

5th Annual Festival of Reading

Romancing the Book

March 29 - April 5, 2008



Event Guide



Opening Event

Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lake-Sumter Community College

Main Stage

Stage is being managed by the Television Production/Entertainment Technology Program from Eustis High School under the direction of Stuart Klatte.

- 10:00 a.m. **Eustis High Theatre** presents *All the Great Books Abridged*
Under the direction of Stuart Klatte.
- 10:30 a.m. **Bay Street Players Young People's Theatre** presents *I Didn't Know That*
Historical Trivia and Facts come to life in this fast-paced theatrical journey. You are guaranteed to learn something about... Well, all kinds of things! This production features the YPT Touring Company, celebrating 30 years of touring educational theatre.
- 11:30 a.m. **Leesburg Dance Center Company** presents excerpts from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker Suite*
Choreographed by Sally Gage, ballet mistress, along with a jazz dance choreographed by Tiffany Rose-Mitchell and a tap dance choreographed by Valerie Johnson, owner and director.
- 12:30 p.m. **SOO Divine Steppers of Lake County**
Under the Direction of Tonya Martin performing original choreography. The group routine consists of beats made with the hands and feet to music
- 1:00 p.m. **Studio 19 Center for the Performing Arts**
Under the direction of Maria Errico presenting a wide range of dance genres from classical ballet, modern and contemporary dance.
- 1:30 p.m. **Patchwork Productions** performs a Broadway Review
The children's program from Melon Patch Theatre will perform a Broadway Review.
- 2:00 p.m. **9th Annual Bookmark Design Contest Awards Ceremony**
Award winning bookmarks will be available at the Library Services booth.
- 2:30 p.m. **Patchwork Productions** presents selections from *George M. Cohen*
Continuing with selections from George. M. Cohen to celebrate the American spirit.

Author Signings

Everett Kelly Convocation Center

Colleen Avelli	Aleka Nakis	Linnea Sinclair
Lyn Armstrong	Mark Newhouse	Elise Van Cise
Ron Cooper	Eric Reinhold	Heather Waters
Liz Hamlin	Susan Snyder	
Jeffrey Lamb	Elizabeth Sinclair	

Everett Kelly Convocation Center Exhibitors

- 🌀 **Books are Fun Fair** - The Reader's Digest Company offers high quality books at up to 70% off
- 🌀 **Lake County Library System libraries** - library cards for residents, free popcorn, games & prizes
- 🌀 **Lake County Library System Youth Librarians** - free children's craft activities
- 🌀 **Area chapters of the Romance Writers of America** - authors, books and writing information
- 🌀 **American Culinary Federation, Gulf to Lakes Chefs and Cooks Association** - free romantic food samplings.

Magnolia Room Literary Workshops

- 10:00 a.m. **Writing the Synopsis with Elizabeth Sinclair**
Ms. Sinclair authored the widely-acclaimed instructional books *The Dreaded Synopsis* and *First Chapters* and has published over eighteen highly acclaimed romances with Silhouette, Harlequin, Kensington, and Medallion Press.
- 12:00 p.m. **"No" is Not a 4-Letter Word with Heather Waters**
Making personal goals a reality in a less than understanding world. Ms. Waters debuted with a dark, seductive tale of magic and redemption in *The Devils Possession* which received 4 ½ stars (Top Pick!) from Romantic Times Book Review. She has just released *Destiny's Warrior*.
- 1:00 p.m. **The Road to Publishing Your Novel with Lyn Armstrong, Aleka Nakis, Linnea Sinclair**
Lyn Armstrong is a romance author born in Australia, a former student of NSW Writing School, and is serving on the board of Florida Romance Writers. Having recently published *The Last Celtic Witch* and *The Last Celtic Witch and The Sorcerer*, Lyn is currently working on the third book in the Celtic Series. Aleka Nakis, paranormal romantic suspense author born in Athens, Greece has just published two new books: *The Eyes of the Dead* and *The Greek Rule*. Linnea Sinclair, best-selling Science Fiction/Fantasy Romance writer, and RITA Award winner's latest *The Down Home Zombie Blues* was a top pick in Romantic Times BOOKreviews magazine.
- 2:00 p.m. **Novel Do's and Don'ts with Ron Cooper**
Novelist and finalist for the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference Award, Ron Cooper offers practical and humorous advice to the first-time novelist on stylistic and structural topics such as beginnings, character development, dialogue, and finding a publisher.

Teen Anime & Manga Room

- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Anime: Unseen episodes**
See episodes of anime not available in the library or on television chosen by teens. Brain-powered, Getbackers, Kalaido star, Kyo Kara Maoh, Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya, Orphen, Saiuki reload, Wedding Peach, Tsubasa chronicles, Wallflower, World of Narue.
- 11:00 a.m. **Contest: Name that Anime Musical Contest**
How well do you know the music of your favorite anime? Test your knowledge on songs from anime available on television, DVD, and Youtube. Prizes for the most knowledgeable.
- 12:00 p.m. **Contest: Cosplay**
Dress as your favorite anime or manga character. Prizes for the best costumes.
- 2:30 p.m. **Drawing for door prizes.** Must be present to win.

Festival Events

Saturday, March 29

4 to 6 p.m. Champagne & Truffle Reception

Bacchus Vino, Etc., 692 W. Montrose St., Clermont

Cooper Memorial Library will be kicking off the Festival of Reading events in Clermont with a special Champagne & Truffle Reception with popular author, **Janice Sims**, best known for writing stories that are humorous, touching, and that explore the dynamics of close family ties. Guests will be able to enjoy sparkling wine provided by Bacchus Vino and chocolate truffles provided by Cheeser's Palace, Clermont.

Sunday, March 30

2 p.m. Out of This World

W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora

W.T. Bland Public Library will host this tea with three award winning authors: **Linnea Sinclair**, Science Fiction Romance, **Heather Waters**, Paranormal Romance and **Elizabeth Sinclair**, Romantic Suspense. The authors will discuss "developing the details and writing the romance."

Monday, March 31

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Clermont Quilters Exhibit

Cooper Memorial Library, 821 W. Minneola Ave., Clermont

The library will showcase the Clermont Quilters with a presentation and display of quilts and quilting. Charity Carter and the quilters will discuss the art and romance of quilting and display their craft with beautiful homemade quilts.

2 p.m. A Timeless Tea

Fruitland Park Library, 205 W. Berckman St., Fruitland Park

Fruitland Park Library invites the public to this tea with Christian Romance author, **Louise M. Gouge**. Gouge is the winner of the 2006 Reviewers Choice Award from The Road to Romance for her historical Christian romance, *Then Came Faith*.



