

The Florida Writer

December 2015 • Volume 9, Number 6



How Authors Can Find Their Ideal
Reading Audience

Imitation Is Much More Than Flattery

Annual Conference Roundup & Photos



reedsy

Looking for an editor, cover designer
or marketer for your next book?
The industry's top professionals are
already on Reedsy.

\$50 discount

A gift for members of the Florida Writers Association
sign up via:

www.reedsy.com/loves/fwa

The Florida Writer

EDITOR

Mary Ann de Stefano

DESIGN EDITOR

Tanya Grae

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Chrissy Jackson

Chris Coward

QUERIES & SUBMISSIONS

tfw@floridawriters.net

ADVERTISING

tfw@floridawriters.net

PUBLISHER

Florida Writers Association (FWA)

P.O. Box 66069

St. Pete Beach FL 33736

floridawriters.net

The Florida Writer, published six times a year, is the official magazine of the Florida Writers Association, Inc. (FWA), the first and only statewide 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of aspiring and published writers in any genre.

©2015 Florida Writers Association and individual authors. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by electronic means without permission in writing from the President of the Florida Writers Association.

The Florida Writers Association (FWA) is pleased to introduce its readers to the advertisers seen in this publication. FWA reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement, but it does not attempt to investigate or verify any claims made. The appearance of an ad in The Florida Writer in no way implies endorsement or approval by FWA.

All contributors to The Florida Writer retain copyright to their work. There is no payment other than publication. Rights revert to the author upon publication, although The Florida Writer reserves the right to anthologize, in print or electronically, material that is first published here. Contributors are free to publish their work after it appears in The Florida Writer. Please acknowledge The Florida Writer as the place of first publication.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 **Editor's Notes:**
The Book Belongs to the Author
Mary Ann de Stefano
- 5 **President's Notes:**
FWA Membership is a Bargain
Chrissy Jackson
- 7 **Clearly Legal:**
Artwork, Photography and Your Book
Anne Dalton, Esquire
- 8 **Re-Release for the New Year**
Penny Sansevieri
- 10 **How Authors Can Find Their Ideal Reading Audience**
Angela Ackerman
- 14 **Florida Writers Conference: A Weekend to Remember**
Leslie Salas
- 17 Conference Photos
- 21 Lifetime Members
- 22 **Imitation Is Much More Than Flattery**
Barbara Baig
- 25 **Pushing Past the Terrifying Dip in Motivation**
Leo Babauta
- PARAGRAPHS
- 26 **Maude** | Gwen Dolyns
- 27 **The Doctor's Wife** | Linda Barbosa
- 28 **Abduction** | Bradette Michel
- 29 **White Elephant Exchange** | David Pearce
- 30 **Celebrations!**

Cover: Silver Spring, Florida

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Florida Writer

What to Submit

Celebrations

Let's celebrate your writing successes together. Marking a milestone in your writing career? Members who have good news to share about their writing-related accomplishments should send announcements for publication.

- Write a one-paragraph announcement in third person
- Type "Celebrations" in the subject line of your submission email
- One entry per issue per person
- Maximum word count: 100

Paragraphs

We publish selected creative writing by members who respond to a prompt. Prose, poetry, and excerpts from larger works that can stand alone are all welcome.

- Type "Paragraphs" in the subject line of your submission email
- One entry per person per issue
- Maximum word count for prose: 700
- Maximum line count for poetry: 50

Prompt for the February 2016 issue: Libraries are fascinating places, full of knowledge and mystery. Use a library as the setting for the beginning of a piece. Consider the librarian on duty, the regulars, the dark corners, and old books with strange, scribbled notes. What brings people to this library? What are they trying to find? What happens?

Prompt for the April 2016 issue: The title and inspiration for your piece is a familiar aphorism. Use one of these or choose another: a stitch in time saves nine; if it ain't broke don't fix it; clothes make the man (or woman); he (or she) who hesitates is lost; absence makes the heart grow fonder; out of sight, out of mind; no pain, no gain.

How to Submit

- Deadline for the February issue is 1/1/2016
- Deadline for the April issue is 3/1/2016
- Send all submissions in doc format as an email attachment. Please do not embed your submission's text within the email message.
- Include your name and contact information within the attachment
- You may include one headshot or a photo of the front cover of your book to accompany your entry, but it is not required. The image file must be high resolution, 300 ppi, jpg format, and sent as an attachment. Please don't send embedded images.
- To be eligible for publication, you must be a member of the Florida Writers Association
- Before hitting the "send" button, please double check to be sure your entry meets all the requirements and is as free of typos and other errors as possible
- Email your submission to tfw@floridawriters.net

Advertise in The Florida Writer

- Affordable rates, discounted for members
- Color ads accepted at no additional charge
- Need help to create an ad? We can put you in touch with a designer.
- For rates, specs, and deadlines, contact tfw@floridawriters.net



Editor's Notes

The Book Belongs to the Author

Mary Ann de Stefano

Editor

A while back, a question in an online forum for editors I participate in provoked much discussion, and it occurred to me that it might be interesting for you writers to be privy to something editors talk about when you're not around. An editor new to the business wondered what other editors do when their editorial comments are rejected by the author.

Whether or not the writer incorporates suggested revisions seemed to be a big concern for the in-house editors in the forum. The job of those editors is to communicate house style and ensure the work meets house standards. Although there can be negotiation, if you turn the revision process into a fight with an in-house editor, the magazine or publishing company you thought would be publishing your work may not publish it after all.

The relationship between an independent freelance editor and a self-publishing author is different. Editors in the forum told about writers (no names were used!) who rejected their suggestions and produced books riddled with errors or who rushed to self-publish books that were clearly not ready. Every editor, it seems, has stories like that.

Experienced editors know once they've given the writer thoughtful advice—and backed it up with standard guides like the *Chicago Manual of Style* along with conversations with the writer about how their choices affect the reader—that what to do with editorial remarks is the author's decision.

One editor in the forum wrote, "Editing is a diplomatic awareness-raising exercise, not a battle of wills." I enjoy working with a writer who will engage in conversation and push back on my suggestions. It keeps me on my toes when I have to explain myself, and I know a back and forth between editor and author can help the writer clarify her vision. The job of an editor is to offer suggestions and other information that enable the writer to make good choices more confidently. Editors want to help, not hinder, the writer.

Back to the original question. What do editors do when authors reject their editorial suggestions? The fact is, we can't do anything but cringe when our names appear in the book's acknowledgements and the reviews comment negatively on the editing or problems we know could have been avoided had the author adopted our suggestions and taken more time with her work. But we can also cheer when an author has gone in a different direction—and done so successfully.

Esteemed editor Maxwell Perkins said, "I believe the writer ... should always be the final judge. I have always held to that position and have sometimes seen books hurt thereby, but at least as often helped. The book belongs to the author."

We editors can offer the best of our experience and knowledge. We can explain the reasoning behind our edits and suggestions. We can hope writers will truly listen, carefully consider our advice, and give their work all the time and effort it deserves. But then we have to let the work go because it does not belong to us.

When I'm tempted to be a self-important, all-knowing editor, I think about an old New Yorker cartoon depicting an editor sitting at his desk. "I wish you would make up your mind, Mr. Dickens," the editor says to the man sitting across from him. "Was it the best of times or was it the worst of times? It could scarcely have been both."

Indeed, the book belongs to the author. 🐾

Mary Ann de Stefano is the editor of *The Florida Writer* and *MAD's Monday Muse*. She is an independent editor with 30+ years experience in publishing and consulting. Besides working one-to-one with writers who are developing books, she organizes writing workshops and designs author websites. Mary Ann does business at MAD about Words, named as a play on her initials and love for writing. Visit madaboutwords.com



Writers Helping Writers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Chrissy Jackson
Executive Vice President Jade Kerrion
VP Administration & Membership Larry Kokko
VP Finance Robyn Weinbaum
Director Emerita Chris Coward

BOARD MEMBERS

Shannon Bell
Bria Burton
John Hope
Cheyenne Knopf
Larry J. Leech II
Joanne Lewis
Mark McWaters
Eugene Orlando
Mary Lois Sanders
Elaine Senecal
Tom Swartz

...

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Northwest Chrissy Jackson
Northeast Vic DiGenti
Central East Veronica Hart
Central West Larry Kokko
Central Andrew (AJ) Robinson
Central Tom Swartz
Treasure Coast Virginia "Gini" Nygard
Palm Beach County Caryn Devincenti
Southeast Jade Kerrion
Nevada & Washington Eugene Orlando

YOUTH WRITERS PROGRAM

Statewide Coordinators
Serena Schreiber & Kristen Stieffel

FOUNDERS

Glenda Ivey; Vicki M. Taylor;
K.A. Morgan; Kristina O'Donnelly;
Weslynn McAllister; Jennifer Curington

RESOURCES

Main Website: floridawriters.net
Networking: fwanetwork.ning.com
Questions: ContactUs@floridawriters.net

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mark Your Calendar

January 9, 2016

Start Strong and End with a Bank
A Webinar with Larry J. Leech II

January 15, 2016

Royal Palm Literary Award Competition
Open for submissions

February 1, 2016

Florida Writers Association Collection competition
Opens for submissions

February 27, 2016

3rd Annual The Write Stuff Mini-Conference
Flagler College, St. Augustine FL

April 30, 2016

5th Annual Writers Nest Mini-Conference
Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs

May 1, 2016

I ♥ Books – Multi-Genre Book Signing Event
Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs

May 7, 2016

2nd Annual Day at the Bay Mini-Conference
Clarion Inn, Tampa FL

June 25, 2016

4th Annual Nonfiction Mini-Conference
Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs

Visit floridawriters.net for the details.

What's my membership number?

This is probably the question that members ask us most frequently. You can always find your membership number (and renewal date) in the body of the mailer that delivers this magazine as well in the sidebar of every issue of the monthly *FWA eNews*. And you can store your membership number in your profile on the FWA Network.



President's Notes

FWA Membership is a Bargain

Chrissy Jackson
President

This is the time of year to talk about bargains and shopping. Timely FWA membership renewal at \$45 per year is a great bargain. And \$55 for a new member is also a great bargain when you look at the member benefits.

At a recent board meeting, FWA added two more member benefits to help promote and showcase members' work. First, additional exposure for the Person of Renown's top 10 Collection stories, beginning this year. Each month, one story, plus writing tips from the author, will be featured on FWA's blog.

