

Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter



January 2023

Expo23 is Jan 29th →



? Who wrote the Introduction to this month's newsletter ? (See page 2)

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Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin drlarry437@gmail.com

In Chicago with Iris, my editorial assistant



Read the bolded-text Introduction, then answer the multiple-choice question: Who wrote it? Answer is on Page 3.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Writers League of the Villages newsletter!

Writers League of The Villages is a community of writers, poets, and authors who come together to share their passion for the written word. Our group is open to all levels of writers, from beginners to published authors, and we offer a

variety of events and resources to support and inspire our members.

In this newsletter, you can expect to find updates on upcoming events, writing prompts and exercises, book recommendations, and other resources to help you improve your craft and connect with other writers. We also feature member profiles and share news and accomplishments from our community.

We hope you will join us in our mission to cultivate a love of writing and to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for writers in The Villages and beyond. Thank you for your interest in the Writers League of The Villages.

Who wrote this Introduction?

- 1) Your newsletter editor
- 2) Another member of WLOV
- 3) The lovely teenager in the picture
- 4) A machine

Last month we had two winners for the anagram quiz; their books are profiled on page 12. This month I've gone back to one of the more popular trivia contests: naming the WLOV author from the book cover. There are EIGHT book covers in this newsletter, which you will find in two different pages, 4 on each page. Just name the WLOV author of each. The first 3 readers to send in the 8 correct authors will have their book of choice profiled in the February newsletter. Hint: all the books are in the in the WLOV catalog, www.writersleagueofthevillages.com.

Don't forget to bring a copy of your book for the group photo shoot, which will take place after our general meeting Wednesday, January 11. The big event this month is our annual Expo, Sunday, Jan 29, 2023 ("annual" except for 2021 and 2022, when it was canceled due to Covid). Over 100 authors will be selling their books. See page 7 for more info.

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON PAGE 2

A machine. Specifically, an artificial intelligence program called ChatGPT, that could soon by writing (if you let it) your novels, short stories, and essays. Sign in to https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/ and enter a topic – any topic – and see what text it churns out. I entered "Introduction to Writers League of The Villages Newsletter" and the above is exactly what it



produced. It is not great – reads like corporate-speak – but it is syntactically correct and provides information that really does describe our club. YouTube has videos of this remarkable program, which one day could replace all of us (as writers, that is).

Upcoming Writing-Related Events

JANUARY

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

Saturday, January, 7, 2-3 pm – First kick-off event for Q1 B&N authors, Lake Sumter Landing. See page 5 for more info.

Tuesday, January 10, 11 am – 2 pm – Book signing at All Booked Up, Colony Plaza. Authors are Larry Martin, Barbara Canale, and Jim Bucko.

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 after the meeting.

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

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

FEBRUARY

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 11, 2-3 pm – Second kick-off event for Q1 B&N authors, Lake Sumter Landing. See page 5 for more info.

Tuesday, February 14, 11 am-2 pm – Book signing at All Booked Up, Colony Plaza. Authors are Ron Miller, Carolee Owen, and Rebecca Rock

Saturday, February 18, 11 am-2 pm – Book signing by Tom LaBaugh and Rita Boehm, Wildwood Antique Mall, 364 Shopping Center Drive, Wildwood



Sunday, February 26, 7:00-8:30 pm – WLOV Scholarship Event, Laurel Manor Rec Center. "Older & Wiser: An evening of comedy and insights featuring Dr. Nancy Berk." Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased on our website, www.writersleagueofthevillages.com.

MARCH

Thursday, March 2, 6:30-8:30 pm – Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center. Speakers are Jack Ciotti and Steve Burt

Wednesday, March 8, 9 am-11 am – WLOV General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center. Program is "Techniques for fusing diverse life experiences into a coherent storyline," by WLOV member Scott McNight.

Saturday, March 18, 11 am-2 pm – Book signing by Gary Koca and Kome Onokpise, Wildwood Antique Mall, 364 Shopping Center Drive, Wildwood

Message From Your President

By Frank Lancione



CONNECTION. If you missed the WLOV December 14th Christmas party, you missed a good one. We had ten new members join the club and an almost equal number of new books announced. It was impossible not to be impressed as each new member stood up to introduce themselves and share their background and their writing experience.

