



Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

Editor, Penny Thomas
pt0647@gmail.com

Upcoming Events – May 2025

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 5/1	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine & Words Sandy Solomon Frank A. Lancione	Riverbend Rec Center
Tuesday, 5/13	11 am – 2:00 pm	All Booked Up Author Signing Margaret Allyn "Peggy", John H. "Jack" Grubbs, Barbara Welsh	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Every Thursday	4:00 to 5:00 pm	Masterclass Paula Howard, Movie Moderator	Via Zoom
Wednesday, 5/14	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting Meet Your Character Fair	Laurel Manor Rec Center

Things to read in this edition:

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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 Editor's Desk

Dear Writers,

As we approach our two-month meeting hiatus, I got to thinking about this newsletter and the future format of this publication. My hope is that it becomes more of a showcase of you, the WLOV members. Over the past fourteen editions, five articles by members were printed, and there's another one here.

You're all writers – so write. Tell your fellow writers your writing journey. Share what you learned along the way. We all need writing tips and lessons, I'm sure you've got them, so share them. When readers read your article, they see your name and your published books and *works-in-progress* titles.

We need articles on:

- The craft of writing
- Publishing
- Your writing journey (successes and mishaps)
- Writing and reading related cartoons and sayings are also welcome.

Send them along to me, Penny Thomas, at pt0647@gmail.com. Please do NOT send them as a pdf as I cannot insert this format in the newsletter.

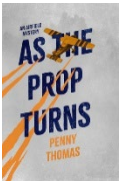
Happy writing and have a wonderful summer.

Stay cool,

Penny Thomas

As The Prop Turns,

An Airport Mystery



“You write in order to say the things you can’t say. It’s a cry, or a scream,
or a song..”

Samuel Beckett

Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

Small Group Critique

By Doc Honour
Advanced Writers Workshop

WLOV offers eleven writers groups that provide a significant benefit to authors. The groups focus on a variety of genres, from memoirs to youth writing, poetry to published fiction. There's a level for anyone from beginner to advanced. The meeting locations range throughout The Villages. The sidebar shows the groups and contact information as of this writing.

What does a critique group do?

Each group is different in details, but I can use our Advanced Writers Workshop (AWW) as an example. Each week, we select readers for the next week from among those who have something ready. The selected authors send out their reading by email. The rest of the group provides critique within a few days, focusing on what's good and specific suggestions to help the story improve.

The author then revises their passage and brings it in the next week with enough hard copies for each member. The author reads while members mark up the copies, then we talk through the suggestions. The author leaves with annotated copies, ready to do a final revision.

What is a "reading"?

Our limit is <3000 words; other groups use shorter readings. The reading may be a chapter from an in-work novel, a portion of a short story, or the entirety of a flash fiction piece. Because AWW aims at publication, the readings are usually part of something the author will eventually move into a book or magazine. Several of our authors are bringing successive chapters of the same novel week after week, so members have the context of the entire work.

What's the benefit?

My own writing has improved immensely in the time I've been with AWW. Not only do I get concrete suggestions and help, I also have a chance to see other author's styles and technique. We occasionally also do writing exercises or share information we've gained from other sources.

Are the groups open?

Again, each group is different. Some have closed membership to limit time. Others are completely open. Groups range from a half-dozen to over twenty. As they've grown, some groups have spun off newer groups. Contact the leader of any group to find out.

Because the groups meet regularly at Villages recreation centers, members must be Village residents.

Our Advanced Writers Workshop has been closed, but we have recently re-opened to welcome new members. Our focus is on providing the "greatest possible help in the shortest time with the expectation of publication." We've been successful enough to have published ten fiction novels in the last four years, while also garnering over twenty awards from international and state organizations. If you are writing fiction past the novice stage, aim to publish (or already have), and want to work with others for mutual improvement, contact us! ehonoursr@gmail.com

Doc Honour

DocHonourBooks.com: *Writing the future to illuminate today*

Award-winning books available on Amazon.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET READY FOR THE CELEBRATION

When: The evening of October 14th, 2025.

Times: We anticipate the doors opening for a cocktail hour at 5:30 with the meal and program following immediately thereafter.

