



Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

December 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/>



**← Authors Seeking Amazon Reviews
See Pages 13-14.**



Customer reviews

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin
drlarry437@gmail.com



My Newsletter Assistant
(After a hole-in-one)

Last month we had four authors willing to give away one or more books for Amazon reviews. This month we have several more, [listed on pages 13-14](#).

As for upcoming writing-related activities, see [page 3](#). Lots to choose from in December and January. Expo23 is Sunday, Jan 29, 2023. See [page 7](#) for more info.

I have resumed the newsletter trivia quiz this month, with something new: an anagram of a **W**ell-known novel. An anagram is a word or phrase whose letters can be rearranged to some other word or phrase. All the letters of the word or phrase must be used only once. For example, debit card =

bad credit. Another example, an anagram of a famous author: clashed nickers = Charles Dickens.

To make this a little more challenging, and entice you to skim through the newsletter, the anagram is spread out among the pages. Simply identify the large red letters throughout the newsletter, which spell two words having nothing to do with the novel. The first letter of the anagram is on this page, above. After identifying all the red-bolded letters, simply rearrange them to spell the full name of the book. HINT: Total of eleven letters.

The first three people who send in the correct name of the novel can have their book profiled in next month's newsletter.

New this month is a list of member recommendations for services useful to self-publishers; see [page 11](#). If you have a specific recommendation, send it to me at drlarry437@gmail.com.

Last month I mentioned a new documentary about The Villages, titled "Golf, Booze & Guns." Gary Koca and Steve Howard saw the movie on Youtube and each wrote a review. They came away with different perspectives, which makes for interesting reading. See [Appendix, page 16](#).

Upcoming Writing-Related Events

Thursday, December 1, 6:30-8:30 pm – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Speakers are John Prince and Dick Domann

Wednesday, December 7, 3:30-5 pm – Expo 23 Training Session – Promoting Your Books Before and After. Laurel Manor Rec Center, Madison Room

Tuesday, December 13, 11 am – 2 pm – Book signing by WLOV authors at All Booked Up, 271 Colony Blvd.

Wednesday, December 14, 9-11 am – General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center. Enjoy our self-serve continental breakfast, then join our holiday party/game time with Ric Mitchell

Saturday, December 17, 11 am – 2 pm – Book signing by Bill Hurst and Fran Szarnicki, Wildwood Antique Mall, 364 Shopping Center Drive, Wildwood

Thursday, January 5, 6:30-8:30 pm – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Speakers are Jenny Ferns and Rita Boehm

Wednesday, January 11, 9-11 am – WLOV General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center. Program is “Selling Your Book Face to Face With Readers,” presented by club members Rita Boehm, John Prince, Paula Howard and Frank Lancione. **Also: Club Member Photo Shoot.**

Saturday, January 21, 11 am-2 pm. Book signing by Jenny Ferns and Kome Onokpise. Wildwood Antique Mall, 364 Shopping Center Drive, Wildwood

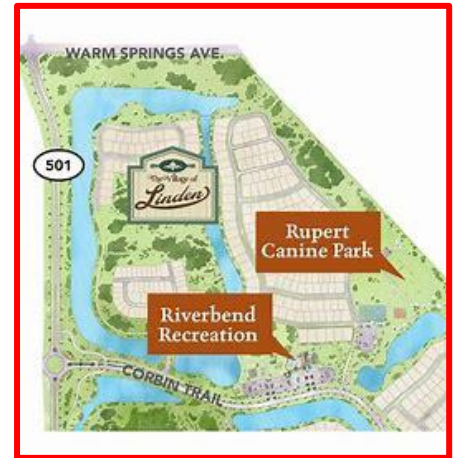
Sunday, January 29, 2023 -- 11 am-4 pm. BOOKEXPO 2023! Eisenhower Rec Center. See [page 7](#) for more information.

Thursday, February 2, 6:30-8:30 pm – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Speakers are Mel Harrison and Helga Godfrey.

Wednesday, February 8, 9 – 11 am – WLOV General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center. Program is “Storytelling Secrets from the World of Theater,” by Nathaniel Niemi, Education Director of the Sharon Theater.

Saturday, February 18, 11 am – 2 pm – Book signing by Tom LeBaugh and Barbara Welsh, Wildwood Antique Mall, 364 Shopping Center Drive, Wildwood

Sunday, February 26 -- 7:00-8:30 pm WLOV Scholarship Event, Laurel Manor Rec Center.



Also: MasterClass Videos Thursdays at 4 pm. Sign on to watch via Zoom. Paula Howard sends the Zoom link sent to all members on Thursdays.

Message From Your President

By Frank Lancione



You Know, What We Really Ought To Do Is . . .

I love WLOV and I especially have fun meeting and hanging out with other authors. I try to visit as many WLOV live events as I can where club members are signing books, giving presentations, and selling their books. Recently, at a book signing event at ALL BOOKED UP in Colony Plaza, the WLOV authors presented some especially good ideas about new initiatives for the club. I get ideas from club members a lot. Usually, it's: "You know, what we really ought to do is . . ."