The same thing was true as other members introduced their newly-published books. After months, sometimes years of effort, here they were announcing that their dream was finally realized – their book was now published and available for all the world to see. Topping the session off, game show maestro Ric Mitchell hosted over an hour of his famous juke box trivia

game activities. The loud music, sound effects, and fierce competition had groups cheering, hooting and hollering as their table beat others in buzzing in with correct answers to book and musical trivia questions. (For pics, see page 8).

As host of our monthly meetings, it's my job to manage the agenda. One of the activities I had to drop from the schedule due to time constraints was a small group exercise to reflect on all that we have to be grateful for. We seat members at tables during meetings to promote person-to-person and small group interactions. I had planned to set aside 10 minutes for people to talk to the other people at their table about what was going right in their lives, our Villages community, and our country. We would have followed that up with about 5 minutes of full group sharing of the results of those discussions. In total, we would have spent about 15 minutes reminding ourselves of all the good things that we have in our lives – especially those of us lucky enough to live here in The Villages.

While we didn't have time for this exercise, I felt that the goals of the exercise had been fully met. There are three main goals for WLOV: education, promotion, and networking. Teaching people to become better writers and promote and sell their books are easily understood and measurable goals. Networking, however, is more ephemeral.

How do you measure the benefits of getting to hang out with other people like you who are interested in writing and literature? For me, it's one of those "I know it when I see it" things. At the end our December meeting, people were jazzed up, laughing, smiling, shaking hands, hugging each other and genuinely wishing each other a Merry Christmas as they were leaving the meeting room. There was a sense of connection that was tangible and heartwarming.

Few of the people who live in The Villages today grew up here. What's left of our families and the people we knew in the earlier parts of our life are now physically far away from this place where we spend our days. That makes the sense of connection with others that groups like WLOV provide even more important at this stage of our lives.

I suppose we could evaluate how well WLOV is doing as a club by tracking membership growth, the number of awards won by members, or other "hard" metrics. Truly though, for me, providing a place where people can find an intellectual, emotional, and spiritual home with other "birds of a feather" like themselves will always be one of WLOV's most important missions. It's certainly one of the things that I will be giving thanks for during my tenure. I hope you feel that way about our club too!

Happy New Year! Frank

WLOV's Scholarship Event Feb 26th

By Frank Lancione, flancione@verizon.net

WLOV 2023 Scholarship Event - Have Fun and Support a Good Cause! Join me and Tweet Coleman on Wednesday Jan 11th and be a part of the WLOV 2023 scholarship program event supporting local kids. We will be meeting in the Jefferson Room of Laurel Manor right after the WLOV meeting and after our annual club picture.

Our goal is to sign up people to help with marketing in January and February 2023 and with the event itself on February 26th, at 7:00 pm, Laurel Manor Recreation Center. Get involved in the fun as Dr. Nancy Berk premiers a new comedy routine developed especially for The Villages audience.

Contact me at flancione@verizon.net or Tweet at tweetcoleman@gmail.com for further information, or if you have any questions.



Important Information from WLOV's Communications Director

B&N – FB Items – Expo23
By Rita Boehm

Barnes & Noble Update

NEW BOOKS - TWELVE NEW AUTHORS!

Our Q1 2023 event starts at the beginning of January and continues through March. Please join us on Saturday, January 7th at 2 pm for the first kick-off of our Q1 event. Kick-off event number two will be held on February 11th. To date, a total of 85 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 your book hasn'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, shown in the picture (turn right after entering the store; its on the way to the coffee shop). You'll find a fascinating selection of books written by our talented members.

NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT MEMBERS – FACEBOOK ALBUMS

WLOV members continue to make news. Here are the links to find news articles written about members over the last 3 months.