4 p.m. Romancing the World

Paisley County Library, 24954 County Road 42, Paisley

Paisley County Library will host authors **Aleka Nakis** and **Lyn Armstrong**. Nakis, a Greek author, shares her passion for story telling, travel and exotic cultures, and how she writes romance novels for a living. Armstrong has a passion for writing historical romances with a sensual touch. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Paisley County Library.

7 p.m. Women of Mystery: Developing Vivid Characters that Engage the Reader

Leesburg Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Leesburg

The Leesburg Public Library will host this panel of best-selling authors **Jo Dereske** (Mystery, Science Fiction) and **Katherine Hall Page** (Agatha Award Winner, Mystery). Whether your novel is literary or genre, humorous or serious, character or plot-driven, your fictional characters must seem real and vivid and must carry the story line and engage the readers. So, how hard is that to do? And how do you avoid clichés and one-dimensional characters? Where do you get ideas, and how do you develop character traits that work with the plot and reveal personality? Moderated by Bob Morris, author of *Bermuda Schwartz*.

7 p.m. Poetry Night

East Lake County Library, 31340 County Road 437, Sorrento

East Lake County Library will host Poetry Night with **Colleen Avelli**, **Patty Fletcher** and **Diane Ackerman**. Come and experience wonderful works by these authors and share a poem of your own. Entries will be accepted for the 7th Annual Poetry Contest.

Tuesday, April 1

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local Authors' Day

Umatilla Public Library, 412 Hatfield Drive, Umatilla

This popular event will feature **Michael Suib**, **Cliff Halford**, **Stella Balandram**, **Colleen Avelli**, **Jeffrey Lamb**. Author and owner of *The Book Muse*, **Nancy Butler-Ross** will speak on editing the novel.

10 a.m. Author Everett Kelly

Lady Lake Public Library, 225 W. Guava St., Lady Lake

Lady Lake Public Library presents former Florida Representative **Everett Kelly**. His novel *The Atlatl* is the story of a nation of people who inhabited the southern third of Florida when Columbus first touched the shore of this new world. They earned their moment in the history of the world by their bitter encounter with the discoverer of Florida, Juan Ponce de Leon.

- 2 p.m. Tea at the Scene of the Crime**
W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora
 W.T. Bland Public Library will present a writing workshop featuring a trio of best-selling HarperCollins authors **Jo Dereske** (Mystery, Science Fiction) and **Katherine Hall Page** (Agatha Award Winner, Mystery). Whodunit? More than just a detective and a dead body, this panel will present “creating the twists and turns of a good mystery.”
- 6 p.m. The Vocal Express**
Clermont Woman’s Club, 655 Broome Street, Clermont
 Cooper Memorial Library will present a popular local singing group, The Vocal Express, in a special musical program, *Romancing the Song*.
- 7 p.m. HTF: The Movie that Painted Mount Dora Pink**
W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora
 The library will have a screening of the movie that painted Mount Dora pink.
- 7 p.m. A Party to Die For**
Cagan Crossings Community Library, 16729 Cagan Oaks, Clermont
 The library host authors **Jo Dereske** and **Katherine Hall Page** as they present *Writing the Mystery and the Mystery Series: Revisiting old friends in new books*. Experts will tell you that a good way to “break in” is with a mystery series. In planning the series, and writing that first book, there are several important things you need to know — not the least of which is how to write a good mystery for that first book, plus how to create characters you and your readers will want to be around for years.
- 7 p.m. Authors Lyn Armstrong and Aleka Nakis**
PJ’s Wine and Coffee Bar, 2910 David Walker Drive, Eustis
 City of Tavares Public Library at PJ’s Wine and Coffee Bar will host *The Last Celtic Witch* author, **Lyn Armstrong** and *Eyes of the Dead* author, **Aleka Nakis**. Join us for a paranormal experience in a unique environment.

Wednesday, April 2

- 10:30 a.m. Brunch with the Lady of Light and Shadows**
Leesburg Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Leesburg
C.L. Wilson author of *Lord of the Fading Lands*, selected as the best Paranormal romance debut in 2007 will discuss the magic of her unique world. Her second novel, *Lady of Light and Shadows*, a New York Times and USA Today Bestseller has been nominated for a Fantasm Award in the Best Epic Fantasy category. Tickets are \$15; please call (352) 728-9791 to make reservations. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Leesburg Public Library.*

- 1 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch with Elizabeth Becka**
Fruitland Park Library, 205 W. Berckman St., Fruitland Park
 Fruitland Park Library presents this Brown bag featuring best-selling forensic mystery author **Elizabeth Becka**. Becka returns with her just released sequel, *Unknown Means*. Drinks and dessert will be provided.
- 2 p.m. Tea and Bullets**
W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora
 RITA winner **Roxanne St. Claire** will introduce *First You Run*, her latest release in the Bullet Catcher series. Romantic Reviews Today says, “Roxanne St. Claire has outdone herself in *Take Me Tonight* by ratcheting up the suspense and action of the Bullet Catcher series. With quick-paced writing and twists and turns behind every corner, Ms. St. Claire has pulled out all the stops, and you actually have to put it down every once in awhile just to catch your breath.”
- 2 p.m. Young Adult Author Caridad Ferrer**
Leesburg Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Leesburg
 RITA Award winning author **Caridad Ferrer** will present a program for teens.
- 5 p.m. Heartbeats**
Clermont Woman’s Club, 655 Broome Street, Clermont
 Cooper Memorial Library will present *Heartbeats* with musician Fred Harvey featuring country and soft rock love songs and romantic tunes. The music will be followed by *Pillow Talk* guest authors program at 6 p.m.
- 6 to 8 p.m. Pillow Talk**
Clermont Woman’s Club, 655 Broome Street, Clermont
 Don’t miss this panel of dynamic authors: **Connie Mason**, **Pam Labud**, and **Dara Edmondson**. Mason had two books in 2007, *Highland Warrior* and *The Price of Pleasure*. She is currently working on *Viking Warrior*. Labud is currently working on a series of Regency set paranormal books and an urban fantasy novel. Edmondson’s book, *The Kitten Club*, has received rave reviews on Barnes and Noble, “funny, sad, romantic, surprising, HOT, touching and a page turner! It is one of those books where the characters instantly feel like your best friends.”
- 6:30 p.m. Southern Comforts: Rooted in a Florida Place**
W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora
 Author Sudyé Cauthen presents this FHC Road Scholar program featuring her book, *Southern Comforts: Rooted in a Florida Place* which is the first of several books based on the author’s lifelong documentation of North Florida community and environment.



