

**From:** Amelia Island Writers <marla@ameliaislandwriters.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:12 AM  
**To:** mstokes@segatechnology.com  
**Subject:** Glad Tidings for Writers

[View this email in your browser](#)



## December 2023 Newsletter

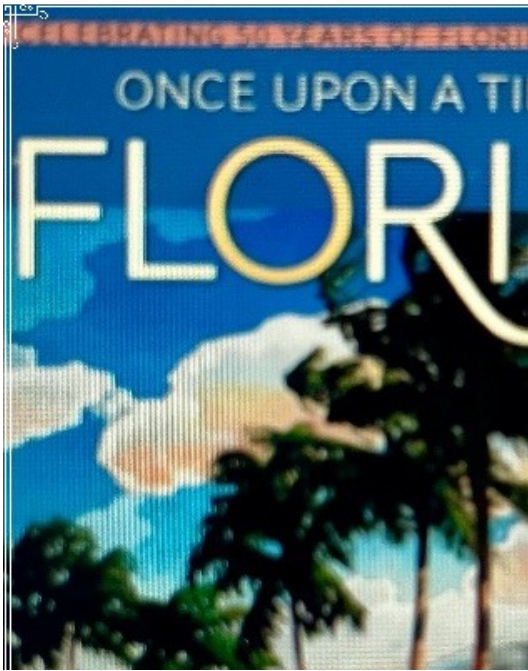


*Santa spreads the true meaning of Christmas with every gift: love!*

JANUARY 20, 2024 -- FLORIDA FOCUS LITERARY LUNCHEON

with Jacki Levine

Registration required at Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture



**Curated from the archives of FORUM, the award-winning magazine of Florida Humanities,** *Once Upon a Time in Florida* transports readers into the eventful life and times of this remarkable state through 50 stories vividly rendered by some of the nation's most acclaimed writers and scholars, along with 150 evocative images.

This collection opens more than 14,000 years ago with the first people to inhabit the peninsula and continues through the state's territorial beginnings, the era of slavery, statehood, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the Jim Crow period, and Florida's transformation into a complex, powerful megastate.

---

## **The Year In Review**

A productive 2023 is soon coming to an end for the writers group. Leadership changed in April, with Marla handing the baton to

Donna. Advisory Council members are: Donna Overly, Marla McDaniel, Pat Martocci, Suzanne Schiffman, Lee Ann Shobe, Linda Sexton, and Michael Stokes.

Looking at the year: January - AIW joined forces with Story & Song, to bring John Dufresne, author and writing professor at Florida International University, who focused on writing the short-story; two special events were held with the Military Veterans Author Series, one in March and the second in September; June - offered a program on the craft of writing from Zissner's book, *On Writing Well*; July - a focus group was conducted and members gave input on programming content; August - the on-line survey was distributed to members; October - Mike Bowling gave an inspirational talk and results from our focus group and survey were announced; November - members shared their holiday story and Mrs. Claus and her elves served holiday cheer and snacks.

**Congratulations to Chip Kirkpatrick for his winning holiday story, SHOT GUN? NO GUN!**

---

### **An Opportunity To Sell Your Books!**

Amelia Island Writers will again have a table at the Amelia Island Book Festival Author Expo on Saturday, February 24, 2024, held at the Middle School in Fernandina. **If you would like to sell you book, please contact Linda Sexton at [linda.sexton@aol.com](mailto:linda.sexton@aol.com).**



Author Publishing Workshop, November 18 at Story & Song. From left to right: Luann Pollock, Caroline Blochlinger, Donna Kaufman (co-owner), Donna Overly and Kristine Ochu.

Results from the survey focused mainly on the process involved in book publishing and marketing, and also increasing the frequency of meetings and having more social gatherings. Already three of the requests have been put into action. First, notice that AIW now meets every month. Second, last month the request for information on publishing was addressed as members Donna Overly and Kristine Ochu, participated in a 2-hour informative author publication workshop facilitated by Story & Song offering their Park Ave Publishing Company as an option for writers. The holiday party for the November meeting was an example of another request for more social gatherings.

---

## Amelia Island Writers 2024 Calendar

Please note that meeting times have changed to 3-5pm.

**January 20, 2024**- Saturday- Florida Focus - AIW and Story & Song present a literary luncheon with Jacki Levine. Time and ticket details in January's newsletter.

**February 27, 2024**- Tuesday, 3-5pm at Story & Song-Mock Pitch Session.  
\*See details below.

**March 26, 2024**- Tuesday, 3-5pm at Story & Song- Crime Authors. Details to follow.

**April 30, 2024**- Tuesday, 3-5 pm at Story & Song - Legal Issues for Writers with Michael Polelle.

**May 28, 2024**- Tuesday, 3-5 pm at Story & Song- Book Marketing with Arielle Haughee.

**June 25, 2024**- Tuesday, 3-5pm at Story & Song - Finding a Literary Agent/ Publisher with Lisa Iriarte and Jose Iriarte.