OCTOBER FACEBOOK NEWS ARTICLE POSTED

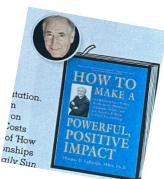
https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.478478794319783&type=3

NOVEMBER FACEBOOK NEW ARTICLES POSTED

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.497931765707819&type=3

DECEMBER FACEBOOK ARTICLES POSTED

https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.524598176374511&type=3



BookExpo2023 – News Update

We're coming down to the final stretch for BookExpo2023!

EXHIBITOR TRAINING: We've held two excellent, well-attended training sessions. Additionally, at our January 11th General Meeting, the presentation will focus on what all authors should know about selling their books at an event like BookExpo2023. **ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:** Room and table assignments have been sent out – along with a list of things exhibitors need to know – like what time you need to arrive for set up. If you can't locate the email, please check out the Expo page on our website or contact me at wlovwriters@gmail.com.

EVENT PUBLICITY: The next 4 weeks are key! Expo team efforts are ongoing: The Daily Sun ran two Expo ads in December. Two

more will appear in the January 11th and 25th editions. Additionally, we've been promised some pre-event publicity in the paper. The local radio station has started announcing the event. The Recreation News will include ads in January. Mark Newhouse's column, The Writing Bug, in Village Neighbor's Magazine will focus on Expo.

Your job: If you haven't handed out all of your bookmarks – now's the time to approach friends and neighbors—and even the staff at your 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 need more bookmarks – just let me know.

Also, remember to send out emails to your neighborhood mailing list, club rosters, church groups, etc. They will thank you for letting them know about this event.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

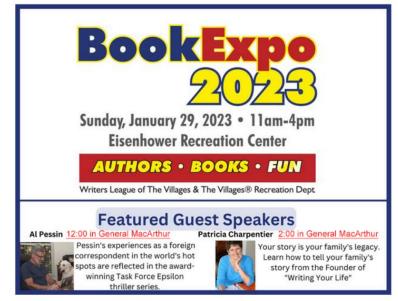
We have booked three excellent speakers to help attract attendees:

12:00 - Al Pettis – As a foreign correspondent, Al covered the world's hot spots. His experiences in Afghanistan and Pakistan allowed him to create vivid and realistic settings for his award-winning, Task Force Epsilon thriller series.

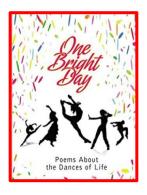
2:00 - Patricia Charpentier – Many Villagers talk about wanting to write their story for their grand-children. BookExpo2023 attendees will learn how best to do that from an expert. Patricia is the founder of "Writing Your Life" and a frequent and popular instructor at the Enrichment Academy.

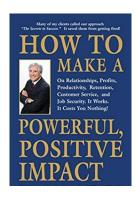
3:00 - David Houck – The CEO of SoZo Kids and the Help Agency will speak on combatting rural poverty, focusing on the Ocala National Forest.

FRIENDLY REMINDER: ORDER BOOKS – If you haven't yet ordered your Expo books – you may be out of time! Amazon can take 3 weeks or more to deliver author copies. At every Expo there is always at least one person in a panic, waiting for their books to arrive on time. Don't let this be you.

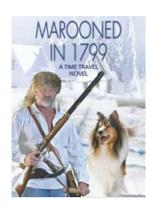


Four of the 8 books in this month's newsletter contest. Name the WLOV authors. See page 2 for details.





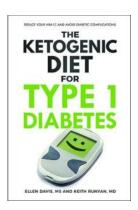


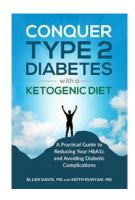


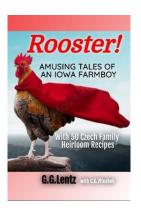
New Books in WLOV Catalog

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

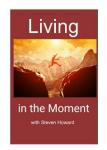


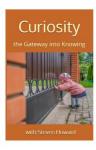




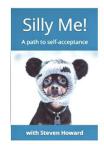


A series by Steven Howard













Pics from General Meeting December 14, 2022

After a short business meeting, during which new members were introduced, followed by announcements of new books by other members, entertainer Ric Mitchell presented his always-exciting, high-tech trivia contest.

