

Plotting Success

At the moment our website address is:

<http://thequillguild1.wixsite.com/sfwriters>

March 7th, 2017

General Meeting

Selby Library Auditorium

1331 First St., Sarasota

6 pm

Author and New Member Anna Schmidt will speak to the Sarasota Fiction Writers on Tuesday, March 7, at 6 p.m. at Selby Library. She will present “One Author’s Journey – and the Bumps Along the Road.”

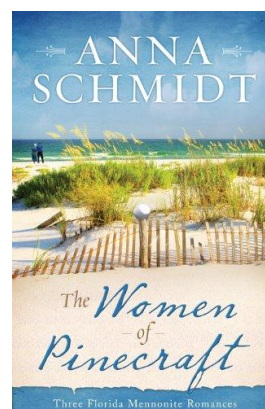
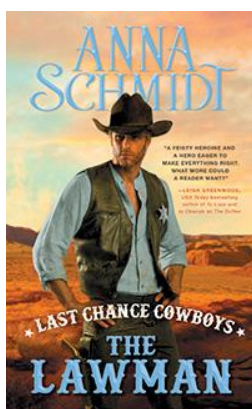
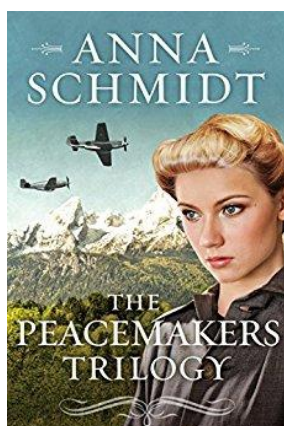
Schmidt is the author of over 30 works of historical and contemporary fiction and a three-time finalist for the Romance Writers of America’s RITA Award, a symbol of excellence in published romantic fiction. She is also a two-time winner of the Reviewer’s Choice Award from Romantic Times magazine.

Her latest novel, “The Lawman,” is book two in her Last Chance Cowboys series.

HeroesAndHeartbreakers.com chose the book as one of the six best/most unusual historical romances of 2016.

Schmidt has penned several novels about Amish and Mennonite women, including a book of three stories called “The Women of Pinecraft” about the Amish and Mennonite neighborhood of Pinecraft in Sarasota.

She’s also published several nonfiction books under the name Jo Horne, including “Parkinson’s Disease for Dummies.”



Sarasota Fiction Writers meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about Sarasota Fiction Writers, please visit thequillguild1.wixsite.com/sfwriters.

Last month Wendy Dingwall, advised she would provide a link to her publishing house and a few of you were interested. Here is the promised link. See? Some people do keep their promises!
<http://www.canterburyhousepublishing.com/>.

Or visit www.wendydingwall.com.

Sarasota Fiction Writers Critique Meeting

6:00 pm, Wednesday March 15th, 2017

Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

Bring 5 pages of work to read,

At least ten copies, double-spaced, 12 font.

Attention ALL MEMBERS

October 1st is the club's New Fiscal year. Please mail in your dues:

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: Fred Weiss — fweiss@binghamton.edu

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

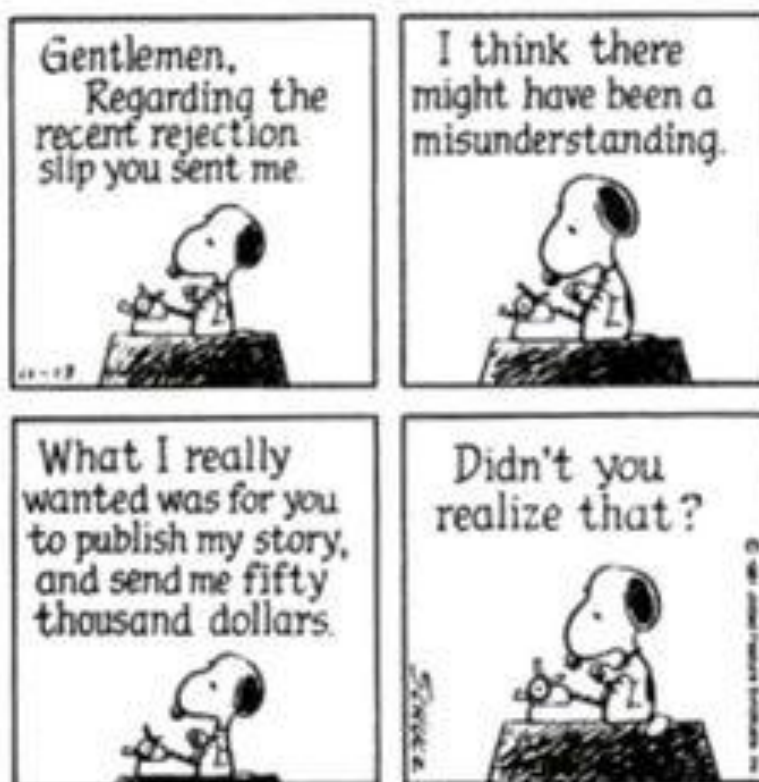
Blogmaster Extraordinaire: Natalie Brown—ngbrown.us@gmail.com

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.

At the moment our website address is: <http://thequillguild1.wixsite.com/sfwriters>

We are working to regain the original url, but Go Daddy is not being co-operative

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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.

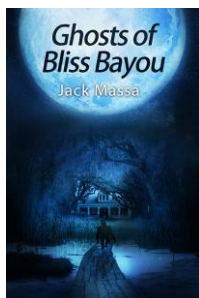
Please consider purchasing books written by your fellow members and support their efforts. Soon it will be your turn! Also, if the books are available on Amazon, write a four or five star review. (If you feel a member's book is lower than a four of five star, please just pass on the review. Amazon considers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

Good Reviews help sell books on Amazon.

