

Plotting Success

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

May 10, 2017

Wednesday Special Event

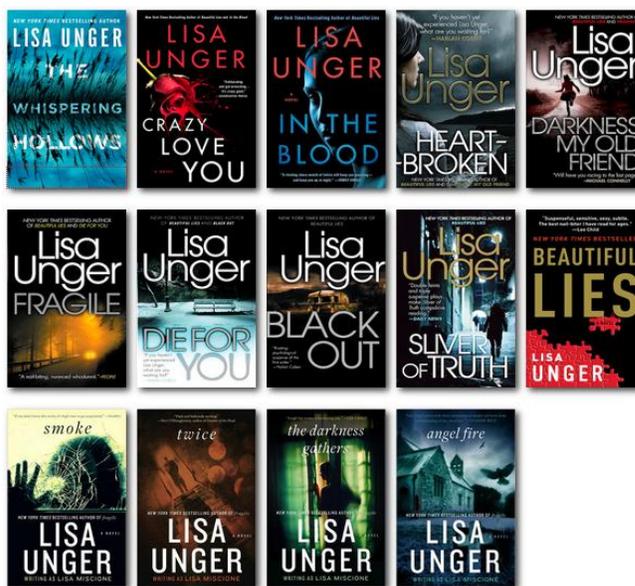
General Meeting

Selby Library Auditorium

1331 First St., Sarasota

6 pm

Author Lisa Unger, New York Times Best-selling author, will be talking about sparking creativity. She writes without an outline and will explain where she gets ideas for characters and what kind of trouble they might encounter. In addition Lisa will talk about *THE RED HUNTER*, her newest release. Afterward she will sign books.



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

Sarasota Fiction Writers Critique Meeting

6:00 pm, Wednesday May, 17th, 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.

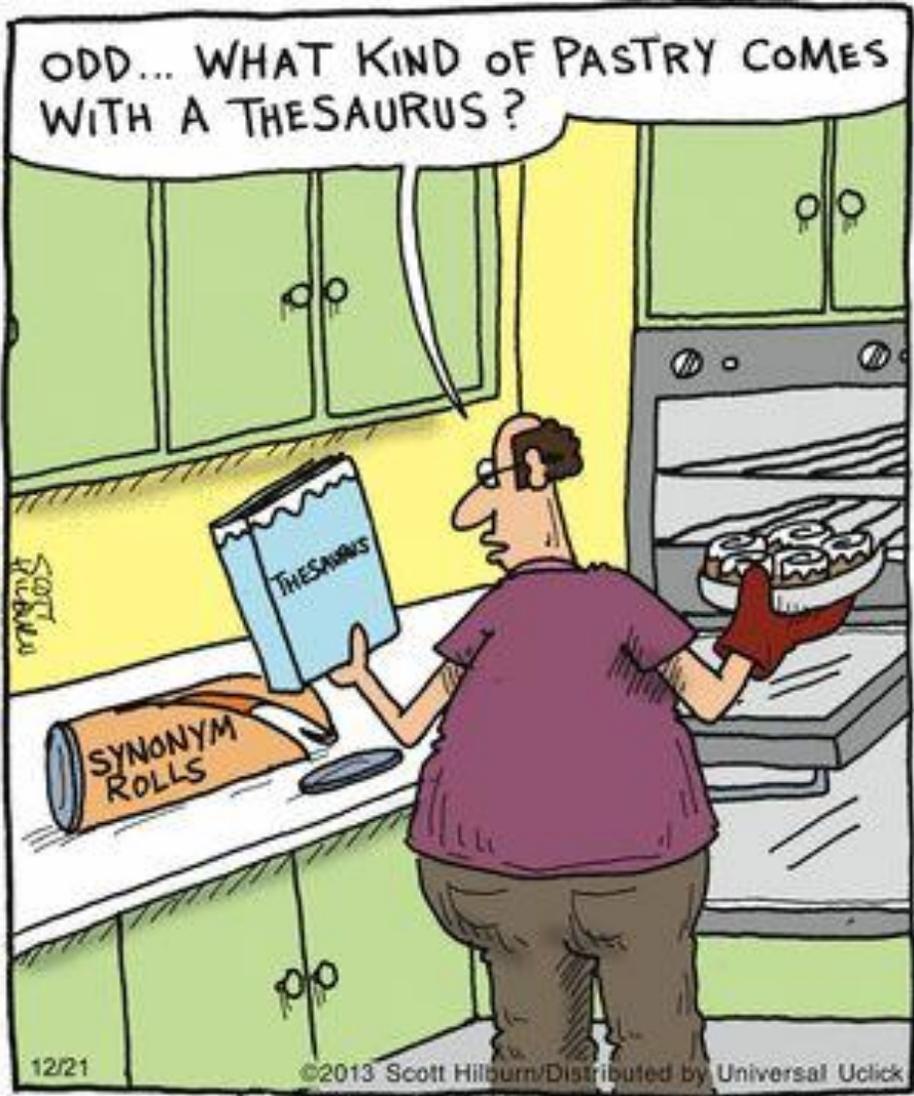
Current SFW Officers:

President: Jerry Keane — destiny716@comcast.net
Co-Vice Presidents: 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....