The second is another new blog feature—the RPLA Showcase—designed to promote first place RPLA winners and provide more writing tips. Bria Burton, board member and Writers Group Leader, is spearheading this new initiative by contacting all first place RPLA winners. She will create a blog post with the winning entry that can be shared on all social media platforms and linked to and from author websites. It will include a photo, a Q & A with the author, and a link where the viewer can download a PDF of the winning entry's first chapter (or up to 5,000 words). This exposure could lead to more reading fans (and will not be considered "published" on the web via this format). The RPLA Showcase is scheduled to post twice a month.

To read the posts, go to the "Blog" link on floridawriters.net or use the "Sign Up for Email Updates" form to have them delivered to your email box when they're published.

Lifetime membership dues are \$500, but only until December 31, 2015. As of January 1, 2016, lifetime dues go up to \$750—still a bargain. Do you know the benefits that all FWA lifetime members receive?

All members of FWA are eligible for following:

- A subscription to the *The Florida Writer* magazine and FWA eNews
- Reduced advertising rates in *The Florida Writer* magazine
- Access to the FWA Network (adult members only), a social networking site for personal and professional connections to support their writing careers

- Attend the annual Florida Writers Conference and regional mini-conferences at a lower member rate
- Enter the annual Royal Palm Literary Awards competition
- Enter the contest to be published in the annual Florida Writers Association Collection
- Take advantage of FWA's Editors Helping Writers editorial service
- Submit writing-related accomplishments and creative writing to *The Florida Writer* magazine
- Participate in local Writers Group discussions, critiques, learning opportunities, book signings, critique groups, promotional events, and mini-conferences
- Be appointed to a leadership role as a committee chair, writers group leader regional director, or board member (adult members only)
- But Lifetime members receive the following additional benefits:
 - A free quarter-page ad in each issue of *The Florida Writer*
 - Recognition on the Florida Writers Association official website, in *The Florida Writer*, and each year in the annual conference program
 - Lifetime Membership pin

A quarter-page ad in *The Florida Writer* costs a member \$60. The magazine comes out six times a year so that's \$360 for ad space. If you're a Lifetime member you receive that ad space for free, every issue, every year. You can advertise your book, or your author service, or anything else you want to promote. (Remember, writers buy things that are not necessarily writing-related!) Even at the new rate of \$750 for a Lifetime Membership, it's still an incomparable bargain.

Sign up now—before December 31—to get your Lifetime Membership for only \$500 before it goes up.

These are just some of the ways FWA works to live up to its motto, Writers Helping Writers. 🍀

At the age of three, **Chrissy Jackson** received a little red plastic-covered rocker and two books for Christmas. That was the beginning of her love affair with words. She joined FWA in 2004, was elected vice president in 2005, and became president in 2009. Email: chrissyj@floridawriters.net

"The kind of series you'd expect to see with a movie deal..."
 –Full Time Reader, Amazon Reviewer

THE DOUBLE HELIX SERIES



Eight awards. 100+ reviews. 4.4 star average.

The first Genetic Revolution was peaceful. The second is headed for open war.



Jade Kerrion's Double Helix series weaves cutting-edge genetic engineering into social mayhem (and in the process, wrecks Washington, D.C. several times.) Meet Galahad, the lab-created perfect human being, Danyael, the alpha empath and Galahad's physical template, and Zara Itani, a woman who can wreak more havoc with love than most people can with hate.

DOWNLOAD YOUR **FREE** COPY OF *PERFECTION UNLEASHED*
 AT JADEKERRION.COM



BOOK COVER DESIGN

SWAG PRINTING

GRAPHICS



Robin Ludwig
 Design inc.

GOBOOKCOVERDESIGN.COM

TWO NEW ACTION NOVELS FROM AUTHOR WILLIAM SPEIR



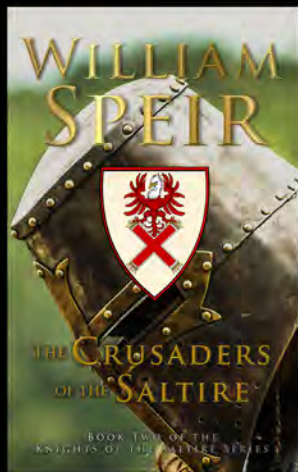
ISBN: 978-1-940834-79-5

(Hardback)

ISBN: 978-1-940834-80-1

(Softback)

*Modern-day Knights fight
 a crime syndicate bent
 on their destruction.*



ISBN: 978-1-940834-xx-x

(Hardback)

ISBN: 978-1-940834-xx-x

(Softback)

*Modern-day Knights
 take on a powerful
 enemy when the country
 is threatened.*

VISIT: WILLIAMSPEIR.COM

Did you start a novel in November?
 Did you finish one?



A compass pointing
 you toward success!

Keep up your momentum
 and go forward with confidence.
**Get it critiqued for only
 50 cents per page.**

For the first 50 pages.
 Offer ends January 31, 2016

Visit my website: www.DLLeBoeuf.com

Email me: Editor@DLLeBoeuf.com

Daniel LeBoeuf Writing Services, LLC

Expert, Compassionate Editing & Critiquing



CLEARLY LEGAL

Artwork, Photography, and Your Book

by Anne Dalton, Esquire

Authors are so exuberant (or exhausted!) when their first work is considered for publication that they do not want to worry about artwork or photography that may be needed for the front cover, the back cover, inside the book proper, or elsewhere. In the case of children's books, the drawing of the characters is a vital part of the author's story and his or her connection with readers. What a relief that the publisher has offered to handle all of that, you may be thinking. One less thing to worry about or fuss with.

But is it? If you don't own that artwork or photography, who does? Does your publisher own the artwork that brought your critters to life? Does it own the right to use (or not use) that luscious picture of a willing victim that appears on your first novel on your second or third novel? Hopefully that answer is yes, or else you have been able to negotiate a "hold harmless" clause so that if the publisher has used the artwork or photography without obtaining rights, you won't be stuck with paying an angry artist or photographer yourself. But let's assume the publisher has obtained the rights so you don't need to worry about a third party claim.

The real concern is what happens if you want to part ways with your publisher. We are frequently told of the necessity of branding ourselves and our work in social media, on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and elsewhere. As

a result, it is important to give careful thought to how you are going to deal with artwork and photographs. Are you taking your own photographs or making original art for your book? If that is not an option, remember that it is not expensive or difficult to purchase the rights to use a photograph from a stock photography Internet site such as shutterstock.com or gettyimages.com. How about getting a willing art student from a local high school or college to draw your characters or provide line drawings or other artwork for your book? If you draw up the proper documents, you can obtain a license to use the artist's work—often at little or no cost. Professional photography sites, of course, will have prepared licenses to allow you to purchase whatever rights you will need for your use. Be generous with yourself. Acquire the maximum usages that you can reasonably afford, so you will not need to go back for additional permissions when you make a poster of your cover or a blow up of your characters on your website!

Anne Dalton, Esquire, has provided business and personal legal services to creatives for 37 years. She is licensed in Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania. Her credentials can be viewed at daltonlegal.com. Contact Anne at adalton@daltonlegal.com.

Comments contained in this article are informational only and do not constitute legal advice.

No Ordinary Life

Mary J. Freeman

Discover what makes this novel work, despite breaking all the "rules of writing".



No Ordinary Life is no ordinary book

Enjoy it as a reader.
Enjoy it as a writer.
Enjoy it for \$1.00 on Kindle.
Paperback also available on Amazon.



Re-Release for the New Year

by Penny Sansevieri

It's December, and while the holiday day spirit is in full swing, it's easy to get caught up in the holiday shopping, travel, and general chaos the season brings. With holiday promotions well underway, I want to look ahead to the forthcoming year. The new year is always a time of rejuvenation and resolutions; it's a moment to consider events of the past year and begin to formulate goals for the upcoming year.

As an author, you can also create some New Year's resolutions for your book! This is a great time to look at the marketing you've done for your book, take a step back, and evaluate. Is there anything you could be doing better to spread the word about your book? You should not only be evaluating all components of your marketing plan, but your book itself.

What do I mean by that? Let me explain. I once had an author ask a great question: "At what point do you stop marketing a book?" Just like this author, most of us have older content and books that are taking up virtual shelf space on Amazon, which can result in sagging book sales and the feeling that all options have been exhausted. The good news? It's never too late to revive an old book! There are now many options to revive, renew, and even re-release a book with minimal effort to kickstart your New Year with a new book!

Here are four simple options for reviving book marketing—and sales!

1. Release it as an e-book.

This should be your first—and easiest—step. If a traditional house published your book, check if they have the rights to your digital content. Many old contracts don't have this provision, so be sure and check. What next? Most savvy e-book folks can work with a PDF of the book, and of course, a Word doc works well, too. Just convert it to a digital format and you're done! It's pretty easy. If you do this, consider adding some new reviews as well.

2. Create an e-book bundle.

Is your book long? If so, why not split it up and re-release it as a series and a bundle? Many readers prefer shorter books, and bundling is a great way to start owning the virtual shelf. A longer book can be separated (make sure you chop it at a natural break point and shoot for approximately 100 pages per book) and then sold on Amazon as multiple shorter books. Don't forget to include a page in the back of each book that leads the reader to the next book in the series. Another bundling benefit? It will revive your publication date and make it current, opening up new promotion and review opportunities!

3. Update the cover.

We've found that updating the cover often leads to spikes in sales. Having newly refreshed content helps increase visibility because it looks new. (This is especially true in fiction, but is applicable to nonfiction as well). Readers are always searching on Amazon for a new book to read, so it's a great way to grab their attention.

4. Short is the new long.

As authors, we're told to "own the shelf," or publish constantly, and pushing out new content to Amazon in the form of an e-book can help propel your other, older books, onto a reader's radar screen. If you have white papers, blog content, pieces of your book that you didn't include or cut because of length, consider packaging these and releasing them on Amazon. An example of this is an author we're working with who wrote the third in a series of books. The third book had a lot of content removed to keep it at a particular length. She's going to take the content that's been removed and release it in a "Director's Cut" version, putting the separate segments on Amazon. If you do that, make sure that all of the books include a page or hyperlink to lead readers to all your other books.

As long as the content remains relevant, you can do a lot to rejuvenate it and give it a second chance with a clean slate. With this clean slate, you have the opportunity to take advantage of opportunities that may not have been available to you with an older book. For example, some reviewers will only consider a book for review if it's relatively new, so don't forget to pitch it or, in some cases, re-pitch it, to reviewers. Using the options outlined above, you can now kickstart your new year with a new book!

