

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](http://www.WLOV.org)

Writers League of The Villages®

# WLOV NEWSLETTER

August 1, 2017



## ARE YOU COMING? TO WLOV'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL?

All Villages writers and authors are invited. Bring your spouse or significant other and enjoy the evening. Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 – 9 pm, Lake Miona Rec Center. Ice cream will be served. We will also have a special presentation by Mark Newhouse, *I Scream Mystery Night* -- more details on next page. If you do plan to come and have not already responded, please RSVP to me so we know how much ice cream to serve.

Larry Martin  
President, WLOV  
[drlarry437@gmail.com](mailto:drlarry437@gmail.com)

## WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Writing-related Events

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Wed, Aug 2	<b>WLOV Ice Cream Social</b> <b>Lake Miona Rec Center, 7-9 pm</b> Spouse or SO is also invited; please RSVP <a href="mailto:drlarry437@gmail.com">drlarry437@gmail.com</a> for number coming <b>“I Scream Mystery Night” to be presented by Mark Newhouse</b>

### I Scream Mystery Night



FREE SCREAMS, LAUGHS AND ICE CREAM

Join Writers League as you try to solve an *insanely funny* mystery with Mark Newhouse.

Who 'Penned Publisher Peter Piper's Prize-winning Fig?

Follow the clues and you will reveal the precious pig's pernicious 'punchurer'!

Free admission and ice cream for this 'scream' of a Writers League social event. Bring your spouse and let's have a 'scream' of a fun evening. RSVP Larry Martin at [drlarry437@gmail.com](mailto:drlarry437@gmail.com).

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7-9:00 P.M. at Lake Miona Recreation Center

### You will die laughing!!!

Wed, Sept 6	Laurel Manor, 8:30 – 10:30 Speaker: Greg Sharp, Publisher, Sea-Hill Press, Leesburg <a href="http://www.seahillpress.com/">http://www.seahillpress.com/</a> <b>Self-publishing and Book Promotion: It's Never Easy.</b>
Wed, Oct 4	Laurel Manor, 8:30 – 10:30 am <b>WLOV Panel on Book Genres; details at <a href="http://www.wlov.org">www.wlov.org</a></b> Panelists: Jack Hayes, Ann Heathman, Larry Martin, Mark Pryor, Mary Lois Sanders
Fri, Oct 6	<b>Novel in a Day Workshop</b> With Vic DiGenti Laurel Manor Rec Center Registration form: <a href="#">di_genti_registration_form_oct_6_2017.pdf</a> Details below

**WRITERS LEAGUE OF THE VILLAGES PRESENTS**  
**Vic Di Genti's NaNoWriMo Prep Workshop**  
*Novel in a Day*

Date: Friday, October 6, 2017

Location: Laurel Manor Regional Recreation Center.

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cost: WLOV Members - \$55 // Non-members \$65

Writers today face an uphill climb. The competition is fierce, the learning curve steep. There's no magic wand, but by learning the basic techniques for crafting a novel, the beginning writer can quickly flatten the learning curve.

For both beginning writers and more advanced pros looking for new insights, this workshop provides writers with the tools needed to craft their own novel—a novel that will grab a reader's attention and keep them turning pages.

Here are some of the topics covered:

- Elements of plot and structure
- Creating characters that sizzle
- Secrets of good dialogue
- Crafting strong beginnings, middles and ends
- Writing in scene
- Tips for self-editing

Don't put your writing dreams on hold. Register now! Go to [www.wlov.com](http://www.wlov.com) and click on **Registration Form** to register.



Vic DiGenti (aka Parker Francis) is the instructor for this up-beat and fast-paced interactive workshop. Vic is the author of the **Quint Mitchell Mystery** series, including *Matanzas Bay*, Florida Writers Association's 2008 Royal Palm Literary Awards Book of the Year. Vic is FWA Executive Vice President, and the 2017 Faculty Chair for the Florida Writers Conference.

