

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

March 1, 2019

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Message from Your Newsletter Editor

Larry Martin, drlarry437@gmail.com

Already March. Do you notice the years go by faster, the older you get? I think that was part of Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

Anyway...lots going on. Our members are constantly coming up with new ways to promote WLOV and its authors. This past month we had two promotional events, each created whole by WLOV members. Millard Johnson created WLOV's Valentine's Day Love Story Readings. The event this year was held at Odell Rec Center, and it was a professional tour de force. For pics from the event, see page 4. Then, 3 days later, Ann Heathman's hard work to establish an author outpost at Whispering Oaks Winery came to fruition. Four of our authors held a book signing there on Sunday, Feb 17. For more on that event, see page 5.

As for our monthly meetings, March and April presentations are locked in, and we are now planning events from May through the summer. For more info on future events, see President Paula Howard's Message, next page. If you have ideas to promote our club or its authors, send them Paula. As club founder Mark Newhouse likes to say, "No idea is too crazy."

WLOV Calendar of Upcoming Events

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



Hi Everybody!

Last month, in addition to our regular meeting (see page 3), we had two special events: our Valentine’s Day Love Stories readings on Feb 14 (see page 4) and our first author book signing at Whispering Oaks Winery (see page 5). A huge “Thank You” for the efforts of all the people involved in organizing these two events!

What’s ahead. On **March 6** speaker **Nichol Hamel**, an independent photographer with her own company, **Neola Photography**, will give a presentation on **How to Make – and Edit -- a Movie on a Smartphone**. The talented Nicole will show us about other applications to help in your work. Who knew your smartphone was...so smart?

Our **April 3rd** general meeting will offer a new concept called: “**Research Your Character Fair**”. With the theme: “The Mystery of Security” we will have professionals from all walks of life whose career is or was in some way related to Security, Among the careers represented will be: **Forensic Psychologist; Detective; Policeman and a Sheriff; Prisoner who spent 17 years behind bars and is beginning his car-detailing business; Cardiologist; Marine; IT Tech (who can talk about Cyber Security); Foreign Service Officer; Secret Service Agent; Probation Officer; and, (possibly) a Defense Attorney**

At the March meeting, you will be able to sign up for a 15-minutes block of time for whatever characters interest you. Also at the April meeting, those not busy interviewing our characters can obtain a professional head shot for their promotional materials. **Nicole Hamel, our March speaker, will return to take a head and shoulder photo for a \$50 fee.** A makeup artist will be available to spruce you up. We bring you this opportunity, so you can replace that amateur head shot now gracing the back of your book or website

Lots happening! See you on **Wednesday, March 6, 8:30 am at Laurel Manor Rec Center!**

Reminder. If you haven’t paid your \$15 annual dues, please do so at the March meeting, or mail it in to WLOV, PO Box 1067, Lady Lake, FL 32158. Those who don’t renew by the end of March will have to be removed from our mailing list. Any questions, please email me. pfhoward777@yahoo.com. Thank you.

February 6, 2019 Meeting

At our monthly club meeting Wednesday, Feb 6, Leigh Neely managing editor of Style Magazine for Lake and Sumter counties, talked about working with a partner, and also writing for magazines. As for the latter, she emphasized: "If you want to write for a magazine, read it, read it, read it. Never submit an article or a story to a magazine that you don't know intimately. Every magazine that accepts freelance material has writers guidelines....[do it] exactly the way the editors specify in their guidelines." She also recommended several websites for magazines that accept freelance submissions.

<https://realwaystoearnmoneyonline.com/write-for-magazines/>

<http://www.theinternationalfreelancer.com/1-a-word/>

<https://thewritelife.com/get-paid-to-write-articles-10-magazines-that-pay/>



Recent news items & podcasts about WLOV and its authors

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

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

Article about David Bishop, *Villages Daily Sun*, February 10, 2019

Article about Lorraine Harris, *The Villages Magazine*, February, 2019

Article about WLOV's upcoming Valentine's Day Love Story Readings, *Villages Daily Sun*, February 13, 2019



Villages-news.com coverage of our Valentine's Day

<https://www.villages-news.com/2019/02/16/love-fills-the-air-as-villages-clubs-team-up-to-share-meaningful-stories/>

