

# ALL-AMERICAN Festival AT HOME!

**Saturday, July 4, 2020**

**10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. -  
Online festivities**

**9:00 p.m. - Fireworks show**

The annual All-American Festival has a new twist this year. All festival activities will be online with an expanded fireworks show that's viewable from backyards, computer screens, mobile devices, and TVs.

To adhere to the state and federal social distancing and personal hygiene

guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, the All-American Festival at Home will be online with a live broadcast of the fireworks show. Fireworks will be shooting into the sky from three locations in Peoria (no onsite parking is available at this time). This will be the largest 4th of July fireworks display in the Valley. Additionally, festival activities like Home Hangouts, a BBQ cook-off, Patriotic Bike Parade, cannonball competition and special visits from Prickly Pete will be streamed live throughout the day. ■

## HOW TO WATCH

**Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/CityofPeoriaAz](http://www.facebook.com/CityofPeoriaAz)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/peoriaaz>

**Cable TV:** Peoria Ch. 11 through Cox Channel 11 and CenturyLink Channel 8509

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/channel/UCr2anV7zsCAo1RvJga7nYEA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr2anV7zsCAo1RvJga7nYEA)

Information and reprint courtesy of the City Of Peoria. For more information visit <https://www.peoriaaz.gov>.

## TRILOGY NEIGHBOR WRITES FIRST NOVEL!

It is exciting to celebrate the accomplishments of one of our Trilogy neighbors!

Trilogy neighbor, Ruth Rotkowitz, who moved to Trilogy with her husband Irv in 2009, came here from New Jersey. She was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1949. Her parents were survivors of the Holocaust who fled Vienna, Austria to escape Hitler. She recently wrote and published her first novel, *Escaping the Whale*.



Ruth Rotkowitz

when I started writing. The novel is set in 1980, when everyone was obsessed with the Iranian hostage crisis. For many Americans, it was the first time they perceived our country as being vulnerable. I saw a connection between the Holocaust and the Iranian hostage crisis, two events that revealed the worst of humanity. I was able to work these issues into my character's life.

**FRA: How did you choose your title, *Escaping the Whale*?**

RR: I don't know how it came to me. Without giving away too much, the character feels she has to escape. She feels confined, she senses danger. There are a number of associations to a whale, including both biblical and literary—Jonah and the whale, Moby Dick. The ocean itself and marine life actually play a background role in the novel. Every reader can decide for his or herself what the symbolism of the whale and the ocean represents.

**FRA: Are you interested in writing a sequel or another novel?**

RR: A sequel? I have been asked that, though I had not thought of it before. Of course I will write more as I am always writing. I am working on something new now.

**FRA: What advice do you have for any of our neighbors who have considered writing a novel or other type of book but didn't know how to go about writing it or getting it published?**

RR: In order to be a writer it is important to be a reader. Read as much as possible. It sometimes helps to join a writing group or program, especially if you find it hard to start writing on your own. Concerns regarding publishing come later.

**FRA: Anything else you would like to share related to your experience as a writer?**

RR: First of all, I am very gratified by the response to my book. Readers are letting me know that they relate to my protagonist, even if their own backgrounds are completely different from hers. Many relate to her psychological struggles and to the challenges she faces. Others who recall the Iranian hostage crisis relate to the time period and the fears provoked then.

Secondly, be aware that writing can be therapy. Journaling is a particularly useful therapeutic tool, especially in times of stress.

Everybody has to find something they care about, something to be involved in, to make life meaningful.

Visit Ruth's author page on Amazon, <https://www.amazon.com/author/ruthrotkowitz>. There you can learn about her background and read a synopsis of *Escaping the Whale*. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com and BarnesAndNoble.com. ■