

# WLOV Newsletter

## December 2019

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**WLOV Holiday Party**

**Wednesday, Dec 11**

**9-11 am**

**Laurel Manor Rec Center**

## WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, December 11** - Annual WLOV Breakfast Christmas Party. Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 - 11 am. Food and fun with Rik Mitchell, “The Game Showman,” who will entertain us with Trivia Games.

**Wednesday, Jan 8, 2020** – General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am.  
"Hook Your Readers from Page One" Speaker from Lake Sumter College

**Sunday, Jan 26** – Central Florida Book & Author Expo, Eisenhower Rec Center, 11 am – 4 pm

**Wednesday, Feb 12** – General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. "How Writers Win with Podcasting" - Diann Schindler, Ph.D., Professional Podcaster

**Friday, Feb 14** – Love Story Public Readings, Odell Rec Center, 6 – 8 pm

**Wednesday, March 11** – “Writing Romance Scenes: What’s Permissible?” - Donna Jennings, presenter at 2019 FWA Conference under “Dr. J.”

## Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin

[drlarry437@gmail.com](mailto:drlarry437@gmail.com)



As the year winds down, it’s nice to think of all the club has accomplished in 2019. For a list, see President Paula Howard’s Message on page 3. And to learn more about her, see my interview on page 10.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> we have our annual breakfast meeting, with entertainment from a trivia professional, Rik Mitchell. (Paula asks that you wear a holiday sweater for a group picture – see her request on page 4). On January 26 we have our annual Book Expo, which promises to be an extravaganza. Even if not exhibiting, plan to attend, and invite your friends, neighbors, relatives in town, and anyone else with an interest in books. We’ll have plenty on display.

## Help Wanted

2020 begins my fourth year producing this newsletter. It has grown in scope and size. To continue producing all the news about our club members on a regular basis, some help will be needed. I am seeking volunteers to help in several areas.

- Collecting all news articles about club members each month, photocopying and placing them in a single file (pdf or Word) for our website. The volunteer for this project will be the go-to person for members who have any news item published about their writing.
- Collecting information on all new books by our members, along with Amazon links and blurbs. The volunteer for this project will be the go-to person for members who have recently published a book. Once compiled on a monthly or semi-monthly basis, we can update the WLOV Book Catalogue.
- Conducting an interview with a WLOV member about his or her background, career, and books published. I have been doing these in-depth interviews for 3 years, via email with the interviewee. If interested, please first check out some interviews in prior newsletters ([www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org), under Newsletters) to see how they are presented, then contact me before starting the interview.

# President's Message



Hello Everyone!

Well, we made it! Another year almost in our rearview mirror! Was it a good year for you?

It certainly was a busy one...WLOV enjoyed some of its best programs ever.

## Here's a recap of 2019 programs:

- January – “How to Format Your Book Yourself”
- February – “How to Write with a Partner”
- March – “How to Shoot a Movie on Your iPhone”
- April – “Meet Your Character Fair”
- May – “The Gong Show: How to Explain Your Book in One Minute”
- June – No Program, Just Summertime
- July – Royal Palm Murder Mystery Train Ride
- August – “Meet All the Villages Writing Clubs”
- September – “Ten Things a Writer Needs to Know”
- October – “Cyber Security and You”
- November – “How to Write Great Dialog”
- December – Holiday Party

## Here's a recap of WLOV activities during the year:

1. Established an online website for registration and renewals: [www.WLOVmembership.com](http://www.WLOVmembership.com) (see screen shot, next page)
2. Received an Employer Identification Number (EIN), which allows us to apply for non-profit status
3. Were honored as seven members received wins by the Florida Writers Association. WLOV founder Mark Newhouse was awarded top prize -- Best Book of The Year -- for *The Devil's Bookkeepers Book 1: The Noose.*; Rita Boehm won the Best Children's Book award for *Bluebirds in the Garden.*
4. Under the guidance of Jack Hayes, established a great committee to organize and promote our Central Florida Book Expo coming on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at Eisenhower Recreation Center. Jack has also put together an excellent “Tips on Marketing” your books at Expo and other venues; you can read it online at [http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/wlov-expo\\_2020-\\_tips\\_on\\_book\\_marketing\\_-\\_11-15-2019.pdf](http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/wlov-expo_2020-_tips_on_book_marketing_-_11-15-2019.pdf)
5. Established an official email address: [WLOVwriters@gmail.com](mailto:WLOVwriters@gmail.com)
6. Established a Members Lending Library for reading and reviewing each other's books
7. Held monthly Author Book Signings at Whispering Oaks Winery, thanks to the work of Ann Heathman and Rita Boehm

