

Plotting Success

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

July 11, 2017

Note this is the SECOND Tuesday as the regular date is July 4th and the Library will not be open.

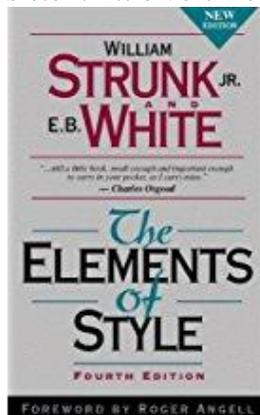
General Meeting

Selby Library Auditorium

1331 First St., Sarasota

6 pm

For the summer we will be holding workshops and writing discussions starting this month. The July 11th meeting of the Sarasota Fiction Writers will be a round-table discussion of the book often considered The Bible of writing - *The Elements of Style* by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White. Various topics in the book will be addressed for all to understand. Come learn about the book The Boston Globe described in this way: "No book in shorter space, with fewer words, will help any writer more than this persistent little volume."



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 July 19th, 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.

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

Index:	Page #
Sarasota Fiction Writers Monthly News	1/2
Writing humor	4
Bits & Pieces (Our member announcements)	5
Other Voices, Other Rooms (Other groups in the area)	
Florida Writers Association Manatee`	15
Florida Writers Association Sarasota	15
Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime	16
Braden River Memoir Group	16
AMI-Anna Maria Island Gulf Coast Writers	16
Pinnacle Academy Youth Writers	16
Fiction Writers Forum	17
Sarasota Authors Connection	17
Scribes Club of Lakewood Ranch	17
ABC Artisans of Books	18
The Renaissance Writers	18
Sarasota Creative Writers	18
SRQ Horror, Sci-fi & Fantasy	19
The Word Show	19
Wordier Than Thou	19
Selby Poets	20
Braden River Poets	20
Manasota Films Single Take Challenge	20
New Florida Cinema Films	21
Manasota Films	21
Screen Writers Circle	21
Sarasota Screenwriters, Story Tellers, and Creatives	22
Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup Group	22
Florida Writers Foundation	23
Florida Authors & Publisher	23
Writers to the north	24
Writers to the south—Peace River Writers	25
Events	
Brunch on Manatee	26
Workshops FWA—Focus on Marketing	27
Contests	
Fiction 500 top winners	28
Author Website	32
Second Annual Single Take Challenge	33
Lonestar	34

Indie Books B	35
Midlife Collage	36
Writer's Digest 4 th Annual Book Pipeline	36
Marketing Opportunities	38
Of Writing Interest	
University New Orleans Press	39
Selby Library July Calendar	39
Publishing Opportunities	40
Words of Writing Wisdom:	45

This IS Writer's Block



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.

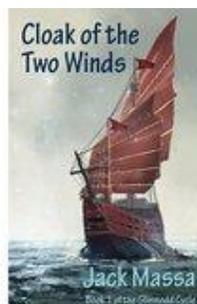
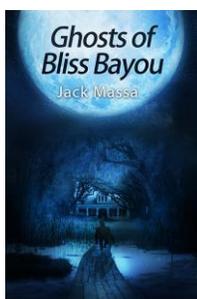
Please consider purchasing books written by your fellow members and support their efforts. Soon it will be your turn! Also, if the books are available on Amazon, write a four or five star review. (If you feel a member's book is lower than a four of five star, please just pass on the review. Amazon considers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

Good Reviews help sell books on Amazon.

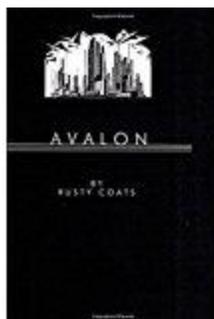
Member Howard Hammerman has signed a contract for the publication of his first novel, *Flying Blind* with publisher Bold Venture Press in Sunrise, Florida. The book will be released in October, 2017. Congratulations, Howard

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.

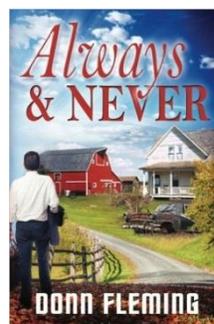
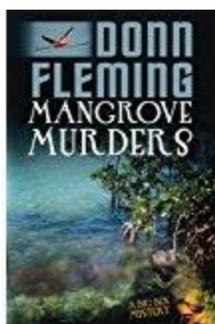
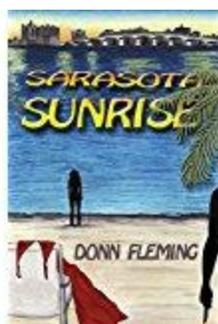


Featured as the first [Big Idea of 2017](#) on best-selling science fiction author John Scalzi’s website was a great nod.

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.

