



# Quill de Ville

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

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events – October, 2024

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 10/3	6:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>Wine &amp; Words</b> Ellen Nofi, Jeanne Rogers	Riverbend Rec Center
Tuesday, 10/8	11 am – 2: 00 pm	<b>All Booked Up Author Signing</b> Julie Johnson, Barbara Rein, Ken Van Camp	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Wednesday, 10/9	9:00 – 11:00 am	<b>WLOV Monthly Meeting</b> 'Illustrating Your Story with AI Graphics: A Case Study' - Frank Lancione	Laurel Manor Rec Center
Saturday, 10/26	2: 00 – 3:00 pm	<b>B&amp;N Author Showcase</b> Keith Abbott, Diana Braddom, Judi Taylor, Gil Hudson, Becky Rock, Barbara Walz	Barnes & Noble, Sumter Landing

### Things to read in this edition:

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# WLOV's President's Message



Dear Members,

At the risk of sounding like The Department of Redundancy Department, LOL: Elections are upcoming, and your participation and interest is needed. Additionally, we have a number of appointed positions that will allow you to become an important part of the decision-making team for WLOV.

Here are the four elected positions and their responsibilities.

**PRESIDENT:** The President shall preside at all meetings and schedule Board of Directors' meetings, appoint committee chairs as needed, represent the WLOV as its chief policy officer, and approve organizational expenditures.

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** The Vice-President shall preside at meetings during the absence of the President and shall replace the President in the event the President is unable or unwilling to fulfill the term of office.

**SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall keep the official record of all proceedings at all meetings and present the Minutes to the President for review in a timely manner.

**TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall take care of WLOV funds from whatever source received, pay all obligations, keep accurate records, and make a report at each general meeting and Executive Board and Board of Directors' meeting.

Absent any additional candidates, the current slate for 2025 is as follows:

President: Jeanne E. Rogers

Vice-President: Phyllis Walters

Secretary: Julie Feingold – (Assisted by: Carrie Murgittroyd)

Treasurer: Paula Howard

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, please contact me at [WLOVwriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVwriters@gmail.com). We will also take nominations from the floor at our October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Elections will be held at our meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

As you can see in the above listing, your current 2024 officers have agreed to run to continue in their current positions for one more year. This provides continuity, but we encourage other members to get involved. One way to do that is to join the Board as Historian, Program Coordinator, or 2025 Membership Chair. Please reach out to me or other Board members for more information.

This club belongs to all of us, and together, we create its continued success.

Jeanne E. Rogers,  
President

## 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

October's issue features WLOV's **Barbara Rein** and a Halloween Hook and a way to get your book recognized by the Florida Authors and Publishers Association. Check it out.

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.

## FACEBOOK ALBUMS

Click on these links to find WLOV member newspaper coverage and event pictures.

### JULY FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.900312752136383&type=3>

### AUGUST FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.917940737040251&type=3>

### SEPTEMBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.935743845259940&type=3>

A Yale University study, reported in Social Science and Medicine, found that: "Those who read books lived an average of 2 years longer than those who did not read at all." So, keep on writing people; there are readers out there who want to live a long time.

# BOOKEXPO 2025

## Rita Boehm, BookExpo Chair

Wow! BOOKEXPO 2025 filled up fast. All of our tables were sold out by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Since a few people always cancel, we have a waiting list. Most cancellations occur in early to mid-January, usually due to health issues. When we receive a cancellation, we reach out to folks on the waiting list. If you haven't yet sent in your entry, it isn't too late to get on the waiting list—and maybe even score a table.

NEWS FLASH: Rocky of Rocky and the Rollers fame will be our keynote speaker! He'll be sharing behind-the-scenes stories from the world of rock and roll, drawing on his lengthy and storied career. Our second speaker will be announced in next month's newsletter. We try to select speakers who will draw a crowd – and provide potential customers for your books. This year we've doubled the size of the speakers' room, with about 80% more seats than in past years.

