

# SPUR

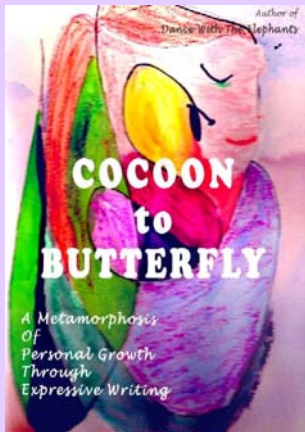
a WRITE IT OUT® newsletter

[www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) [RMillerWIO@aol.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@aol.com)

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Editor: Ronni Miller



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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

“Live life in radical amazement,” a quote by Abraham Joshua Heschel, is one I recently heard delivered at a lecture in Woodstock, NY this past September. The thought resonated with me during and after the lecture while the speaker encouraged us to have an open heart and believe in possibilities as we attended to our life during the year. I too, encourage you to begin our new academic year in the spirit of amazement.

Life is not predictable and yet is amazing. Life comes with a whoosh of air and light. It comes on splatters of rain and in the flash of lightning. It comes in the dregs of rotted garbage and in the birth of a grapefruit.

As writers we experience amazement often when our

thoughts give birth to words, and feelings trigger memories that cascade onto paper or keyboard. We often ask: Who is the person that wrote those words?! It must be a soul who resides within loosened from a cocoon and prancing on its own. How amazing!

My annual personal writing retreat in Woodstock, NY of Catskill Mountain fame has nourished me mentally, spiritually and creatively. It's given me a chance to reconnect to iconic, local folk history along with my own memoirs of childhood summers spent on dairy farms in the area. I've lived in Woodstock for the past 27 years in a rented farmhouse, Buddhist retreat, artist cottages, and an eclectic pine and glass cabin I built set beside a field of

hay and before a mountain where Write It Out® was born. The places I've lived and experienced have crawled into my stories, novels and autobiographical play. I feel renewed with anticipation to share and be witness to the special places and experiences that have impacted your written life journeys.

I'm looking forward to our 21<sup>st</sup> year for Write It Out® with “radical amazement” as together we'll birth your books and stories.

I wish all of you the joy of lifting off, imagining and writing your own cocoon to butterfly journeys in fact or fiction to find personal growth through expressive writing.

*Ronni*

## RONNI'S FIRST APPEARANCE ON A WEBINAR!

I'll be providing my first webinar lecture and mini workshop on Expressive Writing Nov. 13, 2012 4PM EST and 7PM PT! This interactive presentation is presented by The National

League of American Pen Women out of Washington DC. There is a nominal fee of \$35 or \$25 for NLAPW members. Payment arrangements to hear the presentation are made through

NLAPW. Read more on my website at:

[www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com)

WRITE IT OUT® is a motivational and expressive writing program for individuals of all ages.

INSIDE OUTSIDE CLYDE



Ronni Miller  
Drawings by Kerija

## Inside Outside Clyde

The *world premier* of Ronni's book *Inside Outside Clyde* has been set to music by Alice Moerk, award winning professional music composer. Ronni's reading of *Clyde* will be accompanied by piano and oboe on February 9, 2013 at 12:30 PM at the Bird Key Yacht Club.

This children's picture book tells a story of bullying and self-discovery. Clyde, the protagonist who is a little boy teased by schoolmates because he has red hair and wants to run away from his outsides and hide. In his escape he discovers an inside place of comfort and imagination.

He resists leaving this comfort zone until he's encouraged to take his insides outside and this makes all the difference in his life.

Tickets for this lunch premier are \$23 and may be obtained through Ronni. E-mail her for more info.

