



Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

It's been a busy summer! Details inside.



September 2023

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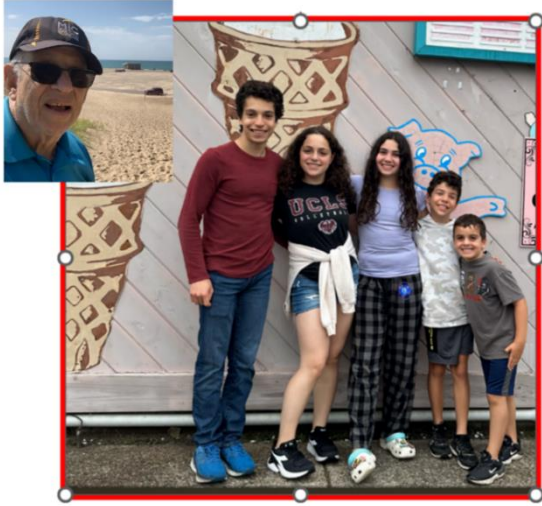
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Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin
drlarry437@gmail.com



Your newsletter editor and his crackerjack editorial team

It's been a busy summer for WLOV members, with book signings and book sales at the following locations:

Barnes & Noble, Lake Sumter Landing
All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Corkscrew Winery, Spanish Springs
Wildwood Antique Mall
Wine & Words, Riverbend Rec Center

That's a lot of venues, and all of them have been developed only in the last few years, thanks to great efforts by members. If you are new to the club, or have not yet had opportunity to participate in these events, check out the Promotion information on pages 11-12.

The August 9th general meeting had a great presentation by Frank Lancione, on Artificial Intelligence; read Frank's review in his President's Message, pages 3-4. At that meeting members also voted to approve a few new bylaws.

Also, this summer we had three winners in the prestigious FAPA writing contest; see page 9 for their award-winning books.

One sad note this summer: the death of Phil Walker, head of Working Writers Critique Group, and past membership chairman of WLOV. Read Doc Honour's commentary on Phil's passing, page 10.

Also in this newsletter you'll find member Ken Van Camp's introduction to Keke's Blog. Interested in creating your own blog? Ken tells you how, page 8.

[Appendix-1](#) is the table signup sheet for Expo 2024; starting September 1st, signups are open to WLOV non-members. If you haven't signed up, now's the time.

[Appendix-2](#) is a short essay on Ambrose Bierce, from my own still-unpublished semi-autobiography/hodgepodge. Bierce was author of the famed (or infamous) *Devil's Dictionary*. I provide a few of Bierce's original definitions, then add my own in Bierce's style – as if he was alive and a member of our club

Upcoming Activities

September

Thursday, Sept 7 – Wine and Words, Riverbend Rec Center, 6:30-8:30 pm; Dave McKeon and John Farren

Tuesday, Sept 12 – All Booked Up book signings, 11 am to 2 pm, Colony Plaza

Wednesday, Sept 13 – WLOV General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9-11 am;

Presentation: “Becoming a more effective book promoter,” by Paula Howard

October

Thursday, Oct 5 – Wine and Words, Riverbend Rec Center, 6:30-8:30 pm; Dan Varelli

Saturday, Oct 7 – B&N Kick-off event for next quarter, 2 pm, Lake Sumter Landing

Tuesday, Oct 10 – All Booked Up book signings, 11 am to 2 pm, Colony Plaza

Wednesday, Oct 11 – WLOV General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9-11 am;

Presentation: “Audiobooks: Options and Insights,” by Rita Boehm and panelists.

Friday, Oct 13 – “The Fiction of Ayn Rand, the Nation’s Most Controversial Bestselling Author”

– Philosophy Club presentation by Larry Martin, 4-5:30 pm, Lake Miona Rec Center

President’s Message

Frank A. Lancione

Will AI Make Human Writers Obsolete?



If you attended our August 9th WLOV general meeting at Laurel Manor, you got a first-hand look at a subject that the WLOV Board has been hearing a lot about from our members. The national media is full of reports about Artificial Intelligence (AI) being the next big thing. The question is how will AI affect WLOV members personally as writers and individuals?

