

Contact: Kyle Pratt  
Email: [kyle@kylepratt.me](mailto:kyle@kylepratt.me)  
Phone: 360-740-1090

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Photos/Book cover art available upon request

## THIRTEEN LOCAL AUTHORS HOLD BOOK SIGNING NOV. 17 AT THE STATION

Thirteen local authors, including six who collaborated on a Christmas anthology of heartwarming historical stories, will sign and sell copies of their books from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 17 at The Station Coffee Bar & Bistro on Tower Avenue.

*"Christmas in Time"* takes a new look at the holiday through the imaginations of seven Christian authors. From Judea on that very first Christmas to England, Japan, and the United States, *"Christmas in Time"* explores love, faith, and hope through the eyes and hearts of ordinary people.

Individual stories in *"Christmas in Time"* were written by Kyle Pratt and James K. Pratt, both of Napavine; Debby Lee of Centralia; Carolyn Bickel of Chehalis; Kristie Kandoll of Kalama; and Heather Morse Alexander and Barbara Blakey, both of Olympia.

Robert A. Wheeler, who was imprisoned in Los Banos internment camp in the Philippines during World War II, will sign copies of his memoir, *"A Child's Life—Interrupted by the Japanese Imperial Army,"* as will Dr. Jess Daniels, a retired professional forester who wrote of his life in the 1950s in his book, *"Through the Kaleidoscope: A Memoir."*

Also participating are Brian Mittge and Kerry MacGregor Serl, who co-authored *"George Washington of Centralia,"* the story of the founder of Centralia. "If there is a decent place in this world, I will find it." With those words, the black pioneer named George Washington headed west in 1850. Here, for the first time, is the full telling of George Washington's life: his mother's courageously heartbreaking act that saved him from slavery; his adventures on the Oregon Trail; special acts by two separate legislatures to exempt him from their racial laws; his unprecedented generosity during desperately hard times; and his triumph as the father of a city. George Washington found his decent place, and changed countless lives for the better along the way.

Other local authors at the event are science fiction writer Jake Blake and historian Julie McDonald Zander, both of Toledo; Janice Clark of Rochester; and Stefanie Bridges-Mikota of Napavine.

Following is detailed information about the authors participating in the event:

**Heather Morse Alexander** is an empty nester living in Olympia, Washington. She is a wife to Alex, mother of three, writer, artist, thrift shopper, coffee guzzler, collector of vintage photos, lover of antiques, and the donut lady at church. In addition to *"Two Golden Rings,"* her story in *"Christmas in Time,"* Heather has several published devotionals and a finished novel, *"The Grace Writers."* While she seeks an agent for her first novel, she is working on a second Grace Writers novel.

**Carolyn Bickel** lives on a small cattle ranch outside of Chehalis with her husband, Sam. Their house pets include a Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Tasha, and their fat cat, Mabel. In addition to *"A Country Christmas,"* her story in *"Christmas in Time,"* Carolyn has written adventures about Mabel and Tasha. She loves music and plays piano in a band twice a month on Friday nights at her church for

Celebrate Recovery, a successful program for people recovering from addictions. Lives are being changed. It is wonderful to see.

**Jake Blake** is a science fiction writer who lives in the small town of Toledo, Washington. His first novel *"Sunburned: The Solar Flare that Silenced the Internet"* imagines a worldwide, geomagnetic storm like the 1859 Carrington Event striking our modern, highly connected world and crippling all technology. *"This Too Shall Collapse"* continues the story and follows the same characters from *"Sunburned,"* but the real story is about how people react to life-changing events. The ways in which we deal with failure and difficult challenges reveal our true character. Some will reach out and others will withdraw, but the people who can change and grow, who can learn to work together and see past our differences to find our common humanity will fix the world.

**Janice Clark** lives in south Thurston County, where the morning fog drifting over the coastal hills could easily conceal dragons or other magical creatures. She is the author of the *"Hall of Doors"* children's series and the *"Healer's Apprentice"* young adult series as well as numerous short stories and poems. She also co-authored an "attitude of gratitude" Christian inspirational book, *"A Home Where God Lives,"* with best-selling devotional book author Anita Corinne Donihue.

**Dr. Jess Daniels**, a retired professional forester from Centralia who now lives in Portland, Oregon, published his ten-year project, *Through the Kaleidoscope: a Memoir*, which shows a young man's coming-of-age journey that begins on the outskirts of a south-Texas city, proceeds through the wilds of north-central Idaho, and eventually ends on a college campus in western Montana some two decades later. Unbeknownst to him, it is his remarkable journey to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he evaded throughout his young life...and to a wonderful future that he could never have imagined. Dr. Daniels co-authored *"Anatomy of a Miracle"* (2009) with Julie McDonald Zander.

