

Writers League of The Villages®



Information, education,  
and networking for writers.

Laurel Manor Recreation Center  
1st Wednesday of the Month  
8:30AM-10:30AM

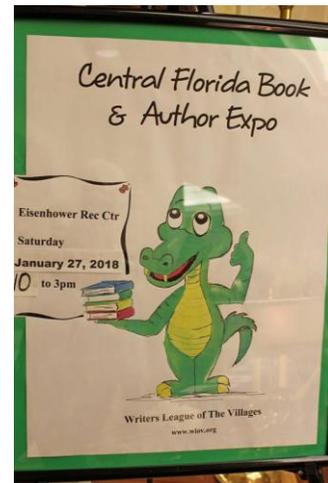
www.WLOV.org

Writers League of The Villages®

# WLOV NEWSLETTER

February 1, 2018

**Book and Author Expo '18 a smashing success - See President's Report and pages 3-4**



## **Mainly of interest to writers in The Villages**

	<u>Page</u>
Message from Your President	2
Calendar of Upcoming Events	3
Expo '18 Prizewinners & Pictures	3-4
Book Cover Contest Winners	5-6
Book Catalogue Update	7
Valentine's Day Love Story Readings February 14 – stories picked!	7
Pictures from Rik Feeny's Morning Talk and Afternoon Seminar	8

## **Items of general interest to all writers**

How Much Do Indie Authors Make? Most Recent Earnings Report	8
Is John a Polygamist?	9-10
Cartoons	11

# Message From Your President



Thanks to Jim Meyer and Ann Heathman, our near-standing-room-only first meeting of the New Year January 3<sup>rd</sup> was a great way to kick off the New Year. Ann saved the day by donating use of her laptop and projector when we had interface issues with the Rec Center's equipment. Jim took care of all of the arrangements for our speaker, Rik Feeney, whose morning presentation on marketing at book signing events was highly pertinent for authors exhibiting at Expo '18. Rik's informative afternoon seminar on a broader range of marketing topics was also well attended (See pics on page 8).

As a great kick-off event for Expo, we had a large collection of impressive book covers for our Book Cover Contest. They were on display at Savannah Center from Jan 17-24. I was delighted to announce the winners during our Book & Author Expo on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> (photo at right), Thanks to the hard work of Jan Zahorian, Donna Beard, Jim Meyer, and Bill Russell, the Cover Contest was a great success. The list of winning covers is on pages 5-6. Congratulations to all the winners!



What an incredible event Expo '18 turned out to be! Even if you weren't exhibiting, I hope you were able to attend at least part of the day. Mark Newhouse and his extraordinary committee outdid themselves; by all measures this year's event eclipsed last year's — and that one was also highly successful. Thousands of people came to the Expo, and I think most left with books in their hands. The publicity was phenomenal and as proof that even one bookmark can help, I share the following story: Early in the day at Expo, a woman approached my table and told me that she was there because I had given her a bookmark when I was at Van Heusen store buying the very blouse I wore at the event (she was the cashier. At Expo, she told me that she had purchased one of my books on line, and then she bought another, this time paperback. She may have purchased other authors' books, as well. So the power of one bookmark -- pretty impressive.



**LOVE  
STORIES**

At our February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting Chris Coward will present "Writing Contests, What's In It for me?" She has a lot of experience running big writing contests (see page 3, under Feb 7). Contests are a wonderful way to keep a focus on your writing. As an unexpected benefit for me, the short story I wrote for Florida Writers Association's

Royal Palm Literary Awards competition turned into my most recent novel.

Please join us at the Fenney Rec Center at 6:00 p.m. on Valentine's Day for a reading of love stories and poems written by Villages residents (see page 5). WLOV member Millard Johnson organized the event, which will be produced by Ed Williams from the Old Time Radio Club and emceed by WLOV Membership chairman Phil Walker. This promises to be a unique and entertaining way to celebrate Valentine's Day.