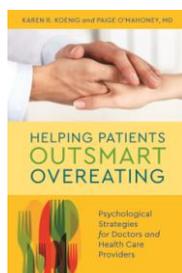


~ ~ ~

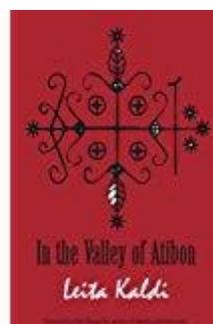
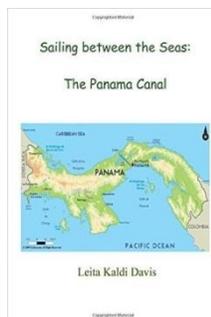
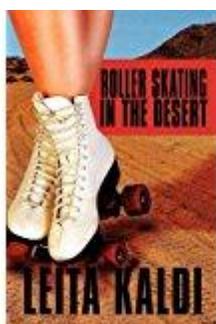
Member Elizabeth Stevens advised she sold some of her 22 books in December in Berlin, Germany, at the Book Fair at the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Modern Art. Her three *lives d’artiste* (texts with original etchings) were acquired by the Kunstbibliothek of the Staatliche Museum.

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.

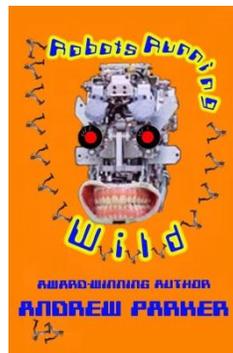
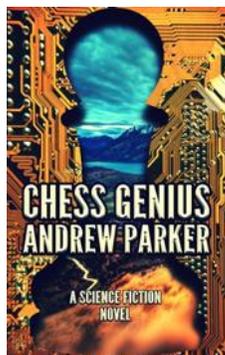
“Helping Patients Outsmart Overeating,” which Koenig co-authored with a physician, offers a new paradigm for doctors and health care providers who treat patients with eating and weight concerns. It describes how both providers and patients are frustrated by weight-loss plans and programs that fail long-term 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



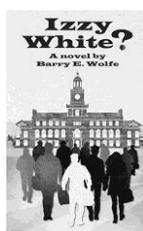
Member Andrew Parker, winner of the 2016 Sarasota Fiction Contest, announced he has two books available in paperback or as a download from Amazon.com. Andrew was the final guest on Culture Coast and spoke about his literary endeavors, his awards, his two published books and the five he is still working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

~~~~~

**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.



**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



*Scene Magazine* interviewed Elizabeth in their June issue written by Ryan Van Cleve. I have included the interview in Words of Wisdom along with a June blog by another local author, Joann Glimm.

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



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

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

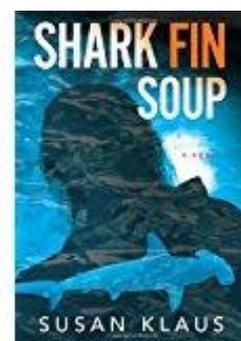
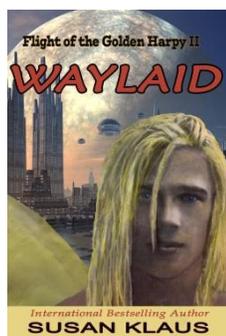
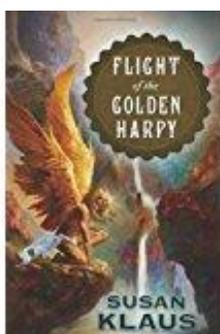
~~~~~

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



Member 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 offers special E-Guides for memoir writers in connection with Independence Day.

You can see some of our E-Guides on the subject by clicking on the link below:

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

You can always see details of his published E-Books by clicking on the link below:

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



~~~~~

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

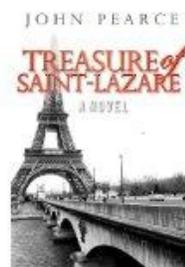
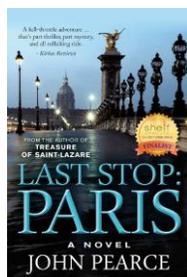
Here's the link to the Amazon page (it's KDP Select), where readers can find the Kindle, paperback and audio editions: <http://www.amazon.com/dp/B017OTZN4W>.

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>



~~~~~

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.

Quick Update: We are in negotiations with some major investors. I am holding off on the Indie GoGo until we have further commitments. Then we will be looking for those who wish to take our workshops and retreats.

Village Voices opens July 7th, 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.