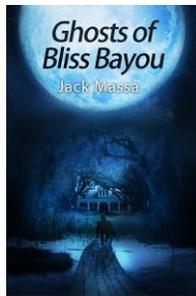
Please email me at Dgould497@aol.com and I will include your announcement in the letters. If you know of any upcoming contests, workshops, or conferences you plan to attend, or just want to inform the rest of us about one you like, please let me know. I would also like to know about other local writing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

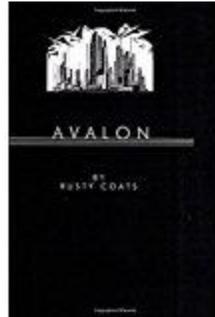
New Member Jack Massa writes fantasy and science fiction. His new book, *Ghosts of Bliss Bayou*, was released last November: <http://triskelionbooks.com/ghosts-of-bliss-bayou/>

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/>



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.

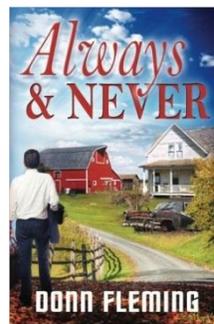
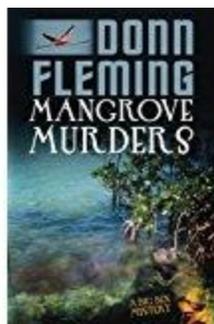
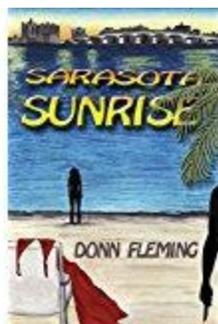


Featured as the first [Big Idea of 2017](#) on best-selling science fiction author John Scalzi’s website was a great nod.

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.

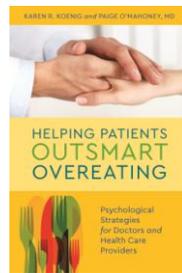


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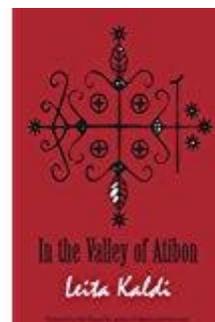
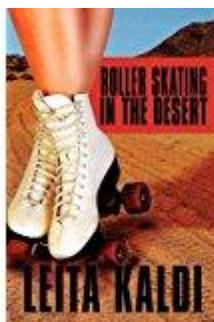
Member Elizabeth Stevens advised she sold some of her 22 books in December in Berlin, Germany, at the Book Fair at the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Modern Art. Her three *lives d’artiste* (texts with original etchings) were acquired by the Kunstbibliothek of the Staatliche Museum.

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.

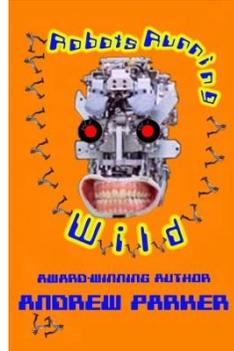
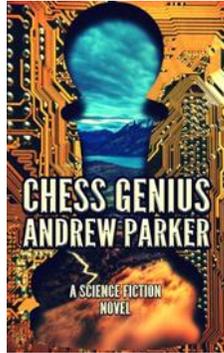
“Helping Patients Outsmart Overeating,” which Koenig co-authored with a physician, offers a new paradigm for doctors and health care providers who treat patients with eating and weight concerns. It describes how both providers and patients are frustrated by weight-loss plans and programs that fail long-term 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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**Previous Member Karl Bossi** advised his daughter, Debbie Bossi, (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0098149/>) was one of the Associate Producers of *KONG SKULL ISLAND*. Here is the trailer for the upcoming premier. The special effects have come a long way since the first King Kong movie. (copy and paste link)  
<https://youtu.be/-JoHiLDrJ3M>



## Kong: Skull Island ALL Trailer & Clips (2017)

youtu.be

Official "Kong: Skull Island" Movie ALL Trailer & Clips 2017 | Subscribe > <http://abo.yt/kc> | Tom Hiddleston Movie #Trailer | Release: 10 Mar 2017 | More htt...

**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.

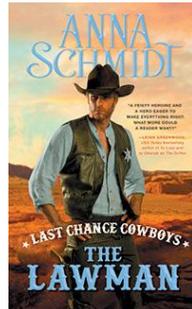
Meanwhile, wannabe novelist Jason M is busy writing faulty information into tech manuals for airplane-making machines at a factory in the Valley. One of a swarm of corporate saboteurs scattered around Los Angeles, he's bossed by a nameless, exacting mentor. But when he begins to have ethical doubts,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

**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.”



Book 3 in the series, *THE OUTLAW*, will be released in July 2017.