- 7 p.m. Writer's Café**
East Lake County Library, 31340 County Road 437, Sorrento
 Explore fantasy romance writing with international authors **Lyn Armstrong** from Australia and **Aleka Nakis** from Greece.
- 7 p.m. Coffeehouse Romance**
Tavares Civic Center, 100 E. Caroline St., Tavares
 Don't miss this panel of award-winning authors who will discuss the infinite possibilities of writing the romance novel. Authors include: **Roxanne St. Claire**, 2007 RITA winner and national bestselling author of the Bullet Catchers series; **Julie Leto**, USA Today bestselling author with 20 novels under her belt and a reputation for writing ultra-sexy, edgy stories; and **C.L. Wilson**, a USA Today and New York Times bestselling author, who combines sweeping sword and sorcery fantasy with the simmering passion of romance. Moderated by Lee J. Kline.

Thursday, April 3

- 2 p.m. Young Adult Author Caridad Ferrer**
Cagan Crossings Community Library, 16729 Cagan Oaks, Clermont
 Cagan Crossings Community Library hosts RITA winner **Caridad Ferrer** in a special program for teens.
- 6 p.m. Cooper@Cooper: An Author Tea**
Cooper Memorial Library, 821 W. Minneola Ave., Clermont
 This event features **Ron Cooper**. Cooper has a Ph.D. in philosophy and has written *Hume's Fork*, "A comic drama about philosophy, family, religion, and, of course, professional wrestling." According to Booklist "This is a wacky novel, even for a satire."
- 6:30 p.m. Romantic Secrets Tea**
Fruitland Park Library, 205 W. Berckman St., Fruitland Park
 All authors have a different process to get from blank page to book-on-the-shelf. Discuss the writer's process with popular historical romance novelist **Sandra Madden** and romantic suspense author **Terry Odell**. These novelists share their perspectives on the craft of writing and the scope of the genre.
- 6:30 p.m. Sweets and Romance In The Dark**
Astor County Library, 54905 Alco Road, Astor
 Astor County Library will host local paranormal romance author **Elise Van Cise**. Can true love overcome the grave? Decadent chocolate desserts will be served.



Annual Literary Luncheon with Angela Hunt Thursday, April 3 at 12 p.m.

W.T. Bland Public Library presents the Annual Literary Luncheon with special guest Angela Hunt. Hunt is the best-selling author of *The Tale of Three Trees*, *The Debt*, *The Note*, and *The Nativity Story*, with over three million copies of her books sold worldwide. Eight of her novels have won Angel Awards from Excellence in Media. Hunt has also won four silver medals from ForeWord Magazine's book of the year award and a Christy Award. Hunt's *The Novelist* won gold in ForeWord Magazine's 2007 Book of the Year award. Romantic Times Book Club presented her with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.



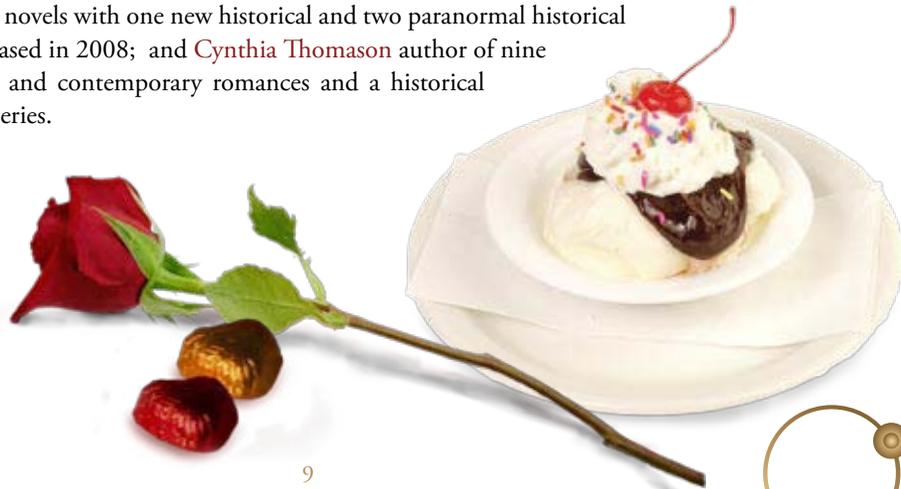
Lake Receptions, 4425 N. Highway 19A, Mount Dora
 Doors open at 11:30 a.m. for seating.

Tickets: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door
 Tickets may be purchased at W.T. Bland Public Library, Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce, Raintree Books stores or via the Mount Dora Library Association Web site, www.mountdoralibrary.com.

- 7 p.m. In the Mood for Love?**
Tavares Civic Center, 100 E. Caroline St., Tavares
 Parents can dance to the music of *The Lost Cats* while the children, ages 5-10, enjoy a movie and activities.
- 7 p.m. A Romantic English Tea**
Marion Baysinger Memorial County Library, 756 W. Broad St., Groveland
 This romantic evening will feature award-winning authors **Janice Sims** and **Caridad Ferrer**. Sims has written 17 romance novels and goes about Groveland with few aware that a nationally published author is in their midst. In 2004, her novel *Desert Heat* earned her an Emma Award for Favorite Heroine from the *Romance Slam Jam*. Ferrer is this year's RITA Award winner for Best Contemporary Single Title Romance for *Adios to My Old Life*.