“ Write about feelings, memories and experiences to understand your life. ”

Ronni Miller

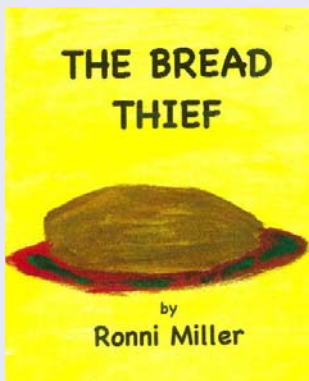
## Celebrate 21 Years of WIO With Special Perks

Special perks are available to celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup> year of the WIO program:

1. Save \$5.00 off prepaid registration for a Creative Writing Workshop.
2. Early birds who preregister and prepay for a Creative Writing Workshop are entitled to one free private session with Ronni.
3. Prepay for four private sessions and receive the 5<sup>th</sup> private session free.

## Private Sessions with Book Midwife

Ronni, as Book Midwife works with clients to birth their books of memoir and fiction from inception to delivery. She also works with clients to develop personal growth through expressive writing exercises. See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) under "news and events" for the link to articles where Ronni has been interviewed on the subject of Expressive Writing. Contact Ronni for more information and to make an appointment. [RMillerWIO@aol.com](mailto:RMillerWIO@aol.com) or 941-359-3824.



My children's book *The Bread Thief* won a first place award in October, 2011 from the National League of American Pen Women.

## The Bread Thief, Pine Tree & Above Finn's

**The Bread Thief** was originally written for my grandson Eric, who was born in Italy and grew up there until the age of six when he and his parents moved to the U.S. Italy is embedded in his genes as is the love of bread. One day when I was visiting I heard

him dub himself *the bread thief*. So, of course I had to write the book and sent it to him as a gift.

**The Pine Tree**, an adult short story of love awakened won **first prize** at the 2011 National Biennial Convention in Washington DC

from the National League of American Pen Women.

**Above Finn's**, an adult short story of the irony of love, won **third prize** in a short story competition sponsored by the Boca Raton Branch of the National League of American Pen Women in 2011.

## Domestic Shorts

Eighteen of my most popular stories performed at Readings are now bound together in an 8 1/2 x11 collection with cover illustration of one of my paintings.

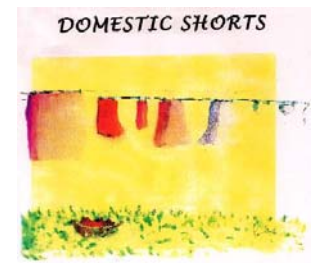
The stories speak of connections with lovers and places. Female characters struggle with loss, and longing and

the ironies of life. Pathos, humor and romance swirl through the stories that provide a window of insight into the human experience. Some of the stories have been published in literary journals and newspapers.

*“She had returned, or was it run off to Italy,*

*the place of her first love, at least with a country that had remained available to her, and provided her with dreams and material to write.”*

-- From “Memoir Of A Displaced Person” in ***Domestic Shorts***



Ronni Miller

**Domestic Shorts is a Robi Jode Press book. This and all Ronni's books are available on her website.**

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## July 2013 in Tuscany

Relax, restore, create and write in a Renaissance villa in Tuscany, Italy. A perfect setting for a week's retreat to massage imagination, kindle romance, tickle taste buds and absorb the culture of Italy while writing.

Il Barone, location for the workshop is a four star, hotel owned and run by a count and countess in Panzano in

Chianti a Tuscan village within miles of Florence and Siena. You'll experience old world graciousness, surrounded by antiques and art work pampered with modern conveniences and regional, gourmet food. Sounds and sights of the nearby 10<sup>th</sup> century church will pique your senses along with the scent of grapes ripening. Saturday-to-Saturday, July 13-20, 2013

will be our special time to share a magical opportunity that captures the aura of yesteryear.

See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) for information on details of the retreat. Those of you who have already mentioned a desire to join the adventure, please contact me as soon as possible.



Il Barone in Tuscany

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## August Cape Cod Expressive Writing Retreat

Join us this year in August on the Cape at a New England Inn, once a sea captain's home in the village of Wellfleet, MA.

Expressive writing and art exercises stimulate your writing. Private attention is given to each student and time is flexible to work on individual projects. Held at The Holden Inn, located in

the village of Wellfleet, it is within walking distance to the Bay beach, restaurants, art galleries, books stores and shops.

