

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, 2019

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Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin, drlarry437@gmail.com

Breaking News! Not all Villages authors are “self-published.” For an interview with one of our WLOV members who recently connected with a royalty publisher, see page 7.

There are a zillion website links to information about writing, publishing, promoting books, etc. A few of the more interesting links are included on page 4. They will help answer questions that may be keeping you awake at night.

What else? Oh, yes, the upcoming events. See the list on page 2, and for more detail, President Paula Howard’s Message, also on page 2. The Royal Palm Literary

Awards competition opens this month, and WLOV member Chris Coward, the chairperson, is looking for people to judge the entries. If you have any interest in critiquing, you’ll find this a most rewarding experience.

We have gained many new members the past year, and it’s important for them to know how to obtain info on the club. There are four ways: 1) This newsletter, which comes out monthly except during the summer, and with all back issues on the website, www.wlov.org; 2) The website, which contains a schedule of events, and a lot of other info pertaining to the writing activity in TV; 3) Emailing any of the board members (listed in previous issue), including club president Paula Howard (see her Message, below); 4) the monthly meetings, always the first Wednesday of every month (except June and July) at Laurel Manor, 8:30 am. WLOV also has a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/The-Writers-League-of-The-Villages-162776817086391/>, where you’ll find many pictures of past events.

WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, February 6, General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 8:30 am - 10:30 am
Speaker will be **Leigh Neely** (left, in photo). Leigh is one half of a writing duo known under the pseudonym *Neely Powell*. Her partner is Jan Powell (right, in photo), Their website is www.neelypowellauthor.com and their books are available on Amazon.com and TheWildRosePress.com. For more info please see President's Message, page 2.



Thursday, February 14, Odell Rec Center, 6-8 pm

Valentine's Day Love Story readings, WLOV's Production with the Old Time Radio Club. Tickets need to be purchased in advance, at \$4 each; the fee is for refreshments and decorations provided by the Rec Center. Tickets can be purchased in all regional rec centers. Must have a Villages ID for each ticket purchased. Authors and readers must also purchase tickets. Last year's event sold out, so it is recommended you purchase tickets early if you plan to attend.

Wednesday, March 6 - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 8:30 am – 10:30 am
Nichol Hamil, professional photographer, will speak on **“How to Make a Movie on our Smartphones.”**

Wednesday, April 3 - General Meeting, Laurel Manor Rec Center, 8:30 am – 10:30 am
Special event will be **Research Your Character Fair**. For details please see President's Message, below.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT, Paula Howard



Hello Everyone!

Ever notice how fast the days go the older we get? Only two or three things seem to get done in a day before it's time to go to bed again. Where does Time go? It would seem by retiring and “slowing down” that it should mean more time in a day to do enjoyable things. But, no, it's more like having to hurry just to accomplish half the things you used to do now before the day ends. Somebody should do a study on that. Well, we've made it through January, 2019...How are your New Year's resolutions going? I'll leave the conversation at that...as we are all human!

At our February 6 meeting the topic will be “Writing with a Partner: Pros and Cons.” We are going to meet Leigh Neeley, managing editor of Style Magazine for Lake and Sumter County. I have worked with Leigh as she hired me to write for her magazine last year while they needed extra help. She is a fun personality who has had an amazing career. As managing editor of Style Magazine, which is free at many locations in The Villages, especially at doctors' offices, she will also tell us if it's possible to write for magazines. Did you ever think about doing that? Perhaps, you've never thought about writing with a partner either, but there are many interesting ways to get that novel written that many of you have been thinking about for some time. Just like having a diet buddy, or an exercise buddy, having a writing buddy might make more sense after we hear from Leigh.

Our March 6 speaker on “How to Make a Movie on our Smartphones” will be Nichol Hamil, who works as an independent photographer with her own company called Neola Photography. Nicole is very talented and will explain an application available which can edit your movie on your phone. Who knew your smartphone was...well, so smart?