New Member Jack Massa writes fantasy and science fiction. His new book, *Ghosts of Bliss Bayou*, was released November 14, description can be found here:

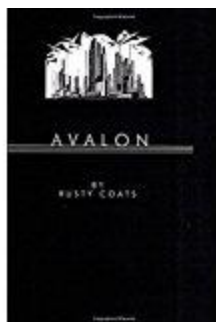
<http://triskelionbooks.com/ghosts-of-bliss-bayou/>

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/>



Past Speaker Helaine Mario announced that her novel, *The Lost Concerto*, won first place at Florida Writers Associations Royal Palm Literary awards in the suspense category.

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

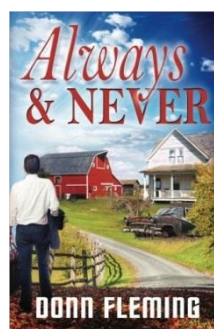
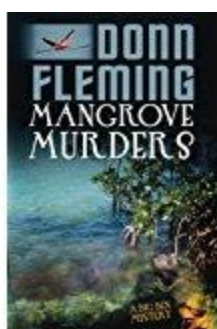


Featured as the first [Big Idea of 2017](#) on best-selling science fiction author John Scalzi’s website was a great nod.

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](#)
[Excerpt here](#).

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.

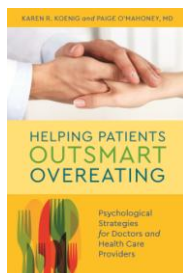


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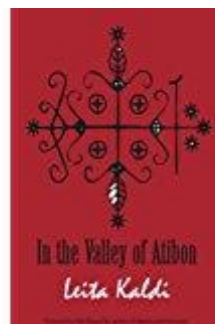
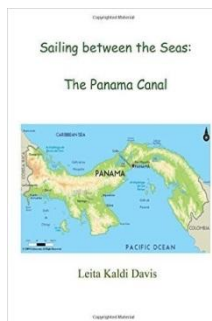
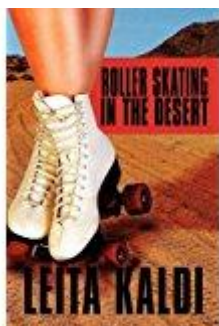
Member Elizabeth Stevens advised she sold some of her 22 books in December in Berlin, Germany, at the Book Fair at the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Modern Art. My three *lives d’artiste* (texts with original etchings) were acquired by the Kunstbibliothek of the Staatliche Museum.

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

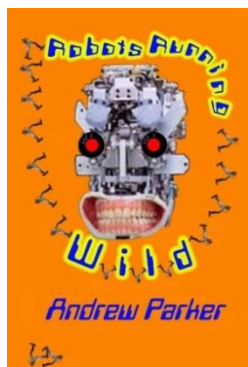


New Member Leita Kaldi Davis worked for the United Nations and UNESCO, for Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and Harvard University. She worked with Roma (Gypsies) for fifteen years, became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal at the age of 55, then went to work for the Albert Schweitzer 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, announces he has two books available in paperback or as a download from Amazon.com.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01NBNUS9T/ref=sr_1_3?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1482695902&sr=1-3&keywords=Andrew+Parker

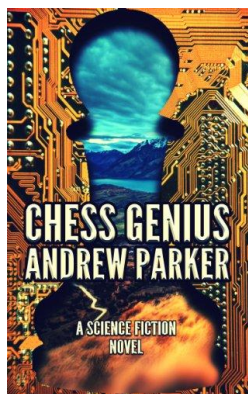


Two twelve-year-olds, Mary and Tommy, are laid up after a car crash. Their Uncle Frank, a retired military roboticist, gives them two Army robots. With voice commands and joysticks, the kids send the machines to school in their place. After classes, the duo trot the behemoths downtown to chase purse-snatchers and stop bank robberies. They're crime fighters.

The fun ends when Boris Babamski, evil mastermind, hacks into robots to launch Operation Destroy Technology. Suicide loony-bot bombers wreak havoc. When Uncle Frank's robots are corrupted, Mary and Tommy infiltrate Boris's fortress and struggle to reprogram the bots before the

mechanized demons reverse the course of evolution. If the couple fail, the world will regress to prehistoric times.

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https://www.amazon.com/Chess-Genius-Andrew-Parker-ebook/dp/B00D9JM9V2/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1482695995&sr=1-1&keywords=Andrew+Parker+Chess+Genius

Twelve-year-old Frankie suffers from progeria, a rare aging disease, and has only a year left to live. But he has a gift. He can see chess moves farther ahead than anyone who ever played the game.

He could be the world chess champion. But competing would kill him. So he celebrates his final moments of life. He plays with friends, parties with Grandpa in his mansion, and even flirts with gorgeous genetically engineered rat girls.

Life is good!

Till he goes to the hospital to breathe his last. Dr. Barrigan, his mentor, struggles to develop a stem cell treatment to cure him. If the world-renowned geneticist succeeds, Frankie might even be able to face a chess computer called Bette Davis Eyes and vie for the world chess title.

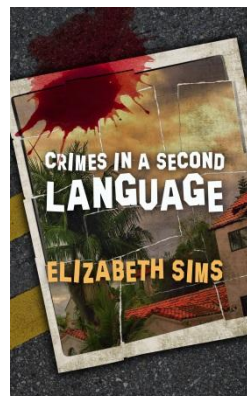
Chess Genius is a sci-fi fantasy that explores growing up and dying at the same time.

He would also like to share his review on Amazon of Bill Carrigan's book Annabella which he was finally able to successfully post on Amazon. He reminds other reviewers to study the guidelines and don't personally promote the author or

yourself. https://smile.amazon.com/Annabella-Other-Stories-Bill-Carrigan-ebook/dp/B00J9UAD2M/ref=sr_1_5?ie=UTF8&qid=1486598899&sr=8-5&keywords=bill+carrigan#customerReviews

Member Elizabeth Sims announced *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.”



Is smart and dead better than dumb and safe?

Elnice Coker and her husband Arthur, retired schoolteachers, move from Indiana to the Hollywood Hills in a last-ditch attempt at novelty and happiness. California alone can't do the trick, but when Elnice befriends her housecleaner, Solita, her life opens up to friendship and intrigue. Elnice teaches Solita English although Solita's common-law husband, Luis, is against it. The women build a secret, tentative friendship.

