



Editor, Penny Thomas
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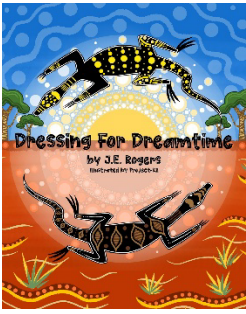
Upcoming Events – April 2025

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 4/3	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine & Words Gita Rash, Lou Reiter	Riverbend Rec Center
Tuesday, 4/8	11 am – 2:00 pm	All Booked Up Author Signing Tilly Grey, Jeanne Rogers	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Every Thursday	4:00 to 5:00 pm	Masterclass Paula Howard, Movie Moderator	Via Zoom
Wednesday, 4/9	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting World Building From The Ground Up – Kristi Dao	Laurel Manor Rec Center

Things to read in this edition:

	Page
From WLOV's President's Rambling Mind, Jeanne Rogers	2,3
Book Promotions	4
'Sex After 70! Is That Even a Thing?' Frank Lancione	5,6
'Best Practices for Shopping Your Novel to Hollywood' Mark Heidelberger	7,8
Mount Dora and Book Expo	9
General Information	9,10

Check out our website for more information: <https://writersleagueofthevillages.com/>
 The Writers' League of The Villages Facebook Page has loads of pictures:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064729984658>



From the President's Meandering Mind

At a recent Wine and Words (1st Thursday of every month at Riverbend Recreation), I listened to some of my fellow members talk about their works. It was poetry. My understanding and interest in poetry is limited. It begins with a volume I think many of you may be familiar with; Robert Louis Stevenson's "A Children's Garden of Verse" or Edward Lear's "A Book of Nonsense."

As I grew, I graduated, or not, to Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree" and "A Light in the Attic." Who could resist:

RUNNY'S HEADING RABITS

Runny lent to the wibrary
And there were bundreds of hooks—
Bistory hooks, beography gooks,
And lots of bory stooks.
He looked them over one by one
And guess which one he took—
A bience scook? A boetry pook?
Oh, no—a bomic cook!



The truth of the matter is that poetry is very old. As a matter of fact, it is older than we can determine. Much older than you might think. It began in oral traditions predating literacy. Earliest forms of poetry were sung or recited as stories, oral histories and even genealogies. The oldest surviving example is considered to be the "Epic of Gilgamesh" which comes to us from ancient Sumer (Iraq), along with the Odyssey and the Iliad. The "Epic" was written on clay tablets around the 3rd millennium BCE.

There is also evidence that African hunting songs along with court-poems of civilizations along the Nile, Volta, and Niger river valleys were the source of some of the earliest origins of poems. Ancient hymns, chants and prayers sung by priests are also examples of the origins of poetry.

Poetry has been used as a mnemonic device to help us remember necessary information such as:

"Thirty days hath September, April, June, and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Save February with twenty-eight days clear,
And twenty-nine each leap year."

Poetry is found all around the world in every culture. It has been used to convey love, hate, anger and so on. It has also been used to pass on family information and explain the unknown in nature and the world in general.

All the information I found while researching poetry's beginnings was inspirational and I found that I appreciated it a bit more. At some point I graduated from limericks, which by the way were introduced by

Edward Lear, to Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" (which I Love). Poor Lenore! This poem is certainly one of the finest examples of grief on paper.

There are tons of information out there about poetry. Once you begin researching it, you just can't get enough.

The Angels of the House you slew,
And buried in decorous graves,
Leaving (with arched eyebrow) you:
The common reader who made waves.

Virginia Wolf

Before I close, I must tell you my favorite poem. It is one that always conjures ancient times and strange places, sand, and dust flying in the air of an orange sunset. I could never get it out of my head. "Look at my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"

OZYMANDIAS

Percy Bysshe Shelley

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

Write On!