Our April 3rd meeting will offer a new concept called “Research Your Character Fair”. Because WLOV wants to provide innovative benefits to writers, and offer experiences you might not get elsewhere, we’ve developed an opportunity to meet people in various careers, to research their character traits in case you have such a character in your book(s). The first theme for this new type of meeting is dedicated to **“The Mystery of Security.”** You will be able to talk to a Detective, Policeman, Sheriff’s Deputy, a former Prisoner who spent 17 years behind bars, a Forensic Psychologist, a man who does Cyber Security, possibly a Defense Attorney and several others.

At the April **Character Fair** we will have tables set around the room, each assigned to one person with expertise in a specific career (including “prisoner” in this category). You can sign up for 10-minute interviews with at least two of these people. Details of how this will work -- the timing and the sign-up -- will be presented as we get closer to the event. Also at this event, photographer Nicole Hamil will be available to do a professional head shot for \$50, in case you might need one for your book or publicity materials.

Our theme for 2019 is **Sharing Secrets Together**. I’m available to hear anything you want to share with me, or answer any questions you may have, at either my email address: pfhoward777@gmail.com or on my cell phone, 407-432-9931.

RPLA Now Open: Submit Your Work, Become a Judge



Dear WLOV members and friends,
Hello, I’m Chris Coward, a WLOV member and chairperson for the 2019 Royal Palm Literary Awards (RPLA) competition, the flagship writing contest sponsored by the Florida Writers Association (FWA), a 1,500-member nonprofit trade organization. RPLA will open for entries February 1, offering opportunities for WLOV members, both as entrants and as judges.



As entrants? Earn the chance to garner a trophy. In-depth critiquing is provided for all entrants.

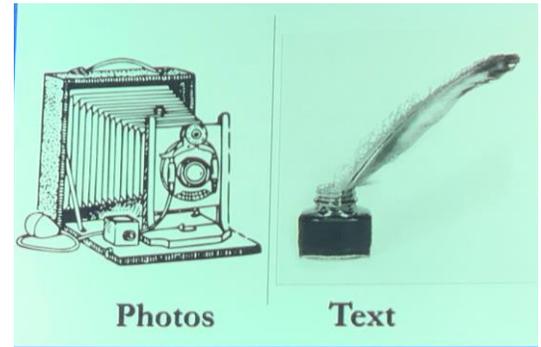
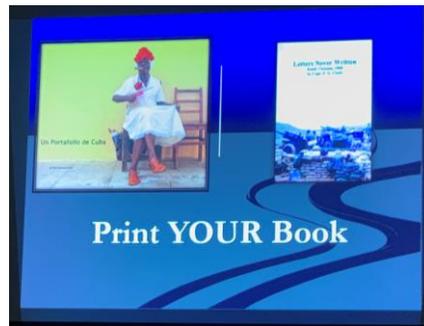
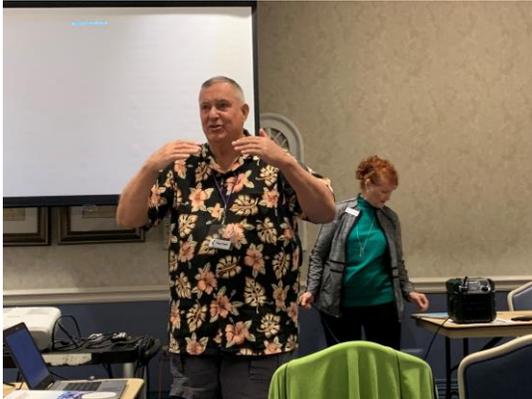
As judges? Discover the many benefits of judging! It’s fascinating to see the range of writing that comes through the competition, and judges say repeatedly that an unexpected benefit is how much the experience of judging has helped them with their own writing. As a judge last year phrased it, “I learned more through one year of judging than I did in my entire MFA program.” Then there are the bragging rights: judges may list this role on their websites, in their resumes, on the signature line of their emails, or whatnot.