Meanwhile, wannabe novelist Jason M is busy writing faulty information into tech manuals for airplane-making machines at a factory in the Valley. One of a swarm of corporate saboteurs scattered around Los Angeles, he's bossed by a nameless, exacting mentor. But when he begins to have ethical doubts, he discovers it's harder to get out than it was to get in.

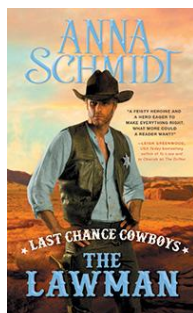
The lure of easy money casts its spell over everybody, and as Elnice and Solita grow closer, they encounter treachery and danger where they least expect it. The saboteurs intertwine, innocent lives hang in the balance, and as Elnice risks everything to dig deeper, she learns the value of rejecting safety—and living life to the max.

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.”

This month's speaker and new Member Jo Schmidt (w/a ANNA SCHMIDT) a Wisconsin Seasonal member currently has novellas in two anthologies and the second in her Western series: Last Chance Cowboys was released in December. Romantic Times has already praised book 2—THE LAWMAN—as follows: Readers who yearn for a solid Western romance are sure to find Schmidt's second Last Chance Cowboy installment as the perfect read. The realistic second-chance at love story — with its intelligent characters, sensuality and suspense elements — engages readers. 4 Stars.



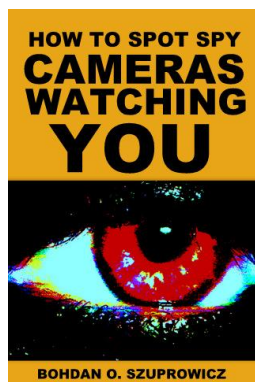
Anna has three times been a finalist for the coveted RITA award for romance fiction and has twice before been recognized by Romantic Times magazine with their Reviewer's Choice Award. Check out her Amazon Author's Page for more on our award winning author.

https://www.amazon.com/Anna-Schmidt/e/B001HOMA1A/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_2?qid=1477949179&sr=1-2

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Member Bohdan O. Szuprowicz is promoting his E-Guide "How to Spot Spy Cameras Watching You" specifically to all who will be celebrating Mardis Gras events everywhere and in New Orleans. Click below for full details

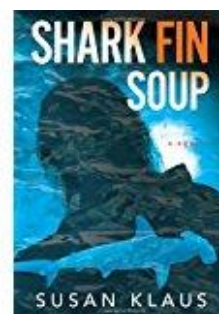
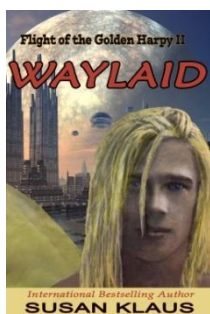
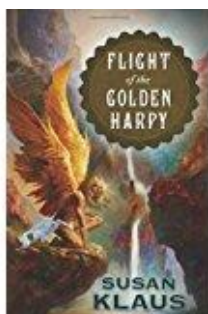
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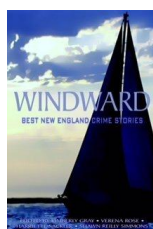
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Member Susan Klaus Over the last few months her books have been ranked in the top 100 on Amazon in numerous categories. She ranked #82 in the Amazon's Top 100 Best Selling Authors for Mystery/Romance. On Dec. 18 her award-winning thriller, *Secretariat Reborn* was on an Amazon Top 100 Best Seller list for thrillers/suspense in three categories, #10 in paid e-books, #11 in paperback books, and #12 in Kindle Unlimited. The novel stayed in the top 100 for five days and was also #863 in paperback for all genres.

Last month her fantasies were on an Amazon Top 100 Best Seller list. *Fight of the Golden Harpy* was #6 in books, and *Flight of the Golden Harpy II, Waylaid* was #75 in free e-books.



Previous Member Brenda Seabrook announced her short story “Snow Devils” is in the anthology *WINDWARD, BEST NEW ENGLAND CRIME STORIES OF 2016* published by Level Best Books.



Last month her newest book launched: *SCONES AND BONES ON BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK'S (maybe) DOG AND THE DIRT DILEMMA*, by Belanger Books. Belanger exclusively publishes Sherlock Holmes books, scholarly books pertaining to the Holmes books, and books by the Baker Street Irregulars, which included President Franklin Roosevelt and Sir Winston Churchill.

"This is a fun mystery for young readers with an adorable dog who has a real nose for excitement and clues. The numerous illustrations liven up the pages, while sprinkles of historical information make it a real treat. Teamed up with Sherlock Holmes, Digby is a dog criminals and evil doers need to watch out for." - Tonja Drecker - prized children's book reviewer at Bookworm for Kids

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**Member John Pearce** announced the publication of his new novel, *Last Stop: Paris*, the sequel to *Treasure of Saint-Lazare*.

Here's the link to the Amazon page (it's KDP Select), where readers can find the Kindle, paperback and audio editions: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B017OTZN4W>.

Author page is <http://amazon.com/author/johnpearce>.

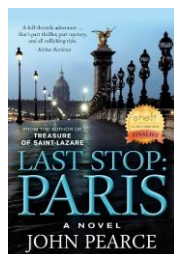
He will be attending a Book signing and Political event Saturday November 5, 2016 from noon until 3 pm in the Village of the Arts at 1004 & 1010 Tenth Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205. Stop in and buy a signed copy of either or both books.

Last Stop was picked as a 2015 finalist in the best indie book of the year competition sponsored by Shelf Unbound Magazine and Bowker.

The interview is on his blog, here: <http://wp.me/P2PhOq-OY>

### John Pearce

Author of [Last Stop: Paris](#)  
and [Treasure of Saint-Lazare](#)



And....