The success of our BookExpo depends on marketing and publicity. It's not too early to volunteer to be part of our marketing committee. Please sign up at our next meeting, reach out to Dave McKeon, BookExpo2025 Vice Chairperson, or send an email to [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com)

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

### Rita Boehm

#### **BARNES & NOBLE:**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, we start our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter event with twelve authors featured through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please join us for our kick-off events at 2:00 pm in the store on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If your books have **never** been featured as part of our Barnes & Noble promotion, please notify me via an email to [WLOVwriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVwriters@gmail.com) and I'll add you to the list. Those members whose books have already been featured are automatically on the schedule for a future rotation. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** To be included in one of our Barnes & Noble events, your books must be available on the Barnes & Noble website (See August's newsletter for details.)

Our featured book selections offer a wide array of wonderful books across a range of genres. In the last 2 quarters, we sold 20% fewer books than usual. If we want the store to continue to welcome us, we need to better support our fellow members. **Please visit the store, buy books from our WLOV display, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well.**

**ALL BOOKED UP BOOKSTORE:** Thanks to the hard work of Bill Pullen, the books of six WLOV authors are featured in this wonderful independent book store for two-month periods, with book signings scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month from 11- 2.

Please visit All Booked Up in the Colony Plaza Shopping Center and let Jamie Goeske know you appreciate her support of local authors.

## AWARDS, ACCOLADES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Brag a bit. Be proud. You did it! Email Penny Thomas, [pt0647@gmail.com](mailto:pt0647@gmail.com), details of your award, accolade, and accomplishment.**

### Rita Boehm



It's wonderful to win, but coming in 5th in a huge international competition isn't so bad! THE PRICE OF REVENGE continues to do me proud. Check it out at [www.ritamboehm.com](http://www.ritamboehm.com)

**“If you read books, you live more than one life.”**

Sign in a Library







KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
WRITE  
ON

# November is National Novel Writing Month – NaNoWriMo

Have you thought about creating a first draft of your book in one month? If you answered, 'YES, or 'MAYBE', then join me in November for National Novel Writing Month — <https://nanowrimo.org>

What is NaNoWriMo? It is an online community of writers who come together once a year in November to write 50,000 words. Some say millions join. Some finish. Statistics say about 10-15% actually come up with 50,000 words. And one year I did! The writing wasn't very good, but it served as a start to my novel. Don't worry; nobody reads your writing; you don't share your words; you only share your word count. It is a jumping-off point to get your words written.

There's a certain excitement and a boost to creativity knowing that thousands of writers around the world are creating at the same time as you are. A great way to get the most out of that early motivation is to channel it into higher early output. We all know that 50,000 words split over 30 days is 1667 words a day. But authors who win NaNoWriMo often don't start there. They shoot for 2,500-3,000 words a day in the first week.

I plan to participate this year, and if some WLOV writers want to join me, I'll be at Sumter Landing Panera Bread on Friday, November 1, at 1:00 pm to kick off the challenge. I then plan to be at Panera every **Monday** in November at 1:00 p.m. We can talk about writing or about our plot. We can do some free writing. We can grumble about the difficulty we're having. We can celebrate our victories. We can just talk. We can just eat and drink! Whatever! Writing is a lonely task and a chance to build a community can be inspirational.

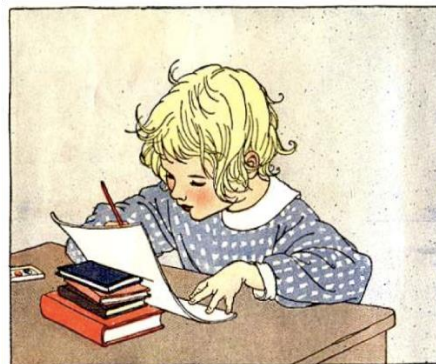
I am going to log my word count daily into NaNoWriMo under the name CardiffGirl. If you sign up (it is FREE) you can see my (hopeful) progress. <https://nanowrimo.org>

Hope to see you on November 1 at 1:00pm at Panera, Sumter Landing.