I had a lot of fun with the presentation. I showed a hokey homemade video I produced on YouTube in which I pretend that Microsoft’s Turing Natural Language Generator AI program launches a home invasion on my residence. The storyline is that it has come to obsolete me and if it can take me down, it will systematically hunt down and destroy every member of WLOV. It’s Terminator literary style.

To keep from being obsoleted, I challenge the AI chatbot to a poetry slam duel. Here’s the thing. I really did challenge Microsoft’s AI to a poetry duel. I took one of my favorite poems from my book, *Sunset Years*, reduced it to a set of specifications and then challenged the Chatbot to write a poem against those requirements.

The requirements were: 136 words total; eight stanzas; four lines per stanza; ending word of the second and fourth line in each stanza have to rhyme. The theme was two people who are in love are riding

in a fast car with rock music blaring from the radio. They are having a great time. They are 70 years old but they feel like they are sixteen.

In the video, I read my poem. Then, I read the poem Microsoft's chatbot wrote. It's a real head-to-head test. If you would like to see the video, go to You Tube and type into the search bar: human poet battles AI bot and wins Lancione (<https://youtu.be/GfV6nm76wU0>). The above picture is from the video; I am wearing a black shirt with red lettering that says Warrior Poet Society, and also wearing boxing gloves. (It's a fight! Get it?)

How did it go? The winner is: HUMANS! The chatbot was so bad it didn't meet a single structural criterion. It went twice over the word limit, failed both the line and stanza requirements, and had no rhyming words whatsoever. Its imagery, metaphors, and language were dreadful. In the video I say: "It sounds like you've ingested an entire Hallmark Greeting Card store and puked up every cliché you could plagiarize."

So, what's the bottom line? Well, as of August 2023, human writers still have an overwhelming edge over Microsoft's Turing Natural Language Generator chatbot. Microsoft's bot is currently ranked in the top ten AI programs worldwide. Therefore, the outcome of our little test was a significant victory.

Microsoft's AI bot is astoundingly good at tasks that are rule-based or can be reduced to a pattern or formula. But if you want to inspire, astound, amaze, enthrall, or emotionally bond with your readers – the AI of today isn't there. Not yet. We WLOV writers are. The last slide of my presentation sums it all up:

"Fear not the Tin Man. For even with all his bluster and promises, Oz didn't give the Tin Man a heart-only a heart shaped clock. If we write from our hearts, we WLOV members will never be obsolete!"

WLOV's New Sunshine Committee

By Rita Boehm

Please welcome Kathy deMaCarty (pictured), our new Sunshine Committee Chair! We've always needed someone to reach out with get well messages to members who are recovering from an illness or operation, and to send our sympathies to the families of members who have passed.

Kathy (pictured) has graciously agreed to assume this role. Now, we need your help! We have over 250 members. Please alert us when you know of a fellow member who would benefit from a cheery Get Well or a supportive Sympathy message. Please email the information to Kathy at hitherapy@outlook.com. If you forget Kathy's email address, you can always reach out to us at wlovwriters@gmail.com and we'll forward to Kathy. Note: You don't need to supply the member's mailing address. We have that information.



Update on BookExpo 24

By Rita Boehm

Sunday, January 28, 2024, Eisenhower Recreation Center

We're off to a roaring start! At the time of this writing, over 80 members have registered for a table. Registration for non-members, including folks from outside of The Villages, opens on September 1st. We will start a waiting list when we reach 100, so if you haven't sent in your registration, don't delay. The Registration form is in Appendix-1 of this newsletter, and also available on our website: www.writersleagueofthevillages.com.



BACKGROUND: For the benefit of our newer members: BookExpo is the premier promotional event for local authors. This annual Writers League event is one the community looks forward to attending. Last year over 100 authors exhibited. Three excellent featured speakers helped attract attendees. Thanks to effective media advertising and all of the folks who helped get the word out, over 3500 people visited BookExpo2023.

We look forward to another successful event for BookExpo2024. Our major marketing activities take place throughout December and January. Please sign up to assist our core committee with distributing bookmarks and flyers. Sign up at the next General meeting, or at wlovwriters@gmail.com.

