

Plotting Success

www.sarasotafictionwriters.com

September 5, 2017

General Meeting

Selby Library Auditorium

1331 First St., Sarasota

6 pm

Guest speaker Tim Dorsey will speak at the Sept. 5 meeting of the Sarasota Fiction Writers at Selby Library at 6 p.m. He will talk about how he writes, from humor and tension, to character development, and using Florida as a setting in his novels.

Dorsey was a reporter and editor for the Tampa Tribune from 1987 to 1999. He is the author of 20 novels, including "Florida Roadkill," "Coconut Cowboy," and "Clownfish Blues." He lives in Tampa.

Sarasota Fiction Writers meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about Sarasota Fiction Writers, please visit www.sarasotafictionwriters.com.

NEW LOCATION!

Sarasota Fiction Writers Critique Meeting

6:00 pm, Wednesday September 20th, 2017

Barnes & Noble (4010 So. Tamiami Trail)

Bring 5 pages of work to read,

At least ten copies, double-spaced, 12 font

Attention ALL MEMBERS

October 1st is the club's fiscal year. \$25.00 annually covers meetings every month, dinner for our speakers, an invite to the Annual Christmas Party (lots of fun) and free entry into our annual short story contest with cash prizes.

Overdue or New Members: Please mail dues to: Sarasota Fiction Writers

Bob Spitzer
2450 Harbourside Drive, Apt 213
Longboat Key, FL 34228

We have elections coming up soon. We have one volunteer for the vote but we would like to see some more involvement from our members who have not yet served.

Please consider that if you are trying to submit query letters or contract an agent, holding a position in a credible, long-term writers group shows you are serious about improving your craft and may help you past the gatekeepers.

Current SFW Officers:

President: Jerry Keane — destiny716@comcast.net

Co-Vice Presidents:

Critique Monitor: Pat Gray – patrickgray1@msn.com

Co-Secretary Publicity: Grier Ferguson

Co-Secretary Newsletter: Dona Lee Gould – DGould497@aol.com

Treasurer: Bob Spitzer mbspitzer@gmail.com

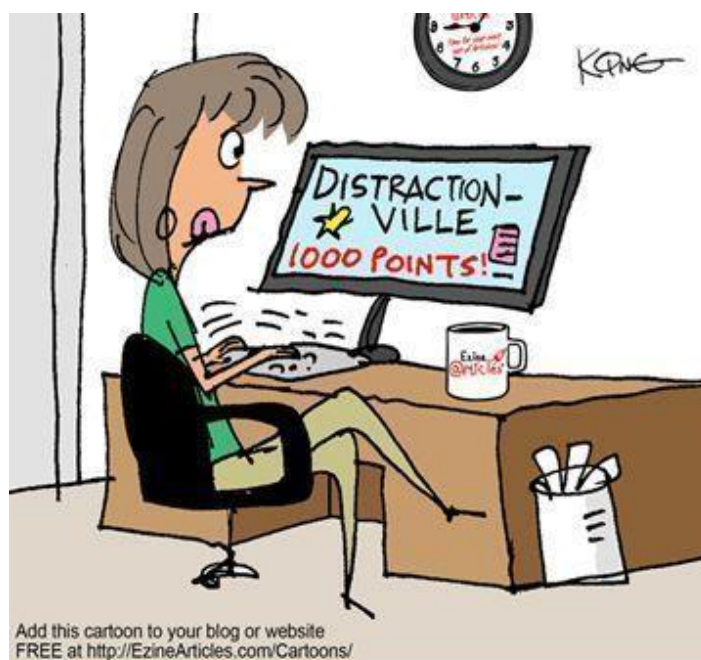
Blogmaster Extraordinaire: Natalie Brown—ngbrown.us@gmail.com

Members please feel free to send a one- or two-sentence synopsis of your published works and a link to sales on Amazon or Barnes and Noble to Natalie. She will grab the cover art to post on the Member Titles pages on our new website. Another place to market – for free.

Natalie has finally succeeded in securing our website URL. We are once again www.SarasotaFictionWriters.com Thank you, Natalie for accomplishing this difficult feat.

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*Alice could never figure out
how other people managed to
write SO MANY articles!*

BITS & PIECES

This is our announcement section of happenings and events in the lives of our members. If you have any info you want to share from the sale of a short story, publication of your book, a book signing, entering a contest, especially winning, or if you have a birth, wedding, or other event in your family you just want to share with your fellow members....

Please email me at Dgould497@aol.com and I will include your announcement in the letters. If you know of any upcoming contests, workshops, or conferences you plan to attend, or just want to inform the rest of us about one you like, please let me know. I would also like to know about other local writing groups. Sharing information helps everyone.

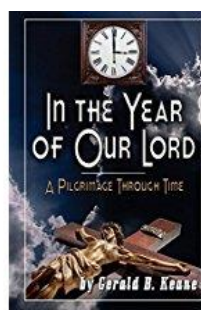
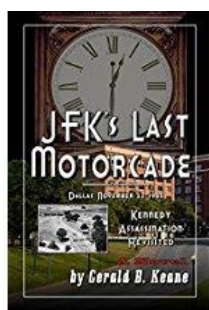
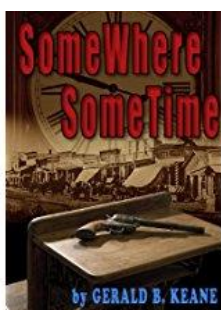
Please consider purchasing books written by your fellow members and support their efforts. Soon it will be your turn! Also, if the books are available on Amazon, write a four or five star review. (If you feel a member's book is lower than a four of five star, please just pass on the review. Amazon considers a three-star and lower a bad review.)

Good Reviews help sell books on Amazon.

Member and PRESIDENT of SFW, Gerald B Keane has recently released *Celebration*, the fourth book in his Will Barrett Time Travel series. This time Will is working to get himself out of trouble with the Chinese.

Now, Jerry has been donating his time and energy to helping the writers of the Sarasota Fiction Writers. It is time to give a little back. Buy his books! Not just this one, but all four in the series.

They are fun, informative, and you will be showing some gratitude for all he does for you.



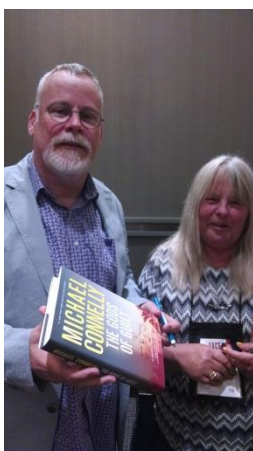
Celebration is available on Amazon and Kindle.

Member Susan Klaus won the Best First Sentence Contest held by International Thrill Writers. It was announced at Thrill Fest during their annual conference in New York on July 15. Nothing fancy, the sentence was a hook using simple dialogue with no description or deep message. Some of the judges on the panel included DP Lyle, Lee Childs, and Steve Barry. Here is the winning first sentence in her third thriller, *Wolf in the Cross-Hairs*, part of the award-winning Christian Roberts Series.

"Jake, I ain't diggin' no hole when the gator can take care of him."



Ann Rice



Michael Connely

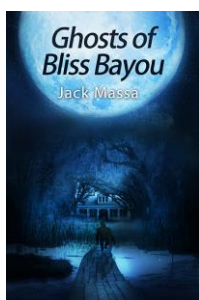


Lee Childs

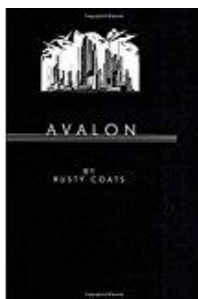
Member Howard Hammerman has signed a contract for the publication of his first novel, *Flying Blind* with publisher Bold Venture Press in Sunrise, Florida. The book will be released in October, 2017. Congratulations, Howard

New Member Jack Massa writes fantasy and science fiction. His new book, *Ghosts of Bliss Bayou*, was released last November: <http://triskelionbooks.com/ghosts-of-bliss-bayou/>

His epic fantasy novel, *Cloak of the Two Winds*, is now available in print and e-Book from Amazon. - <http://tinyurl.com/h2wyb6e>. His website is <http://triskelionbooks.com/>



Member Rusty Coats announced his second novel, “Avalon,” was just published.

