

# SPUR

## A WRITE IT OUT® NEWSLETTER

Write It Out  
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Editor: Ronni Miller, Sarasota, FL

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

### EDITORS'S MESSAGE



Season's ebb and flow melding into one another as do memories. I've recently returned from facilitating my writing/retreat workshop at Villa Le Barone, a four star hotel in Tuscany, that exudes graciousness, history, art, pastoral scenery, gourmet regional meals and a connection to poets and artists reminiscent of the Renaissance. The villa, home of Count and Countess Aloisi de Larderel has been in their family for generations. The

hills and valleys of olive trees and grape arbors, the Cyprus trees that dot the landscape, villages of ancient stone houses and narrow roads that wind through all is what I've come to call home in mind, flesh and spirit. If you relax and absorb, the setting will spawn material to last a lifetime. Join me next October to experience for yourself the magic of living in this environmentally green garden of creativity.

Italy has been a place that has embraced me from the first moments I came to know it some forty years ago. Since then, I've spent years in northern Italy and facilitated writing retreat workshops in Tuscany for the last twenty-two years. Villa Le Barone in Panzano is the present location not far from Florence and Siena. As a fledgling writer, traveling with a young family and husband, I first stayed at the home of the writer Arturo Vivante in Siena

who became my mentor and recently won the Katherine Anne Porter award for literature. That home for a week became a turning point in my writing career. It spawned an opus that is still fermenting in a third novel *A Woman Of A Certain Age* and “Awakening”, a short story both set in Tuscany. The latter will be published in *Between Lovers*, my second book of short stories available by the end of December, 2019.

Across the pond, Sarasota, FL is my home and base for Write It Out that is now entering its 28<sup>th</sup> year of providing writing workshops for students of all ages, as well as private sessions with clients to birth their books. Many of you know the story of Write It Out’s birth as an epiphany in a pine cabin in Woodstock, New York and brought into fruition on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. You’ve read and been motivated by *Dance With The Elephants-Free Your Creativity And Write* and *Cocoon To Butterfly: A Metamorphosis of Personal Growth Through Expressive Writing* the two books related to the WIO program and used for years in the workshops. *Domestic Shorts*, a collection of short fiction stories available on Amazon will soon be joined by the next collection of short stories noted above.

Join our Wednesday afternoon Expressive Writing Workshops at my studio. These small gatherings provide feedback for participants who are working on memoir and fiction, poetry and journal pieces. See the Schedule.

Book Midwife services are growing with clients all over the country able to work with me by phone, Skype, Face time and even snail mail. Don’t wait. Book your appointments now.

Enjoy this year’s past and coming events, our 2019-2020 Workshop Schedule, [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) website and friend us on Facebook.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Ronni*

## **EXPRESSIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS AT RONNI’S STUDIO**

Expressive Writing workshops continue on Wednesday afternoons through the fall, winter, and spring at my studio in Pinehurst Village, Sarasota, FL. These small workshops are open to beginners as well as advanced writers to share and grow with work read and written. Supportive and focused, the workshops provide skills for both fiction nonfiction, poetry and plays that use the concepts of the Write It Out philosophy of utilizing feelings, memories and experiences as the foundation for all genres of writing. Motivational exercises trigger and stimulate written work. It only takes desire, and dedication to enjoy the connection to creativity. I feel it’s important to let go, lift off and discover your own magic.

## UP AND COMING!

### TUSCANY RETREAT & WRITING WORKSHOP

Wednesday, October 21-Thursday, October 29, 2020



Join me for another Write It Out WRITING RETREAT/ WORKSHOP held in Tuscany, at Villa Le Barone to enjoy their gracious hospitality. It is a boutique gem of a place in the Chianti hills of Panzano seeped in family as much as regional history and dates back before the 20<sup>th</sup> C. 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, antiques, art, visuals and natural spaces to stimulate your creativity, senses and imagination. Salons are held in the evening before dinner to share work brought from home or produced during the week.