### \*\*\* Member Dona Lee is back at work:

**Village Voices opens February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 for the Artwalk at 6pm.** Our Author of the evening is Ty Jodouin, a science fiction/fantasy writer whose novels explore the Bermuda Triangle and aliens in the galaxy. Located at 1010 10 Avenue West, Bradenton 34205 The Village of the Arts provides live music, wine and hors d'oeuvres as you stroll the streets visiting any of the 45 galleries and six eateries. Lots of fun and opportunities to discover new sensations.

Dona and Al are partners in a video production company. DNA Productions, LLC produces **book trailers**, music videos, workshops, small business commercials, and even a political parody serial for Youtube. We filmed a Flash Mob Dance up in Madeira Beach. 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 Redneck White House 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.

Interested in being interviewed about your books? For over three years Dona has hosted a weekly show on Radioearnetwork.com every Thursday at 2 pm called *Culture Coast*, interviewing musicians and artists of every venue. Check it out online at [www.radioearnetwork.com](http://www.radioearnetwork.com) Please tell your friends and neighbors to listen in and discover what our Culture Coast has to offer. If you know any artists, **authors**, or musicians in the local area who might be interested in talking about their music, books, or art, have them contact [DGould497@aol.com](mailto:DGould497@aol.com) for an interview. Now that the Author's Connection is no longer taking new interviews, please contact Dona for your new releases and general book interviews.

If you have finished or are close to finishing your manuscript, it would behoove you to buy a copy of *Published! A Complete Guide to Nontraditional Publishing.* The book helps writers at every level decide whether to follow the path to traditional publishing, use a subsidy, or self-publish; and if the decision is subsidy or self-publishing, how to choose the best option for your manuscript. It includes sections on editing, formatting, and marketing as well. Foreword by best-seller self-publishing guru Dan Poynter.



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.

We now create live action & computer slide show book trailers.

Al Musitano has completed the live action book trailer for the YA novel, *Gothmares*. Check it out on youtube.com, here's the link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iklBBPIP\\_8I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iklBBPIP_8I)

If you wish to inquire on having your own live action or slide show book trailer, contact Al Musitano at [eye2eye@inbox.com](mailto:eye2eye@inbox.com) or 941-896-0031. He creates both live action trailers, computer graphics to text and music like Andrew's, or green screen scenarios like Dave's.

This is Andrew's Book Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7jGQdjWw5I> Please give it a thumbs up. Ivan helped him create it but has asked Plotting Success to take over any future

requests for these trailers. If you want us to create a book trailer, please contact me at [DGould497@aol.com](mailto:DGould497@aol.com).

Andrew would appreciate any comments you might have about the trailer.

Contact **Andrew Parker** at [andycp1999@yahoo.com](mailto:andycp1999@yahoo.com)

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



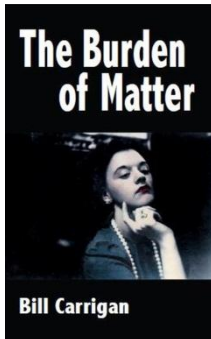
International Online Weekly Radio Show for Creatives  
Literary, painting, musical, culinary, healing, brew masters, and more.



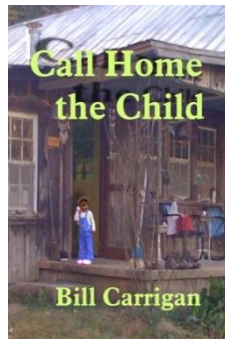
Contact me for help with editing, formatting for self publication, ghost writing, and more.  
Reasonable rates, local references.



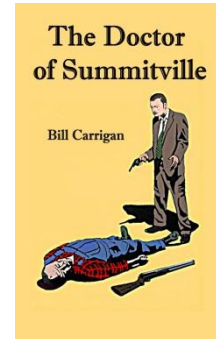
**Read and enjoy the many works of our esteemed Bill Carrigan.** All editions are newly edited and available on Amazon. (Search Books by Bill Carrigan) Read the first three chapters of any book for free. Kindle editions are 2.99 and paperbacks cost around \$10.00. Please review on Amazon after reading.



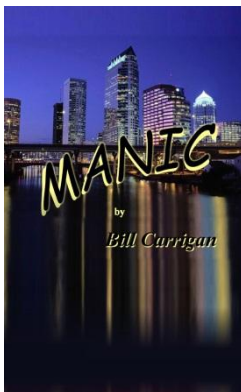
Anatomy of a WWII love affair in Washington D.C.



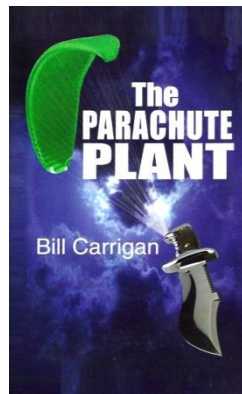
An interracial adoption in 1988 Virginia breaks bad.



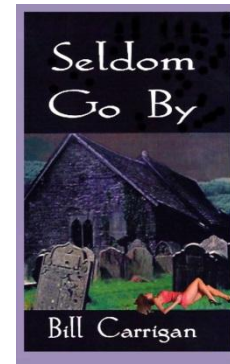
In 1927 a doctor's love affair leads to a death



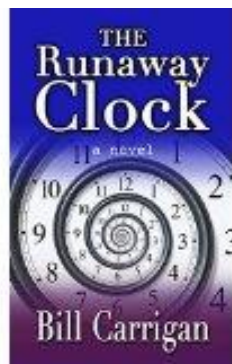
A young Tampa writer joins up with a killer to bring him down.



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 six to eight copies of up to ten pages double-spaced.

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

First & third Thursdays, at 6 pm, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 & March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

First & third Saturdays, at 4 pm March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 & March 18<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 March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The members of each subgroup bring stories, poems, articles, or novel chapters for reading and critiquing. The SECOND meeting of the month March 15<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**

March 4, 2017 – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

#### **Selby Library**

Sarasota, FL 34231

Speaker: Florida Poet Laureate Peter Meinke will share some crime related works with us

New SinC benefit available to chapter members only. Check it out!