RPLA is open for submissions in 27 adult genres and 5 youth genres. Judges choose the genre-category or categories they wish to judge and specify blackout dates (e.g., for vacations) and other restrictions. If you wish to enter your own work in RPLA, you may still judge, just not in any category you enter. Oh, you need to be a member of FWA to enter RPLA, but not to judge. If you’re interested or wish more information, please contact me at rplarubrics@comcast.net. We look forward to continuing the longstanding relationship FWA/RPLA and WLOV have enjoyed. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Chris Coward
2019 RPLA chairperson
Oxford Writers Group Leader
Floridawriters.net

January 2nd, 2019 Meeting

At our monthly club meeting Wednesday, Jan 2, WLOV member Paul Garneau Clark, spoke on publishing both picture books and text books as two separate endeavors, using two different companies (Blurb for the former, KDP for the latter). His presentation was most informative, and he'll be happy to answer any questions about the talk. You may reach him at cedarcliff@earthlink.net.



Recent Publicity about WLOV Members



FWA blog on RPLA award-winning Jenny Ferns
<https://floridawriters.net/writing-as-a-therapeutic-exercise-rpla-showcase-jenny-ferns/>



FWA blog on RPLA award-winning Tom Bender
<https://floridawriters.net/journalism-teaches-crisp-prose-rpla-showcase-tom-bender/>



Magazine items about WLOV and its authors, published January 2019

(Ctrl + click on link below to read the full articles)

<http://wlov.weebly.com/uploads/2/4/3/6/24362452/wlov-newsitems-jan2019.pdf>

RPLA winners, Village Neighbors Magazine, Jan 2019

WLOV Club of the Month, Yankee Trails, Jan 2019

Article about Dan Kincaid, The Villages Magazine, Jan 2019

Article about Rita Boehm, The Villages Magazine, Jan 2019



Useful/Interesting Web Links for Authors

(Ctrl + Click on link to get to the website. Thanks to WLOV members who submitted these links.)

How much does it cost for typical author services?

https://www.the-efa.org/rates/?fbclid=IwAR2naFz42U3g53OuGy6wW7KcH9rRA_PEHmUh-bROEI6kNUqUN8ebxfaibsE

TYPE OF WORK	ESTIMATED PACE	RANGE OF FEES
EDITING		
Basic copyediting	5-10 ms pgs/hr	\$30-40/hr
Heavy copyediting	2-5 ms pgs/hr	\$40-50/hr
Website copyediting		\$40-50/hr

Self-Publishing Company Rankings – The Best and the Worst

<https://selfpublishingadvice.org/allis-self-publishing-service-directory/self-publishing-service-reviews/>

Best and Worst Self-Publishing Services
Reviewed & Rated by the Alliance of
Independent Authors

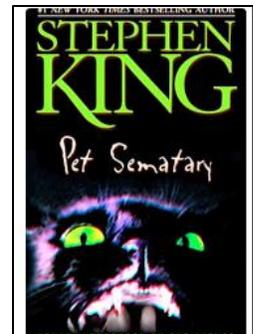
The Rise and Fall of Barnes & Noble

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iuct6UkKs7o>



Books turned into movies coming out in 2019

https://www.bookbub.com/blog/2019/01/09/books-to-movies-2019-editorial-blurbs?email_link_source=article_primary&source=blogdigest