My attitude to these suggestions is that the sky's the limit. We have tremendous talent in the club. If an individual is willing to volunteer to lead a new initiative and there are other club members who are interested in supporting it, we should give it a try.

But that's the problem. How do we find out if there is sufficient support to try out a new idea? Larry Martin and I want to encourage you to use our WLOV newsletter to do that. We want to formally showcase ideas from club members about new programs and initiatives. To do this, we want to start a new feature article: "Is Anyone Else Interested in Doing . . .?"

Notice that the title of this new feature article is a question, not a recommendation. It's a statement that the questioner is willing to take action to implement the idea and is looking to see if anyone else wants to help. The job of the club in this case is to put the interested parties together and provide a welcoming environment to help their new initiative succeed. A good model would be a business incubator program in a university or corporation. The person with the new idea is the leader and champion of the effort. The incubator helps them launch and grow it.

Bill Pullen's work establishing author book signings at All Booked Up, and Rita Boehm's work establishing the monthly author presentations at Barnes and Noble, are good examples. These projects started as ideas of individuals and have ended up as formal programs that provide marketing and networking opportunities for dozens of WLOV club members each year.

What about you? Do you have ideas you'd like to see become realities? If so, send me an email at flancione@verizon.net. When we get proposals, we'll sponsor "Is Anyone Else Interested in Doing . . . ?" articles in the newsletter. Other club members interested in your idea will be able to respond to you directly. If you decide to proceed, we'll work with you to help you launch your idea. It might fail, but it might also be wildly successful. The thing is, you'll never know which will happen until you give it a try.

Best regards,
Frank

WLOV's RPLA Winners

Rita Boehm, Communications Director
WLOVwriters@gmail.com

On Saturday, October 29th, at the annual Florida Writers Association's Royal Palm Literary Awards banquet, eleven Writers League of The Villages (WLOV) members achieved awards across nine different categories. The awards banquet capped off a successful WritersCon 2022 Conference at the Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs.

WLOV members won a total of twelve awards -- and swept the Unpublished Short Story category, winning gold, silver and bronze.

Royal Palm Literary Awards (RPLA) is a prestigious writing competition that recognizes extraordinary writing in 28+

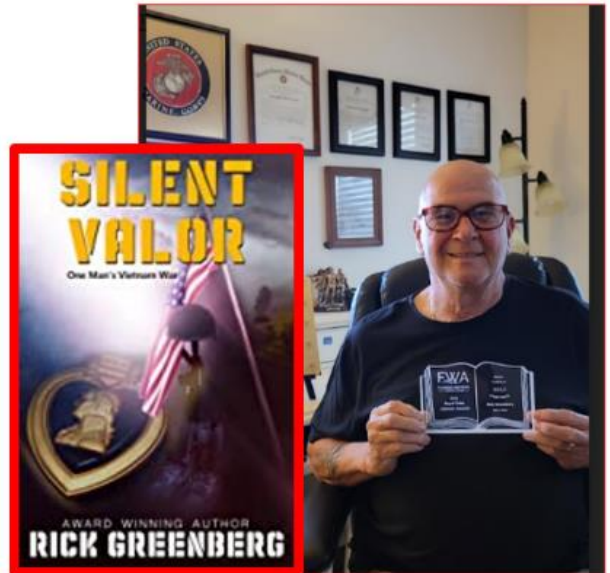
genre categories for adults and 5 genres for young writers.

It also provides objective and constructive

written assessments on all submissions. The list of winners is provided below. Pictured is Rick Greenberg, who runs the

Monday Critique group wannabe Writers, at Lake Miona Rec Center. Rick, a Vietnam veteran, won Gold for his novel *Silent Valor: One Man's Vietnam War*.

Added note: Al Pessin, one of the featured speakers for BookExpo2023 (January 29th at the Eisenhower Recreation Center, 11 am – 4 pm), won a Gold for his thriller, SHOCK WAVE, and a Bronze for his unpublished thriller, BODY MAN. He is also a previous Gold Medal winner.



PUBLISHED HISTORY: GOLD, Rick Greenberg, SILENT VALOR

PUBLISHED THRILLER: BRONZE, William Russell, SHALLOW WATER PREDATOR

PUBLISHED EDUCATIONAL: GOLD, Jeff Seeley, MISSION OMISSION, EXPOSING
INVISIBLE LIES AND THE ACE UP EVIL'S SLEEVE

UNPUBLISHED CREATIVE NONFICTION: SILVER, Shirley Jones, THE LAST FREE
RIDE

PUBLISHED ARTICLE: BRONZE, Rita Boehm, MY THERAPIST EATS HAY

UNPUBLISHED FLASH FICTION OR SHORT-SHORT FICTION: GOLD, Barbara Rein,
SHELF LIFE; SILVER, Shirley Jones, DADDY'S BEST HELPER

PUBLISHED SHORT STORY: BRONZE, Jack O'Brien, THE CHATEAU

UNPUBLISHED SHORT STORY: GOLD, Doc Honour, FISHING HANDS; SILVER, Clay
Gish, PRAIRIE ROSE; BRONZE, Dave McKeon, IGNORANCE ISN'T BLISS

