



In the good old summertime...

Hi, all! Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, *"Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air."* While poetically that touches me, practically speaking, I'm all about staying COOL 🕶️ in the summer, especially in the SWFL heat and humidity. Here are some "cool" things for your consideration...

Make Your Book Look as Good as it Reads...

Join us **this Saturday, July 18 @ 10AM** at St. Hilary's Episcopal Church and get inspired!! Our guest speaker, Nancy Koucky, will cover the essentials of professional book design — cover elements, fonts, formatting, margins, and the front-to-back structure every book needs, for print or e-book. If you want your book to put its best foot forward, do not miss this one.

Nancy, also a GCWA member, is the owner of [NRK Designs](#), an award-winning book and magazine designer who works with clients nationwide.

Kudos Korner...

Thank you, **Dave Kratzke**, for stepping up to provide technical expertise and support for our website as we continue searching for a qualified Web Manager to fill Laura Fuller's shoes when she steps down at the end of this month. Dave and Laura have been working together for a smooth transition over the past few weeks. According to Dave, thanks to Laura's amazing work building our website, this is

going well and we don't anticipate any major problems. But if you do run into any website issues, please email me directly at president@gulfcoastwriters.org rather than the technical inbox — that way things can be routed to Dave in order of priority so we make the best use of his time.

Another “gracias” goes out to Dallas Adams, our new AV/Zoom volunteer! Even though she declined my earlier offer of a neck hug, I'm personally grateful to her for taking this on and I look forward to working with Dallas to continue to provide our members with remote access to meetings when at all possible. That said...

PLEASE NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond both our control, Zoom will **NOT** be available this month — but we'll have handouts of Nancy's presentation for anyone interested after the meeting. Just email yours truly. And thanks for your patience!

FAPA Awards...

If you follow us on Facebook (you should), you probably saw that the Florida Authors and Publishers Association (FAPA) has awarded GCWA their Writers Group of Excellence badge! Of course, we knew we were good 😊 but it is nice to be recognized by an organization with a reputation for seeking out, encouraging and acknowledging excellent writing here in the Sunshine State. FAPA's upcoming annual conference and awards banquet, [FAPA Con 2026](#), is July 31–August 1 in Orlando, and several of our members are up for individual book awards. Fingers crossed for bronze, silver, or gold — this is more exciting than the Olympics!

Speaking of which, Tom Cossie is driving up to the conference and has room for anyone who needs a ride — let me know and I'll connect you with Tom.

Good luck to all our FAPA nominees — you inspire us to keep at this crazy obsession we call writing!

Snack Squad...

Last but NEVER least, our amazing Refreshments Coordinator, Julie Moore, could use a few folks willing to bring noshes Saturday. Think simple: a pastry, some fruit, nuts, or a sweet-and-salty snack — and some coffee creamer would be great too. Message [Julie](#) if you can help. And thanks to Beth Meyer, who's offered to bring water!



That's it! Keep cool people - and KEEP WRITING!!

Warmly,

Christie Zarria

GCWA President

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GCWA

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