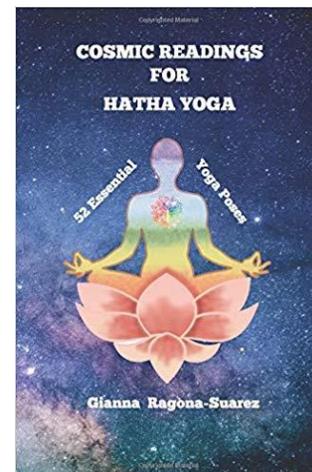
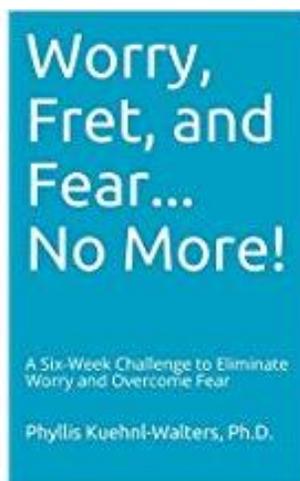
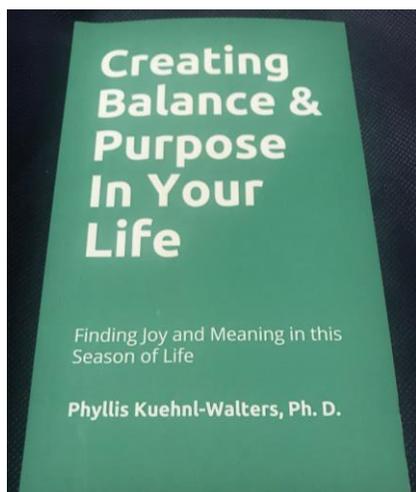
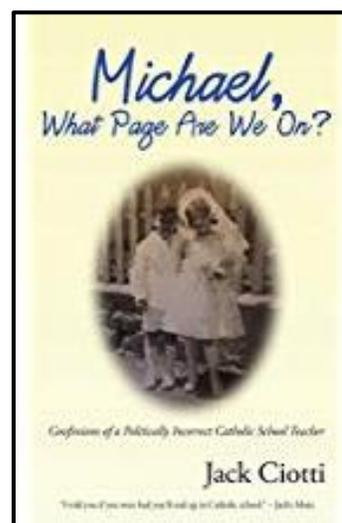
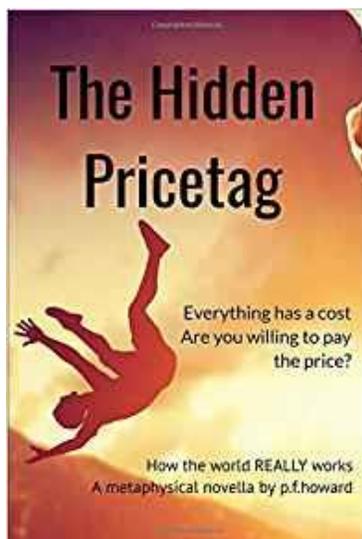
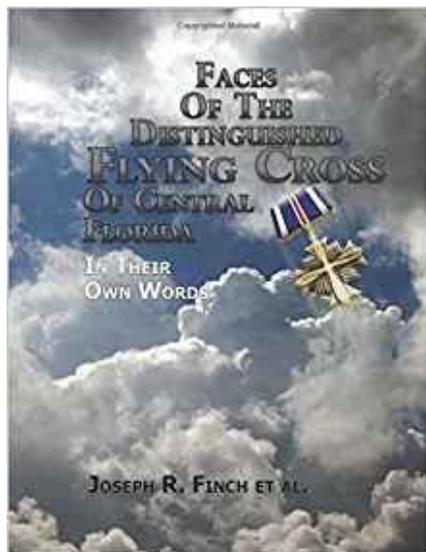
Do you need a Library of Congress number for your book?

<https://www.indiesunlimited.com/2016/01/25/self-publishers-may-want-to-try-for-library-of-congress-cataloging/>



New Books added to WLOV Catalogue

If you've recently published a book, and wish to have it listed in our catalogue, send me the cover, a blurb and the Amazon URL (drlarry437@gmail.com). For a blurb about each book, see the full catalogue on our website, www.wlov.org/, under Villages Book Catalogues.



Born Before 1964? Then This Contest is For You

(Thanks to Holly Schwartzol for sending along this info.)

Living Springs Publishers LLP is now accepting submissions for “Stories Through The Ages Baby Boomers Plus 2019.” It is open to anyone born 1964 or earlier. Submissions close on June 15. There is no prompt for the contests, and stories may be about any topic. The word count is 900 - 4000 words. The entry fee is \$25 for one story and \$20 per story when submitting multiple stories. A minimum of the top fifteen finalists will be published in the 2019 edition of the book. Also:

- **1st place winner will receive \$500.00**
- **2nd place \$200.00**
- **3rd place \$100.00**

For more info go to www.livingspringspublishers.com.

Jacqueline Peavler – Managing Partner
Living Springs Publishers LLP
JVPeavler@LivingSpringsPublishers.com

Ann Heathman – Author and Professional Dog Trainer



WLOV member Ann Heathman, a regular in the Wannabes critique group, is author of 3 romance novels and working on her fourth book, which will be in a different genre. In addition to writing, Ann’s other passion is dog training. Here she tells us about her career in Indiana, her move to The Villages, and how she got into writing.