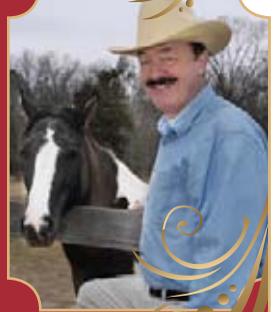
Friday, April 4

- 2 p.m. Ice Cream Social with Leigh Greenwood**
Cagan Crossings Community Library, 16729 Cagan Oaks, Clermont
 Enjoy an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social with romance author **Leigh Greenwood** who has been steaming up the pages of historical romances for years. The future is looking just as hot with Leigh's award-winning series' *The Cowboys and Seven Brides*.
- 2 to 4 p.m. An Afternoon Romance: Music with Olesya Pankiv**
Cooper Memorial Library, 821 W. Minneola Ave., Clermont
 Enjoy the beautiful melodies of Olesya Pankiv on the flute.
- 3 p.m. Hume's Fork with author Ron Cooper**
Lady Lake Public Library, 225 W. Guava St., Lady Lake
 Enjoy an afternoon with author **Ron Cooper**. His humorous novel *Hume's Fork* has been described as what Jean-Paul Sartre would have written had he grown up in the Deep South, as Walker Percy for rednecks, and as the book that fans of *A Confederacy of Dunces* have been waiting for. (Authorsden.com)
- 6 p.m. A Wine-derful Evening with Chocolate**
Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce, 341 N Alexander St., Mount Dora
 Enjoy a delectable evening of wine and chocolate pairing. This five course romantic sampling will be opened to the first 50 people who sign up in person at the library.
- 7 p.m. Past, Present and Future: Writing the Historical, Contemporary, and Futuristic Romance**
Leesburg Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Leesburg
 Leesburg Public Library features **Nancy J. Cohen** author of futuristic romance novels written as **Nancy Cane** and nine *Bad Hair Day* Mysteries; **Lisa Manuel**, author of three historical novels with one new historical and two paranormal historical to be released in 2008; and **Cynthia Thomason** author of nine historical and contemporary romances and a historical mystery series.



East Lake County Library Bluegrass Festival

Saturday, April 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



The Annual Bluegrass Festival will feature Western Romance author Leigh Greenwood. Leigh is no stranger to awards. He's won BookRazr's Bestselling award three times, the MAGGIE twice, Carolina Romance Writers Author of the Year Award twice, the Bookstores that Care Network Award for Best Sequel, and Romantic Times Career Achievement award. Six of Leigh's heroes have won Romantic Times' K.I.S.S. award. In addition to appearing regularly on the Waldenbooks bestseller list and Ingram's most Requested Books list, Leigh regularly appears on the USA Today bestseller list. Entertainers will include:

- 10:00 a.m. Bluegrass band **Bits of Grass** returns for second year to kick off the Festival
- 11:00 a.m. **Leigh Greenwood**. Author will be available to sign books following his presentation.
- 11:30 a.m. **Mountain Dulcimers** of Lake County perform old-time music
- 12:00 p.m. **Bluegrass Connection** band from Lady Lake makes their first appearance
- 1:00 p.m. Fiddler **Jonathan Hodge** performs traditional Irish and American music
- 1:30 p.m. **Sunshine Gospel Travelers** blend voices in harmony on favorite spirituals
- 2:00 p.m. **Bits of Grass** wraps up the festival

The event will offer activities free for children including Happy Faces, face painters, and Reed Pony Ride Express. Also, the Friends of the East Lake County Library will have their Spring Book/Bake sale, raffle and yard sale.

Saturday, April 5

- 10 a.m. Fiction Writing Seminar**
to 3 p.m. Clermont Woman's Club, 655 Broome St., Clermont
 Cooper Memorial Library will present the first annual Fiction Writing Seminar featuring: **Nancy J. Cohen**, **Lisa Manuel**, and **Cynthia Thomason**. The day will cover Elements of Fiction Writing in the morning and The Business of Writing in the afternoon. Topics will include characterization, plotting, research, settings that sizzle, self-editing, how to find an agent, query letters, and more. Event is free but reservations are requested, call (352) 394-4265.
- 11 a.m. Author Bob Grenier**
Astor County Library, 54905 Alco Road, Astor
 Astor County Library features historian and author **Bob Grenier** speaking about his latest book, *Woodlea: Life on the Lake of the Dancing Sunbeams*.

Youth Author Programs

Wednesday, April 2

10:15 a.m. Preschool Storytime with Iris Pearson and Mike Merrill

Marion Baysinger Memorial County Library, 756 W. Broad St., Groveland

Children's authors **Iris Pearson** and **Mike Merrill** will present their book, *The Adventures of Lady*.

10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytime with Susan Snyder, Rhyming Writer

Fruitland Park Library, 205 W. Berkman St., Fruitland Park

Preschoolers will enjoy this storytime with **Susan Snyder**, Rhyming Writer, author of *There's a Frog Trapped in the Bathroom*, *The Very Stubborn Centipede* and *Shivers and Shakes*.

11 a.m. Storytime with *The Fearful Fairy* author Sheri Hood

City of Tavares Public Library, 314 N. New Hampshire Ave., Tavares

Local picture book author **Sheri Hood** will be reading her book *The Fearful Fairy* about a fairy who is afraid to fly but learns to overcome her fears. Children and their parents are welcome to come listen to the story, sing songs, play with scarves and make a rainforest bookmark to take home.

1 p.m. Youth Author Edward Bloor

Cooper Memorial Library, 821 W. Minneola Ave., Clermont

Cooper Memorial Library will host award-winning youth author **Edward Bloor**. Mr. Bloor is the author of *Tangerine*, *Crusader*, *London Calling*, *Story Time* and *Taken*. This program is recommended for children ages 8 and up.

3 p.m. Latin Fiesta

Tavares Civic Center, 100 E. Caroline St., Tavares

For the Festival of Reading, the City of Tavares Public Library will host a Latin Fiesta for children and those young at heart. Come visit the library for a bilingual story, a fun craft, songs, snacks, refreshments and a piñata full of goodies.

3 p.m. Storytime with Iris Pearson and Mike Merrill

Paisley County Library, 24954 County Road 42, Paisley

Children's authors **Iris Pearson** and **Mike Merrill** will present a special storytime featuring their picture book, *The Adventures of Lady*.

Thursday, April 3

10:30 a.m. Storytime with Susan Snyder, Rhyming Writer

Leesburg Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Leesburg

Susan Snyder, Rhyming Writer, author of *There's a Frog Trapped in the Bathroom*, *The Very Stubborn Centipede* and *Shivers and Shakes* will be the special guest at this Toddler Storytime.

Friday, April 4

10:30 a.m. Storytime with Susan Snyder, Rhyming Writer

W.T. Bland Public Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St., Mount Dora

Susan Snyder, Rhyming Writer, author of *There's a Frog Trapped in the Bathroom*, *The Very Stubborn Centipede* and *Shivers and Shakes* will share her picture books during Preschool Storytime. Be sure to stay for a fun frog craft after the stories.

10:30 a.m. Storytime with Author Sheri Hood

Astor County Library, 54905 Alco Road, Astor

Local picture book author **Sheri Hood** will be reading her book *The Fearful Fairy* about a fairy who is afraid to fly but learns to overcome her fears. Children and their parents are welcome to come listen to the story.

