

WLOV Newsletter – Feb 2020



Expo 2020 – A smashing success

(More pics, plus news articles, on pages 4-6)

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WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Feb 12 – General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. “**Podcasting: What Every Writer Needs to Know.**” Speaker: Diann Schindler, Ph.D., Professional Podcaster and Global Traveler.

Thursday, Feb 13 – Villages Enrichment Academy, 6-7:30 p.m., at Rohan Recreational Center: WLOV member Gary Koca will discuss his book, *Forgotten Movie Stars of the 30s, 40s, and 50s*.

Friday, Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day Love Story Public Readings, Canal Rec Center, 6 – 8 pm

Wednesday, March 11 – General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. We will reprise last year’s “**Meet Your Character Fair.**” Opportunity to sit with various professionals and learn details of their work – to help cast your fictional characters. More details will be provided at our Feb. 12 meeting.

Monday, March 16, 2 p.m. – WLOV Member Paula Stone Tucker will speak on her award-winning book *Surviving: A Kent State Memoir*, Belvedere Library 325 Belvedere Blvd, The Villages, FL 32162 (across from Charter school)

Thursday, April 16, noon – Paula Stone Tucker will again speak on *Surviving: A Kent State Memoir*, Bellevue Library, 13145 SE Hwy 484, Bellevue 34420

Message From Your Newsletter Editor

By Larry Martin

drLarry437@gmail.com



The year has started with a big bang – the 2020 Central Florida Book & Author Expo, our most successful Expo yet. Changing the day and the date to Sunday, Jan 26, helps explain the fantastic turnout, along with lots of publicity garnered by our 2020 Expo team. See news articles about Expo, page 6.

The previous Expo was held on a Saturday in Dec 2018 which, though very well planned, ran into a headwind with the annual Villages Christmas parade. No such competition this year. Coincidentally, I recently received an email from Jim Meyer, WLOV member and Chairman of our 2018 Expo committee. He wrote to inform us of his whereabouts and writing-related activity: “[My girlfriend] and I moved to Citrus Springs, which is about an hour northwest of TV. We have found solace, peace and quiet living in the country away from all the hustle and bustle of the city life, that The Villages has become. I have been fortunate enough to start a writers’ club (Citrus Writers) here in Citrus County last August. We meet the 1st Saturday of every month, have about 30 members so far. We are similar to WLOV and offer educational perspectives, speakers on every aspect of writing to published and unpublished writers. If anyone wants to keep in touch with me – email is the best way – jacobsgmmpy@msn.com.”

As noted in last month’s Newsletter, I will no longer be doing Member interviews, but invite others to do so. This month I am happy to publish an interview by Diane Dean of RPLA-award-winning author Paula Stone Tucker, starting on page 9.

Picture: Newsletter Editor with his Editorial Assistant

WLOV President's Message



Hello Everyone!

Our Central Florida Book & Author Expo on Jan 26 - what a wonderful event! An estimated 2,500 people attended the event at Eisenhower Recreation Center. We had over 80 authors; hundreds of books for sale; several seminars on how to self-publish; a celebrity book signing with Marlin Fitzwater, former press secretary to Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush; fantastic raffle prizes; great weather, and a happy crowd. What more is there to love?

Keep writing, Everyone, we'll do it all again next year!

ANOTHER BIG ANNOUNCEMENT

People want to belong to worthy organizations – people interested in doing good. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Writers League of the Villages **is now a 501 (c)(3) designated public charity.** As such, any donation to WLOV is tax deductible. We will use this new status to improve our educational outreach: offering support and education to all published and unpublished WLOV writers; collaborating with other writing groups; and promoting The Villages as a cultural center for the arts. In the future we hope to raise money for student scholarships. Stay tuned for much more ahead!

MORE TO LOVE...