LM: What was your career in Indiana?

AH: I have both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in elementary education with a middle school endorsement. I’ve taught every elementary grade but spent most of my career teaching 6th grade. The last five years prior to retirement, I left the classroom to become a “digital age” literacy coach. I was part of a team challenged to “retool” teachers to teach in the 21st century. Our message was: “If you’re teaching the way you were taught, you’re teaching kids who aren’t sitting there.” The advent of new technology, computers, the internet and social media, necessitated the need for teachers to completely revamp their teaching methods. In the summer of 2004, I was published in the *JSD*, national journal of staff development.

LM: When did you move to The Villages, and why here?

AH: I moved to The Villages in 2007. My school district offered senior teachers an early buy-out package which was too good to turn down. Since I was several years away from the usual retirement age, I wanted to continue to work. My thought was, if you're going to work later in life, follow your passion so I bought a dog training franchise and moved to The Villages.

LM: Dog training? How and when did that become your passion? And why TV, and not some other place in Florida?

AH: Dogs have been constant companions for most of my life, so as I thought about a new career, becoming a dog trainer seemed like a perfect fit. The fact that there are tons of dogs needing training made The Villages a perfect location for a dog-training franchise. Also, the great weather and the amazing lifestyle in TV were icing on the cake in terms of my decision to move here.

LM: How did you get into writing romance novels, and when did you start?

AH: I've always been a romantic, starting when I was a young girl, looking for that happily ever after moment. I began writing in earnest when my youngest child left for college. As an empty-nester, I finally had time to sit and put pencil to paper. I'm not sure romance is the genre I write in, however. I think romantic suspense or romantic thriller (a made-up genre) might be more apropos. I noticed when I went to the movies, the stories seem to fall into one of two categories. One type was the high octane, shoot 'em up, guns and bombs exploding movie with very little romance, but a favorite of the men. The other type of movie was a "chick flick", a sweet romantic story, with not much action, and geared toward women, meaning you usually had to force your husband to go see it.

LM: I can agree with that.

AH: So, I wondered if it was possible to write a story that had high action along with a strong romance threaded through it. I wanted my story to be one that appealed to both men and women. In my 'Tomorrow Series' of books, I believe I have met that goal.

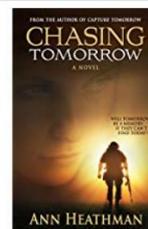
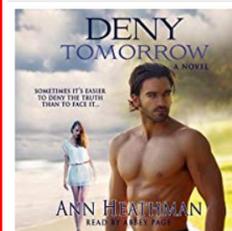
LM: What are the three you've published?

AH: The three books I currently have published are *Deny Tomorrow*, *Chasing Tomorrow*, and *Capture Tomorrow*. They came out in 2014, 2015 and 2017, respectively.

LM: How did you arrive at the theme, the "Tomorrow Series?"

AH: In my first book, *Deny Tomorrow*, both main characters are in denial. The hero is a "Black Ops" undercover agent, working in Afghanistan in 2012. He and his team of operatives are hiding in plain sight. They are dressed to look like members of the Taliban. The heroine, an investigative reporter, working for a small independent press in the US is in the area, doing a story on the poor treatment of women under the Taliban regime. She wears a burqa, covering her from head to toe, which disguises her identity.

The two characters cross paths and there is an attraction. When that happens, denial begins. He must deny who he really is or else his cover will be blown. She has to deny her attraction to him because she can't believe she could possibly be



attracted to a native of this region. This led to the tagline, “Sometimes it’s easier to deny the truth, than face it.” But you can’t deny tomorrow forever, and eventually love conquers all.

LM: What are you working on now, and is it part of the Tomorrow Series?

AH: I’m venturing into a new genre. I met a woman here in The Villages whose husband tried to kill her. He was a sociopath, and her story is a hair-raising tale of emotional and physical abuse leading to a near-death experience. I am writing a fictionalized version of her story, including the assassination attempt and her long recovery afterward. Remarkably, he is not in jail, so everything about her past has been expunged so he can’t find her. For my protection, even though the story will be highly fictionalized, I will publish it under a pen name. I hope to have the book in print later this year.