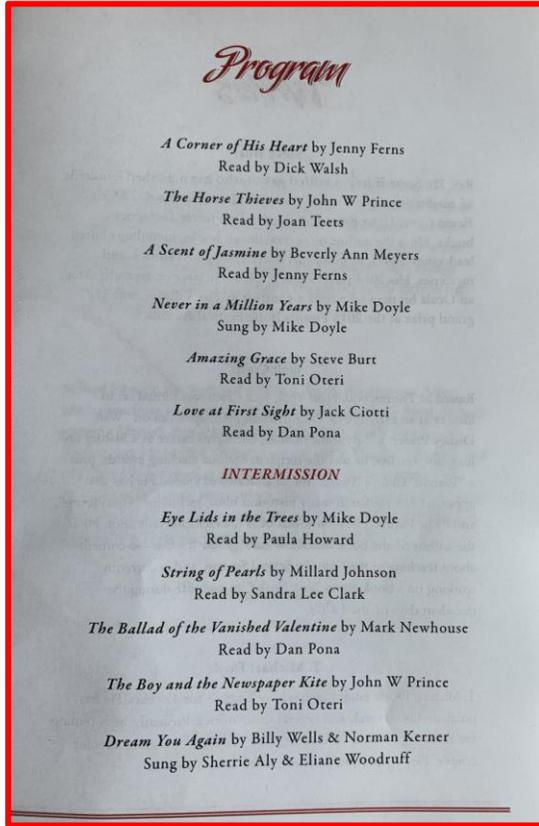
Internet-available podcasts

Larry Martin: <http://bookshopwithstaceyhoran.libsyn.com/bookshop-interview-with-author-lawrence-martin-episode-014>

Mark Newhouse: <http://marielavender.blogspot.com/2018/11/interview-with-author-mark-h-newhouse.html>

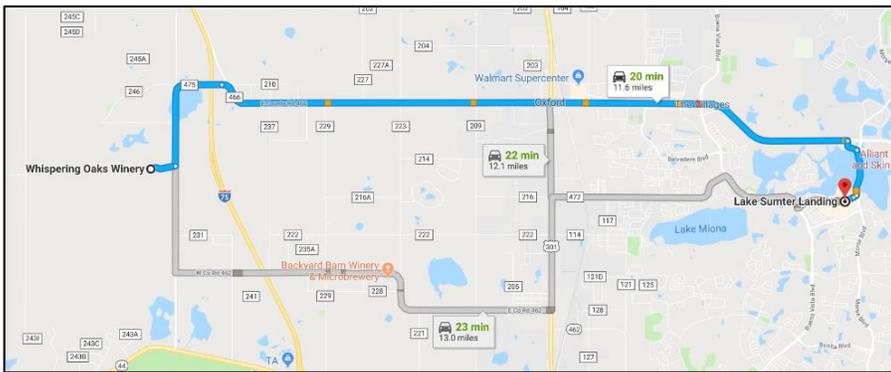
Valentine's Day Love Story Readings

WLOV held its second annual Valentine's Day Love Story Readings on February 14, another very successful event. Below are some pics from the event, along with the program. Going clockwise from upper right: Scene from back of the room at Odell Rec Center; story reader Jenny Ferns; Program producer Millard Johnson with his wife Dr. Jane Howard; Ed Williams, left, program director, with emcee Phil Walker; authors Millard Johnson, Mike Doyle, Mark Newhouse, John W. Prince and Steve Burt; musicians who played during the event; Mike Doyle, singing his song *Never in a Million Years*; story reader Paula Howard.

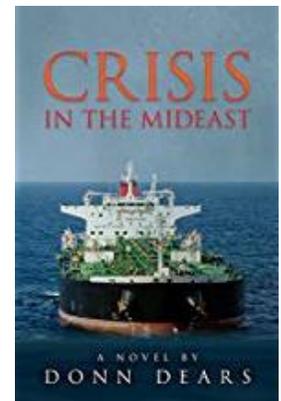
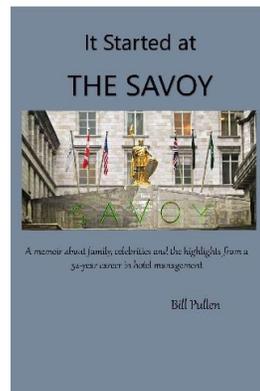
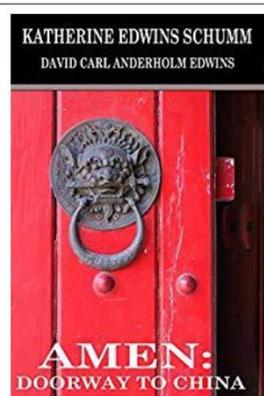
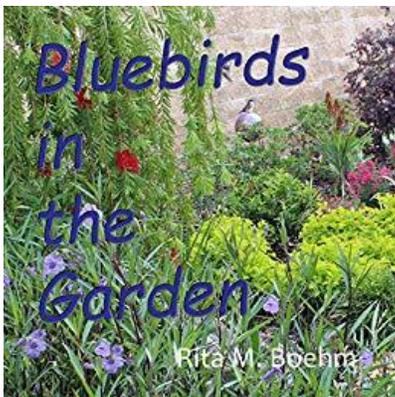