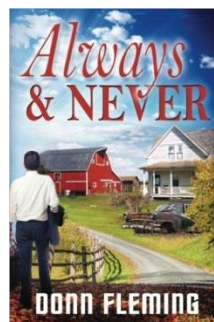
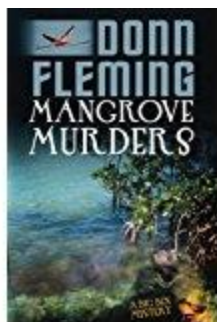


Featured as the first [Big Idea of 2017](#) on best-selling science fiction author John Scalzi’s website was a great nod.

Avalon was supposed to be the new City of Light: a clean, beautiful place to live, work and play - virtually. There was a cost, however, to this utopia. Programmers Disease. As the epidemic swept through the nation, society rushed in to shut it down. But, cyberspace, like nature, abhors a vacuum and every vice imaginable rushed in to fill the the elaborate Art Deco void. Avalon, a once shining city of virtual opportunity became the nightmare of sex, violence and gambling, and despite the Great Prohibition, everyone flocked there for a fix. Avalon. It is what you think.

Available: [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Ink n Beans Press](#)

Member Donn Fleming announced his new book launch. *Always & Never* joins *Sarasota Sunrise* and *Mangrove Murders* rounding out the Big Ben Mystery Series Trilogy. Available on Amazon/Kindle or personalized copies through www.donnfleming.com.

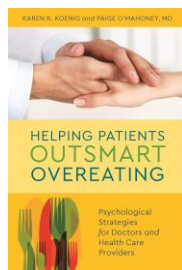


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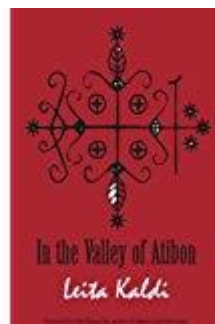
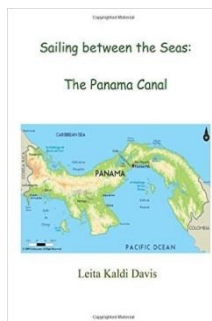
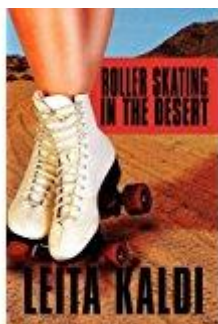
Member Elizabeth Stevens advised she sold some of her 22 books in December in Berlin, Germany, at the Book Fair at the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Modern Art. Her three *lives d’artiste* (texts with original etchings) were acquired by the Kunstbibliothek of the Staatliche Museum.

Member Karen Koenig LCSW, Med, an eating disorder therapist, has written a new book that's coming out in January – “Helping Patients Outsmart Overeating: Psychological Strategies for Doctors and Health Care Providers.” The book is published by Rowman & Littlefield and is available for pre-order from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

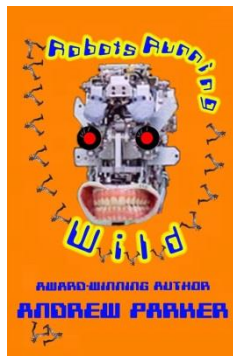
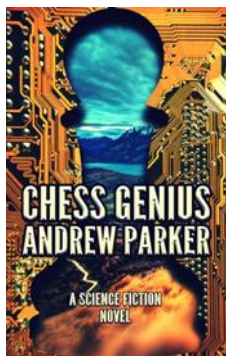
“Helping Patients Outsmart Overeating,” which Koenig co-authored with a physician, offers a new paradigm for doctors and health care providers who treat patients with eating and weight concerns. It describes how both providers and patients are frustrated by weight-loss plans and programs that fail long-term and presents a psychology-based explanation for why diets fail and how they, in fact, may adversely impact patients’ mental and physical health. It also includes strategies for doctors, health care providers and higher weight patients to help patients reach their health



New Member Leita Kaldi Davis worked for the United Nations and UNESCO, for Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Harvard University. She worked with Roma (Gypsies) for fifteen years, became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal at the age of 55, then went to work for the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Haiti for five years. She retired in Florida in 2002, and wrote a memoir of Senegal, Roller Skating in the Desert, and of Haiti, In the Valley of Atibon, as well as several travel memoirs available on amazon.com or email her at lkaldi@hotmail.com



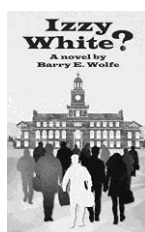
Member Andrew Parker, winner of the 2016 Sarasota Fiction Contest, announced he has two books available in paperback or as a download from Amazon.com. Andrew was the final guest on Culture Coast and spoke about his literary endeavors, his awards, his two published books and the five he is still working on.



He will be releasing *Reality Gone Wrong* in the near future. He is currently working with a marketing pro to launch a successful campaign with the publication of his third book.

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**Member Barry Wolfe** recently launched his novel *Izzy White?* The novel explores the psyche of a confused Jewish boy who attends Howard University in the late 50's and his world among blacks at college and whites at home in the suburbs.



**Previous Member Brenda Seabrooke** announced a story, "The Man Who Wasn't Missed" was just published in the anthology *BUSTED* at Level Best Books.



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**Member Jo Schmidt** (w/a ANNA SCHMIDT) a Wisconsin Seasonal member announced her website has been updated at [www.annaschmidtauthor.com](http://www.annaschmidtauthor.com) She has an offer to get e-file of her ‘prequel’ to her Western series when readers subscribe to News Blasts and Updates. The first fifty subscribers receive a free autographed book—one of her historical Amish stories set in Sarasota. Book 3 of her Western series—*THE OUTLAW*—is already receiving good reviews: four stars from Romantic Times and a positive review from Kirkus Reviews. It will be released in July. She will be presenting a workshop at the annual conference of the Historical Writers of America in Albuquerque in late September.



Check out her Amazon Author's Page for more on our award winning author.

[https://www.amazon.com/Anna-Schmidt/e/B001HOMA1A/ref=sr\\_ntt\\_srch\\_lnk\\_2?qid=1477949179&sr=1-2](https://www.amazon.com/Anna-Schmidt/e/B001HOMA1A/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_2?qid=1477949179&sr=1-2)

**Member Robert Parkinson** announced that he and his wife launched their book “Be As Good As You Think You ARE” last month.



**Member Elizabeth Sims** has news for the summer. September 15 - 17 she will be leading a workshop in Texas, "How to write a Dynamic Mystery That Sells." If you want to attend, sign up on her website. She is also joining the adjunct faculty at Ringling College of Art + Design in Sarasota to teach the fall term Short Story Workshop.

She contributed an essay about being a Midwestern writer to Janet Rudolph's *Mystery Readers Journal*, Spring 2017 issue. The piece is called "The Lake Effect," and it's about—what else?—the Great Lakes and their mysterious power.

And Fellow Mensans, her latest novel, *Crimes in a Second Language* is rumored to be reviewed in next month's *Mensa Bulletin*. *Crimes in a Second Language*, her new standalone novel, is now available on Amazon.

"*Crimes* is a departure from series work for me," she says. "This is a standalone novel about the relationship between two very different women in contemporary Los Angeles. The story was inspired by my late, great aunt and her relationship with a Mexican-American housecleaner



*Scene Magazine* interviewed Elizabeth in their June issue written by Ryan Van Cleve. If you missed it in last month's newsletter, here is the link:

<http://elizabethsims.com/interview.php?book=C2L>

#### **More news from Elizabeth Sims:**

"My blog, Zestful Writing <http://esimsauthor.blogspot.com/>, continues to cook along. We cover the writer's life, writing techniques, language use and abuse, and whatever else seems worthy to discuss. I continue writing articles for *Writer's Digest* magazine and their various special editions; currently you'll find my pieces in the January, February, and March/April issues. (After that, a bit of a break...but I've sent along some new ideas to the mag, so we'll see what's next.) I contributed to the recently published the new edition of the *Complete Handbook of Novel Writing*, from *Writer's Digest Books*. Also, I'm developing ideas for online teaching, so stay tuned for that. Am also working on *Best Boy*, the fourth in the Rita Farmer mystery series."

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Member Bohdan O. Szuprowicz advises he is celebrating the Edinburgh Festival of Music and Drama 70-th anniversary of the festival. Back when he was a lad of tender years, he stole the soviet flag from Princes Street.

