

Oldwick plans anima

Topics include avenues for breaking into the field, adult and children's literature, fiction and nonfiction

Loren Spiotta-DiMare

Loren's Reading Room

J. Pace Publications is hosting a special program for animal lovers, aspiring and professional authors. The By The Book: Animal Writers' Workshop will take place on Saturday, April 28, in Oldwick from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Highlighting various avenues for breaking into the animal writing field, adult and children's literature, fiction and nonfiction will be discussed.

The guest speakers are educational book author Linda Bozzo of Piscataway, picture book author Deborah Stevenson of Sparta, book designer Jeanne Balsam of Milford, novelist Andi Andrews of Tewksbury, nonfiction author Loren Spiotta-DiMare of Tewksbury and cat book author Donna Jean Paff of Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Bozzo is an award-winning author of more than 60 nonfiction, educational books for children. She is also a long-time member of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. In between writing projects, Bozzo enjoys giving presentations at schools and libraries.

Deborah Stevenson's lifelong love of animals and writing have frequently intersected, most recently in the form of an award-winning children's book, "Soaring Soren: When French Bulldogs Fly." This inspirational, true story is about her French Bulldog, who defied the odds to become the first champion of his breed in the athletic sport of dog agility.

Jeanne Balsam is a graphic designer, author and illustrator. Her 30-plus-year career as a graphic designer includes clients ranging from the largest humane organization in the state to individuals who need a designer for their self-published books.

Balsam has extensive experience as a contributor, editor and/or publisher of several animal-oriented publications. Her illustrations have appeared for a combined 16 years in Just Terriers and Just Frenchies magazines, the latter of which inspired her small business featuring items for the French Bulldog exclusively. She also ran her own dog rescue for over a decade with great success.

Author and equestrian Andrews recently had her fourth novel published. "Ephemeral" is a departure for Andrews

as one of the two central characters is a horse. One-part romance novel, one-part literary fiction, one-part love-affair-with-horses, the story is told from the viewpoint of a quirky, old cow horse who not only invites you into his world, but also shares his sensible and soulful outlook on human hearts and the meaning of true horsemanship.

And as of this writing, her screenplay "Spring Fling" is a semifinalist in the 2018 Nashville Screenwriting Competition/Nashville Film Festival.

A lifelong animal lover, Spiotta-DiMare has been writing nonfiction books about her favorite subjects for 40 years. Over the course of her career, she has had 20 books published. Her titles include a coffee table book, "Beyond The Finish Line: Stories of Ex-Racehorses," reference books, "Cavalier King Charles Spaniel" and "The Sporting Spaniel Handbook," the "Horses That Help" chapter book series, and picture books, "Because of Bentley," "Rockwell: A Boy and His Dog," "Broke Leg Bear" and "Chelsea & The New Puppy."

Paff has resided in rural Berks County her entire life. Growing up surrounded by the healing energy of pets and nature gave Paff an appreciation of holistic remedies that later in life developed into her work as an energy therapist at an assisted living community.

It was there that the author met the main character of her first published book, "A Visit from Miss Marvin," a cat with a personality and mitten paws like her favorite childhood pet and who was ironically mirroring Paff's work by giving her own form of therapy to the residents.

Numerous local authors will participate in the Authors' Alley by signing their books and talking with guests about the animal book publishing industry.

The workshop fee is \$65. Pre-registration by April 25 is required.

To register by mail, send a check made out to J. Pace Publications, PO Box 301, Califon, NJ 07830. To register online, visit www.EventBrite.com and search for By The Book: Animal Writers' Workshop.

The workshop will take place at the Oldwick Manor, 163 Oldwick Road, (behind the fire station). If you have questions about the program, contact author@LorensReadingRoom.com.