

WLOV NEWSLETTER

MARCH 26, 2017

Message from your president

Last month's newsletter included a list of our WLOV Board members (with pictures) and a catalogue of recently-published books by WLOV authors. Those two items have now migrated to the web site (www.wlov.org), which is slowly evolving into a place to find not only upcoming events, but important information about our club and its members.

I plan to update the WLOV book catalogue as you publish new books, so send me that information as soon as your next book comes out. Note that this book catalogue is for WLOV members only. We are also promoting hometownreads.com, which seeks to include books by all Villages authors. If you have not yet uploaded your book(s) to their web site (www.hometownreads.com), I encourage you to do so. Currently they are accepting up to 4 books per author, with promise of even greater capacity in the future.

While there are many interesting items in this edition, one in particular is the oral history of the club's founding. Thanks to Rita Boehm, who interviewed the club's two founders Mark Newhouse and Kenn Kincaid, and wrote the history presented on Page 10. It will also be posted on the website.

Larry Martin
President, WLOV
drlarry437@gmail.com

EPPA (Exciting Programs Planned for April)

Wednesday, April 5 - Regular Monthly Meeting April 3, 8:30 am, Laurel Manor Rec Center – Panel Discussion on “Writing For The Media”

For more on this event, please see page 2.

Friday, April 28 – Two half-day seminars by Patricia Charpentier, Laurel Manor Rec Center. Ms. Charpentier is author of award-winning *Eating an Elephant: Write your life one bite at a time.*

For more on this event, please see page 3.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Regular Monthly Meeting April 3, 8:30 - 10:30 am, Laurel Manor Rec Center
Panel Discussion on “Writing for the Media” with Frank Stanfield and Sandi Newmark.

Frank Stanfield



Frank Stanfield was a newspaper editor and reporter for more than 30 years, including *The Orlando Sentinel*, *Ocala Star-Banner* and the *Daily Commercial*, where he is a correspondent. He is a Vietnam-era veteran and born-again Christian. His novel, *Purple Heart*, comes out this year.

His first book, *Unbroken: The Dorothy Lewis Story*, 2011, Kingstone Publishing, is the true story of a woman who was carjacked, assaulted, shot, and her children were murdered, yet her faith remains unbroken.

Vampires, Gators and Wackos, A Newspaperman's Life, was published in 2014 by Create Space. He has spent a lifetime covering natural and manmade craziness in Florida so bizarre the alternative title was going to be, “You Can't Make This Up.”

He has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Georgia and a bachelor's in political science from the University of North Florida. He has appeared on the Discovery ID's “Handsome Devil” and “Mind of a Murderer” series, “Killer Kids,” on Lifetime Movie Network, and on BBC to discuss the infamous teen vampire cult murder case.

Frank regularly speaks to groups, and has been a presenter at the Southeast Regional Conference on Child Fatalities. He appears on local news, cable and radio programs, and you can find him on Facebook, Twitter and www.frankestanfield.com. Stanfield and his wife live in Central Florida where he is a lay leader in his 2,700-member church. He has three daughters and seven grandchildren.

Sandi Newmark



Sandi Newmark is a journalist, photographer and longtime (well, 10 year) Villages resident and fervent supporter of the lifestyle here.

One of the reasons she moved to The Villages was because of the many media opportunities, and because of the many interesting people who reside here. Writing and photography are her passions. She is in her third year of producing a column on Facebook called Life in the Villages, FL. She covers events like parades and outdoor festivals and does columns about what's going on. She is also co-editor of a monthly newsletter for a religious organization.

Sandi has been writing since age 7, when she loved the 5 Little Peppers books & was determined to write one. But she was an only child, and had no family to include! So her career waited till she was about 11, when she started a newspaper column in a local weekly in Orange, N.J., interviewing fellow students in junior high school. Later, during high school, she worked at a local monthly social magazine, and edited the high school yearbook.