Committee Members: Rita Boehm, Chair, Dan Varalli, Co-chair, Manijeh Badiozamani – Registrar, Penny Thomas - Program, Julie Feingold, Mark Witmer – Marketing and General Support.

Barnes & Noble Update

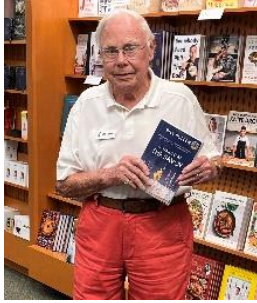
By Rita Boehm

Barnes & Noble: We held two very successful, well-attended, Q3 kick off events in July and August (see pictures next page). Books by Manijeh Badiozamani, Laura Borcharding, Christine Campbell, Judi Ciance, Rita Sweeney Cirillo, Lindsay Collier, Susan Dwyer, Beverly Meyers, Bill Pullen, Paula Tucker and Linda Westervelt will be remain in the store until the end of September. Don't miss your opportunity to support your fellow members. Visit the store. Ask for the local author section.

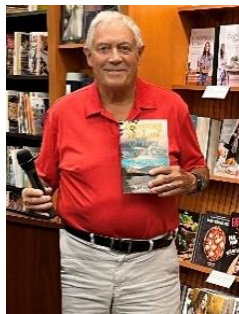
We'll be reaching out to 12 authors for our Q4 event (October through December) within the next few days. If you are a new member and haven't yet been featured at one of our B&N events, please contact me at wlovwriters@gmail.com and I'll make sure you're on the list for a future event. If you've already been featured, you'll be contacted as your name cycles back into the mix.

Barnes & Noble Kick-off, July 8 and August 5, 2023

July 8, L to R: Bill Pullen, Rita Boehm, Barbara Pitts, Christine Campbell, Manijeh Badiozamani, Susan Dwyer, Judi Ciance



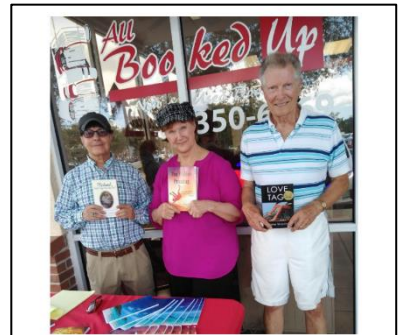
August 5, L to R: Lindsay Collier, Rita Boehm, Linda Westervelt, Beverly Meyers, Laura Borcharding, Paula Tucker, Rita Cirillo



More Photos from Summer Events



June 13
L to R: Rita Boehm, Mary Wescott, Judith Glynn at book signing,
All Booked Up, Colony Plaza



August 8
L to R: Jack Ciotti, Paula Howard and
Peter Shianna at book signing,
All Booked Up, Colony Plaza



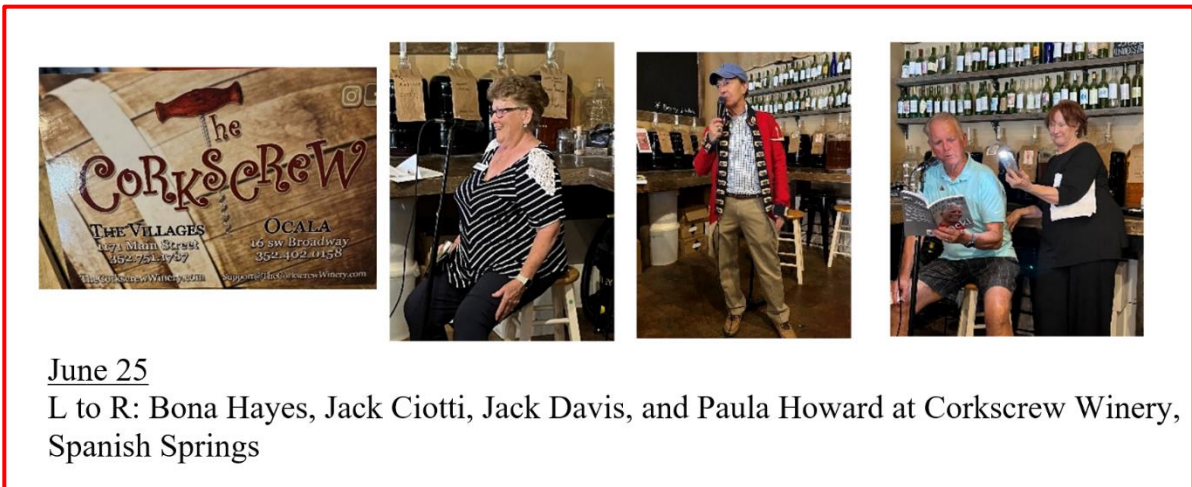
July 11
L to R: Mark Newhouse, Linda Westervelt,
Don Canaan at book Signing, All Booked Up,
Colony Plaza