In September she will be speaking at the annual conference of Historical Writers of America in Albuquerque, NM.

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.

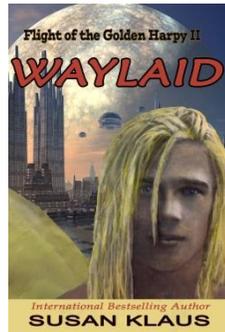
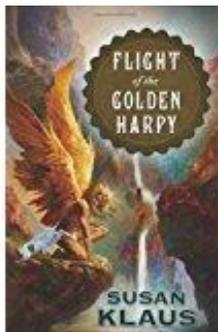
[https://www.amazon.com/Anna-Schmidt/e/B001HOMA1A/ref=sr\\_ntt\\_srch\\_lnk\\_2?qid=1477949179&sr=1-2](https://www.amazon.com/Anna-Schmidt/e/B001HOMA1A/ref=sr_ntt_srch_lnk_2?qid=1477949179&sr=1-2)

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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 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 #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.



Congratulations, Susan.

Member Bohdan O. Szuprowicz is pre-promoting his next E-Book currently in development “Nuclear Terror Geopolitics”. It will be published on Amazon Kindle in the near future.

This is a timely guidebook focusing on the greatest security threat facing the world today which results from growing proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear materials in numerous countries. While most governments and state organizations continue to reduce proliferation there is increasing probability of nuclear threat and blackmail from non-government insurgencies, terrorist, and liberation movements operating from proxy states.

A nuclear weapon is the ultimate weapon of destruction but it can also be perceived as the ultimate blackmail solution by an insurgent organization. There are about 40 regions throughout the world where significant population groups would prefer to live in an independent state of their own, rather than being a part of a larger political unit.

The internet, social media and explosive use of mobile devices, create an environment conducive to rapid development of insurgencies and financing. They also provide information about technologies and usage of nuclear materials, their whereabouts, and conversion into nuclear weapons of all kinds.

You can see some of the E-Books published by Bohdan Szuprowicz by clicking on the link below:

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

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

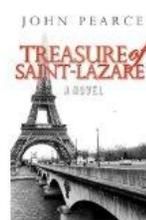
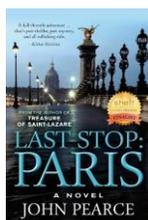
Here's the link to the Amazon page (it's KDP Select), where readers can find the Kindle, paperback and audio editions: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B017OTZN4W>.

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

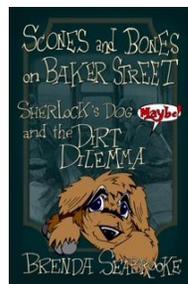
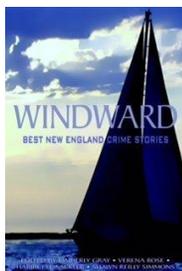
He will be attending a Book signing and Political event Saturday November 5, 2016 from noon until 3 pm in the Village of the Arts at 1004 & 1010 Tenth Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205. Stop in and buy a signed copy of either or both books.

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>



**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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And....

***** Member Dona Lee has returned from Italy** with exciting news.

“I really need everyone’s help and hopefully your co-operation in getting out the word on my **Hotel of the Arts** project. I am working toward purchasing a small hotel in Tuscany and hosting 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. The workshops include a one week stay, hotel and breakfast included in the heart of Tuscany. The project is available on Go Fund Me and soon on IndieGOGO. I hope you join me and follow the path to your passion and help me achieve mine. Ciao.

Village Voices opens May 5th, 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.

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.

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 or call 941-748-6865.

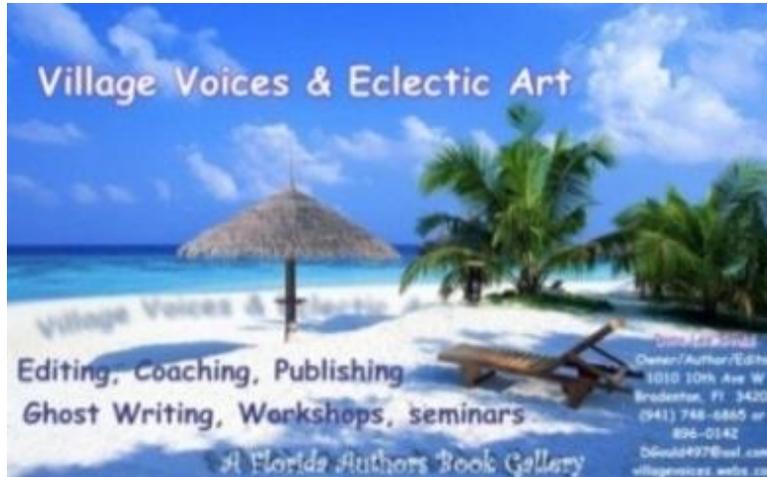
Want to advertise your published book? Your company? Your services?

