Florida WritersCon 2022

October 28-30th, 2022
Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs

FWA | FLORIDA WRITERS ASSOCIATION
Writers Helping Writers
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RPLA  ROYAL PALM LITERARY AWARDS How It Works  4-5
Program Sponsors: 805 lit + art, Atlanta Writers Conference

CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE  Friday and Saturday  6-9
Friday Guest Faculty—Sherri Winston
Program Sponsors: Beaten Track Publishing, Emerald Coast Writers, Author Charlene L. Edge, Key West Literary Seminar

FWAY  FLORIDA WRITERS ASSOCIATION YOUTH SUMMIT  10-11
RPLA YOUTH FINALISTS  2022, 2021, 2020
Program Sponsors: Keep the Voice

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FWA  FLORIDA WRITERS RESOURCES  Back Cover
Welcome to Our Community of Writers Helping Writers

The Florida Writers Association embraces the diversity of its membership and faculty from across the State of Florida, the nation, and the globe. We celebrate our differences and are united in our shared love for the written and spoken word.

Founded in 2001, the Florida Writers Association (FWA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(6) serving writers of all genres and all levels. FWA provides a professional atmosphere, a vast networking system, and valuable tools to succeed in today's publishing industry.

Our motto, “Writers Helping Writers,” is demonstrated daily by our volunteers across the state of Florida and beyond.

RPLA Mission

The Royal Palm Literary Awards competition is a service of the Florida Writers Association, established to recognize excellence in members’ recently published and unpublished works, while providing objective and constructive written assessments for all entrants.

*RPLA is the Florida Writers Association flagship writing competition.*

Entries in 28 adult genre-categories and 5 youth genre-categories were accepted this year.
What Makes RPLA So Special?

Our Judges
All volunteer. From all arenas of the writing world. Judge to uniform standards

- Writers
- Editors
- Publishers
- Agents
- Librarians
- Academics

Our Rubrics
Customized for each of twenty-eight genre-categories.
Ten genre-specific criteria with articulated standards.
“Level Playing Field” approach.

- Designed by genre experts
- Reviewed annually

Our Judging Process
Two Preliminary Judges provide scores and constructive comments on Rubrics.

- Each criterion worth ten points, one hundred points total potential
- For book-length works, Judges read synopsis and first thirty pages
- For shorter works, Judges read entire work

Rubric Coordinators always ensure “P – I – E”

- P: Positive statements
- I: Improvement suggestions
- E: Examples and explanations

Third Preliminary Judge called in if first two scores fifteen or more points apart
Semifinalist status (170 points combined) calls in Final Judge

- Reads entire work, regardless of length
- Score counts double

Finalist status (340 points total) qualifies for awards.

- Gold, Silver, Bronze for top three Finalists in each category
- Published and Unpublished awarded separately

Benefit to Entrants
Rubrics returned after Awards Ceremony.
If not an award winner and other qualifications are met, you may submit revised entries next year.
We Thank Our Volunteers

William Opperman - Chair
Chrissy Jackson - Co-chair
Elaine Senecal - Technical Coordinator
Tami Lowe - Submissions Coordinator

Laurie Andrews
Chris Coward
Patricia Crumpler
Anne Dalton
John DeJordy
Barry Dimick
Melody Dimick

Veronica Hart
Chris Hamilton
Paul Iasevoli
Linda Kraus
Tami Lowe
Mark Newhouse
David Pearce

RPLA Administrators

Discover What It Takes to Join the FWA Contest Team
Don’t miss our informative session Sunday, October 30 to find out how you can be a part of this award winning process. 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM – Crystal Salon A

RPLA Rubric Coordinators

RPLA Judges

Are You Ready To Get Published?
Atlanta Writers Conference on Nov. 4-5 has 17 editors and agents seeking new talent.

Join one of America's top-rated publishing events, and start your publishing career.

805 Lit + Art
805 Lit + Art is an award-winning, Florida-based literary magazine that publishes writers worldwide. We accept:

- poetry
- fiction
- flash prose
- creative nonfiction
- art

Free to read. Free to submit.

www.805lit.org

5 Florida WritersCon 2022
**FRIDAY, October 28**

**1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**
**Real World Kids – Crystal Salons D & E**
**Sherri Winston** writes books for young readers.

The author of President of the Whole Fifth Grade, Lotus Bloom, and the Afro Revolution, she grew up in a small town on the West Michigan Shore. After earning a journalism degree from Michigan State, Winston spent several years working at various newspapers. She resides in Orlando, where she writes, thinks, and dreams. The magic of writing realistic fiction for middle grade comes in nailing down the details of their world. We get to create a character and freeze them in a certain age and a certain time and illustrate their journey with as much grace and energy as possible.

This workshop will break into three 45-minute sessions.
(1) It’s not your old-school school. We’ll discover ways our schools have changed since we were kids.
(2) Oh, no she didn’t! Creating kids with attitude. We’ll do character studies based on writing prompts.
(3) We’re having—a manuscript. We'll discuss the nitty-gritty of writing: getting the story out of your head and onto the page. Sherri will inspire you to move forward with bringing your ideas to life.

Website: [Sherri Winston | author (voteforcupcakes.com)](https://voteforcupcakes.com)

**4:30 PM–5:00PM**
**Writers Group Leaders’ Meet-Up – Crystal Salons D & E**

Leaders are invited to attend an informal meeting where they can discuss their critiquing styles and group-management techniques. Come ready with questions to ask your peers, or share stories of your local group's successes. Meet other Writers Group Leaders from your region. Members thinking about starting a new group in their area are also welcome to attend. Hosted by **Suzy Hart**, FWA Board Vice President of Administration & Membership/ Former FWA Writers Group Leader.