Showcase Authors

Lyn Armstrong has a passion for writing historical romances with a sensual touch. Along with touring the countries she writes about, Lynn volunteers as a cast member for the Renaissance Festival. This self-confessed romantic wrote her first novel in the early 1990s and has been writing ever since. She currently serves on the Board of Florida Romance Writers and is an active member of the Romance Writers of America. *The Last Celtic Witch* is the first book from the Celtic Series published by Resplendence Publishing. It follows the life of a hunted witch who is the last of her kind. If she does not find the chosen one, she will perish and the world will plunge into darkness. New York Times best-selling author Heather Graham quotes: "As charming and magical as Celtic legend itself, a truly enjoyable read and wonderful debut!"



Nancy J. Cohen made her debut onto the publishing scene with futuristic romance novels written as Nancy Cane. Her first book, *Circle of Light*, won the Holt Medallion Award. The Bad Hair Day series features South Florida beauty salon owner and hairstylist Marla Shore, who untangles murder clues with sass and style under the sultry Florida sun. Nancy's books have been nominated by the RT Book Club for a Reviewer's Choice Award and have made the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association Bestseller List. *Killer Knots* and *Perish by Pedicure* are the latest titles in this series that Publisher's Weekly calls "fast-paced and jaunty". She is an active member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, Romance Writers of America, Novelists, Inc., and The Author's Guild.



Jo Dereske is the author of sixteen published books, including two mystery series. *Catalogue of Death* is the tenth Miss Zukas mystery, set in the fictional town of Bellehaven, Washington. In *Catalogue of Death*, a blinding blizzard brings Bellehaven to its knees and an explosion rips apart the plans for Bellehaven's new library, as well as the library's benefactor. *Index to Murder* will be released this April by Avon/HarperCollins. The New York Times called the Miss Zukas series "a loving sendup of the stereotype of the prim and proper librarian" and the Toronto Sun said "You're in for a good time." Her books have been on numerous bestseller lists, including BookSense and Amazon. *Bookmarked to Die* spent two months as the Number One Paperback on the nationwide Independent Mystery Booksellers Association's Bestseller List.



Dara Edmondson began making up stories as soon as she learned to speak. After careers in the salon industry and the real estate field, she has realized a life-long dream of becoming a writer of fiction. She lives in Orlando with her very supportive husband, son and daughter and two very spoiled cats. Originally from New York City, she grew tired of the harsh winters of the Northeast and opted to attend college in Florida. In 2004 she joined the Central Florida Romance Writers of America. She now serves as the organization's President. Dara's first contemporary romance novel, *The Kitten Club*, has garnered the praise of reviewers and fans alike. Her next contemporary romances, *Compromising Positions* and *Falling Star* will be released this year from The Wild Rose Press.



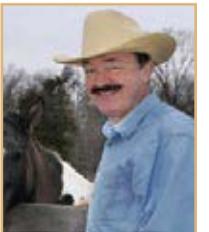
Caridad Ferrer (Barbara) is a first generation, bilingual, Cuban-American raised in Miami. She won the 2007 RITA for Best Contemporary Single Title Romance for *Adiós to My Old Life*. Reviews have been stellar including: "What shines through in Cuban American writer Ferrer's first novel is the rich diversity of Latino culture, and the celebration of music and its universal connections." (Hazel Rochman, Booklist) Her second MTV Books novel, *It's Not About the Accent* has just been released and she has contributed to the anthology, *Fifteen Candles: 15 Tales of Taffeta, Hairspray, Drunk Uncles, and Other Quinceañera Stories* (Harper Collins/Rayo).



Louise M. Gouge is an award-winning Christian fiction and historical romance author. She also teaches English and Humanities at Valencia Community College in Kissimmee, Fla. Among her seven published titles is the multi-award winning *Hannah Rose*, Book Two of Ahab's Legacy. Her latest "Then Came" series is set in the post-Civil War period: *Then Came Faith*, *Then Came Hope*, and *Then Came Love*. With her great love of history and research, Louise has traveled to several of her locations to ensure the accuracy of her stories' settings. When she isn't writing, she and her husband love to visit historical sites and museums.



Leigh Greenwood has been steaming up the pages of historical romances for years, and the future is looking just as hot! Leigh is the author of both the popular "Seven Brides" series and "The Cowboys" series. His first book, *Wyoming Wildfire*, was published by Zebra in 1987. Since then he's written 35 more books and four novellas. Leigh calls writing his mid-life crisis career. He has a BA in Voice and an MA in Musicology from the University of North Carolina and has taught music for thirty-two years before retiring to write full-time. Leigh has won Bookrak's Bestselling Award three times, the Maggie Award twice, Carolina Romance Writers Author of the Year Award twice, and Romantic Times Career Achievement Award. In addition, he's been a finalist three times in the National Reader's Choice Awards, and once each for the Holt Medallion and Romance Writers of America's RITA. In addition to appearing regularly on the Waldenbooks bestseller list and Ingram's Most Requested Books list, Leigh regularly appears on the USA Today bestseller list.



Angela Hunt is the best-selling author of *The Tale of Three Trees*, *The Debt*, *The Note* and *The Nativity Story*. She has sold over three million copies worldwide. She began her writing career in 1983 and after five years of honing her craft and writing for magazines, she published her first book in 1988. Since then, she has written over one hundred books for children and adults. Eight of her novels have won Angel Awards from Excellence in Media. Angela has also won four silver medals from ForeWord Magazine's 2007 Book of the Year Award for *The Justice*, *The Canopy*, *Magdalene*, and *Unspoken* and a Christy Award for *By Dawn's Early Light*. *The Novelist* won her the gold medal in ForeWord Magazine's 2007 Book of the Year Award. Three of her novels have been optioned for film, *The Note* by Journey Productions, *Uncharted* by Namesake, and *The Elevator* by Beth Grossbard Productions. Romantic Times Book Club presented her with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.



Julie Leto was born and raised in Florida in a close-knit family of Italian and Cuban descent. Julie learned never to give up or give in — especially when in pursuit of a life-long dream. She worked over eight years before Harlequin Temptation bought her first book. A romance reader from age 16, Julie knew what kind of stories she wanted to write and started her first romance novel in 1988 while in graduate school. The “call” from Harlequin came in March of 1997 with an offer to publish *Seducing Sullivan*, her fourth completed novel. Her desire to “push the envelope” worked well when Harlequin launched its new Blaze series, longer books that gave her the freedom to explore sensual stories with a more intricate plot. Her works include *Dirty Little Secrets*, *Making Waves*, *More Than Words*, *Seducing Sullivan*, *New Orleans Nights*, *A Fare to Remember*, *Boys of Summer* and *The Domino Effect*.



