

**Florida Writers Association
Writers Helping Writers
Suncoast Writers Guild, Inc. History 2011 – 2021**

Suncoast Writers Guild, Inc. (SWG), based in Englewood, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2020. Our group provides a welcoming and fun haven for writers and poets to gain confidence and hone their craft. We are an eclectic mix of beginning, intermediate and seasoned writers representing many genres – authors, poets, essayists, journalists and others – from a variety of professional backgrounds. The one thing we have in common is the understanding of just how much courage it takes for new members to leave the solitary comfort of their writing space, walk into a room of strangers and lay bare their writing for all to see.

New members are welcome to simply listen and observe until they feel comfortable enough to share their work. Our members are always respectful and happy to offer constructive advice. In this environment of like-minded creative people, members gain confidence and improve their skills. Many have gone on to be published, nominated for prestigious awards and won contests.

SWG was founded in 1990 with six members and four basic principles, which are just as valid today as they were then:

1. To bring together, in a professional setting, persons interested in the art of writing.
2. To exchange ideas.
3. To provide a support system
4. To provide critiques and educational opportunities.

The membership quickly grew to nearly 50. SWG published its first Inklings anthology and hosted a two-day conference with attendees from all over Florida.



February 2020, Suncoast Writers Guild, Inc., 30th Anniversary Luncheon

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The Guild's regular business meeting, which includes a guest speaker, is held on the first Saturday of the month (on hiatus June-September). The Guild offers three additional monthly meetings: Poetry Pod, Long Writers and a Readers Workshop.

Opportunities for our members to showcase their talents:

- * ***Inklings* anthology:** This regular publication includes members' poems and prose.
- * **PenPoints newsletter:** Our monthly newsletter includes members' works as well as a business update, notices of upcoming programs and tips to improve writing skills.
- * **Facebook:** Members can post announcements of their new publications, awards and other news on the SWG Facebook page, and periodically member websites are highlighted.
<https://www.facebook.com/suncoastwriters/>
- * **SWG website:** Members can promote their published books on our website and link to their own author websites: <http://www.suncoastwriters.com/>. Our site is also linked to the Florida Writers Association.
- * **The Little Band of Writers:** Formed in 2007, the group combines musical talent with writing talent. Members write their own lyrics and the group has performed at restaurants, nursing homes and other venues. Although not currently performing in public, they still do jam sessions for our annual luncheons.

Community Involvement: One of the Guild's biggest strengths is our firm commitment to community involvement.

- * **The Hermitage Artist Retreat:** One of our members is the designated liaison between SWG and this organization, which hosts writers, musicians and authors.
- * **Englewood Art Center:** Artists create works of arts for this annual event; poets—including SWG members—compose a poem which is posted beside the art.
- * **School poetry contests:** SWG contributes to and participates in the Englewood Elementary School contest and the Lemon Bay High School Poetry Shout Out at the Bay contest.
- * **Venice Book Fair:** SWG hosts a table at this annual event, where visitors can learn more about SWG and members have an opportunity to sell their books.
- * **Island Walk: Art in the Afternoon:** Artists create works of art for this annual event; writers – including SWG members – compose a story about one of the works and present it before a live audience.
- * **Local author book displays:** Our members are afforded an opportunity to promote their books through displays in local libraries.

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April 2021, SWG author display at the Frances T. Bourne Jacaranda Library, Venice, FL

* **Local fairs and festivals.** Over the years, SWG has participated in several fairs and festivals in a variety of ways. The Little Band of Writers have performed, some members have written and produced plays, while others have written clue books for a scavenger hunt.

* **‘Local author’ bookshelf at Elsie Quirk Library in Englewood:** Patrons can discover and borrow our members’ books.

* **Denny Girard Youth Writing Contest.** In conjunction with the Elsie Quirk Library, SWG is currently developing this contest.

We will continue to seek out additional opportunities to learn, grow and give back to our community while maintaining our four founding principles, which encourage members to develop their own skills and support other writers. Please visit either our Facebook page, or our website for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/suncoastwriters/>,
<http://www.suncoastwriters.com/>