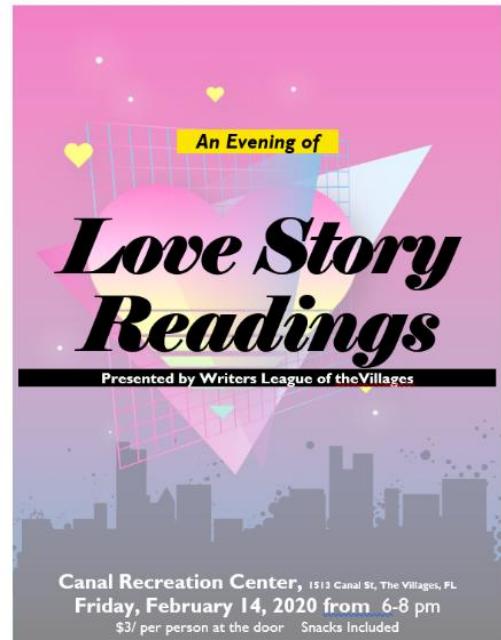
Wednesday, Feb. 12: The next General Meeting **will present Diann Schindler, Ph.D.** She is a world traveler who has visited 45 countries on 5 continents, and now hosts podcasts she'll discuss at the meeting. To hear her podcasts, click on <https://thewritersmall.com/diann-schindler/>.

Friday, Feb. 14: This year's version of **Valentine's Day Love Story Readings** will be presented at Canal Recreation Center from 6 to 8 pm. Cost is \$3/person, to cover refreshments. Tickets can be purchased at any regional recreation center, and at the door on Feb 14 (if it is not sold out by then – best get your tickets early). Thanks to Millard Johnson for chairing the event along with his committee of judges. Stories were provided by WLOV members.

Wednesday, MARCH 11: Last year we did a "Meet Your Character Fair" which was well received. We'll do this again next month. You will be able to sit with a number of professionals to discuss details of their professional lives. The idea is to be able to learn information about a profession you may want to write about. A list of details for each profession will be available as handouts. More info about this event will be provided at our Feb. 12 meeting.

See you on February 12!

Paula Howard, 2020 WLOV President 😊



Expo 2020 Pictures





See more Expo 2020 Pics on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/The-Writers-League-of-The-Villages-162776817086391/posts/?ref=notif>

To post your own FB pics about the Expo, or any other writing related topic, join

Writers of The Villages Group

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

News Articles on WLOV Expo 2020

Leesburg Daily Commercial →

https://www.dailyc.com/news/20200127/central-florida-book-expo-draws-large-crowd?fbclid=IwAR2jHiK8WSlo6kmVFtFEZJ1RD4TxGLhWE2_0SEUz6EcBySDsYFk3fXog7s

Readers, Authors Flock to Florida Book Expo 2020

The event showcasing local and regional works of fiction and nonfiction grows.

By DAYNA STRAHLER
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Readers and writers packed three rooms at Eisenhower Recreation Center

Sunday for the Central Florida Book Expo 2020.

"It's very interesting to see how many different kinds of books there are available for people to buy, and there are also a lot of authors," Anna Massengill, of the Village of Largo, said outside the expo after visiting the authors' tables. She said she also liked that this year's expo included information about SoZo Kids and ways people can help the children growing up in deep poverty in Ocala National Forest.

About 85 authors had tables displaying every genre, from children's books and memoirs to books about politics, history, Florida and boating. Self-help, inspiration and books about how to become an author, as well as mysteries and historical fiction, were also available.

Expo organizers said almost 2,500 people attended.

"It's gotten bigger over the past two years," Marge Hardman, of the Village of Buttonwood, said as she left the expo. "They have a good diversification of novels."

"We came to support my friend who wrote a book," said Linda Heider, of the Village of Glenbrook.

Author Jan Zahorian, of the

Village of Tall Trees, appreciated the crowds.

"We have wonderful traffic," she said. "They're stopping by to ask about authors and how and why we write books."

She shared an author's table with Manijeh Badiozamani, of the Village of Pine Ridge, who explained her book, "Family Tales from Tehran," a nonfiction collection of short stories.

"It's my life about an ordinary kid growing up in an ordinary family in Tehran (Iran), something the news doesn't give you very much," she said, adding she has been speaking and presenting a slide show to a lot of book clubs in The Villages.

A few tables away, Dan Kincaid, of the Village of Dunedin, sat with his books about national parks. Kincaid is also on the book expo committee for the Writers League of The Villages, which organized the expo.

"I've been really pleased with the turnout," he said. "It's much heavier traffic than last year when it competed with the Christmas parade and model train show. That's why we moved it to Sunday."

In another crowded room, Robert and Anne Jacob, of Palm Harbor, wore authentic pirate costumes as they discussed his book, "A Pirate's Life in the Golden Age of Piracy."

Robert Jacob will present a history of piracy as part of the Enrichment Academy's Speaker Series at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Rohan Recreation Center. Tickets are \$6 for residents and \$8 for the public, available online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any of The Villages Box Office locations.