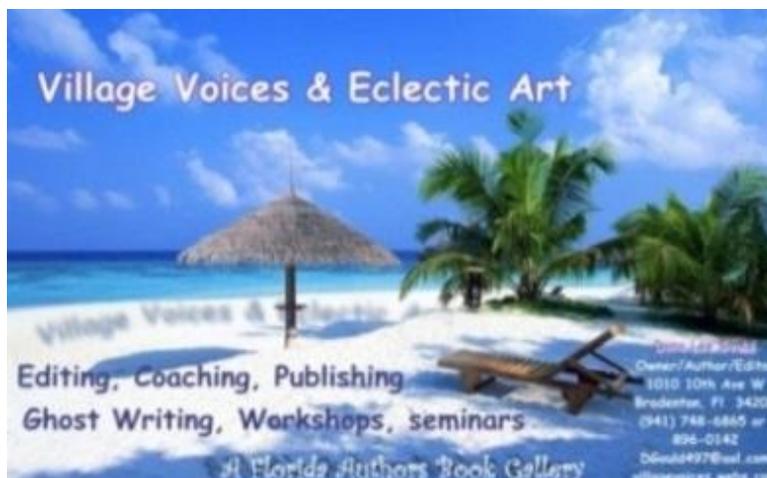
Want to advertise your published book? Your company? Your services?

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)

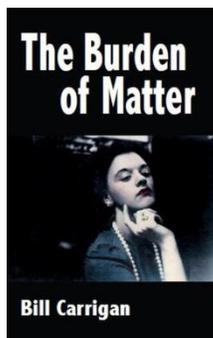


Florida Author's Book Gallery

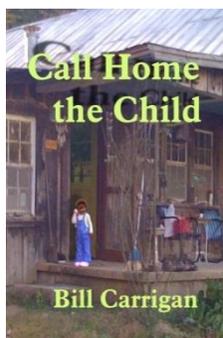


Contact me for help with editing, formatting for self publication, ghost writing, and more.
Reasonable rates, local references.

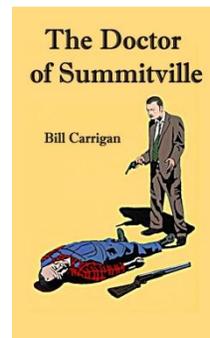
Read and enjoy the many works of our esteemed Bill Carrigan. All editions are newly edited and available on Amazon. (Search Books by Bill Carrigan) Read the first three chapters of any book for free. Kindle editions are 2.99 and paperbacks cost around \$10.00. Please review on Amazon after reading.



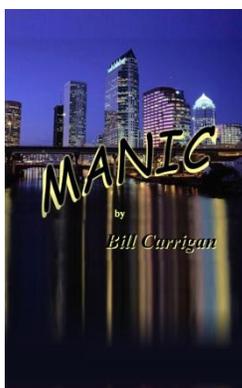
Anatomy of a WWII love affair in Washington D.C.



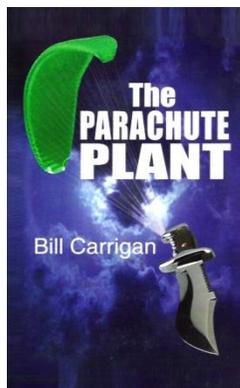
An interracial adoption in 1988 Virginia breaks bad.



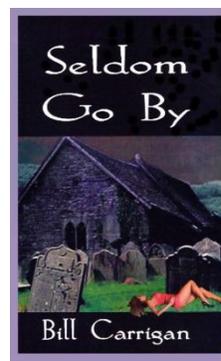
In 1927 a doctor's love affair leads to a death



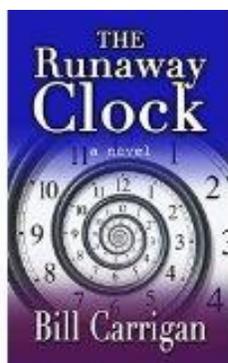
A young Tampa writer joins up with a killer to bring him down.



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 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, July 6th & July 20th, 2017

First & third Saturdays, at 4 pm July 1st, 2017 & July 15th, 2017

Please note the Saturday meeting is first this month!

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

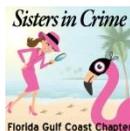
FWA Sarasota meets two evenings each month: on the FIRST and THIRD Wednesday. The training room of the Nokomis Volunteer Fire Department is located at the corner of US41 and Pavonia Road. Pavonia Road is the street that has the flashing emergency lights on US 41 south of Matthews-Currie Ford. Pavonia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

The FIRST meeting of the month is dedicated to subgroups of various genres, will be July 5th, 2017. The members of each subgroup bring stories, poems, articles, or novel chapters for reading and critiquing. The SECOND meeting of the month July 19th, 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

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

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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 July 25th, 2017. There is no fee.
 Call 941 727-6079 for more information.

~~~~~

### **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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

### **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 July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Books-a-Million, Gulf Gate Mall

6:30 pm Fourth Thursday of the month, July 27<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

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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](mailto:ACHaddha@aol.com) , Aroon Chaddha.



