



Quill de Ville

www.WritersLeagueofTheVillages.com

Writers League of The Villages Newsletter

July 2026 Newsletter

Happy 250th Birthday America

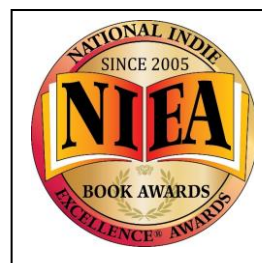
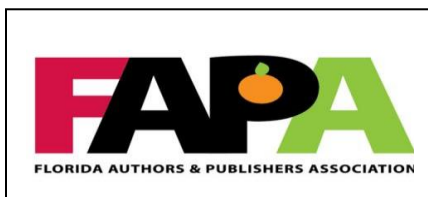
- **Reminder!** The General Meeting held on the second Wednesday of each month, is suspended for the month of July.
- The next General Meeting will be on August 12, 2026, from 9 am till 11 am. That meeting will be held back at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.
- Take a look at our "Calendar of Events" page and come out to support our authors.
- Wine and Word Updates. **Take note the event will be July 2nd.**
- Local Author Tuesdays Book Signings, details inside.
- Read an essay from Abigail Hawes, one of our 2026 Scholarships winners.
- Accolades and accomplishments of our fellow writers.
- A July letter from WLOV president Bob Peterson.
- Update from Rita Boehm, our Communications Director.

visit our website, www.writersleagueofthevillages.com

July 2026 Upcoming Events Quick Look Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact	Featured Authors
Thursday 7/2	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine and Words	Riverbend Rec Center	Frank Lancione 703-626-7514	Mike Doyle and the Creative Writers Group
Tuesday 7/14	11:00 – 2:00 pm	Book signing	All Booked Up Colony Plaza	Donna Hoover duciesmom@aol.com	Barbara Getz "Travis Loves Trucks" Bill Thomas "Redemption of a Runaway" Holly Bell "Occupied Alaska"
Wed 7/15	1:30 – 3:30 pm	Ice Cream Social and Book Swap	Mystic Ice Cream Fruitland Park	Phyllis Walters 352-355-7013 pkuehnlwalters@aol.com	Check your email for details on this welcoming and friendly summer event.
Tuesday 7/21	12:00 - 4:00 pm	Book signing	Patchington Spanish Springs	Judith Glynn 212-265-7915 Judith@judithglynn.com	Richard W. Perhacs "ROGUE"

*See inside for a listing of our members and their books that have made it to the final judging in the **Florida Authors & Publishers Association** awards and the **National Indie Excellence Awards**.*



Writing is hard, so if something special happens with your work, let us know. No accomplishment is insignificant. Send word to me at authortombruce@gmail.com and we'll make sure the word gets out.

Message from the WLOV President



Hi WLOV Writers,

It's hard to believe, but the year is half gone and July is already here. Florida temperatures have almost reached that "blast furnace" setting. If that's not bad enough, it's also officially hurricane season. But despite numerous online petitions and complaints, Publix still isn't selling their once-popular hurricane cakes. Sigh. I guess it's a good time to stay indoors, put your favorite A/C technician on speed-dial, and do some writing. I want to congratulate Abigail Hawes and Zaria Weaver at Wildwood High School, our WLOV scholarship winners. Their talent and passion for writing shine a light on a bright future. You can read Abigail's essay, **"The Writer Who Shaped My Passion for Literature"** on pages 8 and 9.

I'd also like to congratulate the WLOV members who earned medals from FAPA, Florida Authors and Publishers Association: **Carrie Murgittroyd, Diane Dean, Jeanne Rogers, Rita Boehm, Joy Bruce, and Robert Peterson** (hey, that's me!) You guys are awesome.

Just a reminder: we don't meet in July. The next general meeting will be August 12th, back at Laurel Manor, at its normal time, 9-11. Vice President, Casel Burnett, will preside.

