



<http://www.abcbooks4children.com>

Member Newsletter

JANUARY 2016

**Happy
New Year!**

AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON:

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Selby Library - 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Cia McKoy and Nancy Unsworth discuss

"The Pains and Gains of Collaboration"

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

In case you missed it, we had a wonderful time at our awards meeting on December 16th. I was astounded by the number of new titles published by our members this year! Now, how do we come up with something just as good for next year's December meeting? Not to worry - we will!

There are always hurdles in this writing game - technology to learn, marketing strategies to try and that new book to finish and promote. As a rule, authors don't like to promote and market their books, but as I've said before, "If you don't get the word out there, how does anyone find you?"

This year I'm calling on each of you to help us find a good speaker and/or perhaps tell us about your own experiences in publishing and marketing your books. Do you know of a new marketing effort to try? What did you do to get lots of reviews? This is your organization and we want to hear from you. Get recognized in the newsletter for a book signing or event you attend by sending Brenda Martin a brief line or two about it. Her contact info is in the members in the news section.

Also, when you hear about an event, let us know so we can share it. You never know - some events have been a disaster but some are surprisingly successful.

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for New Year 2016!

See you at the next meeting,

Brenda Spalding

A Holiday Party to Remember!

A great time was had at the Anthology of Florida Writers & Poets Awards ceremony!



(Left) Judy Domienik, co-winner of the Chairman's Pick Poetry Award for "Tea Time" (tied with William Bokisd for "I Hate Being Nine Years Old"), with ABC VP Nancy Buscher.

(Right) Bob Krupp accepting ABC's First Lifetime Achievement Award



(Left) ABC members Brenda Darnley Martin and Nancy Buscher pose with Second Honorable Mention in Poetry winner, Sue Kotchman, of Seminole.

(Right) Clarissa Thomasson (left) with Brenda Spalding (right) won 2nd Place in the Short Story Category for "Scarlett Ribbons."



Photos by ABC Member and Travel Journalist, Lucy Beebe Tobias www.LucyTobias.com

See page 10 – 12 for additional information and contest winners

Upcoming Appearance Opportunities

Need more info? Unless otherwise noted, contact

brendaspalding@abcbooks4children.com

Let Brenda S. know you are going to events so she can ask to place us together.

Englewood Arts and Crafts Fair – Englewood Sports Complex (1300 River Road- Jan. 23 & March 19. \$20 per table (can share). (941) 861-1980.

Port Charlotte Family Book Fair – Bayshore Park, 23241 Bayshore Road, Port Charlotte. Feb 13 – 10 am to 3 pm. Call (941) 258-2968 or 941-258-4920 for info.

Cracker Fair – Dearborn Street in Englewood, February 13 – no details yet – contact cetgarrett@aol.com. Bring your own tents, tables and chairs. Can share space.

Dearborn Street Reading Festival (Englewood) - Feb. 20. Bring your own tents, tables, chairs and tell Brenda you are going. Contact diharris@comcast.net.

4th Annual Sun Circle Art Festival – March 5-10 am-pm. Sapphire Shores Park, Sun Circle Drive, Sarasota. More info: 941-351-1920 or janenutter@aol.com

Venice Book Festival – March 19. Downtown Venice in the park. Tents provided. More details later.

12th Annual Pioneer Day and BBQ Rib Cook-off, DeSoto Veterans Park, Arcadia. March 19, 9a-3p. \$25 space. Contact bebebradbury@gmail.com /863-494-6607.

16th Annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival – March 19, 10a - 4p, Harborside Event Center & Centennial Park, Fort Myers River District. Deadline 12-31-15.

Good OL' Days Festival –April 16, \$25 per space or raffle gift of same value. Homeland Heritage Park, Polk County. Tents, tables and chairs required. Contact Daniel Gornoski, 863-534-3766 or DanielGornoski@polk-county.net.

