



Editor, Penny Thomas

**August 14 Monthly Meeting ONLY — we will meet at
SAVANNAH Recreation Center**

Upcoming Events – August, 2024

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 8/1	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine & Words Ken Van Kamp, Wendy Weaver	Riverbend Rec Center
Saturday, 8/10	2: 00 – 3:00 pm	B&N Author Showcase Jack Ciotti, Dick Domann, Dottie Klein, Spence Langford, Jeanne Rogers, Cleo Simon	Barnes & Noble, Sumter Landing
Tuesday, 8/13	11 am – 2: 00 pm	All Booked Up Author Signing Keith Abbott, Mary Pierantozzi, Sandy Solomon ,	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Wednesday, 8/14	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting Getting to know the critique groups in The Villages	Savannah Rec Center

Things to read in this edition:

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THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

Dear Members,

Greetings and I hope you've had a wonderful summer!

As we head into the fall season, I want to encourage each one of you to think about volunteering even in some small way.

WLOV depends a great deal on our volunteers.

Why? Many times, the same people do tasks year after year. I believe that volunteering is a noble act that provides benefits not to just the individuals who are volunteering, but to the entire group as well. We cannot overstate the significance of sharing one's time, skills, and energy.

We depend on each other and draw strength directly from each other. We share our knowledge and our talents. But it's not just an altruistic endeavor. The group gratefully accepts even minor efforts or contributions that help and offer new and insightful ideas. Not only do you support the Writers League, if you volunteer, you will benefit in terms of self-satisfaction. There is scientific evidence that volunteering positively affects your body. ☺ It touches your heart.

Volunteering for WLOV also provides you with an opportunity to reach out to individuals you may not have had the pleasure of working with before, both inside the group and outside the group. What better way to grow as an individual than by sharing what we do for each other and, perhaps, discover a potential new member or friend?

A few weeks ago, I was in Brownwood on market day. I stopped to talk to an individual about their dog. I discovered we had much in common. He was so devoted to his dog that he wrote a book about him. It surprised me. That's when I introduced myself as a member of WLOV. We exchanged information, and I have invited Erik to our August meeting. I hope he will join us. I hope you will greet him!

As President, one legacy I would like to leave with you is my desire to touch your hearts in such a way that you will **want** to volunteer. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our friends and fellow authors would step up and say 'yes, I can help with that?'

I hope this message will nudge you all. If you have a particular skill or interest, or you'd just like to be involved in providing help, please let us know. We only succeed if all of us are involved in this effort. We have a wonderful group. Let's make it great . . . Be a volunteer!

Call me at 203 300 1760 if you have a skill or interest that you would like to share. Or send an email to: Jeanne.rogers22@gmail.com.

"It's not enough to be compassionate, you must act." Dalai Lama

Write on!

Jeanne

BOOKEXPO 2025

Rita Boehm
BookExpo Chairperson

The registrations are rolling in fast! So far, we have over 40 entries. Non-member entries will be accepted starting September 1st. We expect to fill all the open slots and start a waiting list by mid-September. If you want to be part of the excitement, submit your entry now!

Any ideas for speakers that might draw people to our event? Last year, Don Wyman spoke about the mystery behind the Kennedy assassination and Patricia Charpentier spoke about creating memoirs. Both talks went over well. We offer a small honorarium and have seating for about 100 people, so please factor that into your suggestions.

The success of our BookExpo depends on marketing and publicity. It's not too early to sign up to be part of our marketing and publicity committees. Please sign up at our next meeting or reach out to Dave McKeon, BookExpo2025 Vice Chairperson.

For both speaker suggestions and volunteering: Send an email to wlovwriters@gmail.com

SHARING A LITTLE SUNSHINE

Know of a member recuperating from surgery, down with the flu, suffering from the loss of loved one – or facing some other traumatic event? Please contact us at wlovwriters@gmail.com and share the member's name and situation. We'll forward the information to Our Sunshine Committee chair, Kathy deMaCarty, who will send them a card with a caring message to show WLOV's support.



WLOV Member Benefit

BE FEATURED IN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS MAGAZINE

Contact Mark H. Newhouse at mark@newhouse.net if you would like to be a guest columnist or be featured in a future **Writing Bug** column promoting WLOV authors and their books via mail to more than 30,000 homes.