<http://www.sistersincrimelibrary.org/default.asp?page=OnlineCourses>

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 March 28<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, 1PM. 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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NEW FWA YOUTH WRITERS GROUP FORMING

Pinnacle Academy will host our first Youth Writers Group in the area starting in January 2017. The group will be monitored by creative writing teachers but is comprised only of youth 18 and under. It is an open group, membership to Florida Writers Association Youth Writers (\$15.00 annually). Stay tuned for more information and if you know any young writers, let them know.

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FICTION WRITER'S FORUM

Critique group

6:30 pm Second Thursday of the month March 9th, 2017
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

6:30 pm Fourth Thursday of the month, March 23rd, 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

Sarasota Authors Connection

Marketing & Publishing for Writers

When: Tuesday, March 21st, 2017, 6 pm
Where: Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd. Sarasota, FL
Speaker: Francesca Simon, creator of "A Mystical Approach to Writing" workshop, is convinced that there is no such thing as a bad writer, but "only bad story tellers." In this mini-workshop she will present seven keys to the writing quest. These core mystical principles are the same tools used by those in search of spiritual awakening and inner growth.

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 , Aroon Chaddha.



~~~~~ 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

Tue March 14 6:30 PM

The Sarasota Creative Writers

Tue March 28 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.

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/>

A Poetry group! (Not in Lakewood Ranch)

Selby Poets

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

March 16th (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 / Free

Contact: Gail Ghai

GGhai@ArtPoetica.com

And the Poetry Group is now growing into a second venue and day!

Starting January 2017

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 March 7th, 2017

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Manasota Films Single Take Challenge

Please note the contest later in the newsletter. If you have written a short story that could be filmed in a single take...a one scene show, a humorous joke, a small horror story, anything without “special effects”, this might be your chance to see how you fare writing for video. This film can be shot on your i-phone or any video camera. They are not looking for high-end video. They are looking for innovation. Give it a shot. You might find another avenue of writing to explore. Rules and more information can be found under CONTESTS.

Manasota Films Group

Star Lite Room

1001 Cocoanut Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236

March 15th, 2017

7 PM

With the New Year, there will be a new location and a new format for this group of local film industry creatives. The group has members from every facet of the industry: Writers, Actors, Actresses, Film Crew, Extras, Directors, Producers, Set Designers, Make-up pros, Costume designers, and anyone else with a desire to be part of our growing film industry. Membership is **FREE** and currently they number over 1100. **Join up on Facebook by going to Manasota Films** and request to join.

For four years they have created Indie films and shorts and shared them on the big screen once a month at local theatres. Now they are changing the format to encourage everyone to work together and discuss what they need from each other to become more successful.

(HOWEVER, the New Florida Cinema film group will be picking up the slack under the leadership of John Lagerholm. See information on them below for meeting information.)

Monthly meetings of Manasota Films will be held at the private upstairs bar at The Starlite Room, at 10th and Coconut downtown Sarasota. The Starlite has established itself as the place to be for the performing arts and artists in Sarasota. Meetings will be in a much more open format, and will be more conducive to face to face interactions. They will have guest speakers, sharing of ideas, and discussions about how we can best support Sarasota's new film industry.

New Florida Cinema Film Group

March 1st, 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.

Screen Writer's Circle

Thursday, March 9th, 2017

The Screen Writer's Circle meets 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.

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

New Screen Writing Group

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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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 working on fundraising including bringing in a nationally known bestselling author for the October Celebrity Workshop. They are establishing \$500.00 scholarships for students enrolled in a Florida College writing program. Please go to their website for more information. www.floridawritersfoundation.org

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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 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

There are also Florida Writers Association Groups in Pinellas, Hillsborough (4), and Polk Counties. Check the website for details at 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

Events

Florida Writers Association Manatee Expo @ Desoto Heritage SEAFOOD Festival

March 24th through March 26 at Sutton Park, 1220 6 Street West, Palmetto.

Come learn about local writing groups, events, and the enormous support provided by the statewide group of Florida Writers Association of “Writers Helping Writers”, an all-volunteer group of writers, from aspiring to best-selling, all working together to improve their craft at conferences, workshops, online, and in small local groups.

The **SouthWest Florida Reading Festival** is located in Ft. Myers Centennial Park (River District) on Saturday, March 18th 2017. Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime will be represented at this event. There are over 90 Exhibition tables with Industry affiliated ties, authors, publishers, illustrators, and more.

Evening with the Authors

Friday, March 17, 2017 from 5 – 9 p.m.

Meet, mingle and dine with some of the nation’s best-selling authors at the “Evening with the Authors!” at the Marina at Edison Ford located at 2360 West 1st Street in downtown Fort Myers. The evening features dockside cocktails, a buffet dinner and a dessert reception outside in the beautiful coconut grove on the Edison Estate at sunset!

