



# Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

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## BOOKEXPO 2025 – January 26

### Upcoming Events – January 2025

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 1/2	6:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>Wine &amp; Words</b> T.J. Trapp and Dick Domann	Riverbend Rec Center
Wednesday, 1/8	9:00 – 11:00 am	<b>WLOV Monthly Meeting</b> All Things Expo	Laurel Manor Rec Center
Tuesday, 1/14	11 am – 2: 00 pm	<b>All Booked Up Author Signing</b> Jennifer Parkins, Wendy Weaver, Leigh Court	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
<b>Every Thursday</b>	4:00 – 5:00 pm	<b>Masterclass</b> Paula Howard, Movie Moderator	Via Zoom
Thursday, 1/23	9:30am – 3:30pm	<b>Florida Storytelling Festival</b> 1/23-1/26) Susan O’Halloran, Writing Seminar (info below)	Mt. Dora, Lakeside Inn
Sunday, 1/26	10 am – 3:00 pm	<b>BOOKEXPO 2025</b>	Eisenhower Rec Center

#### Things to read in this edition:

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Authors.

The Writers League of The Villages Board and Volunteers wish you all a very happy and productive 2025.

Remember, you cannot edit a blank page. So write. Don't worry about the grammar, spelling, syntax, plot, or anything...just write. Then, later, read what you've written aloud and make adjustments. Editing your first draft is where the true art and craft come into play.

Happy writing,

Your fellow WLOV Members

*"Write your first draft with your heart. Rewrite with your head."*

*—Mike Rich*



## GENERAL INFORMATION AND MEMBER PERKS

The **Florida Storytelling Festival** in Mt. Dora is January 23-26th. It's a great opportunity for Villages Writers to be inspired and learn more about their craft. **Sue O'Halloran**, a WLOV member, will be teaching an Intensive Writing/Storytelling Seminar on Thursday, January 23rd, from 9:30 am - 3:30 pm at the Lakeside Inn called "Teaching Without Preaching: The Art of Edutainment." Writers of every level are welcome! There will be other workshops plus storytelling concerts, slams and swaps at the 2025 Florida Storytelling Festival. See the whole schedule at: <http://www.FLStory.org>.



## 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. December's issue had children's book gift suggestions. Authors featured were **Laura Borcharding, Steve Burt, Diane Deane, Paula Feuerstein, Alice Klaxton, Mark H. Newhouse, Jennifer M. Perkins, Carolee Russell, William Russell, Elizabeth Smith, and Sharon K. Solomon**. Anytime is a good time to give a book to a child. Check out these authors on Amazon.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**All Booked Up Author Signing** has been organized by **Bill Pullen** for many years. Bill is ready to retire and is seeking someone to take over this job which has the potential to get name familiar with the readers who purchase books at All Booked Up. Bill is the successful author of *It Started At The Savoy*. Email [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com) or reach out to Bill or any WLOV volunteer.

WLOV's heart and soul are volunteers and we always need more. There's a 'Volunteer Sign Up' sheet at the back of the meeting room.



### Masterclass Movie for Writers Thursdays on Zoom after 3:30 pm EST

Paula Howard sends out an email to all WLOV members every Thursday with a Zoom link. These Masterclass sessions provide informative and engaging writing lessons taught by famous writers. Hone your craft and take your writing to the next level. This is yet another perk of being a member of WLOV.



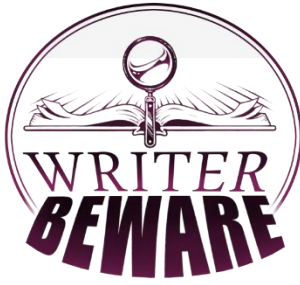
**VILLAGES MAGAZINE AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT**: This monthly, glossy magazine, published by The Villages Daily Sun is an Easy way to promote your books. Fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and email it to [WLOVWRITERS@Gmail.com](mailto:WLOVWRITERS@Gmail.com)



**Barrel of Books** in Mt. Dora is looking for authors to do book signings, November through March. Contact Crissy at 352-735-1950.



Seeking authors who have written about their Vietnam experiences to speak at an upcoming Vietnam Veterans Meeting on March 4. Contact Rick Rademacher ([rick.rademacher@vva1036](mailto:rick.rademacher@vva1036)).



**Writer Beware** is an excellent resource to stay on top of scams targeting writers. This article, The Impersonation List by Victoria Strauss, has some good tips on what to look out for. <https://writerbeware.blog/2024/03/15/the-impersonation-list/>

Writer UnBoxed is another good resource for scams.

<https://writerunboxed.com/2024/10/25/just-for-authors-writer-bewares-go-to-online-resources/> Victoria Strauss writes about Go-to Online Resources.