Penny C. Sansevieri, Founder and CEO of Author Marketing Experts, Inc., is a bestselling author and internationally recognized book marketing and media relations expert. She is an adjunct professor teaching self-publishing for NYU. Her company is one of the leaders in the publishing industry and has developed some of the most innovative social media/Internet book marketing campaigns. She is the author of fourteen books, including *How to Sell Your Books by the Truckload on Amazon* and *Red Hot Internet Publicity*, which has been called the "leading guide to everything Internet." To learn more about Penny's books or her promotional services, you can visit her website at amarketingexpert.com.



Publish your book NOW!



Are you ready to publish right now but not quite sure how to do it?

I can save you, literally, thousands of dollars as your personal book coach, editor, cover designer and publishing consultant.

Your book can be published as an ebook through Kindle, a paper book via print-on-demand technologies, or developed as an audio book and sold as a CD or mp3 download.

Do you need a book cover or marketing image?

Could you use some help creating marketing descriptions that sell your book, or marketing strategies to launch your book, as well as ongoing marketing techniques for sales success?

For publishing success, go to:

www.RickFeeney.com

usabookcoach@gmail.com / 407-529-8539

How Authors Can Find Their Ideal Reading Audience

by Angela Ackerman



Today's writers have never had a more global reach; ebooks and digital distribution have made it easier for authors to find readers in other countries as well as their own.

Of course, the potential of a global readership matters only if an author knows how to access it, and this is where many marketing plans fall short. Given the endless buffet of books to choose from, it can be hard to get a book the attention it needs.

The Benefits of Fishing with a Smaller Net

It can be tempting for an author to rig a marketing freighter with big nets and start trawling for a readership. But your goal is not to seek out any old catch you can. To get the most out of your marketing efforts, you want to attract a specific type of reader suited to your book. This means you need to know who they are and where they hang out.

To Answer the *Who*, We Need the *What*

When it comes to understanding which readers are most likely to enjoy your book, you first need to look at what makes your book special, and this means thinking beyond genre, which is simply a guidepost to a readership. You must answer this question: *What makes my novel stand out from all others like it?*

Let's look at an example. The romance genre is by far the biggest. Yet, a reader of a steamy romance featuring a modern-day female pirate captain may not be as interested in a romance between a dog breeder and animal rescue worker who meet on the show dog circuit.

But you know who would read that romance? People who love dogs. Dogs, show dogs, the world of professional dog breeding—these are the unique elements that will attract a specific type of romance reader to this book. Once you understand the what, you know the who.

Authors tend to suffer book blindness when it comes

to their own work. It can be difficult to see what sets your novel apart. If that special quality seems elusive, outsource and ask a few readers what really stood out to them as they read. Or, figure it out on your own. Here are a few ideas on what form this unique element might take:

- **A theme or cause that commands attention:** PTSD among war veterans, the tipping point of pollution and waste, terrorism on home soil, homelessness, cyber-bullying
- **An area of interest:** boating, falconry, ghost-hunting, ranching life, UFO sightings, tango dancing, life during WWII
- **An intriguing character talent or skill:** martial arts, empath abilities, archery, songwriting, eidetic memory, mentalism
- **A specific passion or hobby:** nonprofit work, sustainable living, medieval live-action role-play, coin collecting
- **A stand-out element or concept:** ciphers and code-breaking involved in a murder mystery, a rash of out-of-body death experiences taking place in a small town, a cult that practices cannibalism

Another clue to this special element is your research for the book. What information did you need? What websites are in your bookmarks? Or, what personal knowledge do you have that made research unnecessary? Often the special element is something you have a personal interest in, which is why you chose to include it into your story.

The Next Question Is *Where*

Once you know the types of people suited to your book based on a standout element, you need to figure out how to find them and which people are influential with this particular audience (businesses, bloggers, other authors, and organizations, to name a few). Ask yourself:

- What groups or organizations are involved in this special area?
- What businesses tie into this element?
- What blogs exist that tackle this interest or idea?
- Who is talking about this concept or thing online?
- What movies or TV shows focus on this element?
- What products cater to people interested in this special thing?

Armed with a list, head over to Google and search for leads. Think of keywords that will likely pull up big sites. Add *+blog* or *+forum* or *+club* or whatever gathering place or group you think might exist. If you need help with figuring out search terms, try *soovle.com*. It will start with your subject of interest and show you the most popular search terms used at Wikipedia, Bing, Yahoo!, YouTube, and more.

Also, find books like yours, written by authors who you can possibly collaborate with in the future for marketing, and investigate how they connect with their audience and where. Chances are their readers are a good fit for your novel. If you need help finding books like yours, try *yasrv.com*, which provides an image web of books Amazon users typically buy together. If your book is quite new and doesn't have a lot of connections yet, find one like it and use that title as the reference point.

When looking for an audience, try also thinking beyond books. If "dragons in modern society" is your standout element, brainstorm what other businesses, artists, and organizations cater to this interest group (dragon lovers). Book promotion is great, but cross-promotion with a sister-industry can open up new audiences. In the case of dragons, there's dragon fantasy art, dragon-themed merchandise (clothing, collectibles, games, etc.), movies, and TV shows—I even found a link to a dragon museum. And running an advanced search on Twitter (*twitter.com/search-advanced*) showed people, hashtags, and groups that are actively talking about dragons.

Suddenly audience research gets a whole lot easier, doesn't it?

Now Comes the Hard Part: Connection

Once you find potential audiences and influencers, you have to actively do something to reach them. And to be honest, this is the part where 80 percent of authors drop the ball. The reason is simple: connection takes time.

As we all know from the barrage of "buy my book!" promotions online, the direct sell doesn't work. It's white noise; we see so much of it in our Twitter and Facebook feeds, we just skip past it. And yet still authors do this

spaghetti promotion day in and out because they're looking for the shortcut solution to sales. All they're really doing is wasting time—time that could be put into building a community.

Connection is simple: find like-minded people and start conversations. Ask questions. Comment, add value, entertain, discuss your common interest, share relevant links, and just be present and authentic. Choose the social media platforms, reading sites (like Goodreads), blogs, forums, and other communities where your audience hangs out and make it about them, not you. In other words, don't treat them like your meal ticket. Get to know them. Show you care. Add to the community. Then, when a natural opportunity arises, share that you are an author, and when it sparks an interest, share your book.

With influencers, give first. Share their posts and links, work at raising their profile (and use their online handles on social media so they know). Leave comments and start conversations that show you are interested in helping them grow. Usually reciprocation happens naturally, and when the time is right, you can approach them about possible cross-promotion opportunities.

It really is that simple—and hard. It takes time, and a person has to be genuine. But ask anyone who is successful at this and she will tell you building a community that cares and invests in one another far outweighs costly ads, spaghetti promotion, or other tactics.

The whole reason we write is to connect with people in a meaningful way, right? So, be yourself, enjoy the people you get to know, and trust the rest will follow.

(Angela invites you to download her handout, "Creative Book Launch Ideas for Social Media Platforms" on her website. <http://bit.ly/1NR6Sde>)

This article first appeared at Jane Friedman's site, janefriedman.com. Reprinted by permission.

Angela Ackerman is a writing coach, international speaker, and co-author of several bestselling writing books, including *The Emotion Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide To Character Expression*. She loves supporting writers and building communities, and her newest project, *One Stop For Writers* (onestopforwriters.com) combines both these passions. This brainstorming library is filled with innovative tools and resources to help writers elevate their storytelling. You can also find her on Twitter, Facebook and at her popular website, writershelpingwriters.net/.





RIGHT in SIGHT
NOWHERE in SIGHT
 by
 Elaine Braman and Margarete Johl

Available at
[Amazon](#)
[Barnes&Noble](#)
[Whimsicalpublications](#)

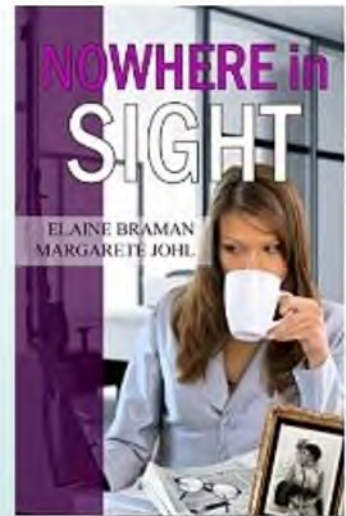
It's the perfect collaboration!

Elaine and Margarete have a unique writing collaboration. They share the passion for writing witty mysteries and thought provoking sci-fi while plotting through heat waves and hot flashes under balmy palm trees, but they write together 3000 miles apart. Elaine lives in Florida and Margarete lives in California. They met one time by chance—mixed like paper and pen—and have been writing together for the past seven years.



"She's the scene setter—the voice in the narrative—the point-of-view of the protagonist—the twist in the plot and the killer of my babies." We are ...

www.coast2coastpenpals.com



Four OF A Kind

A Novel by Vanessa Russell



Four generations of women meet at their dining room table to write about their year of awakening. That's their assumed agreement anyway. Instead each comes with her isolated agenda: to either tell off or tell all.

Set in 1910, 1920, 1943 and 1964, in a background of battles for women's rights and civil rights, their writings reveal shocking secrets about unfaithful hearts, lost loves and unwanted pregnancy.

For an autographed copy, Vanessa Russell is a Villages resident in the Village of Sanibel.



Kirkus Review Excerpt

"Russell vividly portrays the sexism and sense of powerlessness that all four women experienced ... the novel enlivens and enhances a momentous period of history."

**AVAILABLE ON
 AMAZON.COM**



EDITING • WRITING

- Manuscripts, short stories, articles
- Press releases and media kits
- Web and blog content

For a **FREE** consultation, call or email Nancy Quatrano today!