**Kristie Kandoll** enjoys writing faith-based and Christian fiction. She lives in Kalama with her husband, Dave. She grew up in northwestern North Dakota, which is the setting for *"A Home for Christmas,"* her contribution to *"Christmas in Time."* Kristie has completed manuscripts for *"Dakota's Promise,"* a romantic suspense novel set in 1939, and *"No Place Like Stonewall,"* a contemporary young adult novel set in the Olympia, Washington, area. Both are currently under consideration by publishing houses.

**Debby Lee** is a best-selling author from the cozy town of Toledo, Washington. She's been writing since she was a small child but never forgets home. She enjoys being part of the American Christian Fiction Writers and Romance Writers of America. Debby recently signed her fifth contract with Barbour Publishing. The Courageous Brides and Mountain Christmas Brides collections both made the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association Bestsellers list. She is represented by Tamela Hancock Murray of the Steven Laube Literary Agency.

**Stefanie Bridges-Mikota** grew up in Napavine and married her high school sweetheart. Together they have two children and still live in that small town close to Stefanie's childhood roots. She finds it an easy place to be a writer, without all of the bustle found in the cities to the north and south. Stefanie is one of those who, despite quickly approaching middle age, still struggles to decide what to do when she grows up. She has worked in a variety of fields which have given her some great insights for future books. Stefanie has two novels out, *"By His Hand"* and *"In His Time"* and is currently writing a third.

**Brian Mittge** is a fourth-generation Lewis County resident who lives with his wife and their three children in Chehalis. He was an award-winning reporter and editor at The Chronicle newspaper for a dozen years. While there he helped edit several books, including “The Flood of 2007: Disaster and Survival on the Chehalis River,” for which he wrote the introduction, as well as two volumes of “Our Hometowns: A historical photo album of Greater Lewis County.” He works in Olympia at a statewide trade association. On a freelance basis he writes a weekly column for The Chronicle called “Hills and Valleys.” Together with Kerry MacGregor Serl, he co-authored “*George Washington of Centralia*.”

**James K. Pratt** was born in Scotland but has lived much of his life in and around the Pacific, including, Hawaii, Guam, Japan and the West Coast of the United States. His debut novel and personal favorite is “*Chelsea and Swindle*” a Tolkien-like fantasy tale. “*Children of Nod*,” his second book, is a modern take on Dante’s Inferno. His third book “*Night Side of Nature*” follows the life of a teenage runaway girl, who also happens to be a vampire. All three stories have overwhelmingly positive reviews. Today, James lives and writes in Napavine.

**Kyle Pratt** is an award-winning, Amazon bestselling author of speculative and post-apocalyptic fiction writer from Napavine. He has been on the board of the Southwest Washington Writers conference since its inception. His novel, “*Through Many Fires*,” the first book in his post-apocalyptic Strengthen What Remains series came out in 2013. Within two weeks the novel appeared on the Kindle Science Fiction Post-Apocalyptic bestseller list, reaching #1 on December 2, 2014. The second book in the series, “*A Time to Endure*,” and third book, “*Braving the Storm*,” also achieved Amazon bestseller status. His most recent novel is the post-apocalyptic bestseller “*The Storm Rises*.”

**Kerry MacGregor Serl** is a fourth-generation Washingtonian living in rural Napavine with her husband, John, and their son, Nathaniel. Kerry’s great-grandfather’s contributed to the design, building and operation of Pike Place Market. Discovering this led Kerry’s early interest in Washington State history and genealogy. She enjoys the genealogical treasure hunt through history, especially finding historical facts that flesh out these stories. Kerry has not always researched history. After earning a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Health at the University of Washington, she worked first as an environmental toxicologist and then as an epidemiologist. Together with Brian Mittge, she co-authored “*George Washington of Centralia*.”

**Robert A. Wheeler** was born in Manila, the Philippine Islands, where his normal childhood changed drastically when the Imperial Japanese Air Force bombed the city on December 8, 1941, the day after their planes destroyed United States battleships at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. Bob and his family were incarcerated first at Santo Tomas University and later in the Los Baños internment camp, where they spent over two years with more than two thousand other Allied men, women and children, trying to survive on sparse diets under brutal captors.

Then, on February 23, 1945, “Angels” came from heaven above to liberate the internees held at Los Baños. Paratroopers from the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, particularly the 511<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, rescued the prisoners, who were immediately evacuated to U.S. lines aboard Amtracs by the 672<sup>nd</sup> Amphibious Tractor Battalion. His book, “*A Child’s Life: Interrupted by the Japanese Imperial Army*,” recounts this experience.

**Julie McDonald Zander** worked as a newspaper reporter and editor for 20 years before launching her personal history business, Chapters of Life, in 1999. Julie has published more than four dozen

personal, company, and community histories, including histories of Centralia College, Bucoda, Chehalis, the Hemphill-O'Neill Company, and the Lewis County Courthouse. She was in charge of organizing the 2006 Association of Personal Historians conference in Portland, founded the Southwest Washington Writers Conference, and co-chairs the Oregon Christian Writers Cascade Writing Contest. She is the author of *Life on the Home Front*, *Herman Klaber: King of Hops*, and *Winning a War*, among other books.