Penny Thomas

*Quill de Ville* Editor

[pt0647@gmail.com](mailto:pt0647@gmail.com)



## IN MEMORIAM – DON CANAAN

Dear friends and fellow lovers of writing,

I am sorry to share that **Don Canaan**, an original member of WLOV, has passed.

Don and I worked together on the Authors' Beat podcasts interviewing 79 Villages authors. He was the tech guru and I was the host aka 'mouth.' It was an exciting way to help our fellow writers and Don's humor made it a fun experience. At Expo and other events, he would dress up in costume or take photos of visitors before a giant Abe Lincoln and other characters. He was always into some new idea and full of energy and enthusiasm. He aged me. But he also was willing to do what he could to help others and his passion for Israel and world peace. Even in his last months, he would phone me with an idea on how I could promote my Holocaust novels. Some were a bit off-my-style but the point is he was always thinking of ways to help. He was a steady friend of WLOV and I will miss him. He was one of a kind. Thanks, Don.

Mark Newhouse



**Don Canaan**, 86, originally of the Bronx, NY, died in The Villages, Florida on September 27, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. Don was born in the Bronx in 1938 to Louis and Sally (Sarah) Swerdlow. It was on the streets of New York City that Don spent his childhood and teen years mentally cataloging the price of every item at his local delis, soda fountains, and movie theaters to constantly remind his descendants of in later decades. A lifelong lover of media, Don earned a Bachelor of Arts from City College of New York, Institute of Film Techniques in 1961 and a Master of Arts in Journalism from The Ohio State University in 1984. He followed his passion throughout his career, working as a photographer for the

US Army (1956 - 1963) and as a film editor for NBC News NY, where he earned a Peabody Award for Film Editing on "American White Paper: Organized Crime in the United States." Don's passion for documenting the world around him followed him home, where he lovingly compiled photo albums and home videos of his family and the world outside. A perpetual early adopter of technology, Don was always up to date on the latest home recording, camera, and computer equipment. His online presence and dexterity was unmatched for one of his generation, and he was living proof that you can always teach an old dog new tricks. In retirement, Don continued to pursue journalistic endeavors and delved into the world of fiction writing, publishing multiple novels and stories. He stayed up-to-date on current events, sharing articles and news with his loved ones around the world. He continued his beloved practice of price tracking, always ready to confirm that yes, Walmart did raise the price of Kemp's frozen yogurt by 10¢. Don's sense of humor was spectacular; his family remembers fondly his quick wit and the way he had a song reference or related fact for any topic that was on the table. He was a big fan of mid-century comedians such as Groucho Marx, Jackie Gleason, Tom Lehrer, and Mel Brooks. He was a member of Chabad of the Villages and the Villages Writing Club. Don leaves behind his children Tamar and Golan Canaan, grandchildren Lex Shelton and Aviad and Eden Canaan, along with his devoted ex-wife Mazal (who will miss arguing with him terribly). He is also survived by his sons Richard and Kenneth Swerdlow, grandchildren Matt, Josh, Sarah, Rachel, and Brandon Swerdlow, and ex-wife Rita.. <https://www.afterall.com/obituaries/DonCanaan>

## OCTOBER BOOK PROMOTIONS

I wrote *The Letter* under my pen name, **Richard P. Kasey**. No particular reason why but I thought it would be fun to be someone else for a minute maybe. It is a reconfiguration of my real name, **Paul R. Yakes**.



It is based on the actual meeting between my wife, Dixie, and me on a cruise in 1999. We met, separated after the cruise, thinking we would never meet again, only to find ourselves a few months later in a long-distance relationship. We suffered through all the trials and tribulations of such a relationship, but were destined, we believed, to make it work.

The twist that makes our story unique is the letter, **the actual letter**, that drew us together. I won't give it away here, but the story of how we reconnected is beyond belief. Our relationship probably should never have happened, due to the circumstances pointed out in the book. But it did and we have been happily married for twenty-four years now. By the way, **the actual letter** is contained in the text of the book.

*The Letter* does focus on what we went through while trying to figure out just how to be together, our jobs, our families and the difficulties of traveling back and forth between Nebraska and Tennessee. I dedicated it to Dixie because without her in my life it never would have been written.