Sandy has a degree in magazine journalism from the Newhouse School at Syracuse University, and had a national magazine article published before she graduated at 21. She worked on national teen magazines in New York City, which led to wonderfully exciting assignments like going on the Jackson Five tour and covering the Osmond family during many performances. She also interviewed diverse personalities like Barbara Walters and Dr. Margaret Mead in the 1960s. Later in life, when she lived in South Florida, she worked for daily and weekly newspapers.

Publishing on the Internet allows her to be timely (almost immediate) and grants access to so many far and wide, so preferable to just a local publication.

Friday, April 28, 2017

Laurel Manor Rec Center

Two half-day seminars by Patricia Charpentier
Registration form on www.wlov.org home page

Morning Workshop, 8:30 to noon: Moments to Memoir

Moments shape our lives, and from these moments, memoirs emerge. Think of each moment of your life as a pearl, waiting to be discovered and polished. String enough of these iridescent bits together, and you have a memoir.

In this fun, hands-on workshop, learn to mine the moments of your life and transform them into dynamic stories. Set the stage, describe the people, show the action, and transfix your reader. Whether you are writing for yourself, your family, or for publication, this workshop teaches you how to make each moment count.

Afternoon Workshop, 1 to 4 pm.: Make Your Stories Shine

Whether you are a new or experienced writer, learning how best to edit your stories is a vital skill to develop and hone. In this workshop, explore the different types of editing and when to use each. Discover tips and tricks to make your editing process more efficient. Examine how free/inexpensive, easy-to-use software programs lend objectivity and assist in editing your work. Good writing requires good editing; putting pen to paper is just the beginning. Find out how to take your writing from promising to polished in the Make Your Stories Shine workshop.



Patricia Charpentier, author of the multi-award winning book, *Eating an Elephant: Write Your Life One Bite at a Time*, turned loss into passion when she embarked on a journey to help people give those they love the gift of a lifetime.

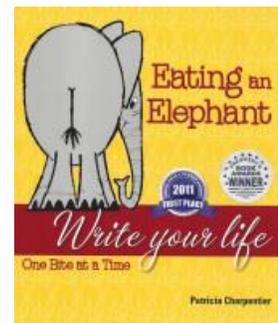
She grew up in South Louisiana surrounded by extended family but had no desire to understand the history and culture into which she was born. By the time she became interested, all those who held the answers to her questions were gone.

Through ghostwriting memoirs on behalf of others, as well as co-authoring, editing, teaching, speaking, and publishing Patricia has motivated and guided hundreds in leaving written

legacies for their families.

She is a recent recipient of the Founders Award by the Florida Authors and Publishers Association (FAPA) for achievement and service to the organization and community through Writing Your Life. In presenting the award, FAPA President Mark Wayne Adams said, "Our recommendation of Patricia Charpentier was based on her dedication to starting a publishing business to help others share their life stories. She has not only grown within the organization but has also encouraged new members to pursue successful writing and publishing careers."

Patricia holds an M.A. in creative writing from the University of Central Florida and a B.A. in journalism from Louisiana State University and has worked as a memoirist, writing coach, editor, writing instructor, journalist and photographer. She also had a twenty-eight-year career in mortgage banking information technology. Originally from South Louisiana, Patricia now lives in Orlando, Florida with her husband Bob. She loves to dance for exercise but is grateful that the motto of the studio is: *There are no mistakes, only solos.*

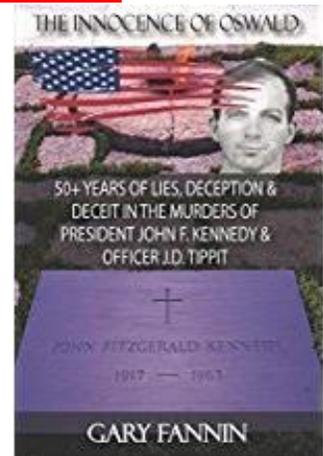


Other Villages book events in April



Bestselling author Wendy Wax will be at Pimlico Recreation Center, on Friday, April 28. 6 to 8 pm, for a “meet and greet.” She will deliver and autograph copies of her latest book, *One Good Thing*, ordered through the website www.Bookmiser.net. Ms. Wax will speak about her funny and fortuitous adventures in publishing. For more information contact Cheryl Coco (cvcoco1@yahoo.com).