Pam Labud is a twenty-four year nursing field veteran. Working mostly in critical care, her long and varied time includes working in the cardiac catheterization lab, post surgical recovery room, intensive care unit, and home health. For Pam, it’s all about giving people the best possible care and providing emotional support to her patients and their families during what is a most critical time. “I am many things, but family always comes first, doing the best job I can as a nurse, and then my heart — which is writing romance novels. I’m the prime example of having the full life!” Her titles include *The Hanging Bride*, *If You Could Read My Mind*, *Spirited Away*, *Strong Arms to Hold Me* and *The Mad Earl*. Labud is a member of the Romance Writers of America and the Central Florida Romance Writers. She is currently working on several different projects including a series of “Regency” paranormal books and an urban fantasy novel.



Sandra Madden is a former writer/producer/host for a Miami PBS television station where she wrote and produced documentaries, public affairs programs and how-to-series. Previously, she enjoyed a twenty-five year career in commercial broadcasting in both Miami and Los Angeles. Sandra wrote radio copy and promotion as well as serving as voice-over talent. She is a published poet and the author of thirteen romance novels published by Kensington and Dorchester. Her historical and contemporary books have been published in many languages including French, Italian, German and Dutch. *Men of Annapolis*, her last historical series for Kensington includes, *The Admiral’s Daughter*, *The Lieutenant’s Woman*, and *Kiss Me at Christmas*. Sandra’s new January 2008 release is a memoir entitled *Reuben On Wry*, which she wrote in collaboration with her husband, comedian and actor, Dave Madden. Madden belongs to Romance Writers of America, the Orange County Chapter of RWA and is the 2008 co-president of First Coast Romance Writers. Other books written under the magical spell of romance and imagination include *A Prince’s Heart*, *A Princess Born*, *Heaven Sent*, *Comfort and Joy* and *Since You’ve Been Gone*.



Lisa Manuel entered the publishing world as an assistant editor for a reference book publisher and later, as a writer of biographies. It was in romance fiction, however, and particularly historical romance, that she discovered her passion. Manuel is the author of the historical novels *Mostly Married*, *Mostly Mayhem* and *Mostly a Lady*. In 2005, *Mostly Married* was nominated for the prestigious Holt Medallion Award by the Virginia Romance Writers. Her fourth English-set historical, *Fortune’s Kiss*, was recently released in March 2008. Also writing under the pen name Allison Chase, her first two paranormal historical novels will be released in May 2008 and December 2008. These days, Manuel makes her home in South Florida with her husband and two teenage daughters. They love to travel, especially to the places that have inspired her writing. Manuel is currently serving as vice-president of the Florida Romance Writers.



Connie Mason is the best-selling author of more than fifty historical romances and novellas. Her tales of passion and adventure are set in exotic as well as American locales. Prior to her first published work in 1984, Mason was a full-time homemaker. Always an avid reader, writing was one of her dreams. Mason was named Story Teller of the Year in 1990 by Romantic Times in 1994 and was featured on a segment of the CBS news show “48 Hours”, a production that devoted an entire program to the romance novel industry.



Aleka Nakis born in Athens and raised in the states, has straddled the Atlantic with a foot on each continent for many years. High school and college proved to be a battle between journalism and graduation. However, the need to finish her degree kept her writing private until her desire to write was no longer containable. she ended her management career to write full-time. Blending her life passions of story telling, travel, and exotic cultures, Nakis aims to transport her readers into the magical world of romance. Her books include *Eyes of the Dead* and *The Greek Rule*. *The Summer Deal* will be released this spring. Her novella, *Sempre*, was published in the Holiday in the Heart Romance Anthology.



Terry Odell was born in Los Angeles and now makes her home in Orlando, Fla. An avid reader, she always wanted to “fix” stories so the characters did what she wanted. Once she began writing, she found that this wasn’t always possible, as evidenced when the mystery she intended to write rapidly became a romance. With her degree in Psychology from UCLA, she loves getting into the minds of her characters, turning them loose in tight spots and seeing what they do, and too often, they surprise her. Terry has numerous short stories published by The Wild Rose Press. Cerridwen Press has published three of her romantic suspense novels: *Finding Sarah*, *What’s in a Name?* and *Starting Over*. A fourth book is pending with Five Star in its Expressions line. She is an active member of the Central Florida Romance Writers of America chapter, the Spacecoast Authors of Romance, and the Kiss of Death chapter of Romance Writers of America.



Katherine Hall Page was born and grew up in New Jersey, received her BA from Wellesley College majoring in English, and went on to Masters in Secondary Education from Tufts and a Doctorate in Administration, Public Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard. After the birth of her son, Katherine wrote her first mystery, *The Body in the Belfry* which won the 1991 Agatha Award winner for Best First Mystery Novel. The fifteenth in the series, *The Body in the Snowdrift*, won the 2006 Agatha Award for Best Mystery Novel. Katherine was also awarded the 2001 Agatha Award for Best Short Story for “The Would-Be Widower” in the Malice Domestic X Collection (Avon Books). She was an Edgar nominee for her juvenile mystery, *Christie & Company Down East*. *The Body in the Bonfire* was an Agatha nominee in 2003. Her short story “The Two Mary’s” was an Agatha nominee in 2004. The seventeenth in the series, *The Body in the Gallery*, will be published by William Morrow in 2008.



Janice Sims once wanted to become a nurse until she witnessed the results of an autopsy while participating in a student career day program at her high school. Totally grossed out, from that point on she knew nursing was not the field for her. Luckily, from the age of seven, she had been hooked on writing. She decided to major in journalism instead. She’s glad she did, because today, she’s the author of thirteen novels and has contributed to six anthologies. Sims is known for writing stories that are humorous, touching, and that explore the dynamics of close family ties. Putting African-American characters in unusual settings is her forte. In her novel, *A Bittersweet Love*, the hero and heroine met in Ireland of all places and in *For Keeps*, the setting was Montana.



Even more than unusual settings, Janice enjoys exploring occupations that appeal to her. In *Out of the Blue*, her heroine, Gaea Maxwell, was a marine biologist who happened to be half-alien. *Out of the Blue* was the first African-American sci-fi romance. Years later, she wrote a second African-American sci-fi romance, *Desert Heat*. It went on to win the prestigious Emma Award for Best Heroine in 2004.

