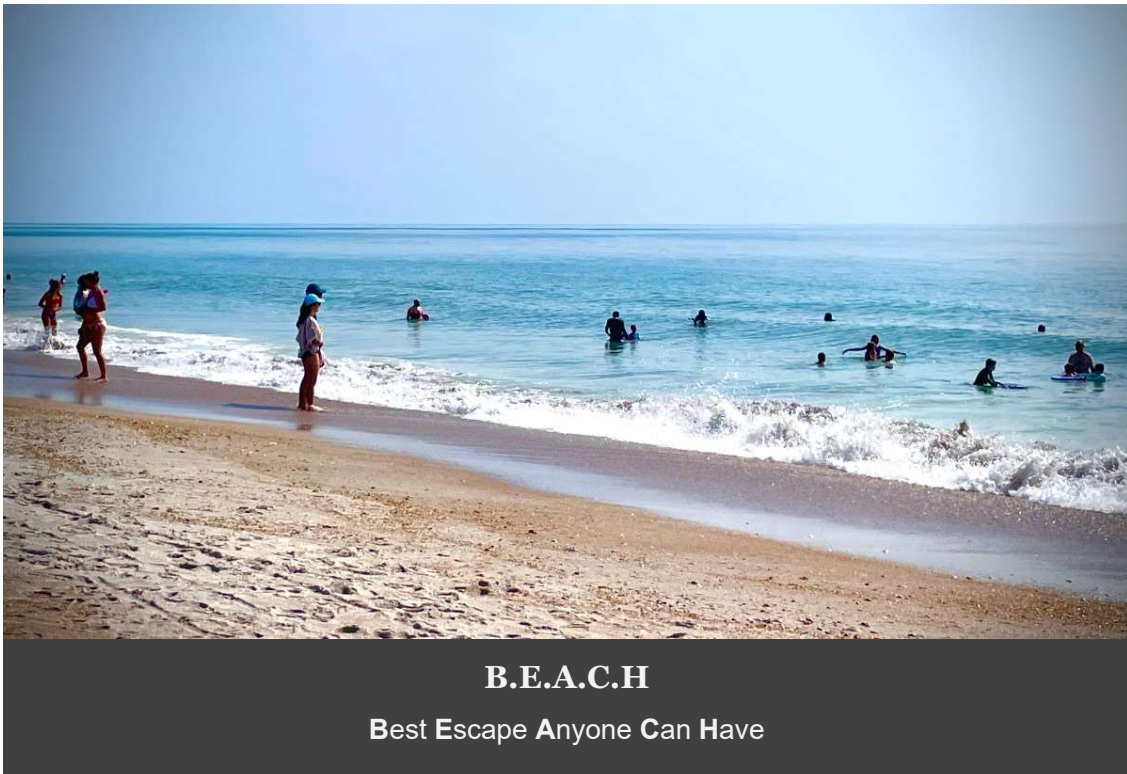




Amelia Island Writers

August 2023 Newsletter



July has been a scorcher and the same is predicted for the month of August. Stay cool as you enjoy vacations and family before the busy fall season begins. Our July meeting Focus Group was very beneficial and we thank all who participated. We appreciate members comments. Twenty-two members were present and more gave their input via e-mail, phone calls, and texts. Complete results will be tabulated and shared soon. Look for it! We will direct our future programming from the results of this survey. This is your writers' group and we are striving to live up to our motto-- Writers helping

Writers.

From our July meeting focus group, listed below are the top three categories that received the most interest:

#1). Mock elevator pitches.

#2) Agents & Publishers--how to find and work with an agent or a publisher.

#3) Author Panel of beginning and seasoned writers on the craft/process of writing and publishing.

In efforts to keep our members connected recently we added Amelia Island Writers to social media sites. Visit and join Amelia Island Writers on Facebook and Instagram for upcoming events and discussions.



Linda Sexton and Pat Martocci did a great job with our facilitated focus meeting. Members were eager to participate and all shared! The benefits of this focus group will be huge for the writing community.

Save the Date

Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 4-5 pm. Concludes with refreshments, social time, book signing, and follows Major General Mari Eder's book launch at 3 pm.

