



Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

June 2022

Facebook page: Writers League of The Villages

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Writers-League-of-The-Villages-162776817086391/>

Members-only FB Group for posting: WLOV Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2456384291302772/>



Who wrote these classic short stories? See page 2.

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Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin
drlarry437@gmail.com



This June edition is long at 21 pages, our longest ever.

But...half is pictures of our esteemed members in recent activities, plus some cartoons. The other half is chock full of information relevant to our members and writing in general. AND, you have three months to peruse it, as the newsletter is taking a summer break. WLOV doesn't meet in June or July, and the August meeting is by Zoom only. The September newsletter will be out the end of August. Plenty of time to plow through this edition. Check out:

- [The just-released registration form for BookExpo 2023](#)
- [List of Upcoming Writing Events](#)
- [Pictures from our April 29 FUNraiser](#)
- [Pictures from the May B&N kickoff](#)
- [A review of Jack O'Brien's May talk and his new book](#)
- [Writing contests with a June 30th deadline](#)
- [A list of local publishers and book designers](#)
- [A neat way to self-edit your writing](#)

...and so much more.

Last month's trivia contest asked you to identify the lyricists of 8 famous Broadway tunes. We had two winners, Gary Koca and Leigh Court. See their [featured books on pages 15-16](#).

This month's newsletter trivia contest asks you to identify the authors of 8 classic short stories. The stories date from 1846 to 1953. Throughout the newsletter, you will find the titles, along with the year each was published. Just name the author (first and last name). The story titles are all in bold-faced red font with a blue background. Here is the first classic short story. Who wrote it?

The Cask of Amontillado (1846)

The first 3 people to send in the authors of these classic stories will have their book publicized in the September newsletter.

Upcoming Writing-Related Events

There will be no monthly WLOV meeting for June & July. We will meet via Zoom in August, then resume live general meetings in September, at Laurel Manor Rec Center.

Thursday, June 2, 6:30-8:30 – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Patrick Miller and Ann Heathman as guest speakers.

Tuesday, June 14, 11 am-2 pm – All Booked Up book signing, Colony Plaza. Nancy Flanigan Schultz, Dick Domann, and Donn Dears will be the presenting authors.

Thursday, July 7, 6:30-8:30 – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Judi Ciance and Chris Cooper as guest speakers.

Thursday, August 4, 6:30-8:30 – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Jack O'Brien and Pam O'Brien as guest speakers.

Wednesday, August 10, 9-11 am – Zoom meeting featuring speaker Penny C. Sansevieri. She is the CEO and founder of Author Marketing Experts, Inc. You will receive an email link to attend this Zoom meeting. You won't want to miss it!

Wednesday, September 14, 9-11 am -- "How to Make a Professional Book Presentation." Our speaker will be WLOV member John Prince.

Monday, September 26, 6-8 pm - Short Story Night at Mystic Ice Cream. WLOV members' stories read by professional readers.

Thursday, October 6, 6:30-8:30 pm – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Larry Martin as guest speaker.

Wednesday, October 12, 9-11 am – Leaders of Villages critique clubs present information about their club. All are open to new members.

Monday, October 24, 6-8 pm – Another Scary Musings Event at Laurel Manor Rec Center, Lincoln Theater Room, Scary Stories & Poems penned by our authors and presented as a Live Radio Show! BYOB and Snax, Admission \$15 per person, Buy a table of 8 for \$100. Info to follow regarding story submissions.

Wednesday, November 9, 9-11 am - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center. Vote for your 2023 Board of Directors: president, president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. Our program will be "Meet Your Character(s)," You will learn from our guest speakers what it's like to be in careers such as: investigator, airline pilot, physician, or radio DJ.

Wednesday, December 14, 9-11 am – General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center. Installation of WLOV's 2023 Board of Directors. Enjoy our self-serve continental breakfast, then join our holiday party/game time.



BOOEXPO 2023! Sunday, January 29, 2023, Eisenhower Rec Center 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Table registration opens July 1; see form on page 19.

The Necklace (1884)

WLOV is Working for You!



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Linda Keenan

Our mission is to promote our members and offer educational opportunities and interesting speakers at our monthly meetings. Our meetings are a great time to meet other members and network. We have some special events for you to enjoy and even take part in.

There are Two Special Events Coming Up

Monday, September 26 – another Short Story Night at Mystic Ice Cream, from 6 to 8 pm. Admission is free. Plan to be entertained and enjoy some adult ice cream. More info to follow, including story submission criteria.

