



Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

August, 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back, authors and friends!
Our WLOV Monthly General Meetings resume on
Wednesday, August 12th from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m.,
at Laurel Manor Recreation Center. See you there!

Inside,

- *Calendar of events in August*
- *Message from the president and a letter from your editor*
- *Wine and Words live event*
- *Local author Tuesdays book signing event*
- *Essay from Zarie Weaver, WLOV sholarship winner*
- *Free book promotions! See update from Communications Director, Rita Boehm*
- *Help and support when you need them, your "Sunshine Committee"*

Note! This month's General Meeting will be hosted by WLOV vice president, Casel Burnett, and will feature the "Writing Groups" of The Villages!

August 2026 Upcoming Events Quick Look Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Featured Authors</i>
Thursday 8/6	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine and Words	Riverbend Rec Center	Frank Lancione 703-626-7514	The Memoir Writers Critique Group, featuring, Alice Foley, Gail O’Mara Susan Renick and Bob Tebow
Tuesday 8/11	11:00 – 2:00 pm	Book signing	All Booked Up Colony Plaza	Donna Hoover duciesmom@aol.com	Featured authors, Laura Borcharding. Frank Lancione. and Beverly Ann Meyers
Wed 8/12	9:00 - 10:50 am	General Meeting	Laurel Manor Recreation Center	Casel Burnett ltdburnett@gmail.com	Meet the various Writing Groups in The Villages and hear from their leadership

Please take note! The book signing event that normally takes place on the third Tuesday of the month at Patchington’s in Spanish Springs, will be cancelled for August. This event will return in September.

WLOV General Meeting

**Wednesday, August 12th, From 9am till 10:50 am
at the newly refurbished Laurel Manor Recreation Center.**

*The August meeting is a mini-reunion and a chance to greet some old friends — and make some new ones. The meeting will be presided over by WLOV’s Vice President, **Casel Burnett**.*

The spirit of our monthly meetings is to bring people together, and this month is particularly exciting. The agenda will feature the various Villages’ Writing Groups. The leaders of each group will speak to us about their group’s focus and how it's run.

The members of these Writing Groups are your fellow Villagers, and all them are welcoming to new writers.

Message from the president of WLOV



Hi WLOV Writers,

Well, Florida has been tossed into the broiler again. I heard someone say, “This is not the heat that Whitney Houston wanted to feel with somebody.” But don’t be too jealous of me as I spend these summer months in Minnesota, because Minnesota was tossed in the smoker. Temperatures have been in the 90s here, and we’ve been overrun with thick smoke from Canadian wildfires and fires in the Boundary Waters (the border between Minnesota and Canada). The outdoor air is much worse than indoor air. The other day I heard someone (a non-smoker) say, “I smoked three packs of Canadian Wildfires yesterday.”

I also saw some Florida weather advice: Stay indoors between the hours of 11 am and 4 pm until November 1st. Those are the best hours for writing anyway!

Special thanks to Phillis Walters who orchestrated the annual Ice Cream social. I heard there was a great turnout, authors got to read the back cover of books, exchange books with other authors, with an agreement to read the book and write a review on Amazon. What a great way to help our fellow authors! This is what makes WLOV special.

The next WLOV meeting will be August 12th, back at Laurel Manor, at its normal time, 9-11. Vice President, Casel Burnett, will preside.

The August meeting will focus on our local writing groups, each of which is invited to join us and talk about their group. It’s a great opportunity to meet fellow writers, find new groups, and get good feedback on your writing.

Also, some exciting news: I’ve been rewriting the WLOV website to be better, more useful, and also cheaper than what we’re using now (Wordpress). It’s not finished yet, but if you want a sneak peek, you can follow this link:

<https://a1a55b35-f760-4c01-beba-92388a4f154d.preview.articulationsites.com/#>

I always welcome suggestions. Just remember this is a “work in progress” and I’m hoping to have it online by September 1.