UNPUBLISHED POETRY: SILVER, Alice Klaxton, A SEAFARING REVERIE

New Critique Group in The Villages

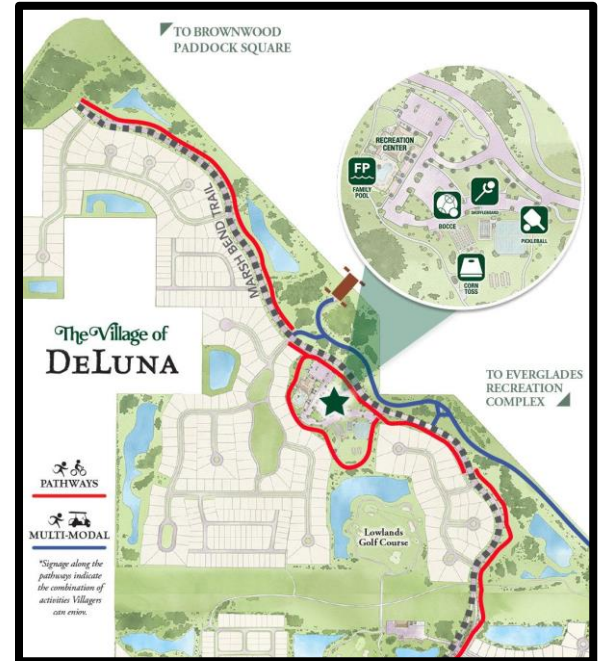
Writers of the Villages-South

By Millard Johnson

A new critique group is now meeting at Water Lilly Rec Center. This is the first critique group south of Hwy 44 (see map). WOV-South will meet every Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

If the time and location are convenient, please join us. You submit 1500 words, in Word format, to a google groups mail list for critique by the other group members. You will receive an edited manuscript with suggestions for changes, and positive feedback, either by return email or in person at a meeting of the group. In exchange for critical edits, you are required to edit submissions by other members. You should expect to receive about six 1500-word manuscripts every week.

Drop into a meeting any Thursday morning to see if our critique style works for you. For any questions, contact me at zendog3@mac.com, 317-584-5071.





Important Updates by our Communications Director

By Rita Boehm

Barnes & Noble

The current book selections will be featured until December 31, providing an excellent opportunity to purchase holiday gifts! We need your support to keep the momentum going and to continue to solidify our relationship with Barnes & Noble. To date, a total of 85 of our members have been offered an opportunity to have their books featured in Barnes & Noble. A new group of authors will be featured starting in January.

If you haven't yet been featured at Barnes & Noble, please send an email to wlovwriters@gmail.com, so we can make sure we have you on the list. Once each of our authors has had an opportunity to be featured, future participants will be chosen via a random drawing at one of our monthly meetings. NOTE: New members and members who have not yet been featured will be given preference and will automatically be added to the B&N list.

Stop at the store and ask for the Local Author Bookshelf. You'll find a fascinating selection of books written by our talented members.

NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT WLOV MEMBERS – FACEBOOK ALBUMS

WLOV members continue to make news. Here are links to news articles over the last 3 months. Click on the month to go right to that Facebook section.

SEPTEMBER FACEBOOK NEWS ARTICLES

OCTOBER FACEBOOK NEWS ARTICLES

NOVEMBER FACEBOOK NEWS ARTICLES

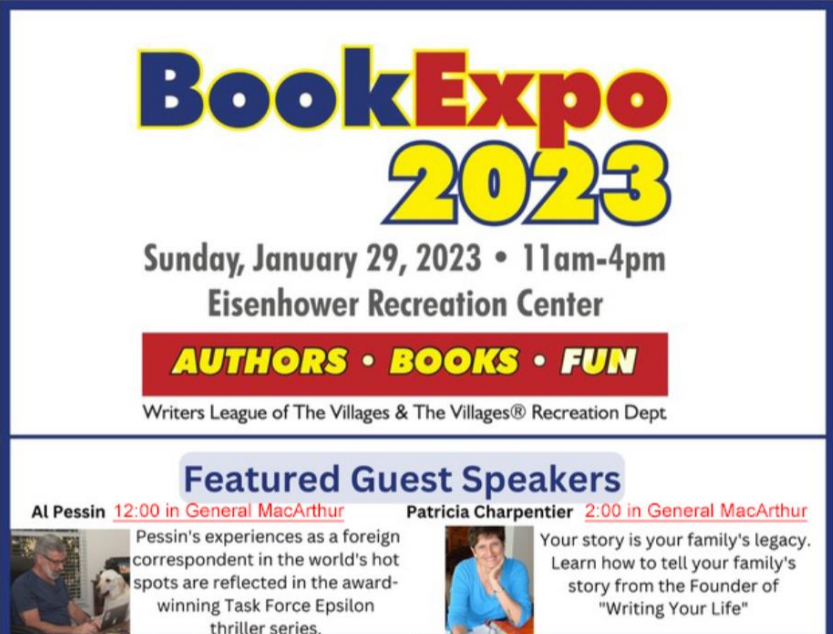
EXPO23

As in past years, we are distributing **Bookmarks and Golf Cart/Advertising signs**. We have plenty of signs to add to your cars and golf carts as well as bookmarks for you to give to your friends and neighbors and to hand out at various club and social events—or even at the doctor's office. You can also include one with your tip when you pay your restaurant tab. The list of possibilities is endless!

