

# SPUR

## **A WRITE IT OUT® NEWSLETTER**

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*WRITE IT OUT® (WIO) is a motivational and expressive writing program  
for individuals of all ages since 1992*

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## EDITORS'S MESSAGE



Our seasons are subtle in Sarasota, as is life changing from one beat to another. The old lingers as the new sprouts forward. Some of us at Thanksgiving traveled to spend time with family. Arlington, Virginia was my destination to have my kids and grandkids under one roof. The auto train left from Sanford, FL and arrived in Lorton VA, and in less than twenty-four hours I went from

80 degrees to 32 degrees, from palms to maples but the change was gradual as I viewed the scenes out the window of the train. Not so when I stepped into the Virginia air bundled in a down coat. The reality of icy weather was a shock. Yet it transported me back to another time in my life when it was natural to be bundled up for late November weather in New York and accommodating to snow and ice was a way of life. Writing has become my way of life now. It's the vehicle that allows me to express my thoughts, feelings and experiences, the very foundation of the Write It Out® program initiated in 1992 when an idea became a reality. My clients and students have been the source that encourages me to continue to develop this program that enables all of us to express our creativity through writing. We enter into a New Year with positive energy to attain our goals. Join us in 2019 for a week's Tuscan immersion at our traditional writing retreat workshop. You'll enjoy the Italian culture in the Chianti hills while absorbing sensory experiences to fuel your imagination. Take advantage of the five percent discount on tuition for clients, students and National League of American Pen Women members. Happy Holidays.

*Ronni*

## TUSCANY IN 2019

### INVITATION TO JOIN US IN TUSCANY

**WHEN:** OCTOBER 12- OCTOBER 20, 2019

**WHERE:** VILLA LE BARONE, PANZANO IN CHIANTI, TUSCANY, ITALY

**WHAT:** WRITE IT OUT WRITING RETREAT & WORKSHOP

**WHO:** YOU

**WHY:** FOR AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

**HOW:** See details on [www.WriteItOut.com](http://www.WriteItOut.com)



Join me for another Write It Out WRITING RETREAT WORKSHOP held in Tuscany, Italy since 1997. We will again be at Villa Le Barone to enjoy their gracious hospitality on October 12-20, 2019. It is a place in the Chianti hills of Panzano seeped in family as much as regional history and dates back to the Renaissance when this now fourth star hotel was a farm. Villa Le Barone is known in the region for its Tuscan cuisine and presentation and provides comfortable rooms, artistic visuals and natural spaces to stimulate your creativity, senses and imagination.



The nearby village of Panzano has art shops, restaurants and a piazza where a marketplaces of local wares are sold weekly. The historic and art filled cities and towns of Florence, Siena and San Gimignano are optional day trips away.

Salons in the evenings provide a time for participants to share their work. My third novel has several scenes that are set here and I enjoy reading them one evening at the salon. Immersion for a week in Tuscan culture is a treat for a lifetime. See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) for more particulars. Ronni and Write It Out's clients and students plus paid-up members of the National League of American Pen Women are eligible for a 5% discount on tuition for the Tuscany workshop. **Registration begins in January 21, 2019.** Seven is the *minimum* number of participants in order to make this adventure happen. Space at the Villa Le Barone is limited. Early registration is suggested.

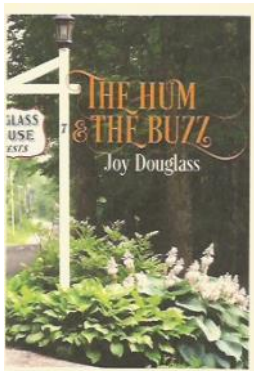
## BOOK MIDWIFE AVAILABLE

You've been thinking about and planning to house your collection of stories in a book. You're not sure how to organize the material whether memoir or fiction, essays or poetry. Time evaporates. Now is the time to begin the project you've dreamed about. Set your goals. Envision the finished project. Make an appointment with me, Book Midwife/Developmental editor who will guide you to birth your book. Don't wait make your arrangements for private work before the end of the year and take advantage of the 2018 fees. Contact Ronni [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) or 941-359-3824 to discuss your needs and set up an appointment.

## NEW PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP LAUNCHED

The playwriting workshop began early summer and has continued through the fall with plans to continue through the winter. One of our students Roxanne Baker workshopped her play *Not My Neighbors* in the class and a reading of it was presented at Bookstore I in Sarasota this past November 11, 2018. This is a small class of those who are just beginning to write monologues, dialogues, ten-minute and full length plays and some who have had previous experience and desire to continue to have their plays read and honed in an incubation space. The study of playwriting is also helpful for the prose writer to incorporate dialogue in their manuscripts. E-mail or call Ronni if you're interested in joining the group [RmillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RmillerWIO@gmail.com) or 941-359-3824.