Bradenton Children's Literary Festival – April 30, 9a–2p, outdoors, downtown Bradenton. BYO tent table/chairs. Rental tents available (\$10) first come first served basis. Spaces are \$35 - can be shared. Contact Brenda: bpspalding@msn.com

2016 Florida Writing Workshop

“**Get Your Writing Published**” will be presented on two dates in different regions of the state: Friday, March 25 at the Crowne Plaza Tampa Westshore, and Saturday, March 26 at the Courtyard Fort Lauderdale Airport & Cruise Port. The event includes classes concerning how to get your writings and books published (writing queries and pitches, marketing yourself and your books), and includes the chance to get questions answered and/or to pitch a literary agent or editor (optional). Writers of all genres are welcome. For more information, visit: <http://floridawritingworkshops.com/>.

Meet Our Members

This new column will feature one ABC member every month until we have all been introduced. First come, first serve! Please send me a brief introduction (about the length of the posting here) and your author headshot. A picture is worth a thousand words! Send yours to me at: brendamartinwork@gmail.com.



ABC member, author and artist Joe Spinella, was born and raised in Sicily and did not speak a word of English when, at age 13, his family moved to America. A Sarasota resident for more than 40 years, Joe has now published the second edition of his hilarious autobiographical book, “Giuseppi Flies With A Chiclet.” In the book, Joe relates amazing stories about his childhood in Sicily and the many interesting things he has experienced and accomplished during his life in America. An affable guy, Joe has made it his mission to share his story with area children and as such, has visited and read his book to more than 145 classrooms and 3,200 school kids – SO FAR! Joe’s author school visits are still going strong and it shouldn’t be too long before he has read to more than 5,000 kids!

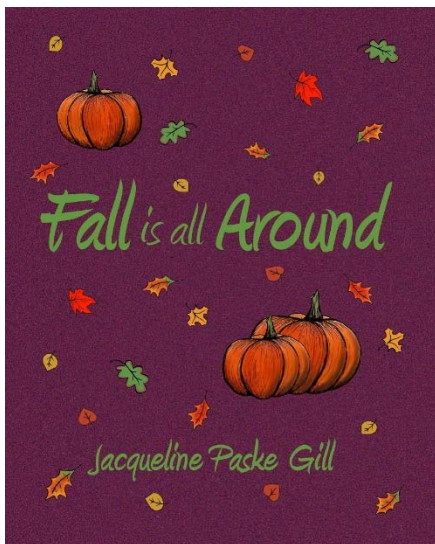
Joe is also the creator of artistic picture frames to accentuate the art within the frame. Be sure to catch his booth at an upcoming ABC author vendor booth!

Members in the Mainstream

At 10:30 AM on Wednesday, January 13, ABC member Lucy Tobias will be speaking about Florida Native Gardening in Small Spaces (like your lanai) for Easy Florida-Friendly Gardening Inspiration at the Elsie Quirk Public Library, 100 W. Dearborn Street in Englewood. Participants will be given small ceramic pots to paint, get a dirt recipe and a demonstration of how to pot a milkweed. They will also see an AV presentation on places to go for garden inspiration, and how to get started on butterfly gardening, natives and rain barrels. Lucy will also be selling and signing copies of her book, "Florida Gardens Gone Wild(er)." Call 941-861-5000 for participation information.