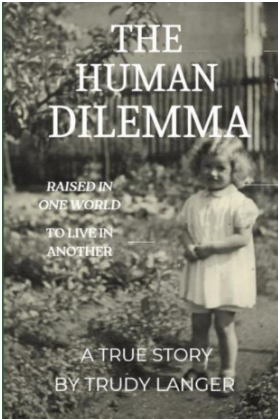
Jeanne

Jeanne E. Rogers

Award Winning Author

**The Sword of Demelza, The Gift of Sunderland,
One Hot Mess, A Child's Environmental Fable,
Kohana, A Native American Creation Myth, and
Dressing for Dreamtime, an Aboriginal Tale**

BOOK PROMOTIONS



The Human Dilemma: Raised in One World to Live in Another - [Trudy Langer](#)

Few people recognize the human dilemma of being raised in one culture, then living in another. The toll it takes on someone trying to fit in can be enormously stressful or it can be rewarding. Personal conflicts can arise from misunderstandings of things you learned in one culture which are completely misunderstood in another.

Author Trudy Langer, called "Micke" during her younger years, was raised in Germany. At the tender age of 11, she was sent to an orphanage because she and her mother's third husband did not get along. At 14, she ended her formal classroom education and went to trade school to become a beautician, then migrated to the United States as she reached adulthood.

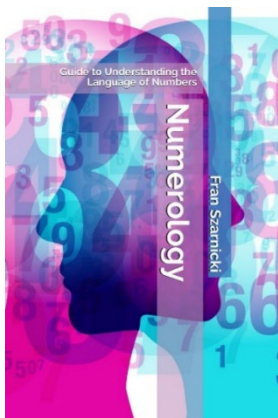
But that was just the beginning of her story as she tells how she assimilated into this new world and lived life in her new country. Read about what became of her as she grew older. Her story

is a lesson in how to navigate through life when your early foundation is different from where you actually live later on. This story shows how one person navigated through life and the choices she made. It is well-worth the time it takes to read it.



WTF What the Family

Larry Moran turned out ok with wealth, success and a loving family. He started life with 3 different last names in his first year of birth. When his bio mother got married he was listed in the paper as her brother. Read how he overcame bizarre circumstances to turn disaster to triumph. Learn how he found his father and his paternal family after looking for 73 years. You will not be able to put this book down.



Numerology: Guide to the Language of Numbers -- Fran Szarnicki is the first in a series of books covering the philosophy of numerology and its applications and practical uses. This captivating book was written for both experienced numerologists and those new to the subject. Fran's methodology provides the reader with a solid foundation of the basics and features of Numerology and its many new and fascinating ideas. The author chronicles an interesting cast of characters who demonstrate the principles of numerology in their lives. She explains how numbers are incorporated into our minds and physical bodies. She teaches that "Because numerology is an integral part of our being, it can help us to understand our existence and unfold our spiritual purpose. Numbers make sense of everything." Francis Szarnicki's new book, **Double Digit Numerology**, is also available on Amazon.com and via www.numerologywizard.com

Sex After 70???!! Is that Even a Thing?

By Frank A. Lancione

The log line for my most recent murder mystery, *Dead in the Water*, is:

"The ladies of the *Big Beautiful Babes Water Aerobics and Social Club* swooned when young, handsome Robin Logan began 'servicing their pools.' Somebody killed him. Inspector Lance has to find out who."

Wait! Aren't those ladies in that club all in their 60s and 70s? What's going on here? Is it appropriate to even imply what's being implied?

We are blessed in The Villages to have a life that, I think, is unique. My first four published books were volumes of poetry and essays that told the story of the life we get to live here. After the first two books came out, I started describing the essence of our experience in what I call, the Sunset Years philosophy: "Never stop striving, never stop dreaming, never stop achieving, even in your 60s, 70s, 80s and beyond."

In addition to books of poems and essays, I write cozy murder mysteries. My books are set in a fictional senior retirement community called Sunset Years which covers parts of Wildwood, Fruitland Park, Lady Lake and Leesburg Florida. It's called Sunset Years because the word "The" and the word "Villages" never appear side by side anywhere in anything I publish. There are a lot of similarities, though, between my fictional largest-in-the-world senior retirement community Sunset Years and that "other place that shall not be named."

We are blessed to live in a place where there is a lot of love. Visit one of our squares in the real Villages on any evening and take a look around. The average age of the people you see is 68. Yet, you see couples walking hand-in-hand, smiling genuinely at each other, and dancing together. There's a lot of obvious continuing affection among the people in our age group in this very special place.

Some of the best stories are of people who come here without a partner and find someone to love who was looking for a partner, too. It doesn't matter to either of them what the other's age is or even if they look their age. All that matters to them is loving and being loved.

