

Plotting Success

Our new website address is www.sarasotafictionwriters.com

August 1, 2017

General Meeting

Selby Library Auditorium

1331 First St., Sarasota

6 pm

For the summer we will be holding workshops and writing discussions starting this month.

Rick Dakan, Ringling College of Art and Design creative writing, history of video game, and art teacher will speak at the Aug. 1 meeting of the Sarasota Fiction Writers.

He will speak about writing for video games and how video games elicit emotion.

Dakan has an MFA in creative writing from Pacific Lutheran University. He's written professionally since 1995, with dozens of tabletop game publications in the late 1990s. In 2000, he co-founded Cryptic Studios and was the original lead designer for the hit online video game, "City of Heroes." Since then, he has written comic books, video game criticism, magazine articles, short stories and has had four novels published including the Geek Mafia trilogy and "Cthulhu Cult: A Novel of Obsession." He continues to write for and about games as well as new fiction in multiple genres.



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

Sarasota Fiction Writers Critique Meeting

6:00 pm, Wednesday August 16th, 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 fiscal year. \$25.00 annually covers meetings every month, dinner for our speakers, an invite to the Annual Christmas Party (lots of fun) and free entry into our annual short story contest with cash prizes.

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

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

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

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

Current SFW Officers:

President: Jerry Keane — destiny716@comcast.net

Co-Vice Presidents:

Critique Monitor: Pat Gray – patrickgray1@msn.com

Co-Secretary Publicity: Grier Ferguson

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

Treasurer: Bob Spitzer mbspitzer@gmail.com

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

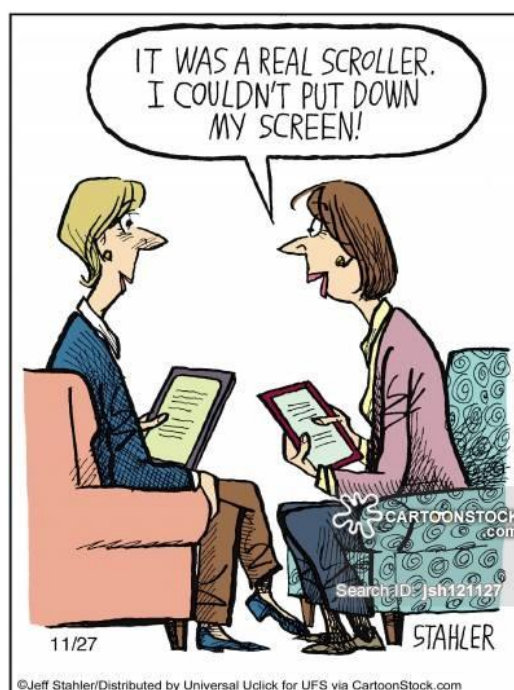
Members please feel free to send a one- or two-sentence synopsis of your published works and a link to sales on Amazon or Barnes and Noble to Natalie. She will grab the cover art to post on the Member Titles pages on our new website. Another place to market – for free.

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

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Readers--2020



BITS & PIECES

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

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

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

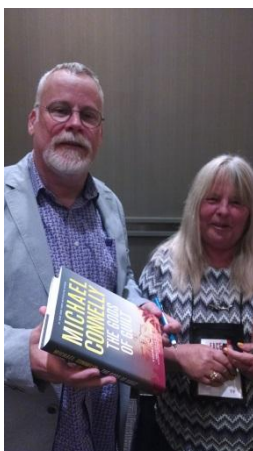
Good Reviews help sell books on Amazon.

