

Jill Gurr, Freelance Writer

Fluent in Spanish, French and some Italian

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Professional Summary

Jill has been writing short stories, poems and articles since she was seven-years-old. Her poem, "The Sky is On Fire" won Honorable Mention at a national competition in 1964 when she was only 14. She's written business collateral like brochures, flyers and PSAs for companies. She has written a library of screenplays for film and TV. Two have been produced with known actors. Jill has also published three books (available on Amazon). She raised over \$3 million by writing successful grant proposals with inspirational stories about some of the 50,000 children that Create Now (the nonprofit organization she founded in 1996) has served.

Work Experience

Founder and Former CEO of [Create Now](#)

October 1996-July 2021

501 (c)(3) nonprofit that provides arts education and mentoring for over 50,000 at-risk youth

- Researched potential funding sources (foundations, corporate, government, sponsors and individuals)
- Wrote hundreds of grant proposals that raised over \$3 million
- Wrote letters and certificates to thank supporters
- Wrote mid-year and final reports to funders detailing outcomes
- Wrote monthly newsletters that reach 7,500+ subscribers
- Wrote social media content for Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Organized grant proposals and notes about funders in Salesforce

Freelance Writer

May 2004–December 2020

- eHarmony – Part of writing team that wrote an online series, "The Compatible Marriage"
- Crystal Vending Machines – Brochure, Business letter, Business card
- Cosmodex T-Shirts – SEO keywords

Clips

- ["Using the Life-Saving Power of Creativity"](#) for the Jewish Journal

- “[Margaret Herrick Library](#)” - Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, published on deleted Beverly Hills website
- “[My Risky Life](#)” - Essay Contest Winner, [Sadie Magazine](#), First Prize: Writers Retreat at Woodhull Institute in San Francisco
- PSA to “[Save Elsmere Canyon](#)” from becoming a trash dump
- eHarmony sample upon request
- Grant proposal sample upon request

Screenwriter

1984 - 1998

- Wrote 16 original screenplays in all genres (drama, romantic comedy, horror, thriller, family, sci-fi, urban action, musical)
- Hired to write eight screenplays
- PBS Pilot “[The Immortals - Socrates](#)” - star: Ed Asner, 3E Productions
- *Rigged* adapted from James Hadley Chase novel *Hit and Run* – star: George Kennedy, CineStar Productions

Script Supervisor (Continuity)

1981-1998

Worked on film, TV, commercials and music videos all over the world with A-list celebrities and directors on award-winning productions

Books

- *Dolphin Healing* – Children’s illustrated chapter book (Amazon)
- *Mentor Youth Now: A Guidebook for Transforming Young Lives* (Amazon)
- *Adventures with the Ancient Crystal Skulls* - co-written with Joky Van Dieten (Amazon)

Honors

- Featured in upcoming coffee-table book [100 Making a Difference](#) with top celebrities, to be published on Amazon in late 2021
- CBS Los Angeles article: [Best New Authors You Need to Know About](#)
- Many presentations given to international diplomats through the U.S. State Department
- One of the first four Americans chosen by the British Council to participate in Global Xchange in South Africa and Belfast during 2010 with 26 leaders from six countries
- One of eight national people selected by the Holocaust Museum in Los Angeles as part of their “Everyday Heroes” exhibition
- Featured on national media, including *NBC Nightly News* and *Anderson Cooper 360°* and local news channels

Niches

- Film & TV Production, Screenwriting, Nonprofit Management, Mentoring Youth, Arts Education

Skills

- **Technical Skills:** Content writing, research, interviewing sources, marketing, SEO
- **Soft Skills:** Self-motivation, communication, collaboration, efficiency, creativity

Education

- 2000-2018 – Center for Nonprofit Management (dozens of courses)
- 1997 – UCLA Professional Program in Producing (certified)
- 1972 – Boston University - BS in Broadcasting and Film
- 1971 – Pitman’s Secretarial College, London
- 1971 – City of London Polytechnic, UK

Activities

- Attend seminars and conferences on UFOs/UAPs
- Research ancient archeological sites
- Hiking
- Performed Improv Comedy at The Comedy Store and with group “Constant Comedy”