

## Women Writing the West 2023 Conference Editors



### **Jake Bray**

Jake Bray is the president of Wolfpack Publishing. A former educator and artist with a passion for great storytelling, before joining Wolfpack, Jake spent the last couple of decades in higher education and working in live entertainment as a lighting designer and production manager. Since joining Wolfpack, Jake continues to oversee business development and distribution for all of its entities with a focus on developing their in-house properties and connecting Wolfpack Publishing with various production partners in audio and film/tv development.



### **Mike Bray**

Mike Bray is an online publisher. He's also a 16-year veteran Internet marketer and a search engine optimization expert. You'd expect all of his business interests would prevent him from running a company, but it doesn't. He's also CEO of Wolfpack Publishing founded in 2013 with western genre writer Larry Martin. Having hit the ground running by signing up an impressive list of western authors and their backlists, by December 2016 Wolfpack had sold a cumulative two million books with anticipated sales of over one million books in 2017. Martin retired last year selling most of his stake in the company to Bray and assuming more of a consultant role. Bray has increased online visibility and sales for a full array of companies from phone services to political campaigns to jet charter

services and fishing charters. Everything from sole proprietors to large corporations including and, of course, Wolfpack Publishing also based in Las Vegas, NV.

Bray grew up in Atascadero in Central California and attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in agricultural business. Besides Atascadero, he's lived in both Bakersfield and San Jose, CA, Cedar City, UT, Boise, ID and currently resides in Las Vegas, NV. He has two grown children.

For our Teen/YA imprint, Wise Wolf Books: we are looking for coming-of-age stories set in the 1880s. For Wolfpack: we are looking for both historical and contemporary western/cowboy romance. For our Rough Edges Press imprint: we are looking for contemporary police procedurals featuring a strong female lead. The setting can be urban or rural. We are also looking for men's adventure. For our Christian imprint, CKN: we are looking for fiction that reflects a clean Christian lifestyle rather than delivering a sermon. And we will look at stand-alone nonfiction if the author has the track record and platform to justify a print run. Other than nonfiction, we are not looking for any stand-alone titles, we want everything in series.



**Annette Chaudet**

Annette Chaudet established Pronghorn Press in 1997 after producing several books for private clients as a designer. In the '90s publishers and agents wanted writers with publishing credits so she started a writing contest to select work for *Hard Ground, Writing the Rockies*, the first in a series of anthologies intended to capture contemporary life in the West. It gave the selected writers that "credit boost" and was a success. Four more *Hard Ground* collections followed as well as 3 more collections on other regions of the U.S.

Though Pronghorn is a small press, Annette is proud of the quality of Pronghorn's list, currently more than 100 titles, a number of which have garnered awards and national reviews, including many that have become "evergreen" favorites. Pronghorn's titles are an eclectic mix and Annette likes it that way, enjoying

a variety of subjects.

Chaudet, herself a writer, has found a number of additional outlets for her own work over the years. It also gives her great empathy for her authors. She describes Pronghorn as "old school," and her authors appreciate the ability to work one on one with a publisher.

In this age of self-publishing and the broad digital market, many people are just looking for an editor, cover designer, manuscript evaluation or a story consultant. These are things she is

doing quite a bit of these days and her list of clients for these services has grown significantly over the last 4 years.

Annette is looking for well-researched regional history (from ANY part of the country), memoir, a broad range of fiction but please, no genre romance, though love stories are fine. Nature writing. Creative non-fiction and some nonfiction, but nothing academic, please. Will consider essays, though they are a hard sell these days, so you'd best have a ready audience. She has a broad range of interests so you're welcome to give anything a shot. No poetry, romance, children's books (sadly!), Christian or religious, sci-fi/fantasy, contemporary wars, medical or political.

She is open to editing, formatting, cover design, story editing, and writer coaching and consulting for those who wish to self-publish but want to present a professional-looking book. Will also consider ghostwriting, but be warned, this is an expensive proposition.