July 6
Jeanne Rogers and Phyllis Walters at
Wine and Words, Riverbend Rec Center



August 3
Gil Hudson, Frank Lancione, and Larry
Moran at Wine and Words, Riverbend
Rec Center



June 25
L to R: Bona Hayes, Jack Ciotti, Jack Davis, and Paula Howard at Corkscrew Winery,
Spanish Springs

Keke's Blog

By Ken Van Camp

<https://www.vancamp.info/>
ken@vancamp.info



Ever since our Shih Tzu passed away last year at the age of 16, my wife and I felt there was a hole in our lives. So, when a friend recommended a breeder in Lake Panasofkee, we discovered the sweet filling for that hole, a ten-week-old, two-and-a-half-pound Biewer Terrier puppy that we named Keke.

Keke has personality and spunk, and I started to think about my old favorite comic strip, *Calvin and Hobbs*, and what might be happening inside of Keke's head. And one day, my new blog, *Keke's Guide to Training Your Human*, was born. It's written from Keke's perspective, and she discusses a broad range of topics: humorous, sweet, and serious. Pet lovers should enjoy it.

I'm posting three times a week (Mon/Wed/Fri) on Substack, and I see no end in sight due to a large backlog of ideas.

Substack.com is a "newsletter subscription service," which makes it easy for authors to set up blogs for free. Its primary competitor is Medium.com, which also allows writers to set up free blogs quickly. Still, the two services differ in their approach to monetizing paid content. I publish on both services to get the most subscribers, but Substack is my primary. Here's my blog pitch:

How do you handle a Biewer Terrier puppy? More importantly, how does *she* handle *you*? Check out **Keke's Guide to Training Your Human**, and find out!

Subscribe here (it's free): <https://kekesguide.substack.com>

New Feature in WLOV Website



The WLOV website has a new feature, "Writers League News." Click on "NEWS" on the home page, www.writersleagueofthevillages.com. Also find new books in the WLOV catalog under "Books."



2023 FAPA Medal Winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Writers League members who won medals in the Florida Authors and Publishers Association's Annual Competition.

JIM BUCKO - SILVER MEDAL – NON-FICTION/ADULT EDUCATION, *Why We Think the Way We Do*

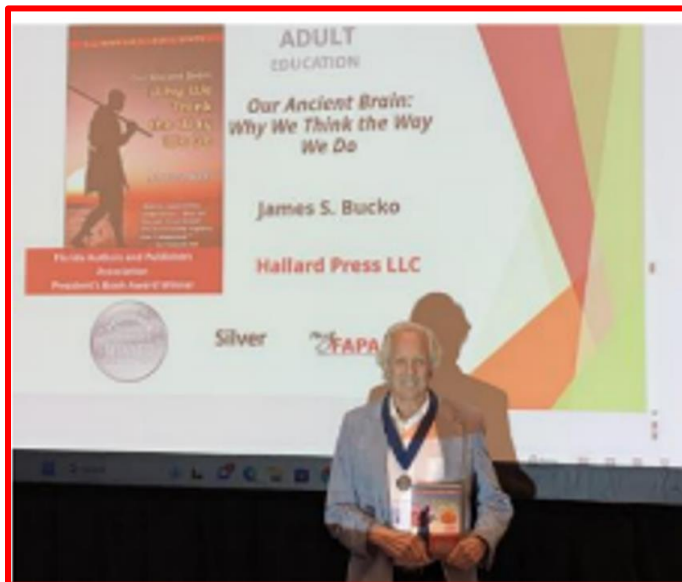
<https://www.amazon.com/Our-Ancient-Brain-Why-Think/dp/1951188497/>