The Villages Mystery Lovers Book Club is presenting author Gary Fannin on Thursday, April 13, 10 am, Rohan Regional Rec Center. He will discuss his 2015 book *The Innocence of Oswald: 50+ Years of Lies, Deception & Deceit in the Murders of President John F. Kennedy & Officer J.D. Tippit*. The flyer for this event states reservations are required; email: villagesmysterylovers@gmail.com.



Sumter County Library offers Self-e for Authors

By Rita Boehm



I attended a seminar last month at the Sumter County Library about 3 new services the library is offering for Indie authors. One of them is an excellent marketing opportunity. It is called “self-e for authors” and is run by the Library Journal. <http://self-e.libraryjournal.com/>

This website allows authors to upload your books so that they can be read by library patrons. No royalties are paid, but it is an excellent way to get your books in front of the reading public. The site allows you to put a link to Amazon for purchase, and to your website, as well.

One other major benefit: The Library Journal will review your book and if they decide it is worthwhile they will showcase it as the best in self-published ebooks -- and allow you to advertise that fact! Even if it is not curated into the national collection, your book will be able to be accessed by Florida readers. I've already uploaded one of my books. They state it takes about 4 weeks before you hear from the Library Journal.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Do not use Explorer as your browser interface with self-e. It doesn't work! After much frustration, and a conversation with the librarian at the Pinellas library who introduced me to this service, I switched to Google Chrome and the upload was successful.

WLOV member goes to school

By Dayle Finn



I went to the Villages Charter School 4-5 grade, on the third of March, bright and early to fulfill the Author Expo drawing that teamed a student with a 'classroom visit' with an author. The student was very surprised (as I couldn't get hold of her parents).

I focused my talk on where to find stories, alternatives to writing such as illustrating, photography...on collaboration with an artist and a writer to bring a story to life, writing for a younger audience...etc. I then asked for their ideas of stories. There was a plethora of ideas just waiting to spill onto paper.

After giving books to the winning student, the classroom, and the library, the teacher had the students scrambling for their journals for morning writing.

Hopefully some seeds were planted in a few minds that writing could be fun.

The teacher wanted to thank the Author Expo team for including a drawing for students. It was a special morning for them all. And nice to be back in the classroom spreading the love of learning and writing.

B&N cancels Author Showcase

Some of our members received this email last month from B&N.

From: "Barnes & Noble The Villages" <CRM2264@bn.com>

Date: Wed, 22 Feb 2017 13:06:32 -0500

Subject: Local Author Event Cancelled

Hello Everyone,

I am Writing you all with the unfortunate news that we The Villages Barnes and Noble will no longer host Local Author Events. Due to many complaints and issues with the consignment office we will not host the consignment option group events in our store. Anyone with a book that is vendor returnable is more than welcome to email us at this address with their information to possibly have an individual author signing. Thank you all,

Ashley Cook

Assistant Store Manager

Barnes & Noble, Inc

1055 Old Camp RoadThe Villages, Fl 32162

352-430-3029 (p) 352-430-3108 (f)

Update on www.wlov.org



We continue to update the WLOV website, www.wlov.org. The old coffee cup logo has been replaced with a banner that rotates covers of members' books. We now have a functioning section for authors who wish to exchange books for Amazon reviews. The catalogue of new books in last month's newsletter is now on the web site, and will be updated periodically. And we are again adding minutes of our meetings. Look for more changes to come. If you think something important should be added, please let me know (drlarry437@gmail.com).

Match the pithy saying with the author

OK, this is a sneaky way to get you to check out www.wlov.org, where the answers are posted (under “Books & Authors”). Of course, you can google each quote on your smart phone, but checking out wlov.org is faster. Hint. Some authors in the list have more than one quote, and some have none.