Monday, October 24 – our 2nd Scary Musings Event – it's a Live Radio Show. A few Scary Stories and Poems written by WLOV authors will be chosen by a selection panel and read by professional actors on stage just like a live radio show. The show will be at Laurel Manor Rec Center Lincoln Theater room from 6 to 8 pm. Details to follow such as submission criteria. See our Flyer on page 3.

Writing Tip: Trouble with your Book Tag Line?

To write a tag line for your book, read descriptions online and pick up the **key phrases**, then apply that to a tag line for your book. Choose words and phrases that fit your book, then expand it into your tag line. Here are some interesting words and phrases:

Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* uses a **unique** perspective: it imagines Jo as the author of the novel, which **transforms** the story into a **powerful** tale of **passion**, **creativity**, and **achievement**.

Read descriptions of books in your genre/topic and pick up some good key phrases.

Stay Inspired to Write & Join in the WLOV fun.

Linda

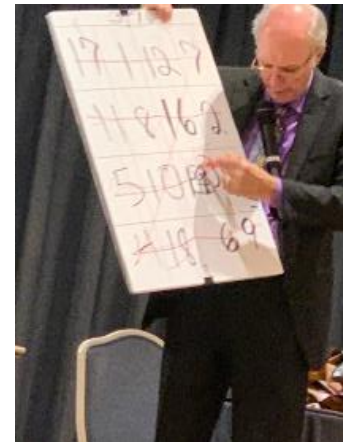
An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge (1890)



Entertaining FUNraiser April 29

By Tweet Coleman, Chairperson, WLOV Scholarship Committee
tweetcoleman@gmail.com

Thank you all for helping make our 1st Annual FUNraiser an amazing success. Everyone enjoyed magician/mentalist Mark Stone. It takes a Villages....



BARNES & NOBLE UPDATE

Rita Boehm



As you plan your summer events, please make sure to put a little time aside to stop at Barnes & Noble and check out the book offerings of your fellow members. The WLOV/local author bookshelf is positioned in front of the check-out registers. So...anyone waiting on line has an opportunity to review our books—and hopefully purchase one or two.

Our Q3 event – including a new group of authors – will run from July through September. Kick-off of our Q3 event will occur on July 2nd at the Barnes & Noble café beginning at 2:00. Mark your calendars! Please

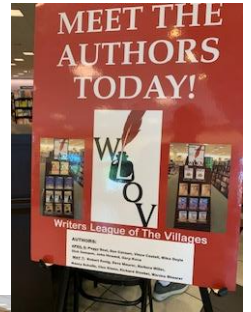
join us for this fun gathering.

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET HAD ONE OF YOUR BOOKS FEATURED IN THE STORE, PLEASE CONTACT ME (ritab1423@gmail.com) SO I CAN MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE LIST FOR FUTURE EVENTS.

Here's the list of the 14 talented authors featured at Barnes & Noble through June. It's not too late to scoop up one of these great books:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GENRE	TITLE
BEST	PEGGY	MEMOIR /BIOGRAPHY	UN Sung HERO
CANAAN	DON	THRILLER	PRETTY LITTLE GIRL
CASTELL	VINCE	CHILDREN'S	CUBBY
DOYLE	T. MICHAEL	HUMOR	CRUISING, BOOZING, AND SCHMOOZING
DOMANN	DICK	THRILLER	THE ARAKNIV DECEPTION
HOWARD	JOHN	MILITARY/CHRISTIAN	THE DEACON AND THE SHIELD
KOCA	GARY	CINEMA	FORGOTTEN MOVIE STARS OF THE 30'S, 40'S 50'S
KONIG	ROBERT J	WWII HISTORIC FICTION	OF GOOD AND EVIL
MAUER	DAVE	THRILLER	PHANTOM OF THE BEACH
MILLER	BARBARA	HEALTH	KETO FOR LIFE
SCHULTZ	NANCY	HISTORIC FICTION	FLANIGANS IN AMENIA
SIMON	CLEO	MEMOIR	MOUNTAINS ALONG OUR PATH
STOEBEL	RICHARD	MEMOIR	I'M ALMOST HISTORY
SHEARER	MARSHA	POLITICAL	LIFE AFTER TRUMP: SEEKING A MORE PERFECT UNION

BARNES & NOBLE -Pictures from Kick Off on May 7th, the B&N Café





2023 BOOK EXPO

By Rita Boehm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! BOOKEXP0 2023 is scheduled for January 29th from 11 am to 4 pm, at the Eisenhower Recreation Center.