8. Arranged for authors' books to be sold locally at Colony Plaza's All-Booked Up thanks to Bill Pullen
9. Arranged for author articles to be written in the Daily Sun monthly magazine thanks to Dan Kincaid
10. Changed our monthly meeting to the second Wednesday of the month starting at 9:00 am, and doubled the size of our meeting room to accommodate more members
11. Increased our membership to 162 and counting.
12. Updated our By-Laws to reflect our current status
13. Arranged Professional Author Photos to be taken by professional photographer Bob Hurley.
14. Voted in a new President-Elect and Secretary, Paul Bourassa and Donn Dears, respectively, who will be installed on December 11 at our Holiday Party. Phyllis Walters, treasurer and I will also be installed for our second consecutive terms.

Whew! Lots got done. It was a wonderful year...Happy Holidays Everyone! And one more thing, a suggestion.



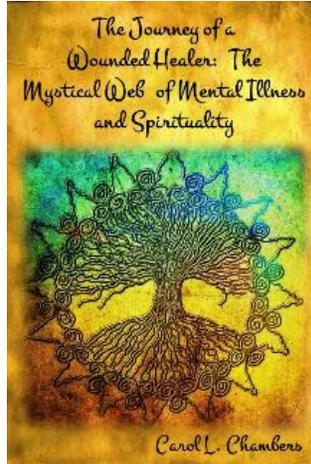
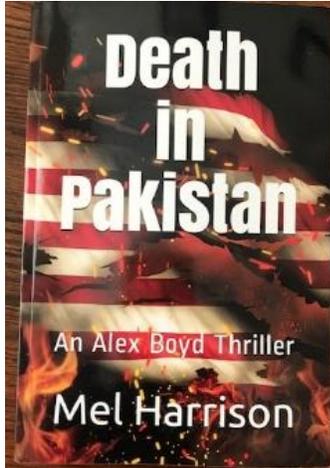
Please wear a holiday sweater and bring one of your books for a group photo on December 11.

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**WLOV's New Website for Membership (to join or renew): [wlovmembership.com](https://wlovmembership.com)**



# New Books by WLOV Members



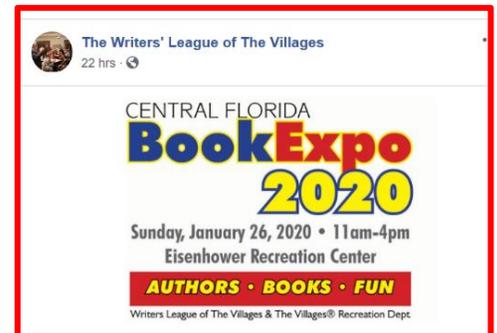
## Reminder – WLOV has TWO Facebook Pages

### Writers League of The Villages

**Status:** Only administrators can enter posts or pictures; anyone can view contents.

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/The-Writers-League-of-The-Villages-162776817086391>

On this site see latest author profile of those presenting at our January 26, 2020 Expo.



### Writers of The Villages Group

**Status:** Any WLOV Member can join and post.

**Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2456384291302772/>

On this site see items members have posted about their work and recent publicity.



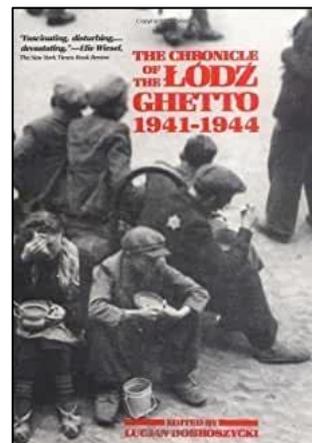
# The Devil's Bookkeepers – Book Review

By Larry Martin

There are innumerable books about the holocaust – the systematic destruction of European Jewry during WWII – with more coming out every year. Just google “holocaust books” and you come upon websites with specific recommendations: 5 books, or 10, or 18, or 22, or this one with 46: <https://www.bookbub.com/blog/books-about-the-holocaust>.

Probably the two most widely read holocaust books, both published long ago, are *Night*, by Elie Wiesel, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Frank was captured after hiding in an Amsterdam apartment for two years, and killed in a concentration camp. Wiesel was sent as a teenager to concentration camps, where he lost his sister and parents; somehow, he survived and a few years later wrote this short, powerful book (and later won the Nobel Prize for his body of work).