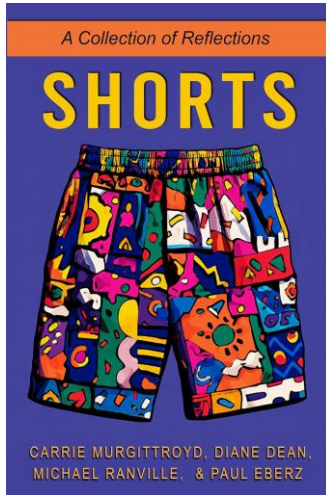
The August general meeting will focus on our local "Writing Groups" who meet in The Villages. We have invited the leadership of those groups to attend our August meeting and say a few words about their individual groups. It will be a great opportunity to meet your fellow writers, and maybe find a group you'd like to share your work with. These writing groups offer more than you realize, and they are all welcoming to guests who drop by to say hello and sit in. So come on out to our next WLOV General Meeting in August and see if these groups are a fit for you. You won't regret it.

Bob Peterson

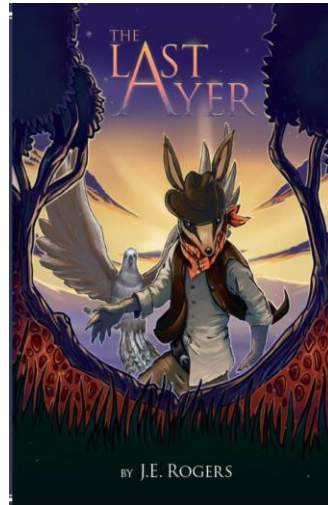
Accomplishments and Notables



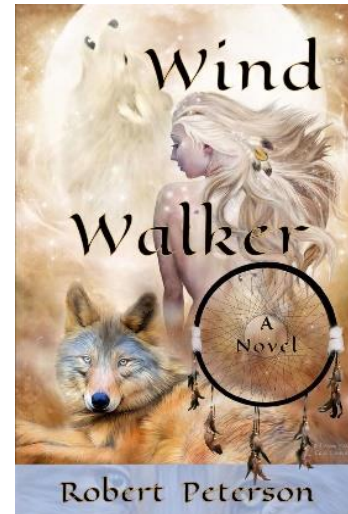
Congratulations** go out to these WLOV Members who made it to the medal round of this year's **FAPA President's Book Competition Award**. By progressing this far, each of these authors has already medaled in this contest. But we won't know if the award is Gold, Silver, or Bronze until the award ceremony on **August 1st, at the Hilton Buena Vista in Orlando**. We're wishing the best for these fellow members going into the final judging. **Good Luck to all!



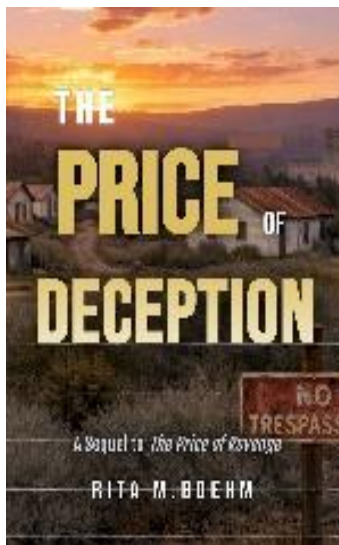
“Shorts”
by Carrie Murgittroyd, Diane Dean, Michael Ranville, & Paul Eberz
Category: Cover design, Adult



“The Last Ayer”
by J.E. Rogers
Category: Middle Grades: Fiction

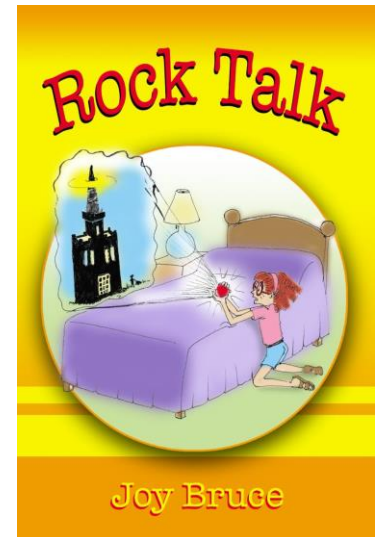


“Wind Walker”
by Robert Peterson
Category: Adult Fiction:



“The Price of Deception”
by Rita M. Behm
Category: Adult Fiction:
Mystery/Suspense