SPECIALTY PUBLISHING

Email: Nancy@OnTargetWords.com

- Family story collections, memoirs
- Anthologies
- Perfect for fund raising, company incentives or gifts
- Also, file design and upload services



WC Publishing

AN ON-TARGET WORDS COMPANY

386-546-5164

THE SAIL TO SUCCESS WRITERS' WORKSHOP DECEMBER 7-11, 2015 for speculative fiction writers



MIKE RESNICK
Award-Winning &
Bestselling Author



NANCY KRESS
Award-Winning &
Bestselling Author



TONI WEISSKOPF
Head of Baen books



ERIC FLINT
Award-Winning &
Bestselling Author



ELEANOR WOOD
Top NY Literary
Agent



JACK SKILLINGSTEAD
Author/Teacher, 2014
Nominee for the Philip K.
Dick Award

1. World-class faculty—authors and industry decision makers.

2. Guaranteed buy of a story from at least one student by *Galaxy's Edge*.

3. Evaluation of manuscripts by the head of a major SF publishing house. A writer's dream to by-pass the slush pile.

4. One-on-one meal with a faculty member.

5. Special insight into writing for the 1632 universe by its creator.

6. Evaluation by a top NY literary agent.

7. 22 students (max)

Sail to Success

SailSuccess.com



Why settle for 2nd best?
TYPESETTING SERVICES
YOU CAN DEPEND ON

Manor Typesetting
a service of

ARC MANOR PUBLISHERS

Winner of IBPA's
Benjamin Franklin Award

- Free Sample Typeset
- Up-front Pricing
- Guaranteed Satisfaction
- Dedicated Service

www.ManorTypesetting.com

...over 1,000 books typeset...

Florida Writers Conference: A Weekend to Remember

by Leslie Salas



On a warm, sunny weekend in mid-October, writers from all around Florida (and beyond!) converged at the Hilton Orlando in Altamonte Springs for the 14th Annual Florida Writers Conference. Volunteers lined the halls of the first floor in their hunter green cobbler's aprons, guiding new faces and returning attendees through the new venue for the event. The new space made this conference the largest ever hosted by the Florida Writers Association, with more panels, pitches, and workshops than ever before.

The weekend's events fell in several tracks, including Craft Considerations, Business Details, Genre-Specific Topics, Technology Usage, and the Writer's Life. This year, the best presentations of the FWA Mini-Conferences were invited to the annual conference for an encore. In addition, the conference featured several special events, including the annual Florida Writers Foundation Celebrity Workshop with John Gilstrap, an immersive Be a Real CSI for a Day! workshop, and a Youth Writers Conference.

Panels & Workshops

Craft Considerations

The quality of a writer's craft is often key to their success, but not many writers have formal training. That's where these workshops come into play, as they gave attendees valuable insight into the details that matter. From the nuts and bolts of how to avoid bad grammar, strategies

for writing scenes and building suspense, utilizing various points of view, formatting dialogue, utilizing tropes, and incorporating imagery, to more global considerations such as character development, antagonist's story arcs, and the fundamentals of comedic and tragic storytelling, the conference faculty shared their subject-area expertise to help writers improve their storytelling.

Business Details

Being a writer means wearing multiple hats: writing, marketing, maintaining platform, publishing, and more. This year's conference covered each of those roles writers play with several panels and workshops.

The Gong Show Pitch Fest, back by popular demand, featured a panel of agents, editors, and film producers listening and critiquing any attendee brave enough to say their pitch in a room full of other writers. Many panels covered the basics of contract negotiation, publishing with or without an agent, small press publishing, and self-publication.

Workshops covered important topics such as how to pitch and network, your publication options, how to print your own books, options for actually making money as a writer, effectively market your writing by offering swag, and avoiding publishing scams. Several open-ended workshops and panels were offered as well, where attendees could ask agents, attorneys, and editors whatever questions they may have had. The



most anticipated workshop, *How I Sold Over 150,000 Books on Amazon*, covered the secrets to one local writer's stunning success.

Genre-Specific Topics

One of the best things about the Florida Writers Association is how diverse our members' interests are. To best support writers composing in multiple genres and mediums, a wide variety of workshops and panels were featured.

A panel about writing for youth covered several age ranges from picture books to chapter novels, while a Story to Screen panel discussed the adaptation process and how screenplays come to life. This year's conference featured three panels about poetry (including how to market it!) and several panels on research, especially regarding fact-checking for religious characters, historical fiction, sports writing, science in science fiction, and military technical details. Specific genre-specific craft considerations, such as those needed in romance writing, horror, and suspense were covered, as well as workshops on the specifics of screenwriting, short writing, flash fiction, and novellas.

Technology Usage

Regardless of where the attendees fell on the spectrum of tech-savvy to not-so-much, this conference offered something for everyone. Workshops included introductions to writing software like Final Draft, Scriveners, or Prowriting Aid, how to self-market smarter by making book trailers and using Twitter, and even covering Photoshop usage for book jacket design.

Writer's Life

As you know, being a writer presents its own challenges in life. In addition to star-studded panels discussing different writer's writing processes and the pros and cons of attending a creative writing Master of Fine Arts program, several workshops covered topics such as how to get the most out of your conference experience, how to present yourself at readings, how to channel stress productively, using meditation and freewriting to create new work, where to find writing challenges to write all year long, what it's like to be a Hollywood writer, and how to submit your work to literary journals for publication.

Special Events

Florida Writers Foundation Celebrity Workshop: Adrenaline Rush: How to Write Suspense Fiction

This day-long seminar, actually a separate event sponsored by the Florida Writers Foundation as a fundraiser, highlighted the key elements needed to write effective and intelligent suspense fiction. John Gilstrap utilized a combination of lecturing and writing exercises to cover topics including plot construction, character development, and story structure, giving attendees a window into the underlying organization of riveting page-turners.

Be a Real CSI For a Day! Workshop

Crime Scene Investigator Sharon L. Plotkin taught a day-long hands-on workshop unveiling the truths of crime investigation in real life utilizing the real terminology and equipment used in the field. In addition to learning about bloodspatter analysis, Luminol, ballistics, and arson, attendees took home a massive, full-color booklet of reference materials.

Youth Writers Conference

This single-day conference provided younger writers with great writing tips and tricks for multiple genres and mediums of storytelling, advice on essential workshoping techniques, and even strategies for achieving publication, all taught by the same talented faculty featured in the main conference.

Royal Palm Literary Award Banquet

The Florida Writers Conference would not be complete without the prestigious Royal Palm Literary Award Banquet. What better way to celebrate the last night of the conference than by being surrounded by peers (and their guests) and celebrating the accomplishments of FWA's highest-achieving members? These awards highlighted writers across multiple genres and mediums, including book-length fiction and nonfiction, short works, poetry, screenplays, and more.

Networking Opportunities

In addition to all of these wonderful workshops, panels, and events, what really makes the Florida Writers Conference stand out is the commitment of its members and attendees to uphold the Florida Writers Association motto: Writers Helping Writers. This conference featured countless opportunities for attendees to network and get to know one another. In addition to the signature Genre Breakfasts, which give attendees an opportunity to meet

other writers who compose in the same genre(s), this year featured a Friday night Open Mic opportunity for members to share their own work and hear from others.

The conference bookstore housed the esteemed works of faculty presenters and FWA members, and the silent auction's offerings were some of the best. Attendees participated in book signings and signed up for interviews with agents, editors, filmmakers, and authors as well as manuscript critiques by industry experts. In exchange for their honest evaluations of events, attendees became eligible for valuable door prizes, including a Grand Prize of a free conference registration for 2016!

How to Learn More

Throughout the weekend, several attendees complimented the quality of the events and lamented that there were several concurrent workshops and panels they wanted to attend, and it was a pity they couldn't be at two places at once. Luckily, several attendees live-tweeted the event, so you should be able to find an archive of the weekend's highlights by searching "#FWA2015" on Twitter. You can also find a great deal of information about this conference and future FWA events at floridawriters.net. Sign up there to receive updates.

Leslie Salas served as the Assistant to the Faculty Chairperson for the 14th Annual Florida Writers Conference. She teaches effective communication and storytelling skills to her students in multiple courses at Full Sail University. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Central Florida and is a University of Denver Publishing Institute graduate. She writes and publishes in all genres and serves on the masthead for *Sweet: A Literary Confection*. She blogs at *Leslie Learns Lines* and *The Gloria Sirens*. Follow her as @LeslieLearns on Twitter and Facebook, and @Leslie_Learns on Instagram.



See you next year!

15th Annual

*Florida
Writers
Conference*

Carpe Diem

October 20–23, 2016

NaNoWriMo
Now what?

MADaboutWords.com



Florida Writers Conference



1



2



3



4



5



7



8

1. RPLA Chair, Chris Coward 2. Author John Gilstrap presents his day-long workshop, Adrenaline Rush: How to Write Suspense Fiction 3. Conference Director extraordinaire & FWA President, Chrissy Jackson 4. Bookstore volunteers Jill Yamnitz and Joanne Lewis 5. Bookstore volunteers Mary Lois Sanders, Jade Kerrion, Su Gerheim & a young writer-to-be 6. Faculty Chair Jennie Jarvis & Leslie Salas, Assistant Chair 7, 8. At genre breakfasts, attendees network with other writers working in their genre 9. Platinum Sponsor First Edition Design Publishing



6



9

Go to floridawriters.net for more conference photos. All photos courtesy Karen Lieb.



10



11



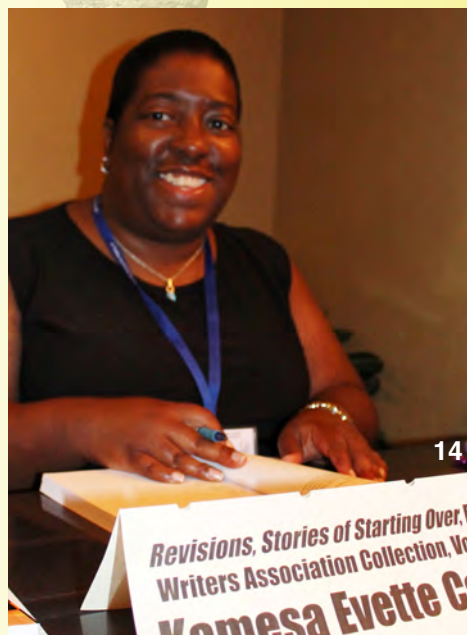
13



12

10. Platinum sponsor Cheyenne Knopf of Online Binding explains their printing and other author services
11. Platinum sponsor Brad Kuhn & Associates displayed samples of the author collateral and videos they produce
12. This year's "Person of Renown," Marie Bostwick, & next year's, John Gilstrap, with authors published in *FWA Collection, Volume 7: Revisions*
13, 14, 15. Collections authors booksigning

Go to floridawriters.net for more conference photos. All photos courtesy Karen Lieb.



14



15



16, 17. Bestselling authors John Gilstrap & Marie Bostwick shared their knowledge with attendees as well as their friendly, good spirits 18, 19, 20, 21. Attendees enjoying the some pre-banquet camaraderie

Go to floridawriters.net for more conference photos. All photos courtesy Karen Lieb.