If you can't attend either the December 7th training or our December 14th General Meeting, please contact me so we can arrange for you to get your own supply.



Other publicity: We will be purchasing ads and encouraging the *Daily Sun* and Villages-News.com to provide pre-event publicity. We will also be reaching out for radio spots. If you have contacts at other news outlets, please share the information.

Featured Speakers at Expo23, Eisenhower Rec Center: As a further draw to bring people to BookExpo2023, we have booked two excellent speakers, Al Pessin and Patricia Charpentier.



BookExpo 2023
Sunday, January 29, 2023 • 11am-4pm
Eisenhower Recreation Center
AUTHORS • BOOKS • FUN
Writers League of The Villages & The Villages® Recreation Dept

Featured Guest Speakers

Al Pessin 12:00 in General MacArthur  Pessin's experiences as a foreign correspondent in the world's hot spots are reflected in the award-winning Task Force Epsilon thriller series.	Patricia Charpentier 2:00 in General MacArthur  Your story is your family's legacy. Learn how to tell your family's story from the Founder of "Writing Your Life"
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Al Pessin – Noon, January 29th, in the General MacArthur Room

As a foreign correspondent, Al covered the world’s hot spots. He was kicked out of China for his news coverage of the Tiananmen Square massacre, and his experiences in Afghanistan and Pakistan allowed him to create vivid and realistic settings for his award-winning, Task Force Epsilon thriller series.

Patricia Charpentier – 2 pm, January 29th, in the General MacArthur Room

Many Villagers talk about wanting to write their story for their grand-children. BookExpo2023 attendees will learn how best to do that from an expert. Patricia is the founder of “Writing Your Life” and a frequent and popular instructor at the Enrichment Academy.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: ORDER BOOKS - Don’t forget to order books! Amazon can take up to 3 weeks or more to deliver author copies.

Wildwood Antique Mall Book Signings

If you are interested in being featured at future book-signing events at the Antique Mall, please contact us at wlovwriters@gmail.com.

Store location: 364 Shopping Center Dr., Wildwood. The store is in the large shopping center on 301 at the opposite end from the Wildwood Post Office. Picture is of WLOV author Bill Pullen at an

Antique Mall book signing display.



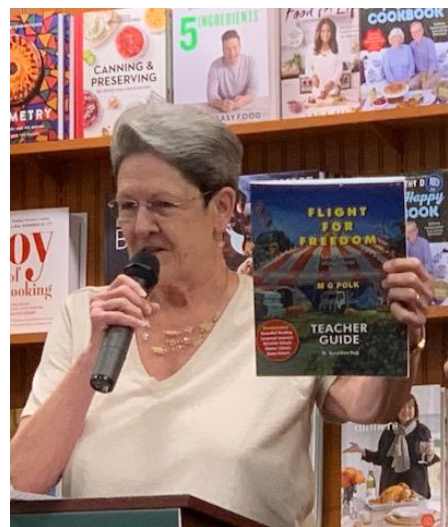
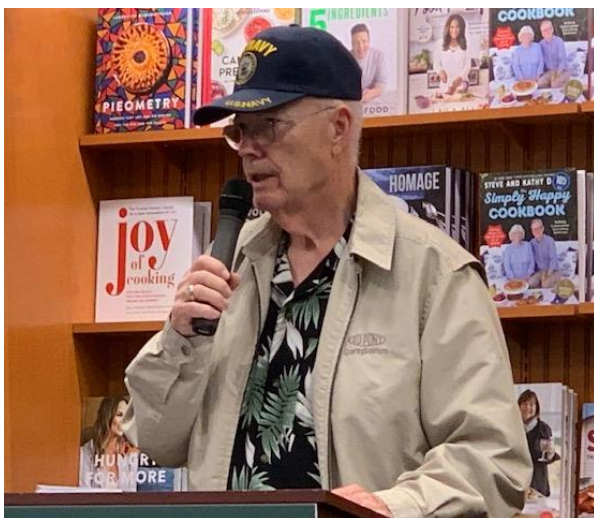
General Meeting November 9, 2022

The meeting was moved at the last minute, due to post-voting room maintenance in the Laurel Manor Rec Center. As members arrived to Laurel Manor, we were directed by Rita Boehm to Churchill Downs Rec Center, where the meeting was held. After the business meeting Paula Howard (standing, far right) conducted interviews with a panel of five club members about their fascinating careers. They are, from left to right, Scott McKnight, Elaine Bastel, Larry Moran, Shirley Manthorne, and Jack Jack Ciotti.