Several merchants objected, and the flag was ordered to be moved, but we stole it at night. It was reported by local press as below

I am the guy with beard at the time



~~~~~

And....

**\*\*\* Member Dona Lee returned from Italy** with exciting news and a plan. It is still in motion. I am working with some investors for the hotel purchase and then I will be working to set up the workshops. I hope once my closing takes place that many of you will sign up for appropriate workshops and retreats that will help you hone your craft, learn more about marketing, or just enjoy a writing retreat with a fellow best-selling author in your genre.

Writer's workshops and retreats in Italy, as well as artist tours and retreats, cooking classes, video workshops for Indie producers, spiritual retreats, Reiki certification courses and more include one week stays and a total immersion concept. The workshops/retreats include a one week stay, hotel and breakfast included in the heart of Tuscany. The project is available on Go Fund Me. I hope you join me and follow the path to your passion and help me achieve mine. Ciao.

**Village Voices opens August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the Artwalk at 6pm.** We have author signings and guest artists throughout the Village of the Arts and provide live music, wine and hors d'oeuvres as you stroll the streets visiting any of the 50 galleries and six eateries. Lots of fun and opportunities to discover new sensations. As my Mango tree was very prolific this year, we will be featuring Mango Smoothies for sale during the Artwalk.

Dona and Al are partners in a video production company. DNA Productions, LLC produces **book trailers**, music videos, workshops, small business commercials. If you need a video for your business, your book, your website, or any reason, commercial or personal, contact Dona for more information. (No weddings, the insurance is too pricey) We have registered commercial drones and can provide 4K and HD aerial videos when desired. You can see DNA Videos on Youtube at Al Musitano or Dona's Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphTzpNdHdWoe44C50yPDyw>

Her literary business, **Plotting Success** (named after our newsletter), is the canopy for many of the numerous projects she manages. Her **Author Services company offers editing, manuscript evaluations, and coaching on all aspects of writing.** We have helped numerous writers self-publish their books at a fraction of the cost charged by subsidy publishers AND you retain ALL your rights and royalties. Plotting Success also offers publishing services; formatting your manuscript for both e-book and tree book (paper) publication, including custom-created covers, and help with the upload to Create Space. After you are published, I offer coaching to help you focus your marketing plan directly to your readers. **All at a price far below subsidy and independent publishers.** And when you are done, you receive ALL royalties directly from Amazon's Createspace and Kindle divisions. References are available.

*Culture Coast*, a radio show interviewing musicians, authors, and artists of every venue is on hiatus and looking for a new host. Dona Lee has a new project taking up all her time—relocating to Italy. You will see much more in the cover letter of the newsletter as we are starting our fundraising.

For more information on any of the above feel free to contact Dona Lee at  
[DGould497@aol.com](mailto:DGould497@aol.com) or call 941-748-6865.

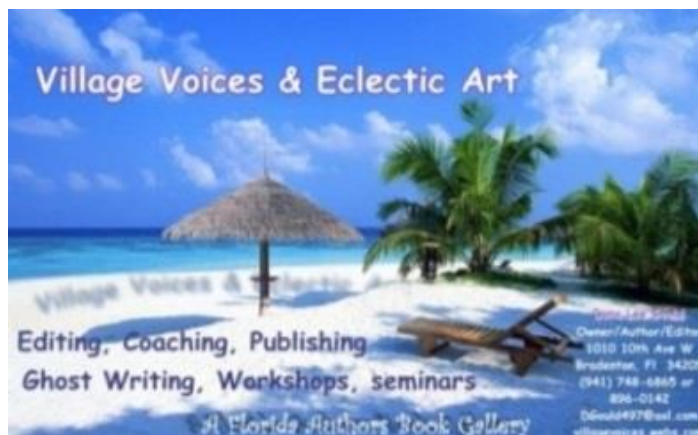
### **Want to advertise your published book? Your company? Your services?**

If you would like to place an ad in our newsletter or know someone else who might like to place an ad, let me know. The cost is \$5.00 a month or \$50.00 a year for three to five lines of text.

Pictures will be extra.

Send requests to [Dgould497@aol.com](mailto:Dgould497@aol.com) write SFW Ad Query in the subject line

Paid Advertising (Place your Ad here - \$5.00 a month or \$50.00 a year)



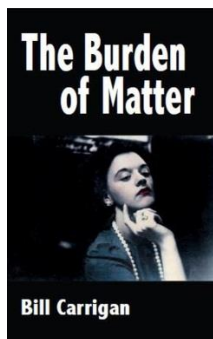
Florida Author's Book Gallery



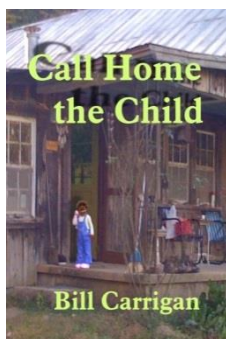
Contact me for help with editing, formatting for self publication, ghost writing, and more.  
Reasonable rates, local references.



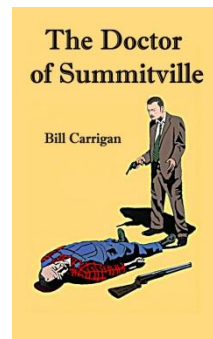
**Read and enjoy the many works of our esteemed Bill Carrigan.** All editions are newly edited and available on Amazon. (Search Books by Bill Carrigan) Read the first three chapters of any book for free. Kindle editions are 2.99 and paperbacks cost around \$10.00. Please review on Amazon after reading.



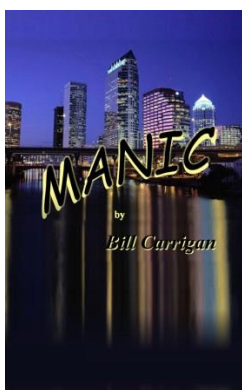
Anatomy of a WWII love affair in Washington D.C.



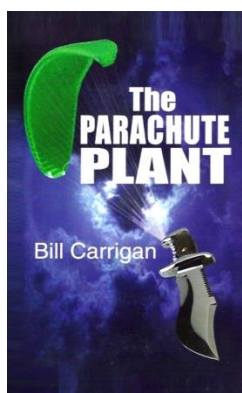
An interracial adoption in 1988 Virginia breaks bad.



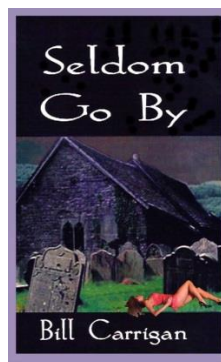
In 1927 a doctor's love affair leads to a death



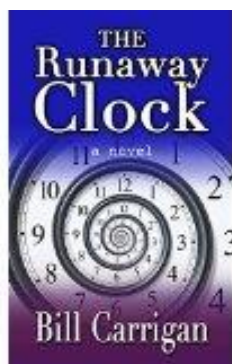
A young Tampa writer joins up with a killer to bring him down.



An Oregon doctor and wife solve gruesome murders.



Murders surround Aunt Esterleen at her mansion, Seldom Go By.



A scientist falls victim to premature aging after proving its cause.



A varied palette of tales and a translation of Poe's "Ulalume."

## **Other Voices, Other Rooms**

Local area critique groups and meetings

An online writing blog for Sarasota and Manatee Writers includes all the vast resources available to local writers. The web address has been changed:

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

I hope you check it out and find it useful. If you know of any other resources please feel free to add them or forward the information to me and I will add them.

There is a similar blog for Pinellas and Hillsborough writing events at:

<http://www.marylouihess.com/enews.html>

### **Florida Writer's Association Manatee**

**Critique group**, bring eight to ten copies of up to ten pages double-spaced.

Fiction and Nonfiction, shorts, articles, novellas, memoirs, & novels

First & third Thursdays, at 6 pm, September 7<sup>th</sup> & September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

First & third Saturdays, at 4 pm September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 & September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

All meetings are held at **Village Voices & Eclectic Art Emporium**,

1010 10<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Bradenton.

For more information call Dona Lee at 748-6865

or email to [Dgould497@aol.com](mailto:Dgould497@aol.com)

### **Florida Writers Association, Sarasota Branch**

FWA-Sarasota Chapter

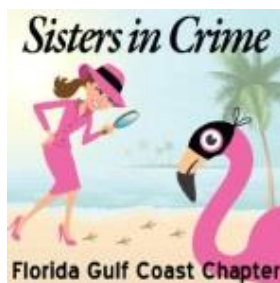
FWA Sarasota meets two evenings each month: on the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday. The training room of the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department is located at the corner of US41 and Pavonia Road. Pavonia Road is the street that has the flashing emergency lights on US 41 south of Matthews-Currie Ford. Pavonia is about a quarter mile south of Albee Road.

The FIRST meeting of the month is dedicated to subgroups of various genres, will be September 6<sup>th</sup> 2017. The members of each subgroup bring stories, poems, articles, or novel chapters for reading and critiquing. The SECOND meeting of the month September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is the general meeting. A few members read to the entire group and then receive comments and suggestions from the group. The rest of the general meeting is dedicated to questions, discussions, progress reports, and general information about writing, publishing and marketing.

A half hour of socializing is encouraged for attendees arriving at 6:00. The regular meetings begin promptly at 6:30 and last until about 9:00. Come join us on the FIRST and/or THIRD Wednesday.

. For questions you may email Ernie Ovitz at [egovitz@gmail.com](mailto:egovitz@gmail.com)

## Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime



HO! HO! HOMICIDE

### **They're Back.....**

September 2 – Gulf Gate Library

Speaker: Nancy Alloy, Owner of Books at Park Place, Gateway Crossings, 10468 Roosevelt Blvd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33716 Nancy has owned her independent bookstore since 2007. She is Indy/Small Publisher friendly.

Once upon a time... there were magical kingdoms called "bookstores". In these places, you could meet old friends, learn new things, and travel to new worlds. The residents of these kingdoms were called "booksellers". They were experienced guides who liked nothing better than to help visitors on their journeys of exploration.

A place like this still exists!

### **Congratulations!!**

On Saturday evening, August 5, 2017, the Florida Author's and Publishers Association announced and presented awards to the 2017 medalists at the FAPA President's Book Awards Banquet that was held after the close of the FAPA Annual Conference. \*\*copied from their website\*\*

Adult Fiction - Chic Lit - Bronze Medalist Honey Tree Farm - For the Love of the Beekeeper's Daughter by Brenda Spalding  
Heritage Publishing US