**5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**
**Evening Meet & Greet Mixer – Crystal Salons A, B & C**

Reconnect with writer friends and make new ones; network with the conference presenters. Includes hors d’oeuvres and two free cocktails or mocktails.

**8:00 PM - 9:00 PM**
**Open Mic – Crystal Salons A, B & C**

Read us your best poetry or prose. Come strut your stuff in front of agents, publishers, and your fellow authors! At this event, writers of all genres are welcome to read a 5-minute excerpt of their work. Sign-up will begin following the Friday afternoon workshop. Hosted by WritersCon chairs **Alison Nissen & Paul Iasevoli**.
SATURDAY, October 29

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM
1) Writing Sprints – Crystal Salon A
Elaine Person returns to facilitate early morning Writing Sprints. With the use of prompts such as paintings, photographs, quotations, items, and more, participants will tap into their own creativity. Those who attend will share their writing for positive critiques. Suitable for writers of all genres and levels. Award-winning writer Elaine Person’s talents range from the written word to performance art. Her work has appeared in Sandhill Review, The Saturday Evening Post, and other national journals. She teaches writing at Maitland Public Library.

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM – Hot Breakfast Saturday and Sunday
Saturday Only - 8:20 AM Special Presentation by 2022 Person of Renown, Barbara Rein
Breakfast self-serve each day in the Crystal Foyer. Seating in Salons C, D & E

7:45 AM - 8:15 AM
2) Discover Your FWA! – Crystal Salon A
Learn about membership benefits and website resources available from the FWA, one of Florida’s largest writing organizations. Review publishing opportunities, writing groups, blogs, The Florida Writer magazine, and more. Jumpstart your literary progress by evaluating personal goals and take home the start of an individual development plan. Make new writer friends as you learn how to get the most from your FWA membership! Presented by Suzy Hart, a former university educator and human resources trainer who has helped hundreds of students, staff, and writers define personal and career development goals.

8:45 AM - 9:45 AM
3) Think Like a Screenwriter: Adapting Your Books to Film – Crystal Salon C
Screenplay or television scripts require a different set of rules than writing a book or short story. If you think your book would make a great movie, learn how to create an adaptation that will get noticed.
Jaimie Engle is an award-winning screenwriter and author. She writes about duality and shifting perspectives for film & television in the supernatural action/adventure and comedy/family genres. Book honors include: Writers of the Future Award (2015), Kirkus Editor’s Choice Book (2020), and the Publisher’s Book Life Prize in Fiction & Non-Fiction (2020).

4) The Family Poem: Uncovering Your Muse – Crystal Salon E
Space is limited to first 25 writers to be seated.
Because families are the first relationships we develop, they have always been a rich source for stories, vignettes and poems. Participants will draft a reflection about a family member and review and revitalize literary devices such as imagery, line breaks, diction, simile, metaphor, and personification. Gail Ghai is author of three poetry chapbooks and has earned a Pushcart nomination and Henry C. Frick scholarship for creative teaching. Her writing has appeared in worldwide publications including Descant, The Yearbook of American Poetry, Delhi London Quarterly, Poet Lore, JAMA, and Burning Wood Journal.

5) Sensitivity Readers: Who They Are and What They Do – Crystal Salon D
Write about diverse people, places, and topics without the risk of using offensive language. Learn the pros and cons of using sensitivity readers, how to find the right one, and how to better engage in honest, unbiased dialogue with your audience. L.E. Perez is a multi-genre author. She’s published eight full-length novels and coordinated seven thriller anthologies. She’s a freelance sensitivity reading consultant for Macmillan and host of the Legion of Writers podcast.
Immerse Yourself in The Works of Award-Winning Author, Charlene L. Edge

How Do Writers Write & Keep Writing?

FROM THE PORCH TO THE PAGE
A Guidebook for the Writing Life

Speaking friend to friend, Edge shares realizations and moments of beauty in essays on the writing life and craft, along with illustrative poems and stories.

Why Do People Join Cults?

UNDERTOW
My Escape from the Fundamentalism and Cult Control of The Way International

Edge writes, “I only wanted to know, love, and serve God and understand the Bible. What harm could that possibly bring?” Find out in Undertow.

Charlene L. Edge’s books are available at major booksellers and indie bookstores. Visit https://charleneedge.com.

Continue the Learning!

This November, Emerald Coast Writers is excited to offer an online Fall Conference. Join us for a full day of webinars and a Master Class online on Saturday, Nov. 12, starting at 9:00 a.m. Central Time.

Our lineup includes
- A Master Class taught by New Orleans writer Robert Fieseler;
- Webinars on fiction writing from Chris Crutcher, Vanessa Riley, and Trish Milburn;
- Poetry webinars given by Katherine Nelson-Born, Poet Laureate of NW Florida, and Ruben Quesada, author of Latinx Poetics: Essays on the Art of Poetry;
- Practical sessions from marketing guru Penny Sansevieri and writing coach Katie McCoach;
- A panel discussion on the importance of character and voice.

Cost: $50 for all sessions or $25 without the Master Class.
INFO at EmeraldCoastWritersInc.org
SATURDAY, October 29

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

6) Write Tight: Omit Needless Words – Crystal Salon D
Good writing is about clarity. Clichés, grammatical errors, redundancies, oxymorons, and goofs of history and geography bog down your manuscript and stop the reader from turning the page. Learn to “kill your darlings” and write more powerful stories by omitting unnecessary words. Eliot Kleinberg spent a half century as a reporter, including 33-plus years at The Palm Beach Post. He’s covered local news and written about Florida history. He produced two columns that ran in 22 Florida papers. He's co-founder of "Something Went Horribly Wrong," a blog about how to fix bad writing.

