



# Quill de Ville

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

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

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## Upcoming Events – February 2025

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 2/6	6:30 – 8:30 pm	<b>Wine &amp; Words</b> Marc Rissman and Dave McKeon	Riverbend Rec Center
Tuesday, 2/11	11 am – 2: 00 pm	<b>All Booked Up Author Signing</b> Casel Burnett, Phyllis Walters, and Paul Yates	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Every Thursday, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27	4:00 to 5:00 pm	<b>Masterclass</b> Paula Howard, Movie Moderator	Via Zoom
Wednesday, 2/12	9:00 – 11:00 am	<b>WLOV Monthly Meeting</b> Panel discussion on Publishing Scams	Laurel Manor Rec Center

### Things to read in this edition:

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## From the President's desk

My next book will be a children's picture book. Writing a children's book is a bit of a challenge because you have to follow a format. That format included 32 pages, with a dedicated title page and copyright page. Why 32 pages? The main reason is that the publisher can print the book on a single sheet of paper, making it cost-effective. If you plan on submitting your book to a publisher, they will expect this format. In extremely rare cases, more pages may be acceptable if the story calls for it. The story itself is told across double-page spreads. The right and left pages displayed text and illustrations. Text should not exceed one thousand words, -fewer is better. The story needs to be quick, exciting, and capture a child's attention.

Each page of the picture book contains large, colorful illustrations with a few lines of text. The illustrations will help with keeping children engaged. People design picture books for children between the ages of two and eight. The story should focus around a central character who is solving a problem, and it should have a satisfying ending.

If you have an idea for a picture book, first do some research on the subject you want to focus on. For instance, if you want to write about a child visiting a foreign country, or any place they have never been before, search out those types of books. If the subject is about a pet, research books on that subject. Why would you do that? Because when you're writing any book, it's important to know who the competition is and what they are doing.

I'm in the development stage right now. I have my idea and I am thinking about how I want to bring that idea to the page.

I hope you have one in mind. Our children benefit so much from picture books, and so do the adults who take the time to read to them.

Write on!

Jeanne E. Rogers



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## FACEBOOK ALBUMS

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

### NOVEMBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

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

### DECEMBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.100250450858373&type=3>

### BOOK EXPO FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1040420488125608&type=3>

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

## 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. February's issue features writing contests, with special mention of the upcoming Florida Writers Association Royal Palm Literary Awards Competition and past winners: Sue Halloran, Jeanne Rogers, and Barbara Rein. Rita Boehm and Mark Newhouse are also past winners.

FWA – Royal Palm Literary Awards Competition – The submission period is from February 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. See <https://www.floridawriters.org/> for details.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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. Or you can Email [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com), talk to a board member, or reach out to one of the volunteers manning the tables at the meeting.

WLOV member, **Paulette Patch** does **proofreading** and **editing**.

(440)708-8283

[Pipatch1023@yahoo.com](mailto:Pipatch1023@yahoo.com)



**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.



## 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**

## Attention Vietnam War Authors:

The VVA Post 1036 is inviting authors to the upcoming post meeting **March 4th**. Rick Rademacher, president of the post, wants to have authors that have written a book about their experience in the **Vietnam War**, to share their stories with the veterans. Writers should give a 5-minute introduction and the basic "what is the book about." Rick would like authors to donate a book or books so that the veterans may check-out and swap with one another. Also, authors may bring their books to sell.

Please contact Rick Rademacher for information at [rick.rademacher@vva1036.org](mailto:rick.rademacher@vva1036.org)

# BOOKEXPO 2025

Rita Boehm

We did it! After months of work and anticipation, BookExpo 2025 is a wrap. Mother Nature smiled upon our day by providing clear skies and warmer temperatures, allowing those who had been housebound in the less-than-Florida-like weather to get out and about.

For all who exhibited at the event, I hope you had an enjoyable experience. The crowds seemed to be pretty well evenly paced throughout the day and most of the exhibitors I spoke with were pleased with the traffic. Many reported that book sales exceeded the previous year.

We invite speakers to draw people to our event. I think this year's choices did just that. Since many of you were busy greeting people at your tables and didn't have a chance to hear Rocky and Mike Bowling's talks, we will be posting the video links on our website -- [writersleagueofthevillages.com](http://writersleagueofthevillages.com) --within the next couple of weeks.

About forty BookExpo pictures are posted on our Writers League of The Villages Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1040420488125608&type=3>. Please check them out. If you'd like to add your photo, send it to [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com).

We had an 82% survey return rate. Thank you! Your comments are important and all of them were read and compiled. The vast majority of exhibitors reported that they had an excellent experience across the board and were happy with the communication, organization, book sales, number of event-day volunteers, and the opportunity to meet fellow writers and book lovers.