The story of Villa Le Barone is fascinating for writers since it's origins have much to do with a woman, a poet and agriculturalist Maria Blanche Viviani Della Robbia who was involved in her literary salon in Florence and at the same time desired to improve farming techniques and the quality of life of the farmers who worked her property in the hills above the village of Panzano in Chianti. Her daughter, Franca Duchess di Grazzano Visconti transformed the farm into a hotel in the early 70's. Count and Countess Corso and Jacqueline Aloisi De Larderel inherited the property and have continued to bring it into the twenty-first century's green consciousness at the same time retaining its historic, cultural sensibility.



The nearby village of Panzano has art shops, restaurants and a weekly open-air market of local wares. The historic and art filled cities and towns of Florence, Siena and San Gimignano are optional day trips. The workshop is open to individuals who have a desire to express themselves in writing, whether they have published or not. It's an opportunity for those who have written material and want one-to-one feedback with me as Book Midwife/ Developmental Editor. I've devoted my life to expressing myself in writing and helping my clients and students attain wholeness through that medium. I'm a published author of nonfiction, fiction, adult and children's books, playwright and founder and director of Write It Out®, a motivational and expressive writing program since 1992. The fact that I'm a romantic and adopted daughter of Italy is just a few more reasons to join me at the magical Villa Le Barone in 2020.

You'll be warmed by the Tuscan sun as chestnuts plunk on the lawn; spend an evening before any one of the many fireplaces on the property to sip a Prosecco before dinner or Grappa or espresso afterwards while discussing the days events with people who are visiting from all over the world.

You make your own reservations with Villa Le Barone and be sure to tell them you are part of Ronni's workshop. A few rooms have been reserved for our group for a limited time. See [www.VillaLeBarone.com](http://www.VillaLeBarone.com) for pictures and information about the Villa. You can contact the Villa for costs in Euro at [info@villabarone.com](mailto:info@villabarone.com) or phone +39 055 852621. Space at the Villa Le Barone is limited.

**Registration** for the Write It Out retreat workshop is separate and **begins January 21, 2020**. See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) for specific information. Early registration is suggested.

## WE WERE THERE

### THE TUSCANY WRITING RETREAT WORKSHOP OCTOBER 2019



Sarah's birthday celebration after dinner.  
Left to right: Eleanor, Sarah, Jacqueline,  
Ronni, Corso, Kathy, Mary



Lunch a fresco prepared at cooking class with dessert of tiramisu. Left to right: Kathy, Eleanor, Ronni, Mary, Sarah



One evening salon and the reading of a 10-minute play



On a day trip to San Gimignano, with its medieval towers, and lunch high above the 13th C Piazza della Cisterna that overlooked the valley below.

Optional day trips to Siena, San Gimignano, Greve and Florence for art, dining and shopping extend the experiences to gather material for writing. Salons in the evenings provide a time for participants to share work. My third novel *A Woman Of A Certain Age* has several scenes that are set in the Villa and I enjoyed reading them one evening at the salon. Eli read from her memoir, Mary and Sarah read their short stories. Cathy shared a spoof written by three that had us laughing through dinner.

#### COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS:

*"I attended Ronni's Tuscany workshop and it was just wonderful--the opportunity to focus on writing in such a serene and beautiful location, to share work with other writers and receive feedback, to work with Ronni individually, and to explore and experience Italy. I'm still walking around in a glow, with a bounty of ideas for new work, and suggestions for honing the pieces I shared in the salons."* Sarah Ashby

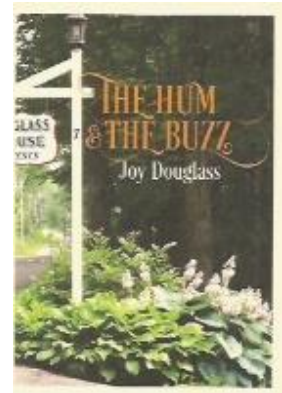
*"Thank you for organizing such a wonderful trip."* Mary O'Flynn

## WORK WITH A BOOK MIDWIFE

Don't wait. Your book has been seething inside yearning to be born. Working with Ronni, the Book Midwife will make those dreams a reality. Private sessions by appointment are arranged at your convenience. It is possible to work in person, by telephone, Skype or Face Time. Take advantage of the special Five for Four package. Contact Ronni [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) or 941-359-3824 to discuss your needs and set up an appointment.