7) The Newspaper Pitch: Great Place for Freelance Opportunities – Crystal Salon E
Freelance opportunities are plentiful if you know where to look. Although newspapers are struggling, they still seek out quality content, especially in local publications. Targeting the correct editors, making a good first impression are key to sustaining a freelance relationship. Increase your chances of success by turning a “no” into a “yes” when pitching to editors. Nafari Morris is a 17-year journalism veteran whose career began as an intern editor at the Hartford Courant and ended up with her own byline. Her weekly column for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review won several local, state, and national awards. As a freelance writer, she’s written for the Washington Post and other publications.

8) Writing Realistic Dialogue: Create Invisible Dialogue with Beats – Crystal Salon C
Dialogue is how to move your story forward, so skip the dialogue tags to create a nuanced subtext. Write compelling dialogue integral to the scene and to the characters’ voices with beats instead. Discover how using beats in dialogue can add conflict, drama, and tension while revealing your characters’ true personalities. Julie G. Murphy holds an M.A. in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. Her first book, Flipping Rich Bastards, published by Melange Books/Satin Romance, was voted 1st place in the Helen McCloy Mystery Writers of America Scholarship. She has also published a romance, Western Knight, and a YA utopic-thriller, As If Something Happened.
SATURDAY, October 29
FWAY—Florida Writers Association
Youth Summit
Crystal Salons A & B

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM
We Are Authors!
Florida Writers Association Youth (FWAY) members are authors! New contests, new writing groups, our exciting Honor School, and the High School Scholarship program were created to support you in response to what you asked for. At this session, you'll learn about some exciting plans for we have for youth members, network with other youth lovers of writing, and have your voice heard about what you want for the Florida Writers Association youth program. FWAY Leadership Team: Mark Newhouse, Michael Farrell, Paula Feuerstein

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM
What's So Great about Him/Her? Creating Characters Readers Remember
The secret to writing realistic fiction is to create vivid characters. Realistic fiction starts when we learn how to examine the people around us. Think of someone you know whose personality stands out—for good or bad. Now, let's exaggerate those attributes and create a character that is truly memorable and unique. Sherri Winston is the author of President of the Whole Fifth Grade and Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution. Website: voteforcupcakes.com

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM
Your Published Future: Plan Your Publishing Path—Publishing Panel Q & A
Aimed specifically at young writers, this panel discussion will help you discover what you need to know about becoming a published author. You'll enjoy an interactive Q & A with a panel of guests including Stephanie Katz, librarian, writer, and editor, Jaimie Engle, an award-winning screenwriter and author. Come meet the publishers that will help you learn about traditional publishing, indie publishing, and so much more.

11:45 AM - 1:45 PM – Crystal Ballrooms A-E
Lunch

Celebrate our Youth Royal Palm Literary Awards Winners
Volunteer and Special Recognition Awards Announced
President and VP Awards, Kaye Coppersmith Writers Helping Writers Award, and The Candice Coghill Memorial Award for Youth

Annual Membership Meeting
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM - Capitol Ballroom
Collections Book Signing
Congratulate FWA 2022 Collections Anthology, Thrills and Chills, winners.
RPLA 2022 Youth Finalists

Athena Spiska
Isabel Mestey-Colon
Samantha Leslie

RPLA 2021 Youth Finalists

Andrea Mottau
Gabriela Hernandez
Isabel Mestey-Colon
N.M. Collett
Samantha Leslie

RPLA 2020 Youth Finalists

Carolyn Chen
Jacqueline Cook
Sarah-Catherine Jackson
Samantha Leslie
Murleve Roberts

The Candice Coghill Memorial Award for Youth 2021
N.M. Collett

The Candice Coghill Memorial Award for Youth 2020
Jacqueline Cook

William Opperman
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10% Discount to FWA Members
2022 Thrills and Chills

Age Group 9-13
Gold: Alexis Ollick, The Opportunity Rover
Silver: Paisley Papa, The Goliath
Bronze: Stella Papa, The Man in Black
Honorable Mention:
- Lyla Black, Pernicious Watchdog
- Jace Burke, Whispers
- Simon Knight, Syringe

Age Group 14-17
Gold: Athena Spiska, The Magic Book
Silver: Samantha Leslie, Stolen Aura
Bronze: Blake Heinlein, The 2021 SEC Championship

2021 Footprints

Age Group 9 – 13
Gold: Cameron Smith, The Print
Silver: Vivian Fernandez, 13 Playlists for My 13th Birthday
Bronze: Ela Edmonds, Life is a Footprint
Honorable Mention:
- Jude D. DeStefano, Footprints in the Mud
- Orian Memmott, Earth Print
- Ebelle Creve-Coeur, The Footprints You Left

Age Group 14 – 17
Gold: Samantha Leslie, Footsteps in the Sand
Silver: Carolyn Chen, For the Tide
Bronze: Kayla Brown, Blackmore High

2020 Create an Illusion

Age Group 9-13
1st Place: Lincoln Silverio, The World Beneath the Waves
2nd Place: Secelia Henning, Beautiful World
3rd Place: Daniel Creve-Coeur, Unforgotten Dream
Honorable Mention:
- Arianna Perez, Without My Glasses
- Ebelle Creve-Coeur, Shadow Man
- Nicole Collett, Freaked!

