



August 2019

## NEW MEETING DATE AND TIME!

We will no longer meet the 1<sup>ST</sup> Wednesday of the month. Our new meeting time is the 2<sup>ND</sup> Wednesday of the month, from 9 to 11 am. Same location: Laurel Manor Rec Center. Note that our August 14 meeting will go a half hour longer, as it includes a special event involving all the writing groups in The Villages. See below for details.

## WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, August 14, 9 to 11:30 am, Laurel Manor Rec Center.** Regular business meeting 9 to 10, followed by MEET AND GREET VILLAGES WRITING GROUPS, 10 to 11:30 am. Eleven writing clubs have been invited to present what they offer to Villagers interested in writing and publishing. Donuts and bagels will be served. Books by Villages authors will be on display, but this is NOT a sales event. Come browse, meet fellow writers and book lovers. NOTE: Starting in September, our regular meetings will all be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, from 9 to 11 am.

**Wednesday, September 11** - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. Panel Discussion on “**So, You Want to Write: 10 Things to Know.**” Professionals will speak on Proper Rules for Writing, How to Publish, The Cost of Writing, How to Apply Taxes, Book Promotion, and How to Get News Coverage.

**Wednesday, October 9** - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. Speaker presentation to be announced.

**FWA’s annual conference**, Altamonte Springs, October 17 – 20. For details see:

<https://floridawriters.net/conferences/conference-2019/>

**Wednesday, November 13** - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 am – 11 am. Speaker presentation to be announced.

**Wednesday, December 11** - Annual Breakfast Christmas Party, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 9 - 11 am.

# Message from Your Newsletter Editor

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



Starting this month, we have a new general meeting date and time. Please see all details on page 1.

Our writers have been busy! Several have received publicity since the last newsletter in May, and their news stories are copied into our website, [www.wlov.org](http://www.wlov.org). For links, see page 8. Our last regular meeting was May 1; for info on that meeting's speaker presentation, see page 4. There was also a recent "Murder Mystery Train Ride" enjoyed by many of our members, and a couple of pics from that excursion are also on page 4. As always, if you have some writing-related event or notice suitable for the newsletter, please send it to me.

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## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Paula Howard

Hi Everybody!

**Mark your calendar for Wednesday, August 14!** Beginning in August, WLOV will meet the SECOND Wednesday of each month from **9:00 AM to 11:00 am** still at Laurel Manor. The move was precipitated by a vast majority of members who wanted a later meeting time. Our move to the second Wednesday allows Laurel Manor to accommodate us with a bigger room. So, **put August 14<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for a very special OPENING DAY of our End of Year Season.**

**On August 14<sup>th</sup>**, WLOV will be hosting another “first event”: An **Open House & Coffee** for everyone to meet all 11 *other* Writing Groups in the Villages. All residents are invited to attend, along with 27 Book Clubs in the Villages. The *Villages Daily Sun* will help publicize the event.

**Never before has a group like this gathered together at one time.** The intention is to make it easier for any writer or would-be writer in the Villages to find a group they might enjoy. By WLOV presenting the 11 other Writers Groups at individual tables during our regular meeting time, people might find a new group to join and enjoy.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, the 11 Writing Groups will be at individual tables with signage saying where they meet. Club representatives will be at the table to meet and greet the public, and answer questions on what their group does and how they do it. Samples of books written by their members will be on display. WLOV’s own 2020 Book Expo will have a table with Expo leaders there to answer questions.