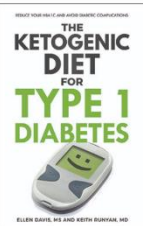

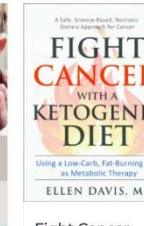
Registration for members will begin on **July 1st**. The Registration Form is an [appendix to this Newsletter](#) and will also be sent out via separate email. Please share with friends. Registration for non-WLOV members will be accepted beginning on **September 1st**, so don't delay! We expect spaces to fill up quickly.

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to help with BOOKEXP0 2023. Committee members are listed below. Please note that it isn't too late to reach out and offer your assistance. Many of the major committee efforts (like publicity) will take place in the October through January timeframe and we need a well-organized go-getter to run the publicity sub-committee. As the old expression goes: more hands make lighter work. Contact me at ritab1423@gmail.com to join the committee.

BOOKEXP0 2023 COMMITTEE	
Committee Chair	Rita Boehm
Sub-committee chairs:	
Registration	Manijeh Badiozamani
Facilities	Barbara Miller
Communications	Ellen Davis
Publicity	TBD
Training Sessions	John Prince and Mark Newhouse
Keynote Speaker	Marti Green
Other committee members:	Pamela Michael, Laura Borcharding, Vince Roberts, Jack O'Brien, Paula Howard, Chris Cooper

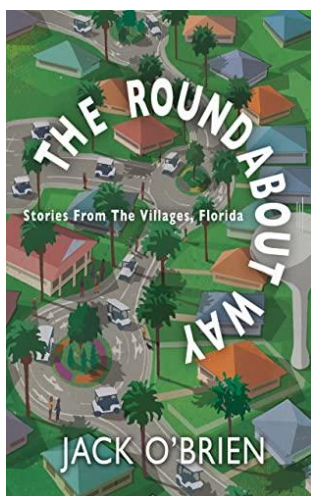
New Books in WLOV Book Catalog

To view the entire catalog, go to www.writersleagueofthevillages.com and click on "Books." To place your new book in the catalog, send the cover, a blurb, and Amazon link to WLOVwriters@gmail.com

 <p>The Ketogenic Diet for Type 1 Diabetes by Ellen Davis, M.S. and Keith Runyan, M.D.</p>	 <p>Conquer Type 2 Diabetes with a Ketogenic Diet by Ellen Davis, M.S. and Keith Runyan, M.D.</p>	 <p>Inferior Nutrition by Ellen Davis, MS Rethinking food storage for emergency preparedness Most</p>	 <p>Fight Cancer with a Ketogenic Diet by Ellen Davis, MS The ketogenic diet is a natural, non-toxic, metabolic therapy being</p>	 <p>Louie's Journey by Pat Minots Louie's Journey is a cross between "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" and</p>
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Jack O'Brien Speaks May 11, 2022

By Larry Martin



At our May general meeting, WLOV member Jack O'Brien spoke on marketing his new book *The Roundabout Way*, a series of fictional vignettes about Villagers. Jack's main points:

- target your audience; decide just who you are writing your book for
- have a website and keep in up to date, with links to your book or books
- reach out to other groups for speaking engagements; lots of opportunities to do this in The Villages
- Hold a book launch; he held a successful book launch party at his home.



After making these points, Jack read one of his stories titled "Old Joe Beard," to emphasize how book readings can effectively promote your material.

Regarding *The Roundabout Way*, below are excerpts from WLOV president Linda Keenan's 5-star Amazon review.

Jack O'Brien is a happy Villager, quite familiar with how to navigate traffic in The Villages via the many roundabouts that connect village to village... This book is written with realism, heart and more than a fair amount of humor and wit. Whether or not you are a Villager, you will identify with O'Brien's fictitious characters. Especially through the eyes of one over 55 years of age, but also by youngers coping with aging family members and the resultant issues, the funny and not-so-funny stuff that happens.

...Roundabout is a double entendre in this book. It applies to the traffic patterns in T.V. and to how life seems to flow in a roundabout way, most especially noticeable as we age. You will laugh at the colorful names of the Villagers, like Melody Arbuckle Prentice. You'll read about a Florida Black Bear visiting the garden of Melody and you will want to know what happens when they share lunch on a sunny day.

...I highly recommend "The Roundabout Way." Within its 24 stories, readers will be reminded of so many special parts of life and living. The good, the bad and the real. The funny, the dramatic and the emotional. Read these stories all in one sitting or read them one at a time in a roundabout way, in any order. It doesn't matter, you are sure to enjoy this book completely.

Linda Lee Keenan

Author of "The Journal" & "With Love From Poland"

Click <https://www.amazon.com/product-reviews/B09NB3DW8W/ref> to read this and other 5-star reviews of Jack's book.