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 write SFW Ad Query in the subject line

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

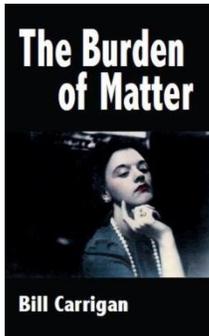


Florida Author's Book Gallery

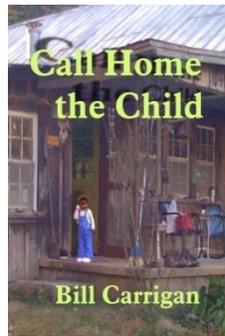


Contact me for help with editing, formatting for self publication, ghost writing, and more. Reasonable rates, local references.

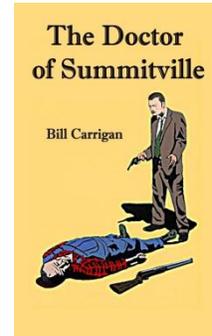
Read and enjoy the many works of our esteemed Bill Carrigan. All editions are newly edited and available on Amazon. (Search Books by Bill Carrigan) Read the first three chapters of any book for free. Kindle editions are 2.99 and paperbacks cost around \$10.00. Please review on Amazon after reading.



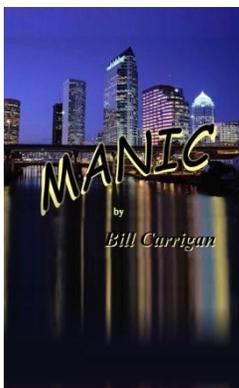
Anatomy of a WWII love affair in Washington D.C.



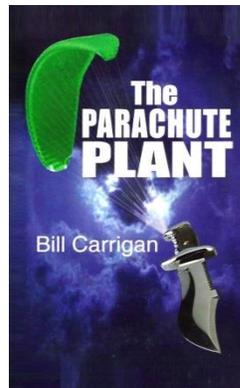
An interracial adoption in 1988 Virginia breaks bad.



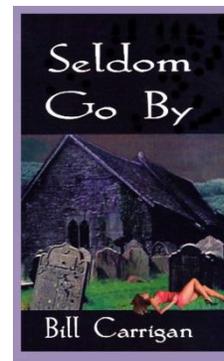
In 1927 a doctor's love affair leads to a death



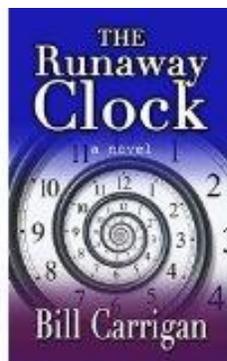
A young Tampa writer joins up with a killer to bring him down.



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

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, May 4th & May 18th, 2017

First & third Saturdays, at 4 pm May 6th, 2017 & May 20th, 2017

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

1010 10th Ave West, Bradenton.

For more information call Dona Lee at 748-6865

or email to 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 May 3rd, 2017. The members of each subgroup bring stories, poems, articles, or novel chapters for reading and critiquing. The SECOND meeting of the month May 17th, 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

Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime



HO! HO! HOMICIDE

May 6th, 2017, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

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

Contact *Wendy Dingwall* for more information: www.wendydingwall.com

wendyldwriter@comcast.net. The Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime email address is 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 May 23rd, 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](mailto: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 will host our first Youth Writers Group in the area starting in 2017. The group will be monitored by creative writing teachers but is comprised only of youth 18 and under. It is an open group. Stay tuned for more information and if you know any young writers, let them know.

## FICTION WRITER'S FORUM

### Critique group

6:30 pm Second Thursday of the month May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

6:30 pm Fourth Thursday of the month, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

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

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## Sarasota Authors Connection

### Marketing & Publishing for Writers

When: Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 6 pm  
Where: Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd. Sarasota, FL  
Speaker: Guest Speakers are Jane Crick and Mary Ann Burchell. They will discuss, "Covers, They Determine 90% of Book Sales. What You Should Know." Crick, a well known artist and illustrator, will discuss hiring an artist. Burchell will talk about formatting and design with a computer.

## A Writer's Group in Lakewood Ranch

### Scribes Club

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

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



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ABC - Artisans of Books



Marketing, PR, and Sales group

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

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

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

The membership fee is a flat \$25

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

Contact Brenda Spalding:

www.brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com

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

nancybuscher@yahoo.com

Applications are on the website:

ABCBooks4Children.com

#209 1532 US 41 Highway BP S

Venice FL 34293-1032

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

The 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 Meetup Group

Tuesday, May 8th, 2017

6:30 PM

Tuesday, May 22nd, 2017

Sarasota Alliance Church

7221 Bee Ridge Rd

Sarasota, FL

SRQ Horror, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy Writers.