*"Vic DiGenti is a great speaker and covered all the material you could want. Group work and matching handout were very helpful."*

*- Shannon B.*

*"Vic's workshop is fantastic! He gives information to help writers break down novel writing into chunks. I loved his use of humor and examples. It was a great day full of valuable information."*

*- Kitty W.*

Wed, Nov 1

Laurel Manor, 8:30 – 10:30 am

Speaker: DV Havlin, Prize-winning author

<http://www.dlhavlin.com/>

**Tips for the Author: Novice or Old Hand – "I've met the enemy and he is me."**

Wed, Dec 6

Laurel Manor, 8:30 – 10:30 am

*Annual Breakfast Meeting*

Sat, Jan 27, 2018

**Annual Central Florida Book & Author Expo**

Eisenhower Recreation Center. More info in future newsletters.

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# Writers 4 Freedom a Great Success

By Mark Newhouse

Founding President, Writers League of The Villages

I would like to thank the 42 authors who kindly donated their time and talent to our July 20th Writers 4 Freedom Celebration at Laurel Manor. I also want to thank the WLOV Board for their support, Jan Zahorian who kindly assisted me in this endeavor, and Maggie Wacker and Doreen Lowther who pitched in to help during the activity. This was the first time we've done this type of event and it was a huge success. The media people who came were certainly impressed. That same day Leigh Neely placed an online article in *Lake&Sumter Style Magazine* (see <https://www.lakeandsumterstyle.com/let-freedom-ring-in-writing/>) and Ethan Palmer ran a story the next day in *The Villages Daily Sun*. Below are some pictures from the event, taken by WLOV member Rita Boehm.

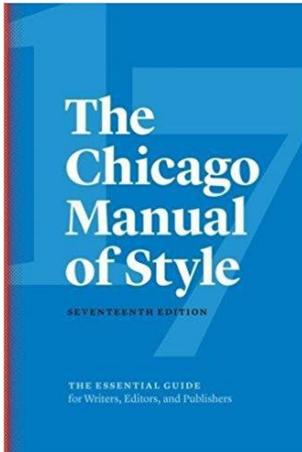
Please send me your poems, stories, anecdotes, songs, or anything else you wrote to [mark@newhouse.net](mailto:mark@newhouse.net). And join me for our Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7-9 p.m., Lake Miona Rec Center. *I Scream Mystery Night* will be presented, a comical mystery. You'll have a chance to figure out **Who Penned Publisher Peter Piper's Prize Winning Pig**. Bring your spouse or significant other. If you do plan to come, and have not already RSVP'd, please do so to Larry ([drlarry437@gmail.com](mailto:drlarry437@gmail.com)) so we know how much ice cream to serve.



## Classic Books on Writing (continued)

By Larry Martin

In previous editions of the WLOV newsletter I discussed Stephen King's *On Writing*, Strunk & White's *Elements of Style* and William Zinsser's *On Writing Well*. This entry for **Classic Books on Writing** is *The Chicago Manual of Style*.



If you want to write “by the book” in terms of correct usage, this is the book to use. CMOS, as it’s often called, has been in print since 1906. The 16<sup>th</sup> edition came out in 2010. The 17<sup>th</sup> edition, cover shown here, is due out this September.

<https://www.amazon.com/Chicago-Manual-Style-17th/dp/022628705X/>

CMOS is also online with a free 30-day trial subscription; after that it is \$39 a year.

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

CMOS is perhaps the most widely used style guide in the U.S., and is frequently cited in local critique groups when an issue of usage arises. However, be aware that CMOS is geared mainly to writing *nonfiction*. A few sections cover dialogue, and others some punctuation issues. The dialogue recommendations are generally loose. Here are some citations from the 16<sup>th</sup> edition.

5.218 **Dialect.** “...fiction writers often use dialect in dialogue. They may even decide to put the narrator’s voice in dialect. Such decisions fall outside the scope of this manual.”

13.39 **Faltering or interrupted speech.** Suspension points—also used to indicate an ellipsis—may be used to suggest faltering or fragmented speech accompanied by confusion or insecurity.