## THE HUM AND THE BUZZ RECEIVES RAVE REVIEWS

Joy Douglas, author of *The Hum & The Buzz* received a rave review for her book about her forty years of experiences running Douglas House, a guesthouse, in the Berkshires of Stockbridge, Massachusetts. "The book is ...a collage of an extraordinary life ... of fascinating and sometimes famous people...human nature, the power of music, connections to Tanglewood, teamwork ...and life long friendships," said reviewer Colin Harrington of The Berkshire Eagle, October 8, 2019. It was a pleasure to work with Joy, one of my clients, over a three year period as a thought for a book grew into the birth of it, that culminated in a book signing on Douglas House property last summer after its publication.



## BETWEEN LOVERS TO BE PUBLISHED

*Between Lovers* my new collection of short stories will be published before the new year of 2020. As many of you know, my fiction lies on the cusp of fact spurred by the need to



Cover art work for *Between Lovers* by Jonathan David Miller

express experiences. These experiences begin as a speck of truth and blossom into fictional packages most in the short story form and some in performance pieces. Most have been read before a public and have been enjoyed. These pieces are 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. Look for *Between Lovers* on Amazon by the beginning of 2020.

## RONNI WINS AWARD

I was thrilled to receive the award for my latest short story: "The Dog That Didn't Bark" that won third prize for adult fiction, November, 2019. This literary contest was sponsored by the National League of American Pen Women. You'll be able to read the story in my new short story collection *Between Lovers* soon to be out on Amazon.

## MUSIC AWARD FOR INSIDE OUTSIDE CLYDE

Alice Moerk won a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award for the music she wrote for *Inside Outside Clyde*, my picture book, at the 2019 November Florida State Conference of the NLAPW contest in the music category of "Experimental".

The story behind the music:

*Inside Outside Clyde*, a picture book for all ages, was written in 1980. Original classical music was written by Alice Moerk for piano and oboe. She is a former music professor and current award -winning author of musical productions and novels. *Inside Outside Clyde* was performed in 2013 by me, Alice Moerk at the piano and Stephanie Daige on the oboe. This first performance reading was held at Bird Key Yacht Club, Sarasota, FL sponsored by National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW) Sarasota Branch. *Inside Outside Clyde*, was published by Robi Jode Press and illustrated by award winning artist Karin Zukowski (Karizu).

The manuscript was read in 2012 at a writer's group of NLAPW. Alice, a member of the group heard it read and asked if she could write music for it. She identified with the main character Clyde, a red headed child who was bullied because of his red hair and wanted to run away and hide. He finds a safe place inside his head where he connects with his creative side and has the courage to bring his insides outside after his magical experience inside.

The original concept of this book surfaced in the creation of Write It Out® (WIO) my motivational and expressive writing program in 1992, and is now in its twenty eighth year of providing direction and encouragement to individuals of all ages to express their feelings, memories and experiences in any written genre for the purposes of personal growth. I believe it is important to go inside oneself to find happiness and the strength to face the outside world in order to become a self-confident person in the outside world to honor one's own uniqueness.

The creative mind knows no boundaries as evidenced above. Steve Martin, actor and writer, has said, " No art comes from the conscious mind." Ronni adds that art is born from an open mind and responses to the senses.