August's edition features Mike Brodin writing about Flash Fiction. Well worth reading. Did you know that there are subdivisions to Flash Fiction (1,500 words)? They are: Dribble (50 words); Drabble (100 words); Tribble (50-300 words); and Sudden Fiction (750 words). I love these labels.

Get the Most Out of a Writing Group

Penny Thomas

Most writing groups are structured around giving and receiving honest and constructive feedback on members' writing. You are there to improve your narrative, plotting, and structure.

Here are a few 'best practices' to follow to make the most of your time with the group.

Do The Work

Submit a clean, edited, and corrected second or third draft of your work. Submitting a messy first draft expecting it to be spell-checked and punctuated by your group is a waste of your, and your fellow writers', time. Submit your best effort.

Read and comment constructively on the other member's writing. Pointing out punctuation and grammar errors is not enough (these can be fixed with computer programs). Look at the narrative, plotting, and structure of the piece. Does it make sense? Are there factual errors that jump out at you because that is your area of knowledge?

Honor the Clock

Most groups have time limits for reading your own work and commenting on other writers' work. Honor these limits and don't dominate the discussion.

Submit Writing

Don't be one of those people who won't share their writing, but show up to listen and talk. Take this opportunity to open up your work for constructive comment.

When it is your turn to be critiqued

- Listen to what is being said and take notes.
- Do not interrupt and explain why you wrote that. If your words need explanation, they aren't the correct words. Remember a reader will not have you by their side explaining what you wrote.
- Don't take the critique personally. You are there to learn, not to be lauded.
- Thank everyone for their input.

When you are critiquing others

- Start with what you like about the piece. There is always something. Find it.
- Don't get sidetracked into personal anecdotes. This isn't about you and your memories.
- Use language like, 'This didn't work for me because....'. Don't ever say, 'This is terrible.'
- Make sure you explain why something doesn't work. Give an example of what might work.
- Don't just say, "I really liked this." Say something like this, "I really liked this because you evoked the beauty of"
- Thank the writer for sharing their piece. It takes courage to open one's work to others.

Remember, you do not have to use every suggestion. But, if two or three people point out the same thing, you should seriously consider it.



WLOV's heart and soul are volunteers and we always need more:

MEETING RELATED:

- Sign in members
- Refreshments
- Greeter
- Sell 50/50 raffle tickets
- Nametag sales
- Librarian

PROMOTIONAL OUT-REACH

EVENT SUPPORT (Expo and Special Events)

SUPPORT BOARD

Committees: Hospitality, Programs, Website, Scholarship, Newsletter, Communications, Membership, All Booked Up, Barnes & Noble.

There's a 'Volunteer Sign Up' sheet at the back of the meeting room. Or, contact any board member or volunteer for more information.

FACEBOOK ALBUMS

FACEBOOK ALBUMS

Check out these links for WLOV member newspaper coverage and event pictures.

MAY FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.863174162516909&type=3>

Note: May's album includes some interesting new articles, including one about our relationship with Barnes & Noble, and a profile of Jamie Goeske, the owner of All Booked Up.

JUNE FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.891568459677479&type=3>

JULY FACEBOOK ALBUM

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COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Rita Boehm

BARNES & NOBLE:

Our 3rd quarter authors are being featured from July 1st through September 30th. Please join us at the store on Saturday, August 10th at 2:00 to hear six of our talented featured authors talk about their books.

NOTE: Our featured book selections offer a wide array of wonderful books across a range of genres. In the last 2 quarters, we sold 20% fewer books than usual! If we want to continue to be welcomed by the store, we need to do a better job of supporting our fellow members.

Please visit the store and encourage friends and neighbors to do so as well. Buy books!

ALL BOOKED UP BOOKSTORE: The books of six WLOV authors are featured in this wonderful independent book store for two-month periods, with book signings scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month from 11- 2. Our next book signing is August 13th.

Please visit All Booked Up in the Colony Plaza Shopping Center and tell Jamie you appreciate her support of local authors.

DAILY SUN – AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT COLUMN: This column is on hiatus until they find another reporter. Please call the paper and tell them how much you enjoy the column and would like to see it offered again. The squeaky wheel gets the grease!

“Write as if writing to a friend and use as few words as possible.”

