



Editor, Penny Thomas
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Upcoming Events – September, 2024

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 9/5	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine & Words Kathy deMaCarty, Fran Allain	Riverbend Rec Center
Wednesday, 9/11	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting Prof. Zackery Cote, College of Central Florida. “What is the Heart of the Story.”	Laurel Manor
Tuesday, 9/17	11 am – 2: 00 pm	All Booked Up Author Signing Laura Borcharding, Kome Onokprise, Bob Tebo	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza

Things to read in this edition:

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WLOV's President's Message

The Case for Marginalia

Dear Members,

I recently read an article that discussed the pros and cons of writing in the margins of books, or underlining sentences. Many of my friends and family consider such behavior as degenerate, blasphemous, sinful. “Why, you’re destroying the book,” they’d say. I don’t really see it that way. Let me explain.

My marginalia habit began when I was in college. I was a history major. History was a challenge and required a great deal of reading and writing. Most students, myself included, took at least two different history courses during one semester. Imagine trying to digest everything about the French Revolution and Medieval England at the same time. This required the student to be a good note taker and a fast reader, not to mention writing all those research papers. In my mind, I was not just taking notes; I was commenting or rather conversing with each text. Sometimes my marginalia argued with the authors point of view. This helped me digest the information.

Studying American History took such a hold on me that through the years, I continued collecting and reading books on some of my favorite characters. My marginalia never ended. It was strange how this ‘adopted’ college major somehow became a craving for me. As time went by, I collected countless books on Lincoln and even own some first editions written by his contemporaries. The one pictured below is one of a two-volume tome, which I would never have gotten through if not for the discussions that we had together. You’ll see what I mean when you look at the photos below.

One book I read about John Adams made an impact on me. You can confirm this by looking at the marginalia I created (see below). My scribbles were over the top. I never stopped ‘talking’ to that book. When I was done, I was determined to get the book autographed by the author. He was just over the border in Massachusetts. To my delight, he was more than happy to sign it for me. You will see his signature/comment below. I must say, his response bolstered my feeling about writing in the margins. He made me feel less guilty. I continue ‘defacing’ my books to this day, even the fiction. I don’t see it as defacing. I see it as having a conversation with the book.

Continued on next page

President's message continued:

You'll see two examples below of my marginalia, including the autographed book.

Some of you may disagree with this practice, but my books, especially the ones relating to history, have a lot to say and I have a lot to say right back. All the history books I collected over the years are a treasure to me even though I left my mark(s) in many.

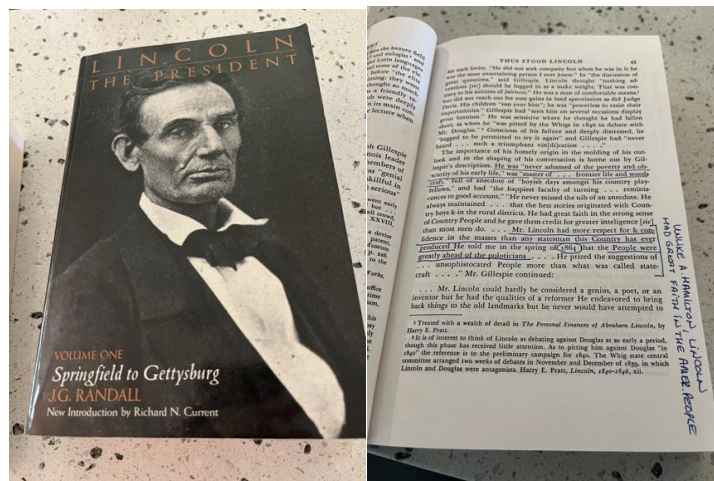
So, members of The Writers League of the Villages, keep writing, even in the margins.

Write on!

Jeanne

LINCOLN THE PRESIDENT, VOLUME ONE – SPRINGFIELD TO GETTYSBURG

JG Randall



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.

September's issue has the fascinating story of Bill Jansen's pathway to writing his stories.

PROMOTE YOUR CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS HOLIDAY CATALOGUE:

DEADLINE 9/30/24

WLOV authors with children's books are invited to promote their titles in the Writing Bug Holiday Gift Catalogue. Please submit no more than three titles to Mark Newhouse, mark@newhouse.net in the following format:

YOUR NAME/PEN NAME

TITLE

GENRE/AGE

35 WORD BOOK PITCH

NOTE: All books must be Pre-K to Young Adult, available on Amazon. Inclusion is limited by space available and editorial needs.