I summed this up in one of my poems, *The Look*:

Under thirties see us only
As Grandma and Grandad
With arthritis, pill bottles
And knees that are bad.

They can't envision our
Hearts still full of passion.
They see only our wrinkles
And clothes out of fashion.

They don't know it,
But it's absolutely true.
I'm still passionately
In love with you.

Ok, maybe. But what's that got to do with writing about old people having sex? Well, murder mysteries are all about who had motive, means, and opportunity. When you examine motive, the recurring themes are jealousy, greed, rage, and - wait for it- LOVE/PASSION/SEX!

Do we have love? Yup! Do we have passion? You betcha! Are people our age having sex? Well, you see in a cozy mystery you don't go into the gory detail of violence, death or sex. But do you imply, infer, and send up skyrockets signifying something wonderful and physical is going on between your characters? Oh yeah, big time!

Want to know something else? It's funny and fun the way I write it and my readers say it makes them giggle and titillates in the most polite, and wholesome way. As one of my reader recently said in a review:

WOW! Great character development! Just racy enough to be naughty but not rude. This is a winner! - Joan P

So, in my latest murder mystery, *Dead in the Water*, just how far did the deceased Robin Logan go in "servicing" his elderly female customers? Is that what caused him to be murdered? Who was he sleeping with? Who wasn't sleeping with him and was mad that they weren't on his list? Who thought they owned him and killed him because they couldn't stand the thought of sharing him?

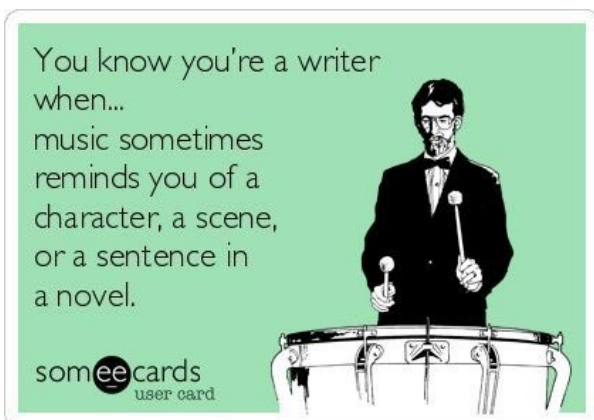
You are going to have to buy and read the book to find out for sure. I can tell you this, though: there's a hell of a lot of sexual tension, innuendo, and speculation about just what was going on between this 35-year-old pool boy and his still exceptionally good-looking and sexy female customers in their 60s and 70s – all provoked by this author in a very wholesome and thoroughly acceptable way!



“Work and love are the only ways in which human nature can come closest to happiness or at least avoid misery.”

Sigmund Freud
Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU GET A LETTER SAYING SOMEONE WANTS TO TURN YOUR BOOK INTO A MOVIE

Over the past year stories from WLOV members about receiving unsolicited emails that their book is ‘perfect’ for turning into a movie, I thought this article by Mark Heidelberger would show our authors that it isn’t as easy as sending thousands of dollars to some unknown who promises you a sure-fire screenplay contract.

Best Practices for Shopping Your Novel to Hollywood

By Mark Heidelberger

Having your book turned into a film or series offers fans the chance to engage through a different medium, opens the work up to an entirely new audience, and creates an additional revenue stream. But how do you get your book in the hands of a Hollywood producer who can bring it to the screen? While there’s no one-size-fits-all strategy, some best practices that will give you an edge.

Write a Visual Book

The first step is to write a book that Hollywood finds adaptable. Some stories are more attractive in this regard than others. Those featuring strong visual elements, hooky concepts with high commercial appeal, and flawed characters with compelling arcs are catnip for producers, directors and stars, as are books based on true stories. For inspiration, read books that have already been adapted into movies and follow industry trade magazines like Variety or Hollywood Reporter to gauge trends. For more info on judging adaptability, [read my article here](#).

Protect Your Work

The first thing to do before shopping your book around Tinseltown is to make sure it’s copyright protected through the U.S Copyright Office. Clearly adding a copyright notice to the beginning of the book, watermarking pages and using digital rights management (DRM) platforms to encrypt or otherwise restrict access to legitimate readers will help protect you against unscrupulous types.