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6th Annual Venice Book Fair and Writer’s Festival,

March 24-25, 2017

Venice Centre Mall Community Room, 238 Tampa Avenue Venice,

For writers events tickets and reservations are required

<http://www.venicebookfair.com/>

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Bradenton Farmers Market & Children’s Book Fair

I spoke to the promoter and she will continue to take registrations as long as they have tables. The deadline is to help speed things along, but not set in stone.

HOWEVER, when the tables are filled, no more will be made available.



Children's Book Fair

and family fun day

Saturday, April 29

9 am - 2 pm

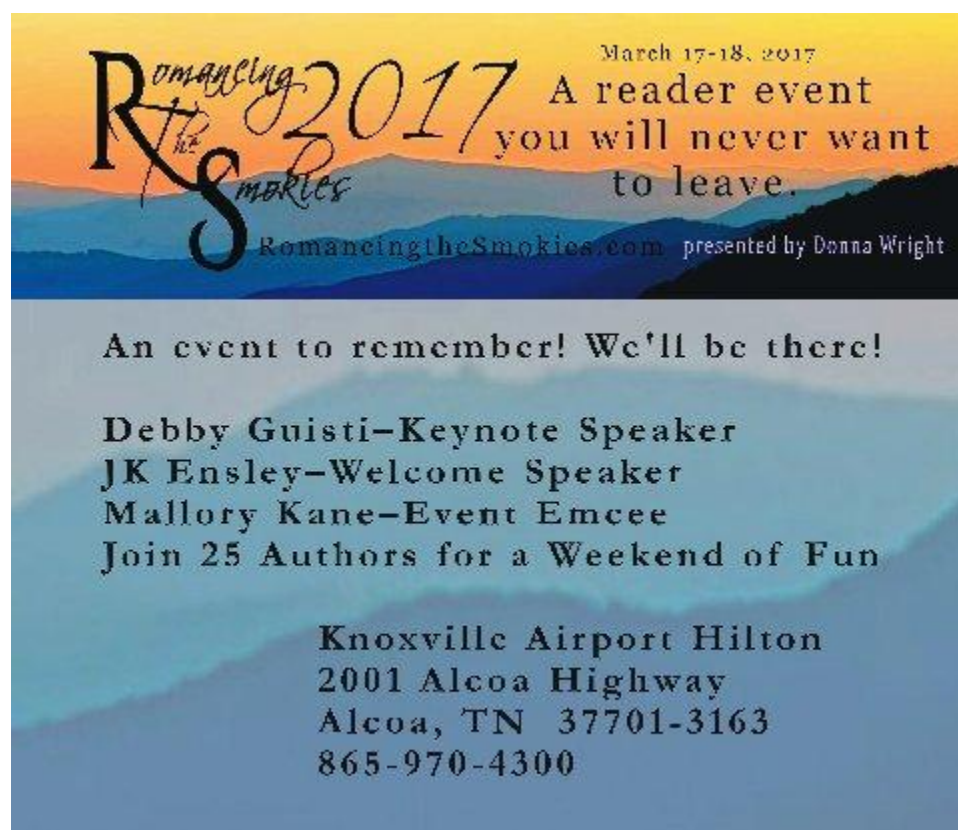
**Bradenton Farmers' Market
on Old Main Street**

**All Local Children's Authors
and Illustrators Welcome**

**Cost: \$30 for a 10 x 10 space
to register please email:
market@realizebradenton.com**



For those who want to take a working travel break, there are still a few openings for readers, reviewers, and bloggers at **ROMANCING THE SMOKIES**.



FOR READER/BLOGGER/REVIEWER TICKETS:

(Available until March 18, 2017

\$65.00 + \$4.57

(left-hand column)

Includes: Friday night gathering, Saturday lunch and Booksigning, Saturday night Gala. Freebies galore, books, gift baskets, enjoying your favorite authors, and a chance at the ROYAL REWARDS BASKET, estimated current retail value — approximately \$300.00 (and rising!!!)

More information available at: <https://romancingthesmokies.com/>

Workshops & Classes

Florida Writers Association has a workshop coming up.

Details:

<https://floridawriters.net/conferences/focus-character-driven-stories/>

Date & Location

- April 29, 2017
- Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs
350 S. Northlake Blvd, Orlando FL 32701

Schedule

- 8:30 AM Registration Opens
- 8:55 AM Opening Remarks
- 9:00 AM Workshop: Characters by Tawdra Kandle
- 10:30 AM Break
- 10:45 AM Workshop: Dialogue by Darlyn Finch Kuhn
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Workshop: Plot Line by Arthur Doweyko
- 2:30 PM Break
- 2:45 PM Panel Discussion
- 3:45 PM Closing Remarks/Door prizes

Fee

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, and beverages

- \$89. Florida Writers Association Member
- \$109. Non-Member

Online registration closes April 22, 2017. Onsite registration available at www.floridawriters.net

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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Ever consider turning your vision to film?

Make an award-winning film in under 8 minutes. Seriously, do it!

Announcing **The Second Annual Single-Take Challenge**,  
celebrating the short "One-Take" film. The most fun you'll ever have making a movie.  
**OPEN TO ALL FILMMAKERS.**

Brand new, One-take films only. Any genre, any length up to 8 minutes maximum.

Each film submitted must be a single, continuous take film. NO cuts, NO editing (other than sound, color correction, titles etc.). As this is a "Challenge", the more creative the film, the better. The winning films will be the ones that get the most "WOW!"

Prizes: A beautiful Grand Prize trophy for Best Film. Additional trophies for Most Entertaining Film and Extraordinary Cinematography.

What counts most in this contest is originality, creativity, imagination, and the ability to surprise.

Cutoff Date: **Midnight, August 15, 2017.**

Nominated films and winners will be shown on the big screen in beautiful Sarasota, Florida at the prestigious Florida Studio Theatre.

Admission fee: \$30 per film, or \$20 for Earlybird special.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Films must be NEW and original films. To ensure that your film has been created specifically for this event, you will be asked to include a certain item in the film.

**READ RULES & TERMS BELOW FOR IMPORTANT DETAILS**

**UPDATE - CELEBRITY JUDGES** for 2017 include Sundance and South By Southwest award winning filmmakers JIM CUMMINGS ("Thunder Road"), SHANT HAMASSIAN ("Night of the Slasher") and BEN PETRIE ("Her Friend Adam").

### **Awards & Prizes**

Grand Prize trophy for Best Film. Additional trophies for Most Entertaining Film and Extraordinary Cinematography.

### **Rules & Terms**

**READ THIS FIRST - VERY IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS!** Before you make your film, the item which must be in EVERY film submitted is... "A Rabbit." You do NOT have to build your story around a rabbit, but you DO have to SHOW a rabbit -or- have a character SAY the word "rabbit" at some point in your film. It can be a toy rabbit, it can be a painting of a rabbit, etc.

**WHEN YOU SUBMIT YOUR FILM**, notify us when "rabbit" appears in your film (example: "the female spy character says the word rabbit at the 2:13 mark in the film" or "a rabbit can be seen resting against the wall at the 4:21 mark") Any questions - email us at

Singletakechallenge@gmail.com.

Now you're ready to get started. After planning out your film: 1) shoot your film, 8 minutes long max including credits. Don't forget to show or say the clue in there somewhere! 2) Submit your film on this website. Enter by July 15, 2017 for the discounted rate of only \$20. 3) Tell us where we can see or hear the clue "rabbit" in your film.

Now for the fine print:

## GENERAL RULES

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Films must not exceed 8 minutes in length, including credits.
2. All non-English language films must have English subtitles or no dialogue.
3. A separate entry fee is required for each submission.
4. Submissions may NOT be withdrawn from the Festival once they have been entered, except at the sole discretion of the Festival.
5. All selected films may be excerpted (up to 2 minutes) for publicity purposes. Films submitted agree to be aired on Tampa Bay Entertainment and Education Network television and/or other venues.
6. After selection, notification letters will be sent electronically: please provide an email address.
7. Films are to be submitted via this web page unless specifically approved by the Festival.
8. Projects MUST be completed specifically for this Festival.
9. Filmmaker MUST have proper license to all copyrighted music, video, and images projected in their short film.
10. By entering the Challenge, you agree to abide by the rules. Films that are determined to have used FX to achieve the impression of single take will be disqualified.

GOOD LUCK

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## Lone Star Contest

Northwest Houston RWA© is proud to announce  
 The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Lone Star Writing Competition 2017  
 We'll begin accepting entries on April 1, 2017 so be sure to check the website.

A place to find a few more Book Contests