The retreat begins on Monday, August 19 and ends on Friday, August 23, 2013.

See [www.writeitout.com](http://www.writeitout.com) for a description of this retreat.



**Ronni Miller**  
Writer, Artist, Speaker  
Editor of SPUR



The Holden Inn in Wellfleet, MA  
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From the lodge,  
A view of Cape Cod Bay

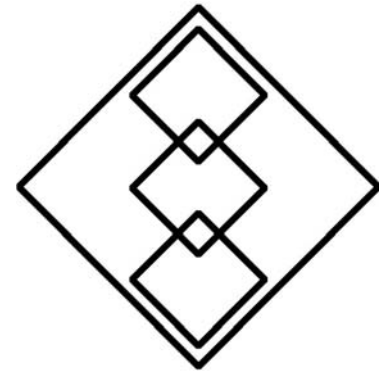


## Robi Jode Press Logo Story

The logo for ROBI JODE PRESS introduced at Write It Out's Twenty Year Birthday event dates back to 1980. It was designed by Jonathan Miller, then in high school, as the logo for Robi Jode Company, a marketing company to promote Ronni's first book *Where To Go With Your Lover* published in 1980 by the small press Tribune Publishing Company, of Livingston, New Jersey. It was a book of places to wine, dine and stay in the metropolitan area of NJ, NY, the Berkshires and Bermuda with memoir stories in some of the locations.

The logo was originally painted on a mirror and there it remained unused until 2012 when it became the logo for Robi Jode press who has published six of Ronni's books including the award winning children's book *The Bread Thief*.

The diamond with three diamonds inside represents Ronni and her three children as they are the diamonds in her life. The name was conceived from the first two letters of each of their names: **R**onni, **B**ill, **J**on and **D**ebbie. The children are grown now, professionals with doctorate and masters degrees in science, architecture and psychotherapy and are raising their own children of elementary and high school ages.



*The diamond with three diamonds inside represents Ronni and her three children as they are the diamonds in her life.*

**A TRIPLE EVENT** to celebrate the 20th year birthday of the **Write It Out** program, the introduction of **Robi Jode Press** to the public and the publishing of the brand new book *Cocoon To Butterfly: A Metamorphosis of Expressive Writing* was held on February 28, 2012 at the Arts & Cultural Alliance Building, Sarasota, FL.

**Write It Out** celebrated twenty years of providing private clients and workshop students motivation and encouragement to express feelings, memoirs and experiences through writing in the US, Bermuda and in Italy. **Robi Jode Press**, a spin off of the Write It Out program was introduced to the public as a small, cooperative press publishing fiction, nonfiction and children's books. *Cocoon To Butterfly*, part memoir and part how-to-write a memoir, Ronni's newest book, joins *Dance With The Elephants* as another text used in the Write It Out program.

Close to one hundred graduates and students of the program as well as family and friends enjoyed readings of cocoon to butterfly stories performed by students of the Write It Out program who are included in the Cocoon book. **Diane Graham** read her poem "Breathing," **Karen Winston Weinstein** read her personal essay piece "Creative Outlet," **Kris Pinelli** read her poems "Revelation" and "Chrysalis" and **Marilyn Shapo** read her personal essay "My Namesake." Appetizers, wine and desserts especially Ronni's favorite, a chocolate birthday cake, topped off the affair. Committee members for the event, Gerry Sheridan, Maram Schuster, Joy Yelin, Karin Zukoswski, Kris Pinelli, Jane Keil Yoder, Jacqui and Seward Smith helped plan, prepare, bake, set-up, host and breakdown the event.

### FREE CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP GREENVILLE, NY

Write It Out will offer a free week long Creative Writing Workshop on Monday, August 26 to Friday, August 30, 2013 from 10:00 AM -12 noon at the Greenville Public Library, Greenville, NY. This workshop has been an annual event for many years held in a rural community between Woodstock and Albany NY. Farmers and second home people from New York City share their creative work. Its popularity has spawned two writing groups that meet during the year. A number of students have gone on to publish their work as a result of the workshop including George Knauer, the blind poet who has several poetry books to his credit as well as an autobiographical essay "Blind Poet Soars Out Of The Cocoon" published in *Cocoon To Butterfly*. He hadn't begun to write until he experienced the Write It Out workshop several years ago. He's an inspiration to all of us, sighted or not to pursue the healing benefits of creativity and writing.

