

# **melia Island Writers**

**This year we are planning two programs (March and September) with retired military veterans, law enforcement, and foreign correspondents who are authors. There's even a bike cop!**

**When: Friday, March 31, 2023, Happy Hour program, 4-6 pm**

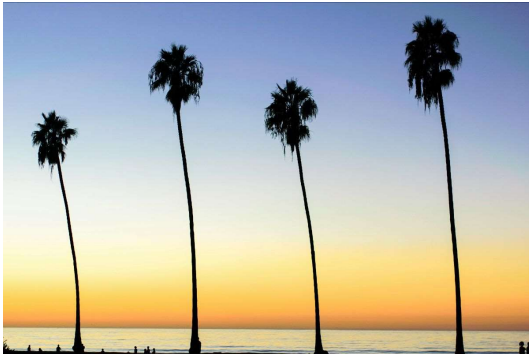
**Where: Amelia Island Museum of History, 233 S. Third St., Fern. Bch.**  
**Parking is available at the Amelia Community Theatre since they don't have a performance on the 31st.**



**Books will be available for purchase and signing. Bring cash or check.**

**Small cash donation for wine, beer, and the museum is requested.**

**RSVP helps us to better plan for the program. RSVP by March 29 to Lee Ann Shobe: [jimlee.shobe@gmail.com](mailto:jimlee.shobe@gmail.com).**



**Discover the stories behind how the military inspired four local authors. This lively panel discussion will be moderated by Wendi B. Carpenter, U.S. Navy Rear Admiral (Ret.).**

**The program is of interest to a general audience, to writers, and is open to the public. Bring a guest and enjoy happy hour with these accomplished and talented authors:**

**Bill Craun. U.S. Army Airborne Ranger and fifteen years working government agency contracts (Ret.). Author of *Working the Kill Zone*.**

**Jerry Hester. U.S. Air Force and Miami-Dade FBI Agent**

**(Ret.). Author of *Unraveled, the FBI and Paesan Blues Investigation* (working title), scheduled for release later this year.**

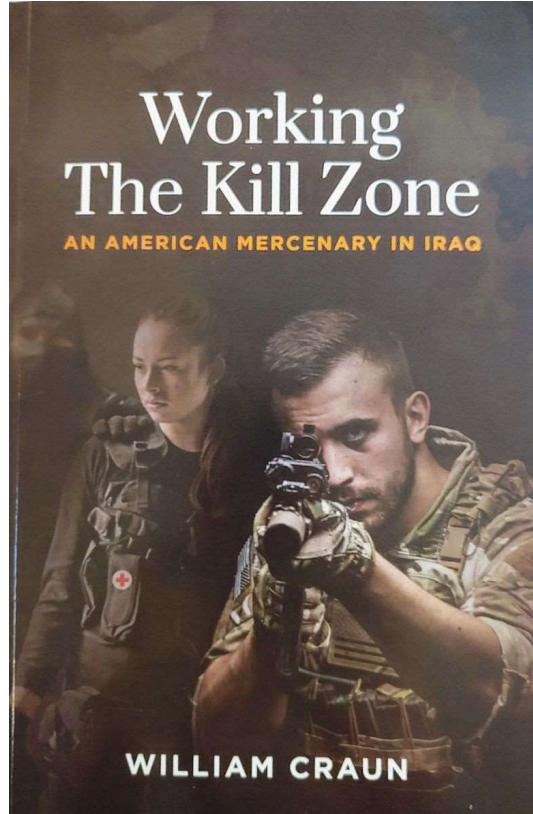
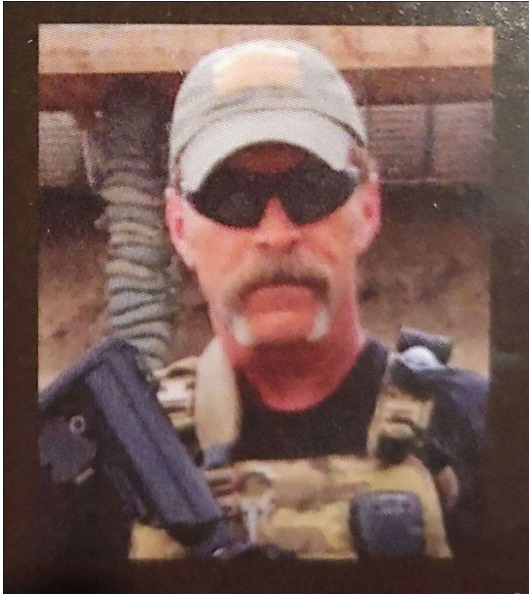
**Leah Ward-Lee. U.S. Army (Ret.). Author of *\$1,000 Start-ups: 60 Businesses for Micro-Entrepreneurs*.**