~~~~~

ABC - Artisans of Books



Marketing, PR, and Sales group

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

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

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

The membership fee is a flat \$25

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

Contact Brenda Spalding:

www.brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com

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

nancybuscher@yahoo.com

Applications are on the website:

ABCBooks4Children.com

#209 1532 US 41 Highway BP S

Venice FL 34293-1032

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

The 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, July 4th, 2017 6:30 PM

Tuesday, July 18th, 2017 6:30 PM

Sarasota Alliance Church

7221 Bee Ridge Rd

Sarasota, FL

SRQ Horror, Sci-Fi, and Fantasy Writers.

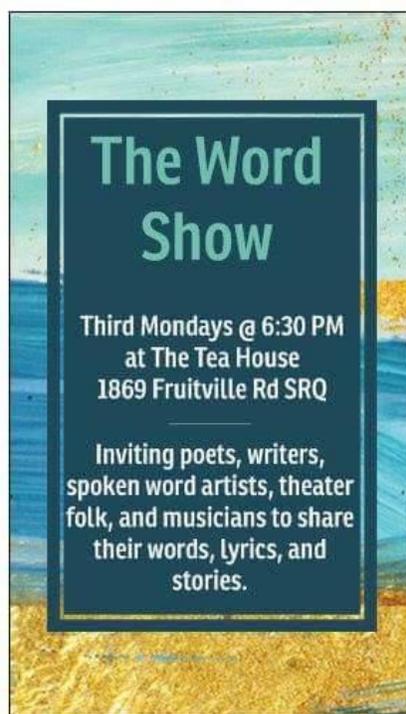
a meetup writers group in Sarasota for **in-depth critiquing**.

Please contact Patricia La Barbera for more information.

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

~ ~ ~ ~

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



This month July 17th, 2017

~~~~~

### **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.

July 20<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 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 with the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, the meeting has been cancelled. Please join them at the Banyan Café on July 20<sup>th</sup> or in August.

~ ~ ~

### **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.

~~~~~

New Florida Cinema Film Group

July 5th, 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 Coconut Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236
July 19th, 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, July 12th, 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

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

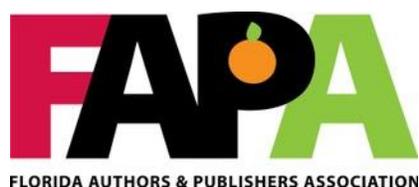
~~~~~

### **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 July 13<sup>th</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup>. For more info, please contact Ron Knight (Email: [AuthorRonKnight@aol.com](mailto:AuthorRonKnight@aol.com)) or visit the [Sarasota Film & Authors Meetup site](http://meetu.ps/s/.0/fjNxT/f). <http://meetu.ps/s/.0/fjNxT/f>

~ ~ ~ ~

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



### **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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:kirsten.rangel@myfapa.org)  
[lee.ann.mancini@myfapa.org](mailto:lee.ann.mancini@myfapa.org)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## For our writers to the north...

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

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

For those writers to our south....

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

Group Leader: Douglas Houck

Type: Critique and Discussion

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

New Location: Wyvern Hotel

101 E. Retta Esplanade

Punta Gorda, Florida

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

# Events

**A monthly event for all writers:**

## Brunch for Writers

July 16<sup>th</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. We are on the inside patio under cover, often around the firepit (not currently in use) overlooking the marina and Manatee River.

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

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

~~~~~

Workshops & Classes

Florida Writers Association

FOCUS DAY CONFLICT-DRIVEN STORIES

WHEN

July 22, 2017

9 AM - 4pm

Registration opens at 8:30 am



WHERE

Crowne Plaza Bell Tower

13051 Bell Tower Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33907

WHAT

All-day workshop

Four back-to-back presentations, followed by a panel
Includes continental breakfast, lunch, and beverages
Interviews with presenters available for an extra charge

REGISTER AT:

**FLORIDAWRITERS.NET/CONFERENCES/FOCUS-
CONFLICT-DRIVEN-STORIES/**

\$89 MEMBERS

\$109 Nonmembers



BRIA BURTON

Presenting on pre-plot
outline



**J KENT
HOLLOWAY**



CHERI ROMAN

Presenting on types of



KEN PELHAM

Presenting on climax

For more information: <https://floridawriters.net/conferences/focus-conflict-driven-stories/>

Contests

I usually provide you contest information on open contests. Recently I suggested a Fiction 500 contest. This contest has closed, but they offer it a few times a year. As it is Flash Fiction limited to 500 words, I wanted to share the top three winning entries so you would have an idea of what type of stories the judges are looking for. Maybe next time one of you will have the winning entry.

Stories are based on a photo. This quarter the photo was:



FIRST PLACE \$500 FOR MY GRANDFATHER, BY THOMAS SCHULTZ

It would be so easy to forget his past Josh thought, but it was the past that forced him into the future. Trains were a part of his life now. Not in the normal sense of stopping for a line of freight cars at the occasional crossing and counting their number as the iron rails bowed and the blackened wheels screeched. Nor that repetitive clatter everyone knows. Rather, trains defined the end of youth. At sixteen, Josh had become an adult.