MARSHA SHEARER - GOLD MEDAL – POLITICAL, *Life After Trump*

<https://www.amazon.com/Life-After-Trump-Seeking-Perfect/dp/B099ZRSWBM/>

RITA BOEHM - SILVER MEDAL – THRILLER, *The Price of Revenge*

<https://www.amazon.com/Price-Revenge-She-cant-enough/dp/B0BJ7TKX6N/>



A Loss to Villages Writers

By Doc Honour
ehonoursr@gmail.com

Phil Walker, a WLOV member for many years, passed away on July 31st after an apparent heart attack and fall. He had been slowly recovering from a similar event in February. A prolific writer, Phil published nineteen books since 1995, with over 300,000 copies sold. Titles available on Amazon include regional memoirs (Visions along the Poudre Valley), action thrillers (Killer Storms) and recently a Christian science fiction series (The Scroll). In addition to his novels, Phil has been the leader and driving force behind the Working Writers Workshop.

Phil had a strong personal faith and often described to the group how his faith influenced his writing. His personal guidance assisted members to publish numerous books, some garnering state-wide and international awards. He also served as the WLOV Membership Chair in 2017.

Prior to The Villages, Phil was a “golden voice” of radio and television for 55 years in the Fort Collins, CO area.

Phil was a guiding light whose powerful voice never faded. He will long be remembered.



Phil as emcee during
WLOV's Valentines' Day
Readings, February 14,
2019

Books in All Booked Up for September and October

Bill Pullen, billanita@att.net, 352-430-3006

Fiction

Beverley Ann Meyers - “Go to the Wish Monger”

Judi Taylor - “The Heart Pen”

True Crime

Ann Heathman - “Liv to Tell”

Non-Fiction/Memoir

Bill Pullen - “It Started at The Savoy”

Non-Fiction

Chris Tolos - “Fall Prevention for All”

Children's Book

Roger Neff - “Seven Colorful Cats”

WLOV Book Promotion Opportunities

Rita Boehm, Communications Director

ALL BOOKED UP BOOK STORE, Colony Plaza, Hwy 466A

Coordinator: Bill Pullen, billanita@att.net

Six (6) books in a variety of genres are randomly selected to be featured in the store for 2-month periods, including an opportunity for a book signing on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you have NOT YET BEEN FEATURED, forward the following information to Bill: Name, email, telephone number, book title, book genre. If you've already been featured, your name is already on the list for a future repeat opportunity.



WILDWOOD ANTIQUE MALL, 364 Shopping Center Drive, Wildwood

Coordinator: Tom LaBaugh, tom@labaugh.com or wlovwriters@gmail.com

This event was on summer hiatus for the last couple of months. On the 3rd Saturday of every month, from 11:00 – 2:00, two members have an opportunity to share a table to promote and sell their books at the Antique Mall. If you are interested, please send your contact information to Tom so that he can add your name to the list to be scheduled.

BARNES & NOBLE, Lake Sumter Landing

Coordinator: Rita Boehm, ritab1423@gmail.com

Twelve members are featured for a 12-week period. Over 100 members have been featured to date. If you have NOT YET BEEN FEATURED, provide your contact information to wlovwriters@gmail.com.

If you've already been featured, your name is already on the list for a future repeat opportunity.

WINE & WORDS, Riverbend Rec Center, 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Coordinator: Frank Lancione, flancione@verizon.net

On the first Thursday of every month, Frank interviews two authors who then have an opportunity to address a friendly group of fellow writers and book lovers. Contact Frank if you are interested in being part of this fun event.

VILLAGE NEIGHBORS MAGAZINE – Writing Bug Column

Coordinator – Mark Newhouse, mark@newhouse.net

Contact Mark to learn how you and your book(s) can be featured in his monthly column.



CORKSCREW WINERY, SPANISH SPRINGS –

An exciting new local author venue in Spanish Springs. Our latest event was on Sunday, August 27th and featured memoirs written by Larry Moran, Chris Cooper, and Bill Pullen. More information will be provided as fall events are scheduled.



