

SPUR

A WRITE IT OUT® NEWSLETTER

Write It Out®

PO Box 704, Sarasota, FL 34230

www.writeitout.com

RMillerWIO@gmail.com, 941-359-3824

Volume XXIII Issue 1 Fall 2023

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



A new year begins, Write It Out's thirty-second with the Fall term of classes and attending to clients. Fall here in Sarasota, Florida, still persists like summer. Yet, we are ready and refreshed after a season of relaxation.

For me, Italy, especially Tuscany once again provided a writing retreat. It began for me in Florence at the Hermitage, a boutique hotel beside the Arno River and close to the Ponte Vecchio Bridge.

My planned intent was to spend time at the window in an eclectic salon or living room filled with modern fabrics and ancient furniture that overlooked the sights and record the visuals as well as my thoughts in a travel memoir entitled "From My Window". I have spent years traversing Florence's narrow streets abundant with history, tourists and upscale shops in the old part of the City. This time I wanted to absorb and absorb I did. A day of writing was topped off by a gourmet meals atop the hotel with outdoor seating that also overlooked the river scene. People from all over the world were guests who dined on Tuscan specialties such as chopped boar

meat over pasta. A few days later I returned “home” to Villa Le Barone above Panzano, a village nestled in Chianti Classico country. Old world graciousness embraced me in twenty first century comfort at this four star hotel, once a Tuscan farm for centuries and in the same Aloisi de Laderel family of Count and Countess Jacqueline and Corso our hosts.

Here I continued writing my travel memoir on the patio in front of my room and in a shaded area under the chestnut trees close to the infinity pool with the 10th C church in the distance. I also had the pleasure of teaching my *Write It Out* workshop, where we painted and wrote in our special nest outdoors on the back lawn. Evening dinners were on the patio by candlelight and gracious service of four course, gourmet meals followed by my favorite dessert of lemon sorbet frozen in a scooped out fresh lemon was most refreshing!

Many of you have read *Awakened in Rufina*, the novel set in Tuscany with some of the scenes set in Villa Le Barone. The cover has a picture of the owner’s cottage on the grounds. Corso said after reading the book, “I want to be Stefan”.

Roads to Run the next novel and my eleventh book was published early this summer and is set in Woodstock, New York and Boston. Amazon has suggested it as a book to read. The next novel *Unveiled on the Rock* will be published before the end of this year. It’s set in Bermuda and New Jersey. I consider these three novels a memoir in fiction.

The September term has begun, a kick-off for the year. We’re tuning up and returning to our essential selves, the rich foundations and experiences of our lives that provide material for stories, poems and books.

I look forward to seeing you all “around my dining room table” on Zoom where much creativity is shared in a safe environment. Clients are met in my studio on Zoom for our personal, one on one attention to “birthing” your books.

Check out our schedule of classes that beside my personal Expressive Writing workshops include The Education Center at Temple Beth Israel and Olli at Ringling College. Contact me with further questions. Don’t forget to lift off and dance with the elephants.

Ciao,

Ronni

ENJOY ONE-TO-ONE ATTENTION WITH A BOOK MIDWIFE

Don’t wait. Your book has been percolating 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. We work virtually on Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, and telephone. Take advantage of our special Five for Four Package. Contact Ronni at RMillerWIO@gmail.com or 941-359-3824 to discuss your needs and set up an appointment.

CONNECT WITH OTHERS AROUND THE TABLE



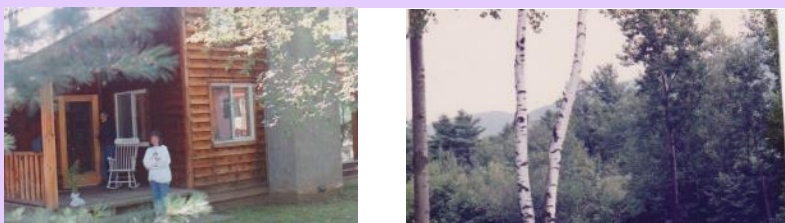
RONNI'S WRITE IT OUT VIRTUAL EXPRESSIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS "around the table" emanate from my home studio. It's a small workshop to express life stories in memoirs, fiction, poetry, and plays. Zoom has made it possible to participate from wherever you live to share your material in a comfortable, safe, and supportive environment. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 11 AM to 1:00 PM EST and Thursday

afternoons from 2-4 PM EST on Zoom.

