

IMPORTANT: Remember, to continue receiving the Sarasota Fiction Writers Newsletter, make sure to renew your subscription to the [new newsletter sign-up form here](#) or email [Natalie](#) directly. If renewing through Mailchimp, you will be sent a confirmation email asking you to verify. Thank you!



Sarasota Fiction Writers Newsletter

November 2017

Sarasota Fiction Writers Meeting: November 7

Editor and former Sarasota Fiction Writers member Amy Ratcliffe will speak at the Nov. 7 meeting of the Sarasota Fiction Writers at Selby Library at 6 p.m.

She will present “7 Ways to Become a Better Writer That Don’t Involve Writing.” It’s a well-known fact that to become a better writer, people must write. But there are other ways (that don’t involve writing) to hone writing skills and enhance fiction with more authentic dialogue, scenes that draw readers in and characters readers will find intriguing. Join the Sarasota Fiction Writers for a lighthearted but educational look at how writing “down time” can be used to become a better writer.

Ratcliffe’s short stories won first place in the Sarasota Fiction Writer’s annual short story contest two years in a row, and one of them went on to place 19th in a Writer’s Digest contest with more than 3,000 entries. She also won the prose portion of Bookstore 1 Sarasota’s grand opening poetry/prose contest.

She enjoys writing non-fiction as well and has had a personal essay published in Skirt! magazine and several essays published in her local newspaper.

Ratcliffe's decidedly uncreative job as editor/project manager for the International Journal of Central Banking, an economics trade journal, pays the bills and keeps her editing skills sharp. She lives in Lafayette, Ind.



Sarasota Fiction Writers meetings are free and open to the public.

[More Information](#)

Sarasota Fiction Writers Critique Meeting: November 15

We are now meeting for our monthly critique group at Barnes & Noble on South Tamiami Trail. Bring 10 copies of up to 5 pages of writing, double-spaced and in 12pt font.

[More Information](#)

The 2017 Annual Sarasota Fiction Writers Short Story Contest

This year's prompt is "Snowbirds." The deadline is **November 7**. All the

information you need to know to get your story into winning form can be found [here](#).

Member News

Susan Klaus won 1st place in the Published Fantasy category of the Royal Palm Literary Awards for her best-selling epic fantasy [Flight of the Golden Harpy: Waylaid](#). Congratulations, Susan!

Howard Hammerman just released his book, [Flying Blind](#), through Bold Venture Press, about a good man doing bad things for the right reasons. He has also launched his sleek new author website, which can be found at flyingblindnovel.com.