SENIOR-LIVING FACILITIES:

This summer WLOV authors have expanded their reach, and outreach, to include senior-living facilities. More information will be provided as opportunities develop. A win-win for our authors and the residents! We are continuing to reach out to senior-living facilities. So far, we're working with two facilities:

Trinity Springs – Once a month, Frank Lancione is doing a Wine & Words type event for the residents. **Watercrest Buena Vista** - On August 30th, 15 of our authors held a mini-expo event for the residents at this facility.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:

THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE – Author Spotlight Column

Coordinator: Francesca Boroden, franceboroden@gmail.com

This monthly magazine features WLOV authors in 10 of the 12 issues they publish in a year. As noted in past newsletters, our cut-off was May 31st for receipt of member submissions and we received more than enough submissions to cover the next year. We will send out request for new submissions next spring.

If you know of any stores, restaurants, senior-living facilities or other businesses that may be interested in holding local author events, please contact me at wlovwriters@gmail.com.

Pictures and News Items about Members – FB Albums

Here are the links to find pictures and news articles written about members over the last 3 months.

JUNE FACEBOOK NEWS ARTICLES POSTED

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.630663845767943&type=3/>

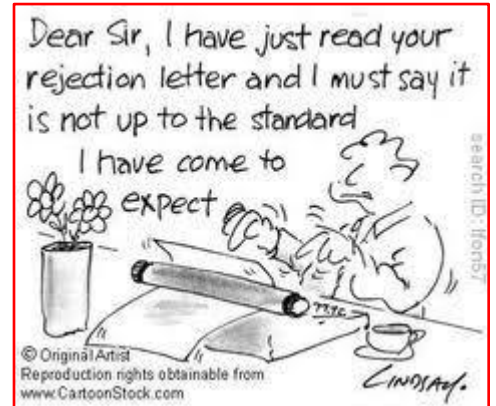
JULY FACEBOOK NEWS ARTICLES POSTED

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.678987717602222&type=3/>

AUGUST FACEBOOK NEWS ARTICLES POSTED

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.688439953323665&type=3/>

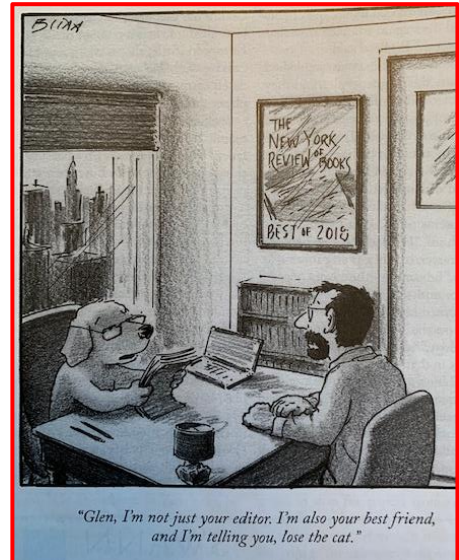
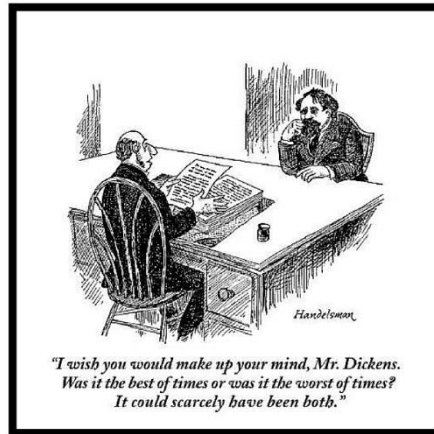
Cartoons



Irony
is when
someone writes
"Your an idiot".

Learn grammar.
Insult properly.