The Story of an Hour (1894)

Writing Contests with June 30th Deadline

By Larry Martin
drlarry437@gmail.com

Every year there are dozens of writing contests you can enter. The ones promoted by Florida Writers Association and FAPA were open until April 30. Below are two, recommended by members, with ongoing contests that close soon. There is an entry fee, and they offer cash prizes. Each accepts digital submissions. If you know of a contest you'd like to recommend to members, please email me the website and I'll put it in the next newsletter.

Self-published book category ends June 30

<https://winningwriters.com/our-contests>

See website for other contest dates

Poetry contest ends June 30

<https://www.tckpublishing.com/2022-poetry-awards-contest/>

See website for other contest dates

Youtube presentation: BRINGING HOLOCAUST HISTORY TO LIFE: THE POWER OF PERSONAL STORIES – Mark Newhouse and Joanne Gilbert. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGg42Ms66YY>

Recorded May 15, 2022

TAMING MY MONSTERS: MESSAGES FROM THE HOLOCAUST, by Mark Newhouse.

Mark, founder of WLOV, was born in Germany two years after his parents were liberated from Auschwitz and Buchenwald. His grandparents and most of his family perished in the Holocaust. His award-winning novels, **The Devil's Bookkeepers**, are the intense, suspenseful, story of love and loyalty that brings to life the shocking events of the Lodz Ghetto in Poland.



WOMEN OF VALOR: Bringing Light to the Darkness, by Joanne D. Gilbert-

As a Baby Boomer growing up in a predominantly Jewish suburb of Detroit, Joanne's experiences with Holocaust Survivors inspired her to search for and share evidence of successful Female Anti-Nazi Resistance.

The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber (1936)

Reminders - Links and Emails

- Our website for the latest information: www.writersleagueofthevillages.com
- To volunteer to help with Book Expo 2023: WLOVWRITERS@GMAIL.COM or RITAB1423@GMAIL.COM
- To sell your book in B&N: Rita Boehm (ritab1423@gmail.com)
- To get your book in *The Villages Daily Sun*: Rita Boehm, (ritab1423@gmail.com)
- To sell your book in All Booked Up: Bill Pullen, billanita@att.net
- To place your book in the WLOV catalog: send info to WLOVwriters@gmail.com
- To receive publicity about your book in *Village Neighbors Magazine*: Mark Newhouse, mark@newhouse.net
- To provide a link in the newsletter to your author profile in *The Villages Daily Sun*: drlarry437@gmail.com
- A list of writing critique clubs in the Villages:
<https://writersleagueofthevillages.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Writing-Critique-Groups-3-08-22.pdf>

WLOV Author Starts Club for Rescue Dog Lovers

By Rita Boehm
WLOV Communications Director

After writing **Cubby the Wonder Dog & His Secret**, about his daughter's rescue dog, Writers League member Vincent "Cas" Castell decided to start a club for rescue dog lovers.

The Rescue Dog Lovers Club will hold its first meeting on Thursday, June 2nd from 10 - 12 at the Lofts in Brownwood.

If a rescue dog has claimed your heart, please join Vincent and other like-minded Villagers. You can contact Vincent at cascastell@yahoo.com.



Nightfall (1941)

WLOV Books in All Booked Up, for June

At the Colony Plaza store. Arranged and managed by Bill Pullen, (352) 430-3006, billanita@att.net

Fiction - (3 books)

- Dick Domann - "The Arakniv Deception"
- David Maurer - "Phantom of the Beach"
- George Massey - "GI(Guvmint)"

Children's book (1 book)

- Delores Kight - "Manny the Lamb"

Non-Fiction/Memoir - (1 book)

- Nancy Flanigan Schultz - "Flanigans in Amenia: The Irish Famine Immigrant Experience"

Non-Fiction/Other (1 book)

- Donn Dears - "The Looming Energy Crisis"

Villages Magazine Author for June - Gary Koca, "100 Favorite Classic Hollywood Films from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s"

Photos from All Booked Up book signing on Tuesday, May 10. Top left: George Massey speaking with a customer; Top right: Two customers at the table of Delores Kight. Bottom left: The Dollars for Scholars table with Joyce Gilette (President, seated left) and Robin Smith (Vice President); standing behind is Larry Phillips, a WLOV author. Bottom right: David Maurer speaking with Robin Smith.



Local Resources for Self-Publishing Your Book

By Larry Martin
drlarry437@gmail.com

There are a large number of publishing companies for the self-published author. Some are legitimate, some are outright scams. The worst are the ones whose business model is NOT to sell books to the public, but ONLY to sell services to the author. They mark up your book to a ridiculous price, then offer to sell copies back to you at a “discount.” Before you sign on with any self-publishing company that is new to you, review these two websites.