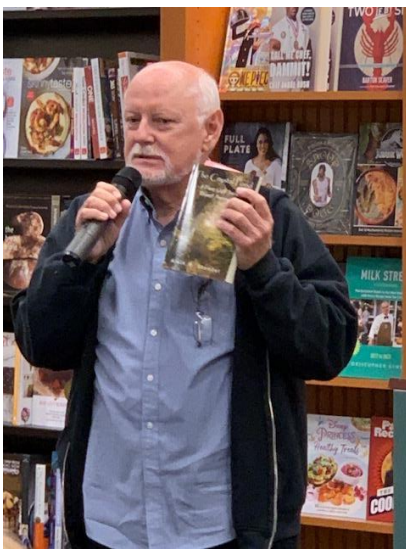


Pics from Barnes & Noble Kick Off Event November 5, 2022

Left right, this page. Audience assembled in B&N; WLOV President Frank Lancione and his wife Diane, with “Ms. Marple”; another view of audience; Pat Minots; Marcus Polk; Geri Polk.



Left to right, this Page: Jeanne Rogers; Fran Szarnicki; Alvin Stenzel; Rita Boehm; B&N rack with WLOV authors' books.



Resources for Self-Publishing

A list of local publishers and illustrators was in earlier editions of the newsletter. For the list, see page 9 of the [March 2022 newsletter](#) (← Click on date):

Going forward, the WLOV newsletter will publish reader recommendations of resources for the self-published author, starting with these three. Please send recommendations to drlarry437@gmail.com.

<https://kindlepreneur.com/free-amazon-ads-course/>

Recommended by Rita Boehm

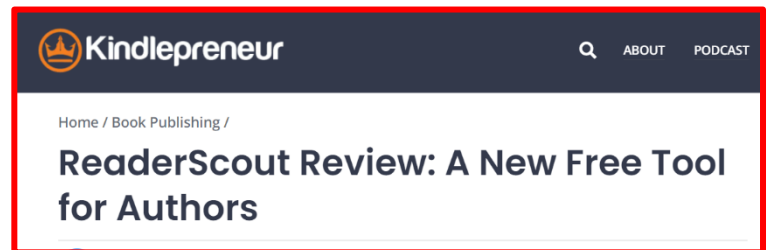
Dave's free Amazon ads course is a MUST for anyone wanting a basic understanding of a beneficial way to utilize Amazon ads. He provides step by step instructions on the whys and hows of developing keywords, writing ad copy, establishing bidding parameters, etc. Using Kindlepreneur makes searching for keywords easier - but it isn't a necessity.



<https://kindlepreneur.com/readerscout/>

Recommended by Rita Boehm

ReaderScout is a Google Chrome extension that allows you to both check on the current price of your books on Amazon (sometimes Amazon will reduce the price without notice) AND check on reviews. The little ReaderScout icon stays in the upper right-hand corner of your computer. Once you've set it up, you can just click on the icon, select a book and get the latest price and review info. It's a real timesaver.



<http://www.nancypaints.com>

Recommended by Bill Pullen

At a meeting I attended in Fort Lauderdale, I met an amazing award-winning Illustrator, Nancy Simmons Sica, website above. Her phone number is: (305) 494-7663.

<https://www.fiverr.com/projectk2>

Recommended by Jeanne E. Rogers

Fiverr illustrator Nylten Emeda. I recommend her for illustrations. Her prices are reasonable.

danieltraynor66@yahoo.com

Recommended by Larry Martin

I have used local illustrator Dan Traynor for book covers (see his covers of my books on pages 12 and 13.). Dan also does great illustrations. He's easy to work with and his prices are reasonable.

WLOV Authors in All Booked Up – for Dec 2022

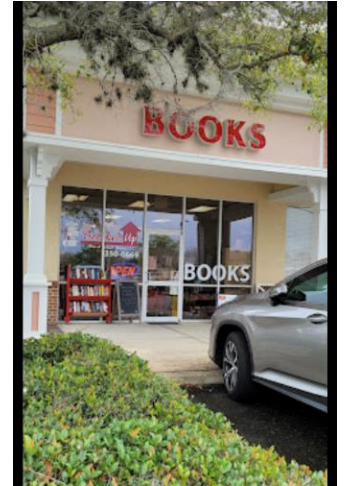
Store at 271 **C**olony Blvd. 32162

For info contact: Bill Pullen, (352) 430-3006 or billanita@att.net

Christmas/holiday-themed books are on sale for this month.