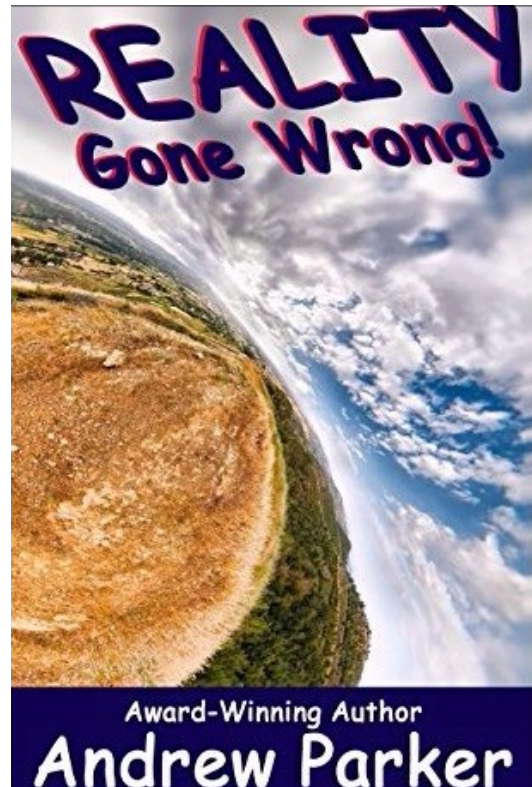
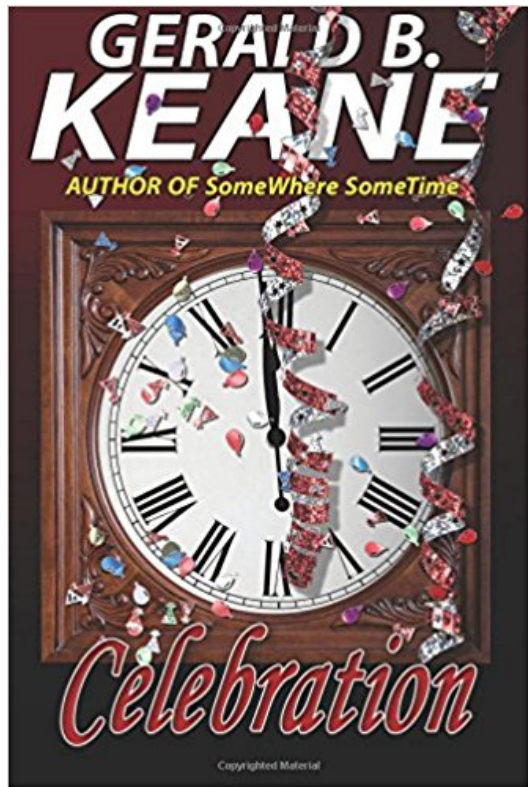
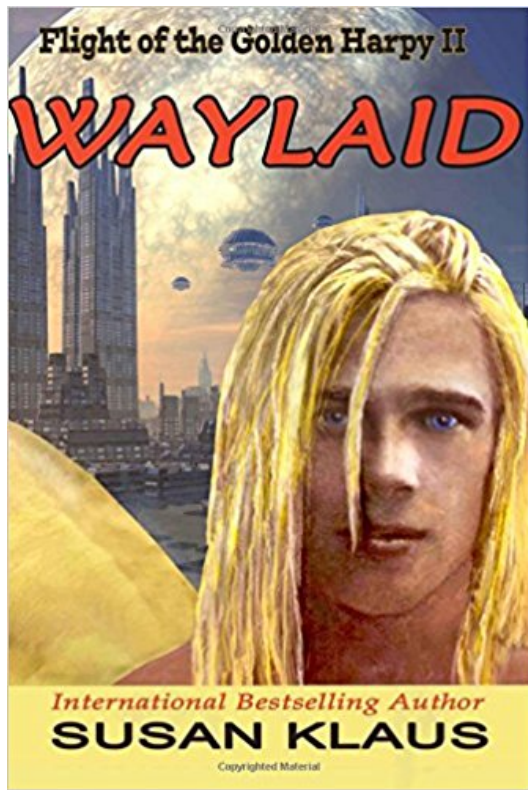
Jerry Keane, our current president, released his fourth book about time travel, [Celebration](#), a thriller in which Will Barrett is forced to vindicate himself while saving the world from the destruction of a Chinese demagogue.

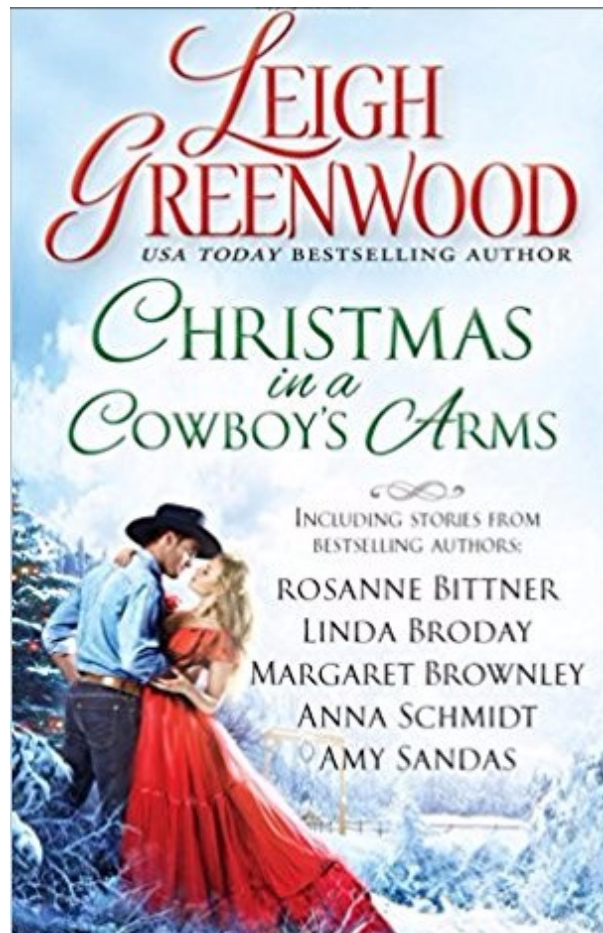
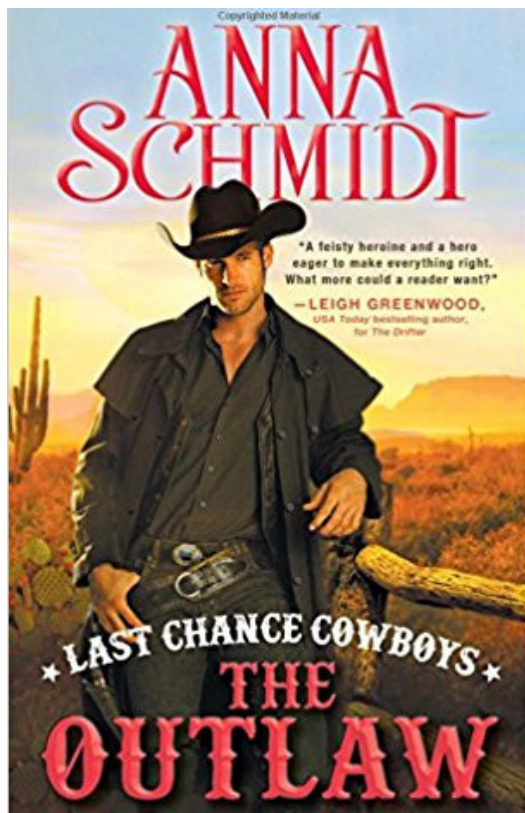
Andrew Parker released [Reality Gone Wrong](#), a dark humor sci-fi adventure about a man who must save the world's disabled from total annihilation.