Where: Laurel Manor Recreation Center, 1985 Laurel Manor Drive, The Villages, FL.

Dress: Dressy Casual to Semi-Formal.

Menu: A wonderful meal is in the planning.

What: Qualifying members will receive a Certificate suitable for framing from WLOV, celebrating their having a work professionally published and available for purchase nationally. (You will be asked to provide us with information about your published work on another form.)

Speaker: **Jenny Hale**, a nationally known author of romance novels who has had her works made into Hallmark movies, will be our speaker.

Cost: Tickets are \$50 per person.

Problem It will be difficult to accommodate more than about 80 people. That is only 40 members and their guests (about a fourth of our membership). So, if you know now that you want to attend, then why not go ahead and order your tickets now to ensure you will have a place? It's first come, first served.

Please count me in to attend *The Celebration*.

Your Name _____

Cellphone: _____

Your Email Address: _____

Name of your Spouse/Guest _____

My ticket \$50.00

My Guest (if anyone is accompanying you then add \$50.00 here) _____

TOTAL DUE \$_____

Make checks payable to *"WLOV – Celebration"* and mail to:

WLOV – Celebration Dinner

C/O Paula Howard, Treasurer

P. O. Box 1067

Lady Lake, FL 32158-1067

True Story Anthology Submissions - Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers

We are pleased to announce that Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers is currently accepting submissions for the 2026 anthology. Short fiction, approximately 1,500 to 4,500 words in any genre, is eligible. We cannot accept poetry, erotica, nonfiction, or children's fiction (including young adult).

The theme of our anthology is *True Story*. Our goal is to compile a collection of short stories that incorporate a real event, local legend, or historic/notorious figure into a work of fiction. Since we are based in the Rocky Mountains, we are particularly interested in stories set in the Rocky Mountain region and western or southwestern states.

We encourage anyone interested in submitting to join us for an information call on May 17 at noon MDT. Registration is free and available here <https://streamyard.com/watch/WhreCSx4PAwv>

We also will post a recording of the video to the anthology page on the RMFW website. Please visit that page for the full call for submissions and to access the submission portal <https://rmfw.org/publications/>

Submissions are open until 11:59 p.m. on 7/15/2025. We are not charging for submissions. However, in order to have your work published in the anthology, membership in RMFW is required at the time of acceptance. RMFW is a terrific organization based in the beautiful free state of Colorado and membership is well worth the annual fee. You can learn more about joining here <https://rmfw.org/join-rmfw/>

We look forward to reading your work!



“The central emotion of a short story should be austere, major. The subject must have implicit dignity.”

Elizabeth Bowen
Reprinted from:
A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

GENERAL INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSIDE THE MIND OF A POET

Did you know that **Marc Rissman** won a national poetry contest open just to bridge players for writing a haiku about playing bridge?!

Marc will be sharing some of his poems from his two books, [Walnut Fudge and S'more](#) and [A La Carte Poems](#) .

Where: Leesburg Library
100 E Main St
Leesburg, FL

When: Thursday, May 15 at 3 pm

NEW CLUB

H.U.G. (Help Us Grow) Tutor Club. We are reading tutors for 2nd and 3rd-grade Villages Charter School students. Our tutoring is done online, one hour a week. Please come to one of our meetings and learn about what we do! The next meeting is Friday, May 9, from noon to 2 pm at Laurel Manor. No obligation. Our children need our help in raising their reading skills. Hope to see some of you. We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month. You can make a difference in a child's future and benefit from your student interaction.

Thank you. Carol Dooley cfd11922@gmail.com

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

Stay tuned for our Directory of Writing Services'. We already have a number of suggestions, and want more. It should be something you have used, or have to offer. Send 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. May's article features Wendy Weaver's *Salt of the Earth*.

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.

WHAT IS WRITING TO YOU?

And is it different to your reader?

To most new writers I meet who are attempting to publish a story, what they are doing is all about story. "Listen to this," and they launch into what their story is about. Then they ask if it's a good idea. "What do you think?"

I tell them I don't know. Depends on how it is written.