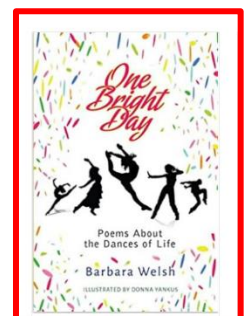
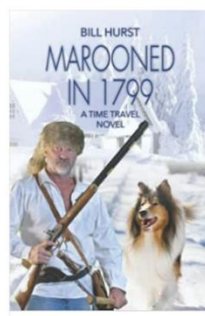
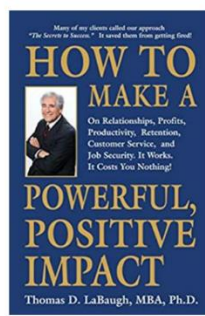
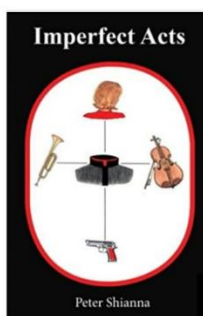
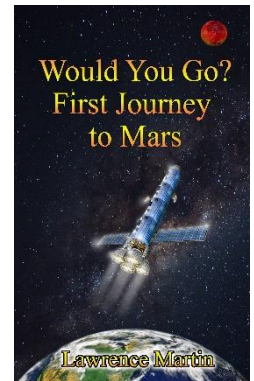
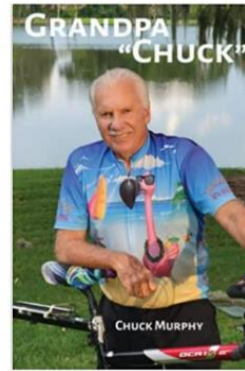
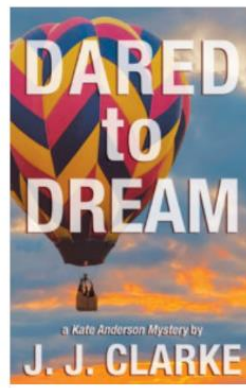
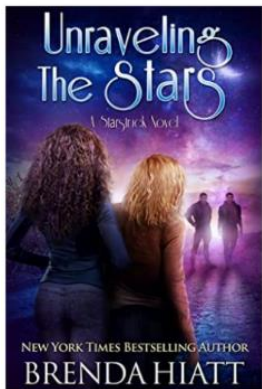
- Mark Newhouse - “Dreidel Dog”
- Dan Kincaid - “A Gift to the Nation”
- Steve Burt - “New England Christmas Sampler”
- Peggy Best - “The Reason for the Season”
- Judy Nieman - “Big Book of Christmas Activities”
- Tom Hannon - “Stocking Stuffers - Christmas Gifts from the Heart”
- Donn Dears – “The Looming Energy Crisis”

There will be a book signing event on Tuesday December 13th, 11am - 2 pm at All Booked Up.



New Books in WLOV 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



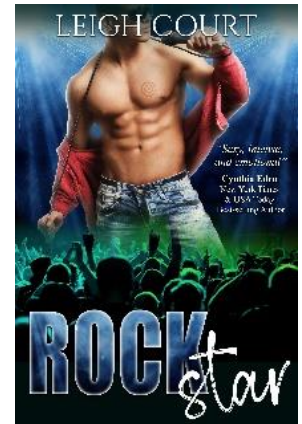
Free Books Offered for Amazon Reviews

Leigh Court

Rock Star

<https://amzn.to/3SIMzDk>

Blurb: Rock singer Sebastian Roe was shot during a concert and has developed stage fright. Therapist Mia Merrill wants to help him get back on tour, but there's a secret reason for taking Sebastian on as a client: she's the reason he was shot! But just as they start to make progress on Sebastian's PTSD, the shooter announces he's back to finish the job. Offering: Free Kindle download to first three responders. Email: leigh@leighcourt.com



Lawrence Martin

What Just Landed in The Villages? and Other Short Fiction

<https://www.amazon.com/Landed-Villages-Other-Short-Fiction/dp/0997895969/>

The title novella is a spoof on The Villages. The "other short fiction" includes eleven short stories, several prize winners in Florida Writers Associations Royal Palm Literary Awards competition. Free Kindle download to first three responders. Email: drlarry437@gmail.com.

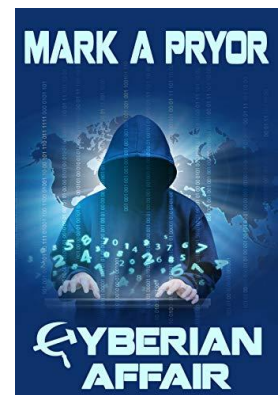


Mark Pryor

Cyberian Affair

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B07KPHYHJM>

A Russian billionaire wages cyber war on the American election. A patriotic American team fights back, using every dirty trick they know. When Russia retaliates violently, the attacks and counterattacks threaten lives and infrastructure in both countries. The action, both physical and cyber, is lightning fast. Discover the world of hackers and learn how dangerous a cyber war can be. Free Kindle download to first three responders. Email: markpryor@centurylink.net



Don Canaan

Thirteen: A Tale of Demonic Abuse

<https://www.amazon.com/Thirteen-Demonic-Abuse-Don-Canaan-ebook/dp/B0B143ZPQ8/>

The novel tells of two deities; one worshiped by humans, the other vanquished in a coup d'état, and their continuing battle for supremacy. In 1666, a 13-year-old boy was selected to continue that battle into the present. AudioFile Magazine called an earlier version, “A realistic account...that never misses a beat as the tragic picture continually changes.” Ten free pdfs are available by emailing dcanaan4@gmail.com