Adult Fiction - Historical - Silver Medalists Murder on the Mullet Express by Gwen Mayo & Sarah E. Glenn  
Mystery and Horror LLC

Contact *Wendy Dingwall* for more information: [www.wendydingwall.com](http://www.wendydingwall.com)  
[wendyldwriter@comcast.net](mailto:wendyldwriter@comcast.net) .The Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime email address is [flgulfcoastsinc@gmail.com](mailto:flgulfcoastsinc@gmail.com) This email address is monitored by Wendy Dingwall

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## Memoir Group

A memoir writing group meets at the Braden River Library on SR 70 the fourth Tuesday from 1 pm - 2:30 pm. This month that will be September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There is no fee.  
Call 941 727-6079 for more information.

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AMI Gulf Coast Writers

Gulf Coast Writers meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the library in Holmes Beach, 1:00 PM. Interested writers may read up to 1400 words of manuscript for critique. Bring multiple copies and/or contact Judy Allen at judymallen10@msn.com for member listing to send readings by e-mail. The latter is preferred.
Or contact the library. 5701 Marina Dr, Holmes Beach, FL 34217 Phone:(941) 778-6341

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## A Writer's Group in Lakewood Ranch

### Scribes Club

A writers group! It will be fun! Exercise the mind and develop the cranial muscle. Enjoy the "Smorgasbord for the mind" a potluck that all participants bring. This is the place for camaraderie and exchange of ideas. This offers an opportunity for honing your skills, as a writer. If you can pick up a pen you can write! So give yourself a chance to expand your horizons. Experienced writers please join and help others learn the skills you have acquired.

The club meets at Town Hall on the **first and third Saturday of every month 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**. To join email [AChaddha@aol.com](mailto:AChaddha@aol.com) , Aroon Chaddha.



## **PINNACLE YOUTH WRITERS GROUP**

Pinnacle Academy in Lakewood Ranch is in the process of setting up A Manatee Youth Writers Group. It is on recess for the summer. If you know any writer 18 or younger in Manatee or Sarasota County, have them contact Dr. Ordext at Pinnacle Academy (941) 755-1400 for more information. The group will be monitored by creative writing teachers, but is comprised only of youth 18 and under. It is an open group for all youth in the area.

### **Sarasota Authors Connection**

#### **Marketing & Publishing for Writers**

Regular meetings at Fruitville Library Resume in October.

Our purpose is to enlighten authors about book promotion, publishing, and other related activities--authors helping authors.

## **FICTION WRITER'S FORUM**

### **Critique group**

6:30 pm Second Thursday of the month September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

6:30 pm Fourth Thursday of the month, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

Bring ten to fifteen copies of up to ten pages of your fiction.  
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

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### **The Renaissance Writers**

A critiquing group, formerly met at Manatee Community College for 20 years, now meets **every Monday** at 2:00 PM in the library at The Renaissance, 1816 9th St. West, Bradenton. Members write fiction of various genera, memoir and poetry. They provide friendly critiquing of your work and welcome yours in return. Robert Marvin, group leader. No fees, although the venue would appreciate your purchase of food & drink.

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ABC - Artisans of Books



Marketing, PR, and Sales group

ABC is sponsoring a writing contest. See Contests below for more information.

General Meetings: Our members meeting moved to the Selby Library. They meet on the third Wednesday of each month from 1p – 3p.

They now accept authors of adult books as well as our children's authors

The membership fee is a flat \$25

The main focus is still on marketing and having some great speakers coming to share their information.

Contact Brenda Spalding:

www.brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com

www.brendaspalding.com or Nancy Buscher for more information:

nancybuscher@yahoo.com

Applications are on the website:

ABCBooks4Children.com

#209 1532 US 41 Highway BP S

Venice FL 34293-1032

ABC– Artisans of Books is made up of book authors & illustrators, and mainstream authors. Our mission is to form a networking alliance of independently published, self-marketing, and aspiring artisans to exchange knowledge, share experiences, assist in marketing, and promote literacy wherever possible.

The Sarasota Creative Writers

Sarasota Alliance Church
7221 Bee Ridge Rd
Sarasota, FL

The Sarasota Creative Writers

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 6:30 PM

The Sarasota Creative Writers

Tuesday, September 26, 2017 6:30 PM

http://www.meetup.com/The-Sarasota-Creative-Writers-Meetup-Group/events/231753288/?af=event&af_eid=231753288&https=off

Please do not bring work with graphic sex, violence, or heavy usage of gratuitous profanity.

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## **SRQ Horror, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy Writers.**

SRQ Horror, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy Writers

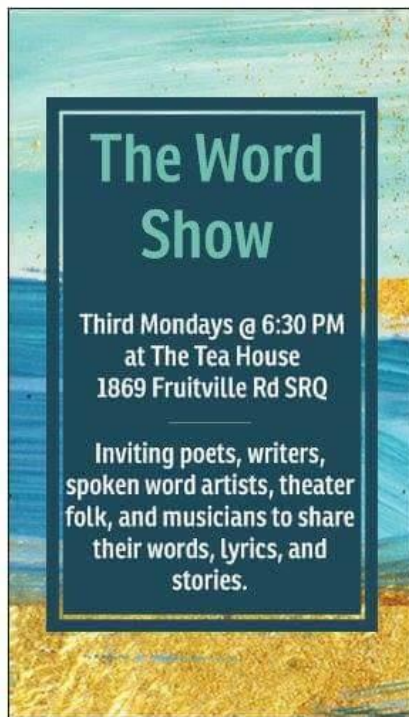
a meetup writers group in Sarasota for **in-depth critiquing**.

Please contact Patricia La Barbera for more information.

Join @ <http://www.meetup.com/SRQ-Horror-Sci-Fi-and-Fantasy-Writers/>

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**Another New Group! We are growing at an amazing rate.**



**This month September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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Wordier Than Thou

Open Mic for Writers of Prose

Short fiction read to other writers in the back room of Sarasota Brewing Company.

No critique, just sign up at the front around 6:30.

Starts at 7 pm. Food and drink available for purchase.

Usually the third Wednesday of each month.

Check Facebook for verification

Two Poetry Groups

Selby Poets

Selby Poets meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month 10:00 AM – noon.

September 21st (10 am to noon) meeting of **Selby Poets** at the **Banyan Cafe** - located on the grounds of the **Ringling Museum**. 5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota.(941) 359-3183

<http://www.urbanspoon.com/r/30/1282677/restaurant/Tampa-Bay/Banyan-Cafe-Sarasota>

Purchase of a drink (coffee, tea, soda) is expected. It is an informal group that gathers to encourage and ‘gently’ critique each other’s work. Park across the street – no entry fee to go to Cafe – walk or ride shuttle from entrance.

Everyone is welcome.

Bring 8 - 10 copies of one or two original poems to read aloud.

Open to the Public / FreeContact: Gail Ghai

GGhai@ArtPoetica.com

And the Poetry Group has grown up and sprouted a second venue and day!

Braden River Library Poetry Workshop.

4915 53rd Avenue E Bradenton, Florida 34203 941-727-6079

First Tuesday of the month from 3-5 PM. This month September 5th, 2017

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FILM GROUPS

Manasota Films Group September Special Event!



September 2017 MSF - The 2017 Single-Take Challenge Awards!

Open to the Public

Hosted by [Mark Troy](#)

Sunday, September 17 at 6 PM - 9 PM
Florida Studio Theatre
1241 N Palm Ave, Sarasota, Florida 34236
Created for ManaSota Films

Join us at Bowne's Lab, at magnificent [Florida Studio Theatre](#), as ManaSota Films proudly presents the 2nd Annual [The Single-Take Film Challenge](#)!

You will see brand new short films from all over the United States, as well as Canada and Australia. The event starts at 6:00 pm at the Green Room at FST for mingling and photos. At 7:00 we move into the theatre to enjoy the show. We will present 90 minutes' worth of spellbinding short films, all created specifically for this event, and all shot in ONE continuous take - NO cuts! At the end of the show, our own dazzling, multi-talented [Kathryn Parks](#) will present trophies for Best Film, Most Entertaining Film, and Extraordinary Cinematography. Films include BRAND NEW films created by 2016 returning champions [Christian Cashmir](#) AND [Christopher Jean Soucy](#)! Admission is only \$5, tickets will be available online or at the door.

"Is this is the most unique film event ever held in Sarasota!? Or just in Florida... :) "

So come join the fun. You'll have a great time, you'll see some amazing new films, and all for only five bucks. See you there!

New Florida Cinema Film Group

September 6th, 2017, 7PM at Parkway 8, John Lagerholm launches a new offshoot of Manasota Films in order to continue watching indie films from regional producers. The **New Florida Cinema** is a group of independent filmmakers who meet monthly to showcase films on the big screen, primarily from Florida. They may change the format of the previous group to include CONSTRUCTIVE critiques on films - it's all wide open. Contact through Facebook.