Age Group 14-17
1st Place: Jacqueline Cook, Blue and Black
2nd Place: Kazimir Reyes, Definition of Mortality
3rd Place: Sarah-Catherine Jackson, Clouds
Honorable Mention:
- Rachel Galpin, The Flame Within
- David Creve-Coeur, Fright Night
SATURDAY, October 29

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Crystal Salons C,D & E

Sarah Penner will share about how she went from thirteen years in corporate America to full-time writing and from 100+ agent rejections to an instant New York Times bestseller debuting at #7 on the hardcover fiction list. Penner's candid account has inspired countless writers seeking traditional publication. There will be plenty of time for Q&A!

Sarah is the New York Times and internationally bestselling author of The Lost Apothecary, which will be translated into forty languages and is set to be turned into a drama series by Fox. Sarah's second book, The London Séance Society, is forthcoming in early 2023. She and her husband live in Florida. Sarah will sign books after her talk. Website: sarahpenner.com
Miami’s Yester’ Years and Its Forgotten Founder, Locke Tiffin Highleyman

begins by looking at Florida’s past as a State, then turning the focus to Southern Florida and the development of Miami. In 1904, Locke Highleyman traveled to Miami and saw its potential. In 1911, he moved his family there to settle and help develop the area creating the first dredged islands in Biscayne Bay. By the early ‘20s, the new Biscayne Bay was offering gracious, tropical island lots for the wealthy. Taking a wilderness and turning it into a site of Paradise, this is the story of an era, an area and a vision of Miami and its forgotten founder, Locke Tiffin Highleyman.

Buy at a discount from: www.literarylady.com

Congratulations FWA

On a successful convention for 2022, from new member Marc Davidson

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SATURDAY, October 29, 2022

5:30 PM - 6:45 PM - Royal Palm Ballroom
Royal Palm Literary Awards Mixer Cocktail Party

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM - Crystal Ballroom A-E
20th Annual Royal Palm Literary Awards Competition Banquet

RPLA Awards Order of Presentation
Ceremony Begins 8:00 PM

**Book-Length Fiction**
- Blended Genre
- Fantasy
- Historical Fiction
- Humor or Satire
- LGBTQ+ Fiction or Nonfiction
- Mainstream or Literary
- Mystery or Crime
- Novelette
- Romance
- Thriller or Suspense
- Women’s Fiction

**Book-Length Nonfiction**
- Autobiography or Memoir
- Educational or Informational
- History

**Literature for Youth**
- Children’s Picture Book
- Early Reader or Chapter Book
- Middle Grade Fiction
- Young Adult or New Adult

**Poetry**
- Poem

**Short Nonfiction**
- Creative Nonfiction
- Published Blog or Article

**Short Fiction**
- Flash Fiction or Short-Short Fiction
- Short Story

**Miscellaneous**
- Anthology
- General Catch-All

**Grand Prizes**

**Best Children’s Book**

Unpublished Book of the Year

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Published Book of the Year

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2022 RPLA Finalists

Melissa Abrehamsen  
Reinfred Dziedzorm Addo  
Doug Alderson  
Gerri Almand  
Rita Angelini  
Paul Anthony  
Austin J. Bell  
Lauren Beltz  
Jennifer Bjork  
Thornton W. Blease  
Rita M. Boehm  
Becky Bohan  
J.C. Bruce  
Jill Morgan Clark  
Nancy J. Cohen  
Eileen Vorbach Collins  
Robin Collison  
Scott Corey  
Bette Lee Crosby  
Shutta Crum  
Patricia Crumpler  
Dianna Dann  
L. H. Davis  
George R. Dekle, Sr.  
William Delia  
Susan Dobson  
T. Michael Doyle  
Jessie Erwin  
Joni M. Fisher  
Dan Fuchs  
Clay Gish  
Allen Gorney  
J. L. Hagen  
Mark G. Hammerschick  
Joan J. Harris  
Arielle Haughee  
Rebecca Heflin  
Kim A. Holland  
Judy Harmon Holmes  
Doc Honour  
Gail Hulnick  
Elle E. Ire  
Jacque Jacobs  
Claire M. Johnson  
Sharon Keller Johnson  
Shirley Jones  
J.C. Kato  
Ian Kirkpatrick  
Alice Klaxton  
Kathryn I. Knight
# 2022 RPLA Finalists

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<tr>
<th>Susan Koehler</th>
<th>Jack O'Brien</th>
<th>M. S. Spencer</th>
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<td>Linda Kraus</td>
<td>Bonnie T. Ogle</td>
<td>David Spiegel</td>
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<td>Peggy Sias Lantz</td>
<td>Donna Parrey</td>
<td>Dana J. Summers</td>
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<td>Walter E. Ledwith</td>
<td>Craig Pennington</td>
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<td>Loren Leith</td>
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<td>Allan Kalman Roit</td>
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<td>Meredith Rutter Marple</td>
<td>Peter G. Roode, M.D.</td>
<td>Paul Wartenberg</td>
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<td>T. Milton Mayer</td>
<td>William S. Russell</td>
<td>Julie Weary</td>
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<td>Dave McKeon</td>
<td>Kaye D. Schmitz</td>
<td>WinLoseorDraw</td>
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<td>Jeff Seeley</td>
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<td>Mandy Miller</td>
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<td>Amy Mouharir</td>
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<td>Daphne Nikolopoulos</td>
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## 2021 RPLA Finalists

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doug Alderson</th>
<th>Raymond Hall</th>
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<td>Ruth Alessi</td>
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<td>Lee Fanning Hall</td>
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19 Florida WritersCon 2022
2020 RPLA Finalists