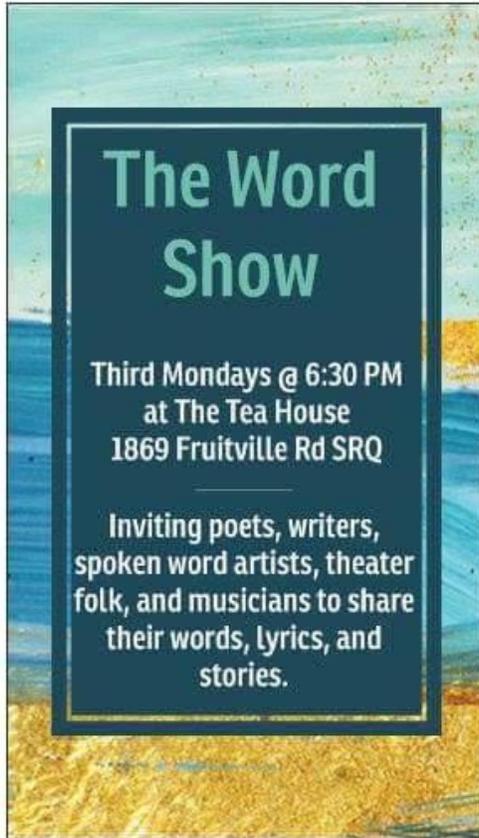
a meetup writers group in Sarasota for **in-depth critiquing.**

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.



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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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month 10:00 AM – noon.

May 18<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:GGhai@ArtPoetica.com)

**And the Poetry Group is now growing into 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

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New Florida Cinema Film Group

May 3rd, 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
May 17th, 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

Thursday, May 11th, 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

TWO NEW SCREEN WRITING GROUPS & and TWO Film Festival
Invites

SARASOTA'S SCREENWRITERS, STORYTELLERS AND CREATIVES

New screenwriting group, also covers storytelling.

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

For More Information Contact Richard @ richard@thescreenplayshow.com

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**Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup Group**

A new "Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup" meets every other Friday from 6-7 PM at The Reserve near Downtown Sarasota. The Reserve is a coffee shop located at 1322 N Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. The next meetings will be on May 5th and May 19th. For more info, please contact Ron Knight (Email: [AuthorRonKnight@aol.com](mailto:AuthorRonKnight@aol.com)) or visit the [Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup site](http://meetu.ps/s/.0/fjNxT/f). <http://meetu.ps/s/.0/fjNxT/f>

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**Women in Horror Film Festival** is holding a contest for horror screenplays. The winner will receive a 1-on-1 pitch session with major motion picture producer Marianne Maddalena! You may know her from Wes Craven's "Scream"! This is an AMAZING opportunity for scriptwriters.

The late deadline is July 1st. The website is [www.wihff.com](http://www.wihff.com) and screenplays can be entered directly at <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/WIHF>. Let them know if you have any questions.

**And an invitation to submit your Indie Film to The Austin Film Festival:  
AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL**

**SCREENPLAY AND DIGITAL SERIES COMPETITIONS**

*All submissions must be received or postmarked by 11:59PM PST on Monday May 15 **Late  
Deadline: May 15***

*Accepting short screenplays!*

Included with your entry fee at no additional cost are **Reader Comments** which are a brief, overall summary of the readers' notes. Yes, FREE feedback for all entrants! Not many competitions are up to this task, but we're crazy about writers and we're invested in your success.

And by entering in our **Sponsored Award Categories**, you could potentially be recognized by one of the influential organizations and production companies we've recruited. Sponsors will supply judges and/or review the top scripts in their respective categories. This year's sponsored award categories include:

**The Comedy Screenplay Award presented by Sony Pictures Animation**

**The Drama Screenplay Award presented by the Writers Guild of America, East**

**The AMC One-Hour Pilot Award**

**The Sci-Fi Screenplay Award presented by Skybound Entertainment**

**The Enderby Entertainment Award** (open to feature scripts that can be produced under \$10 million)

**Not Ready to Submit? Try Our Coverage Program First!**

AFF's Coverage Program provides a detailed constructive evaluation of your script for \$105 (feature script) or \$85 (teleplays and shorts). That's a small fee for a potential LIFE-changing return on your investment. To submit your coverage request, click [here](#).

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

**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](http://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](http://www.brandonwriters.com) and she will be happy to email the next meeting information. They are a children's book author critique group in Brandon, Florida, who primarily critique Picture and Chapter Books, Middle Grade, and YA. For meeting information, please use online 'contact' form at: [www.brandonwriters.com](http://www.brandonwriters.com)

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

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

**Peace River Writers** (a FWA affiliated group)  
Group Leader: Douglas Houck  
Type: Critique and Discussion  
Meets: First Saturday of every Month at 9:00 am  
New Location: Wyvern Hotel  
101 E. Retta Esplanade  
Punta Gorda, Florida

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

# Events

**A monthly event for all writers:**

## Brunch for Writers

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 11:30 am.

We meet at Pier 22 on the Manatee River the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month just to mix and chat with fellow writers. No agenda, just networking and chat in a great location with great people. Please feel free to join us. Drop me a line and let me know you are interested so I have a rough idea of how many are expected.