<https://selfpublishingadvice.org/>

<https://www.sfga.org/other-resources/for-authors/writer-beware/>

An alternative is to use a local company, a place where you can meet the principals involved, go over details in person if desired. The following local people/companies offer services to help get your book in publishing shape, such as editing, formatting, and/or cover design. They have two things in common. 1) They are all local, i.e., located in Sumter, Marion, or Lake counties, and 2) The principals are either club members, or if not, have been used by one or more of our club members to get their book into publishing shape. This list is not to be construed as an endorsement of any company or service. It is simply a listing of services available locally. If there are other businesses that fit these two criteria, please send the information to WLOVwriters@gmail.com.

Hallard Press – Editing, Design, Publishing
Website: <https://hallardpress.com/>
Principal: John Prince, Villages resident
Email: Info@HallardPress.com

Sea Hill Press – Editing, Design, Publishing
Website: <https://www.seahillpress.com>
Principal: Greg Sharp, Leesburg
Email: info@seahillpress.com

A Howard Activity LLC – Editing, Design, Publishing
Website: <https://www.paulahoward.com/>
Principal: Paula Howard, Villages resident
Email: Paula@paulahoward.com

Key Book Design – Book and cover design, typesetting, and other independent-author services. For print or e-book.
Website: <http://keybookdesign.com>
Principal: Ellen Davis, Villages resident
Email: ellen.davis@gmail.com

Newhouse Creative Group – Editing, Design, Publishing
Website: <https://newhousecreativegroup.com/>
Principal: Mark Newhouse, Villages resident
Email: Mark@Newhouse.net

Dan Traynor – Cover Design, Illustrations
Website: <http://www.dantraynor.com/>
Principal: Dan Traynor, Ocala
Email: danieltraynor66@yahoo.com

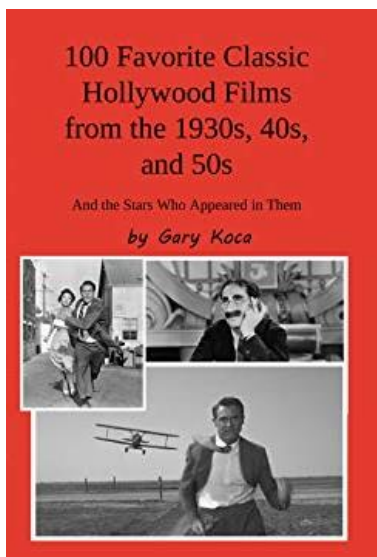
The Lottery (1948)
(This is title no. 7; one more)

May Newsletter Contest Winners

For this contest you were asked to identify the author of Broadway lyrics (not the composer of the music) and the name of the play We had two winners, Gary Koca and Leigh Court. The answers, in the order the lyrics appeared throughout the newsletter, are:

Gypsy – Stephen Sondheim
Annie Get Your Gun – Irving Berlin
South Pacific – Oscar Hammerstein II
Show Boat – Oscar Hammerstein II
My Fair Lady – Alan Jay Lerner
Fiddler on the Roof – Sheldon Harnick
Call Me Madam – Irving Berlin

Gary Koca



My book, *100 Favorite Classic Hollywood Films from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s*, covers my favorite 100 movies of those three decades, which were considered the “Golden Age of Hollywood.” My focus is mostly on American films, with a few British motion pictures also included. Please note this list means that they are MY favorite films, not necessarily the BEST films of those three decades – a very subjective rating, I will admit. For example, many film experts rate *Citizen Kane* and *Casablanca* as the best two American films of the classic era. However, while I like *Citizen Kane*, it is just not one of my favorite films, and I’m not really sure why. The same thing would apply to *Vertigo*, although I have two other Alfred Hitchcock films in the book. The reader will see that I am particularly partial to certain genres of films, especially the following:



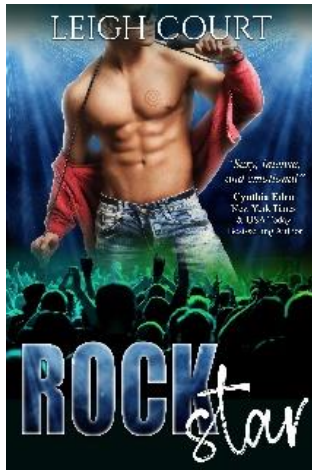
- Westerns
- Film Noir
- Monster Movies/Horror Films
- Mysteries and Who Dunits
- Swashbucklers
- Musicals

Editor’s note: The picture at right shows Gary as he gave a very informative presentation at the Enrichment Academy, May 10. He went through his top 20 films of this era, from his book. The number 1 film, in his opinion? “Best Years of Our Lives,” released in 1946.