1. The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.
2. No tears in the writer, no tears in the reader. No surprise in the writer, no surprise in the reader.
3. Writing is an exploration. You start from nothing and learn as you go.
4. Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing.
5. The writer must believe that what he is doing is the most important thing in the world. And he must hold to this illusion even when he knows it is not true.
6. If there’s a book that you want to read, but it hasn’t been written yet, then you must write it.
7. We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master.
8. You can’t wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.
9. There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.
10. You fail only if you stop writing.
11. It took me 15 years to discover I had no talent for writing, but I couldn’t give it up because by that time I was too famous.
12. There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all.
13. Writing is a socially acceptable form of schizophrenia.
14. To me, the greatest pleasure of writing is not what it’s about, but the inner music that words make.
15. The difference between the *almost right* word and the *right* word is really a large matter. ’tis the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.

Authors (in alphabetical order):

Robert Benchley
Ray Bradbury
Truman Capote
Anton Chekhov
E.L. Doctorow
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Benjamin Franklin
Robert Frost
John Grisham
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Ernest Hemingway
Stephen King
Jack London
Somerset Maugham
Herman Melville
Toni Morrison
John Steinbeck
Henry David Thoreau
Mark Twain
Oscar Wilde

FWA – Royal Palm Literary Awards

By Larry Martin

There are so many writing contests, and my google email now puts their pitches in the Promotions (aka “junk”) category. Some contests are probably scams, set up to collect fees and not do any real vetting of entries (See <http://www.victoriastrauss.com/advice/contests/>).

Some legitimate ones have so many entries that the odds of “winning” are astronomical (e.g., those sponsored by Writers’ Digest).

If you have never entered a writing contest, but think your work is deserving, I recommend checking out the Florida Writers Association Royal Palm Literary Award. FWA (<https://floridawriters.net/>) is the largest statewide writing group, and in addition to contests it also sponsors many workshops.

Royal Palm Literary Awards is FWA’s main writing competition, with its own web site, home page shown below.

<https://floridawriters.net/competitions-awards/royal-palm-literary-award/>



To enter your work in RPLA, you first have to be a member of FWA (\$59 a year for new members). Each entry requires a fee (as virtually all writing contests charge), so depending on how many entries you have, it can get expensive. The earlier you enter, the lower the fee. Here is a screen shot of the current fee RPLA fee schedule; the schedule is clearly designed to spur early entries.

3.2.4. Fee schedule. The earlier you enter, the lower the fee.

	Jan 15 – Feb 28	Mar 1 – Mar 31	Apr 1 – Apr 30
Poetry, Flash Fiction	\$20	\$30	\$40
Short Entries	\$30	\$45	\$65
Book-Length Entries	\$40	\$60	\$90

The good news is that RPLA has multiple categories, so most authors should be able to find the proper niche for their work(s). However, they add and remove categories all the time, depending on need. There are also categories for unpublished works, including novels and short stories.

The deadline this year is April 30. After your work is judged, you will receive notice as to whether it made the cut into the Semifinals. If it did not, you're done; try again next year. If it did, then you wait to see if it made the Finals. If not, you're done; try again next year.

If you made the Finals, you have a chance of winning first, second or third place. Winners are announced at a huge banquet in October, held at the Hilton Hotel, Altamonte Springs (only an hour's drive from TV). You don't have to be present to win, of course, but if you are a finalist you should consider attending. During the banquet they show your picture on giant screens, along with the name of the work that landed you in the Finals.

There are cash prizes only for the best Published and Unpublished Book of the Year (\$100 each). Other winners receive acrylic trophies, and if you win for a published book, seals to place inside. And of course there are bragging rights. WLOV had eight RPLA winners last year. (Winners for each year are listed on the RPLA web site.) It would be great for WLOV to again have multiple winners. There's still time to enter.

Are Critique Groups Helpful?

By Larry Martin

Good question. I gave my answer in a BookDaily blog post last year, URL below.

<http://www.bookdaily.com/authorresource/blog/post/1858335>

The bottom line: if you plan to publish your work, the answer is Yes. TV has several critique groups, and many, if not most, of our members belong to one of them. Here is the list, which also includes two clubs adjacent to TV that some WLOV members attend.

Writing Critique Groups in (and close by) The Villages

Writers4Kids (aka Children's Authors Team (CAT))

Mission: A supportive team to help Villages authors create and perfect works for pre-K to young adult.