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

# Workshops & Classes

## Florida Writers Association

### Focus on e-Books.

#### Date & Location

- May 20, 2017
- Lakeside Terrace  
7880 Glades Road, Boca Raton FL 33433
- FWA has established a discounted room rate for attendees \$109 – \$129 depending on room type.

#### Schedule

- 8:30 AM Registration Opens
- 8:55 AM Opening Remarks
- 9:00 AM Workshop: Formatting the E-book by Elle Bryant Henry
- 10:00 AM Break
- 10:15 AM Workshop: Platform Options & Why by Milly Taiden
- 11:30 AM Lunch
- 12:30 PM Workshop: Cover Design by Robin Ludwig
- 1:30 PM Break
- 1:45 PM Marketing on Platforms by Kelli Smith
- 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 May 13, 2017. Onsite registration available.

#### Add an Interview!

Interviews are only \$25 and provide 15 minutes of one-on-one time with one of the presenters where you can discuss details about marketing and more. You must be registered for the Focus Day in order to sign up for an interview.

# Contests



## ~ Writers Wanted ~

[ABC-Artisans of Books](#) is sponsoring a 2017 Short Story Competition. It is open to Public and open to all in the continental U.S. Stories that advance to the finals will be included in the collection titled:

### *A Florida Christmas Album*

#### **Guidelines:**

- Categories - Mystery, suspense, crime, thriller, historical, romance, drama.
- Setting: a Florida location.
- Time: The season of Christmas.
- Minimum of 2 pages; no more than 5 pages (1,250 words)
- 8.5" x 11" paper, single sided with 1-inch margins
- Arial or Times Roman 12-point type - no handwritten entries
- All documents must be double-spaced
- Manuscript (story pages) to include story title in upper left corner and page number in the upper right corner of each page. No author name or contact information on the manuscript.
- Cover page to include: Story title, author name, address, city/state/zip, phone # and email address.
- No electronic entries will be accepted.
- All entries must be sent by United States Post Office to:

**[ABC-Artisans of Books](#)**

**511 Latitude Lane**

**Osprey, FL 34229**

**Fees:**

- \$25/1st entry / \$20 each additional entry.
- Any number of works may be submitted; each with a separate cover page and fee.
- Entry fees are non-refundable.
- Make checks out to: 'ABC'.
- A single check may be made to cover all entries shipped together.

**Requirements:**

- Entries must be original, in English, unpublished, unproduced and not accepted by any other publisher or producer at the time of submission.
- Stories on private blogs and websites are not considered published and are welcome.
- Submissions will not be returned.
- No corrections will be accepted once we receive the submission.
- ABC reserves the right to correct typos and grammatical errors. However, errors of 10 or more per page will be considered excessive and will invalidate the submission.
- Failure to adhere to the guidelines will invalidate the submission.
- By submitting an entry you are giving ABC one time, English-language rights to publish the work within the collection as a whole and does not prevent the author from selling or publishing the work elsewhere.
- Judges decisions are final.
- ABC reserves the right to limit entries to the first 150 submissions.

**Dates:**

- Promotion begins - March 15, 2017.
- Deadline for entries - June 1, 2017.
- Notification of finalists - Aug 30, 2017 (on ABC website, Facebook & Twitter).
- Winners will be notified by email or phone.
- Winners Announced at the 2017 - ABC-Awards Meeting; Selby Library, Sarasota, FL.

**Prizes:**

- 1st Place     \$300, plaque and free copy of the book: *A Florida Christmas Album*
- 2nd Place     \$150 and certificate
- 3rd Place     \$ 75 and certificate

Press Releases to major Florida newspapers and select Florida magazines will include the story titles and names of winners. This information will be included on any printed materials that go out promoting the book and will also be posted on the ABC-Artisans of Books website, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Names of the winners and story titles will be included inside the book: *A Florida Christmas Album*.

# 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 you 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

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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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Greetings, writers!

The new IWP Online Writing Summer (Iowa Writing Program) begins in three weeks!

We're looking forward to a summer of writing about social issues, identity, and community in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and plays. No experience is necessary: Our free online courses are open to everyone!

If you are studying English, we hope you'll join us! Creative writing offers an exciting way to practice and expand your skills. Your classmates in the course are from countries all over the world, and your teaching team is ready to support your progress. You will discover a welcoming and supportive community online!

Sign up for fiction writing and nonfiction writing:

Power of the Pen: Identities and Social Issues in Fiction and Nonfiction

May 15-July 3. Registration is free.

Sign up for poetry writing and playwriting:

Power of the Pen: Identities and Social Issues in Poetry and Plays

July 17-September 5. Registration is free.

Go online for more information and videos explaining the summer courses.

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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](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](http://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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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 2014, 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



This month I received someone's 2-cents worth of opposition to writing rules. We have been told over and over not to use alternative words for said or asked. It marks you as an amateur. But, there is always someone who whines, "It's soooo boring."

