath when you strain to reach up for it, but eventually you succeed in getting the box down.

And then something falls.

You see it’s smaller than the others, which makes it seem both harmless and intriguing, which feels like reason to open it, which later feels like excuse to open it (which will, even later, feel like the worst decision you have ever made… or perhaps the best… you won’t be 100% sure.)

Your ability to trust yourself will wane the longer you sit with this small leather-bound thing in your lap, that you thought at first was an album that you soon realized was a diary – that belongs to your older sister, whom you sort of hate and also sort of desperately need. And by the time you get to the last of its pages, the life you thought you knew so well will permanently, irreparably change.

Your name is Sadie King. The story you’ve always presumed to be yours is about to unravel – not only ties to your family but ties to your own identity – because, once you stagger out of the house, the truth you thought you knew about yourself will no longer seem true or real.

You will black out for a second while driving back to school. You will almost drown at the bottom of a swimming pool, trying to make sense of what you’ve just done.

When you finally get back to your room, the project you thought you might write about your dad will inadvertently take shape as a series of externalized projections about your own perceived shortcomings as a human being. The scenes are illustrations of lost wrestles against your inner doubts and demons, conversations you wish you could have with your own past, portrayals of rage and envy.

To everyone else, it will look like a perfectly normal, entertaining, theater play… with any luck, fingers crossed, they’ll love it and no one will put two and two together that you violated the unspoken laws of respecting people’s privacy, tra-la-la-ing your misguided way to the content they’re now seeing.

Nevertheless, it is here, opening night of the show, and whatever will be, will be.
Anulka Lorenzini projects the image of an enlightened female bank executive, the head of Wealth Management at Bankhaus Suter in Zurich. But her secret contempt for the banking business and her privileged clients trumps her attempts to keep her dark side under control.

Anulka wants financial independence and the ability to tell the world to go to hell. She falls for Giovanni Poggio, an egocentric Italian, who convinces her to facilitate the embezzlement of 8 million Euros. His plan: A false client, using legitimate credentials provided by Anulka and matching the appearance of an existing client, will periodically withdraw cash from the real client’s account. Half of the money taken will be hers.

A small amount, really. No one will notice.

Months later, she sees the inherent brittleness of her greed. She fears discovery and stops. While funds totaling 6.8 million Euros have already been withdrawn, her decision does not sit well with her Italian partners. They want the rest of their share, murdering her new lover to increase the pressure.

Struggling to end her nightmare, she decides she must initiate a second, and much riskier, round of embezzlement. Its success is contingent upon her seducing and involving Felix Hofmaier, a Frankfurt management consultant facing possible criminal charges—and financial ruin—for defrauding the bank of one of his clients.

He has inherited money from his mother, a client of Bankhaus Suter and secretary/mistress to Peter Hunziker, owner of a financial management firm in Zurich. Hunziker poisoned her because she had discovered he was stealing the assets of his deceased A-list clients. When Felix finds a letter from his mother hinting at Hunziker’s role in her death, he becomes determined to exact revenge.

Anulka proposes a payment plan to her Italian partners. They increase their demands, threatening to kill her if she doesn’t perform. Incensed by their callousness and greed, she gives her dark side full rein, plunging herself and her new accomplices into a deadly dance of betrayal, deceit, and retribution.
The first in a series of stories about bounty hunter Lucy Morgan that also include

*Beauty and Bullets*

*Passion and Pistols*

**Millie Knox**

Author of *Crafting with Nana, Crafting a Community, and Crafting a Crone.*

The movie about her life is *Soulmates*, directed by Joan Sugarman.

At first glance, Lucy Morgan is no one’s idea of a bounty hunter; petite and slender, she looks like she could be broken by a strong wind. She’s used that to her advantage many times. She can outshoot anyone she knows and wields a blade like nobody’s business. People tend to change their minds about her fragility very quickly. What they find harder to understand is her uncanny success rate.

If every avenue of investigation dries up, her boss Robert has learned that the smart thing to do is give Lucy a call. She has the gift, as her father called it. She can see what everyone else misses or would swear was never there. She knows what lies behind public facades and hears all the unspoken words.

But enhanced abilities come with a price tag. Lucy has constructed a life that both allows her to make use of her talents and places a few needed barriers between her and the kind of input that would swamp her senses. It’s a careful balancing act, but it’s worked so far.