## **EXPOSED A PERFORMANCE READING**

My full-length play *Exposed* was read at SAPS (Sarasota Area Playwrights Society) on April 29, 2019. Sandra Musicante, Burgess Levin, Carole Schwartz and Bob Carlson were the readers. Some of the comments from the audience were: "It's similar to Wendy Wasserstein's play *The Heidi Chronicles*" and "a beautiful play." There were many pre readings to audiences over the past few years when the play evolved from a one-woman play to several characters before the SAPS production. Readings are vital to playwrights to ascertain what works and what doesn't. At present, the script lies in its manila folder waiting for its next performance. The following is the synopsis:



Left to right: Carole, Sandra, Burgess  
(Bob not shown)

**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 that fulfills her life.

## LINDA ODOM PUBLISHED

Former student Linda Odom, expressive arts facilitator and Delta flight attendant, had her first article "Painting With Tony" published in Guideposts June/July 2019. It was about her work facilitating expressive art with dementia patients. As Linda Odom has said, "acts of kindness and caring can make a big difference in the lives of older adults."

## SUNDAY SALONS

Sunday Salons at Ronni's Studio began about nineteen years ago and has been happening ever since during the "season". The first one had a total of two people, myself and a friend and artist. We shared our work in progress and enjoyed a glass of wine and dessert. There were a few more friends at the next occurrence followed through the years by students and then people I met who were artists, actors, musicians, writers, crafters and dancers. We gathered in my small space and enjoyed the array of talent presented. 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.



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## WRITE IT OUT WRITING WORKSHOPS 2019-2020

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

*Times and places can change so please e-mail me or call to get the latest information*

### EXPRESSIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

*A workshop to write fiction, nonfiction, poems and journal entries.*



**Location:** Ronni's Studio, Pinehurst Village, 7316 Eleanor Circle, Sarasota, Fl 34243

**Facilitator:** Ronni Miller

**Registration:** 941-359-3824 or [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com)

**All sessions are held Wednesdays, 2-4 PM**

- Session 1.\* November 6, 13, 20, 2019
- Session 2.\* December 4, 11, 18, 2019
- Session 3. January 8, 15, 22, 29, 2020
- Session 4. February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2020
- Session 5. March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2020
- Session 6. April 1, 15, 22, 29, 2020
- Session 7. May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2020
- Session 8. June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2020

**Tuition:** \$95 for a 4-session term (\*\$72 for a 3-session term) if paid on or before the first class or \$25 paid for individual classes.

### EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH WRITING

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

**Location:** The Longboat Key Education Center 5370 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Suite #212, Longboat Key, FL 34228

- Session 1. Tuesdays, 1:00 -3:00 PM, January 7-February 25, 2020. (8 sessions).  
Tuition: members \$145 non-members \$155.
- Session 2. Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 PM, March 3-March 24, 2020 (4 sessions).  
Tuition: members \$85, non-members \$95.

**Facilitator:** Ronni Miller

**Registration:** 941-383-8811

*(Schedule continues on the next page)*

**MEMOIR PLUS**

*A workshop to write memoir and any other genre based on personal life experiences.*

**Location:** OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at Ringling College, 1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

**All sessions Thursdays, 11:00 AM-12:20 PM**

- Winter term: January 16 - March 5, 2020 (8 sessions)
- Spring term: March 12-April 30, 2020 (8 sessions)
- Summer term: TBA

**Tuition:** Members: \$85.50, Non-members: \$95

**Facilitator:** Ronni Miller

**Registration:** 941-309-5111

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**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.*

**Location:** OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) at Ringling College, 1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

**Spring term:** Thursdays, 1:00-2:20 PM, March 12-April 30, 2020 (8 sessions)

**Tuition:** Members: \$85.50, Non-members: \$95

**Facilitator:** Ronni Miller

**Registration:** 941-309-5111

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**TUSCANY WRITING RETREAT & WORKSHOP**

October 21-29, 2020. See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) for details.

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**Suggested readings 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
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**PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH BOOK MIDWIFE BY APPOINTMENT**

Payment options available: Popular Package Five for Four (five hours for the price of four if paid in advance); individual sessions; fixed price for long term arrangements. Contact [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) or 941-359-3824.