Roxanne St. Claire is the bestselling author of a dozen books, including romantic suspense, short contemporary romance, and chick-lit novels. St. Claire received two nominations for the romance publishing industry’s highest award of distinction, and was overjoyed to be a 2007 RITA Award winner. The award named *Tis The Silly Season* in the anthology *A NASCAR Holiday* the Best Romantic Novella. Her books have won numerous industry awards, including the Booksellers Best Award for Best Romantic Suspense of 2005, the Maggie Award for Best Single Title Romance, the Aspen Gold for Best Mainstream with Romantic Elements, the Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence for Short Contemporary, and the Colorado Award of Excellence. Her novels have been selected for the Doubleday and Rhapsody Book Club, and have been translated into dozens of languages and routinely spend time on the Walden Books Bestseller List.



Roxanne holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Mass Market Communications from UCLA and has completed several post-graduate courses in Marketing Management at Harvard University. Prior to launching a full-time career as a novelist, Roxanne worked as a television actress and news reporter, appearing in *Bosom Buddies* and *Laverne & Shirley*, and hosting a regional news program in Southern California.

Elizabeth Sinclair, a romantic at heart and having devoured romances like Hershey Kisses, it was inevitable that she would one day write them. Following her dreams, in 1993 she sold her first romance, *Jenny’s Castle*, to Silhouette Intimate Moments and surprised her by reaching Number 2 on the Walden Bestseller List and winning a Georgia Romance Writers’ Maggie Award of Excellence. Since then, this multi-published author’s books have sold in eighteen foreign countries and have been translated into seven different languages. Elizabeth is a member of the Romance Writers of America and The Author’s Guild. She co-founded the Ancient City Romance Authors of St. Augustine, Fla. and the First Coast Romance Writers of Jacksonville, Fla., and is an honorary member of the Indiana Romance Writers. In addition to having authored the widely-acclaimed instructional books *The Dreaded Synopsis* and *First Chapters*, she has published over eighteen romances with Silhouette, Harlequin, Kensington, and Medallion Press.



Elizabeth’s latest Silhouette Romantic Suspense is *Touched by Fire*, the sequel to *Baptism by Fire*, the 2006 National Reader’s Choice Award winner. Sinclair will have three books released in 2008: the third book in the Silhouette F.I.S.T. series, *Bound by Fire*; *Into the Mist*, the sequel to her Romantic Times Reviewer’s Choice Award winner *Miracle in the Mist*, will be released in March from Medallion Press; and her Christmas book, *Angel Unaware* will hit the shelves from Medallion Press in December.

Linnea Sinclair is a former news reporter and retired private detective who yearns for more adventure than ‘Hold the presses!’ and stacks of case files can provide. The role of starship captain was her dream long before James T. Kirk ever uttered “Beam me up!” and writing stories is her way of living that dream. Linnea lives in South Florida with her husband, Robert Bernadino, two thoroughly spoiled cats and one equally spoiled Muscovy duckling named O.E. Her popular novels are considered Science Fiction Romance and include: *Games of Command*, *Accidental Goddess*, *Finders Keepers* and *Gabriels Ghost* (2006 RITA Award winner). *The Down Home Zombie Blues*, just released, is a steamy suspenseful thriller featuring a dangerously sexy space commander and an irresistibly earthy Florida detective.



Cynthia Thomason’s first book, *River Song*, was published in 1998, and since then she has published five historical romances, one time travel anthology, seven contemporary romances and two historical mysteries. The historical mystery series is “The Jubilee Showboat Mysteries” with amateur sleuth Gwen Barlow and a colorful cast of showboat actors. Book One, *Stagestruck*, has been released in hardcover and large print editions, and is now available in trade paperback. Book Two, *Grave Review*, was released in September 2005. Cynthia has received the National Reader’s Choice Award, nominations for a Romantic Times Reviewer’s Choice Award and the Golden Quill. She and her husband own an auction company in Davie, Fla. where she is a licensed auctioneer.



Heather Waters grew up as an Air Force brat, which means by the time she was thirteen, she'd lived in four states and two countries. Six years spent in Turkey led to a fascination in history and foreign cultures that still feed her dreams today. She owes her love of books, romances in particular, to her mother who handed her *The Princess* by Jude Deveraux in the sixth grade. The passion developed from there into a love of writing. She can't wait for the day when an editor tells her that it's okay to write a sprawling historical revolving around a Turkish sultan. Now the mother of two, Heather resides in Florida with her family and a lazy golden retriever called Sadie. Her book, *The Devil's Possession*, received 4 ½ stars (Top Pick!) from Romantic Times Book Review and *Destiny's Warrior* from Berkley Sensation was recently released in December 2007.



C.L. Wilson: "I was born in Houston, TX, while my parents worked at NASA to help put a man on the moon, and raised on a heady combination of space food and the fairy tales I insisted my mother read to me, is it any wonder I grew up to write stories about other worlds? Being more inclined toward artistic rather than engineering or hard-science endeavors, my stories naturally migrated into the realm of fantasy where imagination is king and anything is possible. Combine that with a love for historical romances, and a cradle-born fascination with myths, legends, and lore, and—voila!—you have a fantasy romance /romantic fantasy novelist." Award-winning author C.L. Wilson combines sweeping sword and sorcery fantasy with the simmering passion of romance in her two-book publishing debut, *Tairen Soul: Lord of the Fading Lands* and *Tairen Soul: Lady of Light and Shadows*. Her debut novel hit the USA Today, and the second made the extended NY Times List of Best Sellers. *Lord of the Fading Lands* was selected as the best Paranormal Romance Debut of 2007 by Lifetimerv.com's Michelle Buonfiglio, and is a finalist for a P.E.A.R.L. awards for Best New Author of 2007 from Paranormal Romance, and LADY is a 2008 Fantasm Award finalist in the Best Epic Fantasy novels category.



Guest Authors

Bob Morris, Lake County native, returns to the Festival of Reading as a guest moderator on Monday, March 31 at 7 p.m. at the Leesburg Public Library. Bob's travels have inspired his series of mystery novels from St. Martin's Press, each of which takes place on a different Caribbean island. The first one, *Bahamarama*, was released to wide acclaim in November 2004 and was a finalist for the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best First Mystery Novel and chosen by the Library Journal as one the year's Top Five Mysteries. Morris's second novel, *Jamaica Me Dead*, was released in 2005 and was a BookSense Pick by the American Booksellers Association. His latest book, *Bermuda Schwartz* was released 2007.



Colleen Avelli was born and raised on Long Island, New York. Graduating from the State University of New York at Stony Brook with a B.A. in English and a minor in Art History, Avelli went on to teach Middle School English, incorporating artistic element and theory into her classroom. In more recent years, Avelli has followed her dreams to become a writer, publishing *In Mother's Hands*, a romantic transcendence into the folds of time, *From the Well* an ethereal poetry collection and *A Spell Too Far*, a collaboration of mystical verse. Today Avelli lives in Florida with her family where she continues to write and paint of the Celtic and the mystical. Currently she is working on *The Pendragon*, a tale of Arthurian Legend and *Who Will Come For Me?* a romance of enduring ties.