The rule came from traditional editors because when used consistently, the word disappears in the reader's mind. Our dialogue should be strong enough to inform the reader of the tone. When we use another word, it stands out and shouts, "LOOK AT ME." On rare occasions, you may want that, such as when someone whispers or yells to indicate volume. We are also admonished not to add in any adverbs (the "ly" words) as they indicate weak writing.

For those who hate rules, and don't mind being considered an amateur, we provide you with—550 alternative words for SAID.

550 Alternative Words for "Said"

AJ Barnett Updated on June 3, 2016

Since 1994, short stories by AJ Barnett have appeared in magazines, summer specials, international competitions, and available on Kindle.

He Said, She Said...

Is it your dream, your fantasy to write a bestseller? Do you have a book in your head, but 'said' gets in the way? Books are what drive most authors forward, words are what drive them mad. We might write short story collections, fan fiction, science fiction, lengthy novels, or romance, but if we write, then somewhere along the line we'll come up against the word 'said.' Does using it fill you with despair?

Repeating "he said, she said," can get annoying, but is it smart to use a different verb? There are abundant words to use instead, yet purists believe you're probably best not using them since readers pay such little attention to 'said' it effectively becomes invisible. If you use an alternative, it can become conspicuous; it can make a declaration that shouts, "Hey guys, look at me, I'm important!" And even worse, it can downgrade your writing as a whole and make it sound amateurish. If you look at published books, you'll find most authors steer clear of the alternatives.

A good practice to follow is that when it's understandable who is speaking the line of dialogue, you can remove the verb completely. It's surprising how much more professional your work will look if you do. In fact, let's make a rule: if it's obvious who's speaking, don't use anything.

On the other hand, sometimes you need to indicate who's speaking, and sometimes, the word 'said' can get a little old. In those cases, the following list of alternatives can help.

You should certainly only substitute 'said' if the line of dialogue needs accentuation or verbalization to convey the way it is said, but please remember that gorging your story with alternatives makes your work look amateurish. Use alternatives moderately!

Alternative Words for "Said"

For all that, if you're struggling to find that elusive perfect substitute, here's a list of words (in alphabetic order) that might work.

- A. Accepted, Accused, Acknowledged, Addressed, Admitted, Advertised, Advised, Affirmed, Agonized, Agreed, Alleged, Announced, Answered, Appealed, Arranged, Articulated, Asked, Asserted, Asseverated, Assumed, Assured, Attracted, Avered, Avowed
- B. Babbled, Barked, Bawled, Beamed, Beckoned, Began, Begged, Bellowed, Beseeched, Blubbered, Blurted, Bossed, Bragged, Breathed, Broadcasted, Burst
- C. Cajoled, Called, Carped, Cautioned, Censured, Cheered, Chimed in, Choked, Chortled, Chuckled, Circulated, Claimed, Comforted, Commented, Conceded, Concluded, Concurred, Condemned, Conferred, Confessed, Confided, Confirmed, Consoled, Contended, Continued, Cried out, Criticized, Croaked, Crooned, Crowed
- D. Declared, Decided, Defended, Demanded, Denoted, Dictated, Disclosed, Disposed, Disseminated, Distributed, Divulged, Doubted, Drawled
- E. Echoed, Emitted, Empathized, Encouraged, Ended, Entreated, Exacted, Exclaimed, Explained, Exposed
- F. Faltered, Finished, Fretted, Fumed
- G. Gawped, Giggled, Glowered, Grieved, Grinned, Groaned, Growled, Grumbled, Grunted, Guessed
- H. Held, Hesitated, Hinted, Hissed, Hollered, Howled, Hypothesized
- I. Imparted, Imitated, Implied, Implored, Importuned, Inclined, Indicated, Informed, Inquired, Insisted, Interjected, Invited
- J. Jabbered, Joked, Justified
- K. Keened
- L. Lamented, Laughed, Leered, Lied, Lilted
- M. Maintained, Made known, Made public, Marked, Mewled, Mimicked, Moaned, Mocked, Mourned, Mumbled, Murmured, Mused
- N. Necessitated, Noted
- O. Observed, Offered, Ordered
- P. Panted, Passed on, Pleaded, Pointed out, Pondered, Postulated, Praised, Preached, Premised, Presented, Presupposed, Probed, Proclaimed, Prodded, Professed, Proffered, Promised, Promulgated, Proposed, Protested, Provoked, Publicized, Published, Puled, Put forth, Put out
- Q. Quaked, Queried, Questioned, Quipped, Quavered, Quizzed, Quoted
- R. Reassured, Raged, Ranted, Reckoned that, Rejoiced, Rejoined, Released, Remarkd, Remonstrated, Repeated, Replied, Reported, Reprimanded, Requested, Required, Requisitioned, Retorted, Revealed, Roared
- S. Said, Sang, Scoffed, Scolded, Screamed, Seethed, Sent on, Settled, Shared, Shouted, Shrieked, Shrugged, Shuddered, Snapped, Snarled, Sniffled, Sniveled, Snorted, Sobbed, Solicited, Sought, Specified, Speculated, Spluttered, Spread, Squeaked, Stammered, Stated, Stuttered, Stressed, Suggested, Supposed, Swore
- T. Taunted, Teased, Testified, Thundered, Ticked off, Told, Told off, Touted, Trailed off, Transferred, Transmitted, Trembled, Trilled, Trumpeted
- U. Understood, Undertook, Upbraided, Urged, Uttered
- V. Verified, Vociferated, Voiced, Volunteered, Vouched for
- W. Wailed, Wanted, Warned, Wept, Went on, Wheedled, Whimpered, Whined, Whispered, Wondered
- X. Yawped, Yelled, Yelped, Yowled

