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Amelia Island Writers



Amelia Island Writers Works in Progress general meeting date is the fourth Tuesday of the month. Topics of interest vary throughout the year. This month we are Brainstorming Titles, Tues. March 24, 4-6 pm at Story and Song Bookstore Bistro.

A study of fifteen title types will inspire you to improve your writing and offer direction if you are stuck.

Welcome new subscribers, whether aspiring or established writers. Membership in FL Writers Association is not required to attend local meetings, which are open to the public.

Screen meet monthly.

<http://www.ameliaislandwriters.org>

How Editing and Bonsai Pruning Yield Similar Results

Spring arrives this month, soon we will be pruning in the garden. Enjoy this timely excerpt from Katherine Hoehn's recent article for Florida Writers Association blog page.

As we go through an editing process, I am reminded of an important lesson I learned 10 years ago when I was unemployed and my sons gave me a seventeen year old bonsai to take care of, because they thought I needed a distraction.

Like any hobby, the distraction cost me money and time, but I did enjoy it. Had I not entrusted Jennifer Juniper to a wicked house sitter some years later, I am certain I would still be raising her.

One of the key things I learned in bonsai care is that in order for the tree to grow stronger and keep its shape, it must be generously pruned on a regular basis. When I took my tree to the bonsai master, he brought out sharp shears and removed branch after branch, much to my shock. I had been growing it for several months and was proud of the growth. He removed all of the new growth, and more.

Something we writers can easily forget is that our new growth, or creative writing, does need to be honed so that our end result is healthy and not overburdened with words or branches that get in the way of the health of the work and the readers' comprehension of our intent.

Much like bonsai care, a written piece must be pruned in order for the other parts to be appreciated properly, for the roots to breathe and for the best to be showcased. This is a concept that is difficult for many people who write from the heart, and are very proud of their work and detailed research.

overall beauty and the ability of others to enjoy it.

When we are too close to a bonsai or a story we have written, we lose perspective and reality as we take it all a little too personally.

A tree is incapable of pruning itself and we writers cannot see the pruning needs near as well as our beta readers and editors.

Remember that with all editing, the intent is to make your work shine. As with the bonsai, we want it to be beautiful for years to come.



LOCAL AUTHOR EVENTS THIS MONTH:

Story and Song Bookstore -

Wed., Mar. 4, 4-5 pm. Gerhardt Thamm, known for his memoir of a German boy soldier turned American Intelligent Agent, introduces his new novel, "The Making of a Spy."

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Reason for America." He identifies 23 national crises and shows their causes. Cost effective, innovative solutions are presented that can be taken by governments, businesses, and citizens for our country's future, and the American Dream for *all* Americans. Twelve riveting chapters are punctuated with personal stories.

Tues., Mar.10, 10-11:30 am. Women Rowing North with Creative Wellness practitioner Robyn Nemes. Robyn introduces and outlines a six week class on navigating life's currents and flourishing as we age.

Sat., Mar. 28, 7:30 - 9 pm. Live Ink Theatre presents four short stories from Mandy Hayne's "Walking the Wrong Way Home," complete with picturesque settings, vivid characters, and lyrical prose. Performed by Arlene Filkoff, Ron Kurtz, Sinda Nichols, and Sue Weiner. \$20.00
and

Sun., Mar. 29, 3:30 - 5 pm. Live Ink Theatre presents four short stories from Mandy Hayne's "Walking the Wrong Way Home." \$20.00.
Tickets at the bookstore or call 904-601-2128 to reserve.

[The Book Loft -](#)

Sat., Mar. 14, 12-2 pm. Jacques Pepin will be on hand to delight customers and sign your choice of his many books.

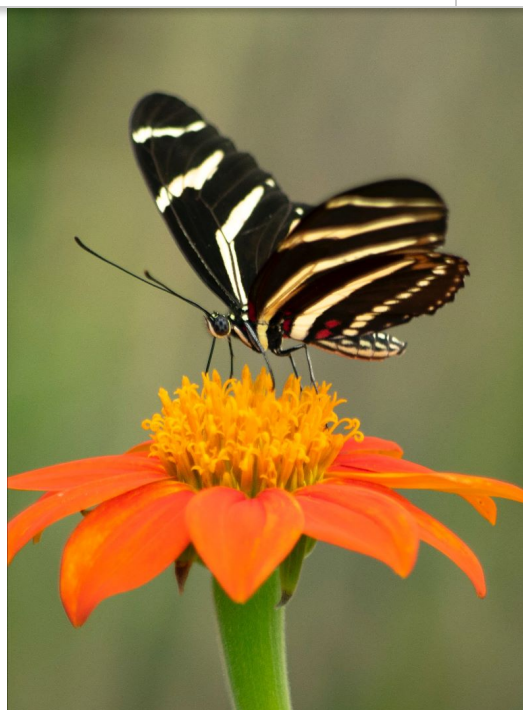
Wed., Apr. 1, 10-11:30. Family Stories: Evoking Emotion in Your Characters. Workshop with Susan Zurenda. \$25.00 for workshop, call 904-261-8991 to reserve. Followed by Susan at the Fern. Bch. Library for Books and Bites, 12-1:30 pm, a free event. Susan's new novel, "Bells for Eli," is the subject of a book trailer on her website.

<http://www.susanzurenda.com>

Congratulations to Rebecca
(Becky) Jordi, Univ. FL Nassau
Co. Extension Agent for her
release of "Zoe's Mission." The

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of host plants in our environment. The underlying objective is to increase the number of Zebra Longwing butterflies, Florida's State Butterfly. Proceeds from the book go to UF/IFAS horticulture program, 4-H Zebra program, and in support of invasive weed control. The book is available at the county extension office, at all Landscape Matters classes, and at Master Gardener plant sales.



Amelia Island Writers Works in Progress topics this quarter work together for drafting a title, finding your voice/multi genre writing, and book cover design.

Save these fourth Tuesday dates:

- March 24 - Choosing a Title, a study of fifteen title types
- April 28 - Special guest George Weinstein, Atlanta Writers and Atlanta Writers Conference Director
- May 26 - Book Cover Design, Nancy Blanton - Amelia Indie Authors



Florida Writers Association
Writers Helping Writers

Find out what NE Florida writers are doing by clicking the link. Vic DiGenti is our regional FWA Director and published author.

<http://www.fwapontevedra.blogspot.com>

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