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

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



Ann Rice



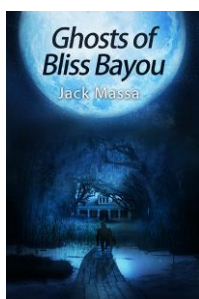
Michael Connely



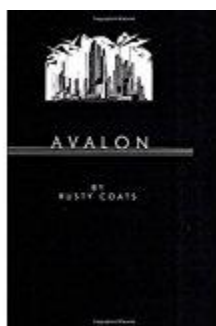
Lee Childs

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

New Member Jack Massa writes fantasy and science fiction. His new book, *Ghosts of Bliss Bayou*, was released last November: <http://triskelionbooks.com/ghosts-of-bliss-bayou/>
His epic fantasy novel, *Cloak of the Two Winds*, is now available in print and e-Book from Amazon. - <http://tinyurl.com/h2wyb6e>. His website is <http://triskelionbooks.com/>



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

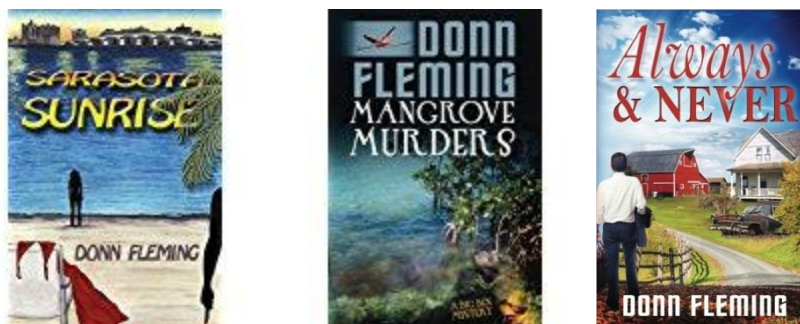


Featured as the first [Big Idea of 2017](#) on best-selling science fiction author John Scalzi’s website was a great nod.

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

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

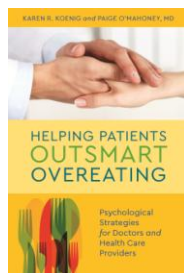


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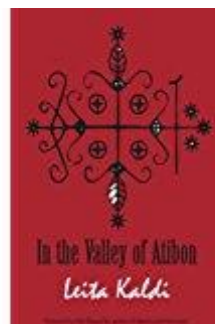
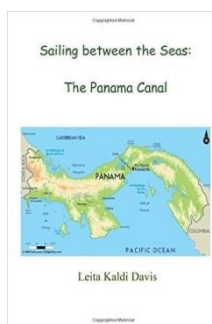
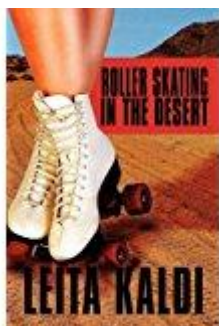
Member Elizabeth Stevens advised she sold some of her 22 books in December in Berlin, Germany, at the Book Fair at the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Modern Art. Her three *lives d'artiste* (texts with original etchings) were acquired by the Kunstbibliothek of the Staatliche Museum.

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

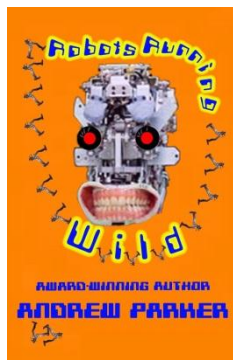
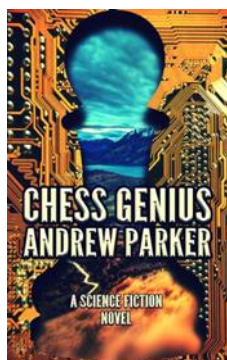
“Helping Patients Outsmart Overeating,” which Koenig co-authored with a physician, offers a new paradigm for doctors and health care providers who treat patients with eating and weight concerns. It describes how both providers and patients are frustrated by weight-loss plans and programs that fail long-term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



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



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

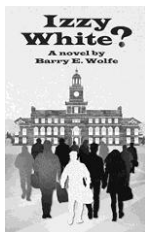


He will be releasing *Reality Gone Wrong* in the near future. He is currently working with a marketing pro to launch a successful campaign with the publication of his third book.

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



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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



Member Bohdan O. Szuprowicz is offering free review copies of his E-Titles published by Kindle to users of mobile devices. One of his E-Memoirs "Stop and Think About Guns in Your Life - Teenage Years" was downloaded 667 times in a single day some time ago. He is now trying to discover who were the readers of so many copies.