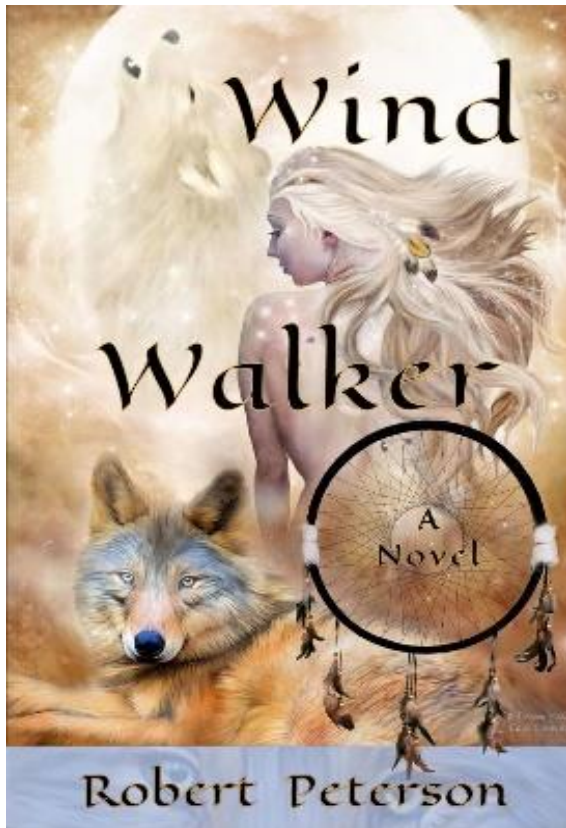
“Rock Talk”
by Joy Bruce, Carolee Russell
Category: Children's Book
Illustration
(Note: Carolee Russell is a longtime WLOV member and illustrator.) Joy Bruce is not a member.)



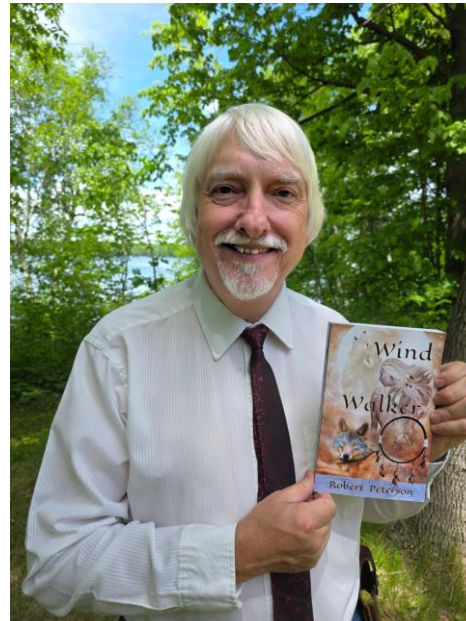
Accomplishments and Notables continued,



*Congratulations are also extended once again to Bob Peterson for making it the final stages of **National Indie Excellence Awards**. The final results this national contest will be determined in August.*



*“Wind Walker”
by Robert Peterson*



To all of the award finalists in both of these contests; you’ve already won. This newsletter will keep you posted on these accomplishments and we’ll let you know when the final results are in.

Let’s face it, writing is hard, so if something special happens with your work, or to someone you know, then let us know. No accomplishment is insignificant. Send word to me at authortombruce@gmail.com and we’ll make sure the word gets out.

Wine and Words

Thursday evening July 2nd,

Doors open at 6 pm

The event starts at 6:30 pm till about 8:30pm

**So come join, poet, essayist, playwright and longtime moderator of this event,
Frank Lancione**



*This months **Wine and Words** event will be showcasing **Mike Doyle** and the **Creative Writing Group**. Come and learn about the history of this group and the experiences of being a member. There will also be readings from a diverse cross section of Mike's group. And, as always, you can be assured Frank will have a surprise or two up his sleeve!*

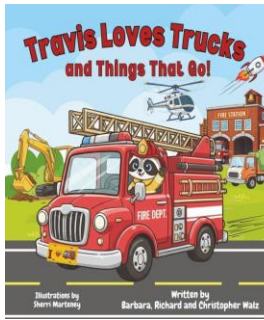
You won't want to miss this event. The unique voices of Mike Doyle and his diverse group will open a window into a wide variety of writing genre's and you will see firsthand how much they love their craft and how much they love sharing it with you. That's what drives our writing groups here in The Villages, the desire to share our writing journey with others. So please come out and join us for an evening of writers discussing and sharing their work.