**Bill Leonardi. U.S. Navy (Ret.). Author of *Dancing Through the Maze*.**



**Wendi Carpenter retired here in 2022. A highly decorated naval aviator, she graduated top of her class at Pensacola's Aviation Officer Candidate School, and served across the globe. Wendi flew over 3,500 military hours in various command assignments, and was the first woman to be promoted to admiral in the Navy. She was president of the State University of New York Maritime College. Earning degrees in psychology, international relations, Wendi is also a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College. We look forward to the camaraderie, learning about how these vets**

came to write it all out, how they did it, and why.



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**Jerry Hester**

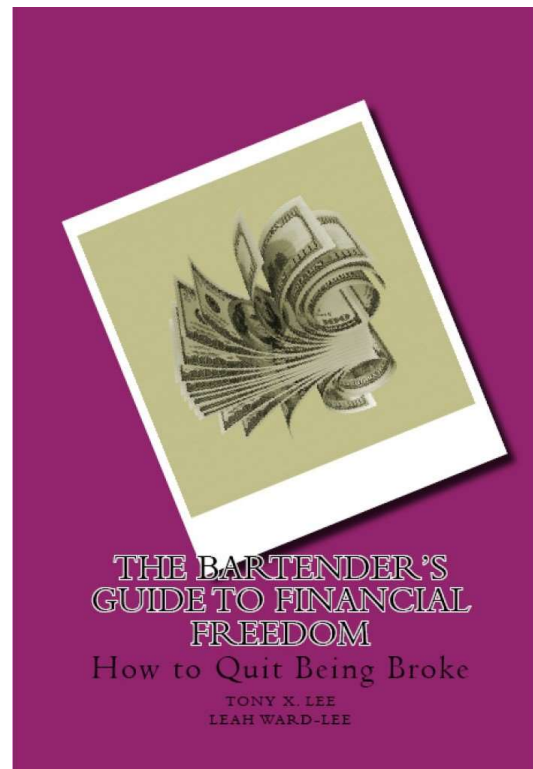
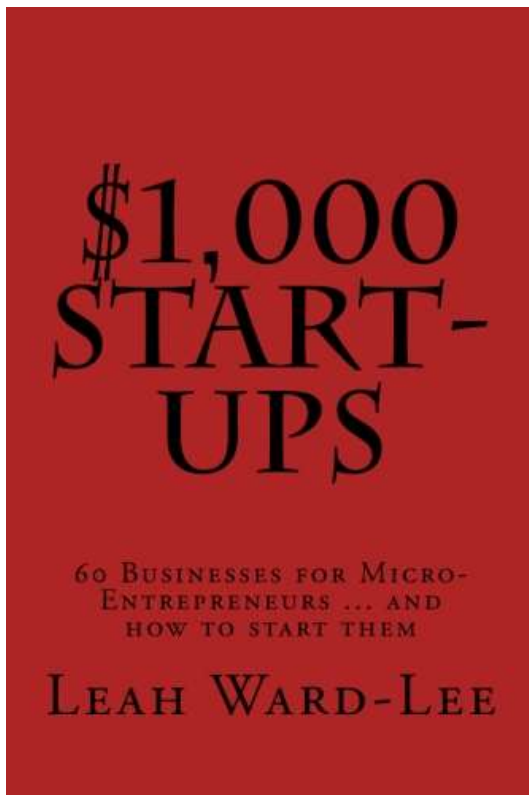
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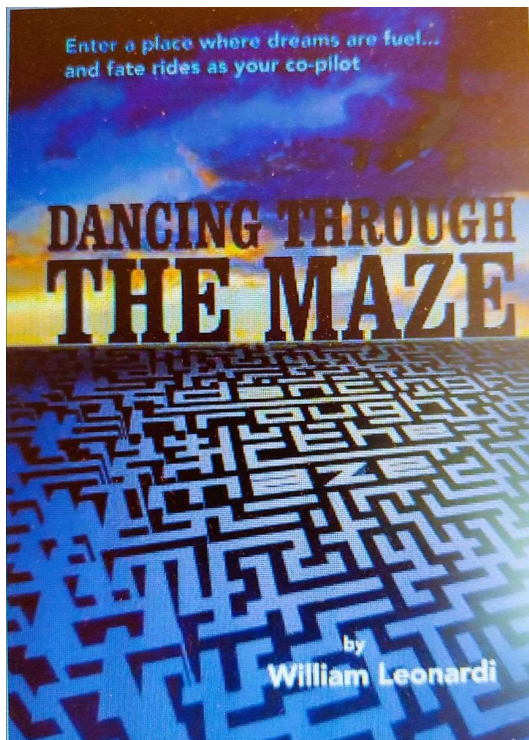