Readers who are interested should click on the following link to find out which E-Titles are available for free reviews on a particular day:

Check for free review copies of our E-Books on the list below. You will see a list of all E-Titles with full descriptions and prices and you are welcome to look at them all to discover which are offered free on a particular day. Otherwise you can download free samples of any E-Title on the list.

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=node%3D154606011&field-keywords=Szuprowicz



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And....

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

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

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

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCphTzpNdHdWoe44C50yPDyw>

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

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

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

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

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

Pictures will be extra.

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

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



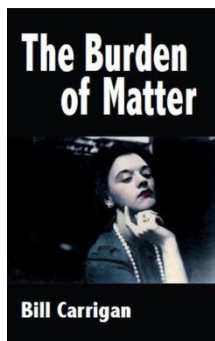
Florida Author's Book Gallery



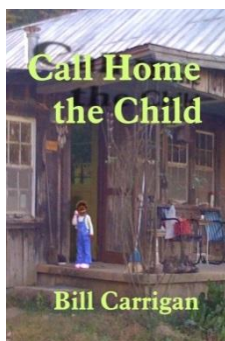
Contact me for help with editing, formatting for self publication, ghost writing, and more.  
Reasonable rates, local references.



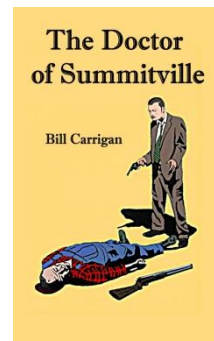
**Read and enjoy the many works of our esteemed Bill Carrigan.** All editions are newly edited and available on Amazon. (Search Books by Bill Carrigan) Read the first three chapters of any book for free. Kindle editions are 2.99 and paperbacks cost around \$10.00. Please review on Amazon after reading.



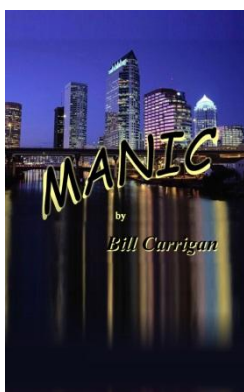
Anatomy of a WWII love affair in Washington D.C.



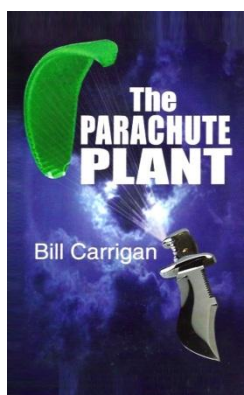
An interracial adoption in 1988 Virginia breaks bad.



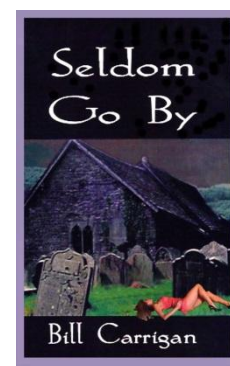
In 1927 a doctor's love affair leads to a death



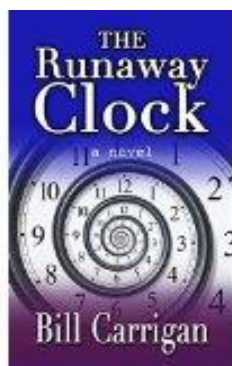
A young Tampa writer joins up with a killer to bring him down.



An Oregon doctor and wife solve gruesome murders.



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



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



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

## **Other Voices, Other Rooms**

Local area critique groups and meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First & third Thursdays, at 6 pm, August 3<sup>rd</sup> & August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

First & third Saturdays, at 4 pm August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 & August 19<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 August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. The members of each subgroup bring stories, poems, articles, or novel chapters for reading and critiquing. The SECOND meeting of the month August 16<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**

No meetings during the summer. We start back up when things cool down.

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 August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. There is no fee.  
 Call 941 727-6079 for more information.

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AMI Gulf Coast Writers

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

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NEW YOUTH WRITERS GROUP

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

FICTION WRITER'S FORUM

Critique group

6:30 pm Second Thursday of the month August 10th, 2017
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

6:30 pm Fourth Thursday of the month, August 24th, 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

Regular meetings at Fruitville Library Resume in October.

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

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.