Sarasota Screen Writer's

The Screen Writer's Circle meets September 13th at **Selby Library 5:30 to 7:30 pm.** in the second floor conference room.

Table readings must be scheduled with the moderator, Laurie Stoner. She has a group of producers, directors, actors, and actresses to perform the table readings.

They schedule 3 readings running approx. 40 minutes each.

There is more information on Facebook: Sarasota Screenwriters.

Please let Laurie know if you are planning on attending as they are outgrowing the room and only have seats for 30. See website: www.sarasotascreenwriters.com/. A LOT of good feedback is coming in due to these professional table readings.

The 2017 Sarasota Community Short Competition is now in phase three – development of the scripts which will be shot in November. <https://www.southwestfloridafilms.com/>

For more information contact Laurie Stoner at mlstoner52@gmail.com

TWO NEW SCREEN WRITING GROUPS

SARASOTA'S SCREENWRITERS, STORYTELLERS AND CREATIVES

New screenwriting group, also covers storytelling.

Richard Keehn, an award winning screenwriter as well as the producer on the upcoming *Screenplay Show* by Rick Ramage invites you to his writing group no matter your skill level. Just bring your imaginative, curiosity and discipline. The major focus is on the art, craft and – my favorite – the business of screenwriting, but we also will delve into storytelling in general as the need warrants. So welcome. Everyone has a story to tell. It's time to tell yours.

For More Information Contact Richard @ richard@thescreenplayshow.com

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### **Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup Group**

A new "Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup" meets every other Friday from 6-7 PM at The Reserve near Downtown Sarasota. The Reserve is a coffee shop located at 1322 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. The next meetings will be on September 5<sup>th</sup> and September 26<sup>th</sup> For more info, please contact Ron Knight (Email: [AuthorRonKnight@aol.com](mailto:AuthorRonKnight@aol.com)) or visit the [Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup site. http://meetu.ps/s/0/fjNxT/f](http://meetu.ps/s/0/fjNxT/f)

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**Florida Writers Foundation**, a 501(c)3 non-profit formed to promote literacy, as well as enhancing the writing skills of children, youth, and adults is stretching out for members and volunteers across the state. Their volunteers and partners have already started to make a difference by visiting elementary schools for reading days, sponsoring poetry contests, donating books to under-privileged schools, and contributing funds to middle school contests. They have a new chairman, Tom Schwartz, who is establishing \$500.00 scholarships for students enrolled in a Florida College writing program. Please go to their website for more information. [www.floridawritersfoundation.org](http://www.floridawritersfoundation.org)

## For our writers to the north...

The SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writer's & Illustrator's), critique group is led by Karen Hamade, (a FWA affiliated group). Any interested parties may contact her at [www.brandonwriters.com](http://www.brandonwriters.com) and she will be happy to email the next meeting information. They are a children's book author critique group in Brandon, Florida, who primarily critique Picture and Chapter Books, Middle Grade, and YA. For meeting information, please use online 'contact' form at: [www.brandonwriters.com](http://www.brandonwriters.com)

There are also Florida Writers Association Groups in Pinellas, Hillsborough (4), and Polk Counties. Check the website for details at [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net)

## For those writers to our south....

### Peace River Writers (a FWA affiliated group)

Group Leader: Douglas Houck

Type: Critique and Discussion

Meets: First Saturday of every Month at 9:00 am

New Location: Wyvern Hotel

101 E. Retta Esplanade

Punta Gorda, Florida

There are also Florida Writers Association Groups in Englewood and Peace River. Check the website for details at [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net)



# Events

**A monthly event for all writers:**

## Brunch for Writers

September 19, 2017 at 11:30 am.

We meet at Pier 22 on the Manatee River the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month just to mix and chat with fellow writers. No agenda, just networking and chat in a great location with great people. During the summer heat we have moved indoors to the air-conditioned area overlooking the marina and Manatee River.

Please feel free to join us. Drop me a line and let me know you are interested so I have a rough idea of how many are expected.

[DGould497@aol.com](mailto:DGould497@aol.com)

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August Brunch at Pier 22

Workshops & Classes

Florida Writers Association

David Morrell [author of Rambo series] is doing a full day workshop for Florida Writers Foundation Celebrity Workshop Day this year -

Lessons from a Lifetime of Writing

DAVID MORRELL

In this all-day fiction-writers workshop, New York Times bestselling author David Morrell discusses the lessons he has learned in his unusually long, 45-year career.

His topics include:

- How to find your own voice and subject matter
- How to write a creative alternative to conventional outlines
- The importance of research
- Choosing a narrative viewpoint
- The most common and easily corrected mistakes in structure, description and dialogue
- Self-publishing versus the conventional road
- How to market your book after you finish it

WHEN: Thursday, October 19, 2017

WHERE: Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FEE: \$125. Florida Writers Association Members | \$150 Non-members | \$200 Walk-up registration

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, and all-day beverages

Signup online at www.FloridaWriters.net

Conferences

16th Annual Florida Writers Conference

“What A Character”

October 19 – 22 in Altamonte Springs, Florida

The Florida Writers Conference has a proven track record of helping writers move to the next level with inspiring workshops that deliver meaningful information, informative panels, and the opportunity to speak with industry leaders and agents and editors from leading literary agencies and publishing houses.

This year is no different. Go to www.floridawriters.net to learn more about the instructors, the workshops, the AAR Literary agents you can pitch to, and best-selling titans you can mingle with.

Early Bird registration is over, sign up now to avoid paying Late Entry fees. Schedule your agent pitch sessions as soon as possible. Check out the workshops and decide which ones you want to attend. The choices are difficult! Reserve your room.

Contests

Once a month Drawing for Free Author Website Setup!

How would you like to have a professional and customized WordPress author website set up for you completely free? Here at WordsandWriters.com we specialize in helping authors create effective websites to help market their writing products. This monthly drawing is our way of giving back to the writing community who work so hard to put their creative talents down on paper.



Here is how the drawing works:

1. Fill out the form on the website (WordsandWriters.com) to enter your name in the drawing.
2. We will draw one name from the entries once a month on the 20th.
3. The winner will be notified via email and will have two weeks to accept.
4. The website provided will be a basic website with these features:
 - A. Up to six pages of content
 - B. Social media links
 - C. Book Buy Buttons
 - D. Calendar and Blog
5. Your Cost: hosting fee of \$10/month or \$25/quarter or \$80/year.
6. The normal \$295 setup fee will be waived!
7. Our company (WordsandWriters.com) will provide the hosting, security, and backups.

Questions: Contact Joe Jacobson at 941-587-4530 or email at info@joejacobson.com

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## **The First Annual *Writer's Atelier* Contest:**

### **MISFITS**

Writer's Atelier, the Maitland group of Florida Writers Association, is hosting its first ever writing contest! They are looking for submissions of fiction or creative nonfiction that fit the theme, "Misfits."

- Entries should be 3,000-5,000 words and submitted as a Word document to [contests@writersatelier.com](mailto:contests@writersatelier.com).
- Entries cannot be previously published and must be the original work of the entrant.
- Entries must be submitted as a Word document along with PayPal confirmation for entry fee payment by the deadline: October 1, 2017.
- Entries must be formatted accordingly: Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, one-inch margins.
- Include name, phone number and email address in the top left-hand corner of the first page.
- Entry fee: \$7
- The Prize: \$100 and publication as a "WA Shorts" E-book.

For official rules please go to: <http://writersatelier.com/contests/>