Local Author Tuesdays Book Signings



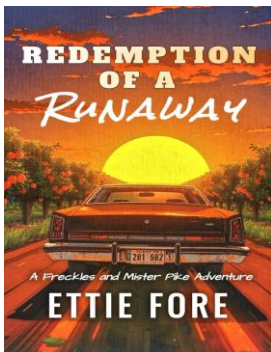
***"All Booked Up Bookstore" at Colony Plaza,
Tuesday, July 14th, 11 am until 2 pm***

Featured Authors



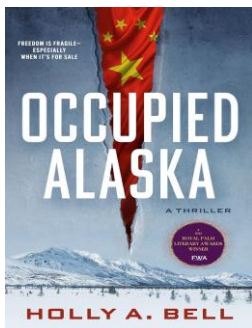
Barbara Getz

"Travis Loves Trucks"



Bill Thomas

***"Redemption of a
Runaway"
(pen name Eddie Forte)***



Holly Bell

"Occupied Alaska"

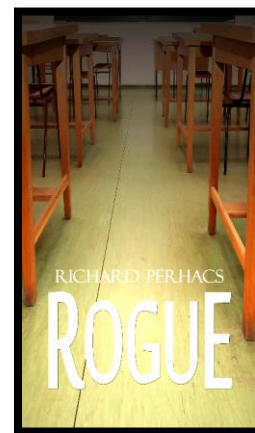


***"Patchington" at Spanish Springs Town Square,
Tuesday, July 21st, 12pm until 4pm***

Featured Author

Richard W. Perhacs

"ROGUE"



***Come on out, say hello, and support your
fellow authors at these terrific venues.***

WLOV Scholarship Winner Essay

Congratulations go out to **Abigal Hawes and Zaria Weaver**, the two students each awarded a \$750 scholarships from WLOV. This newsletter will print each of their essays from the contest in this newsletter. We are publishing Abigal's writing this month and we will feature the essay Zaria wrote in our August edition. Thanks to all of you who made these scholarships possible.

"The Writer Who Shaped My Passion for Literature"

By Abigail Hawes

Almost any pre-teen who enjoys reading nowadays knows of Erin Hunter the creator of the Warriors series. As a kid I always loved reading and well... Like most young girls, I loved cats. In the second grade I was handed my first chapter book and I was immediately drawn in by the orange cat on the cover. The moment I started the first chapter of that first book, I was hooked.

The genre of fantasy and adventure was one I had always enjoyed in movies, Warriors took that to a whole new level for me. The fantasy aspects with the prophecies and cats being able to visit starclan (a cat version of heaven, an endless field of stars) alongside the adventures these prophecies would result in. Whether it was adventures to retrieve a lost clan and bring them home safely or an adventure to find new territory after two leg monsters (vehicles) take over the clan's land.

My mind filled with images of this world the authors created of these cats called warriors and the complicated plots that would be played out. I read this series for years on years, each book dragging me further and further into this universe and its numerous plots. However as I got older I obviously grew out of the series but the structures and styles used in this series remained in my head.

I found myself creating stories in my English classes and it was blatantly clear that the books had not just had the effect on my childhood but also how I write. I always wrote my own ideas, my own plots however the structure seemed so familiar.. the fantasy adventure genre, the shifting point of views, the constant adventures and dramas. I hadn't noticed until a teacher pointed it out, that my writing style was very similar to Erin Hunters.

At first it frustrated me so I started reading warriors again. This time I didn't care about the plots and story, I focused on the writing style, the sentence structure, the point of views, I was determined to figure out why my style was so, so similar to these books. Never once did it cross my mind that it could be the similarity in genres. Even with my focus being on the structure I fell back in love with the plot and story again then eventually forgot my frustration with similarity.