As Josh surveyed the train yard from atop the gutted concrete building, he counted the watchmen and noted the routes they took as they swept through the yard. The best place to gain access to an open car appeared to be the closest set of rails – the ones where cars intended for the next outgoing train were positioned. A perimeter fence provided cover and the ditch between the fence and the tracks appeared to have long, sloping sides.

The sun rose higher in the clear sky. Heat whipped up the breeze sending the sharp sting of diesel and treated wood his way. The odor gave him second thoughts, but he dismissed them. His mother always said he fussed too much over the smell of things. That was before. It was time to face the unpleasantness of life. The thought triggered a memory of school when a kid vomited in

front of the boy's bathroom. The janitor spread some kind of powder over the area that stank worse than the vomit. Class was about to begin and he had to pee so bad it hurt. He tried to jump over, but slipped and landed in the middle of the biggest chunks. He thought he'd never get the smell out of his favorite jeans.

School. What of school now. He couldn't worry about that. There were more important things to think about like food and what to use for toilet paper. He needed to learn about commitment and accepting the consequences of his decisions. There was no replay in life. At the end of the day, the day was finished. If he didn't accomplish what he set out to do, there was no second chance; no reboot to step back in time and try again. Each moment mattered. He now belonged to the school of life.

From his backpack, he pulled out the papers approved by the court the day before. According to the words in the documents, he was an emancipated minor. He could now live out his grandfather's story – to ride the rails and find his destiny. The hours he spent building his YouTube followers finally paid off. He picked up his camera and panned the yard.

"To my faithful followers, today is the first day of my new life and you are here with me to share in the experience. I promised I would follow the legacy of my grandfather once I reached a million subscribers. Enjoy the ride."

***Judges' comments:** "For My Grandfather" is a complete story from beginning to end, which is not easy to achieve considering the short word count. Rather than internal musings that don't go anywhere, we're exposed to a main character who sweeps us into his journey. The story is current and has some zeitgeist, yet also ties in former generations and thoughts of yesteryear.*

SECOND PLACE \$200

MAKE-BELIEVE, BY DANIELA PULLIN

The train horn blares as I watch it roll past and into the rail yard. There's so little between me and the rails. A quick drop; a few bare patches of grass and gravel; a short fence. It would be so easy, to climb on a train and leave.

I eye the jump down. It's not more than 10 feet; less if I hang off the edge first. I'm just gearing myself up to do it when a small voice calls from behind.

"What're you doing, Jackie?"

I turn and see my baby sister perched on the rock behind me, wearing a fierce frown and her favorite magenta leggings.

"How long have you been there?" I didn't hear her climb up. I scan the ground quickly to make sure my cigarette stubs aren't in sight.

"I just got here. Do you want to come play dolls? June's busy and Cici's gone out."

I hesitate. Do I want to? No. But will I? "Yes, ok."

We trudge back to the house, Daisy skipping ahead a few steps and singing as she goes. Her voice is squeaky-soft and she gives a slight giggle every time she forgets a word. It makes me smile. "Lavender's blue, dilly dilly..."

"When's Dad home?" I ask. Daisy glances over her shoulder at me and shrugs, then keeps on singing. He travels so much I barely know his work address, let alone his schedule, and I'm almost nineteen. I don't why I thought she'd know.

Daisy's Barbie dolls are scattered across a blanket on the front lawn. The blond one with a bald spot and half her hair hacked off used to be mine. Most of them did. Mine, then Cici's, then June's and now Daisy's.

"Mom inside?" I fiddle with the blond doll's shoes as I speak, popping them off and on, off and on.

Daisy nods. "June's speech therapist is here."

Ah, of course. It is Friday after all.

We play for a while. I mostly just redress the dolls in the clothes Daisy hands to me and Daisy chatters along, spinning out their lives. She doesn't need me for that part; she just likes to have someone nearby.

Light laughter sneaks out the front window and I look around to see Mom and June open the door. I watch them smile and wave to the speech therapist as she walks past us and down the drive.

Mom's smile slips the moment I hear the car door shut, her face settling gently into its usual tired lines. The setting sun glints off the new gray hairs sprouting at her temples.

She glances over. "Oh, Jack. There you are. Can you get Daisy and June in the bath while I start dinner?"

"Sure." I force a smile of my own. "Come on, Dais. Let's get these dolls inside." I bend to gather the blanket and as I stand I hear it once more -- a train whistle fading into the distance. It would be so easy.