J.D. Allen
Marty Ambrose
Patricia Averbach
James Aylott
Bruce Ballister
Nancy Beaule
Holly Bebernitz
Barbara S. Bergren
Philip Beyer
Kerry Blaisdell
Urs A. Boelsterli
Marie Brack
Maureen Carol Bradford
Marina Brown
J.C. Bruce
Diane Byington
Tamatha Cain
Amy Michels Cantley
Mark Chick
Nancy J. Cohen
Shutta Crum
Patricia Crumpler
McKenna Dean
George R. Dekle Sr.
Daniel T. DeLill, PhD
Yusuf Delorenzo
Melody Dean Dimick
Susan Dobson
Betsy Donohue
Dennis Dunigan
David C. Edmonds
Jessie Erwin
Dr. Leanna Floyd
Elena Fowler
Jane Ellen Freeman
Jay Gilbert
James R. Glover

Carolyn Greeley
Dr. Pamela Grey
Larissa Hardesty
Suzy Hart
Denise Hart
Anne K. Hawkinson
Jack L. Hayes
Rebecca Heflin
Ellen Holder
Chris Holmes
Gail Hulnick
Paul V. Hunter
Paul Iasevoli
Naum G. Itkin MD, PhD
Michael Jordan
Beda Kantarjian
Florence Love Karsner
R.L. Keck
Susan Koehler
Linda Kraus
Deborah L. Kunz
Stephen Leitschuh
Jan Little
Janet Franks Little
John Mallon
Lawrence Martin
Angie M. Mayo
Dianne E. McConkey
Jennifer McKenna
Sheila McNaughton
Mark McWaters
Sharon L. Menear
Donna Meredith
Margie Miklas
Leah Miller
Robin Mimna
Dalton Mire

Jean F. Morciglion
Colleen Mueller
Mark H. Newhouse
Amy Nicolai
William Opperman
Elle Andrews Patt
David M. Pearce
Robert Pearson
Ken Pelham
Ginger Pinholster
Paula Pivko
M. J. Polelle
Janet E. Post
Elizabeth Post
Amarilys Gacio Rassler
Mark Reasoner
Cathy Rebhun
Kerryn Reid
Barbara Rein
Marie Q. Rogers
Walter Joseph Schenk Jr.
Susanne Schuenke, PhD
Peter Shianna
Ann Shianna
A.R. Silverberry
K.L. Small
Faydra M. Stratton
Dana J. Summers
Tom Swartz
Skye Taylor
Dana Trantham
Joyce Wagner
Paul Wartenberg
E.J. Wenstrom
Sandie Will

A complete list of 2021 and 2020 RPLA Winners with entry titles, can be found on the Florida Writers Association website.
SUNDAY, October 30

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM
**Writing Sprints – Crystal Salon A**
Elaine Person returns to facilitate early morning Writing Sprints.

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
**Discover What It Takes to Join the FWA Contest Team – Crystal Salon A**
Did you know that being a judge for the themed Collection contest or the RPLA Competition will add integrity to your writing résumé? If you’re a writer or editor, you’re a perfect candidate to become a judge. Arleen Mariotti & Chrissy Jackson will cover the Collection theme, the process for Collection and RPLA, and criteria for judging in each. Not only is participation as a judge critical for the success of both the Collection and the RPLA Competition, it’s also a great way to give back to our writing community and truly be a part of Writers Helping Writers.

8:45 AM - 11:15 AM
**Agents & Publishers Panel Discussion and Q&A – Crystal Salons C, D & E**
Marilyn Allen, President of the Allen Literary Agency (formerly Allen O'Shea), previously Associate Publisher and Executive Director of Marketing at Harper Collins; Director of National Sales at Simon & Schuster, and Penguin. Marilyn specializes in nonfiction titles in self-help, business, history, health, cooking and cocktails, new age, pop culture, and memoirs.

Sarah N. Fisk is a literary agent at the Tobias Literary Agency, representing Middle Grade and Young Adult as well as adult science-fiction, fantasy, and romance. Sarah is a former Pitch Wars mentor and board member. They host the podcast Queries, Qualms, & Quirks and are a founder of Disability in Publishing sarahnfisk.com

Arielle Haughee (Hoy) is a six-time RPLA-winning author and the owner of Orange Blossom Publishing. She is an editor, speaker, publisher, and writing coach, and was previously the Executive Vice President and Marketing Chair for the Florida Writers Association. orangeblossombooks.com

Jae Worthy Johnson earned her BA in writing from Cornell and her MA in Library and Information Science from SUNY Albany. She is one of the Founding Editors of 805 Lit + Art and the Editor-in-Chief of the online literary journal Scribble. Her short fiction has appeared in the Copperfield Review and The MaGuffin. She lives in Bradenton, Florida. scribblelit.com

Stephanie Katz is a librarian, writer, and editor. She runs the award-winning literary journal 805 Lit + Art and is the author of the book Libraries Publish: How to Start a Magazine, Small Press, Blog, and More (Libraries Unlimited, ABC-CLIO, 2021). She lives on Anna Maria Island in Florida. 805lit.org

Marlene Stringer founded The Stringer Literary Agency LLC in 2008, a full-service agency based in Naples, Florida, and NYC. Stringerlit represents a wide range of commercial fiction, from children’s through adult, including thrillers, suspense, women’s fiction, romance, fantasy, mystery, and select non-fiction. stringerlit.com
Murders.  
Kidnappings.  
A deadly bioagent.  
Target: America.  
Can one man stop them all?