FACEBOOK ALBUMS

FACEBOOK ALBUMS

Click on these links to find WLOV member newspaper coverage and event pictures.

JUNE FACEBOOK ALBUM

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

JULY FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.900312752136383&type=3>

AUGUST FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.917940737040251&type=3>

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Rita Boehm

THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE:

See Newsletter Addendum for a QUESTIONNAIRE that must be completed and sent to WLOVwriters@gmail.com if you'd like your book to be featured in the magazine.

BARNES & NOBLE:

If your books have **never** been featured as part of our Barnes & Noble promotion, please notify me via an email to WLOVwriters@gmail.com and I'll add you to the list. Those members whose books have already been featured are automatically on the schedule for a future rotation. I'll be reaching out to 12 authors in early September for our October – December event.

IMPORTANT NOTE: To be included in one of our Barnes & Noble events, your books must be available on the Barnes & Noble website (See last month's newsletter for details.)

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 the store to continue to welcome us, we need to better support our fellow members. Please visit the store, buy books from our WLOV display, and encourage your friends and neighbors to do so as well.

ALL BOOKED UP BOOKSTORE: Thanks to the hard work of Bill Pullen, the books of six WLOV authors are featured in this wonderful independent book store for two-month periods, with book signings usually scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month from 11- 2. However, our next book signing is **September 17th**. Please visit All Booked Up in the Colony Plaza Shopping Center and let Jamie Goeske know you appreciate her support of local authors.

“The one way of tolerating existence is to lose oneself in literature as in a perpetual orgy.”

Gustave Flaubert
Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

BOOKEXPO 2025

Rita Boehm, BookExpo chairperson

The registrations are rolling in fast! So far, we have over 65 entries. Non-member entries are being accepted starting September 1st. We expect to fill all the open slots and start a waiting list by the end of September. If you want to be part of the excitement, submit your entry now! 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, reach out to Dave McKeon, BookExpo2025 Vice Chairperson, or send an email to wlovwriters@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER

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

Email us: wlovwriters@gmail.com.

Ask a board member or a volunteer manning the tables at our monthly meeting and they'll point you in the right direction. We need you!

AWARDS, ACCOLADES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

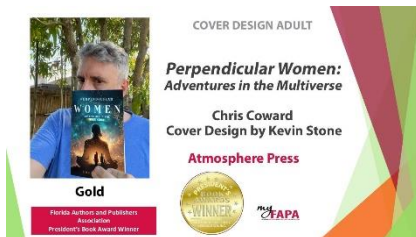
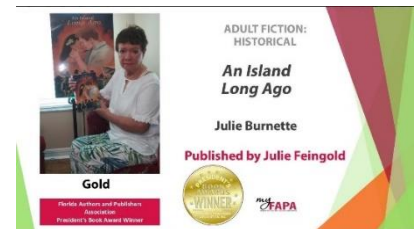
Brag a bit. Be proud. You did it! Email Penny Thomas, pt0647@gmail.com, details of your award, accolade, and accomplishment.



The Florida Authors and Publisher's Association (FAPA) awarded a 2024 gold medal to **Julie Feingold** for her novel "**An Island Long Ago**." The FAPA President's Book Awards recognizes book publishing excellence and creativity worldwide.

Publishers, librarians, educators, and other professionals in the industry from Florida and throughout the United States volunteer as judges. Three judges read each entry, and their scores determine the finalists.

"An Island Long Ago" is a historical romance that follows four generations of a wealthy Filipino family shaped by a sociopathic matriarch.



CONGRATULATIONS to **Chris Coward** and her cover designer for winning a GOLD medal in the Florida Author and Publishers Association (FAPA) competition for "**Perpendicular Women: Adventures in the Multiverse**".

FWA's Royal Palm Literary Award Finalists

Colleen Heitmann announced that her children's picture book, "**Avery and Goober**" is a finalist for FWA's 2024 RPLA.

Barbara Rein announced that her short story, "**Shadow of a Doubt**" is a finalist for FWA's 2024 RPLA.

Jeanne E. Rogers announced her children's book, "**Dressing for Dreamtime**" is a finalist for FWA's 2024 RPLA.

Awards will be presented at the: **Florida WritersCon 2024, October 18 – 20, Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs, FL**. Some members cannot attend and would like a WLOV attendee to accept their award (if they are lucky). Please let Penny Thomas – pt0647@gmail.com – know if you are willing to do this and she'll pass it on.

Announcing the 2025 FAPA President's Book Awards

Submission window is open from October 2024 through April 2025

The annual **Florida Authors and Publishers Association (FAPA)** President's Book Awards recognizes book publishing excellence and creativity in design, content, and production for authors, illustrators, and publishers.

In August 2024, FAPA presented the first Sunshine State Award for the highest-scoring book with a Florida theme, *Wild Florida: An Animal Odyssey*, author Kirsten Hines, published by the University of Florida Press. However, the contest is not limited to state residents or books about Florida. Any author with a book written in English and published from 2023 to 2025 is eligible to enter one or more of the over 40 available categories. Recent gold, silver, and bronze medalists traveled from Texas, Minnesota, Connecticut, and even Taiwan and Nova Scotia to participate in the ceremony and celebrate their literary accomplishments!

Entries are scored by publishing professionals, librarians, illustrators, and educators from within and outside of Florida. Books scoring high enough in each category are awarded gold, silver, or bronze medals. Winners are notified via email, announced in the June newsletter, and presented with their medals during the awards ceremony at FAPA's annual conference in Orlando, FL. FAPA membership is not required for entry, although FAPA members receive discounts on submissions. **For details, visit <https://www.myfapa.org/book-awards>.**

"The FAPA President's Book Awards recognize talented contemporary authors in a variety of categories, who put both heart and soul into their work," says Renee Garrison, past president of FAPA. "FAPA is proud to be a champion of authors, illustrators, and publishers going the extra mile to produce books of excellence in every aspect."

The Florida Authors and Publishers Association is an organization for authors, publishers, independent publishers, illustrators, editors, printers, and other professionals involved in the publishing industry. It focuses on providing the highest quality of information, resources, and professional development to members and others interested in the writing and publishing profession.



The Craft of Writing

This month's article comes from Timons Esaias, a satirist, fictionator and poet. His works have appeared in 22 languages, on at least one planet. He taught at Seton Hill University for twenty years and teaches workshops for Pennwriters and Flash Fiction Magazine. <https://timonsesaia.com>

Two Timonsian Tips

Here are two entries from **Timons's Dark File of Horrible Habits**:

The Unwritten Rule

There is a "rule" of names-and-paragraph-usage that I frequently see violated in manuscript, but when I searched for a book to refer students and clients to, well, I couldn't find anybody who had named and described it. Out of necessity, I took the step of "writing down the unwritten rule."

It goes something like this: **Do Not Use A Proper Name In A Paragraph After Already Using A Pronoun For It (unless required to avoid ambiguity).**

An example that almost all of us would feel was somehow wrong (note that "He" and "John" are the same character):

He stepped into the room. John picked up the book.

It should have been: "John stepped into the room. He picked up the book." And the overwhelming majority of published paragraphs you see will work like that.

However, there's another version that might slip past your internal editor:

As he stepped into the room, John picked up the book.

I think what goes on here is that the natural order of the sentence would be "John picked up the book as he stepped..." and so we feel the sentence is still "right" even though it violates the rule as I have written it. I don't see it as a violation.

But what I'm hoping you'll avoid from here on out (despite the quibble above) is paragraphs constructed like:

He wanted to begin his novel with weather so badly. The idea consumed his soul, even though his girlfriend had warned him never to do it. Why do I have to live by the rules of other writers? he wondered, while Jim typed "It was a..." and waited for inspiration.

Continued on next page

Two Timonsian Tips Continued:

Waste Words: Renaming

This is a bad habit of sentence construction that gets overlooked in paragraphs. The most common version I see is double-naming. In a sentence, it would look like this: *Tom poured his coffee, slopped in a dollop of cream, stirred the white stuff around, then tasted the hot beverage.* In this one sentence we have two "clever" renamings of something we just read.

Renaming can be clever, if there's some art to it. It was considered flashy technique a hundred years ago. But tastes have changed considerably since then, and what used to be a stylish rhetorical flourish is now seen as stalling. Here it's just flat. We're wasting the reader's time, and not adding anything. And every time you do it, you risk confusing the reader.

Renaming is still a problem when we do it in paragraphs:

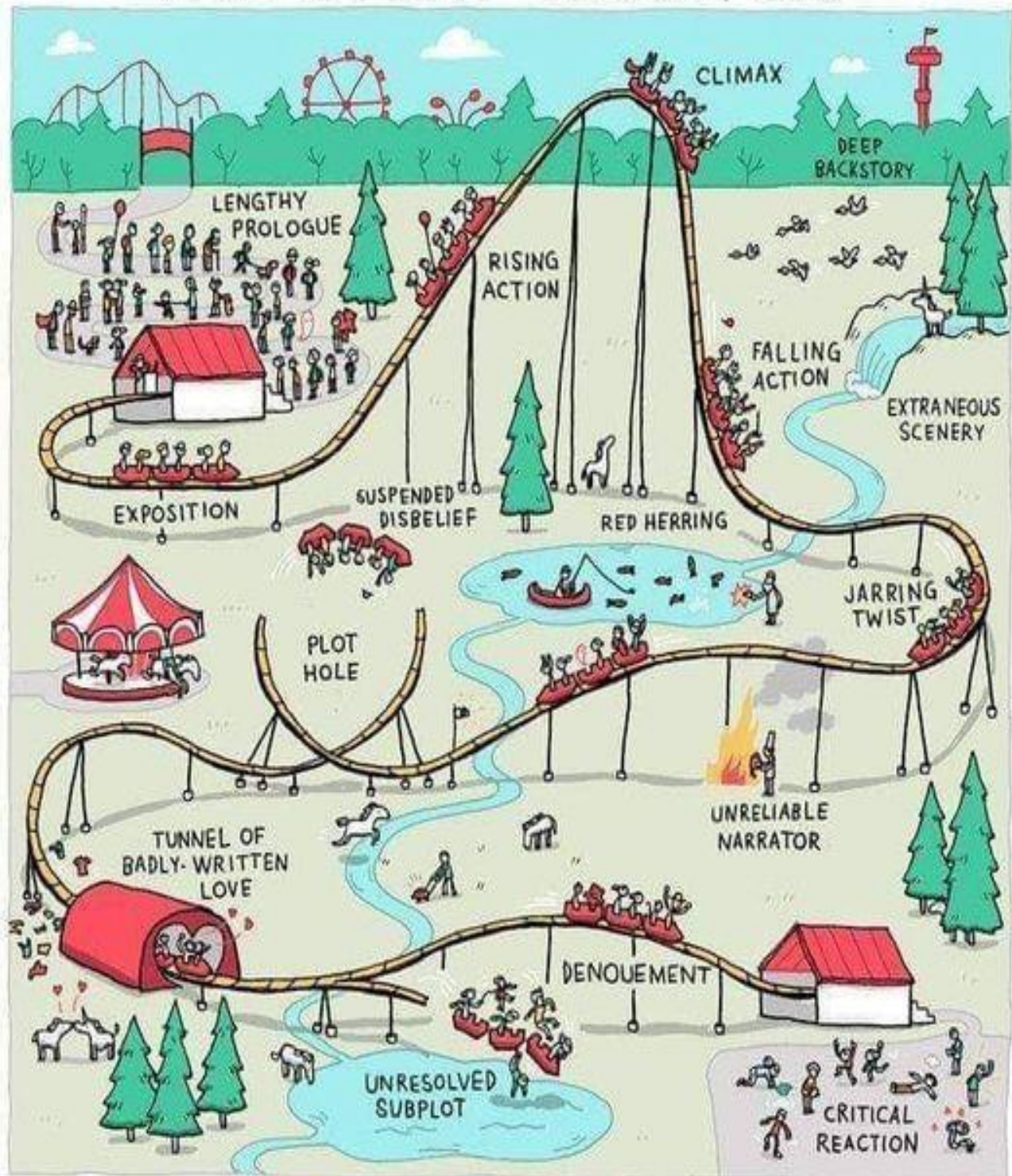
Tiphphannee [Don't pretend to me that you don't know this spelling is coming. -Timons] *wanted the car so badly, she couldn't think about anything else. Why did she need the roadster? Because the vehicle would let her leave church on her own, quickly, and she wouldn't have to speak to Namath, who always found a way to ambush her on the sidewalk. He, too, lacked a sedan.* [Here we have four different names for car, and not a single good reason for the substitutions.]

Timons Esaias
himself@timonsesaias.com

“The books on the shelves are the best clue to a person’s biography.”

Michael Gove
Reprinted from:
A Writer’s Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

THE STORY COASTER

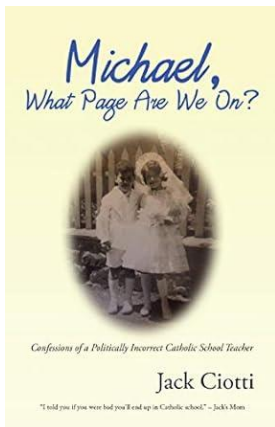


GRANT SNIDER

FUTURE BOOK PROMOTIONS

Quill de Ville would like to promote your book. 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.. 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.**

SEPTEMBER BOOK PROMOTIONS



Michael What Page Are We On – Jack Ciotti

“The Catholic School System meets Animal House.” This review from a reader is my favorite, as it captures the comedic element of the story in a concise manner. The book was written solely for amusement and escapism and bounces back and forth between school days in the 1950’s and today. Any teacher, student, or employee with a bad boss can relate to the characters and their situations in this episodic and comical story.

Jimmy a history lover, 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 over the decades, and not for the better. So, he is forced to develop an eclectic strategy of teaching and coping skills to deal with continuous unforeseen situations.

As a detached witness to scandals and sometimes at odds with administrators, Jimmy’s career carries him through a series of Catholic schools in locations as diverse as a dreary ghetto in the Northeast to a sun-splashed enclave of the rich and famous on the East Coast of Florida. He had been taught as a child to always leave a little room on your chair so your guardian angel could sit next to you. He would have given his guardian angel the lion's share of his chair for divine assistance now.

Available on Amazon



SPIES AMONG US.—Mel Harrison

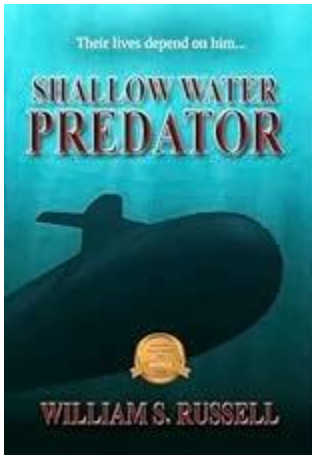
The fifth book in the Alex Boyd series.

Assigned to London, Alex Boyd, diplomatic security special agent, and his wife, Rachel Smith, now a political officer for the US Department of State, step into a spider's web of intrigue at the US Embassy. Neither realizes at first the damage a co-worker is creating by passing on highly classified information from the US government and NATO to a deep cover Russian spy.

But as stories appear inconsistent and anomalies occur, Alex and Rachel begin to suspect who is responsible for the espionage. With the help of the Embassy CIA Station Chief Anna Battles, Scotland Yard's Special Branch, and British intelligence services, they work closely together to sort out the lies.

But the Russians have more than one ace up their sleeve as Alex and Rachel soon realize American secrets are still being lost to the other side. It will take the combined efforts of Alex Boyd, the CIA, and the FBI to figure out who else is trading secrets before the damage is beyond control. They must find and stop the spies among us.

Available on Amazon



***Shallow Water Predator:* -- William S. Russell**

Genre: Thriller

Disgraced submarine Commander Joseph Scott assumes command of the submarine USS *Buffalo* on a dangerous, top-secret mission into the Persian Gulf. He takes a considerable risk in insisting that Dr. Janice Lace, the foremost expert on shallow water, be part of the crew. They had a romantic relationship, which he ended.

Scott's orders. Search for mines and monitor Iranian submarine movements in the Persian Gulf. He knows the longer *Buffalo* remains in the Gulf's shallow waters, the greater the chance the Iranian navy may find her. *Buffalo* becomes trapped between two destroyers, and Scott barely escapes after explosions rock his boat. Scott receives orders to transfer SEALs aboard--their mission. Extract a nuclear physicist who has vital information on Iran's nuclear weapon facility.

As a former Navy SEAL, Scott knows incursion into hostile territory may be punished by death if caught. Commander Walsh's team extracts the nuclear physicist and brings him back to *Buffalo* for interrogation.

Walsh receives orders to destroy Iran's nuclear weapons facility after the interrogation of the physicist. Janice's shallow water expertise is vital to placing the SEALs on the beach. Walsh and his men face enemy guards as they destroy the facility.

With the mission's success, Scott wants orders to sail home, but the President has other plans for the commanding officer of the *Shallow Water Predator*. With Janice, Walsh, and his crew, Scott will steer the USS *Buffalo* into danger as the United States and Iran confront each other at sea.

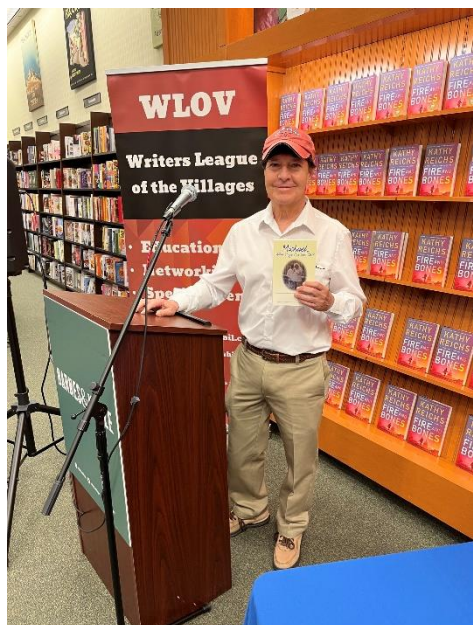
The book can be purchased at Amazon and Newhouse Creative Group

***ALL BOOKED UP* BOOK SIGNING — August 13, 2024**

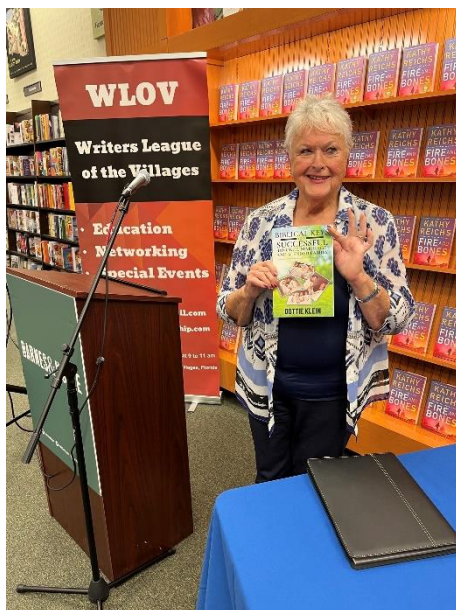


Mary Pierantozzi, Sandy Solomon, Keith Abbott and Steve Camp.

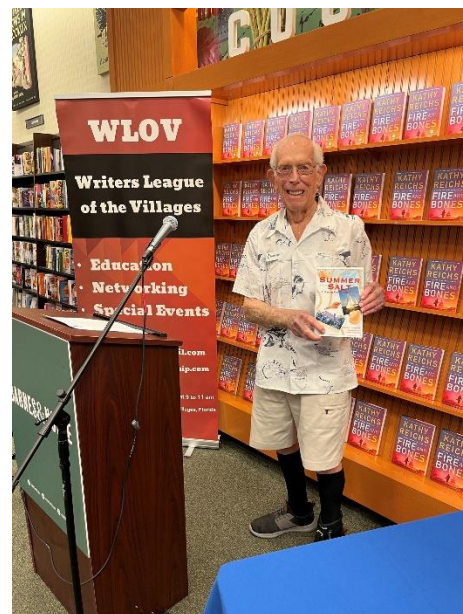
Barnes & Noble Author's Kick-Off Event August 10, 2024



Jack Ciotti – *Michael, What Page Are We On?*



Dottie Klein – *Biblical Keys to a Successful Divorce, Marriage, and Blended Family*



Spence Langford - *Summer Salt, A Daring Family Adventure*



Jeanne Rogers – *Dressing for Dreamtime*



Cleo Simon – *Mountains Along Our Path*



Standing room only at B&N Author Kick-off Event August 2024

First WLOV Meeting After the Summer Hiatus.



Addendum

THE VILLAGES MAGAZINE –2025 AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Complete the following questionnaire if you are interested in being part of the Local Author's Spotlight in The Villages Magazine.

Answers may be edited by the magazine for content/space/layout purposes.

General information:

1. Since only one author is selected per month, it may take several months before your book appears in the magazine.
2. You must remain a current WLOV member to be part of the program.
3. If you've been featured in the magazine's "Villages Author Spotlight" in the last 4 years, your name will go to the end of the list behind newcomers.

SUBMIT the following to WLOVWRITERS@gmail.com

(Must submit BOTH items)

a) the completed questionnaire below

b) a high-quality image of your book cover

Your Name:

The Village you live in:

Book title and genre:

A brief synopsis of your book (approx. 1 -2 paragraphs):

What prompted you to write your book?

What do you hope readers take away from your book?

What clubs, activities and hobbies do you enjoy?

Where may readers purchase your book?

Anything else?