Bob Peterson

Letter from the Editor

Writing Groups and the Passage of Time.



All of the successful Writing Groups in The Villages started from humble beginnings. Each of these groups was once only a seed of an idea that took root over time, and each group has forged their own distinct and independent personality. These groups are constantly evolving, and like the rest of our lives, people will come, and people will go, bonds will be made, and bonds will be broken too. But slowly, the heart and soul of the group emerges and each member is able to rise above their own condition, and peer into another's world. You come to realize that only by seeing another's point of view can the group survive. To grow as writer's we must be able to see the world through someone else's eyes, and that philosophy is the cornerstone of our Writing Groups.

When you first make a decision to cast your lot with one of the writing groups, you will likely do so because you want to take your writing to another level. A level beyond what you think you can accomplish alone. The desire to share your work and put yourself on the line in front of a writing group is a big step. You're ready to take the plunge. But before you can dive in headlong, you must take those first tepid steps and put your feet in the chilly water.

Your desire to share your work is a good first step, but only scratches the surface of how you become a member of one of these groups. That transformation only happens over time, when the stiffness of the unknown falls and the person across the table from you becomes more than just another name tag, and more than the awkward first steps of fate that brought you both together.

As time passes, the members of your writing group will come to understand what makes your writing tick, and in the process, they'll come to understand what makes you tick. When those moments happen, you become more human to them, and they to you. A long-standing writing group is a timeline of people with a shared history and a shared story. People become a true writing group when the layers are slowly peeled back and we reveal ourselves to one another. Only then does the group become one unifying voice, one heartbeat, sharing their dreams and struggles in this life. For what is writing, if not an eternal struggle?

Joining a writing group is signing on to take a journey with a group of your fellow writers. Hopefully it's a long journey. They will be the ones who can help your writing rise from the ashes, and if you want to be better, you jump in with both feet and a steadfast commitment. Once you've done that, you keep writing, and you suffer the slings and the arrows, and still, you keep writing, and whether the wind blows ill or fair, you just keep writing. Becoming a member of a writing group will help you learn more about yourself, and that can help you find your writing voice.

Tom Bruce

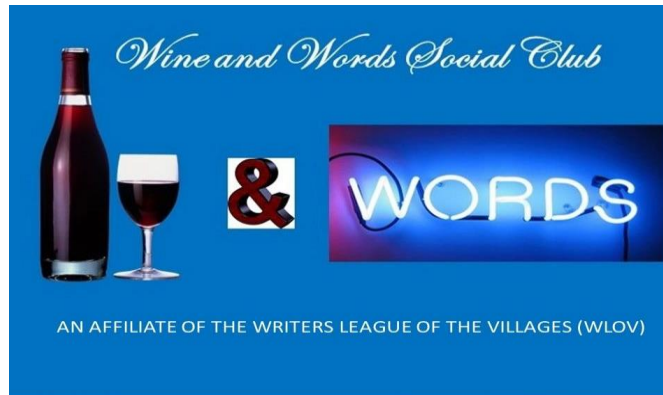
Wine and Words

Thursday evening August 6th

Doors open at 6 pm

Riverbend Recreation Center

The event starts at 6:30 pm till about 8:30pm



This month's presentation will be a memorable event featuring another one of our Writing Groups here in The Villages. Don't miss out, come see

"The Memoir Writers Critique Group"

Our featured authors and artists for the evening from this group will be,

Alice Foley

Gail O'Mara

Susan Renick

Bob Tebow

This live event will feature four authors from one of our writing groups. The Wine and Words monthly live events reflect where we are today as writers, and how we all coexist in a rapidly evolving artistic landscape. Frank draws his energy from the people around him, and we all benefit from that. So, bring a friend, bring a beverage, and don't miss this exciting event featuring a lineup of talented authors.