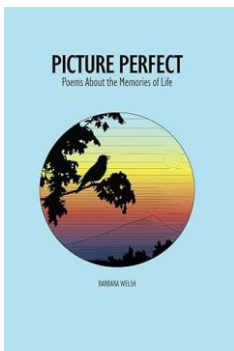
*The Letter* can be purchased on Amazon, Kobo, Goodreads, Apple Books and Barnes and Noble.



*Angela's Secret* — **Beverly Ann Meyers**.

In Philadelphia, PA, Lisa Carson tells the story of her daughter, Angela. As the young girl matures, Angela exhibits strange and unusual behavior. Lisa is the only witness to these unbelievable events. Is the girl possessed? Or is the behavior in Lisa's imagination?

Purchase through Amazon.



*Picture Perfect: Poems About the Memories of Life* — **Barbara Welsh**

When someone takes a photo, you immediately look, hoping you look perfect or, better yet, idyllic. As in life it is unrealistic to be perfect at every moment. Outward beauty is not as important as what you do and say. What is in your heart and soul is what counts. This book will resonate and inspire you with words of hope and healing. Each poem will come to life with special meaning using humor and relatable situations. You will be uplifted, encouraged, and inspired to live life to the fullest, appreciating the joy of small things. Daily life should be filled with smiles and thankfulness even in dark and gloomy days. The last chapter,

“Waiting for the New Dawn,” includes poems about experiencing loss and grief.

“Picture Perfect” is available on Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Walmart.com. A link is available on my website, [Dancesoflifepoetry.com](http://Dancesoflifepoetry.com).



## 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.**

### All Booked Up Photos - September 17, 2024



Bob Tebo – Pondering Life's Lessons



Laura Borcharding - Grandma and the Bat



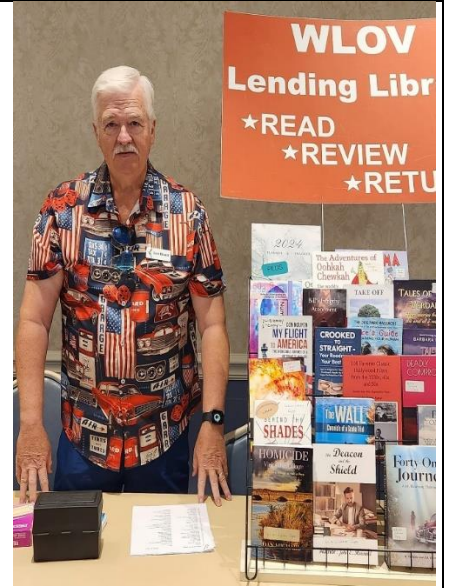
Kome Onokprise - Rubber Seed

# WLOV Monthly Meeting Photos —September 2024

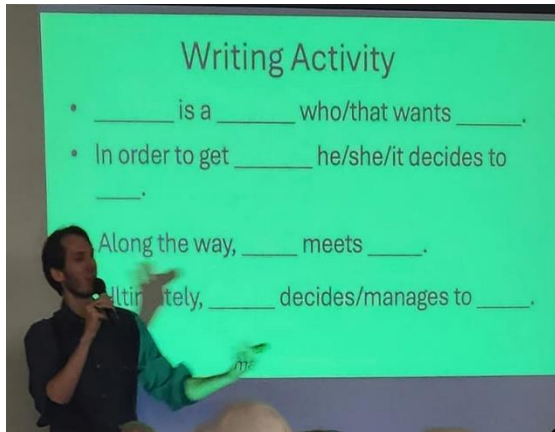
Prof. Zackery Cote — “What is the Heart of the Story? Plot vs. Story”