This special **WLOV Open House & Coffee** will allow people to meet and mingle, develop a feeling of friendship and perhaps attend a meeting of a group of their choice. Knowing how difficult it can be for someone to go to a group for the first time, not knowing anyone, we hope this event will make it easier for would-be writers to find a group to join. Everyone has a story to tell. By joining a group, residents may be encouraged to begin writing their story, whether a memoir or creative fiction. **All WLOV members are encouraged to attend!**

**Our regular August 14<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting will begin at 9:00 am at Laurel Manor Recreation Center. At 10:00 am, we’ll open the doors to all Villages residents to meet and greet the clubs at individual tables and have coffee.** Each group will bring donuts and sweets and WLOV will provide coffee and orange juice.  
**See you August 14<sup>th</sup> at Laurel Manor at 9:00 am for our regular meeting!**

**P.S.** Our July outing on the “Murder Mystery Train Ride” was enjoyed by a group of WLOV members and spouses. Everyone had a great time! See pics on page 4.

### **COMING IN SEPTEMBER:**

**On September 11, 2019**, our regular meeting beginning at **9:00 am** will feature a Panel Discussion on **“So, You Want to Write: 10 Things to Know.”** Professionals will speak on proper Rules for Writing, How to Publish, The Cost of Writing , How to Apply Taxes, Book Promotion, and How to Get News Coverage. The panel program will begin at approximately 9:45 am and moderated by WLOV member Diane Dean. Following presentations by each professional, a Q&A session will be held. Handouts will be given on the presentation topics. Mark your calendars and bring your questions!

### **Don’t Forget:**

**WLOV is now a recognized chapter of the Florida Writers Association**  
WLOV is newly listed as a Chapter on the website of the Florida Writers Association. Benefits include cross-promotion of our events and all other chapters. Encouragement of all our members to visit [www.floridawriters.net](http://www.floridawriters.net) and become involved with their many and varied offerings and Writers Contests. Of course, everyone is encouraged to become an individual member with all the additional benefits such a membership brings.



## May 1, 2019 Speaker: Amber Karlins

Amber Karlins, an English teacher at Lake-Sumter State College, was WLOV's May speaker. She moderated our 'Gong Show' on 30-second presentations, and also spoke about submitting ideas and screen plays for production. **Below are her suggestions for websites that may be seen by TV and Film producers looking for story ideas:**

- Stage 32.com
- Querytracker.net
- Blacklist.com
- VirtualPitchFest.com
- Inktip.com (Producers troll this site for story ideas.)

- NickolsFellowplay.com
- CustomFilmFest.com

She invites members to send her story ideas for critiques at:

- AmberKarlins.com

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## WLOV's Murder Mystery Train Ride, July 19, 2019



# Interview with Leigh Court and Ann Heathman

By Paula F. Howard

Recently, I had coffee with two WLOV members attending a book signing together, Leigh Court and Ann Heathman. I asked questions our readers might want to hear.

Let's start with the most important:

## The Nutshell of Knowledge:

Q. What words of wisdom do you have to offer people who write books?

A. "Discoverability," says Leigh Court. "That's the key: Your book has to be found." In other words: Book Promotion once your tome is published.

A. "Write a good book," says Ann Heathman. "You have to have a good hook." In other words: Write something readers want to read and enjoy doing it.

Talking with these two Romance writers was a real treat. Both are engaging and knowledgeable authors who have written numerous books and sold countless numbers. However, each became writers in very different ways.

## Leigh Court

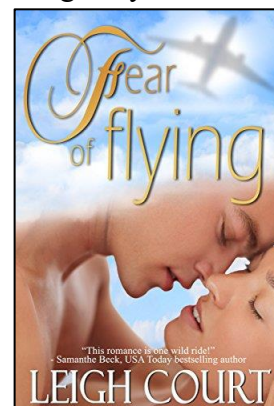
"I was a TV news reporter in New York and had one very bad week at work. A friend of mine from high school – who was a reporter then working for ABC World News Tonight, based in Detroit – died in a helicopter crash while on his way to cover a story. The pilot was also killed, along with the cameraman. I knew the family well, so my news director assigned me to cover the tragedy for our nightly newscast. It was traumatic for me, but I called on my professionalism and taped a heartfelt story with his parents.