Adverb, Action, or Details to Explain How Something Was Said

Okay, so despite the warning, you've decided you really do need to use another word for 'said.' You've found one you like and are determined to insert it in your text. In order to make your writing absolutely zing, you might want to go whole hog and add other words, gestures, details, or an adverb to convey or emphasize exactly how it was said.

The way it works is you choose whichever word for 'said' you fancy from the list above, then add a word or phrase after it from the list below. For example, "She promised, with a controlled smile," or "He remarked, with a gloomy sigh." But do not overdo it. Be very careful not to end up sounding amateurish.

Adverbs or Phrases to Use to Emphasize How Something Is Said

- A. Abruptly, Absently, Acidly, After a moment's reflection, Angrily, Apologetically, Approvingly, Artfully
- B. Broke in, Bemusedly
- C. Calmly, Caustically, Cheerfully, Complacently, Thoughtfully, Crossly
- D. Depressingly, Dryly
- E. Earnestly, Enthusiastically
- F. False cheerfulness, Friendly fashion
- G. Gently, Gruffly
- H. Happily, Hotly
- I. Impatiently, In a casual tone, In a chiding tone, In a courteous manner, In a curious tone, In a dry tone, In a flirtatious way, In a level tone, In a level way, In a perpetually tired voice, In a rasping tone, In a small panicky voice, In a soothing tone, In quiet amazement, Indulgently, Informed sassily, Innocently, Inquired doubtfully, Irritably
- J. Loftily, Loudly
- K. Made the effort to sound reassuring, Meaning the words more seriously than they sounded, Mentally shrugged
- L. Naturally, Nodded agreeably, Not wanting to sound pushy, Noncommittally
- M. Offhandedly, Optimistically
- N. Pleasantly, Politely, Politely smooth, Promised in a motherly/fatherly way, Prompted gently Promptly, Protested
- O. Quietly
- P. Reflectively, Roughly
- Q. Sadly, Sympathetically, Sarcastically, She went on, Sincerely, Smiled faintly, Smugly, Soberly, Softly, Sounded slightly brittle, Sparingly, Sternly,
- R. Tartly, Tautly, Teased softly, Tightly, Truthfully
- S. Uncertainly, Unexpectedly, Urgently
- T. Vaguely, Voice soft with affection
- U. Went on loyally, Wilfully misunderstood, With a controlled smile, With a fond look, With a gloomy sigh, With a note of relief, With a sad grimace, With a sad smile, With a sense of guilt, With a sigh of irritation, With burgeoning excitement, With conviction, With determination, With fire, With firm persistence, With gentle remonstrance, With graceful simplicity, With mock astonishment, With pleasure, With quiet empathy, With simple directness, Without sounding unduly curious, Wryly
- V. Xenophobically
- W. Yearningly
- X. Zealously

What Stephen King Has to Say About Adverbs for Dialogue Attribution:

The adverb is not your friend. [...]

Someone out there is now accusing me of being tiresome and anal-retentive. I deny it. I believe the road to hell is paved with adverbs, and I will shout it from the rooftops. To put it another way, they're like dandelions. If you have one on your lawn, it looks pretty and unique. If you fail to root it out, however, you find five the next day . . . fifty the day after that . . . and then, my brothers and sisters, your lawn is totally, completely, and profligately covered with dandelions. By then you see them for the weeds they really are, but by then it's — *GASP!!* — too late.

I can be a good sport about adverbs, though. Yes I can. With one exception: dialogue attribution. I insist that you use the adverb in dialogue attribution only in the rarest and most special of occasions . . . and not even then, if you can avoid it. Just to make sure we all know what we're talking about, examine these three sentences:

'Put it down!' she shouted.
'Give it back,' he pleaded, 'it's mine.'
'Don't be such a fool, Jekyll,' Utterson said.

In these sentences, shouted, pleaded, and said are verbs of dialogue attribution. Now look at these dubious revisions:

'Put it down! she shouted menacingly.
'Give it back,' he pleaded abjectly, 'it's mine.'
'Don't be such a fool, Jekyll,' Utterson said contemptuously.

The three latter sentences are all weaker than the three former ones, and most readers will see why immediately.

—Stephen King, *On Writing: A Memoir on the Craft*

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

Dona Lee
"Plotting Success"

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