“I...I...that is, we...yes we have made an awful blunder!”

Interruptions or abrupt changes in thought are usually indicated by em dashes.

“Will he—can he—obtain the necessary signatures?” asked Mill.

13.41 **Unspoken discourse.** Thought, imagined dialogue, and other interior discourse may be enclosed in quotation marks or not, according to the context or the writer’s preference.

“I don’t care if we have offended Morgenstern,” thought Vera. “Besides,” she told herself, “they’re all fools.”

Why, we wondered, did we choose this route?

Your probably can’t go wrong adhering to CMOS, and adherence is especially critical if you are writing a term paper or an academic article. However, I would be leery of slavishly following it for fiction; you may lose some spark of creativity. Many great authors have ignored some of the classic rules of writing. For example, E.L. Doctorow and Cormac McCarthy wrote novels where the dialogue has *no* quotation marks. William Faulkner began sentences with a conjunction. Jane Austen wrote with double negatives. E.E. Cummings eschewed capitalization. Mencken wrote incomplete sentences. The list goes on and on.

When you think about it, there are really only two cardinal “usage rules” for fiction writing.

**First, know the rules before you break them.** Don't break them out of ignorance or lack of concern. If you are not sure of a rule, look it up in CMOS or some other source. If you want to leave off quotation marks, fine, but at least first know that the rule says put dialogue in quotation marks. If you want to change point of view in a single scene, OK, but do it knowingly, purposely, and make sure it won't confuse the reader. And if you want to not capitalize proper nouns, OK again, if that's your choice because you know the rule and choose willingly to break it. But don't write New York on one page and new york on another. Or "Come here, Mary" in one paragraph and Sit here, Mary in another. Which brings me to the second cardinal rule.

**Second, stay consistent in your usage.** If you're going to break rules and draw attention, be consistent. Consistency shows the reader you know the rule is not being followed, and it will not be followed throughout the book. If you engage the reader, and remain consistent with your usage, you should be fine.

For more on this issue, see:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/20/grammar-rules\\_n\\_4768485.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/20/grammar-rules_n_4768485.html)

<https://qwiklit.com/2014/03/05/top-10-authors-who-ignored-the-basic-rules-of-punctuation/>

<http://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/questions-and-quandaries/dealing-with-editors/should-i-use-the-chicago-manual-of-style-for-my-book>

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## A Thank You

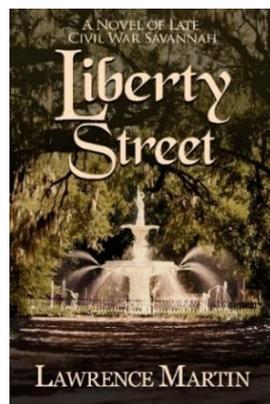
By Larry Martin and Mark Pryor

We would like to thank all those people who nominated our books during the recent Amazon Scout campaign. The campaigns are over and our books were not selected for publication by Amazon. Still, the experience was worthwhile. Just having the book out there, viewed by about 2K people, is great pre-publication publicity. We have uploaded our books onto the Kindle platform and they are now available at Amazon (links below). Print versions will soon be published as well.

**Liberty Street:** <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0748W3CTX/>

**Nobel Phoenix:** <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07465QGCW/>

If you have a completed novel that you plan to self-publish, we recommend considering the Amazon Scout campaign. Any WLOV member in the Scout campaign will be featured in this newsletter.



## Writer Beware

By Larry Martin



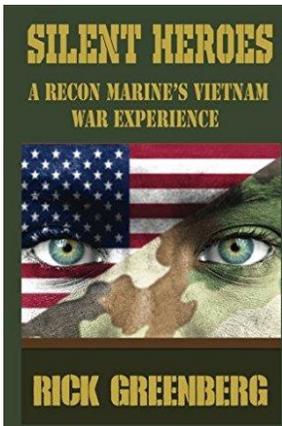
So many websites, so little time. There is one you be check out:

<http://accrispin.blogspot.com/>

As (mostly) self-published authors, we are prey to scams, near-scams and other assorted come-ons. I won't name names here but this web site does. As a general rule, ALWAYS GOOGLE for complaints the name of any publisher, agent or book producer who makes you an offer, ESPECIALLY IF THERE IS AN UPFRONT PAYMENT REQUIRED. When money is required upfront, that means they are not a traditional publisher or agent; their business model is likely based on selling services to the author, *not* books to the public. WRITER BEWARE.