Lucy Tobias at Venice Craft Fair

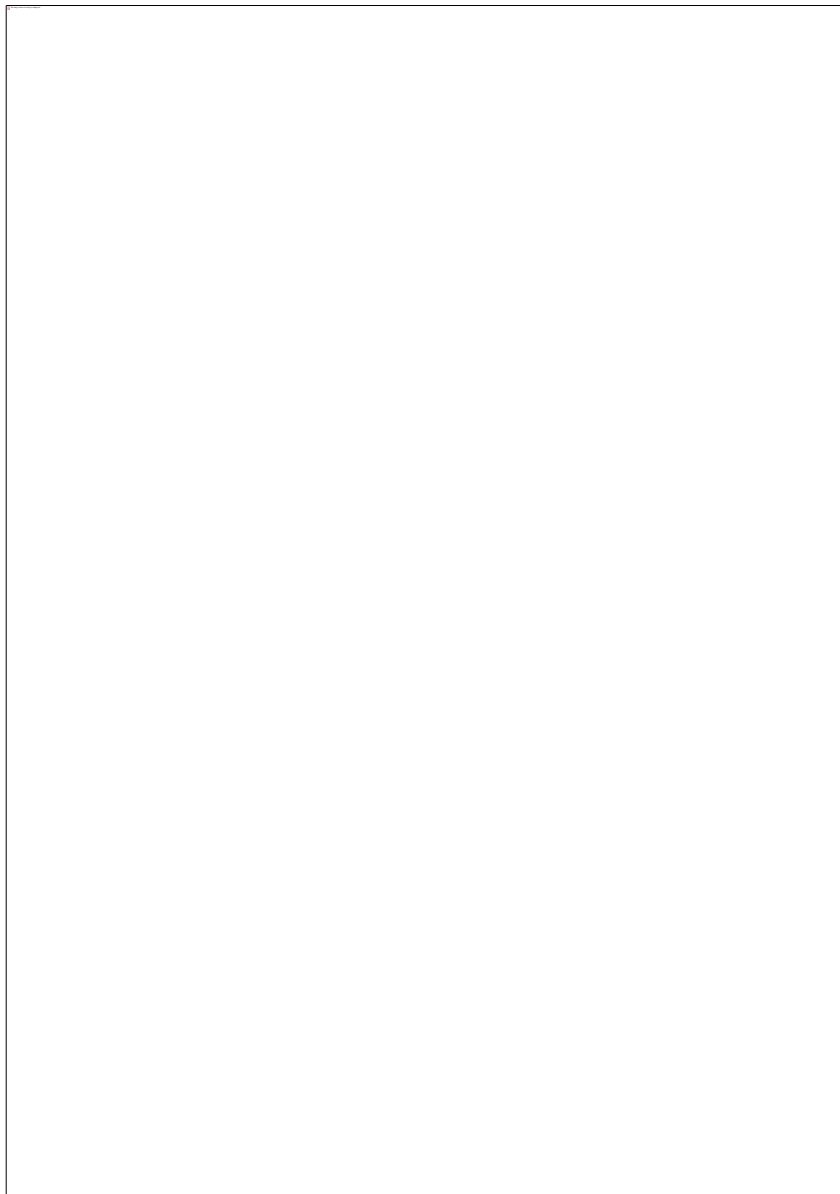


Author and illustrator Jacqueline Paske Gill has published the final book in her seasonal series, "Fall is all Around." Along with featuring changing weather, beautiful, vibrant, changing colors, wonderful fall foods and smells, it also focuses on the traditions and holidays that go along with fall.

Members in the Mainstream (cont.)

On December 8th Bob Krupp attended Sarasota Military Academy's daily assembly at 7:10 AM to present copies of his new book, "The Rainbow El Arco Iris" to both his co-author, Vera McClaugherty, and to Robin Livingston (Head of School) and Susanna Austin (Media Specialist) for SMA's library.

Join ABC author, D L Havlin, when he gives his character class cruising the Bahamas!



Upcoming ABC monthly meetings

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

Brenda Spalding: "Are You Ready to Publish your Book?"

Wednesday - March 16

Pamela Dow: "Book Cover Design"

Remaining 2016 Meetings

(Scheduled to date- last three TBA)

Tuesday, Apr 19

Tuesday, May 17

Tuesday, June 21

Tuesday, July 19

Tuesday, Aug 16

Tuesday, September 20

Do you have a suggestion for a great speaker?

**Send that person's name, topic & contact info to Editor Brenda Darnley Martin:
authorbrendamartin@gmail.com**

Our Wish List

Remember - we are now a 501(c)(3) non-profit and all donations are tax deductible! Please spread the word! We need money and items, such as:

A new or used working power point projector

Gas Gift Cards to be given to our out-of-town speakers

NOTICE

NYE discount books (607-a Spur Street in Venice) has gone out of business. Contact Linda, nyediscountbooks@gmail.com, to make arrangements to pick up any books you had left there on consignment.

