

Writers Need Writers

For the 2021-2022 season, the Walton County Snowbirds' creative writing group meets at Panera in Miramar Beach at the Silver Sands Outlet Mall on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 through 4:00. There is still time for you to join these scribes. The last meeting is scheduled for February 23.

This season, assignments alternate weekly between responses to a topic or to a prompt.

During a "topic" week, compositions can be of any type chosen. Poems, plays, travelogues, memoirs, narratives, essays . . . any type of writing is welcome. So far this year, topics have been "Vacation" and "Technology".

When responding to a prompt, authors are asked to answer specific questions or concentrate on certain aspects of narrative form. One scenario presented by leader Carole Zoller concerns someone visiting a casino after a two-year hiatus. The person sees another patron going by and dropping money without noticing its loss. A list of questions relative to character description accompanied the assignment.

At every meeting, each submission is read aloud by someone other than its author. Rough spots are easier to detect when a reader unfamiliar with the text presents it orally. Group members follow along and make notes on individual printed copies provided by the writers.

Members then share reactions, mentioning aspects that they especially admire, and suggesting edits and revisions. Hard copies with notations relating to the discussion are often returned to the authors so they may rewrite as they like.

Over the past few years, the structure of sessions changed. What was first a scoring sheet containing several aspects of written language to be graded came to be used as a check list. Now, general comments are made orally. Focus is on one or two facets of composition that are pinpointed by the leader and discussed when the prompt or topic for the upcoming week is assigned.

No longer is there an annual "Best of the Workshop" award.

Narrative, once the main genre developed, is now joined by several others which members are free to choose to write.

For more about this activity and many others as well as general information about the Walton County Snowbirds, access <http://waltoncountysnowbirds.com>

In Memoriam

Robert ("Bob") C. Hendrickson of Freeport, IL passed away on January 25, 2022. Bob was a multi-year participant in the creative writing group, recently acting as its leader. Memoir writing was his interest. During the last two years that he and his wife, Peg, were members of Walton County Snowbirds, the entire authors' group agreed with pleasure to concentrate on that genre under Bob's guidance. Many of the weekly pieces he presented for discussion and suggestions are included in his book, *Snapshots In Time*. In the Acknowledgements, Bob thanks members of the Snowbird writing group for their help because, "Writers need writers." He is still a presence at sessions as long-time members say, "Bob used to . . ." when we remember his helpful suggestions and offer them to newer authors. We would like to acknowledge the generosity and the contributions of this gentleman, wit, educator, and mentor to the improvement in our skills of producing the written word.