Central Florida Book Expo draws large crowd



Martin Karpuske, former press secretary to President Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, tells stories of his time in the White House at the Central Florida Book and Author Expo in The Villages on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2020. (Candy Star/Citizen)

Villages Daily Sun, Jan 29, 2020



Robert and Anne Jacob, of Palm Harbor, explain the history of tri-cornered hats, which were designed for soldiers to carry muskets. They also discussed Robert's book, "History of Pirates," during the Central Florida Book Expo 2020 at Eisenhower Recreation Center on Sunday.



Photos by Dayna Strahler | Daily Sun
Authors and readers pack three rooms at Eisenhower Recreation Center for the Central Florida Book Expo 2020.

More News Items from Jan 2020

Villages author espouses 'alternate' view on causes of climate change

By John Prince - January 18, 2020

<https://www.villages-news.com/2020/01/18/villages-author-espouses-alternate-view-on-causes-of-climate-change/>

John Prince's article is about WLOV Member and Board Secretary Donn Dears.



SPOTLIGHT ON A VILLAGES AUTHOR

CRISIS IN THE MIDEAST
by Donn Dears, Village of Collier
Genre: Thriller

"Crisis in the Mideast" begins with a terrorist attack on a cruise ship, leading to sanctions on Iran, followed by Iran's blocking the Strait of Hormuz and cutting off 20 percent of the world's oil supply. Restoring the flow of Saudi Arabia's oil is crucial to resolving the crisis, but real issues complicate America's response. Meanwhile, the fate of an American negotiator, caught between two Iranian factions, is central to bringing peaceful resolution to the crisis.

Q: WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO WRITE YOUR BOOK?
Concern about how to resolve such a crisis.

Q: WHAT DO YOU HOPE READERS TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR BOOK?
I hope readers gain an understanding of this type of threat and the geopolitical relationships involved.

Q: ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?
I will be selling and signing copies of this book at the Villages Book Expo at Eisenhower Recreation Center on January 26, 2020.

Available on Amazon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 | THE VILLAGES DAILY SUN

VILLAGES AUTHORS

BARBARA MILLER
The Village of Charlotte

All calories are not created equal, said Barbara Miller, author of "Keto for Life." "It's a hard-hitting book," she said. "It's not fluffy at all."

Empty calories from sugar leave people hungry again and craving more, the Village of Charlotte resident said.

"Fat doesn't make people fat. Sugar and wheat make you fat," Miller said.

A lifelong researcher, Miller began investigating the increase in expanding waistlines, Type 2 diabetes and heart disease. About the time her own waistline started expanding in middle age, she said she started experiencing irritable bowel syndrome.

When she stopped eating bread, those problems ceased, as did a hairline rash.

Miller said she is now a weight-loss coach and clients say it is hard to give up bread.

"Keto for Life" is available on amazon.com, through her website barbaraandcompany.com or by order from Barnes & Noble. She will also have copies at the Central Florida Book Expo from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 26 at Eisenhower Recreation Center.

— Dayna Straehley, Daily Sun

More news items from Jan 2020 (cont.)

EXPLORE & EXPERIENCE

Express Your Creativity

The Writing-Creative club boasts 20 active members who write and then solicit constructive criticism from fellow members. The group meets weekly at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

By JULIE BUTTERFIELD | Daily Sun Staff Writer

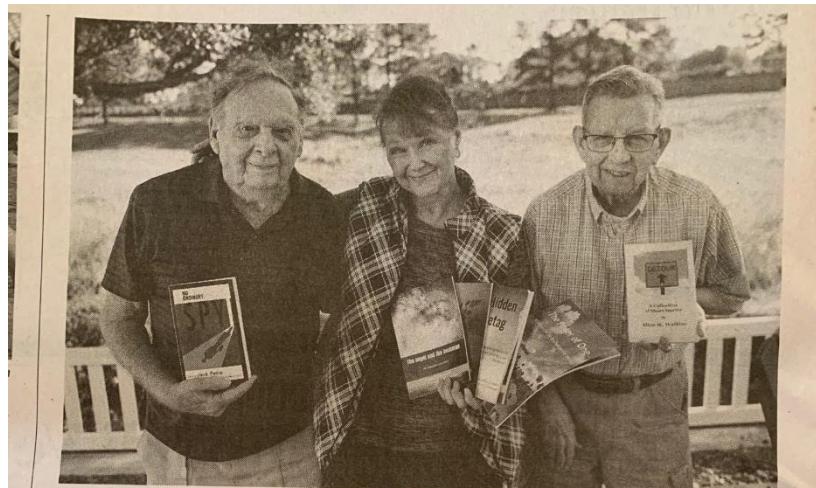
Carol Warnick isn't afraid to admit she was desperate to find other creative writers when she moved to the Village of Amelia. She's continually in search of inspiration. "Writing groups improve my discipline to continue writing and give helpful critique," she said. "It's also very inspiring to listen to other's work and style."