Doors open at 6 pm, Riverbend Recreation Center

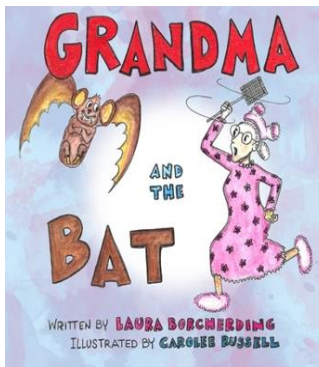
Local Author Tuesdays Book Signings

Please Note!! This month's event at Patchington is cancelled, but be sure to check back for the exciting line up of authors coming in September and October.

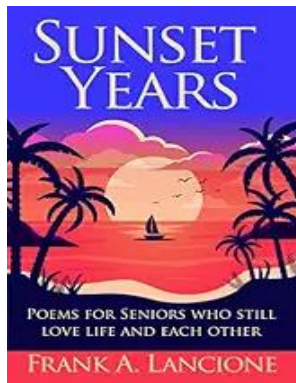


***"All Booked Up Bookstore" at Colony Plaza,
August, 11th, from 11 am until 2 pm***

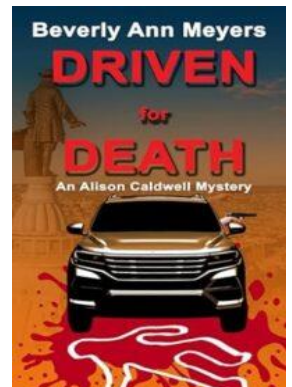
Featured Authors



Laura Borcharding
"Grandma and the Bat"



Frank Lancione
"Sunset Years" series and
"Book/Play Game Mysteries"



Beverly Ann Meyers
"Driven by Death"

Stop by, say hello, and support our WLOV authors at these events. Learning about our authors, and their books, is what these events are all about.



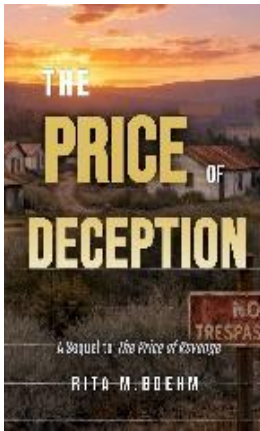
Know of a member recuperating from surgery, down with the flu, suffering from the loss of a loved one – or facing some other traumatic event? Please contact us at wlovwriters@gmail.com and share the member's name and situation. Or, come to the Membership Services table at a General Meeting and let one of us know.

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.

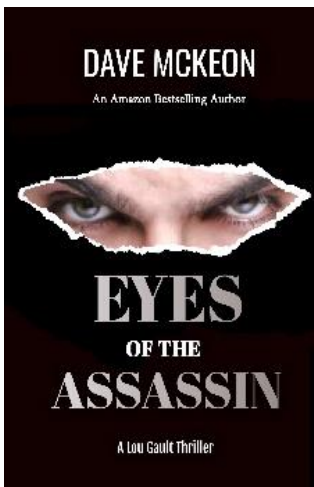
WLOV Members Accomplishments and Notables

Congratulations go out to the following WLOV members on their recent book awards:

Rita Boehm's thriller, "The Price of Deception", was awarded both a Literary Titan Book Award and a 5-Star Readers' Favorite Medallion!



Dave McKeon's thriller, "Eyes of the Assassin", also received two awards: a Literary Titan Book Award and Pen Craft's Best Book Award in their Summer Competition!



Please let us know if you've recently won any awards or received other recognition as a writer. We'd love to give you, and your writing, the recognition it deserves. Send word to me at authortombruce@gmail.com, and we'll make sure the word gets out.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Rita Boehm

FACEBOOK: The Writers League has a public Facebook page – and a special Facebook Group only open to members. I hope you'll check them both out.

Local media articles about members and about WLOV activities are posted on our Facebook page and included in a folder available to everyone. Here's the link to the 2026 album folder of articles and pictures:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1355121896655464&type=3>

If you aren't a part of our Facebook Group, please join us! It's a private Group, so you'll have to request permission to join. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2456384291302772>

FREE PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE: Monthly Author Spotlight

If you haven't been spotlighted in THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE in the last 18 months, email us at WLOVwriters@gmail.com with "Villages Magazine" in the Subject line, and we'll forward the required questionnaire.

