

# SPUR

## A WRITE IT OUT® NEWSLETTER

Write It Out  
PO Box 704, Sarasota, FL 34230  
[www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com)  
[RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com), 941-359-3824

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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



As we approach a new year I wish all of you a sense of inner peace and balance. The weeks that I've spent in Tuscany, Italy at our writing retreat have renewed these elements for me. This magical place has provided an anchor to lift off on flights of imagination and mothered a part of my opus.

The message of inner self-realization and balance are aspects that I begin this new year. I'd like to offer the same to you through our work together in private sessions, workshops and vacation retreats in Cape Cod and Italy.

As Book Midwife-Writing Coach I work individually with you to birth your book. In addition, my experiences as expressive writing facilitator guide those impacted by cancer, other life threatening diseases and trauma to express their stories

through writing in a safe and understanding environment that benefits the healing process. As we work privately together you will discover increased self-confidence and self-realization for inner peace and balance, as well as the enjoyment and relief of seeing a project realized. All projects large and small are considered.

Now you'll have the advantage of finding a home for your book at Robi Jode Press with its staff of professionals in publishing, editing and graphics. My cooperative publishing company Robi Jode Press, that has long published my own books, will also bring your "baby" into the world. It's my pleasure to be part of your inception to delivery all under one roof. (See The Story of Robi Jode Press that follows.) Make an appointment **now** to discuss your ideas and needs. Take advantage of current fees as they increase beginning in January.

Think of Villa Le Barone, Panzano in Chianti, Tuscany, Italy for your writing retreat next summer. This past August and September we enjoyed the week's absorption in Italian ambiance of a gracious Italian country home that has been in the host's family since the Renaissance. It was an escape into a bygone era with four-star hotel facilities. Here, away from the strum and chaos of the outside world Pat, one of our students, was able to complete her short story begun a few months before. The setting is equal to a movie set but is real and inspires the senses with sounds of the church bells from the 10<sup>th</sup> Church nearby, horses hoofs on the road past the Villa, taste of fresh tomatoes from their gardens, sight of the undulating Tuscan hills wrapped in a scrim of vineyards and olive trees. Take a look at it: [www.villalebarone.com](http://www.villalebarone.com) and see for yourselves. A week spent here Friday, August 17- Saturday August 25, 2018 will immerse you in Italian culture, massage your imagination, give you the opportunity to indulge in gourmet, traditional cuisine and find your own inner peace and balance. See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) for details. A minimum of seven people is required for this year's retreat. Please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to join us.

As in Tuscany, I've been bringing people to my Cape Cod Writing and Painting retreat at The Holden Inn on Commercial Street in Wellfleet for decades. Tucked away in the fishing village that doubles as a mecca for artists, writers and therapists we breath in the salt air, watch the *farmers* tend their oyster crops in the Bay down the road at Mayo Beach and express our sensory experiences in writing and painting. A few days spent here Thursday, July 26 through Sunday July 29, 2018 will restore your creative juices.

My new baby *Domestic Shorts*, a collection of eighteen short fiction stories will be available on Amazon by the end of October. Some of you have heard me read some of these stories in workshops and at readings, and now you'll be able to have your own copy in hand.

I was fortunate to find my home intact returning home after hurricane Irma. It reminded me though that each day counts in our lives and we must do what we have to do now. Writing, as many of you know has been my plumb line, my

centering and place to find comfort and enjoyment. I've encouraged my clients and students to use writing as an anchor, a welcomed space to vent, understand, heal and record experiences. My work with cancer patients and others impacted by trauma and disease has proven the importance of revealing and recording feelings, memories and experiences for the sake of personal growth the very heart of the Write It Out program. Clients too are proceeding on the paths we've designed together that gives me a sense of pride, joy and fulfillment.

As one grows, one needs help. See our "Job Opportunities" on the following pages.

Take a look at my new blog: Travels With Ronni now found under News and Events at [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) my website.

Our 2017-2018 Writing Workshop Schedule follows and is posted on [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) our website.

I look forward to sharing and connecting with you in our private sessions workshops, retreats and seeing your projects published with Robi Jode Press.