Anna Schmidt presented her workshop *BORING BIO TO BROADWAY BLOCKBUSTER: 5 Things Historical Novelists Can Learn from HAMILTON* at the Historical Writer of America conference in Albuquerque, NM in September. She also has several new books out, including [The Outlaw](#), [A Plain and Sweet Christmas](#), and [Christmas in a Cowboy's Arms](#).

Dona Lee Gould is passing on the newsletter torch to **Natalie Brown**, who also manages the website, as she embarks on a new (not to mention inspiring) adventure to open a writer's retreat in Italy. Thank you, Dona Lee, for everything you have done!

Member New Releases





Membership Alerts

Renewal of Dues. It's the beginning of our fiscal year and time to renew our dues. If you are a SFW member and have not paid yet your yearly membership dues, please do so at the next meeting or mail them in to:

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

It is still a deal at \$25 for the year, which covers our monthly meetings, dinner for our speakers, an invite to the annual Christmas Party (lots of fun and prizes), and free entry into the annual short story contest with cash prizes and trophies. You will also have the opportunity to showcase your new releases in the newsletter and on our website.

Elections. We are past due to elect new leadership. We have one volunteer, but we would like to see more involvement from members who have not yet served. Please consider that holding a position in a credible, long-term writing group shows you are dedicated to improving your craft, and it may be the factor you need to get past the publishing gatekeepers as you query.

The Writing Community

Prose

Fiction Writer's Forum. This critique group meets at 6:30pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at Books-A-Million in Gulf Gate. Bring 10-15 copies of up to 10 pages of your fiction.

Florida Writers Association-Manatee Branch. A critique group, where you can bring 8-10 copies of up to 10 double-spaced pages in 12pt font. You can find more information [here](#).

Sisters in Crime. This group meets once a month to listen to speakers from a variety of backgrounds and support women crime writers. This chapter is led by Wendy Dingwall, whom you can [email](#) for information. You can also visit their

[website](#).

Renaissance Writers. Formerly a group that met at Manatee Community College, and which now meets every Monday at 2pm in the library at The Renaissance, 1816 9th St W, Bradenton. Members write a variety of genres, provide friendly critique, and will offer theirs. Led by Robert Marvin. No dues, but the venue would appreciate purchase of food and drink.

Pinnacle Youth Writers Group. Open to writers 18 years old and younger, monitored by creative writing teachers. Contact Dr. Ordext at Pinnacle Academy (941-755-1400) for more information.

Author Connection. A resource designed to enlighten authors about book promotion, publishing, and other related activities, co-founded by our own Susan Klaus. For more information, visit her [website](#).

Mote Ranch Writing Group. Tim Fortier is organizing a new writing group in Mote Ranch, Sarasota. He is looking for writers in all genres (he writes poetry and picture books for children and is resurrecting an in-school program). Initial thoughts are for twice-monthly meetings, probably early evening mid-week, Tuesday or Wednesday. Contact him at 941-217-0608 or by [email](#).

Florida Writers Association-Sarasota Branch. This group meets in Nokomis on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to discuss writing and share short pieces and excerpts. Visit their [website](#) or email [Ernie Ovitz](#) for more information.

Memoir Group. A memoir writing group meets at the Braden River Library on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 1pm-2:30pm. No dues; call 941-727-6079 for more information.