<https://www.amazon.com/Favorite-Classic-Hollywood-Films-1930s-ebook/dp/B07VSHK317/>



Leigh Court



He's a rock star with stage fright. She's a therapist with a dangerous secret...

Sebastian Roe was shot onstage during a concert five years ago, sending him into a creative tailspin and leaving him with a deep fear of performing. But his love of music is too strong to keep him off a stage forever, despite the fact the police never caught the gunman. He just needs a little help getting back in front of an audience, and figures announcing a U.S. tour will force him back onstage. Unfortunately, it's bringing up his worst nightmare and puts his sold-out comeback tour in jeopardy.



Mia Merrill was in the audience the night of Sebastian's fateful concert. She loves his music and wants to help him overcome his PTSD and get him back onstage, but there's another reason she's determined to become his therapist. She's the reason he was shot. Driven by guilt and a need to atone, Mia takes Sebastian on as a patient. But no sooner do they start to make progress on Sebastian's stage fright than the gunman announces he's back to finish the job.

<https://www.amazon.com/Rock-Star-Leigh-Court-ebook/dp/B08R6C4MFD/>

"Sexy, intense and emotional!" -- Cynthia Eden, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author

"A backstage peek at the crazy, glamorous rock star world." -- Brenda Hiatt, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author

"... you will fall in love with Sebastian Roe from the first page." -- Fierce Romance

**For FWA Members:
WritersCon
October 28-30, 2022**

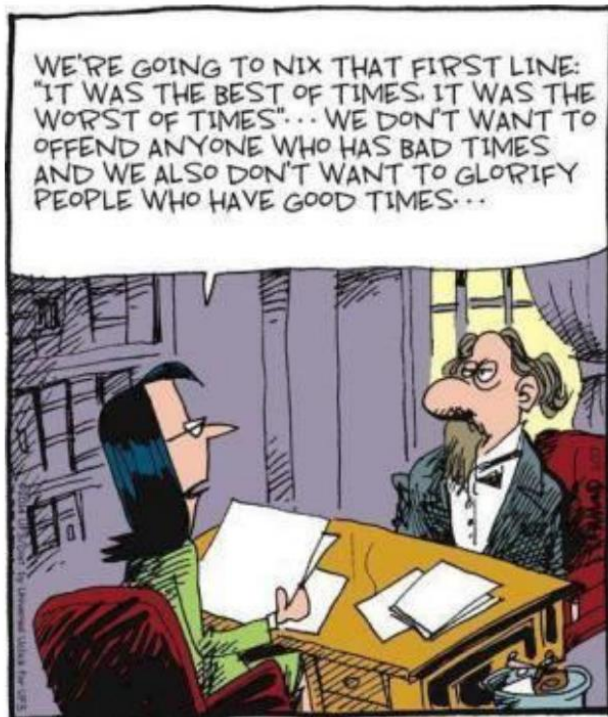
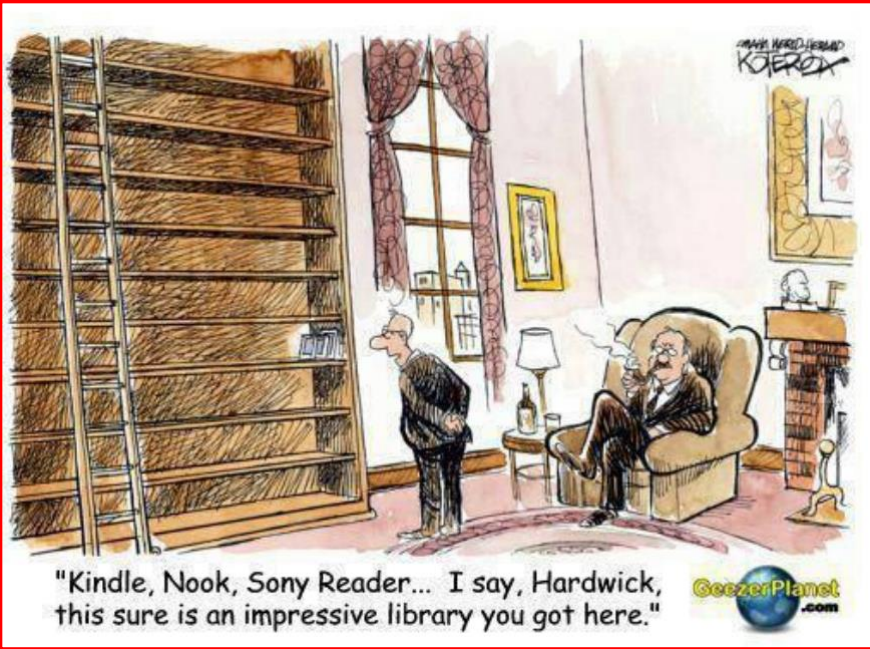