That's why she joined Writing-Creative in The Villages. Last week was her first time attending the class, and she's already impressed.

"The moderator makes sure that the session flows well," she said.

Al Watkins, of the Village of Briar Meadow, moderated

Please See CREATIVE, A12



Rachel Stuart | Daily Sun

Creative Writers Group members Jack Petro, left, of the Village of Piedmont, Paula Howard, center, of the Village of Country Club Hills, and Al Watkins, of the Village of Briar Meadow, hold their published books.

CREATIVE

Continued from A1

the session.

"You write, you read, you get critiqued," Watkins said. "If you write anything, you're welcome."

Watkins said members write everything from memoirs to travel logs. He is a short-story writer.

"They don't tell me I'm a writer," he said. "They tell me I'm a storyteller."

Warnick is working on her memoirs, which center on her career in medicine.

Throughout her 50-plus working years, she had to write occasionally, but it wasn't like

the writing she's engaged in now. She appreciates the liberty to tap into her creative side and tell what she experienced and witnessed during her work as a bedside RN, a flight nurse and in refugee cholera camps in Africa.

"Each opportunity opened new and different aspects to me," she said.

Her aim is to share her stories with her children and grandchildren.

"There are many out there living with a writer inside their head, screaming for an avenue of expression," Warnick said. "All they need is the desire and willingness to pursue it. Writing groups are a wonderful start and a

safe place for the individual's efforts."

Watkins said the group has endured because people understand the critiques are not meant to be a downer but to assist in helping others write better.

Writing-Creative has been around for more than 20 years and always welcomes new members. The group meets at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at Laurel Manor Recreation Center. For more information, email Al Watkins at aww21@comcast.net.

Staff Writer Julie Butterfield can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5254, or julie.butterfield@thevillagesmedia.com.

Paula Stone Tucker

Interviewed by Diane Dean



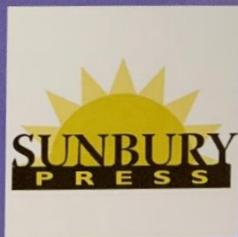
Paula Stone Tucker

**Available for Book Signings,
Speaking Engagements**

Paulat5858@gmail.com

PaulaStoneTucker.com

330-289-8945



Paula Stone Tucker is the author of *Surviving: A Kent State Memoir*. We may not remember where we were on May 4, 1970 when the shootings on the college campus took place, but we do remember the times and the tragedy. Paula recalls it vividly because she was right there as a college senior, about to graduate. This first-hand eye-witness account will bring the reader to their own recollections of the late 1960's and early 1970's.

PST: I was thirty yards in front of the Ohio National Guard when they fired into a crowd of students that day," Paula told me. "They were protesting the United States' invasion of Cambodia during the Viet Nam War. My memoir is the story of a young girl's survival of her own personal trauma and loss, set against the social turmoil of the Vietnam War era. My theme is that survival and hope are possible even against what may seem like impossible odds.

DD: How did your writing journey begin?

PST: *Surviving* is my first book. I always wanted to tell this story, but I had to wait for my parents to die, as part of the book delves into family relationships. It was almost done when I moved to The Villages in 2015. I attended the 2015 Book Expo and learned about critique groups. I joined Millard Johnson's critique group, Writers of The Villages, in Bradenton Rec Center, and found out I had many things to learn.

DD: Like what?

PST: I was trained as a journalist and had worked as a reporter at various newspapers, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Akron Beacon Journal* right after college. I was trained to keep emotion and opinion out of my writing as well as to be brief in my descriptions, given the newspaper's limited space. So, for the novel, I had to learn how to put emotion into my writing and how to "show" and not "tell."

DD: But later you changed careers. How did that affect your writing?

PST: I went into therapy to help me recover from the trauma I went through. I benefitted so much that I decided I'd like to help others who were suffering. I studied for my Ph.D. in psychology and practiced clinically for more than twenty years in Northern California. That training and my growth as a therapist helped me to frame the plot of the book. I retired and started thinking about putting my own experience on paper.