WLOV's 1st Whispering Oaks Book Signing Event

WLOV's inaugural book signing event, at Whispering Oaks Winery, took place Feb 17. The Winery is both a restaurant and a venue for live entertainment, and now has added books – by WLOV authors – to its menu. WO Winery is located just 20 minutes from Lake Sumter Landing, in Oxford (see map). Four authors presented their books at the first of these monthly events: Lindsay Collier, Ann Heathman, Rick Greenberg, and Tom Bender (see pics below).

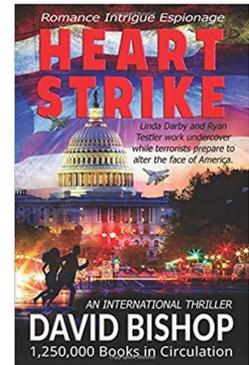
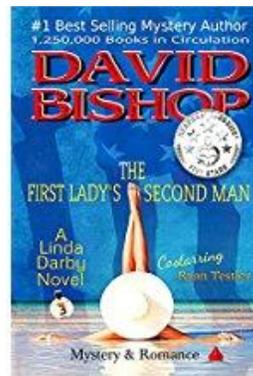
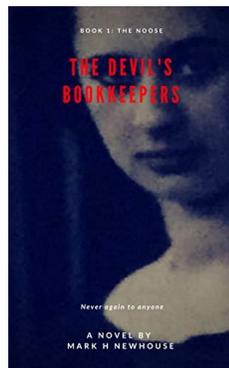
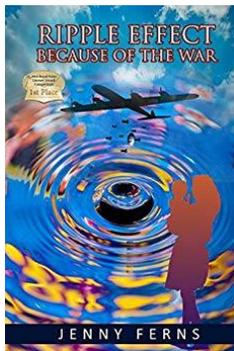
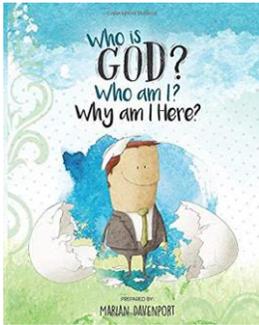


The next Whispering Oaks book signing will be Sunday, March 17, 1-4 pm. The four featured authors in March are Rita Boehm, Katherine Schumm, Bill Pullen, and Donn Dears. Below is a book cover from each of these authors.



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 WLOV book catalogue on our website, www.wlov.org/, under Villages Book Catalogues.



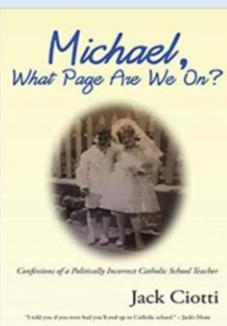
WLOV Author Jack Ciotti giving talk March 20th, Lady Lake Public Library

Join us at the Lady Lake Public Library for

Michael, What Page Are We On?

Author talk with Jack Ciotti

Michael, What Page Are We On? is an episodic, comical story of a history lover, Jimmy, who at the age of forty, naively plunges into a second career as a Catholic School teacher. His unrealistic expectation of classroom life is based on memories of his own schoolboy days decades before, leaving him shocked to see that behavior and discipline in schools have suffered a sea change, and not for the better. Jack will be talking about the book, but also, about how to make history interesting and relevant to students in today's world!