Edward Bloor, a former high school English teacher, has managed to find time while working as a book editor at a major publishing house and helping to raise his two children to pen five well-received novels for teen readers: *Taken*, *Crusader*, *Story Time*, *London Calling*, and the award-winning debut novel *Tangerine*. *Tangerine* was in the American Library Association Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults, 1998; received an Edgar Allan Poe Award nomination for Best Young Adult Novel, 1998; and was the 1997 American Booksellers Association Pick of the List.



Nancy Butler-Ross is a published author, freelance writer and editor, and former Miami Herald columnist who lives in Mount Dora and Woodstock, NY. She co-authored *Meditation Express: Stress Relief in 60 Seconds Flat* (McGraw-Hill), which was chosen as a selection of both the Book of the Month and One Spirit Book Clubs, and recently featured on the Care2.com network. Nancy is also the creator of the DeStressXpress, a weekly online wellness service for corporations and universities. She is a member of PEN and the International Women's Writers Guild.



Ron Cooper was born in the South Carolina low country where he grew up traipsing through the swamp. He received a BA in Philosophy from the College of Charleston, an MA from the University of South Carolina, and a PhD from Rutgers University. He moved to Florida in 1988 and since 1995, he has taught at Central Florida Community College in Ocala, Fla. Ron is a past president of the Florida Philosophical Association, has published philosophical essays, and is the author of “Heidegger and Whitehead: A Phenomenological Examination into the Intelligibility of Experience”. His fiction has appeared in publications such as Yalobusha Review, Apostrophe, Timber Creek Review, and The Blotter. His novel *Hume’s Fork* is available from Bancroft Press “Books that Enlighten”.



Bob Grenier is actively involved in the historical community, and belongs to several organizations including the North Lake County Civil War Roundtable, Vice President of the Lake County Historical Society, President of the Historical Society of Tavares, the 17th Connecticut Reenactors, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans, where he was the first recipient of the “Distinguished Legionnaires Award” in 2005. He is involved in many historical preservation and restoration projects which include the saving of the Capt. Haynes Woodlea house and is the author of *The Gallant Captain Melton Haynes* and *Woodlea: Life on the Lake of the Dancing Sunbeams*.



Everett Kelly was born in Alabama, but left his native state at the age of three to move to and be raised in Florida. He served in the United States Navy in World War II. After his military service, he earned a degree in Zoology from Florida State University and a degree in Pharmacy from the University of Florida. He was elected to The Florida House of Representatives in 1978 and served as the Speaker Pro-Tem for two of the twenty-two years he served in that body. After his distinguished service to Florida, he retired to his central Florida home in Lady Lake. Kelly wrote a weekly outdoor column for a New York Times paper for eleven years and hosted an outdoor television show. He is the author of two Florida historical novels, *The Atatl* and *Ida’s Caleb*.



Mark Newhouse is the author of numerous stories, articles and educational materials. His “Rockhound Science Mysteries” invite children to help Rockhound, the dog detective, solve mysteries using knowledge of science. Newhouse also authored *Who’s Afraid of Essays? Success Strategies for Teachers...Parents too!* and received the Elementary/Secondary Teacher of the Year Award. He is a frequent presenter in schools and educational organizations.

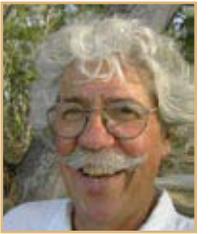
Iris Pearson and Mike Merrill are local children’s authors living in Orlando. This couple worked with Project Firefly Animation Studios to create a picture book based on their rescue of a squirrel during Hurricane Charley in 2004. You can learn more about their book at www.theadventuresoflady.com. Iris and Mike are both accountants by profession, but love to talk to young readers about their book.

Helene Scanlon is a dynamic writer that grounds her dramatic works. Whether she is penning her latest masterpiece or providing other writers with character profiles, she goes the distance to ensure that her passion and knowledge imbue each word with profound meaning. Scanlon lives to create short stories that come to life and captivate the reader. Additionally, she works with publishers and writers to provide research services. Scanlon received a Bachelor’s Degree in Mass Media Radio & Television before completing her senior thesis on Romance. While researching her thesis, she fell in love with the genre and now brings that passion to the page. With more than eight years of informal experience, Scanlon recently established her exciting new career as a freelance writer and is currently a member of the National Organization of The Romance Writers of America and its Chapter in the Central Florida Romance Writers in Winter Park, Fla.

Susan E. Snyder is a licensed occupational therapy assistant in the Florida school system. She is the author of three picture books: *There’s a Frog Trapped in the Bathroom*, *The Very Stubborn Centipede*, and *Shivers and Shakes*. She is also the co-author of the phonics program “Singing for Reading Meaning”. Her story ideas come right from incidents which happened at Harbour View Elementary and surviving all the lizards and creepy crawlers her two sons brought home as young boys. She learned that there is always another story waiting to be told and something to giggle at if one is observant. Affectionately called Susan Snyder, Rhyming Writer, she uses rhyming words to tell the stories. She believes that reading rhyming stories out loud to toddlers helps prepare them to read. Children tend to remember rhyming words and recite along with the reader, giving them a feeling of accomplishment and an enthusiasm for reading.



Michael Suib is the “Dateline: Paradise” columnist for the *Miami Herald*. He is a poet and author, a former New York City businessman turned Florida columnist who lives on a houseboat in Key West, where he sometimes drives a pink taxi to help stay afloat. His latest book is *Confessions of a Key West Cabby*. Michael was a featured poet at the Hemingway Days Festival in Key West, in 1999 and his poetry has been published in numerous publications, newspapers and web locations. Present projects include a chap book *The River of Duval*; a weekly column appearing in a local newspaper, “The Key West Citizen”; and a book of unique meditations, *The Meditation Express*, which he co-authored with Nancy Butler-Ross.



Elise Van Cise is a native Floridian, born and raised in the Sunshine state. Her love of words and home base her books somewhere in the state and her love of history and the supernatural usually play a part as well. National Novel Writing Month, started her dream of becoming published on the route to coming true. The first draft for her first book was written in 28 days during the month long event. Honors include NaNoWriMo 2006, Script Frenzy 2007, and Who’s Who Among Professional Women in Writing and Publishing.



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