AMI Gulf Coast Writers. This group meets at 1pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the library in Holmes Beach. Writers may submit up to 1400 words of manuscript for critique. Bring multiple copies or email [Judy Allen](#) for member listing to send reading by email (preferred). You can also contact the library at 941-778-6341.

Scribes Club. A writers group to exercise the cranial muscles, hone your writing skills, and have fun. They meet at the Town Hall in Lakewood Ranch on the first and third Saturday of every month from 10am-1pm. Email [Aroon Chaddha](#) to join.

Sarasota Creative Writers. This group meets at Sarasota Alliance Church every other Tuesday, to which you can bring your writing. Visit their [meetup page](#) for more information and the upcoming meeting dates.

SRQ Horror, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy Writers. This meetup group offers in-depth critiquing of fiction in the specified genres. Contact organizer Patricia La Barbera at their [meetup page](#) to get involved.

The Word Show. Inviting poets, writers, spoken word artists, and musicians to share their words, lyrics, and stories every third Monday at 6:30pm at The Tea House, 1869 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.

Wordier Than Thou. Open mic for writers of prose to share short fiction in the back room of the Sarasota Brewing Company. Sign-up is at 6:30pm; starts at 7pm. No critique. Usually meets on the third Wednesday of each month; verify on [Facebook](#).

Brunch for Writers. This group meets at Pier 22 on the Manatee River the 3rd Sunday of every month just to mix and chat with fellow writers. There is no agenda, and please feel free to join. If interested, email [Dona](#).

Florida Writers Association- Peace River Writers. Led by Douglas Houck, this critique and discussion group meets on the first Saturday of every month at 9am at the Wyvern Hotel, 101 E Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda.

Florida Writers Association Groups. For a comprehensive list of FWA-associated writers groups, visit FWA's [website](#).

Poetry

Selby Poets. This informal group gathers to encourage and gently critique each other's work. Meetings are at the Banyan Cafe on the Ringling Museum grounds on the third Thursday of each month from 10am-12pm. Purchase of a drink is expected, but there is no entry fee for the cafe. Park across the street and walk or ride the shuttle from the entrance. Bring 8-10 copies of one or two original poems to share aloud. For more info, email [Gail Ghai](#).

Braden River Library Poetry Workshop. This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 3pm-5pm at the Braden River Library, 4915 53rd

Avenue E Bradenton, FL 34203.

Film

Manasota Films Group. Writers, actors/actresses, film crew, extras, directors, producers, set designers, make-up pros, costume designers, and anyone else with an interest in the industry is encouraged to join by going to the [Manasota Films Facebook page](#). Meetings are held at The Starlite Room's private upstairs bar in downtown Sarasota, featuring guest speakers, discussions about the industry, and the opportunity to interact with other enthusiasts.

New Florida Cinema Film Group. Started by John Lagerholm as an offshoot of Manasota Films, this group features indie films from regional producers. Being new, the format may change to include constructive critique on films. For more information, contact them at their [Facebook group](#).

Sarasota Screen Writer's Circle. Three table readings are scheduled per meeting, which are held at Selby Library from 5:30pm-7:30pm in the second-floor conference room. For more information or to schedule a reading, go to their [Facebook page](#) or email [Laurie Stoner](#).

Sarasota Screenwriters, Storytellers, and Creatives. This new group, led by award-winning screenwriter and producer Richard Keehn, focuses on the art, craft, and business of screenwriting and delves into storytelling in general. All skill and experience levels are welcome. For more information, email [Richard](#).

Sarasota Film and Authors Meetup Group. This group meets every other Friday from 6pm-7pm at The Reserve near Downtown Sarasota, 1322 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. For more information, email [Ron Knight](#) or visit the group's [Meetup site](#).

Writing Opportunities

Ringling College of Art and Design. Shift, a student-run journal at Ringling College, is now calling for submissions for its February print journal or the annual digital journal. The organization is particularly interested in literary oddities that defy categorization, expectations, and boundaries. There is no submission fee; prose works must be under 4000 words. For more information and submission guidelines, refer to their [webpage](#).

Florida Writers Foundation. This 501(c)3 non-profit formed to promote literacy and enhance the writing skills of people of all ages. Volunteers and partners visit elementary schools, sponsor poetry contests, donate books to underprivileged schools, contribute funds to middle school contests, and more. For more information on how you can get involved, visit their [website](#).

National Novel Writing Month- Southwest Florida. Challenge yourself to write a 50,000-word novel in November with the support of people not only all over the world, but here in Sarasota. [Sign up](#) and join the Southwest Florida Region on the NaNo website and at its [Facebook page](#) to meet and communicate with other writers taking the plunge in our area. Selby Library will also be hosting four workshops and write-ins for NaNoers, more details for which can be found on its [calendar](#).