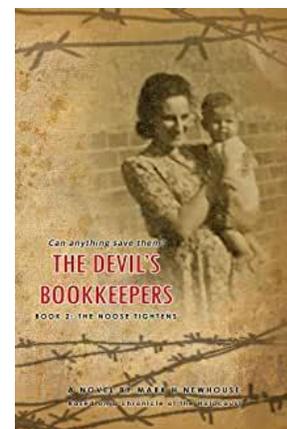
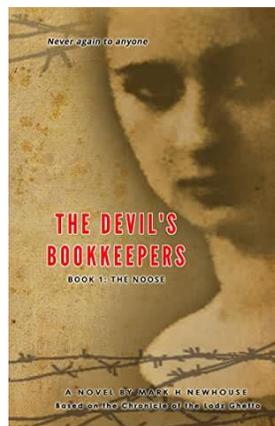
WLOV founder Mark Newhouse was born of holocaust survivors, from the Polish City of Lodz. A few years ago, he came upon the *Chronicle of the Lodz Ghetto*, translated and edited by Lucjan Dobroszycki, (Yale University Press, 1984), and this work inspired him to write an historical fiction about the ghetto. Lodz was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest ghetto in Europe (after Warsaw). The Chronicle was compiled by inhabitants of the ghetto and, when published in 1984, was illustrated with more than seventy photographs. According to one review, “Dobroszycki’s *Chronicle* is a document unparalleled among writings on the Holocaust.”



Mark’s work, titled *The Devil’s Bookkeepers*, is published in two volumes: Book 1 (“The Noose”) and Book 2 (“The Noose Tightens”). Together the two books span the period December 10, 1940 to September 5, 1942. Mark is finishing Book 3 (“The Noose Closes”), which will conclude the story.

**BOOK 1:** <https://www.amazon.com/Devils-Bookkeepers-Book-Noose/dp/1945493127/>

**BOOK 2:** <https://www.amazon.com/Devils-Bookkeepers-Book-Noose-Tightens/dp/1945493178/>



By now – from this newsletter and local Villages publicity – you are probably aware that Book 1 recently won the Gold Medal for Historical Fiction by the Florida Writers Association, and was also named FWA’S **Published Book of the Year for 2019**. Book 2 won the Bronze Medal in the category of Unpublished Historical Fiction (manuscript was submitted before publication; photo shows Mark at FWA convention, wearing his “crown” and medal for top book of the year).

The “Devil” in the books is one Chaim Rumkowski, chairman of the *Judenrat* or Council of Elders, in his early 60s when the story begins. Known mockingly as “King Chaim” by his Jewish subjects, Rumkowski was granted unprecedented powers by the Nazi officials, which authorized him to take all necessary measures to maintain order in the Lodz Ghetto. He is a central figure in the book, and highly controversial because of how he handled his Jewish subjects. You can learn more of his fate at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaim\\_Rumkowski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaim_Rumkowski). There is also a 1982 documentary about Rumkowski, which you can read about at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Story\\_of\\_Chaim\\_Rumkowski\\_and\\_the\\_Jews\\_of\\_Lodz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Story_of_Chaim_Rumkowski_and_the_Jews_of_Lodz).

In addition, Mark has created characters charged by Rumkowski with secretly documenting births, deaths and other “statistics” in the ghetto, so there will be a legacy of what really took place there. Hence, they are the devil’s bookkeepers, and the result of their work is the “Chronicle.” The story is told from the viewpoint of one of the chroniclers, 35-year-old Bernard Ostrowski. Other characters appear as well, most notably Ostrowski’s young wife Miriam, who gives birth to a girl in the ghetto.

The books are very well written, with short chapters. The pace is slow and measured. Day by day, week by week, the noose tightens. Jews die, or disappear, while the survivors endure unbelievable hardships. That was the reality, and we know there will be no happy ending. But I can’t think of a better way to show the plight of the ghetto’s inhabitants than how Mark unfolds his story. The two books do not “tell” you what took place, but “show” you. As we all learn, “show don’t tell” is the hallmark of good writing.

In this era of increasing “holocaust denial,” books like this should be required reading by all high school students. They complement non-fiction accounts of the holocaust by showing in clear, personal terms what life was like in the ghetto, when your captives considered you sub-human, and treated you that way. And the thousands of people the Germans took away from the ghetto during 1941-1942 – where did they go? We now know, but at the time those who remained could only wonder.

*The Devil’s Bookkeepers* is historical fiction only because Mark creates some characters and gives them dialogue, but what they lived through is historically accurate. The Germans tightened and tightened and tightened the noose around the Lodz ghetto, until those who didn’t die from cold, hunger, disease, or random murder by German soldiers, were ultimately transported to death camps. (The ghetto was reduced from 163,177 people in 1941 to 877 by January, 1945, when the Russians arrived. Altogether, it is thought that about 250,000 Jews lived in the ghetto at some point, out of which less than 5000 survived.)