LM: You’re a regular with Wannabes, which meets Mondays at Lake Miona. Are you in any other critique groups?

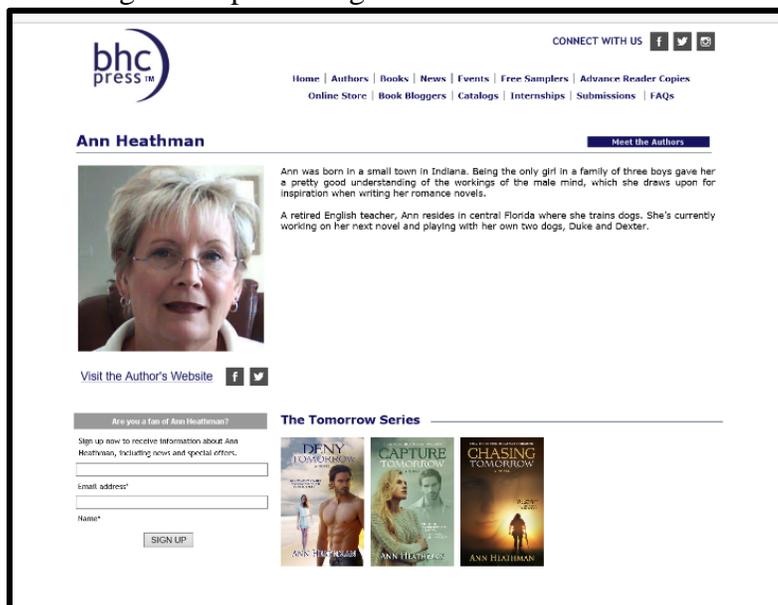
AH: Just Wannabes. I have attended this critique group for about five years and cannot praise them enough for the help they’ve given me in writing my books. I especially appreciate the feedback from members with military backgrounds. I have no knowledge in this field, but between the research I did on Navy SEALs, the CIA, and Black Ops, along with input from my military author friends, I was able to write a story that is authentic and true to form.

LM: You are now with BHC Press. Your first book was with Ash Publishing? Are they the same?

AH: My first three books were all self-published. I connected with a company called Blue Harvest Creative (BHC) and commissioned them to design my covers, format the books, and upload them to Amazon. Vern Firestone, the designer, had won many awards for cover design so I was eager to work with him.

For those who may wonder, Blue Harvest Creative is not a vanity press. I paid around \$500 for these services. During the upload to Amazon, there is a place to name a publisher, so I used my initials and stated the book was published through ASH publishing.

My first book was published in 2014, when Blue Harvest Creative was just a small book design studio in Michigan. They have since transitioned to a small press book publisher with an array of services and a catalog of over 150 authors, of which I am one. Now, I enjoy all the benefits of being traditionally published, which includes cover design, editing, wider distribution, and marketing assistance. They have a very nice website, with a picture of every author and a separate web page for each (see screen shot).



What is your royalty arrangement with BHC?

AH: I was lucky when I had an offer from BHC to be one of their authors. This happened before they became a full-fledged publisher so there was no signing bonus and no royalty share in the beginning. Now that they have officially become a publisher, my contract calls for a royalty split of 75% for the author and 25% for the publisher.

A couple of things informed my decision to publish subsequent books with BHC. First of all, as a self-published author, all my books were only listed for sale on Amazon. Now, as a BHC author, my books have been listed on Ingram, iTunes, B&N, Kobo, Google, Walmart and OverDrive.

Secondly, the publisher shops their catalog around to many independent book stores throughout the US as well as doing other promotions to market their authors such as offering ARCs (advance readers copies), connection to book bloggers, and advertising upcoming book signings and appearances.

LM: What is OverDrive?

AH: OverDrive is the leading digital content provider to libraries all over the world. And they are fast becoming the leader in ebook delivery. The website is www.overdrive.com. They have an app that allows you to get free ebooks and audiobooks from your library.

In addition to Overdrive, BHC has opened up another channel for distribution via Walmart.com, and that holds a lot of potential Walmart is working with the BHC print distributor and has begun to add a select 70 BHC Press print titles to their ecommerce website, Walmart.com. Right now I am not one of the 70 authors, but I'm hoping my next book will become part of this group.