## 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.



## FACEBOOK ALBUMS

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

### OCTOBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.958936766273981&type=3>

### NOVEMBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.981058434061814&type=3>

### DECEMBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

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# BOOKEXPO 2025

Rita Boehm, BookExpo Chair

We're entering the home stretch!

**BOOK ORDERS:** If you need books for Expo, don't delay ordering them. Amazon book deliveries will sometimes take up to 4 weeks.

**TABLE ASSIGNMENTS:** Table assignments were sent out. If you haven't received yours, please contact me. We will also be posting them on the website.

**TRAINING:** If you missed the 2 training sessions, all is not lost. Our January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting presentation will cover all things Expo.

**EXHIBITOR PARKING on JANUARY 26TH:** Once books are unloaded at the front of the building, all exhibitors must park their cars in the far reaches of the parking lot to leave room for Expo attendees. This year we'll have volunteers in golf carts to assist anyone who finds the walk onerous.

**SPEAKERS:** At 11:00, "Rocky" of Rocky and the Rollers fame will share behind-the-scenes stories from his lengthy and storied career in the rock-and-roll world. At 1:00, Mike Bowling, inventor of the Pound Puppies toys, children's author, and motivational speaker will share his insights on why you should always say "**I'm Not Done**".

Spread the word! This year our speakers' room has significantly more seats than in past years. The more people who come to hear our speakers – the more potential customers for your books.

**MARKETING/PUBLICITY:** The success of BookExpo 2025 depends on marketing and publicity. Bookmarks will be available at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Hand them out to friends, neighbors, store clerks, golf attendants, doctors, restaurant servers, church groups, etc. etc. etc.

Our Business Outreach Committee will soon be approaching local businesses to hand out bookmarks and signs.

Additional Daily Sun ads will appear on January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>. The paper also gave us nice coverage in an article on December 30<sup>th</sup>. We're working to get the attention of other local media.

Everyone has been sent a copy of our color advertisement. Forward it to your email list and add it to your social media feed.

Event success is in your hands!

*"Excellence is never granted to man, but as a reward of labour."*

Sir Joshua Reynolds

Reprinted from:

*A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman*

# COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Rita Boehm

## Barnes & Noble 2025

Rita Boehm

Beginning in the New Year, our relationship with Barnes & Noble will change. WLOV will no longer have quarterly author events featuring twelve WLOV members.

When I initiated the Barnes & Noble relationship in January 2020, the Lake Sumter store did not welcome local authors. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal in late 2019, the chain's new CEO, James Daunt, noted a need for stores to be more reflective of their local customer base. Using that as my entrée, I put together a proposal for local BN management.

WLOV's initial foray into Barnes & Noble featured four authors for two weeks. Over time, that grew to twelve authors for twelve weeks. Although managing the events was both labor intensive and time-consuming, the events proved to be worthwhile for our members—at least for a time.

In recent months, we experienced lagging member responsiveness and sold significantly fewer books. This situation, while concerning, was exacerbated by store management's insistence that all featured books be available on Barnes & Noble.com. That requirement, while not unreasonable, proved to be impossible for many of our members to meet.

Changing times: About two years ago, the Lake Sumter store began accepting books by local authors on a consignment basis. I have verified that they will continue to do so—as long as the books are available on Barnes & Noble.com. This opportunity eliminates the need for WLOV to manage a separate program. Please contact Barnes & Noble assistant manager, Ashley, if you are interested in establishing your own relationship with the store.

The future: Over the next few weeks, we'll be meeting with Barnes & Noble management to discuss future opportunities for WLOV members. Stay tuned.

*“You can make a film about falling *in* love, you can make a film about falling *out* of love, but you can't make a film about being *in* love – too boring.”*

Sydney Pollack  
Reprinted from:

*—A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman*

## DECEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



**A Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to **Peter Shianna** in gratitude for his hard work as WLOV Librarian from 2019 to 2024.

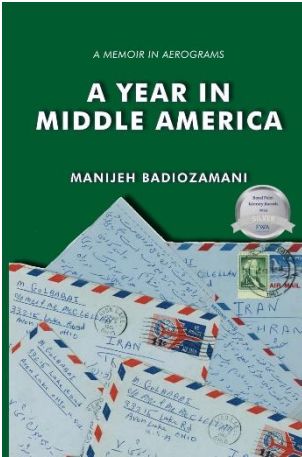
Other special mentions were made in gratitude for the following volunteers in 2024: **Beverly Meyers, Mary Ann Sinopoli, Pat Minots, Phyllis Waters, Don Bisant, Paula Howard, Mark Witmer, Dan Varalli, Gil Hudson, Gerry Lentz, Ellen Bryant Nofi, Manijeh Badiozamani, Dave McKeon, Penny Thomas, Chris Cooper, and Sandy Swanberg**