If inclined to read any books about the holocaust, I highly recommend *The Devil’s Bookkeepers*. Start with Book 1 and you will be hooked to continue on to Book 2. Both volumes are available in ebook and print formats.

## NEWS ITEMS ABOUT WLOV MEMBERS

[http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/nov-dec\\_2019\\_newsitems.pdf](http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/nov-dec_2019_newsitems.pdf)

Click on above link to read following print items.

**Winners of RPLA Competition** – Villages Daily Sun, Nov 3, 2019

**Paula Stone Tucker** - Villages Daily Sun, Nov 11, 2019

**Mark Newhouse** - Villages Magazine Author Profile, Nov 2019

**Dan Kincaid** - Villages Magazine Author Profile, Dec 2019

An article about the RPLA Award winners is also online at

<https://www.villages-news.com/2019/11/02/ten-villages-authors-earn-recognition-from-florida-writers-association/>



## Winners of November Newsletter Trivia Contest

The November Newsletter had a trivia contest, with the winners receiving publicity for their book of choice in this issue of the Newsletter. The winners are Rita Boehm, Mary Ann Weakley, and Holly Schwartzol.

***Missing on Maple Street*, by Rita Boehm**

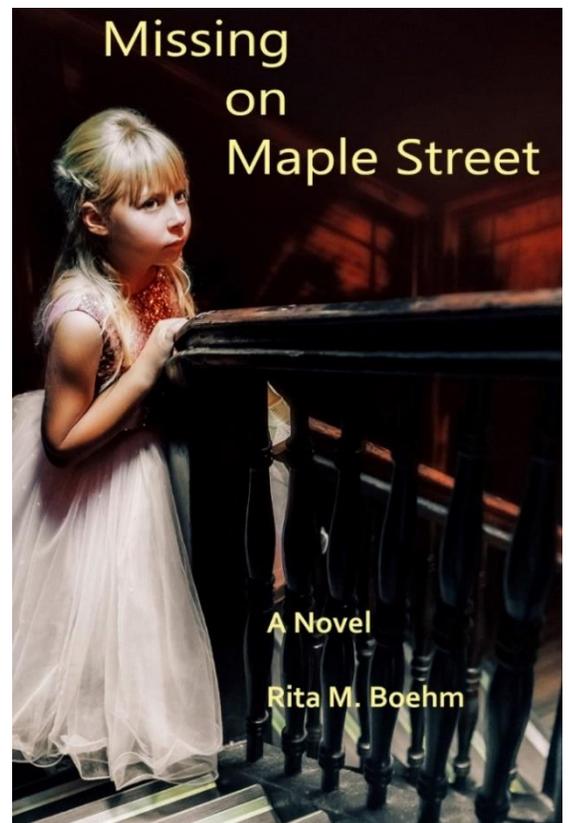
<https://www.amazon.com/Missing-Maple-Street-Rita-Boehm/dp/1981687491/>

Ten-year-old Emily Anders shares a small apartment with her newly divorced father. When the precocious young girl goes missing while in the care of an elderly neighbor, circumstantial evidence mounts against one of the other neighbors. Is he responsible, or is the tragic history of the once grand old Victorian home repeating itself?

*Missing on Maple Street* is told from the points of view of the four tenants who share the worn old building—Emily’s father, an interracial couple, an elderly widow, and the long-suffering wife of a bitter, disabled veteran. The plight of the young girl who brought unexpected joy and laughter to their lives is seen through the prism of their own struggles with issues like racial prejudice, aging, and mental illness.

As the lives of the folks at 21 Maple Street intersect in the search for answers, new relationships are forged and others are strained to the breaking point.