Meeting: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of month at Laurel Manor, 9:00-11:20 a.m.

Contact: Mark H. Newhouse, mark@newhouse.net

Creative Writers Group (CWG)

Mission: To help and encourage anyone in The Villages who writes nonfiction, fiction, biography, family history, memoirs, fantasy, science fiction, etc. All are welcome to join, read, and critique.

Meeting: Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

Contact: Allen Watkins at 259-4981 or aww21@comcast.net

Lady Lake Writers of Florida Writers Association

Mission: Writers helping writers (critique group)

Meeting: 4th Thursday, 9:00-11:15 a.m., Main Building, Reference Area Study Room, Lady Lake Public Library, corner of Guava and 1st (one block off of 466 or US 27/441).

Contact: Mary Lois Sanders, 352-753-1324 / Website - <http://MaryLoisSandersAuthor.net>; Email - mary.lois.sanders@att.net

Oxford Writers of Florida Writers Association

Mission: Share writing, insights and news. Ten minutes of unpublished writing (4-6 double-spaced pages) to share. Non-Villagers welcome.

Meeting: First Wednesday and third Thursday, 5:45-8PM at Oxford Community Building, Oxford. Near intersection of Hwy 466 and Hwy 301

Contact: Chris Coward at chriscoward@comcast.net

Wannabee Writers

Mission: Help new or experienced authors develop and improve writing skills in all genres of fiction, nonfiction, and memoir writing. Authors email drafts to other members before meetings. Twenty minutes to read work and receive comments. Draft copies returned to author annotated with suggestions. Only full time residents may become members.
Meeting: Mondays at 8:15-11:00 a.m., Lake Miona Recreation Center in the Courageous Room.

Contact: Rich Greenberg at 350-6056 or greenzilla@gmail.com

Writers of The Villages

Mission: Assist any Villager interested in learning or mastering the art of creative writing. Participants write short stories, novels, memoirs, or genre fiction and email them to group participants for discussion and critique at the meeting.

Meeting: Tuesdays at 9:00-10:50 a.m. at Bradenton Recreation Center

Contact: Millard Johnson at zendog3@mac.com or 317-584-5071

Short Story Writers

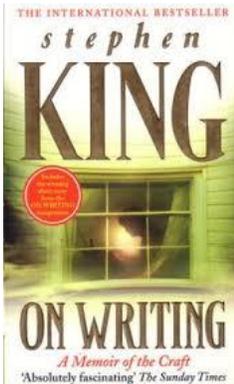
Mission: To read your short story (up to @1500 words) and received a critique by other members.

Meeting: 2nd Friday of month, 10:00 – 11:20 am, at Laurel Manor Recreation Center

Contact: Tom Leonard, at 352-753-2917

For new writers, and some old ones, too

By Larry Martin



Let's say you only want to read only one How-To book on writing. Which One? There are dozens in print, of variable quality and usefulness. I've read or perused several, and if I had to recommend just one to self-published authors, it would be Stephen King's *On Writing*, which came out in 2000. It's a slim book, and much of it is memoir, written after his near fatal accident while walking on a highway in Maine.

Why is this a good how-to book? First, of course, King is one of the most successful writers on the planet. He's been there, done that. Second, his advice is common sense, something often missing in more detailed how-to books. Third, his advice is for the aspiring writer, and is something most self-published authors – many who came to fiction writing late in their career – should find useful, if not downright sobering. There is no way to summarize this book, but a few quotes will give you a general idea of his advice.

