



Amelia Island Writers

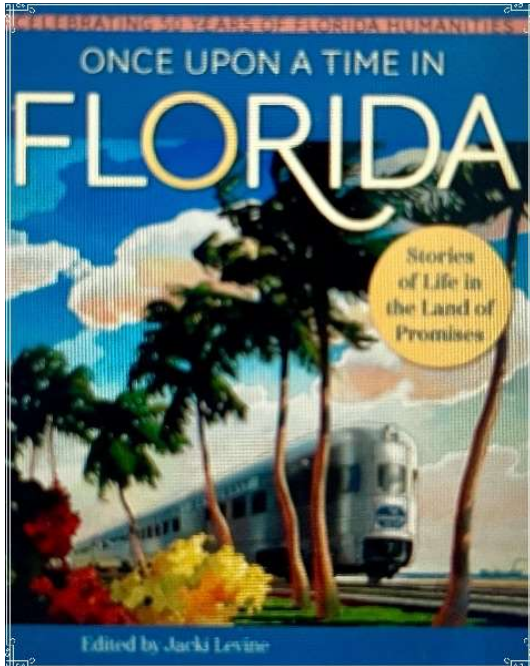


"The beginning is always today."

- from *The Short Stories of Mary Shelley* by Mary Shelley

Once Upon a Time in Florida
50 Year Anniversary of the Florida Humanities Council
Saturday, Jan. 20, 12:30 - 2

Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture



Our Florida Focus Literary Luncheon provides an entertaining kick-off to 2024. New residents, long-time residents, and writers of all levels will enjoy an afternoon of Florida lore and culture with author Jacki Levine. The collection is curated from the archives of FORUM, the award-winning magazine of Florida Humanities. *Once Upon a Time in Florida: Stories of Life in the Land*, transports readers into the remarkable life and times of the

state through 50 stories vividly rendered by some of the nation's most acclaimed writers and scholars, along with 150 stunning 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 mega state.

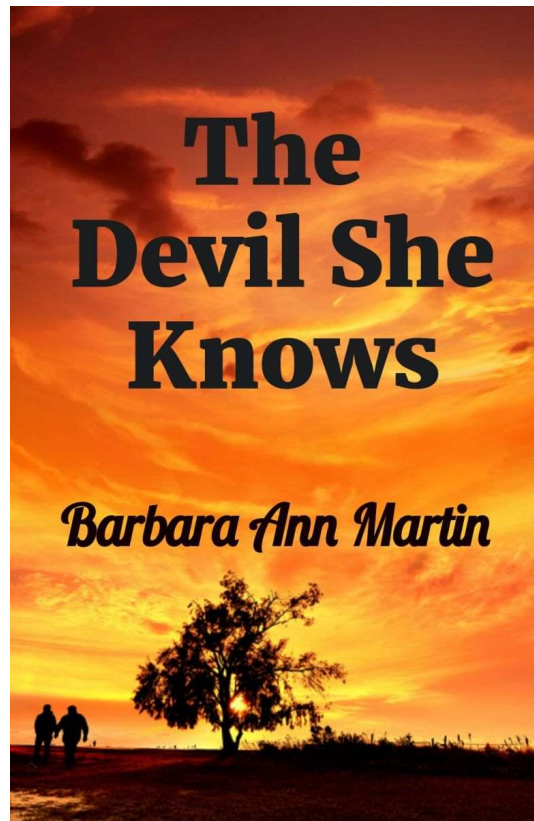
See you there! Bring a friend. Story & Song is whipping up a special luncheon for us. Tickets are only \$25.00. Books will be available for

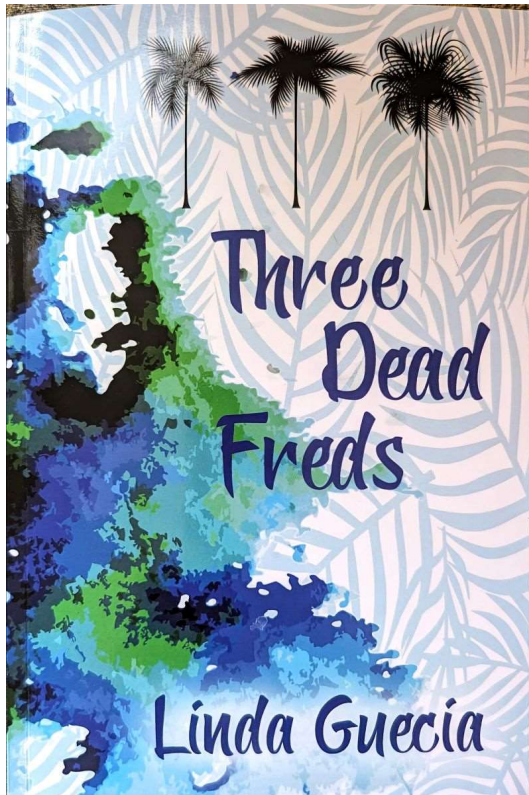
purchase. Click [here](#) for reservations.

Member News - Book Launches

Attendees of our Works in Progress Critique Group followed Barbara Flor's plot as it unfolded, and now her book, written under pen name Barbara Ann Martin, has been published. She began the manuscript in 2005, with several extended periods of sitting on the shelf. Finally, the time was right to see it through.