So the morning she senses Robert’s Benz coming up the long drive from the main road to her small house in Corinth, Mississippi, Lucy has no reason to expect anything more than the chance to pick up some much needed funds on a fairly typical case. That’s before she meets an ex-priest with the power to dissolve her boundaries, a very lonely ghost, a fashionista hair stylist who’s decided she’s a project, and a woman who easily upends some basic premises she’s held about who exactly she is. And these are the “good guys.”

The “bad guys” are every bit as complex. Lucy quickly finds that she’s no longer “just making deliveries.” Instead, she’s drawn into a much darker, potentially lethal world.
A noted TIME correspondent reconstructs the story of Max Mueller from his private notebooks given to him by Anna Kingsley, the famous journalist who headed the Observer’s European Desk during WWII, while serving her nation working for British Intelligence. Using his journals as a map depicting the landscape of war, the journalist confronts the horrors of the holocaust while discovering and weaving a rich story, by turns traumatic and romantic, and encountering an extraordinary cast of characters, both real and fictional.

As with The Book Thief, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, while the narrative follows a youthful perspective, it is a story mature in scope and understanding of the world. Max Mueller 12 when we first meet him. By the end of the story he has entered adulthood, a young man who has survived the horrors of Nazi-occupied Europe.

Young Max Mueller is a budding musician and nascent journalist living with his father, the Great Viktor Mueller, an eminent conductor, in the rarefied, highly cultured world of pre-war Prague. The narrative sweeps through Prague, Berlin, Terezín, and London at a time when the music almost stopped. The lyrical, occasionally terrifying adventure follows Max as he struggles to make sense of the world around him, of the evils of the concentration camps, of occupation, of death, of the bewildering adult world around him not least his father who may or may not be the great man that Max desperately wants and needs him to be. It is a holocaust story but it’s also much more than that. It is a magical story of music, with Max taking the lead in the first performance of the fabled opera Brundibár, composed by his dear friend Hans Krása and performed within the walls of Terezín. It is also a tale of enduring friendship and first love, and the epic story builds to an extended and exquisitely realized climactic sequence in which Max and his best friend escape the Nazis on a dramatic, action-packed river journey inspired by Max’s beloved Huckleberry Finn.

Touching on the themes of heroism, deception, love and loss, The Life and Times of Max Mueller is a beautiful, haunting, absorbing, heart-breaking novel from the widely revered and best-selling writer and novelist Nathaniel Lande.
Adult Humor

Ken understands me better than anyone else on the planet—as if he’d been created just for me.

Beyond Malibu: Barbie’s Los Angeles

Matthew Kennedy
Photos by Greg Cohen

Barbie was born in 1959, so today she’s a 57-year-old woman. A native Angeleno who’s been a celebrity since birth, Barbie is uniquely suited to analyze and satirize a city dedicated to fame and reinvention.

The coffee-table book Beyond Malibu: Barbie’s Los Angeles paints a detailed picture of LA today through photographs paired with Barbie’s own words. Annoyed that the press always links her to Malibu, Barbie takes us on a tour of her real Los Angeles homes and haunts.

* * *

The comic novel begins when Michael’s wizard gets a request from his human friend and hears it wrong. The wizard thinks that Michael wants to be a duck.

Harry Bagdasian takes you on a romp through now and the Middle Ages as his protagonist faces life as a duck in the 21st century, life as an enemy of the state in the 12th century, and…oh, it just gets worse.

Through it all, the protagonist simply wonders: “Why can’t I have a normal mid-life crisis like all the other guys I know? My mid-life crisis is defined by an ugly little wizard who is no taller than my eight-and-a-half-year-old daughter.”

Michael Sears, bestselling author of the Jason Stafford series of mystery novels, describes it as “Kafka meets Kilgore Trout. A mid-life crisis tale that Douglas Adams readers will love. It is a wild trip through time and perspectives with an 800-year old super-powered dwarf. Short and funny!”
Stage Play

Agent’s Note: When I saw this play in a small resort community, I was blown away. The story and characters grabbed me. I jumped up for a standing ovation and found there was a room full of “jumpers” right with me.