BarbaraRein.com

Tales From the Eerie Canal: 22 Stories of the Delightfully Dark and Creepy

<https://amzn.to/3rGm7Pr>

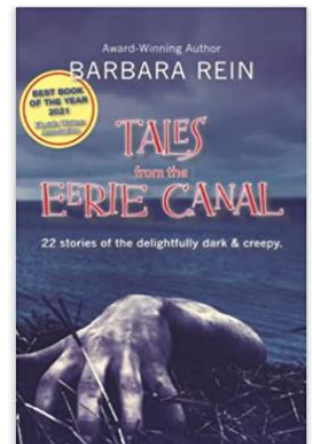
“Best Book of the Year 2021”—Florida Writers Association

Murder by toilet plunger. Revenge by pie. Famous-Wealthy-Living it up-And dead! A collection of “horror lite” short stories—goosebumps, not gore.

Twilight Zone-type tales with a kick of humor. Named 2021 “Best Book of the Year” by the Florida Writers Association.

Offering 3 free eBooks in exchange for lovely reviews.

Barbara@BarbaraRein.com

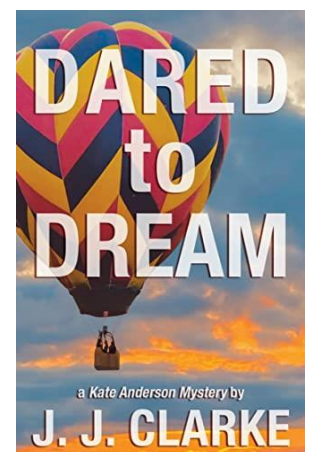


Julie Johnson

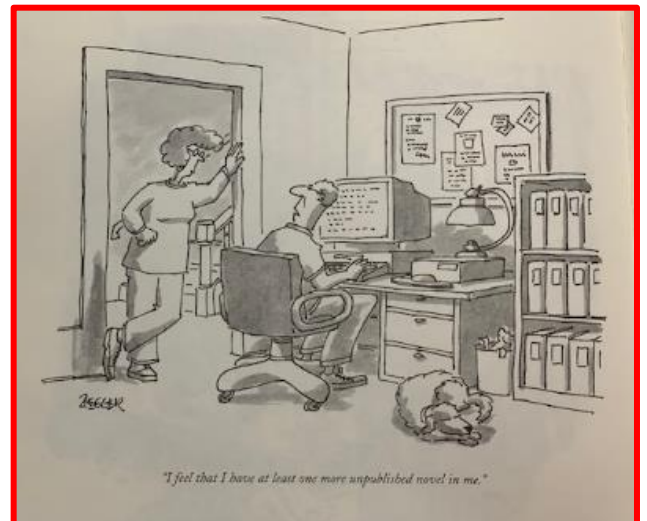
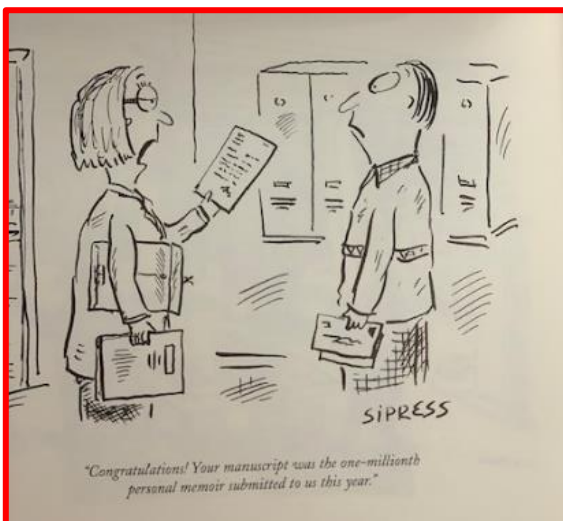
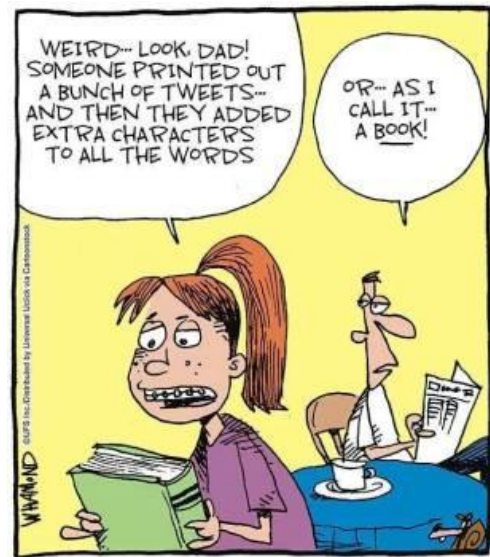
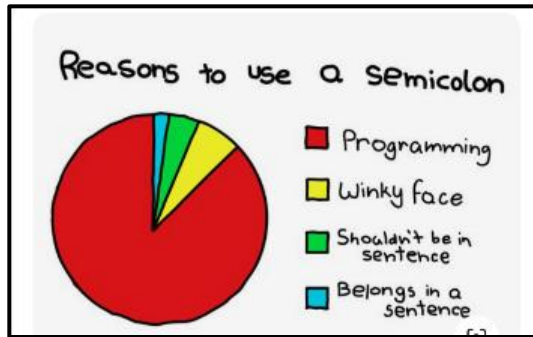
Dared to Dream

<https://www.amazon.com/Dared-Dream-Anderson-Mystery-Mysteries-ebook/dp/B0B8Q8H854/>

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of my writing. I’m requesting reviews for my recently released book, *Dared to Dream*. Five free ebooks available for potential Amazon reviews. Please email jjclarkeauthor@gmail.com.