Gil Hudson presenting the Member Survey



Don Bisant — WLOV Library Volunteer

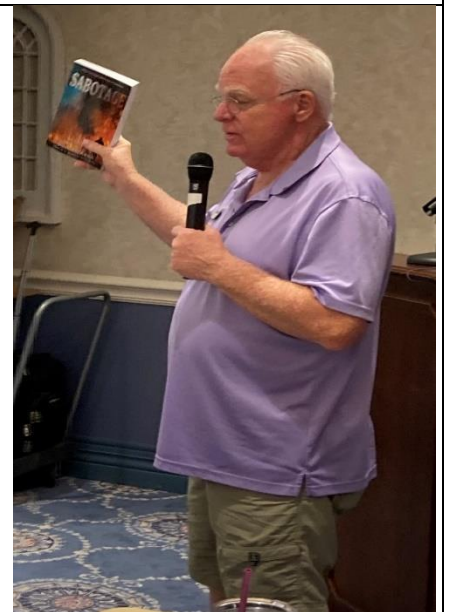


### Writing Activity

\_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ who/that wants \_\_\_\_\_.  
 In order to get \_\_\_\_\_ he/she/it decides to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Along the way, \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Ultimately, \_\_\_\_\_ decides/manages to \_\_\_\_\_.



Paula Howard – Writing Class 101



Dave McKeon - Sabotage

# WRITER BEWARE

There are scams out there, and some WLOV members have been targeted (but, thankfully, didn't fall for the trap). One that comes to mind is the Amazon lookalikes. Following is a link to the full article in *Writer Beware*, and the lead. I urge you to read the whole article and subscribe to *Writer Beware*.

Penny Thomas

<https://writerbeware.blog/2023/07/07/how-scammers-are-using-amazon-and-amazon-trademarks-to-rip-writers-off/>

## Fake Amazons

In the past year or so, I've noticed an upsurge in scams that employ the Amazon name, or the names of Amazon trademarks, to try and trick hopeful writers into believing they are working with a company affiliated with Amazon, or even with Amazon itself.

As is common with scams these days, many of these questions come from writers who've been solicited via email or phone (you can see one such story [here](#))—but also from writers looking to self-publish, who googled “self publishing” or “Amazon self-publishing” or “KDP publishing” or a similar search term.

“The Beatles were rejected by Decca and the Monopoly game was originally written off by Parker Brothers.”

Source Unknown

Reprinted from:

*A Writer's Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman

“What man cannot get by flying he can get by limping.”

Sigmund Freud

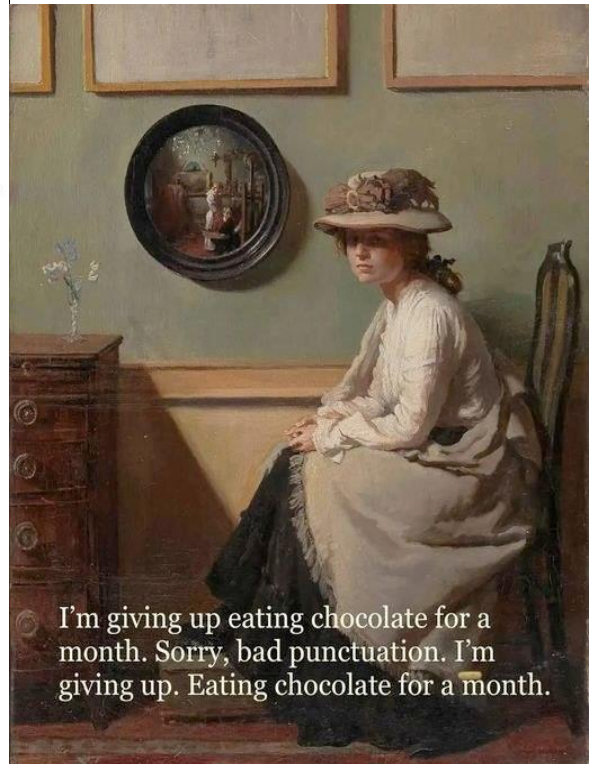
Reprinted from:

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*"O.K., she's sitting down to write in three . . . two . . . one . . ."*



*I'm giving up eating chocolate for a month. Sorry, bad punctuation. I'm giving up. Eating chocolate for a month.*



*"I want to write what I know, but all I know is writing workshops."*