DD: What happened after you finished your book?

PST: I didn't realize that the writing was the easy part. I began editing, first with a free online tool, Grammarly.com, and then with the Read Aloud feature on Microsoft Word. Eventually, I paid an editor, Marsha Butler, to do both a developmental and copy edit of the book. That whole process was completed around September of 2018.

DD: How did you get a publisher?

SURVIVING
A KENT STATE MEMOIR
PAULA STONE TUCKER

Surviving:
A Kent State Memoir

Available from
Amazon.com
Barnes and Noble.com
Sunburypress.com

PST: I attended the Florida Writers Association (FWA) conference in October, 2018. Even though I didn't have a last chapter for my book, my Villages writing friends encouraged me to pitch my book. I was reluctant, as there is a fee to pitch, but I signed up, getting the last spot open on Saturday. I had taken Judith Briles workshop on marketing that morning and I bumped into her in the hallway and practiced my pitch on her. She said, "No. No. Do it this way," and gave me a two-sentence pitch to use. I sat in the hall outside the pitch room memorizing it. They called me in early and I sat down and gave my pitch to someone I thought was an agent. When I was done, he said, "Okay. I can see the hook. Why don't you send it to us?"

I was shocked. "Who are you?" I asked. Turns out he was the publisher of [Sunbury Press](#). I told him I'd send it to him by the next Monday, so I had to go home and finish it. I quickly wrote a final chapter with a dull ending and took it to my critique group. Doug Craven suggested a better final sentence and I used it.

Sunbury is a traditional publisher, with no upfront costs. There was no royalty advance. I also attended an FWA workshop on contracts, so I was prepared when the contract came three months later.

I have a friend, a well-established writer, who told me not to use an attorney to review the contract, as there weren't any in our part of Ohio who had relevant experience. My friend reviewed the contract for me. My book was published in September 2019, later than what I had expected, but closer to the May 4 fiftieth anniversary of the shootings.

DD: You received an FWA award?

PST: Yes, a Silver Award in 2019, in the category "Unpublished Memoir and Biography."

DD: What is your best advice for authors on marketing or generating their author platform?

PST: I began by listening to what had worked for other Villages authors. I also listened to many podcasts—mostly on self-publishing—and read as many articles as I could along the way. There are many good sources of articles. I like the articles on the FWA website, [Kindlepreneur.com](#), and [Pro Writing Aid](#). There are

also lots of articles by Mark Dawson, Joanna Penn and many other authors. You just type their name into a search engine, and they will come up.

You also need to read the reviews of the marketing techniques being recommended, as many don't have a great ROI (return on investment).

Many advise a pre-book launch campaign. I was caught up short, as I didn't know until the day of the Amazon launch that it would happen. The first few months after launch I spent about 10 hours a day on marketing. My website was only half complete, so I had to quickly finish that.

DD: What about websites? Are they worthwhile?

PST: If you're not literate in website design, they can be very costly--\$500 or more. One of my friends had just used Fiverr.com, an online service which connects businesses with freelancers offering digital services. I ended up paying \$68 for my website, [paulastonetucker.com](#). I'm not sure how worthwhile it is yet.

DD: You are on Twitter, Linked In, and have an author page on Facebook. Which of those is more valuable?

PST: For me, Facebook has worked well. It's easy to design an Author Page, then invite your FB friends to "like" it. Facebook tells you the number of people you've reached each day with your posts. You can also use their ads to boost your visibility. I'm still learning to use the other platforms. (If this is being read on a digital device, you can click on [Paula Stone Tucker, Author](#) to get to her FB page.)

DD: You also have an author page on Amazon and many 5-star reviews of your book on Amazon. How did you get those?"

PST: One way was to publicize my Amazon author page. (On a digital device click on [Paula Stone Tucker](#) to reach her Amazon author page.) My publisher required me to make an author page, both on Amazon and on Goodreads.com, which is owned by Amazon; it provides a way to engage with customers who are true readers.

DD: You have been on Podcasts. Are they helpful for you?

PST: My theory is that most things are worth a try, so I have a schedule or game plan of all the venues I plan to use to promote my book. A fellow Villages author, Julie Anderson, met Diann Schindler, at the FWA conference. She told me that Diann did podcasts about authors, so I contacted her through her website. She has interviewed other Villagers. Diann will be the WLOV February speaker. (To listen to a podcast, you download an app—an application—on your phone, search for a particular podcast and listen to it. One platform that carries podcasts is I Heart Radio.)

