



Editor, Penny Thomas

## April 2024

### Upcoming Events – April 2024

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 4/4	6:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>Wine &amp; Words</b> Penny Thomas, Mark Newhouse	Riverbend Rec Center
Tuesday, 4/9	11 am – 2:00 pm	<b>All Booked Up Author Signing</b> Penny Thomas, Paula Tucker, Phyllis Walters	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Wednesday, 4/10	9:00 – 11:00 am	<b>WLOV Monthly Meeting</b> Marketing – Gerry Lentz	Laurel Manor Rec Center
Saturday, 4/13	2: 00 – 3:00 pm	<b>B&amp;N Author Showcase</b> Annie Meehan, Charles Olsen, Randy Stermeyer, Bob Tebo, Penny Thomas, Geralyn Vilar	Barnes & Noble, Sumter Landing

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# The Benefits of Being a WLOV Member

Back in 2011, The Writers League of The Villages was created by a number of aspirational Villagers. Their mission was to “...offer support and education to all published and unpublished WLOV members; to collaborate with other writing groups and literary organizations; and to cooperatively promote The Villages as a cultural center for the arts.”

Over the past 13 years, WLOV has met this mission goal and has grown from the original few dozen members to 222 as of March 2024.

Thirteen years of support and education is a lot, but what does this actually cover? Here are some of the benefits that the hard-working volunteers who are the lifeblood of WLOV give to writers in The Villages:

- Ten educational and fun meetings a year where writers can introduce their new books, network with published and soon-to-be-published authors, listen to an educational presentation, and have fun.
- A dynamic website <https://writersleagueofthevillages.com>
- An online catalog of members' books.
- *Quill de Ville*, the informative club newsletter produced twelve times a year and delivered to your email inbox.
- The BIG, Annual **BOOK EXPO**, where you can sell your books alongside 100 other talented authors.
- An opportunity to sell your books at **Barnes & Noble** and **All Booked Up** bookstores.
- Access to promoting your book in *Quill de Ville*, *The Villages Daily Sun*, *The Villages Magazine*, and *Village Neighbors*.
- A chance for you to be interviewed and present your book in a talk-show setting at **Wine & Words** on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm, Riverbend Recreation Center.
- Weekly educational movies viewed from the comfort of your home via Zoom.
- A directory of writing and critique groups here in The Villages

Writing and publishing a book is a daunting task, but being part of the Writers League of The Villages helps. You know you are among others who are on the same journey as you. You know you can get advice. You are among friends.

Penny Thomas  
Editor, *Quill de Ville*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Jeanne E. Rogers



Fellow Members,

The month of April is often associated with showers and flowers. The crocus is one of the first blossoms that holds the promise of Spring. In Connecticut, we celebrate its first appearance as it pushes its head through the soil. However, there is more to celebrate in April.

Let's start out with April Fools' Day. This is a day that is marked with playful pranks and practical jokes. Although its origin is uncertain, various cultures celebrate April Fools' Day and it may even date back to Roman times.

April is also National Poetry Month. The Academy of American Poets inaugurated National Poetry Month back in 1996, beginning its celebration. Since that time, it has become a worldwide celebration. One can link the famous 'roses are red' poems to a poem that someone wrote in the 16th century. In that 16th century poem, love was the serious subject. However, over time, people have adapted 'roses are red' to humorous uses.

Blustery days, downpours, and even snow, are the hallmark of the month of April in northern climes. These changes can be quick, which reminds me of the saying in Connecticut, 'if you don't like the weather, wait a minute.' Yes, it is really like that.

When we think about April, our thoughts tend to transitions—winter to spring, brown trees to brilliant shades of green, empty gardens to sprouts of fresh growth.

Overall, April is a pivotal month in the natural world. It is the beginning of the mating season for many species. Here in Florida, we realize activity, especially with alligators. You may notice them moving from retention pond to retention pond in search of a lady friend. It's the circle of life—to quote a wonderful song. Ah...in Spring a young man's (gator's) fancy turns to love.

April is a reminder that there are many transformations in life and we are lucky enough to be a part of those transformations.