Murial Spark
Reprinted from:

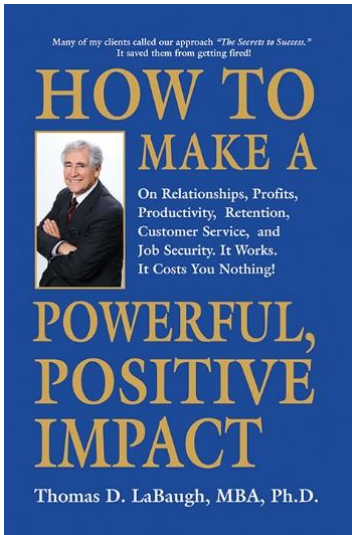
A Writer’s Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

FUTURE BOOK PROMOTIONS

Quill de Ville would like to promote your book. We’ll do it by a lottery system. At every WLOV monthly meeting, Penny Thomas will be there with a box. You will put in that box a card containing your book title, your name, and email address. This can be on a 3” x 5” index card, your social/business card, or your promotional bookmark. Every month, Penny will pull out a few cards (she promises to close her eyes as she dips into the box). Penny will then contact you for a photo of the book cover, the back cover blurb, and purchase info to put in the next *Quill de Ville*.

You have to be at the WLOV monthly meeting to put your card in the box.

AUGUST BOOK PROMOTIONS

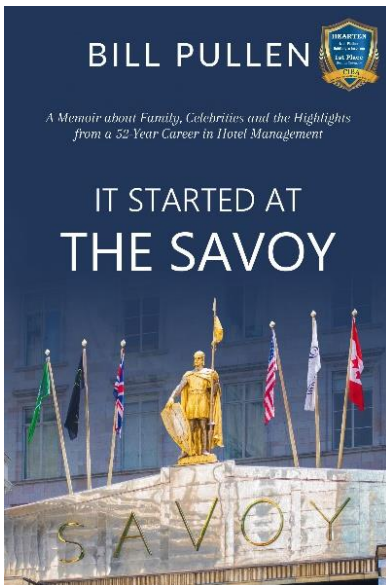


***How to Make A Powerful, Positive Impact.* Thomas D. LaBaugh**

Improve relationships at work, home, or social settings, using our new, proven, easy-to-apply concepts. We share research and experience that show people whose needs are met perform better. We define those needs and provide word associations (acronyms/axioms) to easily remember how to meet them. Included are dozens of examples to show what works and what does not.

Our concepts saved the jobs of 50 clients, all about to be fired, and several of their marriages. Not for you? Your children and grandchildren can benefit. It's the perfect book for a new person starting out. One reviewer said, "I could've used that advice and saved a lot of heartache."

www.LaBaugh.com for a peek at "How To Make a Powerful Impact," available on Amazon.



It Started At The Savoy – Bill Pullen

2020 First Place Chanticleer International Book Awards in the Hearten Uplifting & Inspiring Non-Fiction category. Bill Pullen is a brilliant storyteller. Whether it's his childhood encounter with a V1 flying bomb, a renegade monkey in Suriname, the time he had to fire George Carlin, or one of his many other recollections, you will feel as though you were right there when the action happened. His story begins with heartwarming memories of his early years on the outskirts of London during World War II. Following his first job as a bartender at The Savoy Hotel in London, he accepted a one-year assignment at the Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris. While there a chance meeting with an American financier led to a once-in-a-lifetime job offer and his eventual emigration to the United States. From historic country inns to five-star hotels on three continents, he shares anecdotes of his experiences with friends, family, and a myriad of celebrities whom he met along the way. All done with great humor and insight. Life goes on after retirement. In the final two

chapters, Bill relates the importance of community involvement and the highly emotional connection he made while in Sri Lanka. That experience culminated in the creation of a foundation supporting some of that island's poorest children and what became his lifetime passion and mission. Available on Amazon.

AWARDS, ACCOLADES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Leigh Court participated in an Ocala “Women’s Day” pampering event at Paddock Mall on May 4, 2024. Along with makeovers, chair massages, brow waxing, henna tattoos, ‘fairy hair’ stylists, and several other women’s pampering treatments, Leigh offered her indulgent romance novels. “What better way to treat yourself than to escape into a dreamy love story?” she said. Leigh sold 19 books, and considered the event a success!