***Judges' comments:** "Make Believe" sets a scene and a tone and shows strong character complexity in a short amount of space. The story feels timeless and has an air of Weltschmerz. Make Believe shows the duplicity of life, and the common tension between responsibility and longing, as well as the tension between being in the moment, and being somewhere else.*

~~~~~

**THIRD PLACE \$100**

**SUNDOWN, BY KELLY BARGABOS**

Bobby watched the sun sink a little lower. This was his favorite time. Passing the hours, trying to find something to do, pretending like he was normal, the waiting for something to change, was done, at least for another day. But he dreaded what came after the sun left. This is when he really missed them. The after-dinner hours, watching TV, eating popcorn, fighting over

the remote. He missed all of it.

Bobby fingered the wad of bills in his pocket. Thinking about how easy it would be to spend it. He could do it in two days. Hell maybe one day between cigarettes and food. Easy. But he hadn't yet. He'd been thinking about how to spend it ever since that night Jim let him crash at his place. Jim was passed out cold, face down on the couch, when Bobby looked up and noticed a loose ceiling tile above him. He grabbed a chair and stood on it without making a noise. Bobby was afraid to breathe as he moved the loose tile and waved his hand until he felt a thick wallet hidden there. He looked inside and counted fives, tens, twenties. He took the money, shoved it in his pocket, put the wallet back and slowly moved the tile back into place. Still not breathing he moved towards the door, opened it and ran without closing it or looking back.

Now he was trying to figure out what to do with it. Every time he had called his sister collect over the last five years, she'd say, Come home. You can stay with me. You don't have to go back to school. You can get your GED, a job. Nobody's mad at you. But it wasn't that easy. Wasn't easy to admit that he was wrong. That it wasn't better out here.

He came looking for his real parents. He thought they would be happy to have the kid back that was taken away so many years ago, that he would fit in better with them than he did at home. But that didn't happen. Everywhere he went he felt like he wasn't enough. His so-called friends only wanted him around because he knew how to drive and he would wait for Lacey at the truck stop until she'd earned enough money. And the gang he'd let beat him black and blue so he'd be one of them acted like they didn't know him when the cops came. They let him rot in jail by himself for stealing that stereo until his sister bailed him out. Someday he would get his own place, with a garage for his tools and a yard.

The sun was gone now.

He was tired.

Tired of running.

Tired of not working.

Tired of being a scumbag.

Tired of this life.

Bobby climbed down the rusted fire escape, hopped to the ground and started walking. He didn't stop until he got to the bus station and bought a ticket for home.

**Judges' comments:** *"Sundown" gets in the mind of the main character and engages the reader in thinking about the main character's options and what he should or should not do. The author takes the reader through several periods of time and along on a journey that ends, or starts, with a decisive choice at the end.*

Hope you enjoyed these flash fiction pieces. Tight, descriptive, and emotional.

## 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)**

~~~~~

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

~ ~ ~

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.

~~~~~

## 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)

~~~~~

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.

~ ~ ~ ~

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.**

~ ~ ~ ~

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

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

~~~~~

# 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

Sarasota County Public Libraries

## SELBY PUBLIC LIBRARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS — July 2017

1331 First St., Sarasota, FL 34236  
(941) 861-5000  
[www.scgov.net/library](http://www.scgov.net/library)

### MONTHLY CALENDAR OF I

**July 5, 19 - SOCRATES CAFÉ (10:30 am, CR)**

Socrates Café are gatherings around the world where people from different backgrounds get together and exchange thoughtful ideas and experiences.

**July 5 - ALL ABOUT PIANOS: THE INSTRUMENTS, GREAT PIANO MUSIC AND COMPOSERS, AND THE GREAT PIANISTS (10:30am, JGA)**

John Goodman, Professor Emeritus, Boston University, presents a six-part series. This week: *The Evolution of the Piano*. Sponsored by the Sarasota Music Archive.

**July 10 - BUILD A BETTER WORLD: FLORIDA FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING (10:30am, JGA)**

This class will teach you the basics of the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program. We will show you the nine principles that can help you have a successful, beautiful landscape while protecting our natural resources. Questions? Please call 941-861-9900. Instructor Wilma Holley, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Specialist. Presented by Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability.

**July 11 - MANASOTA-SCORE BUSINESS CLASS (5pm, JGA)**

Manasota-SCORE hosts specialized business workshops. This week: *Pitch Practice*. Registration at: [manasota.score.org/localworkshops](http://manasota.score.org/localworkshops)

**July 12 - ALL ABOUT PIANOS (10:30am, JGA)**

John Goodman, Professor Emeritus, Boston University, presents a six-part series. This week: *Piano Music from 1725 to 1800*. Sponsored by the Sarasota Music Archive.

**July 17 - BUILD A BETTER WORLD: GROWING EDIBLES CLASS (10:30am, JGA)**

Learn to grow fresh, healthy produce in your own backyard. This course will include advice for successful vegetable gardening in southwest Florida. Presented by Master Gardener Dennis Heidenis through Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability.

**July 18 - BUILD A BETTER WORLD: ENERGY UPGRADE WORKSHOP CLASS (5:30pm, JGA)**

Sarasota County Sustainability is offering free Energy Upgrade workshops for those who are interested in learning more about how to save energy and water in their homes. Part of our Build a Better World summer learning programming. Registration at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/energy-upgrade-workshop-registration-34477535236](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/energy-upgrade-workshop-registration-34477535236)

**July 19 - ALL ABOUT PIANOS (10:30am, JGA)**

John Goodman, Professor Emeritus, Boston University, presents a six-part series. This week: *Piano Music from 1800 to 1850*. Sponsored by the Sarasota Music Archive.

**July 25 - CINE SELBY (5pm, JGA)**

This month: Akira Kurosawa's *Dreams* (Japan, 119m, 1990, Warner Brothers)

**July 26 - ALL ABOUT PIANOS (10:30am, JGA)**

John Goodman, Professor Emeritus, Boston University, presents a six-part series. This week: *Piano Music from 1850 to the Present*. Sponsored by the Sarasota Music Archive.

**July 26 - BUILD A BETTER WORLD: PLANNING OUR COMMUNITY (2pm, JGA)**

If you had a blank map, how would you design your community? The presentation will also include a hands-on community design experiment. Class size is limited to 35 participants; please RSVP to [neighbor@scgov.net](mailto:neighbor@scgov.net).

**July 27 - COLOR My WORLD - ADULT COLORING CLUB (2pm, CR)**

Join us for a fun and unique way to unwind and express your creativity with the Adult Coloring Club at Selby Library. All supplies will be provided. Artistic talent is not required. Refreshments are included.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Tilton

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)

JGA - 1st Floor Goldbart Auditorium CR - 2nd Floor Conference Room SMA - Sarasota Music Archive  
FOL - Friends of Selby Public Library \* Motion Picture Association of America Rating

Library Hours: Monday-Thursday/ 10-8  
Friday & Saturday/ 10-5, Sunday Closed

All programs are free and open to the public and are subject to cancellation or change without notice. Parking and seating are limited

## 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)