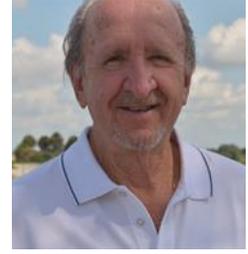
Confessions of a Politically Incorrect Catholic School Teacher
Jack Ciotti

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20th from 2-4pm
Lady Lake Public Library, 225 W Guava Street, Lady Lake



EXPO 2020 UPDATE

Barbara Miller and Jack Hayes



The sad news: Our request for Laurel Manor for the next Central Florida Book & Author Expo was denied.
The good news: On February 15th we signed a contract with the Recreation Dept. for the following:

**WLPV's Expo 2020 will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2020
Hours 11 am to 4 pm
Eisenhower Recreation Center**

Changing from Saturday to a Sunday event will be a challenge, but we are confident of obtaining better turnout with the new date. Also, our authors will be better prepared to sell more books than at last year's Expo. Our primary focus areas include:

- ✓ Creativity, Design, and Marketing
- ✓ Author Support and Event Management
 - ✓ Publicity and Advertising

We are committed to providing more print and media advertising. To accomplish this we are already brainstorming ideas and crafting a marketing plan.

Through the use of Expo Ambassadors we will make a strong effort to reach all types of organizations, social media sites, businesses, and outside communities. We shall present more information on the Ambassador Program at a later time.

Our Expo team has already starting work on the configuration of the authors' tables. We are going to introduce new and more spacious table layouts for each room. The Expo will also have a more modern and appealing look. We think our authors will be proud to participant in our new Expo – January 26, 2020!

RPLA Now Open through April 30, 2019

FWA's Royal Palm Literary Awards competition is underway. Submissions accepted through April. Must be a member of FWA to enter. On the FWA website, click on RPLA Competition for contest rules and guidelines for submission in each of 27 categories.



<https://floridawriters.net/>

Member-recommended websites

(Ctrl + Click on link to get to the website.)

Bookbaby Blog – Subscription Services for your book. Submitted by Millard Johnson

<https://blog.bookbaby.com/2018/05/why-you-should-put-your-books-on-subscription-services/>

Deep Point of View – Submitted by Phil Walker

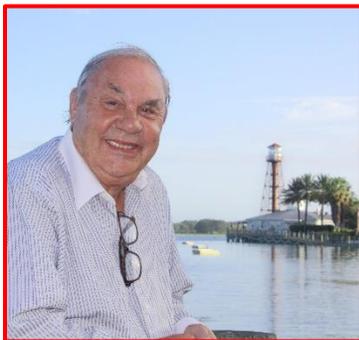
<https://lisahallwilson.com/wp-content/uploads//2019/02/deep-point-of-view-blueprint.pdf>

Don Canaan's Invite to Write

If you would like to contribute a guest article on a subject of interest (not the book you are promoting) to our viewers, www.bestlittlebookstore.com is available to help promote your book. At the conclusion of your 500-700 word article (see existing articles under the Visiting Author tab), please include your specific book's title that is being sold on Amazon or Kindle. We will provide a hyperlink to that information. For additional information, please call ([407-558-3766](tel:407-558-3766)) or e-mail me (dcanaan4@gmail.com).

Please also see my ad for creating a book video, posted in www.wlov.org, under WLOV Want Ads

Phil Walker: Author, Radio Announcer and More



Phil Walker is well known to WLOV members as our membership chairman. He's also well known for his crystal clear, booming voice, which has led him to MC our annual Valentines' Day love story readings. Many people may not know that his is a professional voice, honed during sixty years as a radio and television broadcaster in Colorado. Here he tells about his broadcasting career, and how he began writing novels well before he and his wife Verna retired to The Villages.

LM: What was your career in Colorado?

PW: Right in the heart of my lifetime in broadcasting were the thirty years of my radio program, from 6 to 10 a.m. five days a week. This was a news/talk program in Fort Collins, CO that went from 1979-2001. Over that period, I interviewed everyone from U.S. Presidents, to Hollywood Stars, to people on-trial for murder. Being a public figure became a way of life for me. It was nice to be able to pick up a phone and call almost anyone in the country.

LM: How did you come to interview presidents?

PW: In 1989 Former Presidents Jimmy Carter, who was in town to build a Habitat for Humanity. It's always easier to interview a biggie if you have something they want. In this case Carter wanted local coverage of his house building projects. He came into my studio and stayed an hour. I almost ran out of questions to ask him

I also interviewed President George H.W. Bush in 1992. That was kind of a fluke. I know Liz Cheney. She was in town visiting friends, and liked my idea of talking to the president about taking time off from work. She got her husband Dick Cheney to set it up. This president didn't come to town, but I gave his staff the number to call and he did. We had about twenty minutes. I was more interested in how hard it was to set up his coalition to free Kuwait, than the fighting and combat. I think he appreciated that.

I always wanted Dick Cheney to sit down for an interview, but it never happened. I met him the first time when he was with his wife in Fort Collins. He was the smartest man I ever talked to. I ought to go see the movie about him to see how much they got right.