Author of Marquis James' biography donates materials, signs books at Enid Public Library

Enid News & Eagle

Jun 10, 2024

Billy Hefton



MARQUIS JAMES:
A Biographer's Life

JOHN MALLON

ENID, Okla. — Author **John Mallon** is donating research materials about Marquis James to the Enid library during a special event to showcase Mallon’s new book on the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and turn-of-the-20th-Century Enid resident.

Mallon is the author of seven historical novels and a cousin of Marquis James who says he spent 20 years researching and collecting material to write “Marquis James: A Biographer’s Life.”

Born Aug. 29, 1891, in Springfield, Mo., James moved to a claim near Enid before he was 3 years old and into Enid at age of 10. According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, James graduated from Enid High School, where he began the school’s newspaper “The Quill.” James also worked as a reporter for the “Enid Events,” and he would go on to work at multiple other newspapers in cities including St. Louis, New Orleans, Philadelphia and New York. He was a journalist, biographer and Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Mallon’s book collects information on James’ life from more than 100 books, 1,200 newspaper and magazine articles and 7,800 letters. He also researched James through the Library of Congress and the Public Library of Enid and Garfield County, according to Mallon’s website, johnmallonhistoricalnovelist.org. [Cont. next page]

Author of Marquis James' Cont...

Mallon donated much of his gathered resources on James to the library's Marquis James Room, dedicated to James in 1964, which contains artifacts relating to his life and career.

"It's clear that the community takes great pride in (Marquis James) being from there," Mallon said, "I want all that information to be available for people to conduct other research."

Mallon says he read James' book "The Cherokee Strip" as a child, and his mother informed him he was a relative of James. As an adult, Mallon would come across another of James' books and begin his research in order to write James' biography.

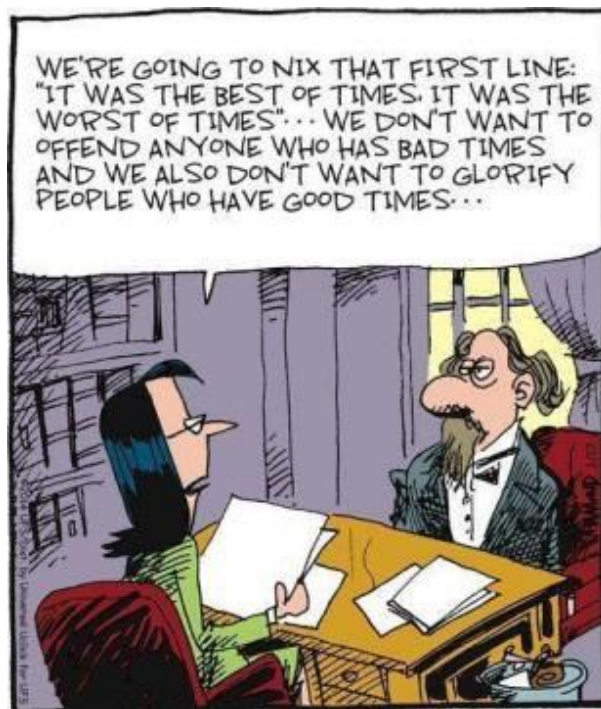
"We are grateful for Mr. Mallon's willingness to share his book, his experience with research and writing," said Theri Ray, library director. "Marquis James is one of many people who grew up in Enid, Oklahoma, and went on to do great things. Marquis James is a fascinating example of Garfield County excellence. Additionally, Mr. Mallon's visit was a great opportunity to learn from someone who found an ancestor they wanted to know more about and did the research to write a book. Mr. Mallon's visit was enlightening for anyone interested in Marquis James or in researching their family history."

"Packing is like writing – it needs several drafts."

Gerald Seymour

Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman



Barnes & Noble – IMPORTANT Information

If You Want Your Book Featured in the Store

If you are interested in having your book featured in Barnes & Noble as one of our twelve authors each quarter, there is a new store rule. All books MUST be available on the Barnes and Noble website and sold at the price on the website.

Not sure if your book is there? Go to www.barnesandnoble.com and enter your book's ISBN number into the search bar. If the book comes up, you're good to go.