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BOOK AWARDS CENTRAL

IF YOU HAVE NEWLY PUBLISHED TITLES TO PROMOTE, WE HAVE AN AWARDS CONTEST FOR YOU



Independent Publisher Book Awards - Axiom Business Book Awards - Living Now Book Awards  
Moonbeam Children's Book Awards - eLit Awards

Do you have an Award-worthy book that deserves more attention? Book Awards are an efficient, affordable marketing tool that can make a huge impact on your marketing campaign. Each year, medals go to both established mid-sized publishers and first-time self-publishers. We reward those who exhibit the courage, innovation, and creativity to bring about change in the world of publishing. This spirit and expertise comes from publishers of all sizes and budgets, and books are judged with that in mind.

Get more attention. Get a shiny sticker for your cover. Get the recognition your book deserves!

Need entry information about any of these book awards contests? See details and links about each contest below, or email me to request guidelines or to deliver questions or comments: **Jim Barnes, Awards Director** - [jimb@bookpublishing.com](mailto:jimb@bookpublishing.com)

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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

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

Marketing Opportunities

North Port Free Radio Time

If authors would like to read poems or short stories, they can take advantage of a new opportunity on Monday nights at 97.5 radio station, which is in a strip mall south of Warm Mineral Springs in North Port. Readers meet at 7:00 and are taped at 7:30 at the Common Grounds Meeting Hall next door to the 97.5 radio station.

Because the project is getting off the ground, there's no problem for an author to find a reading slot. On Sunday at 3:00, people from all over the world can hear the authors on the INTERNET. By December, 97.5 expects to have the capability to be heard on the RADIO from Ft. Myers to Sarasota. This heightened media range was made possible by a large donation from a community member for a large tower.

For more information contact Dobie Pasco at sonnypasco59@yahoo.com

To pull this station up on the INTERNET, go to: KDWradio.com

The station is ALL volunteer.

KDW Radio is located at 12737 Tamiami Trail, North Port, FL

Station Manager: RJ Malloy 941 564-8737

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## Of Writing Interest

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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

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**\*NEW\*** A new rich source for poets has been recommended by Pat Gray. For those of you who enjoy reading and writing poetry, please enjoy:

<https://archive.org/details/naropa?&sort=-downloads&page=2>

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Paid Publishing Opportunity.

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

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 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

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### Agents

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

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2014, submissions are accepted between July 1 and October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

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](http://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.

## **Update March 2016:**

Sawpalm just released their 10th Anniversary Issue with the special theme—Florida-Cuba Connection.

They plan to return to the Florida theme for future issues. While submissions for the journal won't open until July 1st, 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.



## Words of Wisdom

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Hello, fellow writers. This month I am reverting back to my writing guru, Holly Lisle. I have provided many of her tips before. This month she is discussing revision and editing and it is applicable to every writer from aspiring to traditional best-sellers. If you find her tips interesting, she has a workshop starting now that you can join. The links are at the end of her article. I highly recommend her for her clear thought processes and her proven success.

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### **Revision is Your Best Writing Teacher By Holly Lisle**

So. I'm revising an older novel right now (so not my best writing to begin with) and worse yet, one I was pantsing my way through back in 2010 when I started it.

If you're very new to writing fiction, let me introduce you to Plotting versus Pantsing.

Plotting is where you figure out in advance certain things that are going to happen in the story, and you write toward those points.

Extreme Plotting is where you write a story outline, usually at about one paragraph per scene, so that you know exactly what is going to happen before you write any of it, and when you're doing the real novel instead of the outline, you're just expanding.

It's slightly less fun than watching paint dry, though less painful than Scary Dude With a Baseball Bat whacking your knees — except to your brain.

Then there's Pantsing, (writing by the seat of your pants) which is creating a character and following that character into the dark, though you may have a couple of places you know you want to stop off while you're wandering.

I am by preference and long practice a Light Plotter. I have a couple of characters, a theme, and a handful of plot cards on which I have written Candy-Bar scenes — things I know I want to have happen in the story, and that I'm looking forward to writing. (Hence Candy Bar. If writing these scenes wasn't something I loved, I would have called them them Canned Spinach scenes.)

ANYWAY...

I don't Pants. I pantsed my awful first novel, I pantsed **Fire in the Mist**, I pantsed **Sympathy for the Devil**, but I learned over time that revisions were a lot less miserable if I had some idea where I was going the first time through.

In spite of which, back in 2010, I started writing a novel that I thought would be cool, about creativity and the alternate world in which everything created lived a separate life.

It was a fun concept, and I decided that I was going to use the story as both my **How to Think Sideways** story-writing walkthrough, and as my **How to Revise Your Novel** story-revision walkthrough.

And I decided to pants my way through the story.

<beating head on desk here>

I created Scene Title Cards just to make sure I would have enough scenes in the story to make a real book.

Each card had an artsy title that didn't mean anything except that I needed about a thousand words there.