"At the end of that same week, I had to cover another story in which a long-haul trucker was 'dusting' State Police troopers on the New York State Thruway." ('Dusting' is a term which means driving so close to cars stopped on the side of the road that the hat of the officer would be blown off).

"Well, the driver of the truck got too close to the trooper and splattered him all over the highway." After that, Leigh was so depressed covering "bad" news that she tried to lift her spirits by reading a romance novel and discovered it had a happy ending. Feeling better, she decided, "Maybe I could write one of these."

She wrote a contemporary story and sent it off to Harlequin, and it was immediately rejected. But soon, she saw another outlet and her next submission, a historical romance, was accepted. Having gone through an open door, Leigh continued to write and eventually left her reporter's job.

She's written for several publishers, and has eleven books and novellas published, including the one pictured here, *Fear of Flying*. Her websites are <https://www.leighcourt.com> and <https://www.jennaives.com>





## Ann Heathman

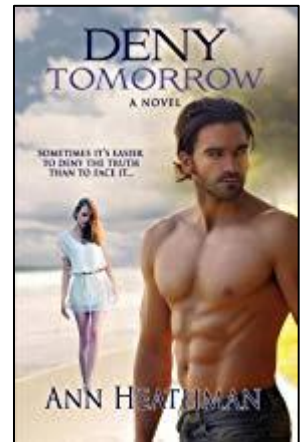
Ann, a former English teacher, became an author by self-publishing her books in the beginning. Then, she called a publisher in Michigan who helped format her next book and design its cover. “I’ve been publishing with them ever since.”

Born in a small town in Indiana, she has three brothers and says that helped her understand how men think, which is helpful in writing romance stories, like her book *Deny Tomorrow*.

Currently, Ann is working on a mystery of sorts, based on a true-life story. Her story and books can be found on [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/9808508.Ann\\_Heathman](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/9808508.Ann_Heathman)

### So, how do you get discovered?

“Now, book publishers don’t do anything for you that, frankly, you can’t do for yourself,” says Leigh. “There are (computer) applications that help you design your cover, format your books, and get it all done yourself.”



“Too many writers think they are going to make a lot of money writing books. I just enjoy my stories,” Ann says.

Getting noticed by a book club doesn’t hurt. Leigh mentions that the first “50 Shades of Gray” book was self-published and mentioned by a woman reporter on a national TV show. She apparently said, “I just read the most amazing book.” The rest of that story is history.

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## EXPO 2020 - Great News!

Jack L. Hayes  
Chairperson, the Expo 2020 Team  
[jlh1937@comcast.net](mailto:jlh1937@comcast.net)

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Author Registration guru, Donna Beard, notified me that all of Expo 2020’s author tables at Eisenhower Recreation Center, for Sunday, January 26, 2020 are now ***sold-out***. That correct ...sold out! (But all may not be lost for those of you who missed out. Donna Beard has set up a waiting list.)

WLOV members really took advantage of this great opportunity. Just like with a bestselling book flying off the shelves, so did out tables. *So, what’s all the excitement that triggered this rush to get an Expo 2020 table, you ask?* One word, ***New***. New ideas are the driving force behind our upcoming 2020 Expo. Our new team’s planning and preparation phase actually got underway this past January, and we will continue to meet at least monthly until the Expo opens.

For the first time ever, the 2020 Expo is being held on a Sunday, between the hours of 11 – 4. (No more competing with such popular events as Art Shows, Christmas Parade, Model Train Show, Chili Cook-off, and others.)

Publicity is critical to having a strong turnout. Our publicity team (Lorraine Harris and Dan Kincaid) has already developed publicity manuals/strategies we shall be following. In addition, they have identified numerous book clubs, both inside and outside of The Villages, for targeting. John Prince, our design specialist, is taking care of a wide variety of promotional designs we will be using in our ad campaign. Barbara Miller and Peter Shianna are wrapping up the room layouts at Eisenhower.