TERROR’S SWORD by Kevin Kuhens  
Only elite counterterrorism operative Kyle McEwan stands between an apocalyptic bioweapon attack and global survival.  
This pulse-pounding thriller is available from major and indie booksellers  
Visit KevinKuhens.com

Writing Coach  
for kidlit authors  
Want to make your writing for young readers shine? I do too!  
For more information, go to www.dianneochiltree.com

Congratulations  
To Our Writers  

FLORIDA WRITERSCON 2022  
Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs  
October 28-30th

Thank you for allowing me the challenge of creating this  
Keepsake Booklet  
em: hector@verizon.net  
kooskoobird creations  
FWA Member Since 2017
2022 Barbara Rein  
Facebook @ Barabara Rein Short Stories

What advice do you have for members who wish to enter the RPLA next year?  
Join a critique group. Share your writing with others for invaluable feedback to make your submission the best it can be.

What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?  
I always know my ending. I write to a destination.

Where do you get your information or ideas for your books?  
I write my nightmares.

What do you like to do when you're not writing?  
Line dancing, playing Mah Jongg, and playing Samba (it’s a card game).

What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?  
Marketing has a life of its own, one I wish I didn’t have to be involved in. But no one else is going to do it. So I’m it.

What suggestions do you have to help others become better writers?  
Think of writing a story like making a lasagna. You start with your basic noodles, your basic idea. Then layer on the sauce, meat, cheese—the settings, descriptions, the characterizations. This is a huge casserole so keep working on those layers. Keep tweaking the recipe. Keep revising until it comes out the best it can be.

What do you think makes a good story?  
Hit my emotions, whether it’s a thrill, a chill, or a good cry.

2021 Marina Brown  
Facebook @ MarinaBrownAuthor

What advice do you have for members who wish to enter the RPLA next year?  
Make sure you’ve had your book edited. And don’t underestimate your readers. They are smart, constantly questioning your characters, their motivations, and your plot. Write up to your readers. Challenge them.

What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?  
I’m not sure about quirk, but I do find the use of hints of magical realism fascinating. There are perplexities in our everyday lives, and in my books, I just turn up the oddness to give the reader the occasional shiver.

What do you like to do when you're not writing?  
I am also a painter, a watercolorist, drawing from my past as a professional ballet dancer for many of my figurative pieces.

What was one of the most surprising things you learned in creating your books?  
I found it exhilarating to sit down each day with characters once they were imbued with life and agency. I also discovered that a shocking percentage of the success of a book has to do with its promotion—a job that falls in large part to the writer. So, gird up!

What suggestions do you have to help others become better writers?  
I owe so much to my writing groups and to the many authors I have learned from via podcasts, webinars, articles, and conferences. Join a critique group and be open to learning from others. Don’t do it alone or you may have an audience of only one.

What do you think makes a good story?  
Passion. I think a good story touches readers’ hearts, and souls, with compelling multidimensional characters and conflicts they care about. A great story, one that compels people to keep reading, one that makes them care, is the best way to teach. Humor also helps.

2020 Mark H. Newhouse  
MarkNewhouseBooks.com

What advice do you have for members who wish to enter the RPLA next year?  
RPLA is a wonderful competition. Be sure your work is carefully edited, but definitely enter.

What would you say is your interesting writing quirk?  
I never think my writing is good enough, so I’m shocked when my books win awards or get good reviews. Especially if my wife likes them. She’s my toughest critic.

Where do you get your information or ideas for your books?  
I write about things I care about, that arouse my passion. I often wake up thinking about something I read in the news that I think others will care about.

What do you like to do when you're not writing?  
When is that? I love to spend time with my wife. I enjoy working with my writing groups and as the FWA Youth Chairperson. Helping others gives me a great feeling.

What suggestions do you have to help others become better writers?  
I owe so much to my writing groups and to the many authors I have learned from via podcasts, webinars, articles, and conferences. Join a critique group and be open to learning from others. Don’t do it alone or you may have an audience of only one.

What do you think makes a good story?  
Passion. I think a good story touches readers’ hearts, and souls, with compelling multidimensional characters and conflicts they care about. A great story, one that compels people to keep reading, one that makes them care, is the best way to teach. Humor also helps.
This year's Collection Contest resulted in 116 members submitting 153 entries. Our Person of Renown, Barbara Rein, winner of the 2021—Florida Writers Association Royal Palm Literary Awards Published Book of the Year, had the daunting task of choosing her top ten favorites from the 60 winning authors bound for this edition. We are also pleased to announce the 9th annual Youth Collection Contest had 21 authors submit. The Collection Contest remains one of our members' favorite benefits. We are pleased to announce the winning authors and their entries. Congratulations!

Person of Renown: Barbara Rein

Barbara Rein's Top Ten Picks
1. K.L. Small, Memory Lane Park
2. Bob Ellis, Slow News
3. J. L. Hagen, Northwest of the Skillagalee
4. Jody Lebel, Emily's Date
5. Elaine Person, Soul Search
7. Angie M. Mayo, Pretty Suitcase
8. Frank T. Masi, Postcards from Hell
9. Robert E. Marvin, Two Hearts on a Chain
10. Donna Parrey, The Stillness

RPLA BOOK OF THE YEAR 2021: BARBARA REIN
Tales from the Eerie Canal:
22 Stories of the Delightfully Dark and Creepy
Thrills and Chills 2022
CONGRATULATIONS!