Generate Publicity

The more notoriety your book gains, the more attractive it appears to film buyers. Submit the book for awards and accolades; many of them recognize self-published books, so traditional publication isn’t a must. Get bloggers and critics to review on websites and in newspapers. If you have no idea how to do that, hire a freelance publicist. And generate a following on social media platforms by collaborating with influencers who will respond to the book’s subject matter.

Query Producers

Generate a list of producers whose work you like, complete with email and snail mail addresses, by getting an [IMDb Pro](#) account, then query them directly. For best practices on this, [read my article here](#). But check their websites or reach out to ensure they accept unsolicited queries first. If so, play up attractive stats in your letter, be it awards, a true story angle, or a large reader base.

Get an Agent

Unfortunately, most big name producers won’t respond to unsolicited queries unless they come from bona fide literary agents. These agents will act as middlemen between you and the producers, utilizing their existing connections to seek out film and TV adaptation opportunities as a way to supplement a traditional publishing deal. Research platforms like [Publishers Marketplace](#) or the [AALA](#) to find agents who rep books like yours, then query them.

Work with Your Publisher

Publishers are usually active in seeking film and TV deals if they think a book is highly adaptable. They connect with film agents at places like CAA and WME who can pitch the book to Hollywood producers and studio executives. Make sure to have a conversation with a potential publisher about your interest in having the book adapted for the screen before signing with them to make sure they see the same opportunity you do.

Pay for Pitching and Networking Services

What if you're self-published and don't have the reach to Hollywood agents? Well, this town is all about networking, and if you're willing to invest a bit in your own success, there are platforms out there that will help you generate access. For a modest fee, sites like [Slated](#) and [Stage 32](#) allow you to build a project profile and/or pitch your book to agents and filmmakers. [Sellingyourscreenplay.com](#) and [Self-Publishing Review](#) offer paid query blasts. And producers for hire like [Buffalo 8](#) and [yours truly](#) provide executive producer services that include pitching to an internal network of industry pros.

Hire a Professional Screenwriter

Assuming you're willing to let someone else adapt your book, and you have some decent funds set aside (perhaps from book sales), you could hire a working screenwriter who is already repped by a Hollywood agency. Any writer worth their salt is going to be a member of the WGA, so you'll have to pay guild minimums; however, chances are once that writer has finished the script, they'll want to see it get made just like you, so their agent will become your ally as they shop it around. To hire a screenwriter, find their agent's contact info through IMDb Pro and call to say you're looking to hire them on assignment.

Again, there's no straight line between writing a book and getting it to the screen, but making sure it's ripe for adaptation, learning to write a strong query letter, generating publicity, soliciting allies, and investing time and money in yourself are all factors that can help elevate your chances.

BIO: [Mark Heidelberg](#) co-founded Beverly Hills-based Treasure Entertainment in 2000, serving as a film executive, producer and literary manager until 2011 before going freelance. Film and TV credits include *Harsh Times*, *Comfort*, *Ninja Apocalypse*, *The Basement*, *Take the Night*, *Pray for Rain*, Hallmark Channel's *You've Got a Friend* and the just-released *Last Night on Earth*. Often times, he performs ghostwriting services on screenplays in addition to his producing duties. He is a member of the Producers Guild of America. He holds a BA in Film Studies from UCSB and an MFA in Producing from UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television.



“Habit is the denial of creativity and the negation of freedom; a self-imposed strait-jacket of which the wearer is unaware.”

Arthur Koestler
Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

GENERAL INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mount DORA BOOK EXPO

Rita Boehm

Thank you to everyone who registered for the upcoming Mount Dora Book Expo which is being held on September 20, 2025. The event is sponsored by Barrel of Books and Games, a wonderful independent bookstore in Mount Dora.

All fifteen exhibitor spots have been filled. However, we have a waiting list. If you are interested in being added to the waiting list for this exciting inaugural event, please send me an email at WLOVwriters@gmail.com

DIRECTORY OF WRITING SERVICES

WLOV Board wants to create a 'Directory of Writing Services'. To do this, we need recommendations from you. Services we want to use can be something you offer, or something/someone you have successfully used. Send your recommendations to: wlovwriters@gmail.com

BE FEATURED IN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS MAGAZINE

Contact Mark H. Newhouse at 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.

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, talk to a board member, or reach out to one of the volunteers manning the tables at the meeting.

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 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.



SCAM ALERT



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.

Cartoon sent in by Dave McKeon

