



February 2022 Guild Meeting

Saturday, February 19, 2022
1:00 PM

Eau Gallie Public Library
1521 Pineapple Ave
Melbourne, FL 32935



Guest Speaker: Joni Fisher

One of the most challenging aspects of writing is the dialogue your characters engage in. You can have the most riveting plot, but if the dialogue is humdrum, your readers are going to close your book and regift it. How do you liven it up?

The answer is simple. Come to the February SCWG meeting, where Joni Fisher will hold a Dialogue Workshop. This interactive session will show us how to engage our readers with compelling back-and-forth that will keep them turning the pages to see what happens next!

At Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, Joni earned a B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Theatre History, while reporting on the arts beat for the *Indiana Daily Student* newspaper.

Her writing has appeared in the *St. Petersburg Times*, *AOPA Pilot* magazine (the largest circulation general aviation magazine), *Christianity Today*, *City Elite* (Ft. Worth/Dallas lifestyle magazine), *General Aviation News*, *The Flying Physician*, *Water Flying*, *Pipers Magazine*, *Medical Precise*, *Tampa Bay Soundings*, and other publications. She has published news, celebrity profiles, poetry, essays, a play, and hundreds of feature articles for magazines.



Book Fest in the Village

Saturday, March 26, 2022

10:00am – 3:00pm

It's time again to invite your participation in the second annual Historic Cocoa Village Book Fest scheduled on Saturday, March 26, 2022, from 10 am to 3 pm. This prestigious event is sponsored by the Space Coast Writers' Guild and hosted by Historic Cocoa Village Main Street. Registration began February 1 and ends on March 12.

The Book Fest will be located in Myrt Tharpe Square (the Gazebo). Because of limited space, the number of exhibit spots will provide registration for 40 authors, publishers, or book sellers. For more information, refer to Joanne's email or the SCWG Website.

Announcing the SCWG 2022 Short Story Contest

The Space Coast Writers' Guild announces the annual Short Story Contest for 2022! The rules and guidelines have changed somewhat, this year, so please download and carefully read the rules for this year's event. The prizes have increased in value, and the times have been shortened.

Entry deadline is 11:59 PM on March 1, 2022. Please refer to the SCWG website for more information. And good luck!!

Social Media: a Scammer's Best Friend

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently reported that in 2021, scammers profited from scams that initiated on social media, more than any other means of contacting victims. (Go figure!)

The FTC says that scam victims lost \$770 Million to scams originating on social media. This amount is significantly less than the real amount, because most people don't report the scams.

Be skeptical. If you see a social media post from a "friend," do not assume that it's real. Be skeptical of social media "friends" that you don't know personally. When someone tries to "friend" you, look up their profile. If they're brand new to the platform and/or have only a very few "friends," none of whom you know personally, don't accept their request. Remember, you have the power. Don't invest in anything you see on social media. Go to a reputable financial advisor.

Don't fall for romance scams. They're almost all bogus. The chance of finding true love on social media is nil. Use privacy settings on social media to block as much personal information as possible.

Finally, check out www.scamicide.com and sign up for the newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Virginia is for Lovers! Who doesn't remember that slogan from the Commonwealth of Virginia? Well, February is for lovers, also. So, it's fitting that I talk about love today. No, not *that* kind of love. I'm talking about love of books!

Now, we all have some sort of love for books. If not, what's the reason for being a Guild member? We also must have a love for our readers. If not for them, we sell no books. It's as simple as that!

If you get into a slump, think about your readers. None of us has enough readers to get us onto the New York Times Best Seller List. However, that doesn't make our readers any less important than those readers. It also doesn't make us any less important to our readers than the Grishams, or the Pattersons, or the Maccombers, or the Kings are to their readers. Our readers look up to us as much as their readers do them. All it takes is to set up a table at an arts festival, or a senior center. Watch your fans' eyes light up as you open the cover of the book they just bought, ask them for their name, and sign that book. The looks on their faces will tell you all you need to know!

And write on!

Cheers!

Jeanne Fisher

Author and President of the
Space Coast Writers' Guild