**NOTE: Tickets for this event, at \$2 each, must be purchased in advance, from any of the regional Rec centers. Fenney Rec Center needs to know how many people to expect, to avoid an overflow crowd and also because they are providing some refreshments. If it sells out and you arrive without a ticket, you will not be admitted. Even if it does not sell out, it is up to the discretion of the Rec Center as to whether they will admit people who arrive without a ticket. Bottom line: please get your tickets in advance.**

Until we get nametags for WLOV, when you come to WLOV meetings please wear nametags from other clubs that you belong to. They could be great conversation starters – and maybe generate some new book ideas.

Happy writing,  
Rita Boehm

Newsletter editor's note: For a feature story on Rita, see Villages news article by John Prince.

<https://villages-news.com/riding-writing-villagers-passions/>

## WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Writing-related Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Friday, Feb 2	Philosophy Club presentation by Villages author Morris Wolff, on the subject of his book, <i>Whatever Happened to Raoul Wallenberg?</i> 4 p.m., Lake Miona Rec Center
Wed, Feb 7	<b>General Meeting.</b> Laurel Manor, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Chris Coward will discuss <b>Writing Contests: What's In It For Me?</b> Chris is a leader of the Oxford, FL Writers Critique Group. She is a past president of the Florida Writers Association, and in 2015 served as chairperson for the FWA's 2015 Royal Palm Literary Awards competition,
Wed, Feb 14	<b>Valentines' Day Story Readings,</b> Fenney Rec Center, 6 to 8 pm. Light refreshments served. Tickets (\$2 each) can be purchased at any regional rec center, and must be secured in advance. (For stories that will be read, see Page 7.)
Wed, March 7	General Meeting, Laurel Manor, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. John Prince will talk on <b>Humor: Why It's Important and How to Inject It Into Your Writing</b>
Wed, April 4	General Meeting, Laurel Manor, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Penny Thomas will talk on <b>Selecting Your Book Genre and Writing an Effective Back Cover Book Blurb</b>

## Big Crowd Attends Jan 27th Book & Author Expo

Congratulations to Mark Newhouse and his Expo team for another outstanding Central Florida Book and Author Expo. We had record-breaking attendance for the event at Eisenhower Rec Center on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The next WLOV Book and Author Expo will be December 8, 2018, also at Eisenhower Rec Center. Table reservations will begin sometime this spring. Check the newsletter for frequent updates about this next Expo. Following are a few pics from the Expo. More Expo pics can be found on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/The-Writers-League-of-The-Villages-162776817086391/>.

For an interview of three Expo authors, by Angela Love that appeared in Villages-News.com, see: <https://villages-news.com/authors-showcase-childrens-books-tale-bubble-event-eisenhower-recreation-center/>.

### Expo Prize Winners

Free Holiday EXPO table: Gerald Walford

Raffle sponsored by DAV #150: Mark Newhouse, Jan Zahorian, Nancy Jakubicki

Book Cover Contest: See Pages 5-6



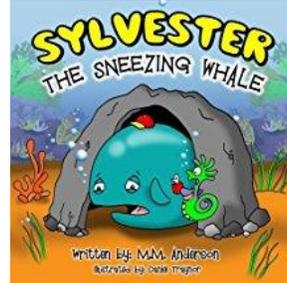


## The WLOV Book Cover Contest Winners

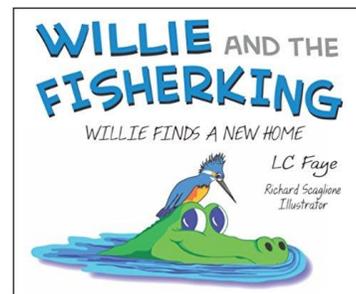
Listed below are the 9 winning covers and the authors. Entering the contest were 47 authors and 94 total book covers. The winning covers were announced at the Author and Book Expo on January 27<sup>th</sup>, at Eisenhower Rec Center

### Children's genre

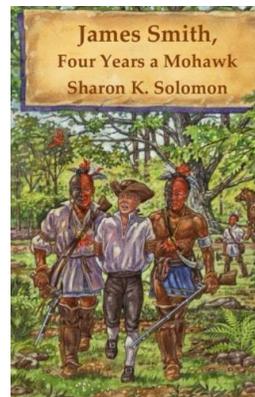
1<sup>st</sup> place: Sylvester The Sneezing Whale  
M.M. Anderson