FWA Third Annual I ♥ Books. This book signing event on May 19, 2018 in Jacksonville is open to multi-genres and brings together readers with authors. Readers may attend for free, and registering early can get you a conference bag with SWAG. Authors can register for a 6' table to sell books, meet new readers, and network with other authors. FWA Member: \$125. Non-member: \$150. For more information and to sign up, visit the [FWA event page](#).

FWA Focus on Craft Workshops. This workshop will be held at the Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs on April 28, 2018. FWA Member: \$89. Non-member: \$109. For more information and to register, visit the [workshop event page](#). Furthermore, FWA hosts a variety of workshops and speaker events, so be sure to check out their full calendar.

Process of Publishing Workshops. Manatee Libraries' 805 Literary + Arts Journal editor, Julieanna Blackwell, is leading classes to provide the tools to research, shop, and understand the literary marketplace. The classes are free and held on Wednesdays from October 18-November 8 from 6pm-8pm at Downtown Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. W, Bradenton 34205. More information and registration can be found on their [website](#).

Free Drawing for Author Website. Words and Writers, which helps authors create effective websites and market their writing products, offers a free monthly drawing for a professional, customized author website. For more information and to register, go to their [website](#) or contact Joe Jacobson at 941-587-4530 or by [email](#).

North Port Free Radio Time. WKDW 97.5 FM is seeking writers of all levels to read from three to five minutes of a fun, upbeat story, poem, or screenplay they have written on its weekly Writers on the Air program. The show tapes weekly on Sundays at 3pm at the Common Grounds Meeting Hall, 12735 S Tamiami Trl, North Port). For more information, check out their [website](#) or contact Loretta Martin at 941-237-1985 or by [email](#).

Writer's Digest Poetry Awards. Give your best poem--32 lines or fewer--the chance to make a statement in the pages of Writer's Digest! There is a cash prize of \$1000, a spotlight in Writer's Digest, national recognition, and more. Deadline is November 6. Enter the competition at their [website](#).

Bubo Short Story Contest. Technology company Bubo is opening a contest for adult and children's literature, and the winning entries will be in an e-book synchronized with music and illustrations pertinent to the stories. Entry is free, but the deadline is November 15. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

Nimrod International Journal Submissions Open. The Spring/Summer 2018 thematic issue, Let Us Gather: Diversity and the Arts, is accepting submissions until November 30. For more information, visit their submissions [webpage](#).

Romance Wanted. Crimson Romance is looking for romances in all the popular categories (contemporary, historical, romantic suspense, etc.). Please submit your full story to editorcrimson@gmail.com with "Short Story Submission - [intended collection]" in the subject line. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Places to Stand in Florida. Hosted by USF Tampa's Literary Magazine Saw Palm, this contest asks you to describe what it's like to stand at a specific place in Florida at a specific time of day in 500 words or less. Nonfiction and poetry accepted. Please include GPS coordinates. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Call for Information

Have you published a new book or launched a new website? Are you looking for beta readers or conference buddies? Do you want to share about a writing contest? Submit any information you would like included in the newsletter, including pertinent links and images, no later than **November 22**.

Words of Wisdom

Some members have expressed their desire that "Words of Wisdom" continue, and I will do my best to bring them for each newsletter. At present, I do not have an entry (and don't want to copy + paste from someone's website without permission), and so I ask that if you or an author you know has intelligent words of encouragement or tips and tricks to share about writing, please submit them for consideration.

Since National Novel Writing Month is upon us, I will take the time to say this: write. Write good stuff. Write bad stuff. Write five words. Write five thousand words. Type them up. Scribble them down. Use a crayon on a napkin or a pen on your arm. Whatever you do, whatever you use, wherever you are, no matter your content, just write. We're all busy all the time. We can't wait for that perfect moment when our situation naturally lends itself to writing--more often than not, it doesn't. No one is going to ask you to delay an obligation to them so that you have time to write. The only person who is ever going to make time in your life for writing is you.

Thank you all for bearing with me through this transition! Another huge thank you to Dona. Don't forget to register for the new list--be sure to confirm your subscription if you go through the website [sign-up form](#)--and have a wonderful November (full of writing, I hope).

Write the world,
Natalie

Have Questions?

We're always open to hearing suggestions for improving your experience with the Sarasota Fiction Writers. Please email us at SarasotaFictionWriters@gmail.com if you encounter any issues or you want to share any delicious writing tidbits you've found.

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