We have open slots starting in December. Don't miss out.

THE DAILY SUN: Weekly Author Spotlight

The Daily Sun features local authors in its Sunday edition. If you've published a book within the last 12 months and would like to be featured, send an email with "Daily Sun" in the Subject line, along with a hi-res copy of the book cover to us at WLOVwriters@gmail.com, and we'll add you to the list.

Other opportunities:

All Booked Up, Colony Plaza – If you are interested in having your books featured at this great independent Villages bookstore (1 title for 2 months with an opportunity for a book signing on the 2nd Tuesday of the month), contact Donna Hoover at duciesmom@aol.com or sign up at our next WLOV meeting.

Patchington, Spanish Springs - Contact Judith Glynn at Judith@judithglynn.com if you are interested in doing a book signing on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12 – 4 at this exceptional women's clothing store.

Publishing Services Directory:

Pleased with the publishing services you received from an individual or company? Share the info with your fellow WLOV members by submitting the service provider's contact info to WLOVwriters@gmail.com. We'll add them to our Services Directory.

BOOKEXPO 2027 – Sunday, January 24th, 2027

Registration for BookExpo 2027 opened on July 1. To date, nearly 50% of the exhibitor tables are spoken for.

Registration forms were sent to each member with last month's newsletter. Another copy is being forwarded with this newsletter and is also posted on our website: writersleagueofthevillages.com.

The event opens to the general public on September 1 and will be sold out by early October.

Sign up soon if you want to be a part of this exciting annual event.

BookExpo Committee:

We've held 2 very fruitful meetings and the level of support is exciting. We'd love to have you join our team.

Currently, our Sponsorship Subcommittee is hard at work and needs some additional volunteers to approach potential sponsors. You'll be provided with a script and all the materials that you need.

WLOV is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Our sponsor contributions go to funding scholarships, like the one provided to Wildwood HS senior, Abigail Hawes, whose winning essay is included in this newsletter.

WLOV Scholarship Winner Essay

*Last month, in our July edition, I featured an essay written by **Abigail Hawes**, one of the two students awarded a \$750 scholarship from WLOV. This month, we are featuring the essay of the second scholarship recipient, **Zaria Weaver**. These essays were used as one of the criteria for choosing this year's scholarship winners. Once again, many thanks to **Claudia Jaques and Dr. Christine Getz**. Without your efforts, this wouldn't have been possible, so thanks go out to both of you from all of us.*

The Writer Who Shaped My Passion for Literature

by Zaria Weaver

In the modern era, countless writers have left their mark on readers around the world, but one author has had a profound impact on my life and my interest in pursuing a career in literature: J. Rowling. Her works, particularly the Harry Potter series, have not only entertained millions but have also inspired deep reflection about life, morality, and human nature. Rowling's ability to create imaginative worlds filled with complex, relatable characters has shown me the power of storytelling and has significantly shaped my desire to explore the field of literature as a career.

One of the aspects of Rowling's writing that captivates me most is her skill in developing multidimensional characters. Each character, from Harry Potter to Hermione Granger and even supporting characters such as Neville Longbottom, is portrayed with depth, personality, and growth over time. Through these characters, Rowling explores universal themes such as friendship, courage, loyalty, and the struggle between good and evil. What makes her characters so impactful is that they are not perfect; they make mistakes, struggle with fear and self-doubt, and often face moral dilemmas that challenge their values. As a reader, I find this relatable and inspiring because it mirrors the realities of human experience. Witnessing how characters evolve, face challenges, and ultimately find their own paths has taught me that literature is not only about creating stories but also about reflecting life's complexities in a way that connects with readers on an emotional and intellectual level.