Florida Writers Conference



22



23

Florida Writers Conference

22. 2015 Royal Palm Literary Award Winners 23, 24. RPLA Winners sign books

Go to floridawriters.net for more conference photos. All photos courtesy Karen Lieb.



24

Lifetime Members

of the Florida Writers Association

2001

Curie Nova
Kristina O'Donnelly
Vicki M. Taylor
Jennifer Uhlarik

2002

Bobbie Christmas
Eugene Orlando
Weslynn McCallister
Robert Mykle

2003

Rik Feeney
Daniel Griffith
Wayne MacDowell
Virginia Thomas

2004

Chrissy Jackson

2005

Lorraine Harris
Lyn Hill
Brent Sampson
Barbara Sloan

2006

Christine Coward
Phyllis McKinley
Kathy Prosser
Vicki Riley-Fischer

2008

Charlotte Barnes
Susan Berry
Melody Cooper
Vit Gulbis
Francis X. Ridge

2009

Philip Levin
Bruce Smith

2010

Sharon Y. Cobb
Su Gerheim
Joanne Lewis
Dean Murphy
Joan Scharf
Scott Spieler
Bitten Twice
Amelia Waters

2011

Lisa Ashley
David Buksbaum
Janie Fuller

2012

Erica Heflin
Cheyenne Knopf

2013

April Cavanaugh-Johnson
Susan Cusack
Jason Delli Santi
Mary Freeman
Shahid Mahmud
Samuel Pearce
Dana Ridenour
Heather Smith
William Speir, Jr.
Cathy Unruh

2014

Trang Barr
Sheila Marie Palmer
Frances Palmigiano
Stayce Richardson
Evelyn Sabbag

2015

Lee R. Brown III
Mark Johnson
Brenda Krygowski
Robin Ludwig

Lifetime Members of the Florida Writers Association are entitled to all the benefits of membership for life, as well as recognition and free ads in this magazine, recognition on our website, and a special pin.

Imitation Is Much More Than Flattery

by Barbara Baig

The word imitation makes many aspiring writers nervous. If they have spent any time in the academic world, then the word imitation will probably remind them of plagiarism, a crime punishable (when discovered) by lowered grades or even expulsion. Everywhere in the writing world—especially on blogs—beginning writers are advised that their work, their story, their writing voice must be unique, entirely their own. For some, this message reverberates so loudly that they refuse even to read other writers, for fear of being denounced as “imitative.”

But fear of imitation keeps writers from making use of a fabulous learning tool, one that humans have depended on probably forever. How do we learn to speak? By imitating the sounds the people around us make. How do we learn to walk? By imitating the way these people move. How do artists learn to paint, baseball players to hit? By imitating the professionals who already know how to do these things. Many professional writers have begun their careers with “imitative” work.

Imitation comes into its own as a learning tool when we use it, not to produce a finished piece of work, but to learn and develop skills. The writers we love give us models of the kind of writing we’d like to be able to do. Many aspiring writers read their favorites, sigh, and say to themselves, I wish I could write like that!

Well, you can—if you’re willing to put your work-in-progress aside and instead devote yourself to practicing

skills. Say, for instance, that you love the kinds of words your favorite writer uses. You can pull some of those words out into a notebook and examine them. Are they concrete, sensory words? What sense or senses are they speaking to? Do you like some combination of sounds in a word or group of words? Take note of what you think is good about these words; then practice collecting some just like them.

Now select some of these words and put them into sentences. These sentences will be somewhat imitative of the originals, true, but it doesn’t matter because they are just practice sentences. The practice is training your mind to choose certain kinds of words, to tune it to particular qualities or sounds that please you. The more you practice, the more easily words like these will come to you when you return to your work-in-progress. The sentences you write then will not be imitative, but they will be of higher quality than those you might have written previously, because practice has educated your writer’s mind and ear to new possibilities.

The same thing is true with sentences. Most beginning writers use the same kinds of sentence structures over and over, without even realizing they’re doing so. But skilled professional writers know that to master all the sentence structures available to us in English is to gain a power that enables us to captivate our readers’ attention, to seize and control their emotions. Take sentence

variety, for instance. If your sentences are all the same length, your readers will soon be bored. But mix up long and short sentences, using the long ones to lull readers, perhaps, and the short ones to jolt them awake, or create emphasis, and your readers' experience will be completely different.

Here, again, you can use your favorite writer as a model. Copy out a paragraph or two from his or her work and study the sentences. How many long ones are there? Short ones? Fragments? What kind of effect is this particular combination of sentences creating? Now write a paragraph of your own, imitating as closely as you can the sentence structures from your model. Try to create some kind of effect with this technique of sentence variation. Read over what you've written. If you're not satisfied, try again.

Learning through imitation is not something that can happen in a day. If you really want to improve, you've got to devote yourself to practice long term, just as aspiring professional athletes and musicians do. With this kind of regular practice, though, you'll learn all the techniques you need to become a skilled writer.

In fact, if you practice enough, perhaps some day a young aspiring writer will be learning his or her skills by imitating your published work.

© Barbara Baig. Used by permission.

Barbara Baig is a writer and veteran writing teacher, who is passionate about showing writers what can be done with the English language. She is the author of two books from *Writer's*



Digest: How to Be a Writer: Building Your Creative Skills Through Practice and Play and *Spellbinding Sentences: A Writer's Guide to Achieving Excellence and Captivating Readers*. She offers free writing lessons at wherewriterslearn.com.

Vary Sentence Length

This sentence has five words. Here are five more words. Five-word sentences are fine. But several together become monotonous. Listen to what is happening. The writing is getting boring. The sound of it drones. It's like a stuck record. The ear demands some variety. Now listen. I vary the sentence length, and I create music. Music. The writing sings. It has a pleasant rhythm, a lilt, a harmony. I use short sentences. And I use sentences of medium length. And sometimes, when I am certain the reader is rested, I will engage him with a sentence of considerable length, a sentence that burns with energy and builds with all the impetus of a crescendo, the roll of the drums, the crash of the cymbals—sounds that say listen to this, it is important.

So write with a combination of short, medium, and long sentences. Create a sound that pleases the reader's ear. Don't just write words. Write music.

100 Ways to Improve Your Writing
—Gary Provost



PICK A DATE

JOIN THE WEBINAR
WHEREVER YOU ARE

Learn from the best.
Master the craft of writing
and business of publishing.

FWA WEBINARS

Cost: \$10 (FWA members), \$15 (non-members)

* The registration fee includes lifetime access to the webinar recordings

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
<https://floridawriters.net/conferences/webinars/>

WRITE *Anything*
PUBLISH *Everything*
MARKET *Everywhere*
WITH outskirtspress



Writing Services to help you start, finish, or edit a book.



Publishing Packages to help you publish and distribute.



Marketing Support to help you promote your book.

*“It just doesn’t get
any better than this.”*

—DEANNA O’LEARY,
published Outskirts Press author



Visit www.outskirtspress.com for 10% off a publishing package with promotion code: FW2015

Pushing Past the Terrifying Dip in Motivation

by Leo Babuta

My son, who is officially an adult in a matter of days, is facing a small crisis: the project he's working on is not going well, and he's ready to give up not only on the project but the career he was excited about not too long ago.

I can feel the horrible mixture of discouragement, disappointment, difficulty, and despair he must be feeling, because I've felt it too. I've felt this punch in the gut whenever projects or new ventures didn't go well.

I've given up, and felt the disappointment in myself. And I've pushed through this discouragement, and felt so much better. Pushing through was always better.

So I'm here to talk about how I push past what Seth Godin calls The Dip—that slump that we all hit when things get hard, which is (sometimes) before the place where things get great.

How do we know if we're in a slump or if we should just quit? We don't. There's no way to know the future. There are times when there are a bunch of good indicators that you should quit—customers aren't responding, the market doesn't support your work, there are better opportunities. But the feeling you have when you're in a dip is not a good indicator that it's time to quit.

The feeling wants you to quit but often you shouldn't. Because if you do, you'll never get great at anything.

What do you do if you're demotivated and disappointed? If things aren't going well and you want to give up because they're so hard? When you're confused and overwhelmed?

Push through.

This is the time when you can show yourself what you're made of. You can brace yourself for a heavy load, put your head down, and push, like you're trying to lift the barbell at the bottom of a heavy squat.

How do you push through when you don't feel motivated?

You start moving. Take just one step, any step, a tiny step. Movement begets movement. Once you start moving, even a little, you feel better, you see that you're capable, you want to move more.

You embrace the uncertainty and discomfort. Lots

of people avoid these two things, but without them, you never get good at anything and you never learn anything worthwhile. Embrace these things and grow.

You do it not for success or some end goal but for the sake of learning.

You do it because you're tired of being in the pain of disappointment and regret.

You want to get out of this dark hole, because staying in it stinks.

You start moving because you don't want to let your life be ruled by fear. You don't want to give up every time you face resistance.

You let yourself be moved by curiosity—wanting to know what it's like to get past this and push through discomfort. You want to find out how this chapter ends. You want to learn more about yourself.

You do it because you want to build trust in yourself, and you realize that there's nothing more important right now than that.

You pause and remind yourself of the reason you started in the first place: it's not for personal success but to entertain, teach, or inspire others, to make someone's life a little better, to put a smile on your face. And then you ask yourself: which is more important, this reason for doing this project, or your personal comfort? And you realize that your personal comfort matters little in this case.

You push through because every time you face uncertainty and discomfort in the future, you want to know you're strong enough to push through.

Take the first step right now, without thought, without hesitation. You have it in you.

Leo Babuta is a simplicity blogger and author. His blog *zenhabits.net* has a million readers. He's a bestselling author of the books *focus*, *The Power of Less*, and *Zen to Done* and a husband, father of six children, and a vegan. He leads a simple life in San Francisco.



PARAGRAPHS

A magazine within a magazine. A showcase for creative writing.

For this issue, members were asked to write a piece in third person limited with at least two people interacting.

Maude by Gwen Dolyns

Click, click, click. The sound of high heels reverberated across the black and white patterned floor of the lobby. Above the sound were a smart black suit, a crisp white blouse, and a burgundy leather briefcase. Ivy Corrigan headed to conference room D, adjacent to the concierge desk.

The lobby was empty save for an elderly woman sitting stick-straight on an ottoman, hands folded in her lap. Ivy's eyes glanced in the woman's direction for a brief second and then checked her watch. It was time for the meeting. She quickened her pace.

Forty-five minutes later—with a signature on the contract and a spring in her step—Ivy emerged from conference room D. The same elderly lady was still sitting in the lobby. But her posture had deteriorated into slumped shoulders, and her hands were working a tissue to shreds.