### NEW VENUE FOR WRITE IT OUT

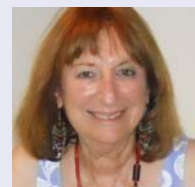
Ronni is now teaching expressive writing workshops at the Center for Building Hope (formerly the Cancer Support Community) Lakewood Ranch. Her classes meet once a week on Wednesday's and are free and open to anyone impacted by cancer whether as a survivor or caregiver. The all green Center is a brand new architecturally designed space to enhance the beauty of life with a butterfly garden, outdoor labyrinth, and windows from the classroom that bring nature into the room providing a soothing background to write.

*Write It Out*<sup>®</sup>

a WRITE IT OUT® newsletter

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### PRIVATE SESSIONS

Make an appointment for a private session (s) to work one-on-one with Ronni on expressive writing exercises using journal writing, poetry, prose, and theater pieces for the purposes of developing and increasing personal growth. As Book Midwife, Ronni works with clients from inception to birth on memoir and fiction books.

### PERKS FOR THE EARLY BIRDS

Free private session with Ronni when you register for a six-week Pinehurst Village Creative Writing workshop and pay in advance of the class.

# WRITE IT OUT WORKSHOP SCHEDULE FOR 2012-2013 (\*ongoing workshops through June of 2013)

*"Live life in radical amazement."* - Abraham Joshua Heschel

## CREATIVE WRITING \*:

**A writing workshop for fiction, creative non-fiction, poetry and theater pieces.**

Pinehurst Village, Sarasota, FL

1st term: Thurs. Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 2012- 1:30-3:30 PM

2nd term: Thurs. Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, Feb. 7, 14, 2013- 1:30-3:30 PM

3rd term: Thurs. Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2013- 1:30-3:30 PM

4th term: Thurs. April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2, 9, 2013- 1:30-3:30 PM

5<sup>th</sup> term: Thurs. May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 2013-1:30-3:30 PM

Tuition: \$275.00 or individual classes @\$50.00. (Special perks and savings for early registration. See newsletter for details.)

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: RMillerWIO@aol.com or 941-359-3824.

## EXPRESSIVE WRITING \*:

**A workshop for those who have been impacted by cancer to write about life-altering events past or present through any genre.**

Center For Building Hope, Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota, FL

Wed. Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2012 1:00-2:30 PM

Wed. Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2013 1:00-2:30 PM

Wed. April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2013 1:00-2:30 PM

Tuition: Free

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: Center For Building Hope 941-921-5539

## EXPRESSIVE NONFICTION, POETRY & JOURNAL WRITING

**A writing workshop to use expressive writing techniques for personal growth.**

State College of Florida, Lakewood Ranch Campus

Mon. Nov. 5, 19, 15, 26, Dec. 3, 10, 2012- 6:00-8:00 PM

Mon. Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, 18, 2013- 1:00-3:00 PM

Tuition: \$75

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-752-5669

## EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH WRITING

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

The Longboat Key Education Center, Longboat Key FL

Tues. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2013 1:00-3:00 PM

Tuition: \$140 members \$150 nonmembers

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Registration: 941-383-8811

## CREATIVE WRITING IN THE MOUNTAINS

**An intensive one-week workshop to write fiction, fact and poetry.**

Greenville Public Library, Greenville, NY

Mon.-Fri. August 26-30, 2013 10:00 AM-12 noon.

Tuition: Free

Facilitator: Ronni Miller

Texts used in Write It Out classes:

*Dance With The Elephants-Free Your Creativity And Write* by Ronni Miller

*Cocoon To Butterfly-A Metamorphosis of Personal Growth Through Expressive Writing* by Ronni Miller

*The Best American Short Stories 2012* edited by Tom Perrotta **CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP ONLY**