Enjoy writing as a part of your life.

*Ronni*

#### ***DOMESTIC SHORTS AVAILABLE ON AMAZON***

*DOMESTIC SHORTS*, a collection of my eighteen short stories will be available on Amazon by the end of October, 2017. Some of you may remember the bound manuscript of it with my painting of clothes hanging on a line on the cover. I've used that bound manuscript when I do readings at different venues. Now finally it will be available in a paperback book the size of *Dance With The Elephants*. Let me know if you have enjoyed a favorite story in it.

#### **BOOK MIDWIFE-WRITING COACH**

New this year are more packages with perks to accommodate to the increased interest people have shown in "birthing" their books. Our work together is special for me. Each book is a labor of love and I enjoy being a part of that process. Many of you have gone on to publish and are as proud of your projects as I am. As a specialist in expressive writing I also guide those impacted by cancer and other life traumas to express their stories in writing privately in a safe environment that has been proven to benefit the healing process. Don't hesitate to call 941-359-3824 or e-mail me at [RMillerWI0@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWI0@gmail.com) to discuss your project small or large. The following packages with perks are available throughout 2017 and 2018. Fees will increase beginning January 1, 2018 so schedule your appointments now.

PACKAGES include reading time and in person, Skype, Face Time or telephone calls.

- I. **STARTER:** Five sessions for the price of four (if paid in advance).
- II. **STANDARD:** Twelve sessions for the price of ten (if paid in advance).
- III. **DELUXE:** Twenty-four sessions for the price of twenty (if paid in advance).
- IV. **PREMIUM:** forty-five sessions for the price of forty (if paid in advance).

Individual sessions are available as well.

### **ROBE JODE PRESS**

Robi Jode Press, an arm of Write It Out is the publishing house that has published my books. We're now available to publish your book as a cooperative endeavor with a staff of book publishing professionals. You and I have worked together to birth your book from its inception and now Robi Jode Press will deliver it in its published form and help you put it on the internet and market it. You are part of the process at all times with professional help both in writing the book and publishing it. Contact me so that we can discuss your project small or large.

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

### **PICTURES OF TUCANY AND GREENVILLE, NEW YORK**



Scenes from left to right: Tuscany Expressive Writing and Painting workshop on the lawn of Villa Le Barone, Pat Campbell expressing sensory experiences in paint at the workshop, Barbara Schoen and Ronni Miller enjoying dinner under the stars at Villa Le Barone, Students at the Greenville, New York intergenerational writing workshop and the mountains in Greenville, New York.

## THE STORY OF ROBI JODE PRESS

The story began in 1980 when it was necessary to promote and market my first book *Where To Go With Your Lover*. Tribune Publishing Company, a small press in New Jersey, published the book but they were not equipped to market it. Soon after afterwards an appearance on Sally Jesse Raphael's radio program about lovers brought the book into the limelight. The book needed a marketer. I had a zero budget, no formal marketing training and lots of imagination. The result was the creation of Robi Jode Company as a marketing company.

The name Robi Jode was derived from the first two letters of Ronni, Bill, and Jon my sons and Debbie my daughter. We had a name. We needed a logo. Jon, then in high school, designed a diamond with three diamonds inside that represented the four of us. The book, a slim paperback of fifty-two pages with descriptive places to wine, dine and stay in the metropolitan area of New York and New Jersey and Bermuda also had memoir stories set in some of those locations. The cover of two roses in a vase was sold in local card shops and gift boutiques and marketed with an envelope as a special occasion or hostess gift. I didn't know it at the time, but this little book propelled me into the entrepreneurial world that led to my creating my Write It Out program in 1992.

Fast forward to 1996 when I wrote my second book *Dance With The Elephants-Free Your Creativity And Write*. After numerous attempts to find a publisher with no success, I sat down and thought *why don't I publish it myself?* A friend, former advertising director happened to visit when I was struggling to find someone to design the cover. He understood what the book was about to help people "lift off and dance with elephants" as a metaphor to letting go and writing about feelings, memories and experiences. Within the weekend we had a cover of a figure in the state of dance surrounded by the heads of two elephants. I felt elated because it illustrated and captured the creative spirit I intended for the book. I still had to get the manuscript into a book and knew nothing about the mechanics of publishing. Again, I was fortunate to find a printer who had just himself opened a new business and I was able to work with his staff to produce the book that was published under the name of Robi Jode Press.

