

June 4, 2024



Gangster Series—available through: Amazon, Indie Book Stores, Barnes & Noble, Walmart
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Gangster Blog

2024 Wapsie Writing Contest Winners



Winners Announced — 2024 Wapsie Writing Contest (Cedar Falls, Evansdale, and Oelwein)



Short Story: "Mistake" Alyssa K., 11 years (Child) Cedar Falls, IA St. Patrick Catholic School



Short Story: "Luna" Kaleigh L., 13 years (Youth) Stratford, IA Waterloo Comm. Schools District / Burger Middle School



Poem: "Friday Night Lights" Beth K. (Adult) Oelwein, Iowa

Read more BettyBrandtPassick.com

This year, over 30 stories and poems were submitted in the three age categories: adult (19 years and older), youth (12-18 years), and child (11 years and under). The winners were judged to have poems and stories that are the most creative and original and demonstrate a quality of beauty and

intensity of emotion for their age category. The ability to convey ideas through narrative and writing is a fundamental skill in so many fields—even in this new era of ChatGPT and artificial intelligence. Through this annual contest join me in celebrating the achievements of these talented and creative people, and thank all the entrants (and their families) and the judges for their participation. Read the full press release: BettyBrandtPassick.com.

Panel Discussion, Wild Deadwood Reads, Jun.

A highlight for me at Wild Deadwood Reads in Deadwood, SD on June 14 will be moderating the panel discussion, "Tools of the Trade: Researching Historical Mysteries." What a fabulous lineup of panelists! Our topics will include: Why write historical novels? How to pick the era you set your book? What's your advice to those who wish to write in your genre? We'll discuss these — and much more.



Wild Deadwood Reads Lodge at Deadwood Deadwood, SD June 13-16, 2024 80 Authors!

Author Panel: "Tools of the Trade: Researching Historical Mysteries" — Friday, June 14, 9 am



Carol S. Kjar Sweet Romance



Lynn Donovan Sweet Western Romance



Parker J. Cole Sweet Historical Romance



Moderator: Betty Brandt Passick Historical Crime Fiction, Memoir, Anthology (short stories)

Events & Tickets

www.WildDeadwoodReads.com



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2024 Wapsie Writing Contest Winners1
Panel Discussion, Wild Deadwood Reads, June 151
Back Story: "Wild Bill" Hickok (1837-1876) ...2
Author Events2

Gangster Series



2021

Book #3: 2024!

Back Story: “Wild Bill” Hickok (1837-1876)

I am pleased to announce my novella, “A Thousand Miles from Boyhood,” was chosen to be included in **Taking a Chance in Deadwood**, a Wild Deadwood Reads Anthology, published by Twisted Teacup Publishing, May 2024. The 515-page anthology is comprised of stories by ten authors in total.

“A Thousand Miles from Boyhood” tells the fictional story of “Wild Bill” Hickok, who in May 1876 departs for the goldfields of South Dakota, hoping to find the fortune that thus far had alluded him as gunslinger and gambler. Along the banks of Deadwood Creek, with the help of a young boy panning for gold, he discovers the kind of riches his mother, Polly Hickok, had spoken of a thousand miles from his boyhood home of LaSalle County, Illinois.

So, WHO was the real “Wild Bill” Hickok?

He was born James B. Hickok in Troy Grove, Illinois to William and Polly Hickok, child #4 of six children. Around age 18 (1855), he left home and took odd jobs to survive, when he began calling himself by his father’s name, “Bill” Hickok (who had died three years earlier). He took part in the Kansas anti-slavery efforts in the years leading up to the Civil War, and during the war he served as a Union scout for General George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry.

Next, he became a driver of the Butterfield stage line, when he gained his initial fame as a ‘gunfighter’ for successfully defying the efforts of bandits who laid in wait to rob stages of the gold that carriers paid the line to transport.

In 1866, he became deputy United States marshal at Fort Riley, followed by marshal of Hays and Abilene, Kansas. His reputation as a marksman in desperate encounters with outlaws ultimately elevated him to a frontier legend. However, after Hickok shot and killed his own deputy in error, his career as a lawman came to a halt.

Several years thereafter he toured the East with Buffalo Bill Cody’s Wild West Show. In 1876, at age 39, he married Agnes Lake Thatcher, of the Lake’s Hippo Olympiad circus fame and fortune.

A month after his marriage to Agnes, he joined up with his old friend and leader of “Colorado Charlie” Utter’s wagon train, and departed from Cheyenne, Wyoming for the goldfields of Deadwood, South Dakota, where he hoped to find his fortune, panning for gold and gambling. Less than three weeks after arriving in Deadwood, he was murdered at Nuttall & Mann’s #10 Saloon.



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Purchase:

BettyBrandtPassick.com

Author Events

2024

– **Thurs-Sat, June 13-16**, Wild Deadwood Reads Book Fair, Lodge at Deadwood, Deadwood, SD

BOOK LAUNCH: Taking a Chance in Deadwood

– **Sun, Aug. 4, 9-3**, Dorset Books & Candy Shack Festival, 20471 State 226, Dorset, MN

– **Mon-Fri, Aug. 28-Sept. 1**, Bouchercon Nashville 2024, Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN

– **Oct 5, 10-4**, Booksigning: Deep Valley Book Festival, Mankato, MN

– **Wed, Oct. 30, 1 pm**, “The Life of Mrs. Dr. Alexander Wiltse,” Magnet 55+ & MPS Adult Community ed 55+, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1200 Marquette Ave., Mpls., MN

– **Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 9:30-11:30 am**, Wartburg College, 2024 Lecture Series, Course Title: “Where does one begin to write — a journal, a story, a book?” Vogel Library, Waverly, IA

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