But the titles were all kind of pretty, so I decided to sort of work them into the story as I wrote.

And I galloped along at the pace of one scene per week while also working on other stuff, and posted my one scene per week in raw, un-spell-checked, unedited form on a blog, with folks following along with me.

It was fun.

Until it wasn't.

I started getting some nasty notes from folks who had never read first draft before, and who thought that A) I had lost my freaking mind and all ability to write and B) who told me that the story was awful and full of typos and mistakes and places where it didn't make sense.

So I explained about The Rule of First Draft.

**This is The Rule of First Draft:** All first draft sucks.

You might find some good bits in it, there might be brilliant ideas and wonderful characters and funny lines and other gems — but you find these gems after you finish writing the first draft, when you are doing your revision.

Revision is the process of mucking out the stables. If you never had a horse, let me explain. You stand in your boots in the middle of a stall filled with straw and crap, and you shovel the tons of stinking mess into a big wheelbarrow with your skinny little thirteen-year-old arms, and you push the heavy steel-and-wood one-tire wheelbarrow a quarter mile back to the big pile of straw and manure that is cooking itself down into mulch.

You dump your huge pile of mess.

And then you go back and do it again.

Every once in a while, you'll find a kitten hiding in the stall, or some sparkly thing lying in the middle of the manure that you want to keep.

But in the World of Shit and Kittens, it's 99.9% Not Kittens.

The writers got this. Readers mostly didn't. They live in the world where all the manure has been removed and where only the Kittens and the Sparklies remain.

BUT ANYWAY...

I was writing along, and four cards from where I was supposed to end the story, Pantsing circled around behind me and bit me in the butt.

I didn't know how my story ended. I couldn't even figure out what happened next. My big villain had just revealed himself and scared the crap out of me, and I realized I was lost, lost, lost.

So I put it aside for a while.

And seven years later, picked it back up.

I wrote then only ending I could write that would allow me to go back and figure out how to fix the mess I'd made.

**"And then I killed them all. THE END"**

Seriously. That isn't going to be the way the book ends,

but it is the way the revision starts.

Now I'm working my way through this crazy mess born of chasing marsh gas through swamps by walking on the backs of alligators, and I'm trying to find a clear path to get the story and my poor trapped characters out of the swamp.

Or to revert to my earlier metaphor, to get my kittens out of the roof-deep horse hockey.

Bright side? So far, the novel is not **QUITE** as bad as I remembered.

Dark side? It's really, really bad.

But the thing is, if you want to get better as a writer, you **MUST** revise everything you write, no matter how bad it is. If you're revising the right way, your broken manuscript is a brilliant teacher showing not just...

How to write a better story next time, but also...

How to **NEVER** write one this bad again.

So, even though I'm not going to use this book I'm revising as a walkthrough for my **How to Think Sideways** novel-writing class (because this is the poster child for how **NOT** to do that), it is going to be a **GREAT** walkthrough for **How to Revise Your Novel**.

Everything that could go wrong did.

## **Why am I telling you all of this?**

**First**, because you need to know that people who have been writing fiction professionally for decades are capable of completely crashing their fiction.

It isn't just you.

**Second**, because of what I just told you above. *The way you get better is by revising every single thing you write* — but you have to revise in the way that teaches you how to learn from your mistakes.

**Third**, because revising the wrong way (and there are a lot of wrong ways) does more harm than good, so I want to show you the right way.

**Fourth,** [because I offer a cool freebie revision workshop on my site.](https://hollylisle.com/how-to-revise-a-novel/?awt_l=I2cl6&awt_m=LqHRV9wYp._XgP) (https://hollylisle.com/how-to-revise-a-novel/?awt\_l=I2cl6&awt\_m=LqHRV9wYp.\_XgP)

In spite of the fact that it's called How to Revise a Novel, this process is VERY stripped down.

The process I teach in the workshop is no longer the one I use it to revise my own novels. And I don't recommend that you do, either.

It's way too easy to get lost in longer fiction and have to repeat the process multiple times to get a good result.

**HOWEVER, this system is perfect for revising short fiction.** So if you have short stories you need to fix, jump in.

While you're at it, [take my quiz to show you what your biggest revision problem is, and get a free worksheet that will help you fix that problem.](https://hollyswritingclasses.com/quiz/What-is-YOUR-Number-1-Revision-Wrecker/01_start.php)  
(https://hollyswritingclasses.com/quiz/What-is-YOUR-Number-1-Revision-Wrecker/01\_start.php)

And write, AND REVISE, with joy.

Holly

**P.S.** What's the working title of this masterpiece of soot and poo I'm revising, you ask?

***TalysMana.*** Probably won't be the publishing title. But that's what I called this monstrosity when I started it, and that's what I'm calling it through the revision.

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

Dona Lee  
"Plotting Success"

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Our brunch in January was at a new location, the Bird Rock Taco Shack, in the Village of the Arts. It was the restaurant's first brunch and the food was unique. It got a bit warm when the sun came out and we determined in the future, we will eat inside. Free coffee was a draw. Mimosa's, wine, and beer are also available and go well with the food selections.

This is a pretty good-sized group. I think there were 14 of us. That's me in the back. No one ever accused me of being a wallflower. Al was making some more coffee to help out or he would have been in the photo as well. Joann Glim is our excellent group photographer and I was thrilled to see her back in action. She also provided an interview for Culture Coast, my radio show featuring local artists, musicians, and authors.

I want to issue a shout out to Joann for reaching #2 on Amazon's best seller list in historical memoirs in December. Best-selling author on Amazon is hers forever!



. We will return to Pier 22 on February 19 at 11:30 and probably take turns at a few other locations from time to time to keep it fresh. 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.

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