Over these past years several my books for adults and children have the Robi Jode Press imprint. I've learned *on the job* much about the writing, editing, publishing and marketing business and am prepared to offer you that expertise along with additional professionals with the same loving attention, creativity, intelligence and literary expertise I've given my own books.

Contact Ronni for more information at [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) or 941-359-3824.

### **TRAVELS WITH RONNI- NEW BLOG**

See my new blog posted on [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) under "News and Events". Traveling has been a signature of my life since infancy. My father, a restless romantic gathered us into the car on weekends and drove us from our home in New Jersey to Washington, DC to see the cherry blossoms in the spring, to Vermont for the fall foliage, and Miami Beach hotels in the winter. In the summer we were planted on New York dairy farms or packed into the Buick and driven across the country to see the Grand Canyon and the Pacific coast. A trip to Europe by ship the summer before my last undergraduate year at Boston University sealed my love for Italy. Inherited wanderlust and enjoyment of living in homes-away-from home including Woodstock, New York where Write It Out was born, has provided a lifetime opus of material for my writing. Some of it will be appear on this new blog. Stay tuned.

### **JOB OPPORTUNITES WITH ROBI JODE PRESS**

I'm looking for professional proofreaders, line editors, graphic artists, computer experts and a production manager. College educated with personal knowledge and experience with Write It Out is a plus. Location in the Sarasota area is not a requirement. Please contact me [RMillerWIO@gmail.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@gmail.com) or 941 359 3824.

### **SEE WRITE IT OUT 2017-2018 WRITING SCHEDULES FOLLOWING:**

# **WIO WRITING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2017-2018**

(updated October 2017)

*Times and places can change so please check back here, or call or e-mail us to get the latest information.  
Also see the suggested reading below the workshop list.*

## **Expressive Writing Workshops:**

**EXPRESSIVE WRITING FOR WELLNESS** *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. Sarasota, FL 34237 Building #1.

**Ongoing Wednesdays 2:00-3:30 PM, from October 4, 2017 through July 2018.**

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 9 through February 27, 2018** (eight sessions)

Tuition: members: \$145, non-members \$155.

**Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 PM, March 6 through March 27, 2018** (four sessions)

Tuition: members: \$85, non-members \$95

Facilitator: Ronni Miller - Registration: 941-383-8811

**MEMOIR PLUS** *A workshop to write in any genre based on personal life experiences.*

**Ringling College Lifelong Learning** Temple Beth Shalom 1050 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237

**Thursdays 1:00-2:20 PM, January 11 through March 1, 2018** (8 sessions)

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

Facilitator: Ronni Miller- Registration: 941-309-5111

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP** *A workshop to express fiction, nonfiction and poems.*

**Greenville Public Library** Greenville, Route 32, New York.

**Tuesday, September 11-Saturday-September 15, 2018** 10:00AM-12 Noon.

Tuition: free.

Facilitator: Ronni Miller - Registration: 518-966-8205.

## **PLAYREADING**

**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.*

**Ringling College Lifelong Learning** Temple Beth Shalom 1050 S. Tuttle Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237

**Thursdays 11:00 AM-12:20 PM January 11 through March 1, 2018** (8 sessions)

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

Facilitator: Ronni Miller -Registration: 941-309-5111

## **EXPRESSIVE WRITING AND PAINTING RETREATS**

**Cape Cod "More Than Fish"** The Holden Inn, 140 Commercial Street, Wellfleet, MA 02667; Thursday, July 26-Sunday July 29, 2018; Tuition: \$475 (not including room and board); Facilitator: Ronni Miller.

**Tuscany "Viva L'Italia"** Villa Le Barone, Panzano in Chianti, Tuscany, Italy: Friday, August 17, -Saturday August 25, 2018: Tuition \$925 (not including room, board or transportation); Facilitator: Ronni Miller.

See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) for details on the above retreats.