Click, click. Ivy couldn't help herself. "Are you okay, ma'am?"

The woman looked up. A tear escaped. She brushed it aside with a hurried swipe of the frayed paper hankie. "Most everything is just fine," she said and shifted her focus back to the tattered tissue. "Just one thing is giving me trouble."

Ivy took a seat on the chair adjacent to the ottoman and leaned over in an effort to capture eye contact. "Maybe I can help?"

Pin-drop silence filled the tiny space between the two women.

"I can't remember where I live." A blush of embarrassment made a brief appearance on her cheeks. All the signs of worry were there: furrowed brow, quivering mouth, and another tear.

"This calls for a cup of coffee," Ivy said and pointed toward the bistro café at the south end of the lobby.

Beginnings of a smile erased the quiver. The elderly woman nodded in agreement and accepted Ivy's outstretched hand.

"Do you remember your name?"

"Oh, yes! My name is Matilda Elizabeth Gardner. My friends call me Maude."

"What may I call you?" Ivy asked.

"Let's start with Mrs. Gardner ... until we know each other better." 🌸

Gwen Dolyns lives in Longwood FL.

After nourishment, shelter and companionship,
stories are the thing we need most in the world.

PHILIP PULLMAN

The Doctor's Wife

by Linda Barbosa

Doctor Bob was a prominent South Florida surgeon, well known and respected by his peers. His wife Diane carried the title of “Doctor’s Wife” as if she’d been born to it. She wore the right labels, golfed at the club, and hit the spa every Friday. On Bob’s arm, Diane mingled with ease among the movers and shakers of society.

Still, it wasn’t all champagne and caviar. There were times when the nature of Bob’s work forced her to rub elbows with his office staff. How was she supposed to relate to people whose idea of fashion was color-coordinated scrubs? Lord knows she’d tried. She occasionally popped into the office to keep an eye on things. Once she reprimanded Bob’s Physician Assistant for not keeping the break room clean, but surely that was justified. Even though Diane never cooked, her own kitchen was immaculate. The fact that Bob’s staff tolerated a messy lunch area was a poor reflection on Bob, and by extension, on her as well. She didn’t care if he was Bob’s P.A. or the King of England. Untidiness was inexcusable.

Every December, Bob treated his employees to a holiday dinner. Despite her protests, he insisted Diane attend. This year he went even further. Eager to show off their newly renovated beachfront condo, Bob invited the staff over for pre-dinner cocktails.

Diane spent days arranging her priceless collection of imported crystal figurines. Over 100 Christmas-related pieces occupied every horizontal space. The most precious, her glass-domed beauties, perched on the shelves especially designed by the building contractor. The pinpoint spots of light perfectly illuminating each dome had been her idea. Bob’s checkbook made it happen.

Unfortunately, no one noticed or cared. They peered at the figures, moving quickly from one to the other. Diane pointed out her newest acquisition. “A \$3,000 Swarovski angel,” she announced with a flourish. “Look how the light enhances her wings!” Her announcement was met with quiet murmurs and quizzical looks. The ignorant peasants seemed more interested in free drinks and mundane shop talk. Exasperated, Diane withdrew to protect her white

sofa, watching with a practiced eye for a guest’s wayward splash of red wine.

At the restaurant, people jockeyed for seating. The chair beside Diane, the last to be claimed, was filled by Bob’s office manager. Diane could never get her name straight. Christina, she thought, maybe Christine. Whatever. Bob had shared something about her, if only she could remember. The girl went to school at night (a Master’s degree?), had a few kids perhaps, but details were sketchy. Unable to relate to diapers and PTA meetings, Diane led with a more familiar topic—herself.

“Well, Chris, it’s been a difficult year for me,” Diane began with a weary sigh. “Ever since our summer vacation in Hawaii I’ve been so tired. The packing, the jet lag, it’s horrible. Then I get home to discover my manicurist has moved. Unbelievable, right? Did she bother to think of me? No! It was all about her!”

“Goodness,” Christina mumbled to her empty plate.

“I’m just worn out. There’s always something: dry cleaning, dinner reservations, social engagements. And every Monday, the cleaning people.” Leaning in with a conspiratorial whisper, she placed a well-manicured hand on Christina’s arm. “You understand, right?”

“I honestly can’t imagine.” Christina sighed, motioning the waiter for a refill of her wine glass.

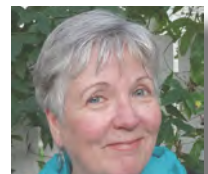
“It’s a nightmare. You have to hide the things you don’t want them to touch. Then when they leave, you have to put them all back. Honestly, Chris, you know ... it’s a full-time job.”

The vaudevillian spray of alcohol nearly reached Diane’s Gucci handbag. Heads turned as Christina choked on her wine, the faces of her co-workers etched with concern.

“I’m not surprised,” Diane intoned, signaling the waiter to come mop up the mess. “A seven-year-old Cabernet Sauvignon, and she gulped it down like water.”

Tears streamed down Christina’s reddened face. She pushed back from the table and ran for the ladies’ room. When she did not return, Diane considered checking on her. But Bob was telling Hawaii stories and that was more fun. Talking to someone like this Chrissy person was simply too exhausting. ❧

Linda Barbosa lives in Leesburg FL.





Abduction

by Bradette Michel

Mrs. Packard balanced on the edge of her chair as if ready to pour tea for guests. If the room had been full of women from church, only the most observant would notice a slight curve in her back or the tremor of her dress against the bare floor. She struggled to maintain a pose she had been trained to assume since childhood—the pose of a lady.

Any other morning she would have been in the kitchen preparing breakfast at the wood burning stove, her little angels waiting for her to fill their plates with biscuits and gravy. Except this was no ordinary morning. This was the day her husband had prepared for, plotted for, connived for. Pastor Packard intended to take her to the insane asylum today.

A carriage braked in front of the house. The cheerful giggles of the Packard children greeting a familiar visitor reached her ears. Perhaps friends were calling. Perhaps her pleadings the night before had convinced her husband to give up his cruel plan.

“Theophilus, have I not fulfilled my duties as wife and mother? Our children are healthy. Our household is well managed. Have I not ministered to your congregation? A woman whose mind has flown could not have performed such duties.”

She had not been surprised when he closed his Bible and climbed the stairs to sleep in one of the children’s rooms. His reprimands to her words of defiance had been replaced by a rigid glare months ago. She shuddered at the thought of the sleepless nights that came with his silence. Often she woke alone, tangled in bed sheets, shaking and sweating like stalked prey just before the lion pounced.

At the sound of heavy boots ascending the stairway she rose quickly and turned the key in the lock.

“She is in here, doctor.”

She stumbled backward, tripping over the hem of her dress until a table covered with a white doily she had crocheted only last week blocked her escape.

Shouts followed her husband’s useless attempts to enter the room. “Open the door, Elizabeth. I said, open the door.”

Footsteps faded down the stairs. The upstairs grew quiet; nevertheless, she maintained her vigilant view of the door. A simple lock would only delay his plan.

The boots returned. A cracking noise shook the door until the gleaming blade of an ax broke through the wood. Pastor Packard, his face damp with sweat, opened the door and walked over the broken shards scattered on the floor.

Dr. Harrison lingered in the doorway. “Hello, Elizabeth.”

Mrs. Packard’s fingers wadded the folds of her dress. “Dr. Harrison, please help me. Theophilus would kidnap me.”

The doctor’s posture straightened. “Now, now, Elizabeth. Your husband tells me you are acting strangely, even challenging his beliefs.”

She wanted to cross the room to Dr. Harrison, but a wide crevasse she had never noticed before kept her from him. “He would censure my beliefs. I cannot betray my own convictions.”

“Elizabeth, refusing to accept Pastor Packard’s authority reveals your excitable mental state.”

Mrs. Packard stepped forward, fists at her side. “Surely you do not support my husband’s desire to take me to the asylum. You have been in our home many times. You know I am not insane.”

Her husband seized her arm. Surprised at the weakness of his hold, she jerked away. His unyielding body remained between her and the doctor, his malevolent eyes more powerful than any physical restraint.

She stretched her neck to peer over his shoulder. “Doctor, does not God require that I worship according to my conscience? How can I acquiesce to something I do not believe?”

The calm assurance of a blessed soul filled her husband’s voice. “That’s enough blasphemy, Elizabeth. Sit down.”

Mrs. Packard tried to slip around him. He grabbed her wrists.

She squirmed to release his hold. “I must talk to Dr. Harrison.”

Pastor Packard twisted his head toward the doctor. “Have you seen enough?”

“Yes, you were right to call me. She is quite insane.” 🦋

Bradette Michel lives in Sunrise FL.

White Elephant Exchange

by David Pearce

Brenda leaned against the yacht club's small bar. She loathed her firm's holiday parties. Drinking. Badly sung carols. Stories re-gifted upon hapless young associates like herself. More drinking. She took it all in, smiling at all the right times and waiting for an opportunity for a polite exit.

The clink of ice hitting the bottom of a glass tumbler drew her attention. A long pour—expensive bourbon with a splash of Diet Coke. The fizz died in a heartbeat, but she could smell the alcohol-laced effervescence. Donald Leech, the firm's youngest partner, dropped a tip into a jar and slurred his thanks to the slack-eyed bartender. "You want anything, Brenda?"

Brenda clutched her half-empty wineglass, the Chardonnay now warm. She didn't want the drink, but it gave her an excuse to avoid Don shoving another in her face. "No, I'm fine."

Don shrugged, slicked back his thinning hair, and knocked back another gulp. "Suit yourself." He thumbed the platinum band on his ring finger. His eyes drifted, ogling like a frat boy at his first social with the cross-campus sorority. "But you need to lighten up. Drink more. How else are you going to make partner?"

Brenda stiffened. Their affair began after celebrating a big win. Too much booze and a bad decision. Now his subtle threat put her on high alert. If she wasn't careful, she'd lose her track to a partnership. She forced herself to smile. "I'm having fun. Lots of fun."

The piano belted out another rendition of "Oh, Come All Ye Faithful." Their fellow co-workers crowded around the pianist, reading lyrics from faded printouts. The amateur choir's dissonance bombarded Brenda with a phoniness deeper than the gaudy tinsel on the artificial tree.

Don raised an eyebrow. "You don't look like you're having fun. You used to be so..." he dropped his voice, "enthusiastic."

"That was a mistake—one that could ruin us both."