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## ABC - Artisans of Books



### Marketing, PR, and Sales group

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

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

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

The membership fee is a flat \$25

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

Contact Brenda Spalding:

[www.brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com](mailto:www.brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com)

[www.brendaspalding.com](http://www.brendaspalding.com) or Nancy Buscher for more information:

[nancybuscher@yahoo.com](mailto:nancybuscher@yahoo.com)

**Applications are on the website:**

[ABCBooks4Children.com](http://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 Renaissance Writers

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

## **The Sarasota Creative Writers**

Sarasota Alliance Church  
7221 Bee Ridge Rd  
Sarasota, FL

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The Sarasota Creative Writers

Tuesday, August 1st, 2017 6:30 PM

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The Sarasota Creative Writers

Tuesday, August 15th, 2017 6:30 PM

[http://www.meetup.com/The-Sarasota-Creative-Writers-Meetup-Group/events/231753288/?af=event&af\\_eid=231753288&https=off](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.**

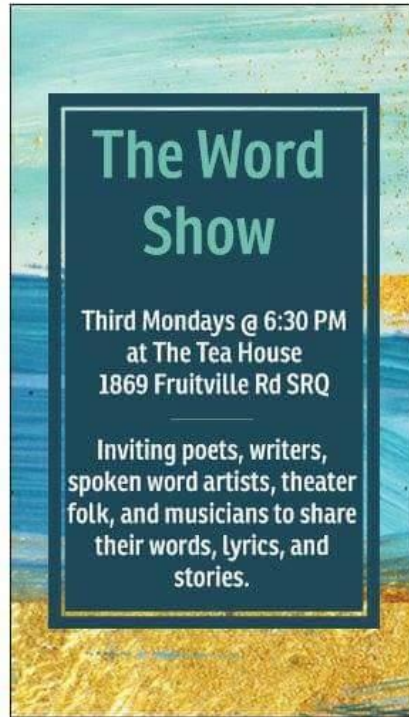
a meetup writers group in Sarasota for **in-depth critiquing**.

Please contact Patricia La Barbera for more information.

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

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



**This month August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

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Wordier Than Thou

Open Mic for Writers of Prose

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

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

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

Usually the third Wednesday of each month.

Check Facebook for verification

Two Poetry Groups

Selby Poets

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

August 17th (10 am to noon) meeting of **Selby Poets** at the **Banyan Cafe** - located on the grounds of the **Ringling Museum**. 5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota.(941) 359-3183

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

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

Everyone is welcome.

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

Open to the Public / FreeContact: Gail Ghai

GGhai@ArtPoetica.com

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

Braden River Library Poetry Workshop.

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

First Tuesday of the month from 3-5 PM. This month August 1st, 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. **Ends August 15th**.

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## **New Florida Cinema Film Group**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

## **Manasota Films Group**

Star Lite Room  
1001 Cocoanut Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236  
August 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

## **Screen Writer's Circle**

**Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](mailto:mlstoner52@gmail.com)



## **TWO NEW SCREEN WRITING GROUPS**

### **SARASOTA'S SCREENWRITERS, STORYTELLERS AND CREATIVES**

New screenwriting group, also covers storytelling.

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

For More Information Contact Richard @ [richard@thescreenplayshow.com](mailto:richard@thescreenplayshow.com)

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Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup Group

A new "Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup" meets every other Friday from 6-7 PM at The Reserve near Downtown Sarasota. The Reserve is a coffee shop located at 1322 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. The next meetings will be on August 8th and August 22nd. For more info, please contact Ron Knight (Email: AuthorRonKnight@aol.com) or visit the [Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup site. http://meetu.ps/s/.0/fjNxT/f](http://meetu.ps/s/.0/fjNxT/f)

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



April 2017

Dear Fellow Authors, Publishers, Illustrators, Editors and Marketing Professionals,
We are contacting you to inform you of how The Florida Authors and Publishers Association can benefit your members! We are a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) that is dedicated to providing the highest quality of information, resources, and professional development to members and others interested in the writing and publishing industry. We offer many services, including:

2017 Book Catalog

The 2017 FAPA Book Catalog offers authors and publishers a cost-effective way to promote their books in the national market. This four-color catalog will be distributed to bookstores, libraries, at BookExpo America in New York City, and at all venues where FAPA has a presence.