2<sup>nd</sup> place: Willy and the Fisherking  
LC Faye



3<sup>rd</sup> place: James Smith, Four Years a Mohawk  
Sharon Solomon



### Fiction genre

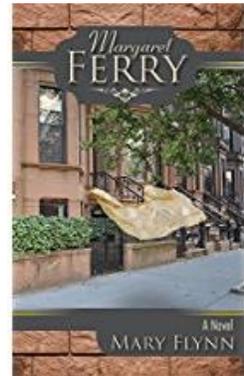
1<sup>st</sup> place: Gift of the Amazon  
Barry and Darlene Greenawald



2<sup>nd</sup> place: In the Court of Love and Loss  
Jenna Ives

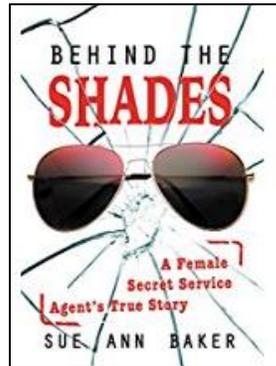


3<sup>rd</sup> place: Margaret Ferry  
Mary Flynn

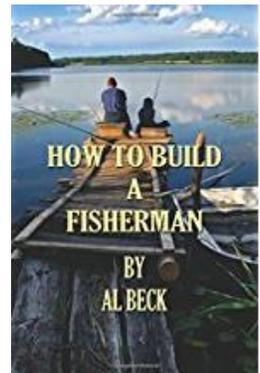


**Non-fiction**

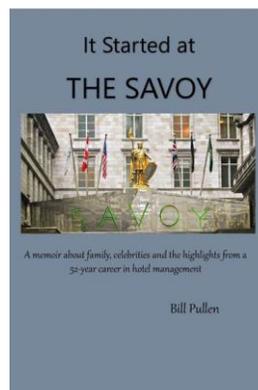
1<sup>st</sup> place: Behind the Shades  
Sue Ann Baker



2<sup>nd</sup> place: How to Build a Fisherman  
Al Beck



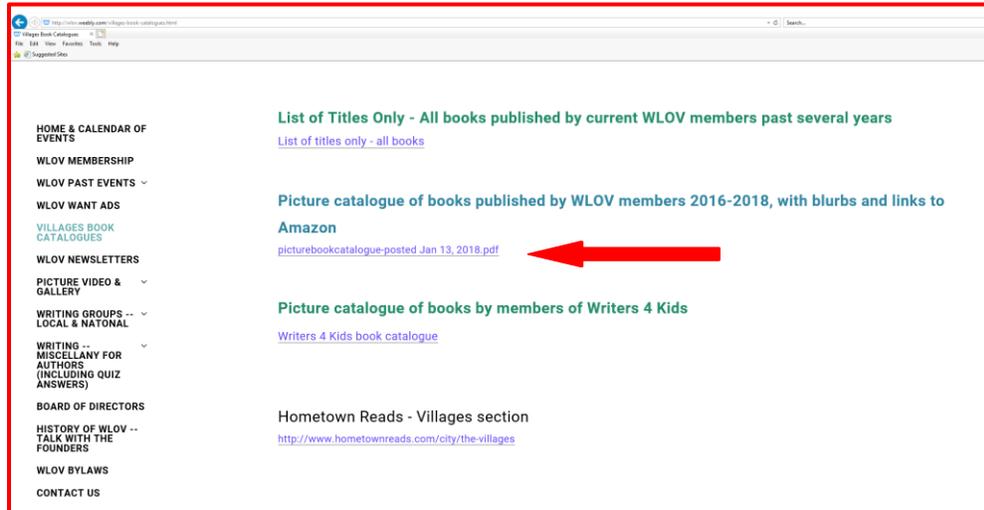
3<sup>rd</sup> place: It Started at The Savoy  
Bill Pullen



## WLOV Catalogue of books updated on [www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org)

Larry Martin  
drlarry437@gmail.com

The picture catalogue includes all WLOV member books published 2016-2018 (IF you sent them to me). Go to [www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org). Under Villages Book Catalogues, click on link under “Picture catalogue of books published by WLOV members 2016-2018.” If your book is not in the catalogue, and you wish it listed, please send me the relevant information: title, cover photo, blurb, and Amazon URL.