My job? My first project was assembling a very talented, conscientious, and dedicated team; for this I give myself an A++. They are the best! I also oversee the entire project and offer assistance wherever needed. Oh yes, on every project before us, we vote as a team. So now you have been introduced to the entire Expo 2020 team. Stay tuned for more updates.

Please stop by our table at WLOV's Open House on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, at Laurel Manor. It will be our pleasure to chat with you. See you there!

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## **Doug Cravens Memorial Luncheon** **Red Sauce Restaurant, Monday, June 24, 2019**

WLOV member Doug Cravens died April 11 (see May Newsletter for tributes by fellow authors ([http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/wlov-newsletter-may\\_12019.pdf](http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/wlov-newsletter-may_12019.pdf))). Doug's family hosted a Memorial Luncheon on June 24. Photos below: Memorial table showing Doug as a young man. Dining area of Red Sauce. Members of Doug's family, who hosted the affair. Several of the attendees gave short speeches, reminiscing about their work with Doug.



## Recent News Items About WLOV Members

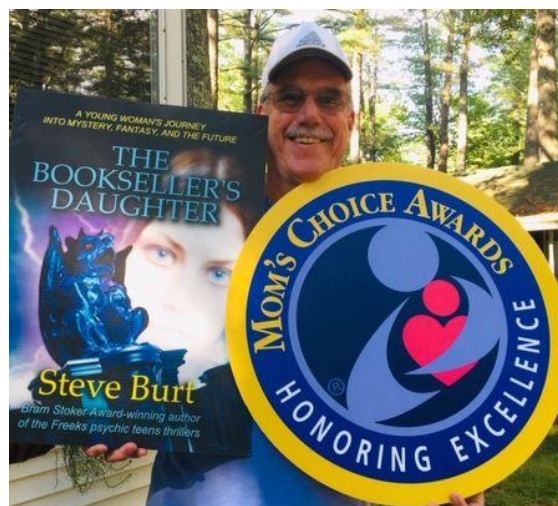
News items in print since previous newsletter are now grouped together. To read the recent articles, go to <http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/newsitems-summer2019.pdf>.

- Steve Burt: The Portland (Maine) Press Herald, June 20, 2019  
<https://www.pressherald.com/2019/06/20/former-maine-pastor-wins-top-new-york-book-festival-award/>  
The Villages Daily Sun, June 26, 2019.  
**See also items about Steve Burt, below.**
- JJ Clarke (Julie Johnson), The Villages Daily Sun, June 9, 2019
- Dan Kincaid, The Villages Magazine, June 2019
- Bob Koenig, The Villages Magazine, July 2019
- Larry Martin, *Lake and Sumter Style Magazine*, June, 2019  
(Item also on line at <https://www.lakeandsumterstyle.com/larry-martin/>)
- Mark Newhouse, The Villages Daily Sun, July 7, 2019  
Mark is also featured in a blog titled Your Next Beach Read, at  
<https://yournextbeachread.com/2019/07/31/mark-newhouse-author-of-the-devils-bookkeepers-series/>
- Katherine Schumm, The Villages Daily Sun, July 14, 2019

## WLOV Author Steve Burt wins TWO National Awards for his novel *The Bookseller's Daughter*

Steve's novel won the top honor at the New York Book Festival held in June. The award includes \$1500. He will attend the award ceremony this month at the Algonquin Hotel in New York. News items about this award are on the WLOV website (see above).

His book also won the Mom's Choice Award, honoring excellence in family friendly literature (see <https://www.momschoiceawards.com/about/>).