Somewhere in the secluded mountains of Colorado, tucked off to the side of a seldom-traveled road, is a nameless diner. What appears to be a shabby, run-down eatery is actually a warm homestead to five locals from different backgrounds who have grown through many, many years to be a family. Burt, our cook, and Remy, our waitress are two people who have learned that life isn’t something you rush. Rex, a good ol’ boy truck driver, comes in daily, as do the elderly, yet lively, Wally and Sylvia Tryzinski.

Enter the lost Hubbards who are on their way to a funeral: Dean, Diane and their children, Elly and Scotty. They offer a sharp, big-city contrast to the laid back atmosphere of the diner. As the chicken fried steaks and the warm company begin to take hold, the Hubbards reveal more and more of their joys and conflicts to these five new friends, who have their stories to tell as well—individual stories of life and death and how these two concepts mean different things to different people. Soon the friendliness of Remy and the others catch the Hubbards off-guard, resulting in the revelation that Dean is gay, a fact accepted by everyone except the hard and bitter Diane. As she is told the stories from the pasts of the others, her convictions begin to confuse her, and at the same time, her confusing past is suddenly unwound. Then the big one drops. The Hubbards discover that they were killed on the highway, are actually in Purgatory, and have spent the evening eating and conversing with the dead. But was it an accident or a planned murder? And why is young Scotty no longer around? Slowly, the unbelievable becomes accepted, but there’s a catch. As their destinations are discussed . . . where does Dean go? Heaven or hell?

Ideal for a strong ensemble cast, A Diner On The Way is a poignant dark comedy mixing controversy with down-home simplicity. Our bondage to our pasts, homosexuality, and life after death are treated with a startling logic, without ever taking sides. Once the surprise ending is revealed, the audience will find themselves busy thinking back to the beginning of the play, remembering the double meanings in what first sounded like innocent dialogue, and discovering the many clues that foretold the end, and the beginning, of the Hubbards.
Maryann Karinch founded The Rudy Agency in 2004 and has placed titles in the categories of business, performance improvement/self-help, parenting/relationships, sports/fitness, reference, military history, current events, medicine, mental health, memoir/biography, and true crime. She is also the author of 24 books, most of which focus on human behavior. She is a member of The Authors Guild and The Explorers Club. She holds Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Speech and Drama from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. and is a Certified Personal Trainer. Maryann handles both non-fiction and fiction.

With 30 years in aviation, Fred Tribuzzo has flown aircraft from the J-3 Cub to the fastest corporate jet ever made, the Citation Ten. His aviation memoir, American Sky: Good Landings and Other Flying Adventures, was published in 2014 by Koehler. Fred credits his numerous mentors along the way who have inspired him to write American Sky and Doorway, a novel of supernatural suspense. Fred’s been published in Flying magazine and, in 1986, received a fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council for piano, oboe and string compositions. Fred handles fiction, focusing on historical fiction and thrillers.

Hilary Claggett has worked in an editorial capacity in publishing for 25 years, specializing in politics, international affairs, current events, history, military studies, journalism, environmentalism, business, economics, and finance. She has a master’s degree in international affairs from Columbia University, where she specialized in Russian studies and national security, and a bachelor’s degree in politics and Russian studies from the University of California. She serves on the boards of PAWS Chicago, a humane society for homeless pets, and Back on My Feet, which uses running to help homeless people transition to permanent housing and jobs. An avid runner, she has completed 100+ races in the past five years. Hilary handles non-fiction, with a focus on whatever she likes.

Jak Burke is the newest addition to The Rudy Agency team. She spearheads our efforts to launch representation of children’s literature and will ultimately help expand our presence in fiction for all ages. A graduate of Middlesex University, Jak is a British born artist who attained a Green Card based on her contribution to US illustration. For more than a decade she has worked within the juvenile community, teaching, writing and drawing for, reading to, and working directly with children aged 0-10 years. Jak joined The Rudy Agency in April 2015 as a Children’s Literature and Young Adult rep with an eye for innovative storytelling and dazzling illustrations. Writing as Jacalyn S. Burke, she is author of the upcoming release The Nanny Time Bomb: Navigating the Crisis in Child Care.
We are distinct among agencies: All of our authors receive media relations support.

To discuss a project, contact Maryann Karinch
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New Projects
Spring/Summer 2016