If you ask a reader what makes for a good book, they would tell you the story is key, when in reality, it is not about the story. It's about how the story is told. The reader doesn't realize that. If the story is told wonderfully with careful selection of words and voice, visuals and strong development, a magic allows the story to come through with personality and power.

If a writer doesn't drill down and understand what real storytelling is, in an attempt to master word choice and style, they fall short. And the reader doesn't feel the story.

Everyone has a story. Not everyone can tell it well. The good writer sees that, and works on being unique in HOW the story is delivered and continuously sharpens their craft.

C. Hope Clark

Editor, FundsforWriters

Newsletter: ISSN: 1533-1326

FFW has been on the Writer's Digest's 101 Best Websites for Writers list every year since 2000

TWITTER - <http://twitter.com/hopec Clark>

AUTHOR SITE - <http://www.chopec Clark.com>

FACEBOOK - <http://www.facebook.com/chopec Clark>

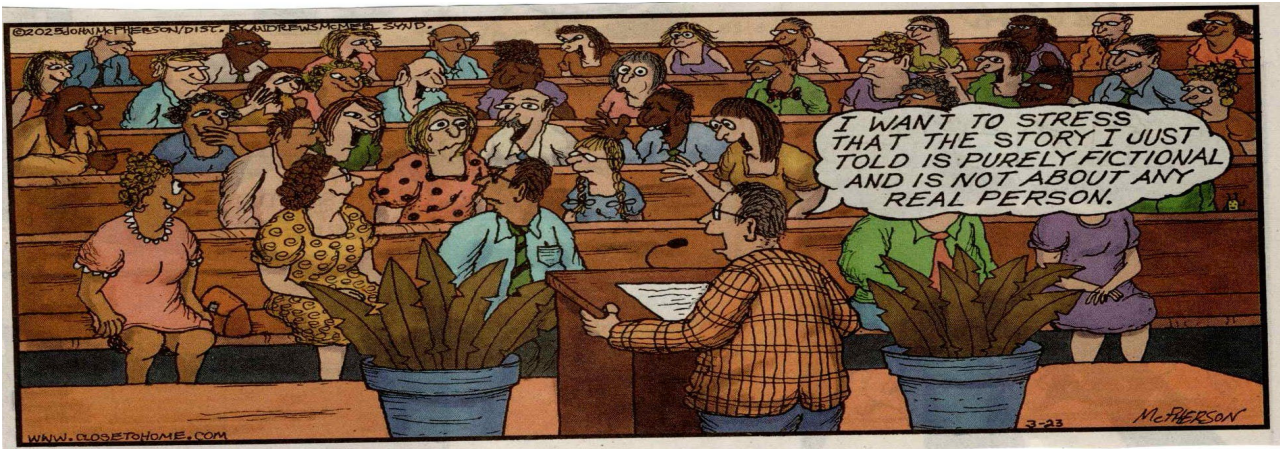
GOODREADS - <http://www.goodreads.com/hopec Clark>

BOOKBUB - <https://www.bookbub.com/authors/c-hope-clark>

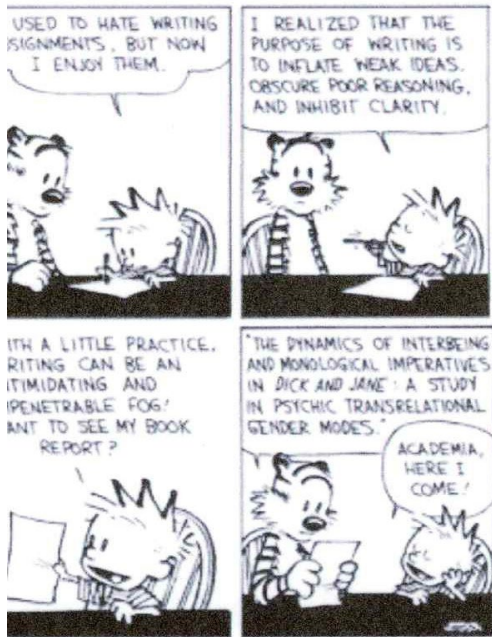
“What one wants from writing is habit.”

Virginia Woolf
Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman



Cartoons sent in by Constance McGee



Cartoon sent in by Dave McKeon