Roses are red, violets are blue, there are authors aplenty, but none such as you!

Write on!

Jeanne

## And now a cautionary tale from:

**C. Hope Clark**

The Carolina Slade Mysteries

The Edisto Island Mysteries

The Craven County Mysteries

[www.chopeclark.com](http://www.chopeclark.com)

Editor, FundsforWriters

[www.fundsforwriters.com](http://www.fundsforwriters.com)

Writer's Digest 101 Best Websites for Writers

## Beware the Call

*C. Hope Clark* / 2024-02-16

Well known mystery/suspense author Lee Goldberg received a call recently from a gentleman professing to be with a literary agency. He and his organization would assist him in getting his book promoted at the Los Angeles Festival of Books. Mr. Goldberg recorded the conversation and you'll enjoy listening to this renowned, traditionally published author mess with a scammer. <https://leegoldberg.com/the-new-age-literary-agency-scam/>

Someone calls me every month or two wanting to promote me at some book fair or another. Most of the time they ask to represent *The Shy Writer Reborn*, a nonfiction how-to book I self-published last in 2014. Sometimes I talk to them. Other times I do not. I have messed with them like Mr. Goldberg, too.

A *FundsforWriters* reader recently wrote me, asking for assistance in finding grant funds to pay a literary agency that called him, seeking to promote his book at the Frankfurt Book Fair. I warned him to avoid these scammers, and I really think I took the wind out of his sails. He was hoping this was a break for him and his book.

**If a caller seeks you out and makes promises about publishing and marketing your books, do not take them seriously. They are not good for you and will only take your money with little positive in return.**

I know it's difficult to tell someone no, especially someone who seems to want to help, but scams are abundant in this regard. They will ask you for thousands, promising you the moon, and all you'll get in the end is crickets unless you go to the event, in which case you'll have a vacation. . . then crickets.

[Reprinted with permission.]

“Our life is frittered away by detail —simplify, simplify.”

Henry David Thoreau

Reprinted from:

*A Writer's Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman

## SHARING A LITTLE SUNSHINE

Know of a member recuperating from surgery, down with the flu, suffering from the loss of loved one – or facing some other traumatic event? Please contact us at [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com) and share the member's name and situation. We'll forward the information to Our Sunshine Committee chair, Kathy deMaCarty, who will send them a card with a caring message to show WLOV's support.



## WLOV Member Benefit

### BE FEATURED IN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS MAGAZINE

Contact Mark H. Newhouse at [mark@newhouse.net](mailto:mark@newhouse.net) if you would like to be a guest columnist or be featured in a future **Writing Bug** column promoting WLOV authors and their books via mail to more than 30,000 homes.

April issue features Dr. Thomas LaBaugh, *How to Make a Powerful Positive Impact*.

## FACEBOOK ALBUMS

Check out these links for WLOV member newspaper coverage and event pictures.

### JANUARY FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.781768313990828&type=3>

### FEBRUARY FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.803501655150827&type=3>

### MARCH FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.818948856939440&type=3>

# COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Rita Boehm

**BARNES & NOBLE:** Our first quarter event is now over. A total of 41 books were sold. Thank you to all who participated.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: April 1 – June 30: A new group of WLOV authors' books is now in the store. (See accompanying picture.) Six of the twelve featured authors will be speaking at a kick-off event at Barnes & Noble on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. The remaining six will be featured on May 11<sup>th</sup>. **Please join us – and invite your friends and neighbors!** Refreshments will be served, and you'll get to hear your fellow talented authors present their books.

If you haven't yet been featured at Barnes & Noble, please sign up at one of our general meetings, or send me an email at [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com). If you've been featured once, you're already on the list for another rotation.

**ALL BOOKED UP BOOKSTORE:** Six WLOV authors have their books featured in the store for two-month periods, with book signings scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month from 11- 2. Our next book signing is on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Your support of this wonderful independent bookstore – and your fellow authors is important. Visit the store in the Colony Plaza Shopping Center and tell Jamie how much we appreciate her support.

**THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE:** Author Spotlight Column – It's time to solicit new authors for this column. If you haven't been featured within the last 12 months, complete the questionnaire on the next page and forward to Francesca Boroden along with all of the requested information. WLOV authors usually get space in about 10 of the 12 monthly issues, so we'll accept applications through June 2024 to cover us through 2025.

**CONTESTS:** Chanticleer International Book Awards (CIBA) - Congratulations to Suzy Dwyer for achieving Finalist status in the Dante Rosetti Young Adult books CIBA competition for her book STRANGERS, SAINTS AND SINNERS and to Rita Boehm for achieving Finalist status in the CIBA CLUE competition for thrillers with her book, THE PRICE OF REVENGE. Awards will be made on April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Authors' Conference in Bellingham, WA. Suzy and Rita are both excitedly awaiting the news – and hoping their books have moved into the winners' circle.

Won a writing competition? Achieved Semi-Finalist or Finalist status? We'd like to acknowledge members who have reached various milestones in their contest entries. Please contact me through [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com) to provide this information. If you're interested in entering a competition but unsure about how to do so, please check out my February general meeting presentation which is now on our website: [www.writersleagueofthevillage.com](http://www.writersleagueofthevillage.com) under Programs.

Note: Both the Florida Writers Association and the Florida Authors and Publishers Association competitions close on April 30<sup>th</sup>. You still have time!

# THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE – 2024-2025 LOCAL AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Below are the items needed for the **Local Author's Spotlight** in *The Villages Magazine*.

Reminder: The magazine may edit your answers in accordance with the style of their magazine and for space/layout purposes.

Names will be selected at random from submissions received by June 30, 2024.

Since only one author is selected per month, it may take several months before your book appears in the magazine. You must remain a current WLOV member to be part of the program.

NOTE: If you've been featured in the magazine's "Villages Author Spotlight" in the last 4 years, your name will go to the end of the list behind newcomers.

Thank you, Francesca Boroden.

Send the following to [franceboroden@gmail.com](mailto:franceboroden@gmail.com)

**(Must receive all three items)**

- 1. A high-quality image of your book cover**
- 2. An author headshot**
- 3. The completed questionnaire below:**

- Name:
- Book title and genre:
- A brief synopsis of your book (approx. 1 -2 paragraphs):
- What prompted you to write your book?
- What do you hope readers take away from your book?
- What Village do you live in?
- What clubs, activities and hobbies do you enjoy?
- Where may readers purchase your book?
- Anything else?

“The more you write the nicer you become.”

Virginia Woolf  
Reprinted from:

*A Writer's Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman

Barnes and Noble Second Quarter Local Authors' Book Layout.



Wine and Words-March  
Dan Varalli (writing as Dan Michael) and Karen Lang,  
along with host, Frank Lancione



# MOMENTS FROM MARCH WLOV MEETING



Peter Shianna –Librarian, talking about the many, many books in the WLOV Lending Library.

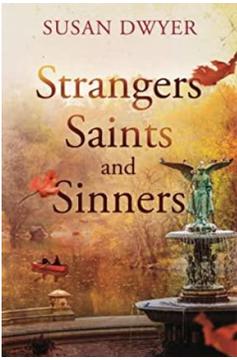


Mark Newhouse and Mike Roth talking about podcast.

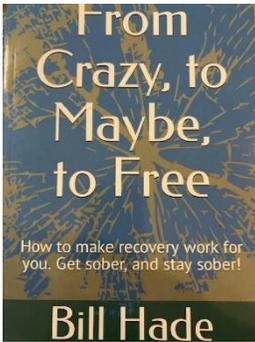


Mark Newhouse directing his voice actors in his play, "Court is in Session."