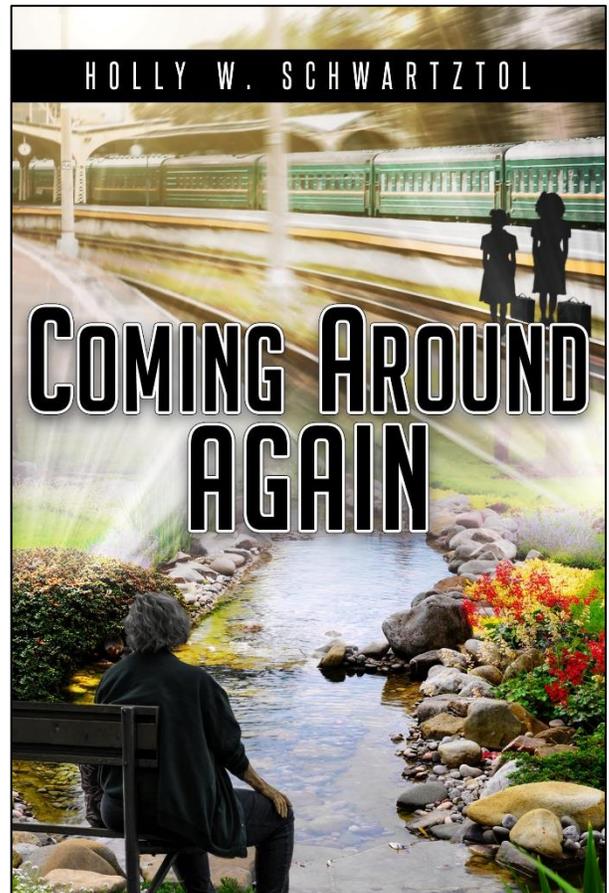
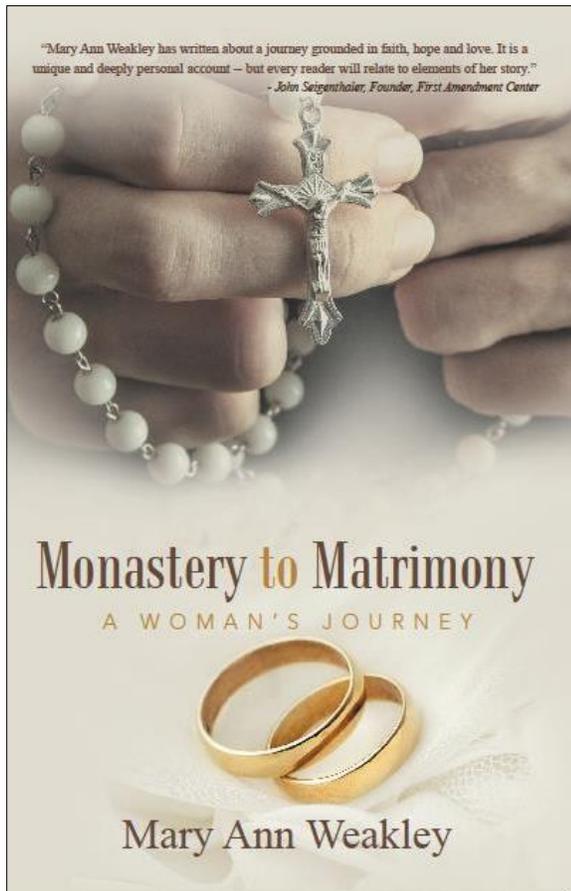
What happened to Emily?



***Monastery to Matrimony*, by Mary Ann Weakley**

Mary Ann Weakley's memoir has the authenticity of twenty years lived as a nun. Her stories of convent life are sometimes humorous and sometimes tragic, but always revealing.

<https://www.amazon.com/Monastery-Matrimony-Mary-Ann-Weakley/dp/1452595984/>



***Coming Around Again*, by Holly W. Schwartztol**

<https://www.amazon.com/COMING-AROUND-AGAIN-HOLLY-SCHWARTZTOL/dp/1951188020/>

In 1962, Sherry and Rosie (of *Sherry and the Unseen World*), traveled together on a Teen Tour across the United States. Something about the tour lingers in Sherry's consciousness. For over half a century, she has searched for others from the tour to try to figure out why she can't let it go. Sherry is now immersed in the study of mediumship. Rosie has lost her husband of 45 years and has come to live in the retirement community where Sherry lives. She finds little comfort in Sherry's belief in the spirit world. Finally, as others from the past emerge, Sherry discovers truths she'd never have imagined.

# A Visit with Paula Howard, WLOV President

By Larry Martin, Newsletter Editor



Paula Howard has worked as a nurse, a Peace Corps volunteer, a corporate professional, and a staff writer for local magazines. Now she is super busy as our club president and with other writing-related activities. She will be the first person to serve two consecutive terms as president since Mark Newhouse, who co-founded the club in 2011.

**LM: Your background is certainly interesting, and we'll get to it in a moment, but first: You were recently voted into a second consecutive year as president of WLOV. Why would you want to do that 2 years in a row?**

PH: I have a few projects that still need follow-through and I would like to complete them. One was to get an EIN for WLOV to be a true non-profit organization. An Employee Identification Number (EIN) is like a social security number for an organization. Without one, you're just a group of people getting together. With one, you can apply for non-profit status such as 501 (C)(3) which will allow us to apply for grants for educational opportunities. We could even do fundraising to award writing scholarships.

I want more for this group. I want WLOV to be an excellent organization people want to join, and accomplish projects of which we are proud. We've got a few exciting things planned on the drawing board for 2020.