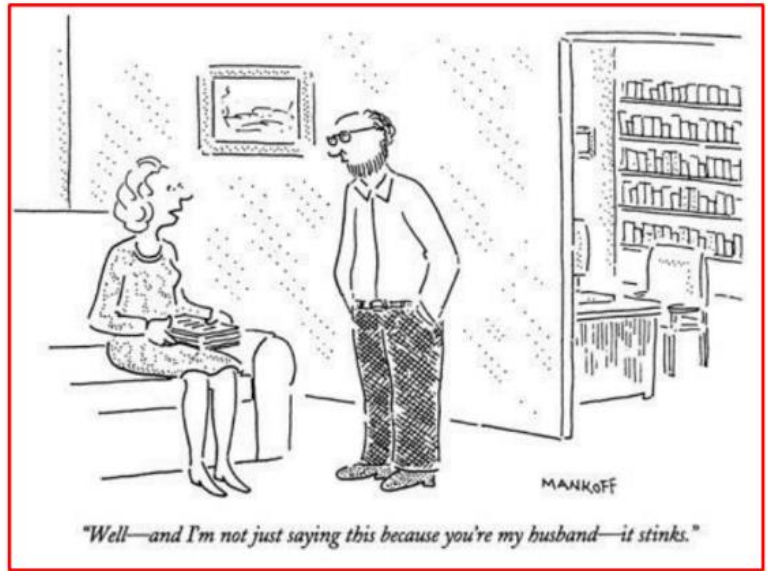
This will be the first in-person FWA convention since 2019; 2020 and 2021 were held virtually, due to Covid.

Register online now for 2022.

<https://www.floridawriters.org/writerscon-registration>

Cartoons

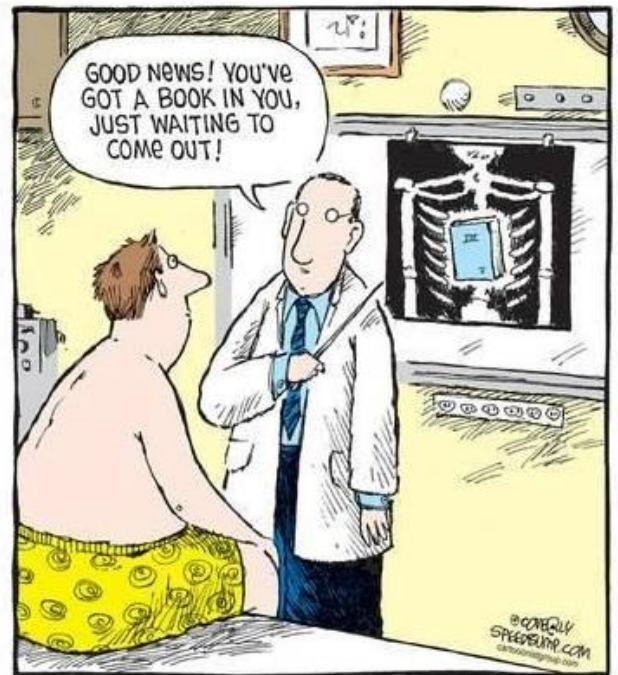




From *Writer's Digest*



"Steve, trust me, this has nothing to do with you being self-published."



Appendix 1: Book Expo Table Registration Form



Sunday, January 29, 2023 • 11am-4pm
Eisenhower Recreation Center

AUTHORS • BOOKS • FUN

Writers League of The Villages & The Villages® Recreation

Table Reservation Form

- Print the form, complete it and mail with your check payable to "WLOV" to: **WLOV BookExpo2023, 3170 Delk Drive, The Villages, 32163. No cash or credit cards.** Please note registration deadlines. Pass on to a friend.

Name: _____ Pen Name?: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Genre/s: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY – ESPECIALLY EMAIL ADDRESS

HOW IT WORKS:

- Exclusive registration for current **WLOV Members** begins on July 1, 2022 and continues until August 31, 2022. WLOV 2023 membership dues must be paid prior to January 20, 2023 for your table to be released.
- Registration for **non-WLOV authors** begins on September 1, 2022 and continues until December 15, 2022. After September 1, 2022 registrations for both WLOV Members and non-WLOV members will be accepted on a space-available basis. After registrations are filled, there will be a waiting list based on postmark date.
- Books for sale must be published before December 31, 2022 and have an ISBN number. No other merchandise, goods, or products may be sold.