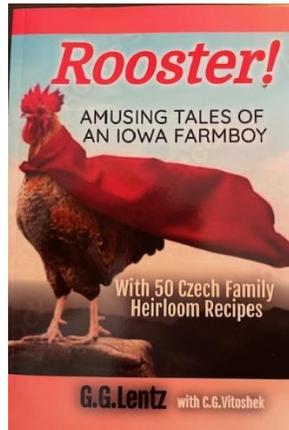
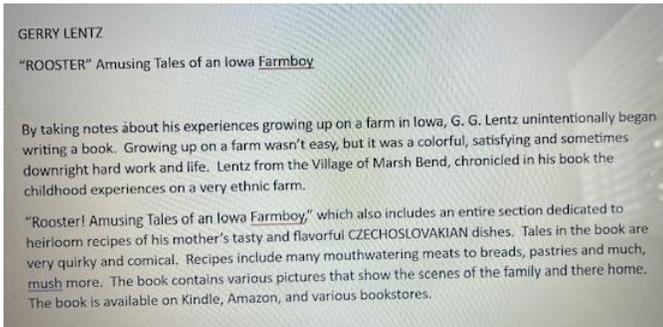
## April BOOK PROMOTIONS



**Strangers, Saints, and Sinners** By Susan Dwyer Kaylee Reagan is a feisty Catholic schoolgirl who, while sitting in detention, snoops and discovers old love letters. Could they belong to Sister Killian? Kaylee and her older sister set out to unearth the mystery and track down the writer of the letters. An incredibly dramatic, romantic, and funny story unfolds changing lives forever. Set in Manhattan and the suburbs, many of the characters are transforming and searching for their place in the world. It is a compelling, soul-searching story of families wrapped in a blanket of sagas, finding truth, forgiveness, and joy.



This book represents a journey in recovery with a Christian viewpoint. Writer/Therapist Bill Hade describes his own personal journey through 35+ years of recovery. Bill approaches recovery from his personal experience, a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology and completion of his classroom work and comprehensive exams for a PhD in General Psychology. Bill uses Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and blends it into the 12 Steps of AA, to demonstrate an effective way to remain clean and sober. This book is therapeutic, instructional and even fun. Christian author, conference speaker and voice of Key Life Network, Dr. Steve Brown said about this book, “Wow!!! I loved it! It’s so good and I found it really helpful, wise and even fun.”



## FUTURE BOOK PROMOTIONS

**Quill de Ville would like to promote your book.** We'll do it by a lottery system. At every WLOV monthly meeting, Penny Thomas will be there with a box. You will put in that box a card containing your book title, your name, and email address. This can be on a 3" x 5" index card, your social/business card, or your promotional bookmark. Every month, Penny will pull out a few cards (she promises to close her eyes as she dips into the box). Penny will then contact you for a photo of the book cover, the back cover blurb, and purchase info to put in the next *Quill de Ville*.

**You have to be at the WLOV monthly meeting to put your card in the box.**

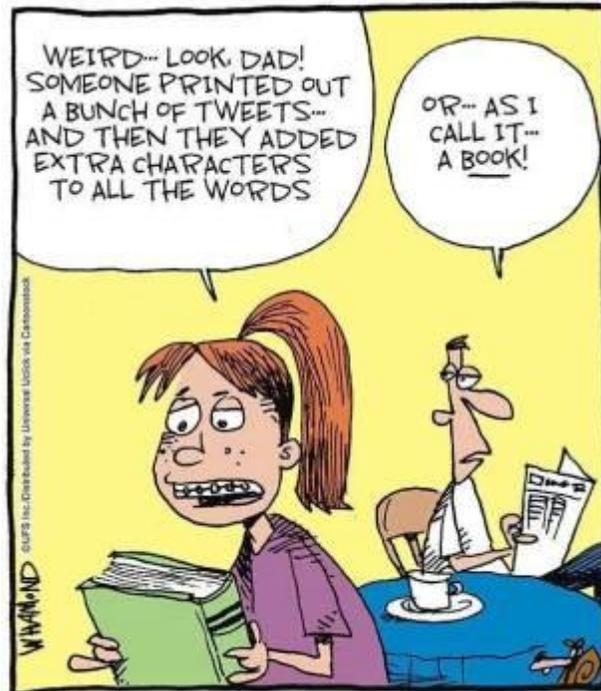
“I hear, as do we all, of these people who spend eight to ten hours a day at their typewriters, and I think, has no one told them of the Nap?”

David Mamet  
Reprinted from:

*A Writer's Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman



"I do appreciate the offer of a party dress, but any chance of getting a published book contract instead?"



f /grammarly