## Valentine's Day Love Story Readings – Village of Fenney

By Millard Johnson  
Zendog3@mac.com



The following stories, poems and songs will be read/sung on Wednesday, February 14, Village of Fenney Rec Center, 6 to 8 pm. All Villages residents and guests are invited. WLOV member Phil Walker, a retired professional radio announcer, will emcee the event. **NOTE: Tickets for this event, at \$2 each, must be purchased in advance, from any of the regional Rec Centers. Fenney Rec Center needs to know how many people to expect, to avoid an overflow crowd and also because they are providing some refreshments. If you arrive without a ticket you may not get in, so please purchase your tickets in advance.**

Unk's Fiddle, by Steve Burt  
She, by Dan Kincaid  
An Endless Love, by Christie Seiler Boeke  
Social Handicap, by Millard Johnson  
Love Song of Akina, by Millard Johnson  
Fire in the window, by Lawrence Chizak  
The First Time, by Jim Stark  
Love at first sight, by Jack Petro  
A love song, by Mike Doyle  
Pink Against Blue, by Sharon "Squirt" Spivey James

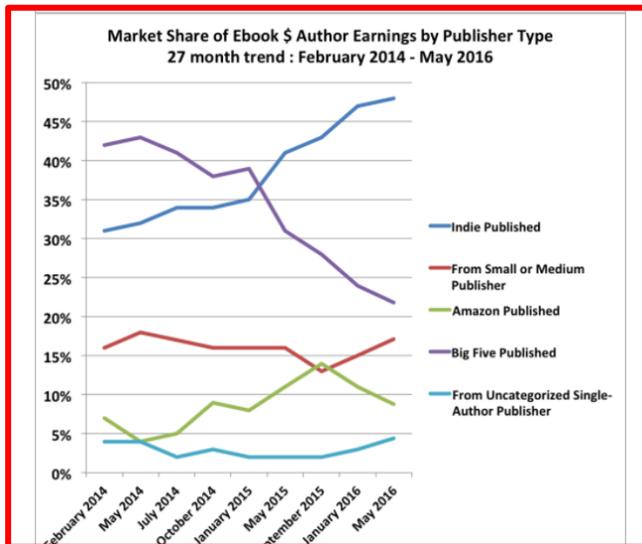
Slipping Away, by Bonnie J. Thompson  
The Flag, by Bonnie J. Thompson  
Romance by the Book, by Leigh Court  
The Twenty, by Brian Gillie  
Valentine for a Spy, by Mark H. Newhouse  
Love And War Is In The Air, by Jenny Ferns

# Rik Feeney presentations on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

His morning and afternoon slide presentations are on the website, [www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org), under WLOV Past Events.



\*\*\*



## May 2016 Author Earnings Report: the definitive million-title study of US author earnings

<http://authorearnings.com/report/may-2016-report/>

Thanks to WLOV member David Bishop for sharing this link to an author earnings report. It is current through May 2016, and includes an amazing amount of data pertinent to self-published authors. Here is just one graph from the report. Clearly indie (self-published authors) as a group have become a dominant market force in the period studied; now, almost two years later, there is no reason to think the trend hasn't continued. Peruse the report to see where you stand among the million-plus published authors.

## Member's Blog



WLOV members are invited to write a blog post for the Newsletter, on any item related to writing or publishing. This month's feature is by Barry Greenawald. Barry and his wife Darlene joined WLOV in 2017. They are also members of the Working Writers critique group, which meets Tuesday mornings in Canal Rec Center and is run by WLOV's membership chairman Phil Walker. Barry and Darlene write together, and recently published their first novel, *Gift of The Amazon* (nature's Amazon, not the website). The cover won first place in WLOV's annual book cover contest, fiction category (see page 5).