## ANNOUNCING THE NEW ARRIVAL



*The Hum And The Buzz* by Joy Douglas has just been published! The term of gestation and delivery as we worked together was almost three years, and Joy delivered a delicious and sparkling book of her forty years of experiences running Douglas House, a guest house in Stockbridge, MA. This is the famous town in the Berkshires known as the summer home of Boston Symphony, The Red Lion Inn and theater playhouses. Chapters provide humor, how-to's, profiles of guests and workmen and relationships with the famous of the Boston Symphony. I had the pleasure of attending and being honored at the opening book signing at Douglas House. Former and ongoing guests as well as the important workers cheered the author as she read a few stories from the book. Afterwards we were all treated to a sumptuous, catered meal hosted by Joy and husband Chet under a tent as we viewed the sunset over the lake. Joy first began writing stories of her experiences running a guesthouse in my class at The Longboat Key Education Center entitled Express Yourself Through Writing. It was clear to me that Joy had a book and we then began working together in private to birth it. You don't want to miss this warm and insightful story soon to be available on Amazon.

### ***BETWEEN LOVERS TO BE PUBLISHED***

Robi Jode Press will soon publish my new collection of short stories *Between Lovers*. It encompasses stories of relationships where protagonists are discovered and abandoned, embraced and replaced and evolve to their essential selves. Many of the stories in this collection have won awards for fiction. This joins *Domestic Shorts*, my first collection of short stories focused on relationships. Date of publication will be announced in 2019.

### **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP AT RONNI'S STUDIO**

The lazy days of summer were alive with creativity at Ronni's Studio in Pinehurst Village Sarasota. The popular creative writing at-home workshops once a tradition, began again this summer and are continuing through the fall and winter. Small groups meet for two hours a week in four -week terms to share memoir and fiction materials, some headed for books. It only takes desire, and dedication to join the group regardless of experience. Some people are published, some not, but all enjoy the connection to creativity. To sign up for a term or a day contact Ronni: [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) or call 941-359-3824.

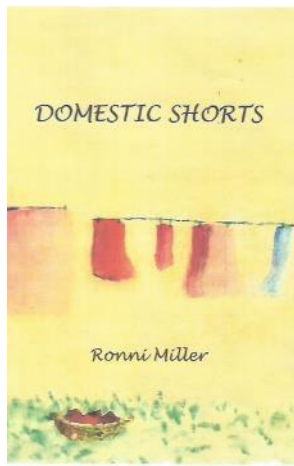
### **NEW YORK MOUNTAIN MAGIC**

Twenty-four years ago a WIO workshop began in the rural community of Greenville, NY. The local library in the tiny village hosted writers who met for a one-week intensive. People returned year after year, brought children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors. The children and grandchildren grew into adults and some became professional writers and moved across the country. Some were second home dwellers who shuttled between New York City and Greenville, some were native farmers who had lived on the land for generations. All came together year after year to share stories in writing and they bonded with each other. At the time when the workshop began I was living with my husband in a nearby community, and since moved thousands of miles south. I missed the mountains and each year made a pilgrimage back to the magic I had experienced and remembered. 2019 will begin a new chapter of holding a WIO workshop elsewhere in the mountains because the Greenville Library is no longer able to support this workshop. Students and I are looking into ways to provide a new workshop in a new location. News as to our success will be announced.



*WIO workshop in September 2018 at the Greenville Library, Greenville NY*

## DOMESTIC SHORTS ON AMAZON



“She had returned, or was it run off to Italy, the place of her first love, at least with a country that had remained available to her, and provided her with dreams and material to write.”  
From “Memoir Of A Displaced Person” – *Domestic Shorts*

“Eighteen short stories in this collection from author Ronni Miller speak of connections with lovers and places. Female characters struggle with loss, gain and longing and the ironies of life. Pathos and humor and a pinch of romance swirl through the stories that entertain as well as provide a window of insight into the human experience.”-*Domestic Shorts* Purchase Ronni’s first book of short stories on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Domestic-Shorts-Ronni-Miller/dp/0692921931> in paperback.

## UPCOMING NEWS



**Sunday Salons** at Ronni’s Studio will begin in January, 2019. Those of you who have attended in the past have enjoyed the array of talent presented by writers, artists, musicians, and actors. The opportunity to meet new friends around the dessert table is an additional plus. If you’d like to be included please e-mail me at [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) or call 941-359-3824.