~~~~~

Agents

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

* * * * *

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 .

~ ~ ~

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

~~~~~

This month I have Two offerings for Words of Wisdom. The first is Jo Ann Glimm's blog entry from June. The second is an article from Sarasota Scene Magazine written by Ryan VanCleve interviewing our Elizabeth Sims. I hope you enjoy them both.

## Drawing from the Emotional Well

*June 13, 2017*

*Jo Ann V. Glim*

The adage, "The pen is mightier than the sword" made its debut in Novelist/Playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton's play *Cardinal Richelieu* in 1839.

Nearly a century later General Douglas MacArthur barked, "Whoever said *the pen is mightier than the sword* obviously never encountered automatic weapons."

With the power of the pen, writers have the ability to calm, quell, motivate, incite and even curb the use of force. This is why it's so important for us to use our gift wisely and responsibly.

Writers are like a prism. We come with a variety of talents and add enough sparkle to make a topic interesting without changing its meaning or purpose. Whether we write prose, or fiction, non-fiction or manuals, writers have the ability to entertain, teach, and share:

- Values,
- Cultural differences,
- History
- Foibles, and
- Facts.

It's important that we do not embellish or manipulate our writings unless the audience understands it's for entertainment purposes and even then, most people do not consider that which is crass, crude, or dangerous as entertaining. When Orson Wells presented "War of the Worlds" in the 1940s, listeners truly thought the United States was being invaded. Which makes this point, just because we have the connections and talent to do something, should we?

This is why it's so important for us to use our gift wisely and responsibly.

Writers, have the ability to place readers:

- In the midst of the action.
- Within an illusion of the writer's choosing.
- In a state of passion, continuing to flame it, until (the writer decides) its time to snuff it out.

This is why it's so important for us to use our gift wisely and responsibly.

We are the champions of the visionaries and the voice of the downtrodden. We observe the world and all its nuances and strive to touch the universal chord in all of human kind. This is why it's so important for us to use our gift wisely and responsibly

Americans are protected by the First Amendment which gives writers the authority to speak Truth to Power, however, writers, beware. There are consequences for what we write. It is the audience that will determine if we've served them honestly. This is why it's so important for us to use our gift wisely and responsibly.

Wherever you are in your writing journey, I wish you many years of success.

*Jo Ann V. Glim*

~~~~~

And our second entry for WOW is the article from Scene Magazine featuring our Member Elizabeth Sims.

ARTS & CULTURE

Literary Scene

By Scene | June 1, 2017

BY RYAN G. VAN CLEAVE

CRIMES IN A SECOND LANGUAGE, BY ELIZABETH SIMS

It's rare that I get to sit down with an author whose book I'm reviewing, so when Elizabeth Sims' terrific new novel came across my desk, I decided to take this opportunity to learn more about this prolific local author. I already knew her fine book on writing *You've Got a Book in You: A Stress-Free Guide to Writing the Book of Your Dreams*, and I've read other titles of hers as well (her *Rita Farmer Mystery Series* and the *Lillian Byrd Crime Series*), so I knew Sims had a lot to offer. Plus, I've met her a few times and she's simply a hoot.

