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# Amelia Island Writers



**We last met in February. For those of you who braved that evening's storm, we enjoyed wine tasting and learned about podcasts with Dr. Diann Schindler. Eight months of the COVID-19 situation have gone by. We've kept journals, written in solitude, exchanged work by email, participated in some programs via Zoom, and here we are near the end of 2020.**

**Last week, some AIW newcomers and aspiring writers met for a coffee chat at Story and Song Bookstore Bistro. Story and Song has resumed a partial events calendar successfully by following city mandates and social distancing. We gained**

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person for our general meeting, however, your RSVP is required for space planning.

### **Meeting Details:**

**Tuesday, Nov. 17, 4- 6 pm, Story and Song, upstairs.**

**The program is a perennial favorite of aspiring and established writers. Write about a holiday gathering.**

**Include details and use the senses. What did you see and do, how did you feel? What did it look like? What colors come to mind, what are the smells, tastes, and sounds?**

**Optional is to re-write the same story from someone else's perspective - a relative, a student, a passer-by, etc.**

**Although you can write to your heart's content, for meeting purposes limit each story to 750 words.**

**As always, sharing your work is optional. Those who wish to read will go to the front platform area distanced from other attendees.**

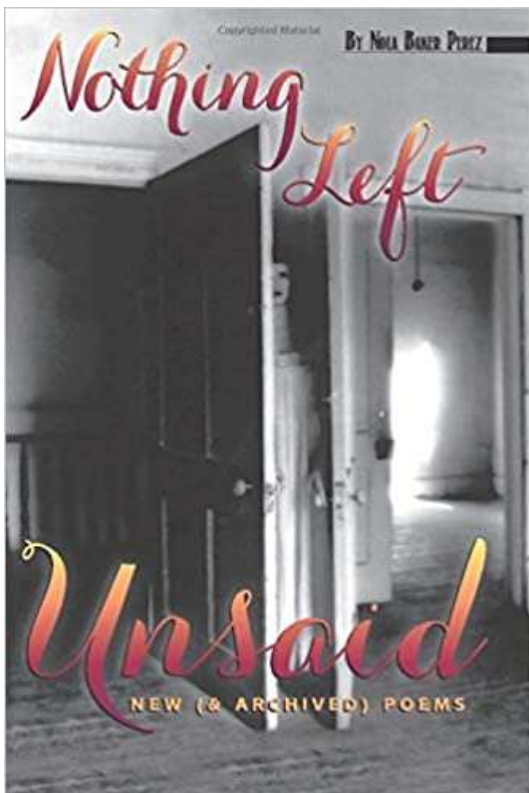
**RSVP by noon Monday, Nov. 16, to Lee Ann:**

**[jimlee.shobe@gmail.com](mailto:jimlee.shobe@gmail.com)**

**You will be notified if our in person meeting plans change.**

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Write about a holiday gathering. A special place, people, something that went right or wrong. A relationship, a superb or not so great holiday dinner. Quirky relatives and fruitcake. Not limited to fall or winter holidays, spring and summer are fine, too. A family reunion. Easter, the 4th of July...



A poet laureate is defined as holding an honorary representative position in a particular country, region, locality or group. In honor of her 90th birthday, Nola Perez is named poet laureate of Fernandina Beach by city proclamation. Among Nola's published works are four memoirs and 13 books of poetry, three of which were written in Paris. Just to mention a few, *Cruising with the Kir Queen*, *The Movement of Bones*, *A*

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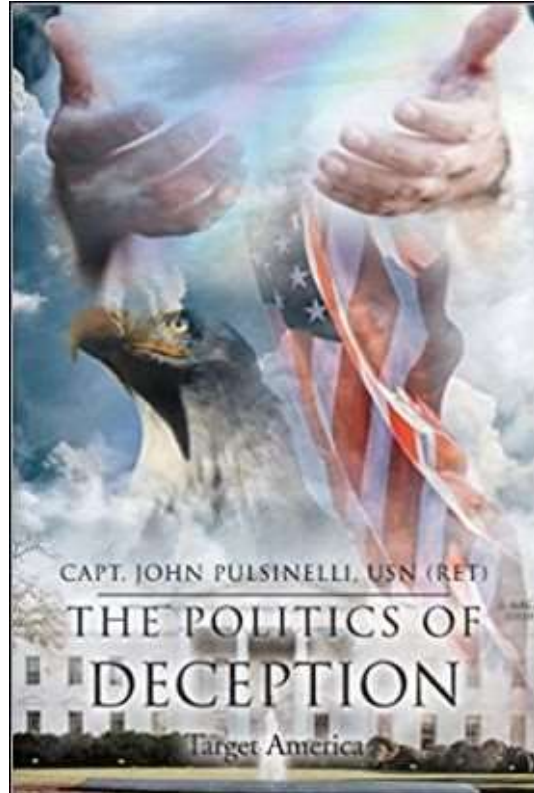
*of Nola, and her book,  
Nothing Left Unsaid.*