Gerri Almand, *Landscapes and Rattlesnakes*
Harry T. Barnes, *Strainer*
Monika Becker, *Anna’s Special Day*
Diane M. Boilard, *Elephant Encounter*
William Clapper, *Out of Character*
Michael Cox, *The Beating Heart*
Shutta Crum, *The Big Rip*
Marc Davidson, *It Came Back to Haunt Me*
Barry A. Dimick, *Jolted*
Melody Dimick, *Thrilled to Meet You*
Jessie Erwin, *Refuge for Three*
Michael Farrell, *Forever Boy*
M. R. Gallows, *The Great Hunger*
Fern Goodman, *Staple Me*
Lee Fanning Hall, *Stage Fright*
Suzy Hart, *Serendipitous Nightmare*
Ellen Holder, *Cheery Replies*
John Hope, *Dip and Run*
Bart Huitema, *The Ghost of Robertson High*
Beda Kantarjian, *Serial Caller*
Henry James Kaye, *Something BIG*
R. L. Keck, *Stand Up, Hook Up, Shuffle to the Door*
Alice Klaiston, *When Sailors Ruled the Seas*
Rae Knowles, *Mothers Always Knew*
Michele Verbitski Knudsen, *Silent Screams*

Joan Levy, *Stilettos*
Lucy Lipari, *Boots of War*
Richard Lipari, *First Fire*
Anthony Malone, *Dragons Blood*
Chris Marek, *I Ain’t ‘Fraid Of No Shark!*
Lawrence Martin, *Auto-Drive*
Phyllis McKinley, *Blue Feet*
Mark McWaters, *Body for Sale*
George August Meier, *She Screams into the Past*
Barbara Meyers, *Child’s Play*
Joanna Michaels, *Witches’ Brew*
Ronald C. Milburn, *Ghost, Camera, Action*
Suzanne Purvis, *The Stiletto*
Amarilys Gacio Rassler, *The Method*
Deb Rogers, *Rehoming Danny*
Carolee Russell, *The Cell*
Ken Schmidt, *Shaken, Not Stirred*
H. G. Silvia, *Seven Minutes in Hell*
Kim Smith, *Apocalypse*
David Spiegel, *The Iron Sled*
Mary J. Staller, *The Final Waltz*
Tom Swartz, *Sleep*
Skye Taylor, *Vengeance is Sweet*
Bonnie J. Thompson, *This Battle Will Not be Won*
Ed N. White, *A Publishing Contract, Oh My!*
For this year's contest, 122 members submitted 168 entries. Our Person of Renown Marina Brown, winner of the 2020 FWA RPLA Published Book of the Year Award, had the daunting task of choosing her top ten favorites from the 60 winning authors bound for this edition. The collection contest remains one of our members' favorite benefits. We are pleased to announce the winning authors and their entries.

Person of Renown: Marina Brown

Marina Brown’s Top Ten Picks
1. Juli Simon, *Dirt Road Women*
2. Henry James Kaye, *Rosa’s Angel*
3. Jessie Erwin, *Boots*
4. Fern Goodman, *Whiplash*
5. David M. Pearce, *A Path Without Footprints*
6. John Hope, *Beyond the Closed Door*
7. Bart Huitema, *Kara Michaels*
8. Sonja Jean Craig, *Under-Standing*
9. Michele Verbitski Knudsen, *Taking a Powder*
10. Frances Hight, *Marching Orders*

RPLA BOOK OF THE YEAR 2020: MARINA BROWN
The Orphan of Pitigliano
Footprints 2021
CONGRATULATIONS!

Gerri Almand, Turning Stones
Lynn Bechdolt, Making Tracks
Monica Becker, Footprints in the Snow
William Clapper, I Heard Footprints
William G. Collins, A Hill of Courage
Shutta Crum, After You
William Delia, The Last Dance
Victor DiGenti, The Library Steps
Bob Ellis, Footprints at the Edge
Michael Farrell, The Every Beast
Hope N. Griffin, Queen Ann and the Dragon
Chris Hamilton, The Return of a Minor Goddess
Robert Hart, Sands of Time
Bonnie B. Herrick, Tiny Footprints
Ellen Holder, Footprints
Paul Iasevoli, A Perfect Size Six
Chrissy Jackson, Footprints Must Bring Change
Rome Johnson & Kaitlin Thern, Footprints in the Snow
Beda Kantarjian, Charm School
R.L. Keck, Footprints in the Dirt
Alice Klaxton, A Fading Image
Linda Kraus, The First Step
Joan Levy, A Good Man
Richard, Lipari, Over There
Anthony Malone, Yellow Footprints

Arleen Mariotti, Sole Tracker
Frank T. Masi, Angel Baby
Angie M. Mayo, Celeste
Phyllis McKinley, Prescription
Mark McWaters, Bigfoot Stomping Grounds
George August Meier, Stubborn Footprints
Sherry Mendoza, Side by Side
Leah Miller, Kissing Kismet
Mark H. Newhouse, Yellow Footprints
Elaine Person, Admitting D-feet
Jim Ramage, Footprints in the Sand
Amarilys Gacio Rassler, Our Living Testament
Cathy Rebhun, Letting Go
Carolee Russell, Turtles Come Home
Joan O. Scharf, Beyond the Field
K. L. Small, Farrier’s Footprints
D.J. Snyder, Footprints
E.M. St. Pierre, Leave No Trace
Mary J. Staller, A One-Legged Seagull
Mike Summers, Extant
Skye Taylor, Duffy’s Footprints
Nadine Vaughan, Footprints at Shambhala
Patt M. Walsh, The Pink Slippers
Sharon Weatherhead, His Footprints
Ed N. White, Prey Tell
A tremendous contest resulted in 108 members submitting 143 entries. Our Person of Renown, Mark H. Newhouse, winner of the 2019 Royal Palm Literary Award Published Book of the Year for *The Devil’s Bookkeepers* (Book 1 – The Noose), had the daunting task of choosing his top ten favorites from the 60 winning entries. A retired NY teacher, he is Florida Writers Association’s Youth Chairperson, and Florida Writers Association board member. Thanks to Mark and our members’ participation, the Collection contest remains one of our popular annual events.