People attend from all over the country. The workshops are suited for beginners as well as advanced writers who desire a small group of people who are serious and dedicated to their work.

These Write It Out workshops are about to enter our 32nd year of providing skills to express feelings, memoirs and experiences in all genres of writing. Motivational exercises trigger and stimulate written work. It only takes desire, and dedication to enjoy the connection to creativity. Registration is required. See the Workshop Schedule for specific times and costs.

HISTORY OF WRITE IT OUT



An epiphany started it all. In an instant, the thought came to me, and the program Write It Out was born in a pine cabin. I had agonized over my future path as I gazed out on mountains and undulating fields of wheat almost thirty-two years ago as a new resident to the fabled art and rural community of Woodstock, New York.

Writing had always been the plumb line that kept me centered. I turned to it to understand and document my life in all genres, including journal writing. My journey to that point had provided experiences as a teacher, freelance article writer, editor, copywriter, editor, and playwright while publishing fiction and poetry. Yet I struggled to find something else, something that would help others find their center as I had through writing.

I registered the name *Write It Out* immediately after its birth and it remains official. How this gem of an idea segued into a recognized writing program that has guided and helped thousands of people still amazes me. I feel privileged to have heard and

been a part of thousands of stories based on life experiences. I chose a path less traveled, to borrow from the famous words, “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” These words are from Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken”.

This path of guidance has included working with cancer survivors who have embraced writing as a means of healing through creative channels as they wrote poems and prose that illustrated their lives. For years our Slice of Life shows presented at different venues showcased students material as they read and sometimes performed their poems, prose, and theater pieces for the public. Engagement with students branched into my becoming a Book Midwife, a developmental editor to guide and birth books for those who desire to write memoirs, collections of poems, short stories and novels. Robi Jode Press, the publishing arm of Write It Out, was also spawned.

Write It Out continues to offer me creative outlets when I write and design my syllabi for workshops. I’m happy to share the philosophy of the Write It Out program in lectures and multi-media presentations.

Time is mercurial, for it doesn’t seem that long ago that I sat in my eclectic, pine cabin of floor-to-ceiling windows and created a Program in a moment that has nurtured my life.

WRITE IT OUT IN TUSCANY



Villa Le Barone in Panzano in Chianti was again the Tuscan location where we gathered for a writing retreat and workshop. For years this has been a most gracious, historic and culturally authentic four-star hotel for us to relax and create. This past August gave us the opportunity to experience the “slow movement” as Jacqueline and Corso Aloisi de Larderel, owners and hosts of the Villa have described in their newest , September newsletter. It is actually

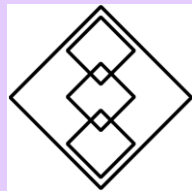
a Tuscan concept born in Greve in Chianti, a nearby village to explain how one can slow down living to absorb the surroundings and the cuisine offered in the region. We expressed our feelings and experiences spontaneously with watercolors and words in our outdoor “nest”.





Beyond were views of the 10th C parish church Pieve de San Leolina and the infinity pool close by. Words that spilled into longer documents that captured of-the-moment thought as well as past memoirs to share in our evening salons before dinner together under the stars.

This fairy tale visage is real, the photo taken from Villa Le Barone of the 10th C church just up the road. Its bell tower rings the hour throughout the day, a reminder that reality and fantasy are but one in the same if one rises to the level of poetry and frees the imagination. Leaving behind tension and opening up the pores to absorb and release pent up thoughts was one of the benefits of this magical time spent this summer at Villa Le Barone.