## A READING OF *EXPOSED*

Readings are vital to playwrights to ascertain what works and what doesn’t. My two-act play will have a preview reading several times in early 2019 in preparation for future production. The Readings will be held at a friend’s house in February and at SAPS (Sarasota Area Playwrights Society) in March. If interested in attending, contact [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com).

***Exposed: A life story of a writer’s life.*** Susan goes from playmate in a washtub to twice-married woman searching for love in all the wrong places. The Catskill Mountains, suburbs of New Jersey, Tuscan hills, Bermuda sands and Florida shores provide the backdrop for lovers and escapades that become the canvas for her stories and novels. Conflicts of rejection plague her journey until she discovers a secret.



## WRITING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE for 2018-2019

**Contact Ronni at [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) for more information.**

*Our Writing Workshop Schedule is also posted on our [website](#).  
Times and places can change so please e-mail me or call to get the latest information.*

### **Expressive Writing Workshops**

#### **EXPRESSIVE WRITING**

*A writing workshop to use expressive writing techniques for personal growth and wellness.*

#### **Jewish Family and Children's Services**

[Temple Beth Shalom, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Building #1, Sarasota, FL 34237](#)

Wednesdays 2:00-4:00 PM, from October 3, 2018 through July 2019.

Tuition: Free to those impacted by cancer as patient, caregiver or family member.

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-366-2224, ask for Bambi Furtado.

#### **EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH WRITING**

*A workshop that stimulates autobiographical material as a means to express and reveal your story in fact and fiction.*

#### **The Longboat Key Education Center**

[5370 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Suite #212, Longboat Key, FL 34228](#)

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 PM, January 8 through February 28, 2019 (eight sessions)

Tuition: members of LBK ED Center - \$145, non-members \$155.

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 PM, March 5 through March 26, 2018 (4 sessions)

Tuition: members of LBK Ed Center: \$85, non-members \$95

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-383-8811

## **MEMOIR PLUS**

*A workshop to write memoirs and any other genres based on personal life experiences.*

### **OLLI Lifelong Learning Program at Ringling College**

[Temple Beth Shalom, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Building #1, Sarasota, FL 34237](#)

Winter Term: Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM, January 17 - March 7, 2019 (8 sessions)

Spring Term: Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM, March 14 - May 2, 2019 (8 sessions)

Summer Term: TBA

Tuition: members: \$85.50, nonmembers: \$95

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-309-5111

## **Creative Writing Workshops**

### **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP**

*Workshop to express fiction, nonfiction and poems.*

#### **Ronni's Studio at Pinehurst Village, Sarasota FL 34243**

Thursdays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, November 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2018

Fridays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2019

Fridays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, February 8, 22, March 1, 8, 2019

Fridays 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2019

April, May & June TBA

Tuition: \$95 for the term if paid on or before the first class or \$25 if paid for individual classes.

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-359-3824



## **Playwriting and Playreading Workshops**

### **PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP**

*Workshop to write plays and theater pieces.*

**Ronni's Studio at Pinehurst Village, Sarasota FL 34243**

Thursdays 2:00-4:00 PM, November 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2018

Fridays 2:00-4:00 PM, January 4, 11, 18, 25, 2019

Fridays 2:00-4:00 PM, February 8, 22, March 1, 8, 2019

Fridays 2:00-4:00 PM, March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2019

April, May & June TBA

Tuition: \$95 for the term if paid on or before the first class or \$25 if paid for individual classes.

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-359-3824

### **PLAYREADING: THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE**

*A class to read one-act plays and a full length play, and consider the playwrights' representation of the human experience.*

**OLLI Lifelong Learning Program at Ringling College**

[Temple Beth Shalom, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Building #1, Sarasota, FL 34237](#)

Winter term: Thursdays 1:00 PM - 2:20 PM, January 17 - March 7, 2019 (8 sessions)

Spring term: Thursdays 1:00 PM - 2:20 PM, March 14 - May 2, 2019 (8 sessions)

Tuition: members \$85.50, non-members \$95

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-309-5111

### **Expressive Writing and Painting Retreats**

Click [here](#) for more information.

- [Tuscany “Viva L’Italia”](#), Villa Le Barone, Panzano in Chianti, Tuscany, Italy: Friday, October 12 - Saturday October 20, 2019: Tuition \$950 (not including room, board or transportation). Facilitator: Ronni Miller.

### **SUGGESTED READING FOR WORKSHOPS:**

- [Dance With The Elephants, Free Your Creativity And Write](#) by Ronni Miller
- [Cocoon To Butterfly: A Metamorphosis of Personal Growth Through Expressive Writing](#) by Ronni Miller
- [Domestic Shorts](#) by Ronni Miller

Make your plans to join us!

*Ronni*