Book Signings and Other Possibilities

Parker's Books on Main Street - book signings on the first and third Saturdays for percentage of sales. Contact Carole Stevens Bibisi: caroleart@hotmail.com.

Echo International headquarters (17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers) – Gift shop carries books! 239.543.3246, info@echonet.org or <http://echonet.org>

Mercer's Micro Roastery and Coffee House (Port Charlotte) will host book signings. Contact Valerie 941-661.6983 or mercercfr@yahoo.com

Sarasota's St. Paul Early Learning Center is seeking children's book authors to read their stories to promote literacy. Contact Lisa McLean at 941-779-7009.

Village Voices – Bradenton Village of the Arts - First Friday Art Walk Book signings and consignment. Email DGould497@aol.com or call (941) 748-6865

Local Writing & Critique Groups

Sarasota Fiction Writers – contact Pat Gray, President-patrickgray1@msn.com or visit their website at www.sarasotafw.wordpress.com

Florida Writers Association/Sarasota Branch (Nokomis) –contact George Mindling at Myakka@embarqmail.com or www.fwasarasota.blogspot.com

Florida Writers Association/Manatee Branch (Bradenton) – Contact Dona Lee at 941-748-6865 or email DGould497@aol.com

Peace River Center for Writers – contact Dawn at prew@edison.edu or call: 941-637-3514. Visit their website at peacriverwriters.org

Sarasota Authors Connection – contact Paula Counce at jcounce@comcast.net to submit your name, phone number and email address. *** Meetings have been moved to the second Tuesday of each month at the Fruitville Library.

The 2015 ABC Anthology of Florida Writers & Poets Awards Ceremony

2015 was a milestone year for ABC Authors and Illustrators. We not only received our 501(c)(3) non-profit designation, but held our first annual ABC Anthology of Florida Writers & Poets competition and awards ceremony! The event, held auditorium style in the Selby Library Meeting Room, featured author/voiceover talent Brenda Darnley Martin (Odessa) reading each of the winning submissions aloud, while the author received his/her award. The winning entries of those who were not in attendance were also read aloud for the enjoyment of the audience. Photos were taken through-out by travel journalist, Lucy Beebe Tobias. After the presentations, attendees enjoyed a sumptuous snack table with beverages. Luckier ones left with lovely door prizes, donated by Cheryl Summers Art Gallery (Venice), Buscher Consultants (Venice), Frames by Giuseppei (Sarasota), Sun-Moon-Stars Printing (Venice) and RJ Coons of Venice.

Winners of the ABC-2016 Anthology of FL Writers & Poets

Chairman's Pick - Short Story

Joe Cyr (Sarasota)

Ugga

Chairman's Pick - Poetry (TIED)

William Bokis (Lake Placid)

I Hate Being Nine Years Old

Judy Domienik (Venice)

Tea Time

1st Honorable Mention - Poetry

Henry Heitmann (Ft. Myers Beach)

Dancing in the Rain

1st Honorable Mention - Short Story

Sue Kotchman (Seminole)

Finding Sofia

2nd Honorable Mention - Poetry

Mimi Paris (Lake Worth)

Almost

2nd Honorable Mention - Short Story

Henry Heitmann (Ft. Myers Beach)

Isle of Enchantment

3rd Place Winner - Poetry

Mimi Paris (Boca Raton)

The Forgotten Obit

3rd Place Winner - Short Story

Carol White (Boca Raton)

After Life

2nd Place Winner - Poetry

Norma Minturn Stilwell (Sarasota)

The Wind Reaper

2nd Place Winner - Short Story

Clarissa Thomasson (Venice)

Scarlett Ribbons

1st Place Winner - Poetry

Thomas Noel Smith (Arcadia)

The Serenade Pastorale

1st Place Winner - Short Story

Jane Blythe (Sarasota)

Scar Tissue

The 2015 ABC Anthology of Florida Writers & Poets Awards Ceremony (Cont.)