If not? There are a couple of options:

- A. Sign up for expanded distribution through www.kdp.amazon.com and the book will be added to a variety of distribution channels – including Barnes & Noble. Instructions are as follows:
 1. Go to your KDP Bookshelf
 2. Find the paperback you want to enroll
 3. Click the ellipsis button ("...") under the Paperback Actions menu
 4. Select Edit paperback rights & pricing
 5. In the Royalty and Pricing section, check the Expanded Distribution box for each marketplace you want to include
 6. Set your price
 7. Click Publish your Paperback Book
 8. After 48 hours, recheck the Barnes and Noble website.
 9. Book still not there? There is sometimes a problem with the automatic link between Amazon and the distribution channels. Contact BNPresssupport@BN.com. Provide the book's title, ISBN, and author name. Inform them that your book is on Amazon's expanded distribution. They will add it within 24 hours.
- B. If you work through a publisher, ask them to add the book to the Barnes & Noble website.
- C. If you own your ISBN (as opposed to using a free Amazon/KDP ISBN) and would prefer to handle the expanded distribution directly, go to Barnesandnoble.com and follow their instructions.

**“A novel is primarily an entertainment that should primarily
entertain its author...”**

Ernest Hemingway

Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

WLOV LENDING LIBRARY

Our lending library of member books has grown significantly during the four-plus years since the library's inception. Anyone who has seen Peter Shianna, our dedicated WLOV librarian, unloading the extensive book inventory at monthly meetings will acknowledge that it's a daunting task.

Unfortunately, when we first set up the library, we failed to establish criteria for book retention. To resolve this situation, we've set some ground rules:

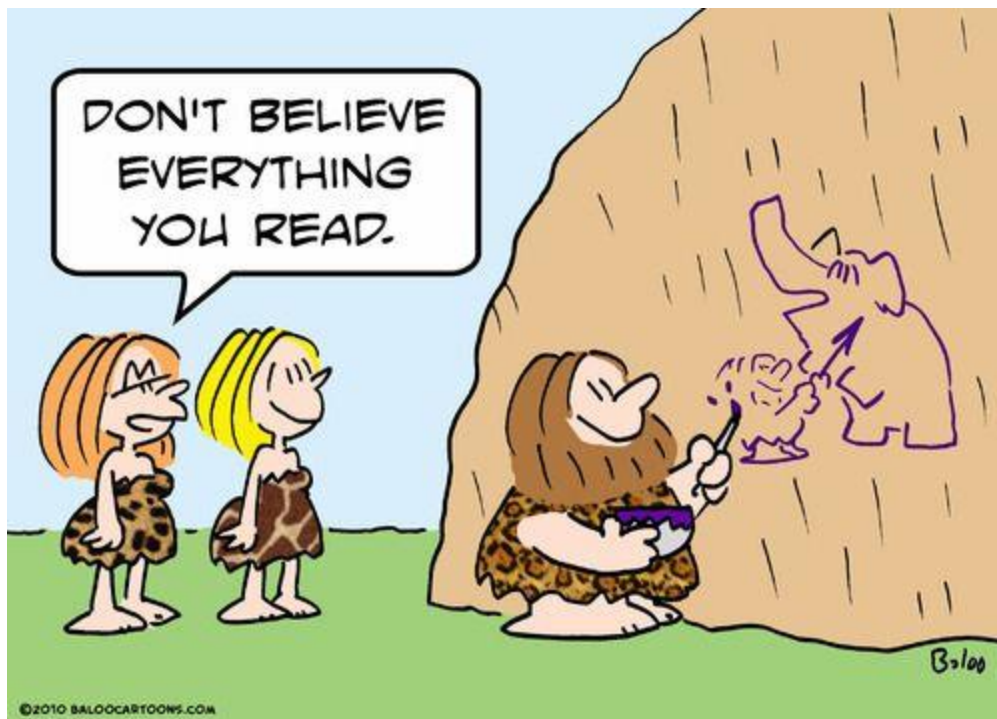
12-month rule:

- Any book that hasn't been borrowed for 12 months will be deleted from the library's offerings.
- Books that have been borrowed at least once or twice will remain in the library until there is no interest for 12 months.