**Person of Renown: Mark H. Newhouse**

**Mark H. Newhouse’s Top Ten Picks**

1. Shutta Crum, *Okefenokee*
2. Ricky Keck, *It’s Time*
4. Mike Summers, *Chosen*
5. Grace Epstein, *A Shrouded Forest*
6. Frances Hight, *Mable’s Fight*
8. Robert Hart, *The Safe Tree*
9. Barbara Rein, *Canceled*
10. Phyllis McKinley, *Yellow Leaf in a Puddle*

**RPLA BOOK OF THE YEAR 2019: MARK H. NEWHOUSE**

*The Devil’s Bookkeepers 1: The Noose*
Create an Illusion 2020
CONGRATULATIONS!

Ruth Alessi, *Masks of Clay*
Monika Becker, *Alternate Universes*
Linda Callan, *The Treasure Hunt*
Linda Ray Center, *Bookend Friends*
M.P. Christy, *Illusion Tubes*
William Clapper, *Love’s Illusions*
Danielle Cook, *Space Bar*
Michael Cox, *In the Hospital (Again)*
Melody Dimick, *Insanity*
Betsy Donohue, *Perspective*
Arthur Doweyko, *Billy and the Time Machine*
Bob Ellis, *The Bank Branch*
Jessie Erwin, *Moon Flying*
Kimberlee Esselstrom, *Harmy*
Ann Favreau, *The Mirrors*
Linda Feist, *A Serving of Winter Solstice*
Chris Flocken, *Elusive Illusions*
J.W. Garrett, *Away From It All*
Fern Goodman, *Jesus Ants*
Lee Fanning Hall, *Illusions*
Suzy Hart, *Break the Rules*
Ellen Holder, *Thalia’s Portal*
Laura Holian, *The Picnic*
John Hope, *The Visit*
Sharon Keller Johnson, *Derailed*

Henry James Kaye, *No Good Deed*
Ian Kirkpatrick, *Good Morning, George*
Alice Klaxton, *Memories*
Linda Kraus, *Inner Beauty and All That Jazz*
Teresa Little, *The Camping Trip*
Christopher Malinger, *Jealousy*
Arleen Mariotti, *Behind Closed Doors*
Lawrence Martin, *A Grand Illusion*
Robert Marvin, *The Last Coupon*
Frank T. Masi, *Gray Rider*
Mark McWaters, *The Other Side*
Sharon Menear, *Ghost Writer*
John Charles Miller, *Words from the Earth*
Joan North, *Illusion or Reality*
Donna Parrey, *When Mother Nature Caught the Virus*
David M. Pearce, *The Matryoshka Doll*
Virginia Pegelow, *Dancing with a Star*
Elaine Person, *Don’t Refuse Your Muse*
Nancy Pflum, *A Night to Remember*
Don (Doc) Sanborn, *Could This Be Real?*
Lynn Schiffhorst, *Soothing the Dark*
Ruth Senftleber, *The Reunion*
Henry G. Silvia, *The Chinese Room*
Tom Swartz, *Johnny B’s Freedom*
Ed N. White, *Water, Water Everywhere*
The Florida Writers Foundation, Inc. (FWF) is a nonprofit corporation formed to promote literacy by enhancing writing skills in children, teens, and adults. We partner with existing programs and initiatives as well as developing new programs.

Educational Mission of FWF: The educational mission of the Florida Writers Foundation and financial grants for qualified organizations in Florida who engage in educational activities and projects that are compatible with the FWF mission. These organizations may include public or private schools, PTAs, nonprofits, or other institutions whose projects and activities fit the parameters, values, and mission of the FWF. A sister organization of the Florida Writers Association (FWA), the two groups have many volunteers in common. FWF volunteers have made a difference in people’s lives by visiting elementary schools for reading days, sponsoring poetry contests, donating books to schools, and contributing funds to promote school writing contests. We look forward to contributing funds to high school writing contests and visiting high schools. Florida Writers Association helps the FWF raise funds by hosting a silent auction during the annual Florida Writers Conference. Another fundraiser, the Florida Writers Foundation Celebrity Workshop, takes place right before the conference. Funds raised are designated for organizational grants.

Educational Grant Program: The FWF will determine the number of recipients of educational funds each year, and the amount of each award, based on the previous year’s fundraising efforts with the understanding that the amount of available funds varies from year to year.

Qualifications & Requirements: The FWF will take a variety of factors into account when determining who to award grants to, and the amounts of the awards. Therefore, applicants should submit a packet that includes a cover letter, the appropriate application from the FWF website, and the requested documents.
No one ever really escapes high school is Melody’s mantra. During her years teaching, she witnessed the alienation and vulnerability of one-sided loves, the dreams crushed, the injustices, and the tragedies her students faced. She gives voice to high school students, allowing them to spill their truths onto the pages.

MelodyDeanDimick.com • BarryAndrewDimick.com • Also available on Amazon.com

In this New England coming of age story, Barry leaves behind the questions that troubled him throughout high school and college. But following his father’s death, he faces the question that has lingered his entire life.
FWA Mission

The Florida Writers Association helps authors and aspiring writers in Florida and beyond to learn, grow, network, and find resources to cultivate their inner muse, improve their writing, and navigate the publishing industry.

RESOURCES

The Florida Writer
FWA's Premier Publication

The Florida Writer Podcast

a discussion about writing and other things

listen to authors, editors, publishers, and industry influencers

The Florida Writers Blog

craft • publishing • marketing • inspiration • and more