**LM: How did you get into writing?**

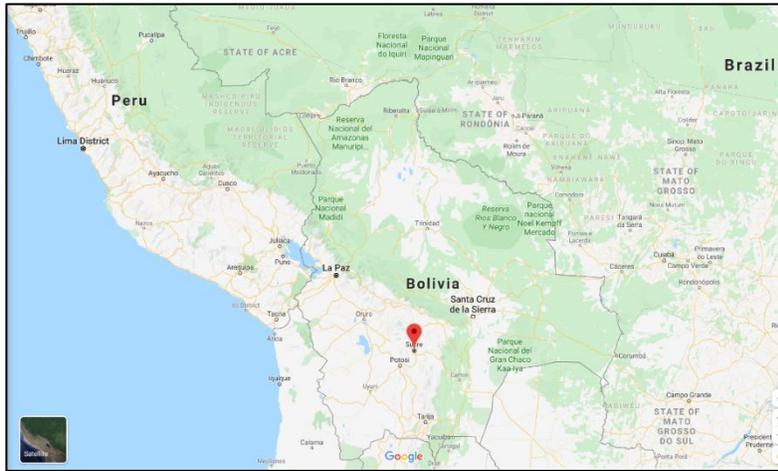
PH: When I was in sixth grade, my teacher wanted me to enter an essay contest. I forgot to do it over the weekend, and she was very upset. I made it a goal to never miss a deadline again. My first real writing job, for pay, was as a newspaper reporter in Cleveland when I returned from the Peace Corps in 1965. I've been writing ever since.

**LM: What did you do in the Peace Corps?**

PH: I became a Licensed Practical Nurse straight out of high school in order to join the Peace Corps. That was the shortest route because it only took 12 months of classes before I could join. So, I applied as an LPN, and in 1963 was assigned to Bolivia, South America. After four months of training in the US, we were sent to our assigned country with the message "Go find things to do." My job was in Sucre, Bolivia, teaching health classes (see map).

I ran a six-week course for home health nursing to the town's women. I taught them how to care for the sick, emphasizing clean air, good food, but mostly washing their hands! I even taught

how to give injections using oranges. The rest of the time, I taught hygiene and exercise classes to high school girls, and went to community meetings to help with ideas for community development.



**Paula with Bolivian school children during her time in the Peace Corps. On this day, they were taking her on a “paseo” or picnic.**

### **LM: And after the Peace Corps?**

PH: I returned from the Peace Corps with a fiancé, another volunteer from New Jersey. We were married in Ohio and moved to New Jersey where our first daughter was born. His job with the State Department moved us to Virginia. Within a few years, his work took us to Puerto Rico; we had two more children by then. Raising three little ones in a bi-lingual atmosphere was stimulating. They all spoke English and Spanish. As time went on, I wanted to go back to work, so I became an Arthur Murray Dance Teacher for fun, then later became a radio disc jockey, spinning top 40s tunes on the radio, hosting “Contest Time”, and recording commercials. After a few years, I became a TV news reporter. We were in Puerto Rico for six years before returning to Ohio for better schooling for our kids.

**LM: Dance teacher? Radio Disc Jockey? Do you also play an instrument?**

PH: No, but would you believe, I am also a professional cake decorator? In Puerto Rico, my sister and I opened a bakery called 'The Cake Box'. She was a graduate of the Wilton School of Cake Decorating in Chicago, and we designed cakes in all shapes and sizes. We became quite well-known until a sugar shortage hit the island and grocery stores opened in-store bakeries. We weren't funded well enough to survive.

**LM: What did you do in Ohio?**

PH: I found work with a Cleveland-area community newspaper as reporter/photographer/editor. After that, I held successive jobs as:

- Cuyahoga County Mental Health Board's public relations director
- University Hospitals of Cleveland's publications & special events director
- University Suburban Medical Center's director of corporate communications
- Victor S. Voinovich Commercial Real Estate's director of corporate communications
- Executive Caterers at Landerhaven's director of marketing & corporate communications  
This multi-million-dollar catering company has served every president since the 1960's and still hosts a variety of special events for sports and corporate professionals. We put Cleveland's Bicentennial Float in the 1996 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade.

In between the last two jobs, I established my own special events business called "A Howard Activity, LLC" which lasted two years. I chose that name so I could use "Aha!" as my logo, which I still use today.

**LM: Then you became a nurse?**

PH: During my corporate career, I was passed over for several promotions due to lack of a college degree. So, I enrolled in Garfield Senior College which became Lake Erie College, and graduated with a BA in Business Management with a minor in International Business.

I was hired by University Hospitals while I was still taking part time college courses. Then, after my 35 years in the corporate world, I put myself through Lakeland Community College School of Nursing to graduate as a Registered Nurse at age 61. I passed my Board tests in 2006 and have been doing bedside orthopedic nursing ever since. First, I worked in Cleveland, then at Duke University Hospitals in North Carolina, and finally in Florida.