## Congrats to Rick Greenberg – Five Star Award from Readers' Favorite

<https://readersfavorite.com/book-review/silent-heroes>



Rick recently received a Five Stars award from Readers Favorite Book Awards for his Viet Nam War novel *Silent Heroes*. The web site above gives the review and the last paragraph is quoted blow

*Silent Heroes: A Recon Marine's Vietnam War Experience* is beautifully written — I didn't know that soldiers were great storytellers. Rick Greenberg paints a vivid picture of his Vietnam experience, a story that will virtually take the reader's breath away. There is intense action and the reader is intrigued from the very first page. This is a captivating military story with great potential to entice fans of the genre. Vietnam has inspired many military tales, and this one is another must-read story with a vivid and powerful setting in the Vietnam War.



## Published a Book Recently? Won an Award?

If so, let me know. New books published will go in the WLOV book catalogue, posted on [www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org). (Send me the title, cover shot and short blurb.) And if you've recently won any writing-related award or honor that you want to share with our members, send it along and I'll put in the next Newsletter. ([drlarry437@gmail.com](mailto:drlarry437@gmail.com)).

## WLOV Want Ads

WLOV members who have a specific request related to writing and/or marketing can send in a Want Ad. These will appear in the Newsletter and also remain on the website ([www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org)) until they are no longer active. Below is a recently-received want ad.

I am looking for a writing coach to support me in completing a guidebook. I have the book compiled, I just can't seem to find enough words to finish it. Thank you.

Gay Lyn Birkholz, [birkg@comcast.net](mailto:birkg@comcast.net)

# Literary Quiz: Fictional Characters

By Larry Martin

Below is a list of fictional literary characters. You have to come up with the author and title of the book where the character appears. There is no book list or author list to choose from.

Characters are listed in alphabetical order by last name. Some characters are no doubt quite familiar, though the author and book title may not come to mind right away. Others characters will perhaps seem obscure. I have included a mixture of literary classics and contemporary fiction. Many of them have been portrayed in movies and television, or illustrated on book covers, and the first part of the list includes characters with pictures. Following those are other names, not pictured. Answers to this and all previous Newsletter quizzes are posted on the WLOV website, [www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org).

## Name the author and book



Elizabeth Bennet



Miss Havisham



Jean Louise 'Scout' Finch



Walter Kurtz



Gandalf



Augustus McCrae



Hester Prynne



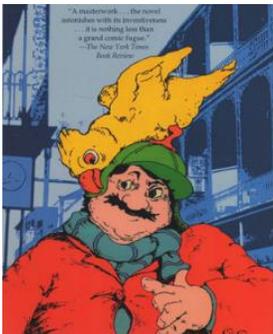
Sam Spade



Mma Precious Ramotswe



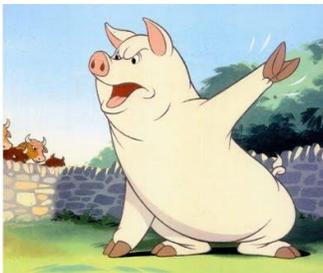
Capt. John Yossarian



Ignatius Reilly



Lisbeth Salander



Snowball

**Additional Characters – name the author and the book**

- Leopold Bloom
- Holden Caulfield
- Stephen Dedalus
- Randall Flagg
- John Galt
- Holly Golightly
- Ishmael
- Humbert Humbert
- Joseph K
- Philip Marlowe
- Stephen Maturin
- Hazel Motes
- Arthur “Boo” Radley
- Rodion Raskolnikov
- Howard Roark
- Edward Rochester
- George Smiley
- Willie Stark