<https://www.amazon.com/Booksellers-Daughter-Steven-Burt/dp/0985618868/>

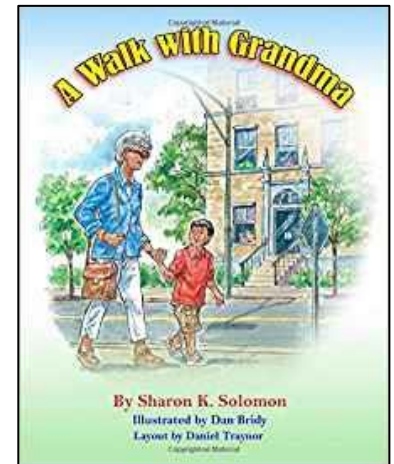
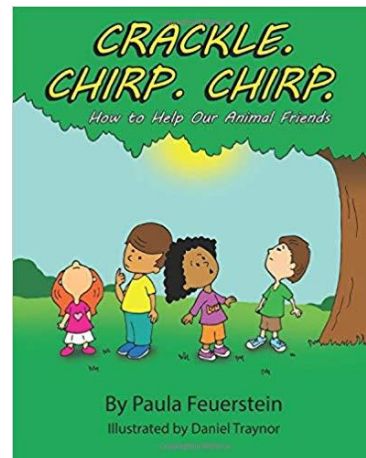
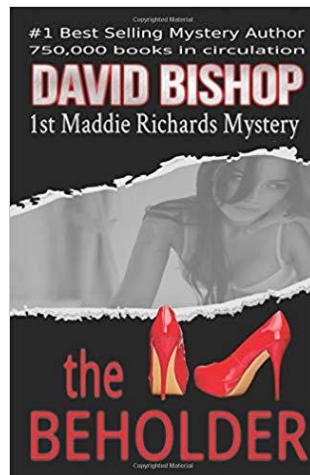
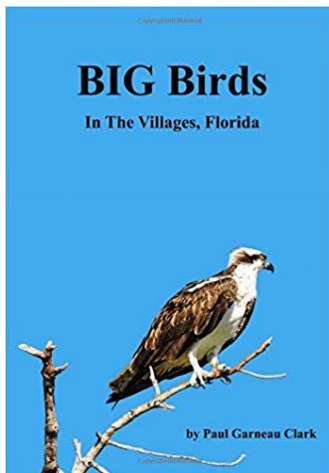


## New Books by WLOV Members

These titles will soon be added to our book catalogue.

[http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/master\\_catalog-revised\\_april272019.pdf](http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/master_catalog-revised_april272019.pdf)

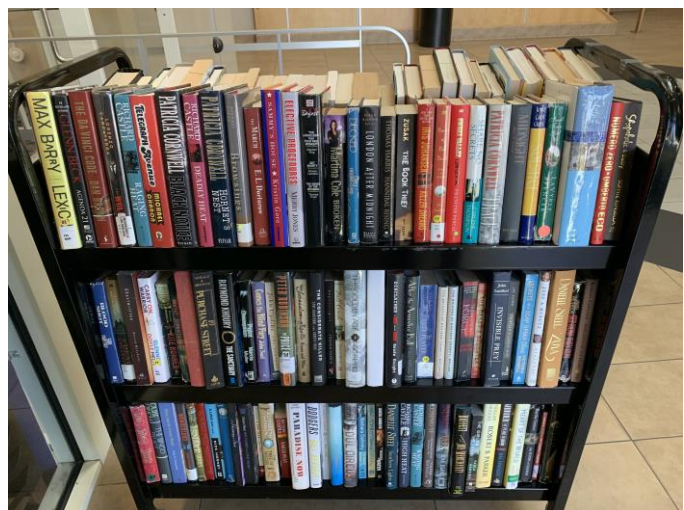
If you have published a book recently that is not in the catalogue, please send the cover and a short blurb to me at [drlarry437@gmail.com](mailto:drlarry437@gmail.com).



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## What happens to all those bestsellers?

They go on sale at the Sumter County Library for \$1 a book. Cornwell, Clancy, Doctorow, Grisham, Updike, Steele, Turow, et. al.