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TWO ZOETROPE CONTESTS

2017 Short Fiction & Screenplay Contests Are Open!

FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA PRESENTS
ZOETROPE

ALL-STORY



The annual *Zoetrope: All-Story Short Fiction Contest* and *American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest* are open for entries!

The Short Fiction Contest will be judged by the brilliant Maile Meloy, winner of the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, with cash prizes to the top three stories. All prizewinners, along with seven honorable mentions, will be considered for representation by leading literary agencies; and the winning story will be published as a special supplement to the Winter 2017/2018 edition of *Zoetrope: All-Story*. **Deadline October 2, 2017**. Enter at <https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/stories-2017/>

Francis Ford Coppola will judge the Screenplay Contest, with a cash prize to the winner, and the top ten scripts receiving consideration for representation and development by the best talent agencies and production studios. Original television pilots are also eligible; future Jill Soloways of the world, rejoice. **Deadline September 15, 2017**. Enter at: <https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/screenplays-2017/>

Mailing address:

Zoetrope: All-Story
916 Kearny Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

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Lone Star Contest

Northwest Houston RWA© is proud to announce
The 24th Annual Lone Star Writing Competition 2017
Accepting entries as of April 1, 2017, check the website.

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## Erotica Heritage Museum Contest

Writers are invited to spin their sexiest tales for Queerotica, a contest presented by the Erotic Heritage Museum in Las Vegas. **The deadline is Oct. 10, 2017.**

### Guidelines

All content must fit the erotica genre, although entries can be fiction or nonfiction and can involve any gender identity or sexual orientation. Stories must be previously unpublished and can range between 200 and 6,000 words. File formats can be .pdf, Microsoft Word, rich text or plain text. Entries also can be pasted into the body of an email. Please use the subject line QUEEROTICA when emailing submissions to [eroticmuseumvegas@gmail.com](mailto:eroticmuseumvegas@gmail.com).

### Prizes

The top-three winners will receive \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place. Fourth and fifth place receive a \$100 prize pack. All other accepted entries receive prizes worth more than \$50. Winners are to be announced in early 2018. Qualifying entries will be selected for inclusion in an anthology titled “Queerotica,” expected to be published in winter 2018 by Microcosm Publishing.

### Publication Terms

The Erotic Heritage Museum retains First Serial Rights to submissions selected for the anthology, but all rights revert to the author upon publication. We ask contributors that any subsequent story reprints give first publication credit. We also retain the right to use stories for promotional purposes for the anthology.

Cassandra Keenan  
Public Relations/Event Coordinator  
Erotic Heritage Museum

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**And another contest for screenwriters!**

## **ScreenwritingU**

**Presents**

**Let Us Promote You to the Industry on**

**National Screenwriters Day**

**The top 10 writers will be promoted as the Industry celebrates National Screenwriters Day. Want to be on that list? The winner will be announced as #NationalScreenwritersDay is trending on Twitter on January 5th!**

The industry looks our way one day a year. What if you are honored on that day?

Imagine having your name and writing connected to the only screenwriting holiday that people celebrate. And this year...

- **All finalists will be announced in press release** about upcoming National Screenwriters Day events.
- Top three announced the morning of National Screenwriters Day.
- **Winner announced while we are trending on Twitter.**

We're also giving out **over \$15,000 of prizes**. Here are some other prizes the winner gets:

- Attend **3 Day Producer's Event** in Burbank, CA and get up to \$1000 in travel/hotel expenses.
- \$2,000 credit towards any ScreenwritingU classes.
- **30 minute phone call with a Los Angeles producer and manager.**
- **Announcement as we're trending on Twitter!**
- And more!

National Screenwriters Day will promote all finalists!

**Today's Deadline: August 25th - \$45**

Late Deadline: September 25th - \$55

**Final Deadline: October 15 - \$65**

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**Midlife Collage** sponsors a weekly contest of midlife short stories. U.S. citizens and legal residents age 40 and older may enter. The Editor selects five stories for publication on their website each week. Readers leave comments and Facebook thumbs-up likes urging the panel of Judges to choose a contest winner. Readers also send the Judges their opinion of the best story on our Closing Arguments page. The contest period is Monday through Sunday noon PT. The first-place story enters the Winner's Circle and receives a cash prize of \$50. Winners of a \$50 cash prize are eligible for a \$100 contest, which we run quarterly. ANYONE, worldwide, age 18 or older can comment on the stories in a contest.

Updated web site address for submissions: You should be able to post a submission at the following link: <http://www.writermag.com/writing-resources/update-my-contest/?id=6863&title=Midlife%20Collage%20Contests>

**[www.MidlifeCollage.com](http://www.MidlifeCollage.com)**

**\*yes, the spelling is collage not college.**

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From Writer's Digest:

The 4th Annual Book Pipeline Competition is searching for authors with material appropriate for film or television adaptation. The winning writer receives **\$10,000 and circulation** to Lakeshore Entertainment (*Million Dollar Baby*, *American Pastoral*), QC Entertainment (*Get Out*, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*), Good Fear Film + Management (*Rings*, *Polaroid*), and other top production companies, managers, and agencies best-suited for developing the selected projects.

Continuing to build upon the success of the Script Pipeline writing competitions, which have discovered hundreds of new writers over the past 17 years, Book Pipeline aims to deliver unique, compelling stories to the industry—with the specific intent of getting them on the fast-track to film and television production. The contest is open to all genres, and both new and established writers may enter.

#### Acceptable entries include:

- Novels
- Non-fiction
- Plays
- Graphic Novels and comics
- Book proposals or pitches (fiction or non-fiction)
- Short stories

#### Details:

- Material may be published or unpublished; if published, the film AND television rights must be available.
- Book Pipeline does *not* take a percentage of any future option or sale of your work, and *all rights* remain with the author, regardless of their final placement in the competition.
- Any genre accepted, including children's books and projects intended for animation.

For more information or to [Submit to the Book Pipeline Competition](http://bookpipeline.com/?utm_source=deb&utm_campaign=wd-esc-deb-170518&utm_content=944866_DEB_WC170518%20-%20Writing%20Community%20Partners%20-%20Script%20Pipeline&utm_medium=email)

[http://bookpipeline.com/?utm\\_source=deb&utm\\_campaign=wd-esc-deb-170518&utm\\_content=944866\\_DEB\\_WC170518%20-](http://bookpipeline.com/?utm_source=deb&utm_campaign=wd-esc-deb-170518&utm_content=944866_DEB_WC170518%20-%20Writing%20Community%20Partners%20-%20Script%20Pipeline&utm_medium=email)

[%20Writing%20Community%20Partners%20-%20Script%20Pipeline&utm\\_medium=email](http://bookpipeline.com/?utm_source=deb&utm_campaign=wd-esc-deb-170518&utm_content=944866_DEB_WC170518%20-%20Writing%20Community%20Partners%20-%20Script%20Pipeline&utm_medium=email)

**Special Entry Deadline:** May 25<sup>th</sup> – \$40

**Early:** August 15<sup>th</sup> – \$55

**Regular:** November 1<sup>st</sup> – \$65

*Semifinalists Announced:* Mid-February 2018

*Winner Announced:* Early March 2018

# Marketing Opportunities

## North Port Free Radio Time

**WKDW 97.5 FM** (North Port's non-profit community radio station) is seeking writers of all levels to READ from three to five minutes of a story, poem, or screen play they have written on its weekly **Writers On the Air** program.

As a funny and family-friendly program, they want upbeat materials, not works about mean, diabolical parents, bosses or co-workers! In their words: "We love cheerleaders, so that means we want YOU, the listening public!"

The show tapes weekly on Sundays at 3:00 PM. Sign up is at 2:30, and the *previous week's taping* is broadcast at 5:00 PM that same day.

Located at the Common Grounds Meeting Hall (12735 S. Tamiami Trail in North Port), and then hang out in their family-friendly BYOB Listening Room, which offers snacks and comfortable seating. The Common Grounds Meeting Hall is located just next door to WKDW 97.5 FM and is up the street from Warm Mineral Springs.