Interviewing Hollywood stars was a little easier. They always have a cause to promote. The most memorable star I interviewed, several times over the years and often right in my studio, was Charlton Heston. He was a very good man. Our political philosophies matched and we became friends. He was often in Colorado to hunt and always stopped by Fort Collins to visit.

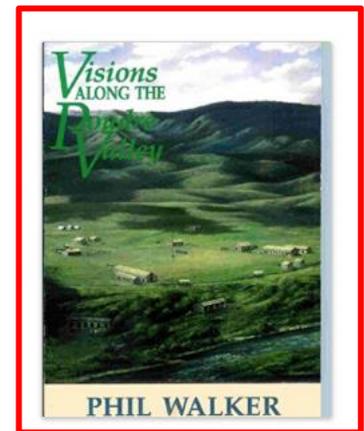
For over two decades, 1979 – 2001, my radio program was the top-rated broadcast in Fort Collins and other parts of northern Colorado. Along the way, I received first-place awards from the Colorado Broadcasters Association for 27 consecutive years, culminating in my selection as the Colorado Broadcaster of the Year in 1997.



LM: That’s impressive. And the writing?

PW: Well, my daily vignettes on the history of the American West, and especially Colorado, were very popular. These morphed into hour-long audio recordings of this history with music, sound effects, multiple voices and my narration of these wonderful stories. I produced eight of these audio books. In those days, mainly the 1980’s, CDs were just coming into use, so initially the productions were on audio cassettes. And we sold a quarter million of them.

Flushed with this success, it was a natural transition for me to take all these stories, covering 150 years of history, and write a book. I published *Visions Along the Poudre Valley* in 1995. By 2001, the book was in its seventh printing. *Visions* was the number one best seller in Fort Collins for seven years.



LM: You mentioned television was also in your career. What did you do in television, and how did that differ from your radio show?

PW: In those days, the local cable company had a daily news program. I probably did a hundred feature stories for them. I also went in and out of Denver a lot to provide voice-overs for television commercials and do some feature work for the Denver stations. Once in a while one of the networks picked up the stories and rebroadcast them.

I know I should have done a better job of recording this stuff. However, it was just part of the day to day work. I never considered it very noteworthy and, just like my radio program, never took many pictures. When you are on the other side of the microphone or television camera, you do the work and move on.

LM: How did you pick The Villages for your retirement, and when did you move here?

PW: We had friends from Lincoln, Nebraska who moved here years ago. We came to visit them a few times and were captured by this unique place to live.

By 2015 we had looked at hundreds of homes on the internet. Finally, we had the number down to a manageable few we could see in person. We spent two days here looking at homes, and ended up buying the first place we saw, in the Village of Hadley.. It rang all the bells.

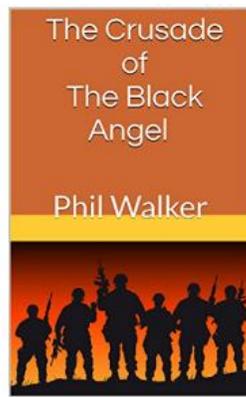
LM: So, when did you start writing fiction?

PW: I began writing fiction when I was twelve. Nothing published back then, of course. I didn’t write a serious fiction book until ten years ago. I had a bunch of wonderful stories burning in me that needed to come out. In the following three years I wrote six books. Not short ones either. All of them were 100,000 words and more.

The better books came after we moved to The Villages. That's when I joined my first critique group, run by Millard Johnson. What an education that was. Additionally, I started reading more and more about the writing craft.

I dug in and worked very hard on a modern terrorist thriller. It turned out much better than my previous books. I ought to go back and rewrite those books. They are fabulous stories, but they hardly made a blip on Kindle. The new one, *The Black Angel*, shot up in the ratings and I had my first Amazon best-seller. If I had known more about how to market the book, I think it would have done even better.

What followed was *The Crusade of the Black Angel*, another Amazon best-seller. After that I veered off into a completely different genre and wrote *The Rangers are Coming*, an alternative history tale that rewrites American history. Another decent book. Tremendous story, but not very well written. All these books preceded my time in The Villages with really good writers and editors. I was improving some on my own, so *The Rangers are Coming* was technically a better book than the *Black Angel* books. I have to say I was surprised when this book found a place in the reader's hearts and became my third best-seller.



LM: How are you defining “best seller” on Amazon. By number of books sold/downloaded, or by income received?