Table 11, captained by master-of-trivia Dick Domann, won the contest. Did you know the Bible is the most shoplifted book in the world? Or that peacocks don't lay eggs? The Table 11 winners are pictured in the bottom photo. From L to R: Spence Langford, Dick Domann, Thomas LaBaugh, Mark Newhouse, Dorothy Lamuth, Larry Martin. Just behind Larry's left shoulder Mark is holding up the fabulous prize each member won – shown in full beside the picture.













On Writing

The Oxford Comma

From: https://hallardpress.com/the-oxford-comma/



Which is correct?

- I'm going to need eggs, flour, butter, and chocolate chips for the cookies.
- I'm going to need eggs, flour, butter and chocolate chips for the cookies.

The correct punctuation is the Oxford comma in the first sentence. The Oxford comma comes before the "and" in a list of things.

Also known as the "serial comma," the Oxford comma is the sometimes-optional final comma in a list of things. For example, the comma after "milk" in the below sentence: *Gordon bought bread, milk, and eggs at the grocery store.*

Some style guides insist on the Oxford comma, and others think it's no big deal. But, neglecting to use it can lead to some serious misunderstandings.

I'm having breakfast with my parents, Beyonce and Jay-Z.

The lack of an Oxford comma in this sentence makes its meaning ambiguous. Is the speaker having breakfast with four people — Mom, Dad, Beyonce, and Jay-Z? Or are their parents actually Beyonce and Jay-Z? Inquiring minds want to know. A final comma in the series would clear up the confusion.

TIPS + NEWS > TRAVEL TIPS + ETIQUETTE

By Chris Ciolli • February 02, 2017

10 English Words With Unfortunate Meanings in Other Languages

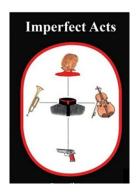
https://www.afar.com/magazine/10-english-words-with-unfortunate-meanings-in-other-languages

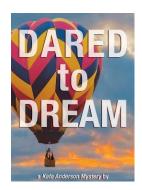
WLOV member Don Canaan recommends this website. He writes:

Have you heard what happened to the Chevy Nova when GM tried to sell it in South America? Well, it bombed because the word "Nova" in Spanish translates as "doesn't go." And, who knew "face" could mean something so different in French? This website can help writers avoid snafus by telling you what English words are no-no's in various foreign languages. It's especially useful if you are producing translations to sell overseas.

Four of the 8 books in this month's newsletter contest. Name the WLOV authors. See page 2 for details.









Recurring Items of Interest

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/

<u>Great Courses Writing Videos</u>: Thursdays at 4 pm. WLOV members will receive an email notice from Paula Howard prior to these videos; if you don't get one, email her at pfhoward777@gmail.com.



<u>To review past WLOV newsletters</u>, go to https://writersleagueofthevillages.com/and click on Newsletters in the top banner.

<u>Pay 2023 dues online, \$20</u>. You can pay via credit card or Paypal. To join or renew, go to www.writersleagueofthevillages.com. Click on "Join Now" then choose Join or Renew. If you encounter any problems email WLOVwriters@gmail.com.



<u>WLOV Book Catalogue.</u> If you'd like your book(s) in our catalogue, please send a picture of your front cover (.jpg or .png), a short description of the book, and a purchase link (usually Amazon), to Paula Howard: pfhoward777@gmail.com.

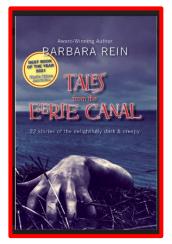
Village Neighbors Magazine

If you'd like to be featured in Mark Newhouse's monthly Writing Bug column in Village Neighbors Magazine, email him at mark@newhouse.net.

Two Winners of December Newsletter Contest and Their Featured Books

The answer to the anagram, consisting of spread throughout the December newsletter, was Tolstoy's novel "War and Peace."