For more information, check out their website at [KDWRadio.com](http://KDWRadio.com) or contact Loretta Martin - [loretta@kdwradio.com](mailto:loretta@kdwradio.com), 941-237-1985.

Be there or be square!

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Of Writing Interest / Publishing Opportunities



Lit + Art Journal

<http://www.805lit.org/>

Manatee County Libraries ask you to consider submitting your best fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and art to celebrate 805. Submissions are open from now **until October 31st** for the early 2018 issues. (We are especially interested in creative nonfiction submissions.)

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.805lit.org/submissions>

Keep the literary festivities going by reading our second annual teen issue with gorgeous cover art by debut artist Ross Allison.



In browsing these pages, you'll find art, poetry and prose that measures up to and sometimes exceeds the work by established adult creators in originality and ability. It's hard to believe that many of these teen authors have never been published before, but it's clear to see it won't be their last time.

Despite the young ages of their creators, these pieces cover the whole range of human experience. From the dreamlike whimsy of "Water Fountain Children" to the dark fantasy of "The Factory," this issue has something for everyone.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/60593c_b014ca4c11ad4c08bf7323edf78452e3.pdf

Today & Yesterday

Authors accepted for publication are paid. Thank you so much.

- The first issue of *Today & Yesterday*, an online international literary journal published by Laughing Fire Press, is available at todayandyesterday.co. (.co NOT .com)
- Featured in this issue are short stories, poems, a memoir, and an author interview from contributors either living in or from the US, Germany, Nigeria, Turkey, the Philippines, and Iran.
- Laughing Fire Press invites submissions for the next issue of the journal. Short stories, poems, essays, interviews, memoirs, and photographs that examine contemporary or historical socially-relevant subject matter are desired. Areas of interest include the arts, politics, popular culture, economics, science and technology, human rights, psychology, philosophy, and the environment.

Jed Lewis
 Publisher and Editor-In-Chief
 Laughing Fire Press
www.laughingfire.com
www.facebook.com/LaughingFirePress
 @LaughingFire

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Nimrod International Journal is open for submissions

The *Nimrod International Journal's* Spring/Summer 2018 thematic issue, *Let Us Gather: Diversity and the Arts* is accepting submissions. Please find the information on this special issue below.

Nimrod is a biannual literary journal published at The University of Tulsa. For more information about us, please visit our website: www.utulsa.edu/nimrod. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about this issue, and to make copies of the call for submissions if needed.

Cassidy McCants
 Associate Editor
 Nimrod International Journal
 800 S. Tucker Dr.
 Tulsa, OK 74104
 (918) 631-3080
www.utulsa.edu/nimrod
www.facebook.com/nimrodjournal
www.nimrodjournal.submittable.com/submit

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### ***Romance Wanted!***

Do you love writing romance as much as you love reading it? If you've written a full-length romance, Crimson Romance wants to consider it for publication! We're looking for romances in all the popular categories (contemporary, historical, romantic suspense and more!)

Have an idea for a romance collection? Drop us a line and we'll consider it.

Please submit your full story to [editorcrimson@gmail.com](mailto:editorcrimson@gmail.com) with "Short Story Submission – [intended collection]" in the subject line. If we get enough submissions to publish more than one title in each category, we will.

- See more at:

[http://www.crimsonromance.com/submissions/?et\\_mid=624366&rid=235541304#sthash.x3f1PFYf.dpuf](http://www.crimsonromance.com/submissions/?et_mid=624366&rid=235541304#sthash.x3f1PFYf.dpuf)

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New Imprint Seeking Romance Stories with Heat

Untreed Reads is pleased to announce a brand-new imprint to expand our catalog of offerings. Untreed After Dark is our new line for romance stories that take the heat level up a few notches from our sweet stories. Even though there is a lot of romance on the market today, we feel that there are still niches to fill. That's the ultimate goal of our new line.

We do have some rules for this new line:

1. Every sexual orientation is welcome.
2. We would especially love to see romance stories about people of various ethnic backgrounds, people in their fifties or older, people with disabilities, 19th and 20th century historical (1800-2000), etc.

If you have looked around and said, "I don't see another story out there remotely like mine," you're probably what we're looking for.

3. Works need to be believable and real. No genies, werewolves, vampires, body-switchers, witches, aliens, etc. Need real people in real relationships/situations.
4. Sorry, but no works that take place before 1800. We feel that market has plenty of material already.
5. Only works 25,000 words or more will be considered. Short story collections, however, would be fine.
6. Cross-genre stories are especially welcome (romantic mysteries, for example).
7. As we are not specifically looking for erotica, the heat level is currently limited to "NC-17." Sex doesn't have to be in the story, but if it's appropriate for the work, that's fine.
8. The overall story is infinitely more important to us than a couple of hot scenes. We prefer to think of this as "literary romance/literary erotica." We want engaging characters with real romantic struggles and successes.
9. HEA (Happily Ever After) is NOT a requirement. Sometimes romance doesn't end with the two people ending up together, and that's perfectly OK. That's real.
10. Absolutely, positively NO: rape, bestiality, sex with underage people, or all the other things you would expect to be forbidden.

11. Previously published works are definitely acceptable, providing electronic rights have reverted to the author.
12. Works that have been published through a self-publishing venture (i.e.: Smashwords, Kindle Direct/Kindle Prime) will not be accepted.
13. Agents and current Untreed Reads authors may submit directly to: Jay Hartman.
All others need to send works to submissions@untreedreads.com
14. All submissions need to be sent in their entirety in RTF, DOC or ODP formats, Times New Roman, 12 pt. This rule does not necessarily apply to current Untreed Reads authors or agents. If you are unsure if a work would be appropriate for us, please do feel free to query Jay Hartman at jhartman@untreedreads.com.

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Saw Palm – A Literary Magazine published by USF Tampa

Saw Palm is a literary magazine devoted exclusively to creative work from and about Florida. For more information, please see our website: <http://www.sawpalm.org/>

Prepare Your Submissions for Saw Palm 2017, submissions are accepted between July 1 and October 1st.

Saw Palm is a Florida-themed journal, however we welcome writers and artists from across the country and the globe as long as the work is connected to Florida (via images, people, themes, et cetera). We also welcome creative works from Floridians that are not obviously about someplace else. Please check out past issues, available for download as free PDFs. We publish one issue per year in the spring.

Saw Palm does not accept work that was previously published either online or in print. We welcome simultaneous submissions as long as you immediately notify Saw Palm of acceptance elsewhere. Response time varies between 1 to 6 months. Our general reading period is between July 1st and October 1st, however submissions for Places to Stand in Florida are accepted year-round.

All submissions must be made electronically through our online submissions manager. Please upload prose and poetry files in .doc or .docx formats only. Art, photography, and comics should be uploaded in .jpeg / .jpg format only. Paper submissions sent via snail mail will be recycled unread. Click here to submit.

Poetry

We accept up to five poems per submission period at a maximum of 10 pages. Please send all poems in one document.

Fiction

We ask that fiction submissions be no longer than 6000 words. Please send only one story per reading period.

Flash Fiction

We accept up to three works of flash fiction (750 words or less) per submission period. Please send all stories in one document.

Creative Nonfiction

We ask that submissions of memoir and essays be no longer than 6000 words. Please send only one piece per reading period.

Art & Photography

We accept up to five submissions of art or photography per reading period. Please send files in .jpeg / .jpg format only. You may also include a URL if a portfolio of your work is online.