**LM: When did you move to The Villages, and from where?**

PH: My second husband and I left Cleveland, Ohio, in 2008 for North Carolina, then in 2010 we moved to Orlando. I worked as an RN at Florida Hospital in Winter Park. In 2015, we moved to The Villages.

**LM: What attracted you to The Villages?**

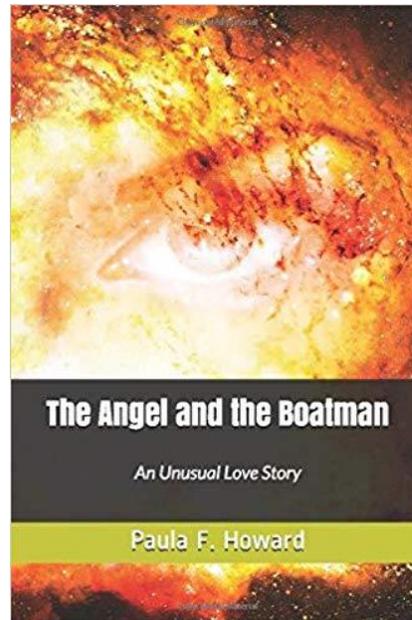
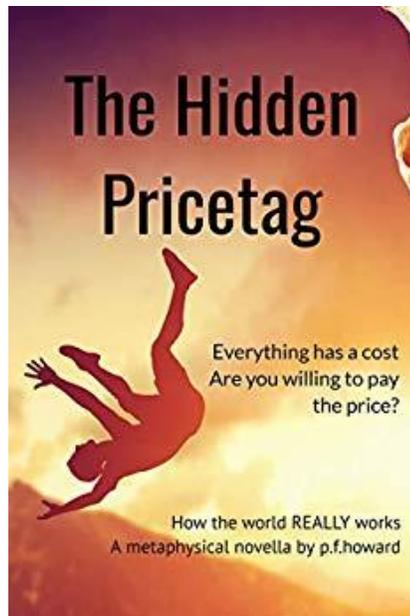
PH: Thinking I would have nothing to do after retiring, it was the Lifestyle clubs that drew us to The Villages. I figured, at least I wouldn't be bored.

**LM: Do you miss nursing?**

PH: Actually, I kept part-time nursing until just a few months ago. I've only recently turned in my resignation. Going back to part time nursing is always a possibility.

**LM: Amazon has two books by you for sale. What are they about?**

PH: My first book, *The Hidden Pricetag*, is about realizing your choices in life have consequences. My second book, *The Angel and The Boatman*, published this year, is about a computer whiz who hacks into Life's Database and changes some dates of dying for people. This gets the figure of Death, called The Boatman, into trouble with Upper Celestial Management. The rest of the story is about an undercover Angel who saves him. Because I've written my beliefs about the hereafter into this story, I have to call this genre "New Age". It falls somewhere between SciFi and Self-Help because it refers to spirituality, not religion.



Underlying both stories is the idea that there is more to life than we know. Each book suggests ideas of what the next plane of existence holds. I have studied metaphysical topics for over 40 years, and believe there's much more to life than the here and now!

Actually, I wrote another book before these two, called *Memories Today*. It's a workbook in which you answer 15 questions that will allow your family to know you and be able to write a meaningful Eulogy. The idea is that everyone learns "Lessons in Life." Tell us what you've learned. Don't take this knowledge with you! Be remembered for your Wit and Wisdom!