BookExpo America

A great way to bring exposure to your books is to have FAPA display them at BookExpo America, the #1 book event in North America for the book industry, where books and new titles are displayed to the largest gathering of book industry professionals.

Annual Conference/Regional Events

An annual conference, which offers two exciting days of professional development sessions, is designed to provide authors and publishers with up-to-date publishing resources. In addition to our annual conference, we offer regional workshops that provide outstanding information to our members. Our speakers are knowledgeable and successful in the fields of publishing and writing.

Click here to see who is speaking at our conference this year: www.myfapa.org/programs/2017-fapa-annual-conference/

National President's Book Awards

Our national President's Book Awards are hosted at our Annual Conference every year. Winners of the awards are honored at the conference and given the opportunity for national exposure via our FAPA Book Catalog at BookExpo America and other venues. Finalists are

chosen by publishing professionals and librarians from across the nation. This national award provides excellent exposure for authors and publishers across the country.

Deadline for submission of your book was June 5, 2017. For details: go to www.myFAPA.org
But we do this every year.

Just a Few of our Affiliations

The Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), with 4,000 members, offers scholarships for FAPA members to the IBPA Publishing University; donates memberships as door prizes at FAPA conferences; and provides a forum for affiliate representatives from around the country to discuss ways to improve services for its members. IBPA offers FAPA members a discount when they join IBPA.

Association of Publishers of Special Sales, with 800 members, is a wonderful organization that supports the publishing industry. FAPA members receive a discount on APSS memberships.

Please visit our website for more information at <https://myfapa.org/> (Please notice, MyFAPA, not just FAPA).

We welcome you to be a part of this dynamic, supportive family of authors, publishers, illustrators, editors, and marketing professionals. We strive to serve the needs of our members! We wish you all a successful 2017 and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

Lee Ann Mancini & Kirsten Rangel
FAPA Member Services Coordinators

kirsten.rangel@myfapa.org
lee.ann.mancini@myfapa.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

A monthly event for all writers:

Brunch for Writers

August 20th, 2017 at 11:30 am.

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

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

DGould497@aol.com

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# Workshops & Classes

## Florida Writers Association

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

### **Lessons from a Lifetime of Writing**

#### **DAVID MORRELL**

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

His topics include:

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

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 19, 2017

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

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

Includes continental breakfast, lunch, and all-day beverages

Signup online at [www.FloridaWriters.net](http://www.FloridaWriters.net)

# Conferences

## **16th Annual Florida Writers Conference**

**“What A Character”**

**October 19 – 22 in Altamonte Springs, Florida**

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

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

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



# Contests

## Once a month Drawing for Free Author Website Setup!

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



### Here is how the drawing works:

1. Fill out the form on the website ([WordsandWriters.com](http://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](mailto: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 24th Annual Lone Star Writing Competition 2017
 We'll begin accepting entries on April 1, 2017 so be sure to check the website.

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## 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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Greetings from *Nimrod International Journal*. I'm writing with some information about the first-ever Francine Ringold Awards for New Writers. **This new contest offers prizes of \$500 and publication in both the poetry and the fiction categories, and it is open only to writers who have had no more than two previous publications.**

One of the oldest "little magazines" in the country, *Nimrod* has continually published new and extraordinary writers since 1956. We have always been dedicated to the discovery of new voices in literature, and we look forward to continuing in this mission with the Francine Ringold Awards for New Writers.

For contest rules or more information about *Nimrod*, please visit our website at www.utulsa.edu/nimrod. The postmark deadline for submission is July 15th this year.

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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.**

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From Writer's Digest:

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

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

Acceptable entries include:

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

Details:

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

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

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

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

Special Entry Deadline: May 25th – \$40

Early: August 15th – \$55

Regular: November 1st – \$65

Semifinalists Announced: Mid-February 2018

Winner Announced: Early March 2018

Marketing Opportunities

North Port Free Radio Time

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

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

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

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

For more information, check out their website at KDWRadio.com or contact Loretta Martin - loretta@kdwradio.com, 941-237-1985.