TABLE FEES *(Note that fees have not increased!)*

___ Full table (6-feet): WLOV Members: \$50 (No limit on number of books)

___ Half table (3-feet): WLOV Members: \$35 (Limit: to two books). Share with: _____

___ Full table (6-feet): non-WLOV Members: \$70 (No limit on number of books)

___ Half table (3-feet): non-WLOV Members: \$55 (Limit: to two books). Share with: _____

___ Publishers/Agents/Editors (6-feet): \$85 (regardless of WLOV affiliation)

___ Electrical outlet needed? (Subject to availability)

___ Please note any special needs: _____

- Your registration will be confirmed by email. No refunds will be made after December 15, 2022.
- Tables will be assigned in mid-December 2022. No table pre-assignments available.
- Publicity for the event will begin in September and will include social media boosts for authors, webpage information, media releases and announcements, advertising, signs, and handouts.

• **QUESTIONS? Email: wlovbookexpo@gmail.com**

A Good Man is Hard to Find (1953)

Appendix 2

Read Aloud: A Neat Way to Self-Edit

By Larry Martin
drlarry437@gmail.com

Poor editing is probably the number one criticism of self-published books. The reason so many self-published books have this problem is two-fold. One is the well-known phenomenon that writers who go over their work tend to read what is in their head, not what is on the printed page (or computer screen). Thus, we miss obvious errors that others see, such as wrong tense, a missing verb, word repetition, a character named Mr. Smith who should be Mrs. Smith, etc. etc.

The second reason is that professional editing is expensive, so many (?most) self-published authors don't opt for it. A common attitude is that the cost (easily over \$1K for a full-length novel) will never be recouped in book sales, so why bother.

At the same time, probably every self-published author will admit that self-editing is not a good idea, and choose a middle ground between sole self-editing, and professional editing. The middle ground includes: review by family and/or friends, who likely won't be critical or nit-picky when they should be; critique groups that only see a small part of your story at a time; and online programs such as Grammarly, AutoCrit, Hemingway, et. al. These methods certainly can catch many errors, but they are not the same as true editing. The proof is in the result: the overall quality of self-published books doesn't match books from traditional publishers, a major reason being that the latter employ professional editors.

If your editing plans do include some aspect of self-editing, then by all means consider Read Aloud, which costs nothing. Two broad options:

Option 1): Read it aloud to yourself. Whenever I read aloud in my critique group, I'm amazed how mistakes become apparent that I missed when I read it silently. Steve Martin (no relation), in his Master Class on Editing played for WLOV members on Thursday afternoons (see screen shot), emphasizes this technique.



Option 2): Have your work read back to you, by the computer. Again, you will be amazed at the things you missed, that you now want to change or, in some cases, must change (i.e., it is Mrs. Smith, after all). The feature is available in Word, but only in Office 2019, Office 2021, and Microsoft 365 – not in older versions.

If you don't have Read Aloud in your version of Word, another option is to use the Read Aloud feature in pdf format. Save your Word document in pdf format, then click on the read aloud feature. Do this for your work and you will likely be surprised at the difference between reading it yourself, silently, and how it comes across when read aloud *to you*.

After you've saved your document in pdf, go to the page where you want the reading to begin. In the ribbon at top of the screen click on the A with the two little lines next to it.



Below are the first three paragraphs of one of the short stories in this month's newsletter quiz. Since this newsletter is in pdf format, you can easily have it read back to you. Once you start Read Aloud, note that the top ribbon shows 2 vertical bars for stopping, and right and left arrows for skipping up or down by a paragraph.



The Cask of Amontillado

THE thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could; but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge. You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that I gave utterance to a threat. At length I would be avenged; this was a point definitely settled—but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved, precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish, but punish with impunity. A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.

It must be understood that neither by word nor deed had I given Fortunato cause to doubt my good will. I continued, as was my wont, to smile in his face, and he did not perceive that my smile now was at the thought of his immolation.

He had a weak point—this Fortunato—although in other regards he was a man to be respected and even feared. He prided himself on his connoisseurship in wine. Few Italians have the true virtuoso spirit. For the most part their enthusiasm is adopted to suit the time and opportunity—to practice imposture upon the British and Austrian millionaires. In painting and gemmery, Fortunato, like his countrymen, was a quack—but in the matter of old wines he was sincere. In this respect I did not differ from him materially: I was skillful in the Italian vintages myself, and bought largely whenever I could.