**Induction of WLOV Officers. Left to right – Phyllis Walters, Vice-President; Carrie Murgittroid, Secretary; Paula Howard, Treasurer; and Jeanne E. Rogers, President.**



## JANUARY BOOK PROMOTIONS

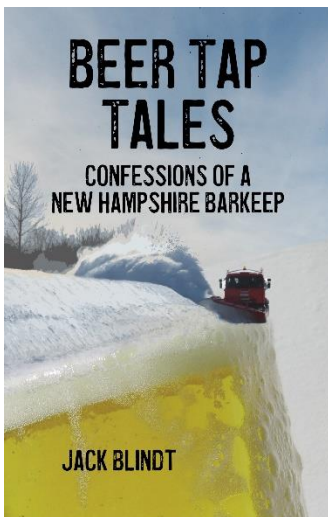


### ***A Year in Middle America* by Manijeh Badiozamani.**

At the age of seventeen I came to the United States as an exchange student to live with a family in Ohio and to study for a year as a senior in an American High School. I barely spoke English at the time.

I wrote to my family back in Iran 3-4 times a week, on Aerogram (does anyone remember those?) My letters were full of information because I wanted to share with my family everything that I experienced: good, frustrating, exciting, difficult, and fun in the new culture. Unbeknownst to me, my father had saved all these letters, and I found them years later after he had passed. These letters are the basis for my book, *A Year in Middle America*, which is in an epistolary format. I translated these letters back into English (originally, I wrote them in Farsi to my parents) but was reluctant to make them public for ten years! I guess I was not ready to share the personal letters of my 17-year-old self with the public.

*A Year in Middle America* won the Silver Royal Palm Literary Award given by the Florida Writers Association. It can be purchased through Amazon.



### ***Beer Tap Tales: Confessions of a New Hampshire Barkeep* by Jack Blindt**

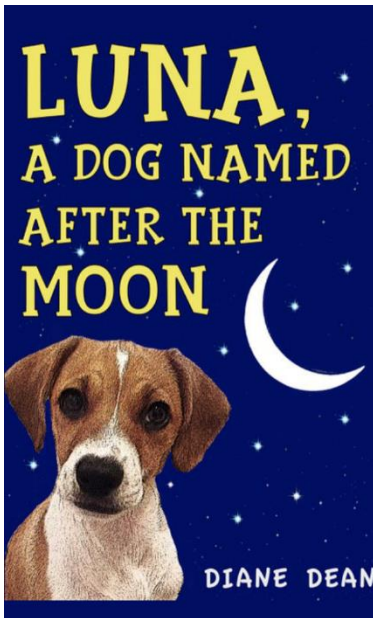
Before Northern Exposure or Cheers, Teddy ran a pub in rural New Hampshire.

Elvis died. Loggers arrived. UFOs flew. Skylab dropped. Snow fell. Trucks crashed. Tempers flared. The jukebox played. And people drank. Heavily. Ice wasn't the only thing that cracked as people and events spiraled out of control. Teddy wanted to strike back at several of his worst customers, but would he? Was it really that bad?

These darkly humorous connected stories reveal how Teddy navigates sticky situations and copes with his unhinged customers. Grab a beer and take a seat in one of his rough-cut pine booths as the action unfolds. No guarantee against splinters.

In 1977 Jack Blindt realized he was not fit to be a social worker, so he quit his job in Virginia to start his own business. From then until 1983 he owned a pub in rural New England. In his retirement years he realized how bizarre his experiences were. It was time to share these mostly true and offbeat stories. He hopes that no one can guess who he is really writing about. The book is now available in e-book, audio, large print and paperback at Amazon.com and at Barnesandnoble.com. Contact Jack at [j60blindt@me.com](mailto:j60blindt@me.com), 252-340-2335.





***Luna: A Dog Named After the Moon*** by Diane Dean is a delightful tale that will warm your heart and tickle your funny bone. Have you ever felt like a dog truly *understood* you—maybe even spoke to you? Meet Luna, a spirited puppy with a voice of her own!

Adopted into a bustling Hollywood household, Luna isn't just looking for a place to belong; she's on a journey to discover her own star power. Through her charming and witty storytelling, Luna shares her adventures, from navigating life with a feisty feline roommate to facing the unpredictability of earthquakes and wildfires. Each twist and turn challenges her to rely on her instincts and embrace life's lessons with resilience and humor.

Perfect for families to enjoy together, this heartwarming story offers more than just laughs. With Luna's infectious optimism and down-to-earth wisdom, readers of all ages will find conversation starters about gratitude, perseverance, and the joy of embracing life's challenges. Luna's blend of humor, humility, and a touch of ego will have everyone chuckling—and maybe even howling—for more! Available on Amazon and at the WLOV Expo January 26, 2025.