PW: We made quite a bit of money on the two *Black Angel* books. Amazon counts you as a best-seller if you are in the top 1,000 on their list. However, they don't make a distinction between sales and downloads. I didn't need David* to tell me that having a bunch of books in circulation is how you make the grade. I give away far more books than I sell. It's like the Expo. None of those books are doing any good stored in my garage. Authors seeking to get their published book in front of the most readers, had better get the dollar signs out of their eyes. [*Editor's note: David Bishop, a bestselling Villages author. For an interview with David Bishop, see May 2018 Newsletter, on the WLOV website under "WLOV Newsletters." In that same issue Phil Walker has a guest column called "Let's Write a Book."]

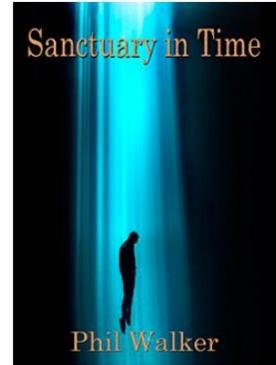
LM: Please describe your genres, and tell us how many novels you've written to date.

PW: Well, let's see. I've written eight science fiction novels, two action thrillers, an alternative history book, a story about advanced psychics, and a novel about time travel. You think I would have settled on something. Altogether I've written seventeen books. The eighteenth book is a disaster epic, about killer hurricanes, currently about half done, *A Skyfull of Storms*.

LM: Assume someone wants to read one Phil Walker novel. Which one do you recommend?

PW: The last one, *Sanctuary in Time*. As the books roll by, I get a little better at writing them. Too bad I wrote fifteen of my books on personal guts and glory. An author should never try to be his own editor.

Sanctuary has been out for a few months on Kindle and in print on Amazon. I did the best job writing it. The next one will be even better. However, if you want a non-stop action thriller try *The Black Angel*.



LM: What do you do to promote or sell your books?

PW: You need to have an active presence on Amazon and Facebook, both of which have author pages. Keep them filled with things about you, what you write, how you write. Just keep the string of postings rolling along. All you do to access them is type in my name and the pages come up.

LM: Of all activities used for promotion, which has been the most successful, and which would you recommend to Villages authors who are just publishing their first book?

PW: If you are about to publish, create a website for yourself. Use it liberally to promote your books and your prowess as a writer.

LM: When you first moved here you were a member of a writer's critique group that meets at Bradenton Rec Center. How did you come to start your own critique group?

PW: The Bradenton group got too big. It was unwieldy. We were up to three weeks between readers. So, we just broke in two and I started Working Writers Workshop, which now meets on Tuesdays at Canal Rec Center. I thought when the snowbirds left, the numbers would drop and we could rejoin Bradenton. It just never happened. Our group has been strong from the beginning.

LM: There are several critique groups in TV. How does yours differ from the others?

PW: It's very simple. If you have a group of serious writers who want to read as often as possible, you have to keep the number of people manageable so we can each read a minimum of every other week. We meet for three hours every Tuesday, 8:30 to 11:30. Five readers, thirty minutes each. We actually have fourteen participating members, but things happen and not everyone attends every week, so it works out right.

Of course we welcome anyone who is interested in seeing and hearing some very wonderful stories. They are from authors whose writing gets better week by week.

LM: What are you working on now?

PW: A potent disaster epic where two monstrous Category 5 hurricanes strike the Florida Peninsula from both coasts at the same time. The working title is *A Skyfull of Storms*. Another genre switch, I guess, but I have high expectations for this book. Sorry, no cover yet. I've got to finish writing the book first.

LM: Besides writing, running your critique group, serving as WLOV's membership chairman, and sleeping, do you have time for any other activity in TV?

PW: I am an avid, enthusiastic, dedicated amateur gardener. It's part of my modest exercise regimen to get out and work two days a week. Every year I learn a little more and my landscaping improves.

Additionally, I've developed into a decent editor. I'm beginning my third year as a judge for the Royal Palm Literary Awards presented by the Florida Writer's Association. I read and judge full books in my selected genres—science-fiction, mystery, thrillers and historical fiction. It's quite a bit of work, but I do enjoy it. I see some very good literature by our Florida writers.

I'm also happy to serve as the emcee for our annual WLOV Valentines' Love Story Readings.

LM: Yes, it was a very successful evening last month. Great job! Looks like you're having a ball (see pic on page 4)

PW: Yes, it was a great event. Enjoyed by all.

Cartoons

