

Bios for Agents and Editors Panel



Nancy Curtis, publisher and primary editor, High Plains Press

Nancy Curtis says that in 1984, when she founded High Plains Press near Glendo, Wyoming, the state had few other book publishing companies.

She tested the waters with a poetry chapbook and then attended the University of Denver Publishing Institute to gain more know-how. Then she returned to her family's Wyoming cattle ranch and started publishing.

High Plains Press books have won six Wrangler awards for poetry, four Willa awards and several Willa finalist awards, as well as several Spur and Spur finalist awards. The company publishes about three books a year and focuses on history of Wyoming and the American West.

Curtis is also the co-editor, with Linda Hasselstrom and Gaydell Collier, of three collections of writing by plainswomen published by Houghton Mifflin: *Leaning into the Wind*, *Woven on the Wind*, and *Crazy Woman Creek*



Andrea Hurst, president of Andrea Hurst & Associates, Andrea Hurst Literary Management

For almost 20 years, Andrea Hurst Literary Management has represented both high-profile and up-and-coming new authors to worldwide publishing markets. Her clients and their books have appeared on the Oprah Show, Ellen DeGeneres Show, Good Morning America, National Geographic Network, Amazon Charts, and in the NY Times.

In response to the ever-competitive publishing climate, and to continue helping authors realize their publishing goals, Andrea has expanded her professional services to writers not represented by her literary agency.

Andrea works as a literary agent with both bestselling and emerging new authors to help polish their book, obtain publication, increase sales, and build their author brand.

Andrea brings more than 25 years of experience in the publishing industry, including her work as a literary agent. She is also a developmental book editor for publishers and authors, a bestselling Amazon author, an instructor for the MFA creative writing program at the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts, and a webinar presenter for Writer's Digest. As a literary agent, she selectively represents high profile adult nonfiction and well-crafted genre fiction.



Julie Klein, Editor

In her long and varied career, Julie Klein has typed for court reporters, been a secretary to a college professor, operated a freelance typing service, worked as a paralegal in family law, and run a business with over 50 employees, but it wasn't until she completed the University of Washington Certificate Program in Editing in 2012 that she found her true calling. Since then she has worked with both fiction and nonfiction authors to help them make their manuscript the best it can be. She offers line editing, copy editing, proofreading, and formatting for print-on-demand and ebooks. You can view her website at JKlein-Editor.com and contact her at jkleineditor@gmail.com.



Erin Turner, publications director, Farcountry Press and Sweetgrass Books

Erin Turner is the publications director at Farcountry Press and Sweetgrass Books. A twenty-five-year veteran of the publishing industry, she has acquired and produced fiction, nonfiction, cookbooks, photo books, wildflower field guides, and more by first-time authors, publishing

veterans, and New York *Times* bestselling writers. Celebrating more than 40 years in business, award-winning publisher Farcountry Press is a Montana-based publisher, specializing in photography books, children's series, & regional history titles nationwide. Farcountry publishes more than 50 books annually; the backlist has grown to more than 300 titles. Sweetgrass Books is the custom-publishing division of Farcountry Press, offering partnership opportunities for independent and sole-proprietorship publishers.



Sylvia Dickey Smith, acquisitions editor, White Bird Publications

Sylvia Dickey Smith serves as *Acquisitions Editor* at *White Bird Publications* in Austin, Texas. They always seek fresh new voices. When your work is ready for submission, feel free to check them out.

Sylvia was born backward—feet first and left-handed, and has done most things backward ever since. (She has a list!) At 41 she took her first freshman class at the University of Texas at El Paso and fought her way to a BA (Honors) in Sociology and a Masters in Educational Psychology. After graduations, she worked with nonprofit and for-profit organizations within the human services field and conducted private practice as a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist. She studied spiritual warrior training under a shaman in New Mexico, hypnotherapy, dream therapy, and Strategic Family Therapy. She studied Jung, Freudian, Frankel, Skinner, Carl Rogers, Imago, and other psychological theories.

After retirement, she started writing novels and have never looked back. Her writing theme is: *Writing Strong Women*. Doing such has helped her find and refine her voice, to discover who she is, what she stands for, and what she won't stand for. (By the way, she has a *Strong Woman* wall in her entryway at home. (It is also backdrop on her Facebook wall.) If you are such, send her your photo to be added to her wall.

Her published books include those in the Sidra Smart Mystery Series—*Dance On His Grave*, *Deadly Sins*, *Deadly Secrets*, *Dead Wreckoning*, *The Swamp Whisperer*, *Painted Ladies*—a contemporary novel, *Original Cyn*, which won a Sarton Women's Book Award; a historical fiction book, *A War Of Her Own*; a cookbook, *Sassy Southern Classy Cajun*; and a daily inspiration, *Sacred Lessons From Wilderness Wandering*.