## 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*.

“Characters without contradictions are like eggs without salt.”

Sir John Mortimer

Reprinted from:

—*A Writer's Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman

## AWARDS, ACCOLADES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Tom Bruce** is a newer member of the WLOV group and wanted to share with everyone that he had his poetry and essays published in Village Neighbors Magazine monthly, since about June. Tom says, "Creating the pieces for the magazine has been a marvelous experience for me. In addition to that, I am attaching some extracted quotes from a collection of essays I've recently written. The quotes I've extracted are some of my thoughts on writing in general and I thought some might resonate with our group."

### Extracts from essays in Tom Bruce's unpublished book, "A Moment in Time"

*"My goal in all this is to write the final essay for the last poem and to maybe find something in all of it, something that resonates beyond each individual essay, something collective, something that raises my understanding about all that is swirling around me, and hopefully, something to grasp onto, in this place, at this time".*

*From "Introduction"*

*"When I start a poem, I know in the first few lines, whether or not it will resonate with me, and if it does, I push ahead, and soon enough I see clearly the heart and soul of the poem. I can see the poem's reason for being given a breath, and I can see the message I want to share with the world, just lying there, waiting for me to take it on".*

*From "Essay on Two Poems"*

*"When I am writing about a group of strangers like this, I must depend on what my eyes are trying to tell me. I have to look beyond the few words that may be spoken and find something in the demeanors, gestures, and mannerisms that help me paint the vivid memory I rely on to write a poem".*

*From "Musings on Village Friends"*

*"Going back to places and times in our minds is an important aspect of writing. I think writers, no matter their genre, should be able to take us back to places and times our hearts may have forgotten".*

*From "The Unwritten – A Beacon to Nowhere"*

*"Every poem that layers in the passing of time is difficult to work on, and even when I am sure the passage of time is an important element of the poem, I am always equally unsure as to why. Time and the passing of time complicates things, but time follows us all, and the tick tock metronome of life marches forward to a tune that always seems to play faster and faster. Then comes the day when you look back at the long seasons and years of youth, and you try to remember the first instance of when everything started to move at such a dizzying pace. It's then that you realize that time is a finite resource, and there is no turning your back on it, and no ignoring it, in hopes it will go away".*

*From "In One Moment"*

*“When you write things down intended for others to read, the whole process exposes you. These are your words, your thoughts, and only you moving them across a blank page. There is no help coming and no escaping the fact that writing will always expose something about you, in one way or another”.*

*From “Half Way Home”*

*“Everything that ends up on a page is done in piecemeal fashion, over many short sittings, hoping for fragments of thoughts that linger long enough for me to remember, and do something with. Mostly, I feel like a juggler walking away, and then rushing back in, just before the spinning plates crash and shatter. Most of my poems start out as spinning plates”.*

*From “On Writing and Come July”*

*“I discovered I can use writing to lift heavy grey clouds, and to summon a calm embracing wind, and I can smooth over troubled waters. I can go to a place where the sun is bronze, and hugging low against the mountains, and there is a deep stone well where I can draw up an old wooden bucket and drink from it, and I can taste the earth in each sip of cold water, and I can write good poems and I can write bad poems, and I’m convinced it doesn’t matter”.*

*From “On Writing and Come July”*

*“Words to a writer are like a big, unruly, lump of clay a sculptor might start with, and they are floating around everywhere we go, bombarding us from every direction. They can be spoken aloud, or read or daydreamed, and with or without sound, they are still words, and they are trying to tell you something, or take you to some place”.*

*From “Maybe Instead”*

*“In that brief moment, when the old words seem new again, and take the first breaths of their new life, the world opens a portal, briefly, and I try to latch onto something that will survive beyond the moment. All too quickly, that wispy instant of time will pass, the people and surroundings will fade, and the whole world will move forward, relentlessly, as it always does. But what will stay is the moment the words swept over me, and a new poem started writing itself in a stream of tattered and unorganized thoughts”.*

*From “Maybe Instead”*

# THE WRITERS' RETREAT



**VILLAGES MAGAZINE AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: A SIMPLE WAY TO PROMOTE YOUR BOOKS!**  
**VILLAGES MAGAZINE AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: A SIMPLE WAY TO PROMOTE YOUR BOOKS!**

(Must submit BOTH items) – Email to [WLOVWRITER@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVWRITER@gmail.com)

**a) a high-quality image of your book cover**

**b) answers to the questionnaire below** (Note: answers may be edited by the magazine for content/space/layout purposes.)

**Your Name:**

**The Village you live in:**

**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 clubs, activities and hobbies do you enjoy?**

**Where may readers purchase your book?**

**Anything else you'd like to share?**

General information about The Villages Magazine:

1. You must remain a current WLOV member to be part of the program.
2. 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.