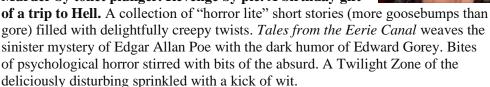
Barbara Rein: Tales from the Eerie Canal



Stories of the Delightfully Dark and Creepy. https://www.amazon.com/Tales-Eerie-Canal-Stories-Delightfully/dp/173493557X/

NAMED "2021 BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR" BY FLORIDA WRITERS ASSOCIATION



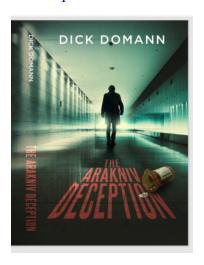


Twenty-two morsels of fantasy, horror, sci-fi, and romance. Take a taste:

- *They're famous, wealthy, and living it up. And they're dead.
- *They offered her a dream job—but for just one body part.
- *Not everyone gets invited to the resort. Not everyone gets to go home.
- *She thought she'd die peacefully. Then the witch came.
- *He was just a kid in a candy shop. With a killer of a sweet tooth.
- *Eternal life has a whole new meaning for a vampire bitten by love. And more...

Dick Domann: The Arakniv Deception

https://www.amazon.com/Arakniv-Deception-Pharmaceutical-Thriller/dp/B09HFSMLFC/



"Medicines are supposed to heal, not harm."
Geoffrey Winters, Head of Security for Valhalla
Pharmaceuticals, discovers an insidious link between
their breakthrough arthritis drug, Arakniv, and a
global plot designed to create a stranglehold on
patients. The unexpected death of Valhalla's CEO
forces Winters and his colleagues down a path of
deadly intrigue as they unravel the knot that is the
Arakniv Deception. If you have been captivated by
Dopesick or Dangerous Doses this is the novel for
you. Drawn from forty years of experience in the

pharmaceutical industry this thriller will grab you and drive you to the questions...what are these drugs really designed to do?

WLOV Authors in All Booked Up – for Jan 2023

Store at 271 Colony Blvd.

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

Fiction (3 books)

- Rebecca Rock "The Guardians: Inheritance"
- Ron Miller "Chasing Shadows"
- Larry Martin "What Just Landed in The Villages? and Other Short Fiction"

Non-Fiction - Memoir/Self Help

• Barbara Canale - "Prayers, Paper and Play"

Non-Fiction - 1 book

• Jim Bucko - "Why We Think The Way We Do"

Children's Book

Carolee Owen - "In His Time"

Plus: Villages Magazine Featured Author for January

• Mark Newhouse - "The Devil's Bookkeepers 1: The Noose"



Scammers just don't know how to write good English.

By Larry Martin drlarry437@gmail.com

Norton Life Lock Hello drlarry437@gmail.com Subscription with Norton Antivirus has been successfully renewed and update. The amount worth of \$789.99 will be reflected in your bank statement within 24 hrs. Order details: -Product :- Anti Virus INV/45215/SKT754 16/12/2022 Date:-\$789.99 Amount:-If you wish to cancel the subscription, then please feel free contact us our customer HELPDESK CALL US +1 888-809-8961 Thanks & regards Billing Team

I get this type of scam email 2-3x/week. Sometimes it's a fake renewal to Geek Squad, but more commonly to Norton. In this one:

- The real Norton product is "Lifelock" not "Life Lock"
- Who addresses a customer by their email? Only scammers
- "update" should be "updated."
- "16/12/2022" -- In the U.S. we put the month before the date, so the scammers are likely overseas.
- "feel free contact" lacks a preposition
- "contact us our customer" is gobbledygook
- "HELPDESK" should be two words

Okay, I know the email screams out "scam" without the sloppy writing; after all, antivirus

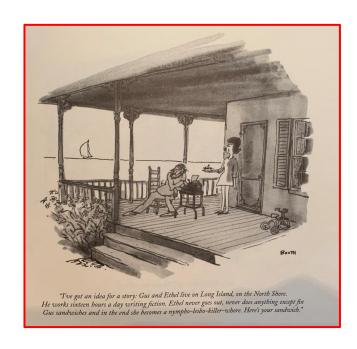
software is not "\$789.99." But the whole purpose is to get you to call to cancel, and then have you reveal credit card information. Still, you'd think the foreign perpetrators would hire a good English writer to make their emails a tad more believable. Maybe someone should call the HELPDESK and offer to help with the writing!