WRITING.COM
WHERE THE WRITERS GO



Appendix-1

BookExpo 2024

Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 11am-4pm
Eisenhower Recreation Center

AUTHORS • BOOKS • FUN

Writers League of The Villages & The Villages® Recreation

Table Reservation Form

• Print the form, fill it out, mail with your check payable to "WLOV" to: **WLOV BookExpo2024, 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, 2023 and continues until August 31, 2023. WLOV 2024 membership dues must be paid prior to January 10, 2024 for your table to be released.
- Registration for **non-WLOV authors** begins on September 1, 2023.
- After September 1, 2023 registrations for both WLOV Members and non-WLOV members will be accepted on a space-available basis. Once registrations are filled, a waiting list based on postmark date will be set up.
- Books for sale must be final, published editions with an ISBN number. No other merchandise, goods, or products may be sold without prior permission.

TABLE FEES (Note: fees have not increased!)

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

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

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

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

___ Publishers/Agents/Editors (6-feet): \$90 (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, 2023.
- Tables will be assigned in mid-December 2023. No table pre-assignments will be available.
- Publicity for the event will begin in September and will include social media, WLOV website, media releases and announcements, advertising, signs, and handouts.
- **QUESTIONS? Email: wlovwriters@gmail.com**

Appendix-2

Ambrose Bierce (b. 1842 – d. 1913 or 1914)

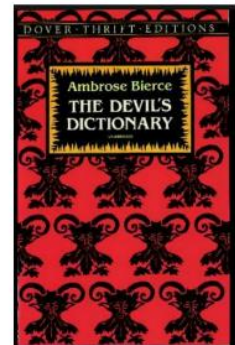
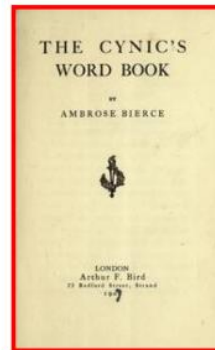
By Larry Martin, WLOV Newsletter Editor
From *My Writing Life: With Advice for Beginning Writers*
www.lakesidepress.com/MyWritingLife.pdf

It has never been determined just when or where Ambrose Bierce died. In December 1913 he was a 71-year-old famous journalist and short story author. Reportedly bored with life at that point, he traveled from his home in Washington, D.C., to El Paso, then entered Mexico to join Pancho Villa's revolutionary army – not to fight, but as an observer. His last documented letter out of Mexico was December 26, 1913. Then he disappeared. Rumors include his death by a Mexican firing squad or in one of several battles.

Bierce wrote many short pieces, in three broad categories: Civil War Stories, Horror Stories, and Tall Tales. Stories, plus his poems and other writings, totaled more than four million words, <http://www.ambrosebierce.org/works.html>

Bierce was a Civil War veteran, and fought at the Battle of Shiloh (April 1862). This experience led to his memoir "What I Saw of Shiloh," published in 1881.

I have always been impressed by another Bierce work, *The Devil's Dictionary*. It's a masterful collection of putdowns and satirical definitions, plus a smattering of Bierce-authored poems, that should at least be skimmed by every author. The definitions were written over several decades, then collected into one volume first published in 1906 in England as *The Cynic's Word Book*. It came out in a new edition in 1911 as *The Devil's Dictionary* and has been in print ever since.



Below are a few of Bierce's original definitions, followed by another group of definitions I imagine Bierce *would* write if he lived in the modern era and retired to a community like The Villages, FL.

From *The Devil's Dictionary*, by Ambrose Bierce

Admiration, n. Our polite recognition of another's resemblance to ourselves.

Cat, n. A soft, indestructible automaton provided by nature to be kicked when things go wrong in the domestic circle.

Childhood, n. The period of human life intermediate between the idiocy of infancy and the folly of youth—two removes from the sin of manhood and three from the remorse of age.

Education, n. That which discloses to the wise and disguises from the foolish their lack of understanding.

Egotist, n. A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me.

Interpreter, n. One who enables two persons of different languages to understand each other by repeating to each what it would have been to the interpreter's advantage for the other to have said.

Lawyer, n. One skilled in circumvention of the law.

Litigation, n. A machine which you go into as a pig and come out of as a sausage.

Love, n. A temporary insanity curable by marriage or by removal of the patient from the influences under which he incurred the disorder.

Marriage, n. A household consisting of a master, a mistress, and two slaves, making in all, two.

Me, pron. The objectionable case of I. The personal pronoun in English has three cases, the dominative, the objectionable and the oppressive. Each is all three.