# Finca Vigia – Hemingway Estate in Havana

By Larry Martin

This past May my wife and I did a land tour of Cuba with Road Scholar. It was eye-opening in many ways, and a trip I'd recommend to anyone who has not been to Cuba. Although there is now an embargo on cruise ships coming from the United States, it does not affect most land tours. Road Scholar currently offers six land tours that are legal under the new Regulations published June 5, 2019. They fall under the General License category "Support for the Cuban People." (More info at [www.roadscholar.org/cubafaqs](http://www.roadscholar.org/cubafaqs).) If interested, don't wait for the next cruise ship to make port.

One of the highlights of a trip to Havana is Ernest Hemingway's estate, located ten miles east of the city. It is called Finca Vigia (meaning "lookout house"). The house was originally built in 1886, on a hill, and overlooks the city. Hemingway lived in Key West from 1931-1939, then moved to this house (shown here), which he first rented. He purchased it in 1940, along with 15 acres, for \$12,500. He lived here until 1960, initially with 3<sup>rd</sup> wife Martha Gellhorn, then with 4<sup>th</sup> wife Mary Welsh Hemingway.

Below and on the next page are some pictures of the interior. Book cases were present in almost every room.



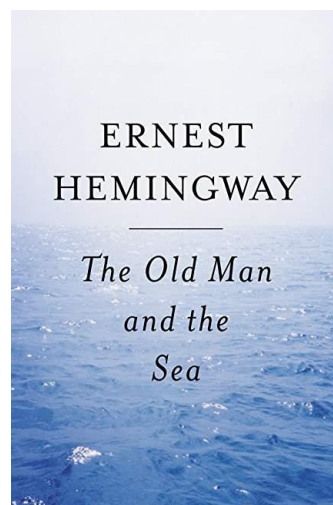
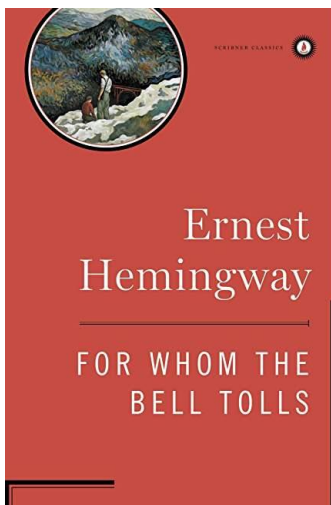


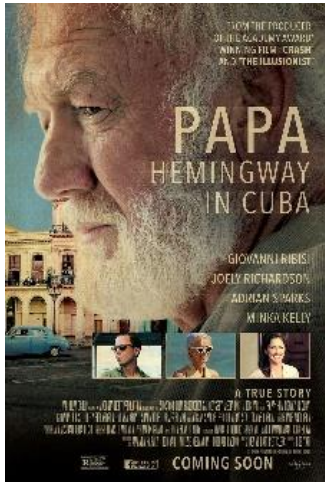


From the back veranda you have an excellent view of downtown Havana.

At Finca Vigia, Hemingway wrote much of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, the Spanish Civil War novel published in 1940. When Hemingway and Gellhorn were divorced in 1945, he kept the estate and lived there during the winters with his 4<sup>th</sup> wife, Mary Welsh Hemingway.

In Cuba Hemingway also wrote *The Old Man and the Sea* (1951), about a fisherman who lived in the nearby town of Cojimar and worked the waters off Havana.





After Fidel Castro ousted Fulgencio Batista in January 1959, Hemingway stayed on good terms with the post-revolutionary government. However, as depicted in the movie *Papa Hemingway in Cuba*, he was becoming increasingly depressed, and left Cuba for good on July 25, 1960. In the fall of 1960 Cuba expropriated many properties, including Finca Vigía. I reviewed this movie in the December 2018 WLOV Newsletter. [http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/wlov-newsletter-dec\\_1\\_2018.pdf](http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/wlov-newsletter-dec_1_2018.pdf)

If interested in Hemingway's last days in Cuba, I highly recommend it. The movie is available for downloading from Amazon Prime.

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## Double Meaning

My doctor said now that I'm older  
I need to install a bar in the shower