Cartoons









Appendix

WLOV Authors-Dates-Books Featured in The Villages Magazine

By Rita Boehm, WLOV Communications Director

Starting in January 2019, WLOV began a special relationship with The Villages Magazine to have an author and his/her book featured in the *Villages Author Spotlight* section on the Book

Lovers Corner page. Member Dan Kincaid has coordinated this effort for WLOV for the past four years by collecting information from the authors and submitting it to the magazine.

The submissions include the book cover, an author headshot, and a short Q&A write-up. We have successfully been featured 43 times over the past four years. Occasionally, the magazine editors decline to use one of our submissions for what they term as an "editorial decision" and occasionally we get pre-empted by a book that one of their editors has chosen from another source. But we have largely been successful in getting our authors featured.

Dan keeps a file of those who have sent their required information to him and he selects an author at random to submit each month. These are then submitted to the magazine approximately two months prior to publication date.

This has been another one of the successful efforts by WLOV to help publicize our members and their books. Thanks to

everyone who has participated and to Dan for his efforts in coordinating this project for our club. Below is the list of authors and their books featured to date.

<u>Date</u>	Author	Book
January 2019	Rita Boehm	Bluebirds in the Garden
February 2019	Lorraine Harris	Amy's Adventurous Bus Trip
March 2019	Wilma Fleming	The Curse at Lilac Waters
April 2019	David Bishop	Heart Strike
May 2019	Tom Bender	Avenging Allison
July 2019	Bob Konig	Of Good and Evil: Prelude to the Holocaust
August 2019	Ann Heathman	The Tomorrow Series
September 2019	Rick Greenberg	Silent Heroes
October 2019	Linda Richards	WOOF – A Body Swap Adventure
November 2019	Mark Newhouse	The Case of the Crazy Chicken Scratches
December 2019	Dan Kincaid	A Gift to the Nation
January 2020	Donn Dears	Crisis in the Mideast
February 2020	Steven Burt	The Bookseller's Daughter
March 2020	Edward Ritts	Rosie's Rescue: Rosie the Roseate Spoonbill
May 2020	Manijeh Badiozamani	Family Tales from Tehran

BOOK LOVERS' CORNER

July 2020 Barbara Miller Keto for Life August 2020 Paul Garneau Clark Letters Never Written: South Vietnam, 1968 September 2020 Jenny Ferns Ripple Effect: Because of the War November 2020 Phil Walker Sanctuary in Time December 2020 Don Canaan Conceived in Liberty Paula Tucker Surviving: A Kent State Memoir January 2021 March 2021 Age 101 and Still Having Fun Anne Dobkin April 2021 Linda Keenan The Journal Michael, What Page Are We On? May 2021 Jack Ciotti June 2021 Christine Campbell The Watchmaker July 2021 Keith Wilson Plunder August 2021 Steve Camp Living in the Moment September 2021 Tales from the Eerie Canal Barbara Rein October 2021 Patrick Miller Enemies No More November 2021 What Just Landed in The Villages? and **Larry Martin** Other Short Fiction December 2021 Jay Barrett Tony April in The Professor's Diary January 2022 Gail Braman Balls! Confessions of a Rural Golf Course Owner Dick Stoebel I'm Almost History February 2022 March 2022 Sharon Solomon The Pencil That Wouldn't Die April 2022 Geralvn Vilar One Spring Day May 2022 Diane Dean Luna, A Dog Named After the Moon June 2022 Gary Koca Forgotten Movie Stars of the 30s, 40s, and 50s July 2022 Jack Grubbs The Legacy of Maggie Dixon Joe Finch August 2022 Faces of the Distinguished Flying Cross, C. FL. September 2022 Julie Johnson Dared To Run (pen name J.J. Clarke) November 2022 Passing Through Manny Sousa December 2022 Donn Dears The Looming Energy Crisis The Devil's Bookkeepers 1: The Noose January 2023 Mark Newhouse