### Is John a Polygamist?

By Barry Greenawald

Only commas know for sure. Proper use, misplacement, and misuse of commas is one of the most problematic punctuation issues that writers face. Punctuation matters. Commas, or lack thereof, can totally change the meaning of a sentence.

For example, there is a significant and obvious difference between the following two sentences.

***Mary is a pretty tall woman.***

***Mary is a pretty, tall woman.***

How about this one?

***I'm really hungry. Let's eat, Grandma.***

You sure wouldn't want to forget that comma after the word eat, would you? ***Let's eat Grandma.*** (No thanks, I'd rather eat her turkey.)

Admittedly, those are easy examples of the importance of correct comma placement. This article is limited to one aspect of comma use: restrictive vs. nonrestrictive clauses and words. More specifically I will focus on commas with appositives.



Okay, not your favorite writing topic. But, it's still important. Nonrestrictive (i.e., nonessential) words, clauses, and phrases that occur mid-sentence must be enclosed by commas because you can omit those words without obscuring the identity of the noun to which they refer. The closing comma is called an appositive comma, and some of us forget to add this important punctuation.

Look at this example.

***John's wife, Mary, went shopping.***

Do you need commas around the name 'Mary'? Well, that depends on whether John has more than one wife or not. If something or someone is sufficiently identified, the description that follows is considered nonessential and should be surrounded by commas. If Mary is John's one and only wife, her name is considered nonessential, so you need to surround her name with commas. Her name is nonrestrictive, meaning if you take her name out of the sentence, the meaning of the sentence does not change. That is, it doesn't restrict the meaning of the sentence. ***John's wife went shopping.*** Who else but Mary could we mean?—hence the commas.

So, what does the following sentence mean?

***John's wife Mary went shopping.***

Careful writers and readers understand that this sentence means John has more than one wife. The name *Mary* is not surrounded by commas. Therefore, it means her name is restrictive (it restricts the meaning of the sentence) and if you take out her name, it will change the meaning of the sentence. If John has five wives in your story, we don't know which wife is meant without further description; therefore, no commas are used. Otherwise, how will you know which wife went shopping?

So, in this sentence: ***John's wife Mary went shopping.*** John must be a polygamist. Why? It specifies (restricts) which of his five wives went shopping.

Here's another example that may help to make this concept even clearer.  
***My brother Dale came to visit me.***

Now, see how adding two commas changes that sentence's meaning.  
***My brother, Dale, came to visit me.***

Again, careful writers and readers understand that the first sentence means I have more than one brother. The commas in the second sentence mean that *Dale* is my only brother.

Why? In the first sentence, if I have three brothers; Dale, Tom, and Jerry, and only Dale came to visit me, *Dale* is essential information: It identifies (restricts) which of my three brothers I'm speaking of. This is why no commas enclose *Dale*. In the second sentence, if it is known that I have only one brother, and his name is *Dale*, you could take Dale out of the sentence and it would not change the meaning. *My brother came to visit me.* Who else could I mean other than Dale?



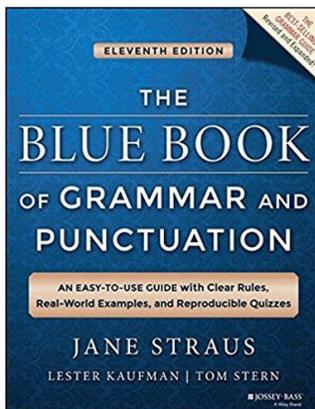
To summarize:

If the person has more than one wife, brother, sister, or whatever, and you are specifying which one is being mentioned, no commas. **If one of many: no commas.**

If the person has only one wife, brother, sister, or whatever, and it is obvious that the name mentioned refers to him or her, use commas. **If just one: separate with commas.**

\*\*\*

Newsletter editor's Note: For more on commas and other essential punctuation, Barry recommends:



<https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Book-Grammar-Punctuation-Easy/dp/1118785568>

# Cartoons