Rowling's writing also demonstrates the power of imagination and world-building in literature. The wizarding world she created is intricate, detailed, and entirely immersive. From Hogwarts' magical corridors to Diagon Alley's bustling shops, the environment she paints allows readers to escape the ordinary and explore new possibilities. This aspect of her writing has sparked my curiosity and creativity, encouraging me to consider how words can construct entire universes and bring them to life in the minds of readers. The creativity required to build such a believable and captivating world has influenced me to see literature as more than just a tool for communication; it is an art form that can engage, inspire, and transport audiences beyond their everyday experiences.

Beyond her technical skill as a writer, J. Rowling's personal journey has been incredibly motivating. Before achieving success, she faced numerous rejections and hardships, including financial struggles and personal challenges. Despite these obstacles, she persisted, believing in her stories and her ability to share them with the world. Her resilience highlights an essential lesson for anyone pursuing a career in literature: success often requires patience, perseverance, and dedication. Understanding that Rowling's success did not come easily has given me the courage to pursue my own ambitions, even in the face of doubt or difficulty. Her example demonstrates that writing is not only a creative pursuit but also a discipline that demands commitment, passion, and a willingness to take risks.

Another reason Rowling has influenced my interest in literature is her ability to tackle complex social and moral issues within her work. Through her stories, she addresses themes such as prejudice, discrimination, power, and choice. For instance, the treatment of house-elves and other magical creatures reflects broader questions of justice, equality, and compassion. The struggles of characters like Severus Snape, who embodies both good and flawed qualities, invite readers to explore moral ambiguity and the importance of empathy. These elements of her work illustrate how literature can go beyond entertainment, acting as a medium for critical thinking and reflection about society and human behavior. Experiencing these lessons through her books has strengthened my belief that literature can influence thought, inspire change, and foster understanding, making it a career path that is both meaningful and impactful.

In addition, Rowling's storytelling emphasizes the importance of personal growth and resilience. Her characters face tremendous obstacles, yet they continually strive to improve themselves and overcome challenges. Harry, for instance, is not a perfect hero; he struggles with fear, grief, and self-doubt. However, through perseverance, courage, and support from his friends, he learns to confront adversity and grows stronger. This theme resonates deeply with me, as it reflects the journey of life itself. Rowling's portrayal of resilience has inspired me to see literature as a tool for exploring human potential and encouraging readers to reflect on their own experiences, challenges, and growth.

Moreover, Rowling's influence extends beyond the pages of her books. Her works have created a global community of readers who share ideas, interpretations, and personal connections through literature. Observing the impact her writing has on people of all ages has shown me the profound effect that storytelling can have on society. Literature, in this sense, becomes a bridge connecting individuals, fostering empathy, and creating shared experiences. This realization has motivated me to consider a career in literature not only as a personal pursuit but also to contribute to a broader cultural conversation, using words to engage, inspire, and connect with others.

Ultimately, J.K. Rowling has profoundly shaped my love for literature and solidified my desire to pursue it as a career. Through her rich characters, imaginative worlds, and thought-provoking themes, she has demonstrated the power of storytelling to entertain, educate, and inspire. Her personal journey of perseverance and resilience has encouraged me to embrace challenges and remain dedicated to my passions. Most importantly, her work has shown me that literature is not only a form of art but also a medium for understanding, connection, and transformation. Inspired by Rowling, I hope to create stories that resonate with readers, explore human experiences, and leave a lasting impact, just as hers have done for me.

In conclusion, while many modern writers have influenced readers worldwide, J. Rowling stands out as the most significant influence on my literary aspirations. Her creativity, character development, moral exploration, and personal perseverance have taught me invaluable lessons about the craft of writing and the power of literature. As I pursue a career in this field, I carry with me the inspiration she has provided, motivated to write stories that captivate, challenge, and connect with readers for generations to come. Rowling's work is a constant reminder that literature is a profound way to touch lives, provoke thought, and make the world a more empathetic and imaginative place.