Other comments: Most suggestions were made by only one or two people. For example: trash cans needed-- We will address that with the Rec Center staff for future events. More advertising: Every year we increase our advertising. We will continue to do so. Two people asked for shorter hours – the Board will discuss this. Four people commented about food availability. Response: The one year we gave up exhibitor space to add a food vendor was a bust. The vendor sold very little food. As noted in the instructional information sent out to all exhibitors, we provide snacks and coffee and suggest exhibitors bring something more substantial to sustain them.

BookExpo 2026 – Plans are already underway for BookExpo 2026 on January 25, 2026. Save the date! If you'd like to be part of the planning process, please contact me at [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com).

“All those who live as literary men – working daily as literary labourers – will agree with me that three hours a day will produce as much as a man out to write.”

Anthony Trollope

Reprinted from:

*A Writer's Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman

# THANK-YOU NOTE

**Rita Boehm, BookExpo 2025 Chair**

Putting on a successful event like BookExpo may not take a village, but it certainly takes a dedicated team of volunteers.

To everyone who helped make our event a success: thank you! If you handed out even one bookmark, you contributed. If, like Steve Burt, Barbara Rein, and others, you handed out 400 or more, you were a major contributor.

It's impossible to thank everyone by name. However, I'd like to focus on a core group of key contributors whose support was invaluable.

## **THANK YOU –**

**Dave Mckeon:** Dave took on key responsibilities, significantly lightening my load. As marketing coordinator, Dave and his team spread the word to businesses in the surrounding area by handing out thousands of bookmarks. Additionally, we expanded our newspaper coverage to Ocala and Leesburg, thanks to Dave's efforts

**Manijeh Badiozamani:** Our incredible registrar accepted all the entries and kept impeccable records.

**Paula Howard and Mark Newhouse:** Their insightful training sessions were well attended by appreciative exhibitors.

**Penny Thomas** did a wonderful job creating our Expo program.

**Jack Davis,** parking coordinator, oversaw exhibitor parking and with the help of his golf cart team ensured that parking spots were available for our visitors.

**Sandy Swanburg – Event Day Coordinator Extraordinaire:** Even though she was leaving on vacation the next day, Sandy did an incredible job in coordinating and overseeing our stellar team of event-day volunteers – including about a dozen representatives of the Friends of The Villages Libraries whose support we are always happy to receive.

Maybe it does take a village after all!

# THE WRITING PROCESS

Manijeh Badiozamani

Many seasoned and published authors are members of the WLOV. We also have novice writers in our mix who are interested in publishing their written work. To follow a certain process is important in writing, no matter what one writes: short story, novel, vignette, fiction or non-fiction. Most experienced writers handle a piece of writing in stages, which is basically known as the writing process. Going through these steps is essential, but do remember they are not carved in stone! We master the rules, but then we can break them intentionally and not out of ignorance.

Most of these steps are merely general guidelines.

## Step 1

Have a purpose, objective or goal in mind. Ask yourself, “Why do I want to write?”

There are many reasons for writing. I answer the question for myself by saying, “Because I have something to say.” That “something” could be real stories of your life (everyone has a story), imaginary stories, something that you created in your mind and want to share with others, or retell someone else’s story. Whatever it is, find that purpose for writing. In my case, I wanted my grandchildren to learn about me, who I am, where I came from, or how my life was in another country where I grew up. I wanted to have all that in writing. Someday when my grandkids become interested to know, I probably won’t be here, but my stories will.

## Step 2

Once you have a purpose, then determine your audience.

Who is going to read what you write? Are they children, young adults, or old folks? Your purpose combined with thinking of the population it is intended for determines the style of your writing, or how you approach telling the story; how much information to include, or how detailed that information should be.

## Step 3

Information gathering stage——developing your story or doing research in case you are writing a historical novel. Put the pen to the paper by doing some preliminary writing, or by drawing an idea wheel. How much do you know about the subject? You can use the same technique the reporters use by utilizing question words:

Who = the characters

What and How = plot and subplot

Where and When = setting, time, place

Why = character motivation

## Step 4

Now it is time to organize your ideas. You need to determine a pattern of organization. And there are many ways to do it. For example, you use chronological order when you move the story in a linear direction, the

order in which something happens. You can also organize your writing by using, spatial, order of importance, emphatic, etc. It all depends on the story and your purpose.

### **Step 5**

Quick and dirty! I'm talking about writing the first draft.

When I was in graduate school, working on my Ph.D. research, I collected data for a whole year. Then I stopped, maybe I froze! My advisor kept saying: write a quick and dirty draft. She was right. I had to put the pen to the paper and write a fast draft, no matter how dirty!

Writing the first fast draft, put me back on track.

### **Step 6**

Aha, now it is time for serious work here. You have your quick draft, but writing and re-writing is the name of the game. No writer has ever produced a perfect first draft – and that is the truth. Paying attention to sentence structure, spelling, grammar, and the mechanics of the language are essential in this stage. You might go through several drafts. You have done your best to proofread, edit, and check everything in your piece of writing. What comes next?