Last year I had started writing my first book and found myself struggling to get my ideas down smoothly, desperate for any sort of advice. I began looking into authors, I was looking for interviews or blogs about the writing process they took. I found many interviews but not ones from authors I knew that wrote the same or similar genres to me, so I ran back to my childhood and searched for the one author I knew by heart figuring that she would have at least one interview about how she wrote this beloved book series.

When results fell flat, curiosity got the best of me and I decided to look for more. I decided to see if I could even find anything about Erin Hunter. This is when I discovered that Erin Hunter is not just one author but a joint pen name used by Victoria Holmes, Kate Cary, Cherith Baldry, Tui T. Sutherland, and Clarissa Hutton. The fact shocked me as I always figured Erin Hunter was one author and I almost didn't believe it because to me Erin Hunter had one distinctive voice with her works, sure one or two sentences would stand out or change how a character was portrayed but there could have been so many reasons for that and my mind never landed on numerous authors.

While the idea of so many authors working on one book was odd to me at first, I became nearly obsessed with the idea the more I thought about it. A team of people can give so many ideas on one story than just one person could do on their own and that's probably why the series has gone on so long without losing the interest of fans.

Following my fascination with the multi-author idea, I started a fan work using the idea with one of my friends. While we didn't follow Erin Hunter's direct writing/editing plan we took ideas with someone making the outline, someone writing and then an editor. It worked out great! And once uploaded gained some popularity but it still wasn't good because I was missing one thing that Erin Hunter does perfectly and what makes her so influential to me. The complex world building. It's the signature factor in all of the warriors books and it's what makes warriors the long-standing franchise it is. I was so obsessed with the black and white of structure and writing I lost the most important factor and that was immersing the reader in these fictional worlds. That is what I am good at and enjoy not the black and white but the colors of the story.

While Erin Hunter may not be the most influential author it was their works that carried my way through writing and made me realize why I want to pursue a career as an author. It's not for money or fame or following the same structure over and over, no. It's about the story you make up then wish to share and how you can immerse those readers into the worlds you've built.



Know of a member recuperating from surgery, down with the flu, suffering from the loss of a loved one – or facing some other traumatic event? Please contact us at wlovwriters@gmail.com and share the member's name and situation. Or, come to the Membership Services table at a General Meeting and let one of us know.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: Rita Boehm

FACEBOOK: The Writers League has a public Facebook page – and a special Facebook Group only open to members. I hope you'll check them both out.

Local media articles about members and about WLOV activities are posted on our Facebook page and included in a folder available to everyone. Here's the link to the 2026 album folder of articles and pictures:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1355121896655464&type=3>

If you've never been to our Facebook Group, please join us! Since it's a private Group, you'll have to request approval to join. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2456384291302772>

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: -

THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE: Monthly Author Spotlight

If you haven't been spotlighted in THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE in the last 18 months, email us at WLOVwriters@gmail.com with "Villages Magazine" in the Subject line, and we'll forward the required questionnaire.

THE DAILY SUN: Weekly Author Spotlight

The Daily Sun is once again featuring local authors in its Sunday edition. If you've published a book within the last 12 months and would like to be featured, send an email with "Daily Sun" in the Subject line, along with a hi-res copy of the book cover to us at WLOVwriters@gmail.com, and we'll add you to the list.

Other opportunities:

All Booked Up, Colony Plaza – If you are interested in having your books featured at this great independent Villages bookstore (1 title for 2 months with an opportunity for a book signing on the 2nd Tuesday of the month), contact Donna Hoover at duciesmom@aol.com or sign up at our next WLOV meeting.

Patchington, Spanish Springs - Contact Judith Glynn at Judith@judithglynn.com if you are interested in doing a book signing on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 12 – 4 at this exceptional women's clothing store.

Publishing Services Directory:

Pleased with the publishing services you received from an individual or company? Share the info with your fellow WLOV members by submitting the service provider's contact info to WLOVwriters@gmail.com. We'll add them to our Services Directory.

BOOKEXPO 2027 – Sunday, January 24th, 2027

Registration is now open for BookExpo 2027!

A Registration form is being forwarded with this newsletter and will also be posted on our website.

The event opens to the public on September 1 and is usually sold out by early October. Please sign up soon if you want to be a part of this exciting annual event.