2015 ABC Best Selling Authors

Male

DL Havlin

Female

Clarissa Thomasson

Member Recognition for Awards in Various Genres

Amazon's "Best Books of 2015 So Far" *Defending Hillsborough* by Clarissa Thomasson

Winner of seven "Best Short Documentary" national film festival awards

Tony's Tale, Tragedy in Arizona

Narrated by Brenda Darnley Martin

1st Place in Firehouse Theatre (LaBelle, FL) "Clarence "Bud" Jones Play Writing Competition"
Florida Shadows Clarissa Thomasson (winner second year in a row)

Dearborn Street Book Festival Writing Competition 1st Place

Kate Nixon

Dearborn Street Book Festival Writing Competition 2nd Place

Linda Schell

2nd Place in National League of American Pen Women State Conference Letters Competition
for a book of Fiction *Bottle Alley* Brenda Spalding

1st Place in Spiritual Writers Network 2015 Poetry Writing Contest

Reflections on a Passing

Rosalyn Petti

2015 Recognition of ABC Member New Book Titles

Because of Tuscany by Karen Ross Tuley

Bottle Alley, a novel by Brenda Spalding

Bully Route Home, a novel by DL Havlin

Laura and Grandpa: Discovering Science Together; Book 4 by Dr. Robert Krupp

Lucky Black Cats Adult Coloring Book by Carole Stevens Bibisi

Passage to Cuba by Penell

Princess Annie and the Unicorn, a picture book by Brenda Spalding

The 2015 ABC Anthology of Florida Writers & Poets Awards Ceremony (Cont.)

Teeny, The Little Ballerina, a picture book by William Stack

The Rainbow--El Arco Iris, a bilingual picture book by Dr. Robert Krupp

The Treasure-Hunt Fish; Miss Bernadette's Wish (2nd Edition) by Brenda Darnley Martin

Three Bridges, the 2nd in a series of Blaine Sterling novels by RJ Coons

The Rainbow's Dream and Song by Carole Stevens Bibisi

The Rainbow-El Arco Iris (bilingual: Spanish/English) Dr. Robert Krupp

Where's Teddy, a picture book by Brenda Spalding

Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Dr. Robert H Krupp, PhD

Bob Krupp has been with ABC Authors and Illustrators from the beginning and has served on our Executive Panel prior to our having officers. He holds his BS in Chemistry, and MS and PhD in Physics. Bob taught physics, chemistry, math, astronomy, meteorology and geology over the past 67 years. He won the "Mom's Choice Award" Honoring Excellence in family-friendly media, products and services, three years in a row for his book series, *Discovering Science Together*. In 2015, he released two new books: *The Rainbow-El Arco Iris* (a bilingual picture book in Spanish and English and the 4th book in his *Discovering Science Together* series) and *Discovering Da Vinci - Volume 1*.

Competition Judging Team

Nancy Tancey Buscher
Ted Mallires, BMus, MMus
Carlene Champine
Pam Callender, BFA, MFA

Contest Chairman
Poetry Judge
Short Story Judge
Finalist Judge

Please support our sponsors:

- **Services****
- Critique
 - Publishing
 - Brochure
 - Cover Letter
 - Article
 - Ghost Writing
 - Illustration
 - Line Editing
 - Newsletter
 - Speaker
 - Resume
 - Review
 - Script
 - Web Design



Buscher Consultants

We Write

and we assist writers

Nancy Buscher
 Buscher511@gmail.com
 #209 1532 US Highway BP S
 Venice, FL 34293-1032



RADIO EAR NETWORK



**No Boundaries
 No Hidden Agendas
 Just Voices for
 a Better Life**

Radioearnetwork.com

**Let the world know you're an author
 Over 1200 best selling authors do**

- Friends of ABC**
- Village Voices
 - Buscher Consultants
 - Sarasota Arts Center
 - Charlotte Harbor Writers
 - Radio Ear Network Media
 - Sarasota Authors Connection
 - Sandman's Newsletter for Authors
 - Historical Society of Sarasota County
 - National League of American Pen Women