**Leah Ward-Lee retired from the U.S. Army as a Chief Technical Officer and entered the corporate world for thirty years. She established LWL Enterprises, a management, consulting, and publishing firm, in 1998. Her nonprofit consortium provides opportunities to train and fund disadvantaged and at-risk populations. The next Small Business Fair is Saturday, March 25, 10-2 at Peck Center Gymnasium. Come out and support micro-entrepreneurs and their innovations.**

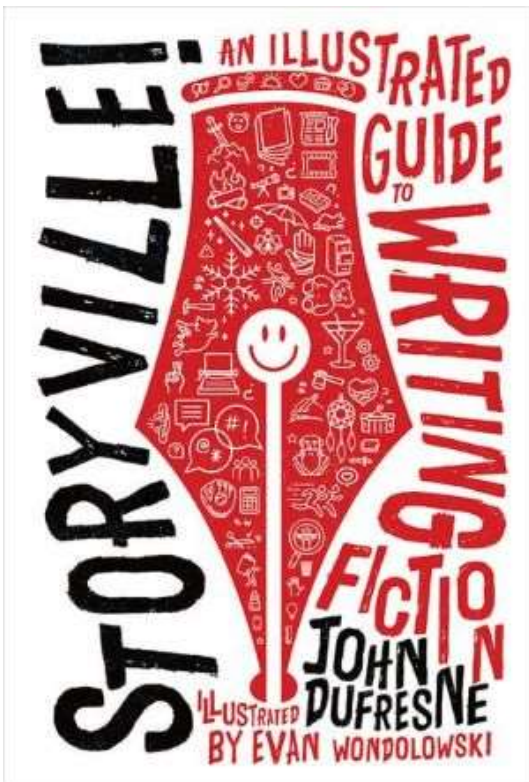


Leah co-authored *The Bartender's Guide to Financial Freedom* with her son, Tony Lee. Tony began a bar and restaurant career at age fifteen, restocking napkin holders at a pizza parlor. A temporary injury forced him to consider what we do well, what we lack, and how easy it could be for all of us to relax, be comfortable, and enjoy the fruits of our labor. Way to get it done, Tony!



**"If the lure of the sky will not let you sleep ... If life on the wing grips you 'til you must act like a raptor ... If nine-to-five devastates you, then flip the cover, fasten your seat belt and hang on for the ride of a lifetime."**

**Bill Leonardi nearly had his childhood dream of becoming a pilot end before it could begin. You will find out how he overcame obstacles to persevere and achieve his dreams. Below is Bill now at the Amelia Riverfront and Bill then, flying patrol near Hanoi.**



**Monday, March 20, noon at Story & Song. Meet up to read our brief stories from Professor Dufresne's workshop. His unique prompts made us think and create quickly. If you attended and do not wish to read, you are welcome to come and listen. If you could not attend, you are welcome to join us. So that Story & Song can plan to accommodate us, *RSVP if you intend to order lunch***



**by Thursday, March 16 to**

**Linda Sexton:**

[linda.sexton@aol.com](mailto:linda.sexton@aol.com)

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**Check out positive vibes from Kristine Ochu, author of *Campfire Confessions*. Kristine is on You Tube with some stress relief moves for us. Her author website with information about March 8 online program: <http://www.kristineochu.com>**

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**Welcome, new members. It's great to meet established writers moving to the area, and aspiring writers of all ages. Amelia Island Writers is a chapter of Florida Writers Association, a 501c 6 nonprofit educational organization. While there are no dues required to attend and participate in our local meetings, find out if FWA membership might work for you at: <http://www.floridawriters.org>**

<http://www.ameliaislandwriters.org>

**Want to find out what's going on in the area for writers this month? Vic DiGenti is regional director of Florida Writers Association, and here's a link to his newsletter:**

<https://mailchi.mp/79ce5c08464b/summer-is-for-writers-13516463?e=7f119c9fee>

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**Our mailing address is:**

317 N. 5th St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

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