**Congratulations to Nola, whose innate mission is to write, thrive, and celebrate life in Fernandina Beach.**

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A new book for our times is *The Politics of Deception: Target America*, by local resident Capt. John Pulsinelli, USN (RET). Capt. Pulsinelli's distinguished career includes 46 years as an intelligence officer - naval and defense intelligence - and CIA instructor for 13 years. The book addresses the age old subject of deception in politics. Methods used in analyzing situations, competing hypotheses, and critical thinking benefit analysts and intelligence personnel as well as assist the reader in everyday life. John and his wife Sherry have enjoyed active retirement here since 2006.

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Four members of AIW's memoirs/biography focus group rotated diaries during the total shutdown period of COVID-19. Highlights are featured in the latest issue of The Florida Writer magazine. Florida Writers editors selected several panelists for their article "Collective Wisdom: Best Advice from Writer's Groups."

Nancy Dickson, Katherine Hoehn, Marla McDaniel, and Lee Ann Shobe alternated days for two months, wrote their diary entries and enjoyed shared responses. Katherine came up with the name "Coronacation Diaries." Each entry began with a daily gratitude. Participants came to appreciate the discipline imposed by daily responsibilities to write, read and respond.

Of all the discoveries made, one of Nancy's comments struck a chord with the editors: "The pressure I have felt for years - to charge through life with each task barely (or badly) completed before another one took the stage (a sort of whack- a-mole lifestyle) is fading. I allowed myself the luxury of several uninterrupted hours to figure out a new knitting pattern- without feeling guilty..."

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## STORY AND SONG:

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2-4 pm. Meet Joe Palmer at Story and Song's Courtyard. A celebratory book signing for *A Mariner's Tale*.

## THE BOOK LOFT:

Saturday, Nov. 7, 1-4 pm. Annette and Delaney Myers, *Delaney's Adventures with Friends*.

Saturday, Nov. 21, 1-4 pm. Joe Palmer reads and signs *A Mariner's Tale*.

Sunday, Nov. 22, 10 am - 1 pm. Donna Overly with the first in her second series, *The Shackle*.

Saturday, Nov. 22, 2- 5 pm. Meet Tom Hable with his new book, *Tomahawk: His residency for life*.

Joe Palmer is a participant author in the 5th annual Pat Conroy Literary Festival this weekend. He is part of an author discussion on Saturday, Nov. 7, 3-4 pm.

<http://www.patconroyliteraryfestival.org>

## Did you know -

**Story and Song Bookstore Bistro has a You Tube channel where you can access programs you may have missed.**

**Check out Story and Song's Facebook Live this week and every week. Ron Kurtz reads poetry from *The Wild Iris*, Wednesday at 3 pm. Ron reads short stories from Rick Bragg's new book *Where I Come From*, Friday at 3 pm.**

**Kids of all ages love Miss Dearsha. She reads *The Bookstore***

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The Aha Moment. It happened to us about four years ago when Dr. Nadine Vaughan presented "The Hero's Journey" at a local writers meeting. It's a masterful lesson in building story and character arc. Perhaps she will repeat the program for us. In the meantime, Elaine Smith, Clay County Writers, will present "Story Structure and the Hero's Journey" via Zoom on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 pm. Elaine is a writer, actor, director, and producer. She is a founder of the Clamour Theatre Company in Clay County.

Sign-up here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcuCgqjluG92kHvxirZtr7NmXqnVpusKm>



<http://www.ameliaislandwriters.org>

**Send your good news, awards, signings, etc. in advance of the monthly newsletter. We will gladly share it.**

**Send to Marla: [divinemissmm@yahoo.com](mailto:divinemissmm@yahoo.com),  
or Michael: [mstokes@fernandinabeachlife.com](mailto:mstokes@fernandinabeachlife.com)**

**Florida Writers Association membership is not a requirement to participate in our local programs.**

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