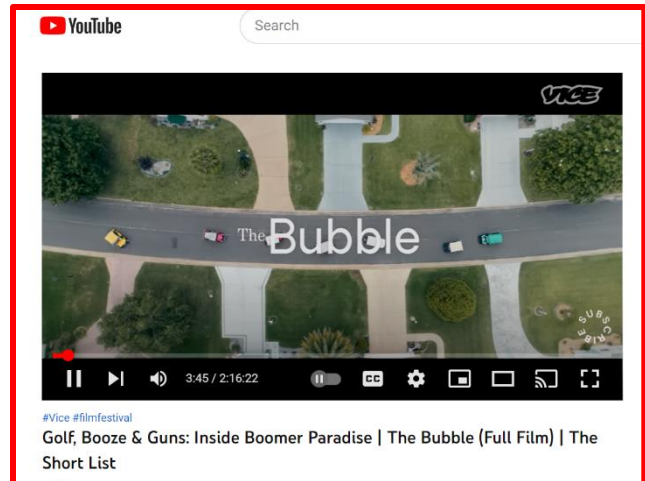


Cartoons



Appendix

Below are two reviews of the movie “Golf, Booze & Guns” by WLOV members Gary Koca and Steven Howard.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jp0nqJ1yrrg>

Review #1 of “Golf, Booze & Guns”

“Golf, Booze, and Guns” is a two-hour and 16-minute documentary on life in The Villages, Florida, directed by an Austrian woman who heard about The Villages and wanted to find out more about it. Actually, the title is a bit of a misnomer, because there is very little mention of guns or booze.

Overall, it is a pretty positive review of life in The Villages. The director mentions that she wishes there were more places like this in Austria, so that her parents could live in a community like this. She has a generally positive view of the Villagers she met - nice people, willing to talk freely to her - and a negative view of the Morses - very unhelpful, very controlling. She focuses on pluses and minuses of The Villages (not that many minuses), while holding extensive interviews with two couples and one single woman. I found the two couples to be normal and typical Villagers, but did not care for the single woman at all - very self-centered, doing everything she could do to make herself look 45 instead of 65 or 75.

Other impressions:

- The film focuses on an array of activities available in the Villages. The negative is that almost all of them are athletic or fitness related. No mention at all of activities that are not athletic - for example, WLOV, other writers’ clubs, book clubs, etc. I found that to be a misrepresentation.
- The film presents The Villages as life in the Bubble - which is true. It focuses on the fact that everyone is old (of course, it is a 55 and older community), virtually everyone is white, and almost everyone is a conservative Republican who can’t understand why the rest of the US is not like them, at least politically.
- She interviews a reporter from one of the Tampa or Orlando newspapers who is not as sold on The Villages as the rest of the documentary. She mentions things like the water table going down, and the fact that the Morses, as well as most Villagers, don’t care anything about the people around the Villages who are being displaced as the Villages expands.

Overall, it is a positive look at The Villages from a filmmaker who had no agenda when she began this project. It is clear that she likes the people if not the Morses.

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Review #2 of “Golf, Booze & Guns”

An interesting and sometimes revealing documentary about The Villages and how many living here view the experience of growing older in this huge, carefully controlled, mega-MAGA (Make America Great Again, a la Trump) community.

There are major aspects of who we are that are not ever touched upon, e.g., how much Villagers do to support others, support that results in thousands of dollars of food and supplies collected and donated to serve others. It doesn't reflect the hours of time, energy, and funds offered by these same individuals portrayed as self-centered, ego-driven folks that only want to play, drink, party, and look good so they can feel good!

It doesn't present the voices of those considered part of minority groups, ethnically, politically, and socially, nor does it paint a complete picture of the conservative majority.

I can recall when, back in 2006, those of the Jewish faith felt like (and were) a minority group; they came together, however, and within a few short years built a beautiful temple near The Villages and today offer so much to so many.

The documentary doesn't mention all the classes that people attend to learn and grow in order to lead fulfilling lives. Based on what my wife and I have experienced, neighbors do care about one another, always ready to help in any way they can. That wasn't the message conveyed in this documentary.

While I personally think the family-based owners/developers have created a beautiful place to live if you're retired and want what is offered here, some of the truths about how the developers control everything and spoon-feed only points of view that support their conservative values were reflected in this documentary, and I take my hat off to those who reviewed this documentary film and approved its release.

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