He grimaced and took another sip from his drink. "My marriage sucks."

"That doesn't change anything."

His clammy hand went to her bare arm—caressing with one finger. "What are you afraid of? My wife will never find out."

She backed away. "Don't. Touch. Me."

He blinked and finally looked her in the eyes. They clouded with alcoholic haze.

She thumped her glass down on a bar napkin and straightened her skirt. "Excuse me. I need to use the restroom."

Don's eyes roamed the room, focusing on other women. "Sure, sure. But don't take too long—we're about to start the White Elephant Exchange."

Heartbeats later, the bathroom's gold faucet sluiced cold water into Brenda's shaking hands. She splashed water on her face, taking great gasping breaths. She caught the reflection of a familiar print in the mirror—a schooner caught in a tempest.

Did she really want to be Don's partner? What about the rest of those bloated windbags who terrorized their associates? Did she want to become one of them? Like the King of Siam's albino elephants gifted on disfavored courtiers, the firm's partnership jangled before her—a set of golden shackles.

The door squeaked open. A perky college-aged woman poked her head inside and gave a sniff. What was her name? Carolyn? No, Karen. She had a hard time keeping track of the growing list of ever-changing secretaries that worked for Don.

"Mr. Leech wants everyone back to open gifts." Karen held her hands on her hips.

"Yeah, okay." Brenda threw the used towel into a bin and followed her escort back to the party.

The partners and their minions gathered around the tree. Don handed out numbered paper scraps. Another year, another herd of white elephant gifts. An ugly sweater. A handmade ashtray. A gift card to a popular restaurant. Same old, same old.

"Who's got number seven?" Don's gaze lingered on Brenda. "Lucky number seven?"

Brenda blinked and read the crumpled scrap in her fingers. "That's me."

Don leered. "Wonderful." He handed over a gift bag. "I know you'll love it."

The sack felt heavy. She pulled green tissue paper aside—expensive wine from her favorite vineyard.

"Well?"

Brenda took a deep breath and let it out. "I quit." ❧

David Pearce lives in Bradenton FL.

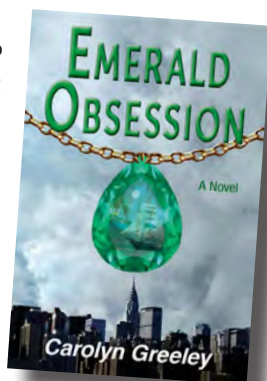
Celebrations!

Where we shine a spotlight on our members & cheer their accomplishments!

Book Doctor **Bobbie Christmas**, long-time “Ask the Book Doctor” columnist for *The Florida Writer*, has finally launched the much-awaited second edition of her Royal Palm Award-winning book on creative writing. *Write In Style: How to Use Your Computer to Improve Your Writing* has been updated, expanded, and indexed. The 273-page book teaches writers how to find their fresh voice by letting their computer show them things to improve. It is available on Amazon, but for a signed copy, order it at zebraeditor.com/book_write_in_style.shtml.

Wendy Dingwall, also a member of the national Sisters in Crime organization, has agreed to start a Florida Gulf Coast chapter. Sisters in Crime has 3,600 members worldwide, offering support to women crime writers. Members consist of authors, readers, librarians, publishers, booksellers and agents. Sisters in Crime was founded by Sara Paretsky and a group of women at the 1986 Bouchercon in Baltimore. Their mission is to promote the ongoing advancement, recognition and professional development of women crime writers. Wendy is actively seeking members for the new chapter. If you are interested, please contact her at wendyldwriter@comcast.net.

Carolyn Greeley is elated to announce the launch of her first mystery novel, *Emerald Obsession*. The word is out: This fast-paced, contemporary story of greed, revenge, stolen pirate treasure, and a murderous hunt for the truth is brimming with Bahamas to New York City action, tricky history and fabulous food. To experience this escapist adventure and uncover the secrets, check out the book now available in print and e-version on Amazon. To learn more about the writing life and the mystery of her relevance please go to carolyngreeley.com, [facebook.com/carolyngreeleyauthorpage/](https://www.facebook.com/carolyngreeleyauthorpage/) and [@cgreeley1](https://twitter.com/cgreeley1) on Twitter.



Jade Kerrion's award-winning Double Helix series continues with the release of *Zara* and *Xin*. *Zara* chronicles the assassin Zara Itani's escapades through the political murk of the Middle East and the ungraceful, unwilling acknowledgement of her love for the alpha empath, Danyael Sabre. In *Xin*, Mu Xin, the clone of a Shang-dynasty queen, returns to China, a land where ancestral worship and beliefs in incarnation exist alongside cutting-edge genetic engineering. Will Xin find herself trapped or liberated by her past? *Zara* and *Xin* are available in e-book and paperback at all major book retailers.



Gabriel McMichael's debut book, *Goodbye Poonjab*, is currently nominated for six awards including the Caldecott and Geisel. In *Goodbye Poonjab*, children follow the story of a young boy who—with the help of his parents—struggles to overcome the difficulties of losing his dog. He learns he cannot shut the door on love, and he must find the strength to allow love back into his life through a new dog. *Goodbye Poonjab* is a timeless, heart-filled story about the courage to love. Gabriel's detailed, hand-illustrated artwork adds a special warmth to this tale. Available online and in bookstores. Website: gabrielmcmichael.com



Someone's in big trouble! **Mark H. Newhouse**, multiple RPLA winner, is in the holiday spirit with *Santa's Speeding Ticket*. Devoted Officer Zapper gets a surprise he will never forget. Unhappy about having to work Christmas Eve, knocked off his motorcycle by a special speeder who happens to have eight reindeer, this dedicated officer learns a lesson that makes this hilariously illustrated book a family treasure and great holiday gift. Someone's in big trouble, but you'll love it! What is the best gift of all? Available on Amazon.



Do you have a writing-related accomplishment to celebrate with us?
Turn to page 2 of the magazine to learn how to submit your item for publication on these pages.

Celebrations!

Where we shine a spotlight on our members & cheer their accomplishments!

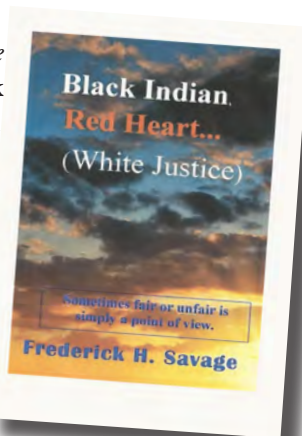
John D. Ottini would like to announce the release of his new book, *A Very Furry Christmas: Holiday Cat Tales*. The book contains four heartwarming holiday tales about our feline friends and the humans who love them. It's the perfect stocking stuffer for family, friends, and anyone who loves their pets and can't imagine their lives without them. *A Very Furry Christmas: Holiday Cat Tales* is available on Amazon in paperback for \$4.00 or e-book format for \$1.99.



Ancient City Chapter member and award-winning mystery short-story author **Nancy Quatrano** has announced that *Murder in Black and White*, the first novel in her Point and Shoot Series, was released on August 27, 2015. The novel is available in print, Kindle, and e-reader formats and sports a cover by Rik Feeney, another FWA member. Jan Coffey, author of *Tropical Kiss*, says, "N. L. Quatrano writes a classic 'whodunit' with an edgy heroine, quirky characters, and an intricate plot that will keep the reader turning the pages into the wee hours!"



Black Indian—Red Heart (White Justice) by FWA member **Frederick H. Savage** was released on October 26th. It is now available on Amazon and bookstores everywhere. Please visit the website blackindianredheart.com and contact Fred from there. Your words of support and encouragement are greatly appreciated. This is the same novel that won a first place in last year's Royal Palm Literary Awards writing contest.



Florida Stories Coast 2 Coast (FLSC2C) launched its first Florida Authors Book Tour in November, bringing authors Darlyn Finch and Stacy Barton to the Bartow and Winter Haven libraries and hosting a "Tea and Tales" event at Ms. Charlene's Tea Room in Frostproof. This grass-roots organization strives to bring readers and writers together in the smaller cities and outlying communities of Florida, seeking to partner with libraries, small press publishers, independent bookstores and local businesses that can provide venues for readings, book signings, Author Talk Backs, and workshops. For more information, contact FWA member **Wendy White Goddard** at flsc2c@gmail.com.



FWA's Collection and History Books!

Our Very Own Member Books!

Get acquainted with fellow members through their original short stories and poems published in FWA's collection series. Read about FWA's history. Add to your marketing strategy with collection books within which your winning stories and poems are printed.

Where? www.floridawriters.net/shop

When? All year round

How Much? \$12.00 each

Take advantage of bulk order discounts as well.

Order in Bulk - Use 2 Available Discounts.

30% Disc. → \$9.00 each for orders from 16-25 books

40% Disc. → \$7.70 each for orders of 26 or more books

Any combination of Volumes (including our History book).



Celebrations!

Where we shine a spotlight on our members & cheer their accomplishments!

Volunteers Recognized at Conference

Every year, three volunteers receive special recognition for embodying the motto of the Florida Writers Association (FWA): “Writers Helping Writers.”

The Kaye Coppersmith Award was created to honor Kaye who, because of her kindness, support, and warm encouragement to both seasoned and new members, will always be remembered as the welcoming arms of the FWA.

Any member can nominate another member for the Kaye Coppersmith Award. A committee reviews submissions and top-ranking entries are submitted to the Board of Directors for blind judging.

For the other special awards, the President and Vice President of the FWA each select a person they feel has contributed the most to FWA in the spirit of Writers Helping Writers. All three award-winners are announced and applauded at the annual Florida Writers Conference.



Kaye Coppersmith Award Elaine Senecal

When Elaine Senecal joined FWA, she immediately jumped into a leadership role, serving as secretary on the Board of Directors for two terms. She has never sought the limelight, she works tirelessly and with good humor, and FWA benefits immeasurably from her talents and efforts. She has been a conference chairperson, a go-to person for designing digital badges, and most recently has been co-designer and builder of FWA's website, specifically designing the shopping cart and numerous forms that have improved our internal systems.



The President's Award Carol Anderson

Carol Anderson is a Writers Group Leader and answers questions that members and non-members send through our website's contact form—more than 550 so far this year. Her award is inscribed, “You touch people every day by finding answers to their questions, addressing their concerns, and representing FWA graciously and professionally.” And she sure does.