**LM: Are you working on anything for publication at the moment?**

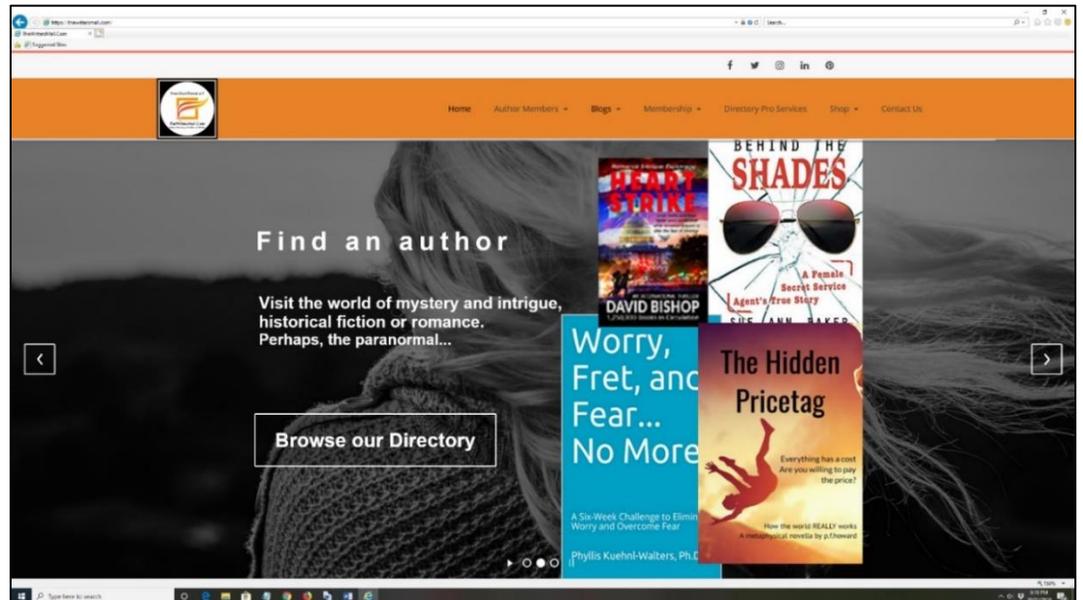
PH: Isn't every writer? I am starting a sequel on *The Angel and The Boatman*, which follows the protagonists into their futures. I also recently came across my letters from the Peace Corps and may write a non-fiction story about my time in South America.

However, the project closest to my heart is an Inspirational Calendar with 12 messages that talk about the Power of One: What each person can do to change their world. I've been working on that one for over 20 years. It's time to publish!



**LM: Among other current activities you have created “The Writers Mall” an online directory for authors and writers. How does that work? (<https://thewritersmall.com/>; home screen below)**

PH: When I became aware how many writers don’t have a web presence and don’t know how to get one, I decided I could help fill that gap to promote their books.



The Writers Mall is a membership website. People can sign up for various levels of benefits in order to have a web presence, get business cards which I provide [see Paula’s business card at the Introduction], and have readers discover their books. It’s a lot easier to find members’ books at TheWritersMall.Com than on Amazon. Someone may not know your name or your book title, but at a mall, you shop around and find things. “The Writers Mall” is easy to remember.

Our newest feature is listings for Professional Services. Now you can find editors, book cover designers, illustrators, and more on the site. I’ve just signed a woman who will record books and another two audio book recorders will be listed soon. I’ve even found a typist for people who don’t use a computer!

**LM: How many authors have signed up for Writers Mall?**

PH: About two dozen currently, with more expressing interest in signing up. The Professional Services section will be a great asset as these services are needed for many writers to produce their books. Just visit <https://TheWritersMall/membership> to see the benefit levels for authors and professional services offered.

**LM: Aside from The Writers Mall, what else do you do to promote your books?**

PH: I will be promoting The Writers Mall (TWM) first, and plan to promote my own books as part of that service through Social Media posts which have begun. A monthly newsletter has just launched, as well as monthly news releases of new members.

Additionally, we have a YouTube channel called: “Ask the Author: Why Your Book?” The channel is already carrying interviews of our own David Bishop, John Prince, and Sue Ann Baker. More interviews will be coming soon. **(Editor’s note: URL is shown below the picture)**



Screen shot of interview with WLOV author David Bishop, from TheWritersMall YouTube channel.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=thewritersmall](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=thewritersmall)

As an added benefit to members of TWM, I am teaching private monthly classes about things they need to know for their own book promotion, such as: how to post on Social Media; make Press Kits; find speaking engagements; how to be interviewed effectively; and lots more.

**LM: Assuming you have any spare time outside your writing-related activities, what else do you do in The Villages?**

PH: I've practiced martial arts for years and am looking for a class that would fit my schedule. The stretching and exercise would be wonderful.

**LM: Let's jump ahead to January 2021. You have just finished your second year as WLOV president. What do you see yourself doing with all that spare time?**

PH: You're joking, of course. Spare time is a luxury that I schedule into my calendar – aside from sleeping. That's because I'm interested in so much and see the days just fly by.

But to answer, by January 2021 I expect to be traveling to book fairs across the country promoting The Writers Mall. With so many self-published authors, being able to find your book is the big challenge. As more people hear about The Writers Mall, my members will become easy to find. I will also bring back innovative ideas to teach in my private classes.

In fact, I've just returned from the Miami Book Fair which is the largest in the country: some 150,000 people attended. I may take a booth for The Writers Mall there next year. The exposure to new ideas and up and coming trends makes it worthwhile traveling to book fairs.

**LM: Any final message?**

PH: Yes. Please visit <https://TheWritersMall.com>. Remember, it's just begun...look for it to grow! Better yet, please join and come along on the journey!

# CARTOONS - From *The New Yorker*