ROBI JODE PRESS ANNOUNCES *NEW* PUBLICATIONS

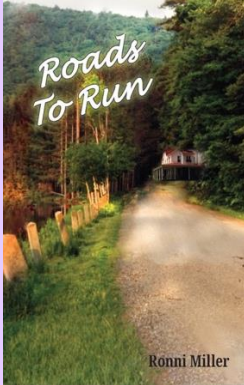
by RONNI MILLER

AUTHOR'S STATEMENT:

Roads To Run and *Awakened in Rufina* are two novels, my latest books that depict the human experience of heroines who break out of cocoons, struggle with conflicts, and discover love and romance. *Love In The Blueberry Patch*, a memoir focused on my writing life from childhood to adulthood documents the foundation of my fiction.

Ronni Miller

Roads To Run
by [Ronni Miller](#)

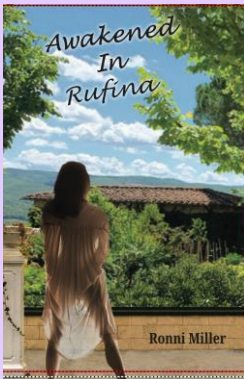


Susan Downey, an orphan who dreams of romance, finds life a tangle of obstacles as she proceeds as mail order bride, wife, mother, divorcee and lover in *Roads To Run*, a novel set in Woodstock, NY and Boston, MA before and just after WWII.

"The impulse to run and escape caused her teeth to chatter... February dampness... seeped through her... Susan nudged the suitcase with her toe... It smelled of home. She strained to catch sight of a familiar face and hoped for rescue." -- From *Roads to Run*.

Roads To Run, Robi Jode Press (2023), \$19.95 paperback, \$9.95 ebook for Kindle on [Amazon.com](#)

Awakened in Rufina
by [Ronni Miller](#)



Awakened In Rufina is a novel set in Tuscany where Isabelle, a woman of a certain age is gifted with a young lover Stefan who ignites her passions. Primitive sexuality and mature love clash when she meets Alessandro, a man of appropriate age. Her independence conflicts with connection and is revealed in intimate details as she decides which man best meets her needs.

"He is too big, too much like an Adonis to fit into clothes. His form needs to be sculpted out of sleek marble left to admire, photograph, instead he walks and talks... The words shoot arrows... past my thorns... to the heart. No not love... something more to the core. I stand naked, but not undressed." -- From *Awakened In Rufina*.

Awakened In Rufina, Robi Jode Press (2023), \$19.95 paperback, \$9.95 ebook for Kindle on [Amazon.com](#).

Love in the Blueberry Patch
by [Ronni Miller](#)



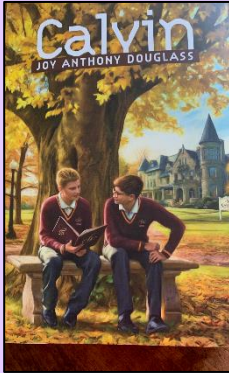
Ronni Miller takes you from her childhood to the present wrapped in imagination, and reality that clashed with doubts and desires. Discover how writing, her plumb line, carried her through the ups and downs of life. The essays and poems in this book are factual foundations that supplied much of Miller's fictional opus in short stories, novels, and plays. To know a person's literary work is to know the person and her life experiences.

Love in the Blueberry Patch, Robi Jode Press (2022), \$19.95 paperback, \$9.95 ebook for Kindle on [Amazon.com](#).

NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED BY CLIENTS

Calvin

By Joy Anthony Douglas



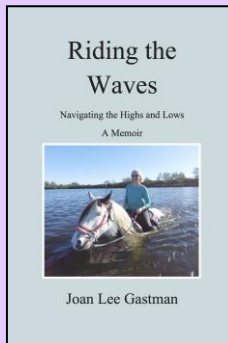
Calvin, a novel, illustrates the life of a boy who finds himself through music and the comradery of likeminded souls.

The author, Dr. Joy Anthony Douglas, has spent over fifty years involved in music as professor, choral director, organist, member of MENC/NAfME, ACDA and on the board of Chorus America. This is her first novel that will be followed by a sequel. Her first nonfiction book, *The Hum and the Buzz*, published in 2018 is a collection of stories about her guest house with husband Chet, a forty year adventure, called Douglas House on Stockbridge Bowl, MA.

Published by Double Sunset Press \$19.95. Available Itascabooks.com or Amazon.com

Riding the Waves – Navigating the Highs and Lows

By Joan Lee Gastman



Riding the Waves is a memoir that documents the life of a resilient woman through childhood to adulthood overcoming personal obstacles.

The author, Joan Lee Gastman, graduated from the University Of Missouri School Of Journalism. Her professional career was in all facets of marketing: advertising, market research and sales and promotion for companies including P&G Consumer Products and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. She has said of the personal and professional challenges she faced, "I'll keep picking myself up and riding the waves."

(Limited edition published for family and friends.)

WRITE IT OUT WORKSHOPS

See our current schedule of Write It Out workshops below
and on the Write It Out website <https://writeitout.com/>



WORKSHOP SCHEDULE 2023-2024

Updated October 2023

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE ON ZOOM

Contact Ronni at RMillerWIO@gmail.com or 941-359-3824 for more information.

RONNI'S EXPRESSIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

A writing workshop to use expressive writing techniques for personal growth and wellness while writing fiction, nonfiction and poems.

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: Registration is required, RmillerWIO@gmail.com or 941 359 3824.

Tuition: \$100 per term payable by Zelle rmillerwio@gmail.com or by check to Write It Out or Ronni Miller and sent to 7316 Eleanor Circle, Sarasota, FL 34243.

Meeting dates and times: Workshops meet on Wednesdays from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM EST and Thursdays from 2:00PM to 4:00 PM Eastern Time (see meeting dates below).

Note: The same syllabus is used in both, so it is possible to attend on another day other than the day registered during that term **IF** notice is given at least two days ahead.

Dates for WEDNESDAY workshops:

September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023
October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023
November 1, 8, 15, 29, 2023
December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2023
January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024
March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2024
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024
June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024

Dates for THURSDAY workshops:

September 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023
October 5, 12, 19, 26, 2023
November 2, 9, 16, 30, 2023
December 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023
January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2024
February 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024
April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024
June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024

Summer workshops to be announced.

EXPRESS YOURSELF IN WRITING

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

Offered through the Education Center at Temple Beth Israel LBK (All workshops are on Zoom)

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-383-822

Terms:

- Tuesdays: 1:00-3:00 PM, January 9 through February 27, 2024 (eight sessions).
Tuition: members - \$150, non-members \$160.
- Tuesdays: 1:00-3:00 PM, March 5 through March 26, 2024 (4 sessions)
Tuition: members-\$75, non-members \$85.

MEMOIR PLUS

An interactive expressive writing workshop to share material in any genre including memoir.

Offered through OLLI at Ringling College (All workshops are on Zoom)

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-309-5111

Meeting times: Monday 11:00 AM to 12:20 PM, January 8, 22, 29, Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024

VIVA L' ITALIA WRITING RETREAT AND WORKSHOP

Tuscany, Italy

Where: Villa Le Barone, Panzano, Italy, a four star boutique hotel with 21st C comfort and 20th century graciousness in the hills of Chianti.

What: A small expressive writing workshop focused on sensory experiences as well as a writing retreat.

Why: to absorb Tuscan culture as a backdrop to creativity, enjoy gourmet Tuscan meals, relax and create. Optional trips to villages in the area and cooking classes are available.

WHO: Ronni Miller, facilitator, award winning author of fiction who has spent many decades in Tuscany and written about it in her opus that includes her recent novel *Awakened In Rufina* where scenes in Tuscany and at the Villa Le Barone are set.

WHEN: Ten days in the later part of 2024 to be announced on www.writeitout.com.

Register: 941-359 3824 or RMillerWIO@gmail.com

Questions: Contact Ronni 941-359 3824 or RMillerWIO@gmail.com

See www.WriteItOut.com for more information.