Piano, n. A parlor utensil for subduing the impenitent visitor. It is operated by depressing the keys of the machine and the spirits of the audience.

Polygamy, n. A house of atonement, or expiatory chapel, fitted with several stools of repentance, as distinguished from monogamy, which has but one.

Positive, a. Mistaken at the top of one's voice.

Prejudice, n. A vagrant opinion without visible means of support.

Rear, n. In American military matters, that exposed part of the army that is nearest to Congress.

Sycophant, n. One who approaches Greatness on his belly so that he may not be commanded to turn and be kicked.

Telephone, n. An invention of the devil which abrogates some of the advantages of making a disagreeable person keep his distance.

Definitions Bierce might craft if he lived in our retirement community and was part of the local writing culture.

Agent, n. In the publishing world, someone trained to ignore all writer queries, though she may be allowed one canned reply a month in the name of civility, to wit, "It's not right for us."

Agent query, n. A short note that is supposed to grab the agent's attention about your book. If opened. If read.

Artificial intelligence, n. A computer program designed to spread the same mis-information as is found throughout the internet, though at a faster and more grammatically-correct mode.

Baseball, n. A long, mostly boring drama, after which half the audience ends up disappointed.

Book fair (aka Book Expo), n. 1) A mega event in which an author's income from book sales will not equal his or her expenses incurred; 2) An event lasting hours, removing the author from meaningful activity such as sleeping or pickleball, and the justification for which, when sales are dismal, is "opportunity for networking."

Comma, n. Punctuation mark invented to plague the author, ceaselessly.

Computer, n. Device that replaces "the dog," "weather," "spouse," and "bad luck" as the cause of all screw-ups.

Congress, n. Source for comedic material, originating with Mark Twain: "Suppose you were a congressman. Now, suppose you were an idiot. But I repeat myself."

Critique group, n. A group whose members comment on items like "comma placement," "point of view," and "speech tag," to hide what they really think about your writing.

Cruise, n. – a most popular form of travel, undertaken by people who think "Titanic" was just a movie.

Editor, n. A person trained to make your manuscript read like they wrote it.

Exclamation point, n. More than one per novel is too many.

Flying, n. – A means of travel with three classes of accommodation for long flights: very uncomfortable, uncomfortable, and tolerable.

Golf, n. A game in which you hit a small white ball, then, being ignorant of all laws of physics, you yell where it should go.

Golf cart, n. A device to keep golfers from getting much-needed exercise when playing the game.

Grandkids, n. Offspring whose accomplishments, when told by the grandparents to a most unlucky and captive audience, seem to far exceed those of Babe Ruth, Einstein, Picasso, and Hemingway combined.

Moon, n. A heavenly body, often claimed as belonging to a city (Miami), a river, or a song (dozens); Frank really didn't want to fly there.

Moon, v. To show one's brains in public.

Pickleball, n. A sport in which the player will likely turn into the first part of the name if he does not wear smooth-soled shoes on the court.

Pizza, n. The most written about food item in the history of mankind. Find under headings: "Where's the best pizza in (city, town, suburb, village, hamlet)?"

Pizza wars, n. Interminable battles among New York, Chicago, Detroit, and Sicily, over who can make you fatter the fastest.

Point of view, n. One of several aspects of fiction encumbered with rules that guarantee full employment to the Critique Group Police.

Publisher, n. A company that puts out books, 98% of which die on the vine, but won't take yours because they claim to know which books will sell.

Rock concert, n. An event designed to accelerate hearing loss among attendees.

Self-publish, v. An activity of writers who live in fantasyland.

Self-publisher, n. One who affirms Shakespeare's famous Macbeth soliloquy: "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Semi-colon, n. A pariah always looking for a home.

Smart phone, n. A device whose prodigious use elevates it above alcohol as a cause of highway deaths.

Television, n. An idiot box; originally the idiot was the viewer, but in more modern times he is the one speaking in the box.

The Villages, FL, n. A large retirement community where the women can't get pregnant and the men look like they are.

Wall Street analyst (synonyms: stock picker, investment advisor), n. A job, the execution of which confirms that monkeys throwing darts really can do better.

Writing contests, n. A legal gambit to separate the hopeful from their money.