LM: Do you think being traditionally-published has helped your book sales?

AH: Well, I only signed with BHC in October of 2018, so I haven't all of a sudden become a NYT bestseller, but things look promising. Before signing on with BHC my sales had dropped to almost nothing. Now, with BHC, I have sales from almost all of the sites mentioned above. Not huge sales, but better than before. Because of my new association with BHC I think I'm in a better position than ever to achieve that break-through moment. Only time will tell.

LM: I notice your books are also available in audio. Tell us how that came about?

AH: My first book, *Deny Tomorrow*, is available on Audible. There are two ways to publish on Audible. One is to pay a narrator to produce your book. Their fees start at a minimum of \$200/hr. and go up from there. My book was eight hours-long to produce, which would have cost me at least \$1600. I would need to sell a lot of books to ever recoup that kind of money.

The second way to publish on Audible is by sharing royalties with your narrator for every book sold. You don't pay anything upfront, which is nice, however the downside is, if your book doesn't have a high ranking, meaning it's not selling well, you are not going to get any offers for someone to narrate your book. They know they will put a lot of time in producing your book for very little return on their time.

I was very lucky to find a narrator since my book didn't have a high ranking, meaning sales were limping along as noted above. Even so, Aven Shore, my narrator, agreed to narrate my book for a share of royalty. That was pure luck on my part.

LM: What do you personally do to promote your books? Expo? Website? Speaking engagements?

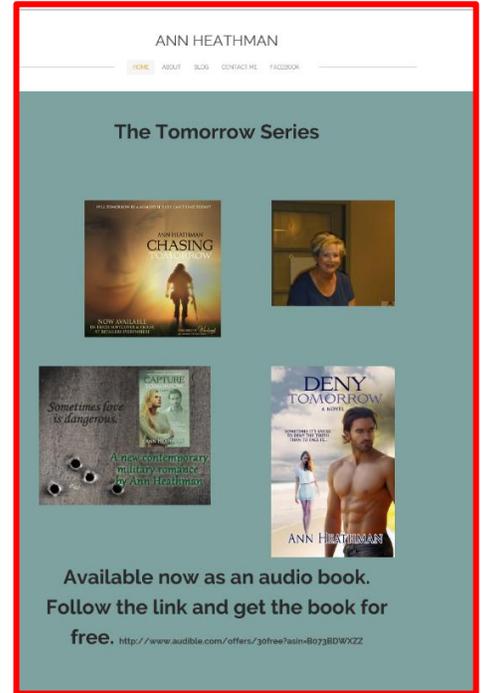
AH: Whether self or traditionally published, you need to do your own promotion- book signings, social media, website presence (www.annheathmanauthor.com, home page shown on right), newsletters, speaking engagements, blogging, etc.

BHC has increased my distribution and thus sales, but their best-selling authors obviously get more attention, since they are making the company the most money. There is no quick route to discovery. Every author needs to put time and effort into marketing, no matter how they are published.

LM: Getting back to dog training, what exactly do you do in that capacity?

AH: After early retirement from teaching, I still wanted to work and decided to follow my passion. I've always loved dogs, so I bought a dog training franchise called Bark Busters, received training on how to train a dog, and then began offering the service in The Villages and surrounding area. The website is <http://www.dogtrainingcentralflorida.com/>.

My son Casey is a partner in the business (pictured) and our company motto is, "We train any dog. Any age. Any issue." We do private, in-home training and work with everything from cute little puppies to very aggressive "red zone" dogs. We also train service dogs for the deaf, veterans with PTSD, and for people with mobility issues. I've been able to rehabilitate many aggressive dogs, thus keeping them from being euthanized, and there's no better feeling than that.



LM: Of your two passions – writing and dog training – if you had to choose one?

AH: That's a tough question to answer. I find fulfillment doing both things -- writing and training dogs. I'm not sure I could choose between the two, and luckily, I don't have to.

LM: Well, thank you Ann, and good luck in both careers. If our readers want to contact you, what's the best way?

AH: Email me. annheathman@gmail.com

Cartoons