The Vice President's Award Su Gerheim

Su Gerheim was recognized with the award for the second year in a row. Su single-handedly manages the Collection, from the recruitment of judges to the publishing of the books. She is a key member of the RPLA team, bringing her talents and her time to bear on just about every element of the process from tracking and reporting on the status of RPLA entries, to developing the beautiful slideshow presented at the banquet. Every person she comes into contact with is warmed by her infectious enthusiasm and kindness.

Celebrations!

Where we shine a spotlight
on our members & cheer their
accomplishments!

2015 Royal Palm Literary Awards

Published Book of the Year

*Out of Sight, Out of Mind:
A Writers' Guide to Mastering
Viewpoint,*
by Ken Pelham



Unpublished Book of the Year

Adrift,
by Micki Browning



Dahris Clair Memorial Award

Graceland Express,
by C.J. Godwin & Marie Vernon

Candice Coghill Award

Asleep, by Mikaela Bender

*Winners were announced at the 14th Annual Florida Writers Conference
awards banquet Congratulations to all!*

Celebrations!

Where we shine a spotlight
on our members & cheer their
accomplishments!

BOOK-LENGTH FICTION

Unpublished Historical Fiction

First Place

The Hero Engine by Dennis Cooper

Second Place

The Saga of Asbjorn Thorleikson by William Speir

Published Humor/Satire (Fiction)

First Place

Boca Undercover by Miriam Potocky,
writing as Miriam Auerbach

Published Mainstream/Literary

First Place

The Clock Strikes Midnight by Joan C. Curtis

Second Place

St. Nic, Inc. by Sam Staley, writing as SR Staley

Third Place

Passing through Perfect by Bette Lee Crosby

Unpublished Mainstream/Literary

First Place

Lie Very Still by C.J. Godwin

Second Place

The Road Back From Broken by Carrie Morgan

Third Place

Diamond Ridge by Daniel Dundon

Published Mystery

First Place

Evangeline's Miracle by Lisa Buie-Collard

Second Place

Martini Regrets by Phyllis Smallman

Third Place

Workshop Til You Drop by Evelyn Sabbag,
writing as E. Sabbag

Unpublished Mystery

First Place

Adrift by Margaret Browning, writing as Micki Browning

Second Place

Grey to Black by Susan Boyd

Third Place

AppleJacked! by Liz Boeger

Published Novella

First Place

Sewing Holes by Darlyn Finch Kuhn

Second Place

The Roman Phalera—The Vines of Bordessi, Book One by Roberta-diane Perna, Ph.D.,
writing as Robbi Perna

Third Place

Manteo by Laura Andrews, writing as Elle Andrews Patt

Unpublished Novella

First Place

Eclipse of the Souls by Patricia Crumpler

Published Romance

First Place

The Rivergrass Legacy by John Chaplick

Unpublished Romance

First Place

Allure of the Incubus by Evelyn Sabbag,
writing as E. Sabbag

Published Science Fiction

First Place

Carnival Tricks by Amelia Waters, writing
as Jade Kerrion

Published Thriller/Suspense

First Place

Lily of Peru by David C. Edmonds

Second Place

The Care Card by Darryl Bollinger

Third Place

Deadly Loop by Keith Gockenbach

Unpublished Thriller/Suspense

First Place

We All Fall Down by Kim Hackett

Second Place (tie)

The Girl in the Glyphs by David C. Edmonds

Second Place (tie)

The Purple Canary by Kimberly Park

Published Women's Fiction

First Place

Always Magnolia by Dianna Dann
Narciso, writing as Dianna Dann

Unpublished Women's Fiction

First Place

Sprinter by Bria Burton

Second Place

First Class to America by Faun Joyce Senatro

Third Place

The Year Mrs. Cooper Got Out More by
Meredith A. Rutter, writing as Meredith
Marple

FICTION FOR YOUTH

Published Chapter Book

First Place

Wayward Cat Finds a Home by Dianna
Dann Narciso, writing as Dana Trantham

Second Place

Ship Shape by D.G. Stern

Third Place

Bennie & Bonnie by Darrell House

Published Middle-Grade Fiction

First Place

Within Emerald Forests by Heather Hamel

Unpublished Middle-Grade Fiction

First Place

The Hero Engine by Dennis Cooper

Second Place

The Milky Way Rising by Sharon E. Johnson

Third Place

Under Sapphire Skies by Heather Hamel

Published Young Adult/New Adult

First Place

The Saffron Crocus by Alison McMahan

Second Place

Ananais and the Sawgrass Mysteries by
Carol Kline

Third Place

Valthea: I Read People by C.K. Mallick

Unpublished Young Adult/New Adult

First Place

Cow in the Doorway by Gino Bardi

Second Place

Expectation Blvd by Jennie Jarvis

Celebrations!

Where we shine a spotlight on our members & cheer their accomplishments!

SCREENPLAY/STAGE PLAY/TELEPLAY

Unproduced

First Place

Graceland Express C.J. Godwin & Marie Vernon

Second Place

Native Land: Lost in the Mystery of Time by Nadine Vaughan-Williams

BOOK-LENGTH NONFICTION

Published Autobiography/Memoir

First Place

One Woman, Four Decades, Eight Wishes by Marilyn Murray Willison

Published Educational/Informational

First Place

Out of Sight, Out of Mind: A Writers' Guide to Mastering Viewpoint by Ken Pelham

Second Place

Crafting the Character Arc: A Practical Guide to Character Creation and Development by Jennie Jarvis

Published Travel

First Place

Postcards From Poland by Joseph Kuhn Carey

GENERAL CATCH-ALL

Published

First Place

The Strange Case of Lord Byron's Lover by Victor DiGenti, writing as Parker Francis

SHORT FICTION

Published Children's

First Place

I Beg Your Pardon, But This is My Garden! by Stephen Kindland

Second Place

Sometimes...I Blur! by Tracy Bryan

Third Place

Ethel the Backyard Dog by Maddie Lock

Unpublished Children's

First Place

Put Away Your Phone by Tracy Bryan

Second Place

Opal Octopus by Christine Yarbour

Third Place

That thing in the hole by Linda Leggett

Published Flash Fiction

First Place

"Insecurity Complex" by Amelia Waters, writing as Jade Kerrion

Second Place

"In the Eye of the Beholder" by Virginia Nygard

Third Place

"Requiem" by Dana J. Summers

Unpublished Flash Fiction

First Place

"Always a Part of You" by Amelia Waters, writing as Jade Kerrion

Second Place

"Mother of Pearl" by Joan King

Third Place

"Elegy for Manny" by Anu Varma Panchal

Published Short Story

First Place

"Lilith" by Antonio Simon, Jr.

Second Place

"The Madison Project" by John Hope

Third Place

"The Pisces Affair" by Daco Auffenorde, writing as Daco

Unpublished Short Story

First Place

"The Cortical Reaction" by Linda Barbosa

Second Place

"Steak" by Patricia A. Crumpler

Third Place

"Everything I Ever Wanted" by Lynn E. Welsh

Unpublished Poetry

First Place

"Repetitions of the Insignificant" by Phyllis McKinley

Second Place

"Seeing Life" by Virginia Nygard

Third Place

"Spring, Lisa's First" by Karen Dillon

SHORT NONFICTION

Published Creative Nonfiction

First Place

"Leap of Faith" by Linda Barbosa

Unpublished Creative Nonfiction

First Place

"Subby Says" by Fern Goodman

Second Place

"A Prom Dress for Elizabeth" by Joan Levy

YOUTH WINNERS

FICTION

Unpublished Book-Length Fiction, ages 16-17

First Place

Asleep by Mikaela Bender

Second Place

Illusion, by Linea Marshall

Unpublished Short Fiction, ages 16-17

First Place

"Woven" by Katherine P. Cohen

Unpublished Short Fiction, ages 9-11

First Place

"The Moon Locket" by Yasmin Vuong

POETRY

Poetry, ages 16-17

First Place

"Q's Rebellion" by Paige Daniela Banks, writing as Daniela Banks

Poetry, ages 12-15

First Place

"Hunger" by Sarina Patel



Join the FWA Network

Writers Helping Writers Online

**FWA Network is a private online social networking site available
exclusively to Florida Writers Association members**

Personal Page
News Feed
Event Calendar
Blogs
Critique Groups
Discussion Groups
Photos & Videos
Text Chat

Join the conversation at fwanetwork.ning.com



BE JEWELLED CREATE

JANIE FULLER

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

- WHOLESALE • RETAIL
- CUSTOM DESIGNED PIECES
- CLASSES IN JEWELRY MAKING TECHNIQUES
- BASIC TO ADVANCED



772.781.4918

janiefuller@comcast.net | janiefuller.com

BAYOCOR'S ADVENTURES



WINSUPUBLISHING.COM

You can almost hear the roar of
B-17 Flying Fortress Engines



ISBN13: 9781937201465

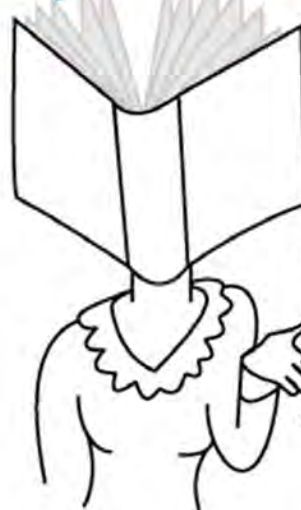
You'll get
caught up in
this exciting,
action-packed,
true to life,
World War II
adventure that
puts YOU in a
front row seat.

A story of hope, dreams, and love in a war-torn world.

Available online in both print and digital and at
your local bookstore.

www.waynemacdowell.com

\$49
Starting from



Give Your
Book
A Face

HOPUB

Book Covers | Book Conversions

Graphic Design | Creative Services

Website Design | Web Hosting

Social Media Management

HyltonPublishing.com

How bad do you want to be good?

Seriously. Do a mini.

Mini-Conferences are fantastic deals for serious writers. Invest in a day of workshops and lectures from accomplished authors and publishers—2016 will feature even more subjects and choices than last year—and you'll reap a year's worth of practical knowledge and experience that will make your writing better. Seriously.

February 27 The Write Stuff Flagler College / St. Aug.	April 30 Writer's Nest Hilton Orlando / Alta. Springs	May 7 Day at the Bay Clarion Inn / Tampa	June 25 Nonfiction and More Hilton Orlando / Alta. Springs
---	--	---	---

Members - \$89. Non-Members - \$109. Non-Member Guest - \$54.50
(Non-Member Guest tickets are new this year! Why not share a conference with a friend?)

floridawriters.net/conferences/mini-conferences