**July 30, 2024**-Tuesday, 3-5pm at Story & Song - Writing Skills: Constructing Characters and Elements

**August 27, 2024**- Tuesday, Time and Place TBD - Social Event

**September 24, 2024**- Tuesday, 3-5pm at Story & Song - Query Letters/ Book Proposals

**October 29,2024**- Tuesday, 3-5pm at Story & Song - Branding the Author with Nancy Blanton.

**November 26, 2024**- Tuesday, 3-5pm at Story & Song -The Author Platform/Social Media with Dr. Donna Jennings

**December, 2024**- Social Gathering TBD

**\*Details for February 27, 2024-- Mock Pitch Session, facilitated & organized by Rachel Glover**

From our July Focus Group, a program on **The Pitch** received the most votes. You asked and it is happening.

Visit Rachel's website at <https://www.4pocalypsearts.com>. Scroll to her Blog, read Parts 1-8 about Traditional Publishing. This gives a brief guide to the traditional publishing process, but also gives links to articles from experts, such as expert Jane Friedman. Part 8 explains the pitch session.

The procedure for the Author Pitch Session for our February Meeting is described below. **If interested in participating and for more details, please send an e-mail to Rachel at [racheldglover@gmail.com](mailto:racheldglover@gmail.com).**

### **PITCH SESSIONS**

Writers find the table assigned to the literary agent or editor with whom they signed up for their pitch.

Each pitch session is fifteen minutes. A volunteer keeps time and announces each change as needed.

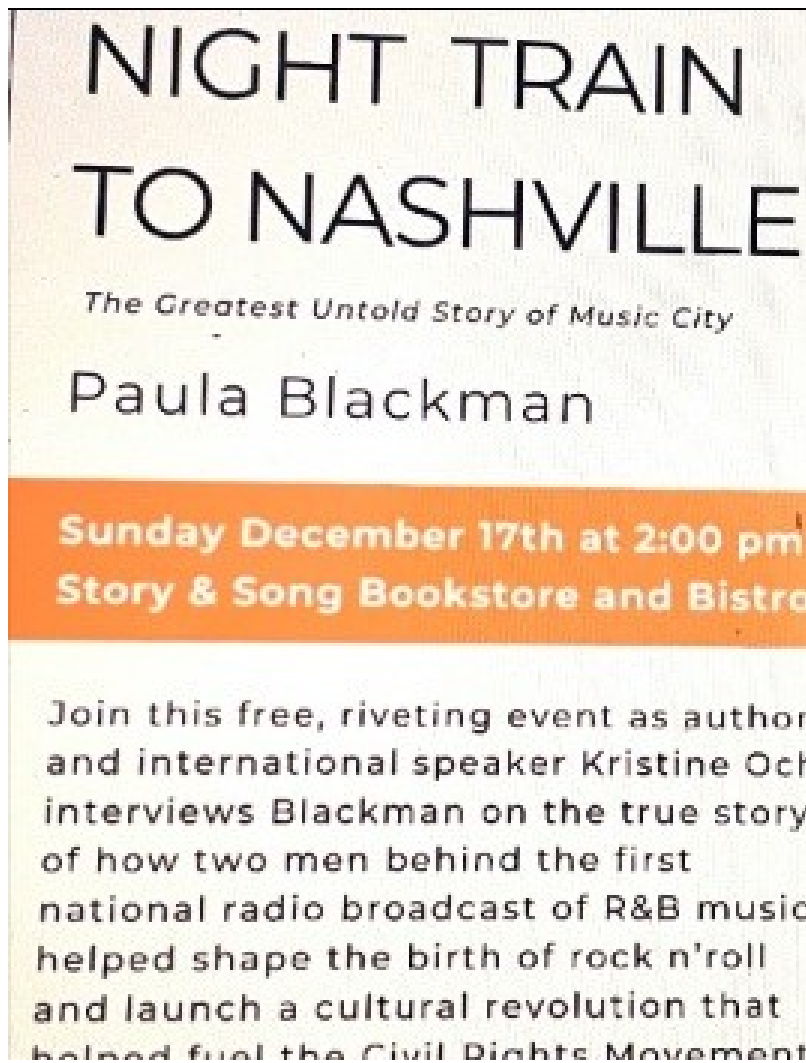
For five minutes, the "agents" will review the writer's query letter and synopsis. At the end of the five minutes, a volunteer announces that writers can go to the "agents."

For the remaining ten minutes, the writers will sit in front of the "agents" and give their elevator pitches and business cards. "Agents" will have an opportunity to ask questions about the material, as well as give the writers feedback on their material. Writers should be ready to answer questions related to their novels.

If you are considering giving a pitch at a conference to an agent, this is your chance to practice. It helps!

**Member News**

Member Kristine Ochu will interview Author Paula Blackman at Story & Song  
Center for Arts & Culture.  
Sunday, December 17 at 2PM



**We take this opportunity to thank Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture and The Book Loft for supporting our creative and cultural community, as we support them with our purchases.**



---

*Copyright © 2023 Amelia Island Writers/ All rights reserved.*

December Newsletter

**Our mailing address is:**

donnaleeoverly@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

---

This email was sent to [mstokes@segatechnology.com](mailto:mstokes@segatechnology.com)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Amelia Island Writers · 12 S 6th St · Fernandina Beach, FL 32034-3912 · USA