But first, let me offer a few words about the book. *Crimes in a Second Language* is a stand-alone mystery about a retired schoolteacher couple (Elnice and Arthur) who leave the Midwest for the gritty urban landscape of California. Arthur is pretty much sidelined by emphysema, but Elnice more than makes up for things. She cooks up a friendship with a young cleaning woman named Solita, and the two run into plot aplenty. I won't say more about what happens next since the turns and spins through the darker issues of urban life that follow are part of the fun, but I will say this: Sims is a master wordsmith. From her spot-on dialogue to her well-drawn female characters to her ability to propel a plot along at Tom Clancy speed while still using a lovely F. Scott Fitzgerald lushness of language, she's giving the reader a lot to admire.

HOW MUCH RESEARCH DID YOU DO FOR CRIMES IN A SECOND LANGUAGE?

It's funny, it's sort of like my life was my research for this novel. It's based on some experiences my aunt and uncle had when they lived in southern California, as well as my experiences doing

technical writing when I was much younger, along with me hanging out with movie-business friends in Hollywood. The kernel for the story was the relationship between my aunt and her Mexican-born cleaning woman. My aunt, who was a retired kindergarten teacher, couldn't speak Spanish, and Manuela couldn't speak English, and my aunt got tired of running out to get a neighbor to translate. So she offered to teach Manuela English, and Manuela said yes. Soon enough my aunt found out that not only could Manuela not speak English, she couldn't read and write very well in her own language because she'd only gone to school through the fifth grade in Mexico. She started teaching Manuela the things she should have learned in school, basic subjects. Then my aunt learned that Manuela's husband didn't like all this learning his wife was doing. And I wondered, what if the husband had some nefarious reason to want his wife to remain ignorant? And I started working out a story from there.

HOW DIFFERENT IS IT TO WRITE A STAND-ALONE BOOK VS. A BOOK IN A SERIES?

I found it surprisingly easy because I didn't have the constraints of having to use characters and settings that I'd already built. It was also fun to write a novel entirely in third person, though I did use third-limited most of the time, which I seem to prefer as a reader.

WHO ARE SOME OF YOUR LITERARY HEROES?

When I was very young, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Charles Dickens, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Mark Twain, then moving into Flannery O'Connor, Joyce Carol Oates, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Joan Didion. Those are the main ones that strike me at the moment. There are a few contemporary authors I've especially admired, but I can't put them into hero category yet!

IN ALL OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A WRITER, WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU THE MOST?

A few years ago, I received a letter from a somewhat well-known prison inmate (not a violent criminal) who wanted me to collaborate with him on his life story. I got in touch with a journalist who had written about him, and the journalist advised me to keep away from this guy at all costs, which confirmed my own feeling, so I politely declined. I've had readers proposition me romantically, which is also surprising. On a broader level, the speed of the whole digital publishing revolution has been shocking.

HAS THE DIGITAL PUBLISHING REVOLUTION BEEN GOOD FOR WRITERS?

Such a complicated issue, because it has to do with both publishing and retail. For established writers of mainstream, traditionally published books, the digital revolution has been a mixed bag. Consumer choice used to be limited by how many books publishers could print and ship to stores, and how much shelf space stores had for books. If your books were in the stores, you could do well. But digital publishing and virtual retail have made it possible for anyone to put a book out into the world for free — and promote it. Because of all the new competition, many publishers cut their ties with some of their established, mid-level authors, and all authors are now competing for readers. For outsider authors, the digital publishing revolution has been a godsend. If you can build a following, you can write and sell and control every aspect of your business.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU, WRITING-WISE?

I'm working on new fiction and also incubating ideas for nonfiction. I'd like to write about my father, who died in a lifesaving attempt that went wrong many years ago. It was a complex situation involving a number of other people, and not everything will ever be known about what happened. I want to honor my dad and what he and his friends did. This will involve quite a bit of research. But that's one of the projects on my bucket list!

* * *

Let me just seal the deal on convincing you to try out *Crimes in a Second Language*. The one-sentence pitch? "A retired Midwestern schoolteacher and her Latina housecleaner join forces to eliminate a mysterious enemy, erase the past, and unleash the power of literacy." What more can you ask for?

Give this new novel a shot today, and then move on to one of Sims' series, her writing instruction book, her short story collection, or her fine articles in *Writer's Digest*. You won't be disappointed. We're lucky to have such a talented writer — and teacher of writing! — in our own literary backyard. Make your summer memorable by taking the time to introduce yourself to the work of this first-rate writer. ElizabethSims.com

* * *

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

Dona Lee
"Plotting Success"

~~~~~