Be there or be square!

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## Of Writing Interest

The University of New Orleans Press is excited to announce that our third annual UNO Press Publishing Lab Prize is now open.

The University of New Orleans Press is looking for full-length fiction manuscripts, either novels or short story collections, for the third annual Publishing Lab Prize. The selected author will receive a thousand dollar (\$1,000) advance on royalties and a contract to publish with UNO Press. The work does not have to be regionally focused. There is no word limit. There is no limit on subjects covered. **Submissions are open from April 5-August 15.** More information, including the Submittable link, can be found at: <http://www.unopress.org/lab.aspx>

Thank you for your time,

Thomas Price  
UNO Press

## 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](http://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](http://www.laughingfire.com)  
[www.facebook.com/LaughingFirePress](https://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](mailto:editorcrimson@gmail.com) with "Short Story Submission – [intended collection]" in the subject line. If we get enough submissions to publish more than one title in each category, we will.

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

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Agents

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

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

* * * * *

New Imprint Seeking Romance Stories with Heat

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

We do have some rules for this new line:

1. Every sexual orientation is welcome.
 2. We would especially love to see romance stories about people of various ethnic backgrounds, people in their fifties or older, people with disabilities, 19th and 20th century historical (1800-2000), etc.
- If you have looked around and said, "I don't see another story out there remotely like mine," you're probably what we're looking for.
3. Works need to be believable and real. No genies, werewolves, vampires, body-switchers, witches, aliens, etc. Need real people in real relationships/situations.
 4. Sorry, but no works that take place before 1800. We feel that market has plenty of material already.
 5. Only works 25,000 words or more will be considered. Short story collections, however, would be fine.
 6. Cross-genre stories are especially welcome (romantic mysteries, for example).
 7. As we are not specifically looking for erotica, the heat level is currently limited to "NC-17." Sex doesn't have to be in the story, but if it's appropriate for the work, that's fine.
 8. The overall story is infinitely more important to us than a couple of hot scenes. We prefer to think of this as "literary romance/literary erotica." We want engaging characters with real romantic struggles and successes.
 9. HEA (Happily Ever After) is NOT a requirement. Sometimes romance doesn't end with the two people ending up together, and that's perfectly OK. That's real.
 10. Absolutely, positively NO: rape, bestiality, sex with underage people, or all the other things you would expect to be forbidden.
 11. Previously published works are definitely acceptable, providing electronic rights have reverted to the author.
 12. Works that have been published through a self-publishing venture (i.e.: Smashwords, Kindle Direct/Kindle Prime) will not be accepted.
 13. Agents and current Untreed Reads authors may submit directly to: Jay Hartman. All others need to send works to submissions@untreedreads.com
 14. All submissions need to be sent in their entirety in RTF, DOC or ODP formats, Times New Roman, 12 pt. This rule does not necessarily apply to current Untreed Reads authors or agents. If you are unsure if a work would be appropriate for us, please do feel free to query Jay Hartman at jhartman@untreedreads.com.

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Saw Palm – A Literary Magazine published by USF Tampa

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

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

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

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

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

Poetry

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

Fiction

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

Flash Fiction

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

Creative Nonfiction

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

Art & Photography

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

Comics

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

Interviews

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

Reviews (appear on sawpalm.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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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For Wisdom, I have again gone back to my mentor, Holly Lisle. I suspect she will be one of the first instructors I ask to lead one of the writing workshops in Italy. I really respect and admire most of her writing knowledge. Not all... I am not willing to give up some of my own beliefs just because they don't agree with those I respect.

But this week I am providing Holly's advice on "Creating the Right Hero for YOUR Story."

"I see a lot of writers trying to write the "right" kind of character for their stories.

You know... The right sort of romantic lead, the right sort of sidekick, the right sort of best friend, the right sort of...

If you've done this, or if you've even considered doing this, you're embracing the "Shave Off the Serial Numbers" school of writing. This school of thought presents the following as truth: "What has been done before was right, and *challenging this* is above your pay grade."

Writers need to come together to hire an arsonist to burn down this particular school.

Unfortunately, schools of thought are built of asbestos. They're inflammable and they'll make you sick.