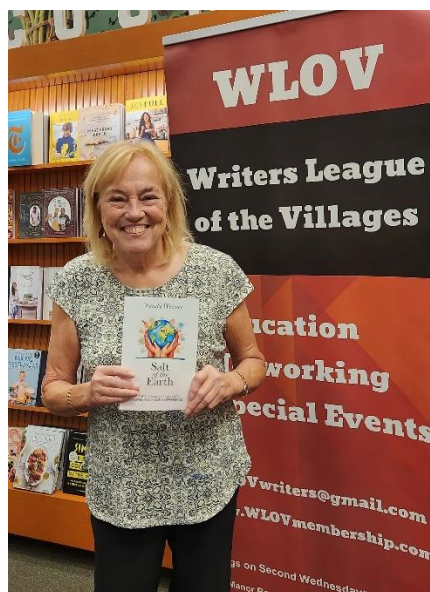
This change will allow us to focus on the new books that our talented members have published.

Note: Anyone who would like their books returned to them should let Peter Shianna know at the next WLOV meeting. Absent specific directions, the culled books will be donated.

We welcome additional input. If you have other ideas about our library, please contact us at wlovwriters@gmail.com.



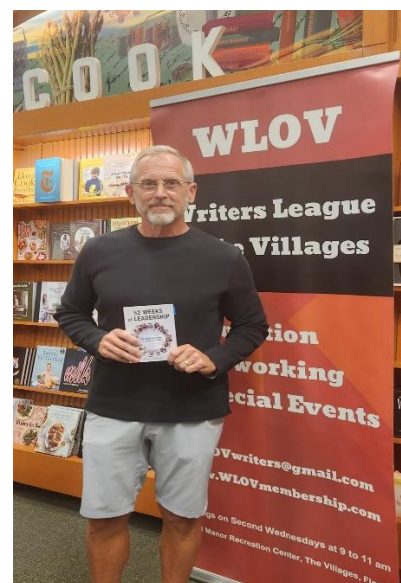
Barnes & Noble Author's Kick-Off Event May, 2024



Wendy Weaver, Salt of The Earth



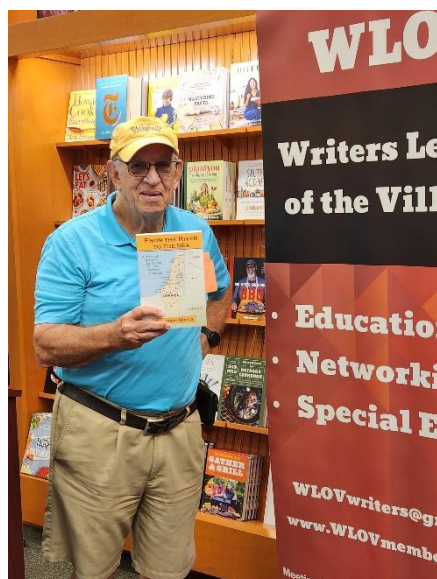
Brenda Hiatt, Scandalous Virtue



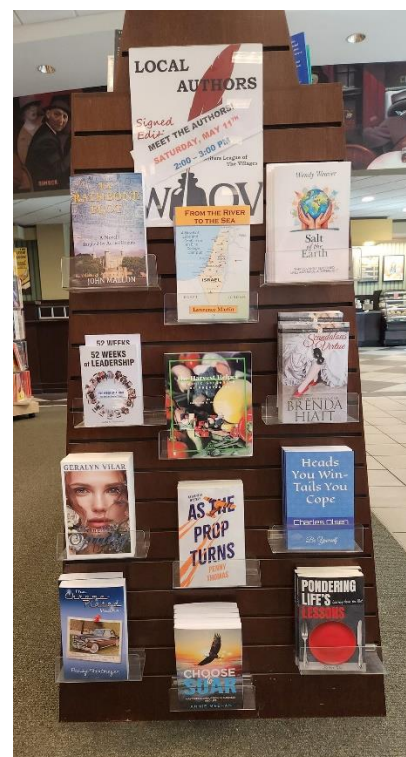
Curtis Chocholous, 52 Weeks of Leadership, One Week at a Time



Kathy deMaCarty, The Harvest Helper



Larry Martin, From The River to The Sea



Barnes & Noble Author's Kick-Off Event July, 2024



Holly Bell, Trading Salvos



Shelly Berman, A Glimmer of Hope



Mike Doyle, Bubba and the Bedroom Cowboys



Paula Feuerstein, The Wand Fixers



Mari Sands, Countdown to Murder



Barbara Welsh, Sell Yourself a Smile



“To write is a solitary and singular act...”

Margaret Atwood

Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman