



January 2024

BookExpo 2024

Sunday, January 28, 2024 • 11am-4pm
Eisenhower Recreation Center

AUTHORS • BOOKS • FUN

Writers League of The Villages & The Villages® Recreation

Upcoming Events – January 2024

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 1/4	6:30 – 8:30 pm	Wine & Words	Riverbend Rec Center
Wednesday, 1/10	9:00 – 11:00 am	WLOV Monthly Meeting	Laurel Manor Rec Center
Tuesday, 1/9	11 am – 2:00 pm	All Booked Up Author Signing	All Booked Up, Colony Plaza
Saturday, 1/13	2:00 – 3:00 pm	B&N Author Showcase	Barnes & Noble, Sumter Landing
Saturday, 1/13	2:00 pm	Donn Dears — Celebration of Life	Eisenhower Rec Center
Sunday, 1/28	11 am – 4:00 pm	BookExpo2024	Eisenhower Rec Center

Message from WLOV's President

Dear Fellow Writers!



First, I wish everyone a Happy New Year! May it be a healthy and productive one for all.

Many of you do not know me personally. I'm certain that many know me only by sight. But I would like you to know me better and know about my journey to this time and place because all that I have experienced has created me. That time and those places have influenced me and will be the basis for creating a successful year not only for myself but for all the members of our club.

These past few years as a member of the Writers League of The Villages, I have, with the help of its members, written and published my fifth children's book. I have also found that this club is a community that shares my passion for the written word. I have been a recipient of the group's collective creativity, information, and dedication.

As the new year begins, I am reminded of the responsibility that comes with the presidency of our club. It is an honor to hold this position, especially when I consider its roots, from a fledgling group founded by Mark Newhouse in 2011 through the strong leadership that followed him. How we have grown!

In this coming new year, I will strive to do my best to bring you information via our monthly presentations and provide you with the tools that every author needs in order to be successful, from the first words you put on paper, to the pride of holding a finished book in your hands. I have known that joy and my wish for everyone is that you experience it, too.

Please know that I am always open to your suggestions and comments as well as any other concerns you may have. My door is open – just step through.

Jeanne Rogers

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.

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.

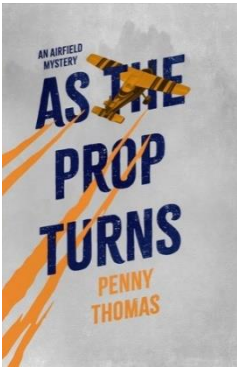


NOTES FROM PENNY THOMAS, NEW EDITOR OF *QUILL DE VILLE*

Thank you all for entrusting me with your newsletter. I hope I live up to the high standards of Larry Martin, who justifiably retired from this position after seven magnificent years.

Please feel free to email me with your comments and suggestions for future editions. pt06472@gmail.com

And now some shameless self-promotion: I finally published a book.



As the Prop Turns

by Penny Thomas

When a suspicious airplane crash kills Fiona's soon-to-be ex-husband and owner of the local airfield, she becomes the number one suspect. Surrounded by antagonistic in-laws, land-hungry developers, and drug smugglers determined to get their hands on the airfield, she must find the saboteur before she becomes the next victim.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1962326098?linkCode=osi>

This book came about from years of hanging around a small airfield in Central New Jersey. A side room in one of the larger T-hangars called The South Side Lounge was filled with old sofas, a TV, a wood stove, and a 50's style refrigerator engineered into a tap beer dispenser. We called it the 'Kegalator'. This was our winter hangout. Our summer hangout was under the high wing of any single-engine aircraft not flying at the time. Beer was drunk. Stories were told. And so 'As The Prop Turns' was created. None of the characters in my book are real, and neither is the plot.

In Memoriam—Donn Dears



WLOV just lost a dear friend and valued member

It is with great sadness that we announce that Donn Dears of The Villages passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on the morning of December 9 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He is reunited again in heaven with his beloved wife, Marion. Donn was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Evelyn and Francis Dears.

He attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, where he graduated with honors in engineering. Donn served our country as a Lieutenant (JG) in the US Navy during the Korean War. Donn began his career after the war at

General Electric, testing large steam turbines and generators. He then spent three years in GE's prestigious Manufacturing Management Program in diverse businesses, including locomotives, turbines, and small jet engines. After that, Donn advanced to several senior executive positions within GE, specializing in power generation. After retiring from GE, Donn leveraged his expertise and continued to study, write, and speak about energy issues, publishing eight books and numerous articles. He was an active blogger and speaker. Donn was also passionate about traveling the world, visiting over 60 countries for business and pleasure. Donn was an active member and loyal friend of many within his cherished community, enjoying community events, poker night, and Thursday lunch with his close friends.

Donn is survived by his children, Elizabeth (Robert) and William (Margo); his grandchildren, Daniel (Heather), Christopher (Natalie), Samuel and Maxwell; and great-grandchildren, Jacob and Grace. Donn's family would like to sincerely thank Donn's healthcare team, including Florida Cancer Specialists and Compassionate Care Hospice, for providing excellent treatment and supportive care for over a year. The family also profoundly appreciates all the love and support of his close friends before, during, and after the onset of his illness.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at the Eisenhower Regional Pool and Recreation Center located at 3560 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages, FL starting at 2:00 PM on Saturday, January 13, 2024. Interment will occur at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please consider a tax-deductible donation to the US Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation in Donn's memory. Please make your check payable to "USMMA AAFN (Tax ID# 11-6037948) with Donn's name in the memo section/notes. Mail to USMMA Alumni, 300 Steamboat Road, Kings Point, NY 11024, or donate online at www.usmmaalumni.com/donate.

FROM THE DESK OF RITA BOEHM, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

BOOKEXPO 2024 – JANUARY 28, 2024

It is right around the corner!
Now is the time for everyone to spread the word.
Expo update:

TABLE AND ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

All exhibitors have been sent their table and room assignments, along with room layouts.

MARKETING:

BookExpo bookmarks and signs will still be available at our general meeting on January 10th. Please hand out Expo bookmarks at your church, clubs, neighbor events, doctor's offices, and while dancing at the town squares – in other words, **EVERYWHERE** you go. One enterprising member used to slide them into her neighbor's newspapers as she took her morning walk.

Organized marketing: Business Outreach – Julie Feingold's Business Outreach committee will be visiting businesses throughout The Villages in the early January timeframe.

PUBLICITY

Advertisements continue to be placed in the Daily Sun and the event will be publicized on WVLG radio. Exhibitors from outside The Villages have requested coverage in their local media.

Please send out announcements to your email list and via your social media feeds.

EVENT SPEAKERS: Our excellent speakers are part of the strategy to bring people to the event. Please share with your friends.

Dr. Donald P. Wyman, THE JFK ASSASSINATION: WHY IT HAD TO HAPPEN

Army veteran and retiree of 22 years in the CIA, Dr. Wyman will present many facts previously unknown about this 60 year-old-mystery of history. In addition to being an Enrichment Academy speaker, Dr. Wyman is a frequent cruise-ship speaker, presenting a variety of talks. He will be featured on an upcoming transatlantic Viking Ocean Cruise. Check out his website: www.donwymanpresents.com.

Patricia Charpentier, WRITING YOUR LIFE STORIES

As owner of the company, *Writing Your Life*, Ms. Charpentier regularly teaches well-attended Enrichment Academy courses designed to help people compile their memories so they can share them with their families—and the larger world. Check out her website: <https://writingyourlife.org>.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Rita Boehm

In 2024, we will continue our promotional events at Barnes & Noble, All Booked Up, and Wine & Words.

Barnes & Noble: Twelve (12) authors will be featured for the Q1 period from January 1st through March 31st. Kick-off events will be held at the store on Saturday, January 13th, and Saturday, February 10th, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Authors featured for Q1 are: Jeff Atwood, Leigh Court, John Farren, Bill Hade, Rick Greenberg, Paula Howard, Scott Ives, Dan Kincaid, Barbara Rein, Christine Schimpf, Lawrence Silverman, and Lisa Vincent Morrison

All Booked Up: The following authors will be featured for the January – February timeframe: Fiction - Chris Coward, Brenda Hiatt, Christine Schimpf; Non-fiction - Rick Greenberg, Annie Meehan; Children's - Geralyn Vilar

Book signings at All Booked Up will be held on Tuesday, January 9th, from 11 – 2 and Tuesday, February 13th, from 11 to 2.

Please spread the word and come out to support your fellow members.

Wine & Words: Join us on the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Riverbend Rec Center as Frank Lancione interviews two WLOV authors about their books in a fun, relaxed setting. Bring your own adult beverages and enjoy the evening.

FACEBOOK ALBUM

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

OCTOBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.746767960824197&type=3>

NOVEMBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.748380127329647&type=3>

DECEMBER FACEBOOK ALBUM

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.764299225737737&type=3>



MOMENTS FROM WLOV's DECEMBER MEETING

Rita Boehm handed out Certificates of Appreciation and announced Emotions of Love Contest Winners



Denise Lasley, The Villages Neighbors Magazine. Honored for her dedication to WLOV writers



Emotions of Love Contest – Poetry
Left – Bonnie Thompson, 1st place
Right – Judi Ciance, 2nd place
Manny Sousa, 3rd place



Larry Martin
Honored for seven years of service as this newsletter editor



Emotions of Love Contest – Prose
Left – Carol Ann Dean, 1st place
Center – John Edward Howard, 2nd place
Right – Frances Szarnicki, 3rd place



Winners of Trivia Contest

Meet WLOV's New Board Members

Jeanne Rogers – President



As always, it's best to start at the beginning: I was born in the Bronx, N.Y., to an Italian-American family. We lived the life that many Italian families did back in the 50s and 60s. There was always some type of family gathering and multitudinous amounts of food and "black" coffee. My memories of that time make me smile.

My parents moved me and my sister to New Jersey when I was very young. I completed my first year of college there. A move to Connecticut made it necessary to transfer to a Connecticut state school from which I graduated. The college is now called Western Connecticut University. My focus of studies was history. At first, I studied European history, with a concentration on the French Revolution. Then one day, my dad, a history buff, asked why I wasn't studying U.S. history. He convinced me that our history in the States was just as interesting as anything in Europe. I dove head first into the U.S. Revolution followed by the Civil War, where I met Mr. Lincoln. My library now contains first editions of books written by Lincoln's contemporaries. They are a treasure.

Studying history requires a serious amount of reading. I wrote one research paper after another. Again, my father stepped in with another question; "Why not read for pleasure?" and handed me a copy of the *Foundation Trilogy* by Isaac Asimov. That set the stage for my transition from research papers into fantasy and science fiction.

I was always a creative individual as well as a voracious reader. That led me to receive art awards and write several stories while in college. Most of my stories focused on nature, animals, and fantasy (which remains my focus to this day), and this is what helped me find joy and wonder in the world around me. Those are the things I find fascinating and marvelous, and I wanted then, as now, to share that fascination and wonder. My audience, I decided, would be young readers. Who other than children would best take up the baton of caring for all the marvels of the world around us? My presentations concentrated on the environment and endangered animals. Australia was my canvas, and the unusual animals that lived there were the subjects that I painted with my pen. I wrote my books for young readers, hoping to spark a desire in them to learn more about the environment and its effect on the planet's wildlife. After publishing my first book, schools invited me to give presentations about Australia to their students.

My professional career involved Patent Law. I spent twenty-five years at a major pharmaceutical company where I filed International and US patents, and maintained the company's patent portfolio. It was a challenging position until I retired at the age of sixty-two. Soon after, my husband was laid off and we were forced to make a major decision. We moved to Florida.

Currently, I live in the Village of Fenney and am enjoying all that The Villages has to offer. I found so many friends and fellow writers. It is a joy.

Phyllis Walters– Vice President



Dr. Kuehnl-Walters, known as Phyllis Walters of The Villages Florida, is a retired clinical psychologist from Ohio. Third- and fourth-year medical students completed psychology rotations by observing and assisting in her offices.

In addition to owning a large group practice in the Dayton area, she was an Adjunct Professor in several departments at the University of Dayton. She has also taught at the Life Long Learning College of The Villages, Florida. She has been a speaker in The Villages area churches and clubs as well as teaching and participating in women's Bible studies at Fairway Christian Church.

Dr. Walters became "refired" as an author in 2017 when she began writing Christian Inspirational books meant to encourage the reader to joyfully finish the race set forth by God. In 2019, she began another genre of writing cases she can never forget. Her first novel, *The Christmas Slayings* was inspired by an evaluation of a young woman charged with murder. Her second novel in the true crime/suspense genre is based on the cases of two women for whom she had compassion. Her third and fourth novels are stories of men who committed crimes against women. *Husbands Who Kill* and *Kids Who Kill* will soon be followed by *Life Behind Bars: Angel's Journey*.

Dr. Walters is a member of the Florida Writers Association and The Writers League of The Villages. She is also an Emeritus member of the Ohio Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association.

Dr. Walters states that she is blessed to have a balanced life as a mother, wife, Yaya, aunt, friend, beloved daughter and sister. Writing is now her passion with the intent of inspiring others to understand their purpose in life, to believe, at any age, they are equipped to achieve it, and to develop compassion toward others who are less fortunate.

Mark Witmer— Treasurer



Hello fellow WLOV'ers, I am Mark Witmer, your newly elected treasurer. I'm taking over for Paula Howard, which will be a tall order as Paula does an amazing job at everything she does! But I am grateful she has taken the time to "show me the ropes".

I have been in The Villages for almost 3 years now, and live in Hemingway near the Havana Country Club. I have been in the WLOV for roughly the last two years, and am amazed by the level of skill the members possess. For those of you who are new, there is a knowledge base the membership has that is impressive and I have not run across anyone yet who isn't willing to help! I got involved in more than a cursory level earlier in 2023 by offering, along with Dan Varalli, to assist in adding authors and books to our WLOV website. This has been a great experience for me and helped me to meet more of the members.

I grew up near Buffalo, NY, and stayed in the Western New York area until 1990 after graduating from Alfred University with an Engineering degree. After a stint in Arkansas, I started a manufacturing business in the Corning/Elmira NY area in 1994. Silicon Carbide Products, Inc weathered several storms over the years and grew to a high of 48 employees in 2006. It was an amazing experience with many ups and downs. It was here I

got my big dose of interpersonal relationships and their importance. I sold SCP in 2018 and stayed on for three years before moving to The Villages in February of 2021.

I have a 24-year-old daughter, Lauren, who is a CPA, and a rescue dog, Lorenzo. Along the way, I have been fortunate to have earned my private pilot's license, FCC amateur radio license, certified scuba, and as an amateur winemaker, won 72 medals in regional, state, national, and international competitions. During the pandemic, I took the opportunity to become a Certified Life Coach and Master Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP) Practitioner. I have become very interested in interpersonal relationships and their dynamics. This has led me to become knowledgeable in The Five Love Languages and the Enneagram, as well as NLP.

In the past, I have volunteered as a mentor in the Young Entrepreneur Academy for six years, with two of my students making the regional finals. I have also volunteered at the food bank and the SPCA in Chemung County, NY, and more recently the Christian Food Pantry in Lady Lake here.

I have several published technical articles, and am working on my first actual book currently. My book will be a self-development book and address improving one's relationships using a novel method to help uncover one's "blind spots". As your treasurer, I am looking forward to meeting more of the club members and learning from your experiences.

Julie Feingold - Secretary

Julie Feingold's mother was a storyteller. Growing up, her mother told Julie stories of her life in the Philippines and her experience as a fourteen-year-old when the Japanese invaded the island – just ten hours after bombing Pearl Harbor. She also recounted the stories her mother (Julie's grandmother) told about her life under the care of an abusive grandmother until abandoned at the age of eight to an orphanage.



Julie loved those stories and developed a passion for reading, storytelling, and writing. Her dream was to weave the stories of her mother and grandmother into a novel, rich in the history of the Philippines, hence, her debut novel, *An Island Long Ago*.

Julie was born in the Philippines shortly after World War II to an American father and a Filipino mother. When she was two years old, she moved with her parents to the United States. An army "brat", she spent her early years moving every three to four years from one army base to another.

Most of her adult years were spent in Atlanta, Georgia where she worked as a registered nurse. Life trumped dreams. She dabbled in writing poetry and children's stories, but it wasn't until she retired that she pursued her dream of writing her mother's stories into a historical novel. Her only regret is that she did not finish it while her mother was alive.

"Many people believe they have a novel in them; few get to write one, fewer still to see it published."

Source unknown.

Reprinted from:

A Writer's Commonplace Book, Rosemary Friedman

Frank A. Lancione WLOV 2022 – 2023 Board President

Thank You For A Wonderful Experience!

At 11:59 on December 31st you will most likely be getting ready to welcome in 2024. At that moment, my thoughts will actually be on Wednesday, October 1, 2022 – the first day I officially took over as President of The Writers League of The Villages. At the end of 2023 I will conclude 15 months in the role of President of our club. It's been a wonderful experience.

I have a ton of great memories from my time in office and all of us can be proud of what we accomplished working together over the past 15 months.

- We've had steady, continuous growth and our club now has almost 280 active dues-paying members
- We had the biggest, best-attended annual Book Expo in the history of the program this year. Over 3,300 people participated
- We had a 500% increase in contributions to our scholarship campaign. We went from funding two \$500 scholarships in 2022 to funding five \$1000 scholarships in 2023
- We had interesting and informative programming at our monthly membership meetings that resulted in near-capacity crowds each month
- We significantly expanded the opportunities for members to market their books through public appearances, book signings, and articles in the Daily Sun and other communications venues

The last fifteen months have demonstrated that we are a resourceful, resilient group of people who care about each other and our club. That is absolutely the key to success in volunteer organizations and it is a strong foundation to build on in 2024.

Our incoming WLOV President, Jeanne Rogers, is a personal friend. I have the highest respect for her talents and her genuine love for our club and our members. We need to all rally around her and support her in her new role.

As for me, I will continue to be active in the club. My tenure as President of WLOV has been one of the great joys of my life. I thank each and every one of you for giving me this wonderful opportunity and experience!