## ANYWAY...

When you start looking for the "right sort of character," you do so after rejecting the character who showed up in your story.

And here's my little story on that. I started writing Cadence Drake. Didn't know her at all, had no picture of her, met her while she was welded in a locker and was pretty sure she was going to die.

And as I wrote her, I discovered she was black. (She's not African-American, because in her time and place, in a distant part of our galaxy far in the future, neither Africa nor America exist.)

In Cady's time and place and on her home world, race is a non-issue, like gender. Hers is a society that has different problems than the shade of brown or tan of your skin, or who you're attracted to.

## BUT...

Her mother, who was pursuing power, needed a "divide and conquer" strategy, and her chosen targets for her strategy were women versus men.

She needed to coalesce women into a voting group of unthinking followers, and to do so, she pushed the necessity of removing men from breeding and of genetically altering fetuses to "improve" them.

So Cady has three "fathers" of different races and backgrounds, and her genotype has been designed to give her certain qualities her mother wanted.

At least one of these is a characteristic Cady hasn't discovered yet.

One of the qualities her mother wanted for Cady, though, was for her to be clearly and visibly DESIGNED. Because Cady's mother needed a flag to wave in her war, and she bred Cady to be that flag.

Cady's lucky in that her mother only used human DNA when having her built. A friend of hers was not so lucky. His mother had a thing for cats, and had his DNA crossed with some tiger DNA. The results... well, those are for a later book in the series.

### **BUT...**

It didn't even occur to me that my writing a black heroine would be a problem for anyone. Cady is tough, smart, funny, ethical, and capable, and she's an outsider because of her mother's genetic manipulation, not her race.

She's also my favorite character out of all the many, many folks I've created.

She's the one who's gonna get ten books. Ten.

But if I had pursued the creation of the "right" sort of character to be the lead in a science fiction / space opera series, I wouldn't have come up with Cady.

And sure as shit one of my villains would not have been Eskimo. I named him after two friends of mine from back when I was a kid living in Alaska, built him into the backstory reasonably, loved my results.

### **BUT...**

The "right" folks for this series would have been white. And space would have been full of just white folks, because I'm, you know, white, and I'm apparently not supposed to write about the world that I want to see, the world in which EVERYONE who dares can go to space and be a part of building out the universe that I want to live in, which is full of people who come in every color and gender orientation but who all had the guts to step off the planet into the future in search of wonder and glory and the chance to build something amazing.

### **BECAUSE...**

all sorts of folks want you to think you should only write about folks of your own race/ gender/ sexual orientation / origin / religion, and that if you're writing about folks different than you, you're stepping on someone else's culture, or philosophy, or some other damn sacred cow.

<beating head on desk>

Your characters are you, when you are being someone else. Your characters let you explore your version of life in other skins and other places.

**That's why we write fiction.**



We do not write fiction to replay time and again every boring convention of fiction that has been approved by the thought censors, the mind police, the politically correct.

We write fiction to explore what could be, to determine for ourselves who we should be, to try out and live in the worlds of our minds to understand not just what exists now, but what might be better, or worse.

And then to present what we find for the amusement, entertainment, and thoughtful consideration of others.

The right sort of character for your story is the one who makes you stop and think, makes you ask, "Why is she like that and how did she become that way and who else had a hand in it, and what is she going to do about it, and who is that going to affect?"

The right character is not the one who fits a proper and acceptable mold.

**Good fiction is neither proper nor acceptable.**

The right character is the one who makes you keep writing to find out more.

So throw out the damn rule book, kick the censors and the thought police and the politically correct snots to the curb, and put into your story the character who makes YOUR motor run.

And write with joy.

Holly

\*\*\*Just consider James Patterson and his "cross" series featuring a large, black, Psychologist cop. Or his "Angel" series featuring a teenage mutant girl. Let your character determine who he/she is. Let your imagination flow. Which I hope will bring us to next month's Words of Wisdom when I want to delve into "Using your dreams" to write. If you have done this, please write a few paragraphs about how it works for you. I plan to share it next month with our fellow authors.

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

Dona Lee  
"Plotting Success"

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