### **Step 7**

That is where WLOV, and different writing groups come to help. You need to share your writing and get a peer group review. The benefits of peer review are enormous. You get support and encouragement by sharing your writing, and at the same time your own ideas become clearer by others asking you questions, if there are ambiguities in your writing. Honest and forthright feedback can help you a great deal.

Your peers may make suggestions that will make your writing better.

### **Step 8**

You collect all the suggestions from your peers, and plan to make a final revision. It is totally up to you whether you want to accept or reject their recommendations. Remember, the final revision is always a writer's responsibility.

Good luck! You have done your best and you are ready to publish. Just wait, one more thing. Have you heard of the 50-page rule?

It is said the first 50 pages of a book ought to draw the reader in. Did you throw a line to hook the readers so they want to continue reading?

Okay, we will discuss "Hook" another time.

Manijeh Badiozamani,

Author of:

**Family Tales from Tehran**

**One Summer in My Life: A Memoir in Short Stories**

**A Year in Middle America: A Memoir in Aerograms**

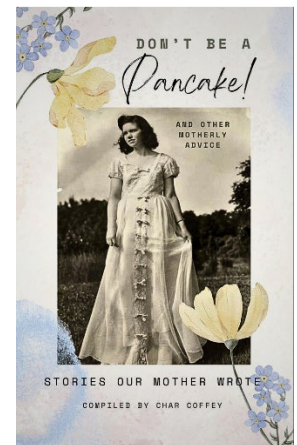
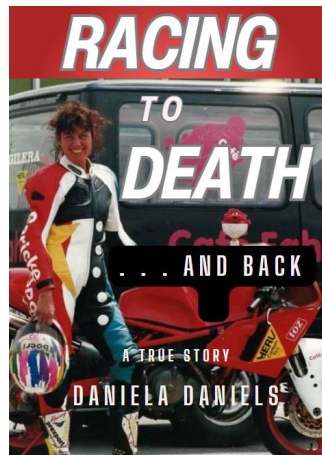
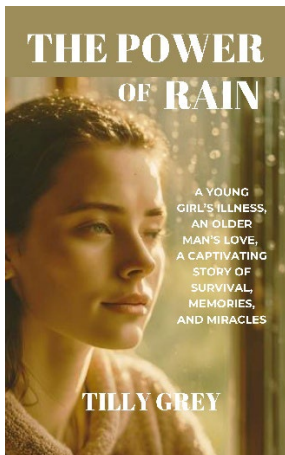


## WLOV Member Books on The World Wide Web

Did you know you can get your book on the World Wide Web and possibly seen by anyone with access to the Internet?

WLOV's web page, <https://writersleagueofthevillages.com/index.php/books-2/4>, has a photo of your cover and a brief description of your book. If you want to get on, send the title of your book and your name as it appears on Amazon to Paula Howard a: [wlovwriters@gmail.com](mailto:wlovwriters@gmail.com).

Here are the latest additions to the page:



“A writer knows more than he knows. He has a subconscious ability to read signs.”

Nadine Gordimer  
Reprinted from:

*A Writer's Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman



“One of the first things you learn as a writer is that you write what you can, not what you want.”

Gabriel García Márquez

Reprinted from:

*A Writer’s Commonplace Book*, Rosemary Friedman

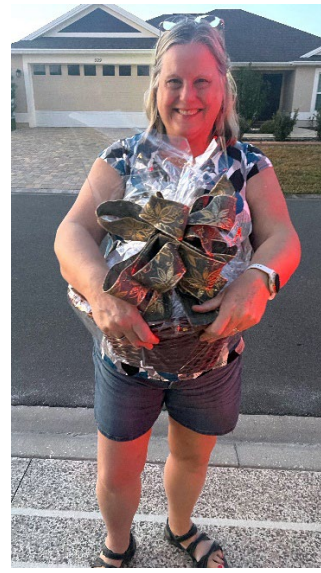
## WINNERS OF **BOOKEXPO** 2025 RAFFLE BASKETS



Patricia Wisnieski & Maxwell



Theresa Weiderode



Donna Kendel

The 4th winner is out of town and will get their basket upon their return.



"I've given up on the novel. There's more money in writing inspirational memes."

# BOOKEXPO 2025 PHOTOS



There are over 30 different BookExpo pictures on The Writers' League of The Villages Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064729984658&sk=photos>

## **VILLAGES MAGAZINE AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: EASY WAY TO PROMOTE YOUR BOOKS!**

If you wish to have your book featured in the magazine, send an email attachment to [WLOVWRITERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WLOVWRITERS@GMAIL.COM), including the following information: See below for information you MUST submit.

**(Must submit BOTH items)**

**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.