Comics

We welcome submissions of graphic fiction and nonfiction of up to seven pages, whether in black & white, greyscale, or full color. Submit in .jpeg / .jpg format only. Keep in mind that the journal's dimensions are smaller (5"x7") than the average literary journal and so comics with small panels filled with intricate art are not well-suited.

Interviews

We are especially interested in interviews of Florida writers and artists, although we're open to almost any Florida-related subject. Please query us about the interview subject first, via email.

Reviews (appear on sawpalm.org)

We are interested in reviews of any Florida-related subject: author, book, film, tourist attraction, CD, website, beach, park, toll roads, snack stands, local landmarks—anything! These reviews will appear on www.sawpalm.org. Unlike submissions of creative work, current or recent USF students and faculty are welcome to submit reviews. Size limit: 6000 words.

Places to Stand in Florida (appears on sawpalm.org)

Please tell us what it's like to stand at a specific place in Florida at a specific time of day in 500 words or less. While we enjoy the unusual, locations should be public and accessible (so not your bathroom!) Please include GPS coordinates.

Unlike other categories, current or recent USF students and faculty are welcome to submit pieces for the Places to Stand series.

Poems submitted as part of the Places to Stand series are welcome but should be justified left and otherwise not have complex formatting and spacing. This is due to technical limitations in Google Earth.

Submissions for the journal open July 1st, however, they take submissions for the online literary map, "Places to Stand," year round. For this category, they accept short (500 word max)

submissions of nonfiction and poetry that show what it's like to stand at a particular spot in Florida at a particular moment in time.

Agents

A recommended source for finding literary agents:
<http://www.ebookcrossroads.com/agents.html>

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Leodegraunce (<http://www.leodegraunce.com>), founded in 2010, is a site for quality flash fiction funded entirely by its owner, author and editor Jolie du Pre. Every author is paid for their work. Jolie also has an associate editor on staff who she pays once a month. Jolie is hoping to keep Leodegraunce online for 2013. All donations are greatly appreciated to keep Jolie's labor of love up and running for 2013!

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Words of Wisdom

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Another month, another tip to offer you. This is provided by Larry Brooks, the author of *Writing Voice*. I hope it provides some insight to those looking for an agent.

## The Most Common Entry-Level Mistake in the Writing Game

Posted on April 12, 2017 by Larry Brooks



Photo credit: [sbluerock](#) via [VisualHunt](#) / [CC BY-NC-SA](#)

Today's guest post by author [Larry Brooks](#) (@storyfix) is excerpted from [Writing Voice: The Complete Guide to Creating a Presence on the Page & Engaging Readers](#) (Writer's Digest Books).

By far the most common entry-level mistake in the writing game, the thing that can get a perfectly good story rejected by an editor on the first page, is *overwriting*: A writing voice that is laden with energy and adjectives, that tries too hard, that is self-conscious in a way that detracts from the story, that is obviously the work of a writer trying to poeticize a story that doesn't stand a chance.

Bad writing voice is like wearing a clown suit to the Oscars. Chances are you won't make it past the lobby.

Of course, one writer's clown suit is another's tuxedo. Which is to say, you may believe your eloquence is palatable and beautiful, and you may feel the need to stuff all this fat into your sentences because you don't feel they're muscular enough as is. It's always an opinion—yours and the editor's, and finally the reader's—but it's a critical one.

The mailrooms of the big publishing houses are full of these manuscripts created by writers who try to trick up their sentences, who reach for contrived eloquence, who attempt to liberate their inner poet, who overtly imitate someone famous who writes that way (J.D. Salinger has inspired more rejected manuscripts than any writer in history), and generally stinking up the place with strings of words that detract instead of enhance.

Overwriting will get your work rejected faster than a ridiculous *deus ex machina* in the final act.

That's not to say stylistic writing, a voice full of attitude and personality, is a bad thing. Hell, I'm doing precisely that right here. But it's how I write, and it's seasoned with several decades worth of professional experience (including the scars to prove it) in fine-tuning. Shooting for a level of personality in your narrative is always a risk.

To mitigate that risk, carve this into your forehead: Less is more. Just don't minimize your writing voice to the point where it sounds like copy from a metropolitan telephone directory. Somewhere between a love letter scripted by a drunken, suicidal poet and the world's driest technical copy awaits a level of style that suits you. And, just as important, it will suit your story or manuscript.

Your journey as a writer, as a storyteller, is to find it. The essence of your writing voice is significant for your writing career. Which means you have to get it right before you can turn pro. That word—*pro*—is critical here, because while it may be simplistic or positively John Updike-like, it absolutely, unequivocally, needs to be professional.

Where that bar resides is, once again, an opinion. One thing, however, is always true about this—the further you move in either direction from a safe and clean middle ground, the higher the risk your work will be perceived as less than professional.

Writing voice, in my humble opinion, gets too much airtime at writers conferences filled with people who are actually in need of mentoring on their storytelling. It remains a staple of

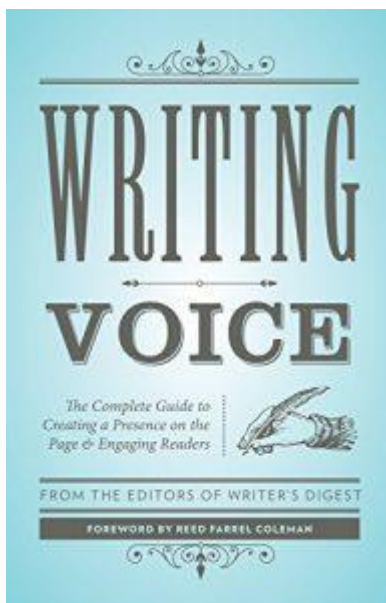
academia—high school in particular—but it’s actually the least challenging of other writing obstacles you’ll face when it comes to publishing your work.

You don’t have to write like J.D. Salinger or John Updike to get published. Pick up any random published book from a shelf at the mall and you’ll see this to be true. While there is a huge variance in style among those authors, they all have one thing in common: they’ve met the bar of professionalism. Which in today’s commercial market means clean, crisp, efficient writing that doesn’t stink up the place with too much effort.

The personality and voice of your writing should be natural, not something contrived. Because only when you are writing naturally, without forcing it and without abusing adjectives will the scent of your narrative be as subtle and functional as it needs to be to attract a buyer.

Consider the novelist Colin Harrison. Harrison has been called the “poet laureate” of American thriller writers, but not because of what that tag implies. You’d think someone with that on his name tag would be positively Shakespearean with his words. But eloquence isn’t your goal as storyteller—essence, as conveyed through tonality and attitude, is. And nobody does that better than Colin Harrison. Here’s the first paragraph of Harrison’s novel *Manhattan Nocturne*:

*I sell mayhem, scandal, murder, and doom. Oh, Jesus I do, I sell tragedy, vengeance, chaos, and fate. I sell the sufferings of the poor and the vanities of the rich. Children falling from windows, subway trains afire, rapists fleeing into the dark. I sell anger and redemption. I sell the muscled heroism of firemen and the wheezing greed of mob bosses. The stench of garbage, the rattle of gold. I sell black to white, white to black. To Democrats and Republicans and Libertarians and Muslims and transvestites and squatters on the Lower East Side. I sold John Gotti and O. J. Simpson and the bombers of the World Trade Center, and I’ll sell whoever else comes along next. I sell falsehood and what passes for truth and every gradation in between. I sell the newborn and the dead. I sell the wretched, magnificent city of New York back to its people. I sell newspapers.*



There are only four adjectives here. Two each in two separate sentences. That's it. And yet, this paragraph screams attitude and personality. It is a soaring, melodic example of writing voice, one that is completely in keeping with the dark city detective thriller that it is, only written by a master linguist. Use this as a model of writing voice that's way out there from the boring, vanilla middle of the stylistic continuum, and allow it to inspire your musings at that level.

Many of us become writers in the first place because we have been told for years that we have a way with words. That can actually be a curse in this game. Just make sure that the words don't have a way with you and your career.

That's all for this month. Hope you enjoyed it.

Dona Lee  
"Plotting Success"

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