- The adverb is not your friend...I believe the road to hell is paved with adverbs...
- You should avoid the passive tense...Two pages of the passive voice – just about any business document ever written, in other words, not to mention reams of bad fiction – make me want to scream. It's weak, it's circuitous, and it's frequently tortuous, as well.
- While it is impossible to make a competent writer out of a bad writer, and while it is equally impossible to make a great writer out of a good one, it *is* possible with lots of hard work, dedication, and timely help, to make a good writer out of a merely competent one.
- If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut...The more you read, the less apt you are to make a fool of yourself with your pen or word processor.
- ...one of the cardinal rules of good fiction is never tell us a thing if you can show us, instead...Well-crafted dialogue will indicate if a character is smart or dumb, honest or dishonest, amusing or an old sobersides. Good dialogue...is a delight to read; bad dialogue is deadly.
- As with all other aspects of fiction, the key to writing good dialogue is honesty. And if you are honest about the words coming out of your characters' mouths, you'll find that you've let yourself in for a fair amount of criticism. Not a week goes by that I don't receive at least one piss-off letter accusing me of being foul-mouthed, bigoted, homophobic, murderous, frivolous, or downright psychopathic...[it] relates to something in the dialogue.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HOW-TO BOOK ON WRITING? If so, send me the title with a paragraph explaining why it's your favorite, and I'll put it in the next newsletter. (drlarry437@gmail.com)

History of WLOV

By Rita Boehm



Kenn Kincaid



Mark Newhouse

Many WLOV members are probably unaware of the organization's roots. To remedy this situation, I asked WLOV's founders, Kenn Kincaid and Mark Newhouse, to provide some background about the history of the organization, which they organized in 2011. Mark is still a very active member (and recently chaired the highly successful Expo '17). Kenn left The Villages in 2015 and currently lives in Arizona. Here are some of their comments; the full interview is posted on the WLOV website.

What were your goals [in starting WLOV]?

Mark: We both felt writers deserve to be treated as artists equal to all the other artists in The Villages. We wanted to create a strong voice for authors and unpublished writers by uniting as many Villager authors as possible and offering venues for them to display pride in their accomplishments.

Kenn: The beginning purpose was to find an outlet for selling our craft. Very quickly the process identified a lot of writers.

How did you choose the name?

Mark: We went back and forth on this, but decided Writers League of The Villages, WLOV, worked very well for websites.

Kenn: Within a couple months we had identified a dozen interested parties, and it seem to be geometrically expanding. Originally we called it a 'Writer's Club', it progressed to The Villages Writer's Club. The basic purpose was to find outlets, opportunities to sell our books. WLOV was a matter of trying to decide on a 'logo'. One of us suggested, "Let's simply call it what it is, The Writers Group of the Villages" I think Mark suggested 'League' was more professional. I felt the word had more 'class'.

What was the club situation for Villages writers back in 2011?

Mark: There were basically two clubs: The Creative Writers Group and my Children's Authors Team (CAT), which is now called Writers 4 Kids. As these groups became more crowded, new clubs arose to meet the needs. The Writers League was never meant to be a critique group, but more like a union, providing some much needed clout for Villages writers.

Kenn: I do not recall any 'professional' writers [whether television, movies, etc.]. People were writing memoirs and fun stories for personal enjoyment.

If you had to do it over, what would you do differently?

Mark: There were many challenges in establishing our club, but I enjoyed my two years as president and feel that the Board did a great job of establishing by-laws and elections for officers. I think the only thing I would have done differently is establish an ambassador program to all the writing groups so that all Villages writers in various clubs would know about our activities, events, and opportunities, and would have supported WLOV efforts as they did this year in the Expo.

Kenn: Not a whole lot really. Maybe concentrate on the publishing angle stronger from the beginning.

Kenn, when did you leave The Villages and WLOV?

I left The Villages in late Oct 2015 – only because my son had settled into Arizona with a steady job and life situation. We wanted to be around family for the years we had left.

Mark, how has the club changed over the years?

In the beginning WLOV had two main goals: to build membership to develop clout for Villages writers, and to establish new opportunities for authors to show their artistic creations. A lot of our early meeting time was devoted to discussing ways to reach those goals and to create new opportunities for book sales and publicity. As the club matured, and we developed specific events, the goal shifted somewhat to providing educational programs to help our writers improve writing skills, editing, publishing and marketing. I think this educational function is important, but I still feel we need to also focus on creating new opportunities for our authors and continue our work to have our art respected as a vital link in making the Villages the cultural center of all the arts. I congratulate all the presidents and Boards that followed me in volunteering to reach these goals and urge everyone who loves our art to consider volunteering a little of their time so all of us can share the benefits of "uniting to write."

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