Bruce Carlson, an independent podcaster, has a podcast titled "My History Can Beat Up Your Politics." My publisher contacted him as part of their publicity campaign for my book.

I read an article about how to become a guest blogger and am going to follow what I learned to seek out other podcasts. I will look for ones in my genre—Memoir relating to 20th Century History.

DD: You have been featured in the local author column in The Villages Daily Sun. How'd that come about?

The Villages Daily Sun, November 11, 2019

PAULA
STONE
TUCKER
*Village
of Belvedere*



Paula Stone Tucker, of the Village of Belvedere, witnessed a pivotal moment in history. Now she has put her recollections down on paper in the form of a book titled "Surviving: A Kent State Memoir."

The book gives her personal story of the events of May 4, 1970, when she was attending Kent State University. Tucker, who was pregnant at the time, stood 30 yards

away from the Ohio National Guard when they began firing upon the students.

The book also talks about her life after Kent State as a journalist and mother.

"I wanted younger people to know about that time in history," Tucker said. "There have been books written through a historical perspective. This is a more personal account of the time."

The idea to write the book floated around in her mind for many years, but it wasn't until she came to The Villages and joined various writing groups that she started working on it.

"Surviving," which recently won the silver medal from the Florida Writers Association for memoir writing, is available at amazon.com and at sunburypress.com.

— Michael Fortuna, Daily Sun

PST: I called the person who writes that column and then sent an email with a “hook” (what might interest their readers) and a sell sheet. A sell sheet lists your publication data, your book synopsis and your bio.

DD: What about libraries?

PST: As part of my plan, I’ve compiled a list of event coordinators at libraries, book clubs, and bookstores both here and in Ohio and am in the process of contacting them. I send them an email with a hook in it for their readers, and a sell sheet, then follow up with a phone call to the event coordinator.

I’m scheduled to speak at branches of all three local county libraries, plus some in Ohio. I’ll be at the Belvedere library on March 16 at 2 p.m., and at the Bellevue library on April 16 at noon. I’m also going to speak at the Leesburg library, but that date is to be announced. Lake County and Marion County libraries allow you to sell books as part of a speaking engagement, but Sumter County does not.

March 16, 2pm

325 Belvedere Blvd, The Villages, FL 32162
Belvedere Library

April 16, Noon

13145 SE Hwy 484, Bellevue 34420
Bellevue Library

DD: There is always the quandary of whether to pursue a traditional publisher or self-publish. What are your thoughts?

PST: I think both have benefits. With a traditional publisher, you give up a lot of control, but you get more visibility. My publisher has access to 3,000 media outlets and can get books into bookstores and libraries. The downside is that I can’t control the price of my book, schedule giveaways or micromanage things. There is a lot of “letting go” involved. In self-publishing there is a higher cost, but you have more control over what happens.

PST: I regret giving up so much control over what happens with the book.

DD: What are you working on now?

PST: Nothing new yet. I imagine my marketing—which now takes about two hours a day — will occupy me at least through May 4, 2020.

DD: Any advice to nonfiction authors?

PST: Yes, I’d try to write something that people are interested in reading. There are ways to determine this. For example, if you have an idea, you can type your keywords into Google to see how often people search for that topic. Also, you can use a search engine developed by Kindlepreneur.com to search popular keywords and categories.

DD: But what about the age-old advice: “Write What You Know.”? Shouldn’t that be the guiding factor for the topic?

PST: That worked for me, but I was also aware of the timing of my book release—just months before the fiftieth anniversary of the Kent State shootings. Also, when I learned in the interim between finishing my book and marketing it that younger people were interested in reading about the 1970’s and the War in Vietnam, I changed my marketing to appeal to that audience.

DD: What did you learn from this process?

PST: One important thing is not to spend so much time on making your manuscript perfect. Get your idea out there. Another thing I learned is how complicated marketing is. Finally, I think it is important to have someone read your work—a critique group, beta readers—anyone who can give you honest feedback.

DD: Thanks, Paula.

Sketchbook

from *The New York Times Book Review*, from January 26, 2020

Sketchbook / By Grant Snider

TYPES OF READERS



GRANT SNIDER is a cartoonist, author and illustrator. His most recent picture book is "What Color Is the Night?"

THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW 2