Veterans Event At Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

We're excited to introduce our Local Veteran Authors who will be featured in our fall event. Come and learn how these veterans were inspired to write and publish in their various genres. This lively discussion is of interest not only to writers, but to the general public as well.

Retired U.S. Army Major General Mari K. Eder, moderator of our event, is a renowned speaker and author. A thought leader on strategic communication and leadership, General Eder has served as Director of Public Affairs at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, and as an adjunct professor at the NATO School and Sweden's International Training Command. She held senior positions at the Pentagon, on the Army Staff, as Deputy Chief of Public Affairs and Deputy Chief of the Army Reserve, and with DoD's Reserve Forces Policy Board. General Eder speaks and writes frequently on communication topics at universities and for international audiences.

General Eder launches her latest book at 3 pm, with our writers event to follow. She last visited the island with ***The Girls Who Stepped Out of***

Line: Stories of Courage, Sacrifice, and Grit – the Women of WWII. Ever since then, we've wanted to get her back here! She will launch ***The Girls Who Fought Crime: The Untold True Story of the Country's First Female Investigator and Her Crime Fighting Squad.***

Panel Members:

John Pulsinelli (Navy), a career intelligence officer, retired as Captain. He is the author of ***St. Michael's Parish-Celebrating 150 years in Fernandina Beach, Florida.*** <http://www.captpulsinelli.com>

Luis Diaz (Navy) served two tours overseas before retiring. He currently works as an air traffic controller and earlier this year published his debut novel, ***What's Your Number?*** <http://www.lrdiaz.com>

Ralph DeFalco (Navy) is a 25-year veteran and retired Captain. His assignments included tours at the Office of Naval Intelligence, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center, and others. *Year of the Dragon* is the draft title of his upcoming political thriller. <https://lawliberty.org/author/ralph-l-defalco-iii/>

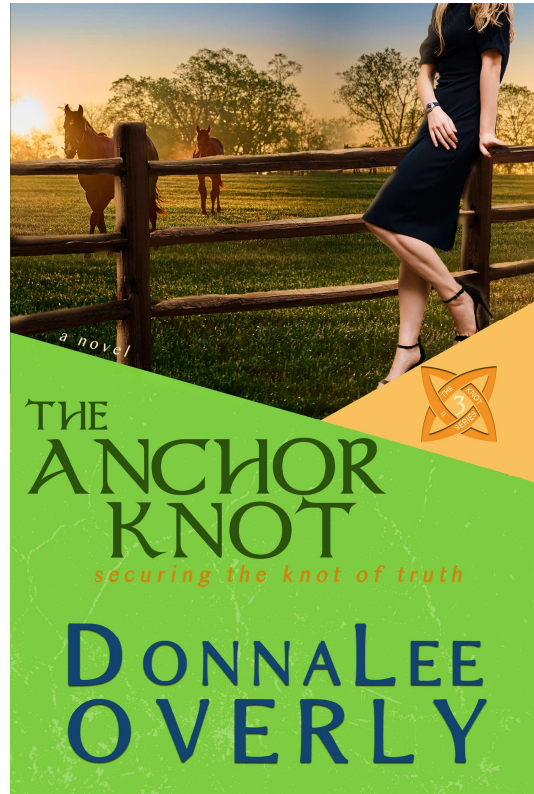
Local Author Book Signing This Month

DonnaLee Overly worked as a
critical care nurse before

pursuing a studio art degree from the University of Texas, Austin. Her passion lies in finding way to mix her art with words. Her contemporary novels, The KNOT Series I and The KNOT Series II, give a voice to difficult issues that are often hushed.



Get out of the heat and listen to our group leader, Donna Overly as she launches her sixth and final book in The KNOT Series on August 5 at 1pm at The Book Loft, 214 Centre St, Fernandina Beach.



Interested in a Young Writers' Group?

If you are an author or someone who loves writing, and you are between the ages of 18-35, we are starting a group for you! If interested, please contact

Donna Overly at donnaleeoverly@gmail.com.



Amelia Island Writers is a chapter of the Florida Writers Association.

Information about what's going on for writers in the area is available through Vic DiGenti's monthly newsletter. Vic is Florida Writers Association NE Florida Regional Director. August news is [here](#):

<http://www.ameliaislandwriters.org>