**Casey W. Cowan**

President & Chief Executive Officer, Oghma Communications  
Hat Creek, an imprint of Roan & Weatherford Publishing

Casey has worked in the journalism and literary fields for nearly thirty years as a graphic designer, reporter, and publisher. In 2013, he co-founded Oghma Communications, which, through its subsidiary, Roan & Weatherford Publishing Associates, has become a mid-sized independent publisher of genre fiction and nonfiction. The following year, in partnership with the late Dusty Richards, he also co-founded *Saddlebag Dispatches*, an award-winning magazine featuring original fiction, poetry, history, interviews, and articles dedicated to the American West. When he's not working, Casey enjoys reading, travel, music, indulging his trio of young grandchildren, and sharing his crazy life with his always-supportive wife, Amy.

Hat Creek publishes high quality western and historical novels. In the books we publish, story is paramount. We want compelling fiction firmly set in the post-Civil War American West. We are looking for stories of men and women who represent the struggles, endurance and strength of character commonly required to survive and thrive on the frontier. We, by no means, are limited to traditional westerns. We will consider adult and YA stories set as recently as the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as cross-genre stories with elements of romance, the supernatural or even steampunk. We insist on stories that are believable, historically accurate

where facts exist, and are suitable for all ages. Stories that we accept for publication would likely score a 50 or better on the Willa Award rubric.



**Jane Porter**

*New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of 77 romances and fiction titles, Jane Porter holds a MA in Writing from the University of San Francisco and has been a finalist for the prestigious RITA award six times and won in 2014 for Best Novella with her story, *Take Me, Cowboy*, from Tule Publishing. Today, Jane has over 13 million copies in print, including her wildly successful, *Flirting with Forty*, which was made into a Lifetime movie starring Heather Locklear, as well as *The Tycoon's Kiss* and *A Christmas Miracle for Daisy*, two Tule books which have been turned into holiday films for the GAC Family network.

In 2013 Jane founded Tule Publishing to give authors more creative and commercial opportunities. Tule is proud that in the past ten years, it has published over one thousand books (including hundreds of western and historical western romance novels), signed 203 authors, secured audio for 141 titles, and has had eleven movies made, with three mystery series currently in development (one for a British episodic TV series and two cozy mystery series for an American network), and an additional 15 novels with film and TV options. Tule books have been nominated for dozens of awards in the UK, US, NZ, and Australian markets, including Justine Dare Davis winning the 2022 WILLA Award in Romance.





### **Sinclair Sawhney**

Sinclair Sawhney is senior developmental editor for Tule Publishing. A former journalist and middle school teacher, Sinclair holds a degree in political science and a teaching certificate from the University of California, Irvine, and a master's degree in education from the University of Washington. She has been a developmental editor with Tule Publishing since 2014, shepherding hundreds of books through all stages of the publishing process. Sinclair has also published over twenty-five short and mid-length contemporary romances writing as Sinclair Jayne and Sinclair Jayne Sawhney. Sinclair and her husband, Deepak, also own a boutique vineyard and winery, Roshni, in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

Tule Publishing is only contracting books that are part of a series or have series potential, with the exception of thrillers. Small town short or mid-length contemporary romances—cowboys and ranches are always popular. Mysteries—police procedural mysteries are preferred over cozy mysteries at this time. We do have a variety of imprints: Muse, Holiday, Southern Born, Texas Born, Montana Born., American Heart, Mystery, Own Voices. You can look on our website: <https://tulepublishing.com> for information on each imprint. We actively look for stories that have unique hooks or a premise that has film potential as Tule actively works with producers in the industry and has sold books that have been

made into film and now have sold several series that are in different stages of production.



### **Julie VanLaanen**

Julie VanLaanen is the new owner and publisher of Filter Press, a 66-year-old Colorado publishing house. She is a Colorado native who grew up climbing 14,000-foot mountains, exploring old ghost towns, and hiking in the deserts and mountains of Utah and Colorado. She loves reading about Colorado history and gets excited when she receives a manuscript that brings that history to life.

Filter Press is a small, Colorado publishing house focusing on books about Colorado history. We publish museum quality nonfiction and fiction books about Colorado's vibrant history, educational books for

Colorado schools, and children's picture books. We are currently looking to expand our adult fiction and nonfiction offerings and would love to find a nonfiction or children's book about Colorado trains. Sorry, but at the present time we are not looking for books about other western states.