

March 30, 2023



**Gangster Series**—available through: [Amazon](#),  
[Indie Book Stores](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Walmart](#)  
Customer Reviews: [Amazon Author](#),  
[Goodreads](#)

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## Gangster Blog

### Two Novels by Comparison (Sales)

	Sales 1st 12 months
 <b>Gangster in Our Midst (2017)</b> * 2019 Notable 100 Indie Book Award	<b>\$5K+</b>
 <b>The Black Bag of Dr. Wiltse (2021)</b> * 2022 Notable 100 Indie Book Award	<b>\$5K+</b>

### 1st Annual Wapsie Writing Contest

I announced the **1st Annual Wapsie Writing Contest** on January 3, 2023 — and I received dozens of entries. Six (6) committee members are currently judging the entries to determine a winner in the 3 categories: child, youth, and adult. The Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier, Oelwein Daily Register, and Fairbank Islander will announce the names of the 3 winners — soon!



Do you consider yourself a storyteller? Do you have a great story you've always wanted to put to paper and share with others?

Showcase your storytelling ability in the **1st Annual Wapsie Writing Contest**.

Subject: Of your choosing  
Length: 100-1500 Words  
Genre: Nonfiction, Fiction, or Poetry  
Format: MS Word

3 Age Categories:  
Adults — 19 years and older  
Youth — 12 to 18 years  
Children — under 12 years

Judging: by Committee  
Winners/Stories (each category): Published in *Fairbank Islander*.

Submission: [bbpassick@comcast.net](mailto:bbpassick@comcast.net)  
Submission Deadline: **March 15, 2023**

**CONTEST STAGES:**

- 1) Deadline: March 15, 2023
- 2) "Judging"
- 3) Winners Announced



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### Gangster Series



## Keynote Speaker, Wapsie Honor Society



I was honored to be the keynote speaker at the 2023 Wapsie Honor Society Induction on March 8th.

About fifty students, parents, family, and friends attended.

Among the first classes to graduate from the consolidated Wapsie Valley High School, I filled my free time outside of class with choir, small ensembles, class plays, and the school paper.

“You are responsible for your life; Don’t wait until the last day to figure it out,” was the focus of my remarks.

I invited the dozen inductees to fully engage in the process of understanding what makes each of them unique, and rely on those attributes to propel them to reach for the stars, as well as help them through the difficult events in life.

## For the Love of Books (podcast)



March 16, 2023

**Emma Palova, Author:**  
Her two gangster novels earned her

Top Notable Indie Book awards. Author Betty Brandt Passick shared her passion for writing historical fiction in a very candid down-to-earth interview.

**Betty:** Research comes first... If you don't like doing research, historical fiction is not for you.

Award-winning Author  
Betty Brandt Passick



For the Love of Books Podcast



Indie and small press authors talk about the writing craft and their support for each other's work.



Listen to Podcast (15 mins): <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-39xw4-aa1cf4>

Thanks to **Emma Palova** for the delightful interview on her podcast: **For the Love of Books!** Read more about Emma, a Lowell-based author, short story writer, novelist, screenwriter and a journalist: [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com): [Emma Palova: books, biography, latest update](#).

I invite you to listen to the podcast (~15 minutes), ([link](#)), <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-39xw4-aa1cf4>

## Author Events

(Note: I will be traveling internationally much of the first-half of 2023)

— **Tues., Apr 25, 3:30 pm**,  
“Gangster(s) in Our Midst: The Untold Story,” Bridges Senior Lifestyle Living, 214 Washington St. Waterloo, IA

— **Tues., Apr 25, 6:30 pm**,  
“Gangster(s) in Our Midst: The Untold Story,” Denver Public Library, IA

— **Wed., Jun 7, 6-7:30 pm**,  
“Journaling: Finding Your Voice” (writing workshop, teens & adults), Oelwein Public Library, 201 East Charles, Oelwein, IA

— **Thurs., Jun 8, 6 pm**,  
“Gangster(s) in our Midst: The Untold Story,” Readlyn Public Library, 309 Main St.

— **Sat, Aug 12, 9-3**, Northwoods Arts & Book Festival, 3rd St. and Lake Ave., Hackensack, MN

— **Sat., Oct 7, 10-4**, 8th Edition Deep Valley Book Festival, Country Inn & Suites Conf. Center, 1900 Premier Drive, Mankato, MN

More events  
announced  
— soon!