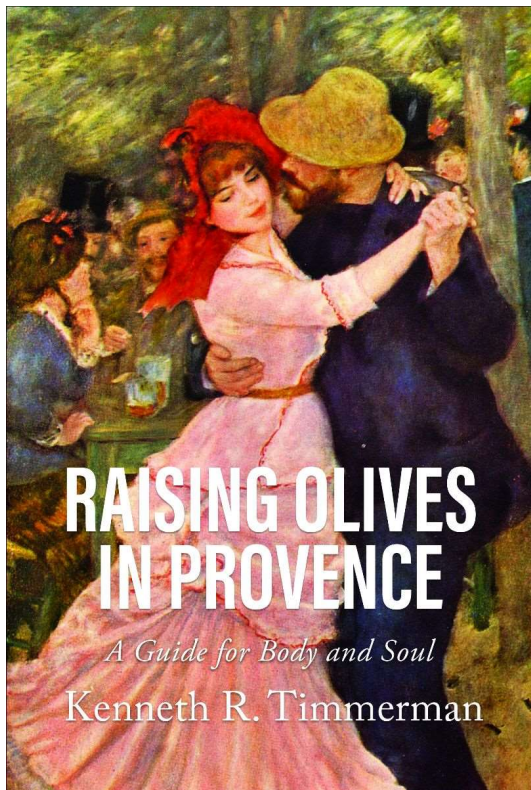
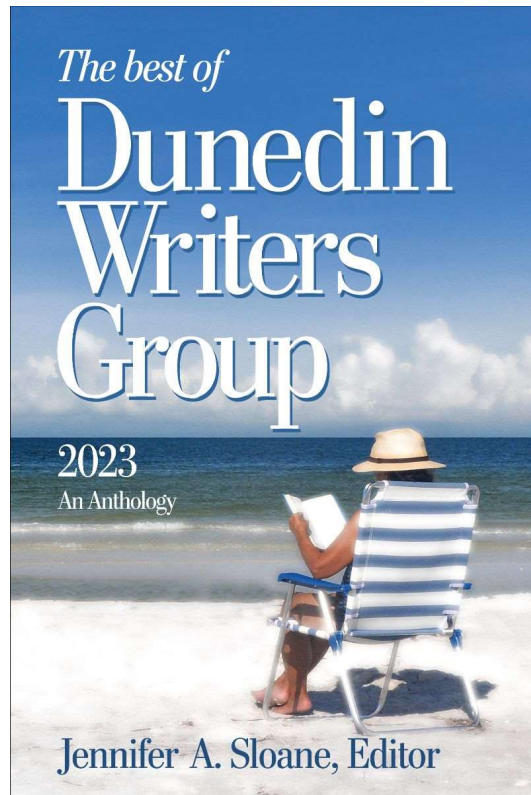
"How well do we really know those around us? Laura Delany begins to ask herself this question after a series of frightening events forces her to trust her own instincts rather than the people she has known for most of her life."





Linda Guécia escaped from corporate America, ventured to Amelia Island, and fell under the spell of its creatures and inhabitants. Her writings fictionalize her experiences utilizing the island as a character. Following her *Fishing for Love*, comes *Three Dead Freds*. "After Linda's father died suddenly, she had to find out why. Here within is what she discovered and how she settled matters. Based on events that take place on the island, as comfortable as a flannel blanket yet as tangled as a spider's web."

Marla McDaniel is a contributor, for the second year, to the *Dunedin Writers Group Anthology*, published every winter. Marla kept her late mother's home on Florida's west coast, where she watches the neighborhood's daily dog parade make its way to St. Joseph's Sound, just as her mother did. Like Amelia Island, Dunedin has many dog lovers, and buildings downtown feature hundreds of pet portraits to benefit animal welfare. This sweet story is titled "In the Garden of Dog-edin."



Investigative reporter and war correspondent, Ken Timmerman, steps away from his hard-hitting fact filled books with a timely guide for the body and soul. By happenstance, the author found a run down house to renovate and then grow olive trees in the hills overlooking Saint-Tropez. From his over thirty years in Provence, Ken takes us on a journey through its culture, introducing us to people

and places we would never find
on our own.

<http://www.kentimmerman.com>



Be transported by our Screenwriters Group who are producing a new podcast. We miss Doug McDowell since he moved to Orlando, but he does come back occasionally. Doug, local screenwriter Wayne Cothron, and a talented cast of voice actors have banded together for "Canned Meat Theatre." If you want to laugh, grab a cup of coffee or your favorite drink and enjoy. <http://www.cannedmeattheatre.com>

Writers Alliance of Gainesville



Several local and area authors are participating in the annual Gainesville Sunshine State Book Festival, January 26-27. The festival brings readers and writers together. Catch all their activities and news [here](#).

Save the Date, Feb. 2-4

Storytelling takes flight at the inaugural Amelia Island Festival of Stories and Songs.

Carl Hiaasen, Paul Strickland, Kim Weitkamp, Michael Reno Harrell

Local Musicians, Local Authors, Local Storytellers

The festival includes writing workshops. Don't miss it, information [here](#).



.Dear Writers,

Sorry that the January news is a little late in going out. Technical difficulties with the platform, and personal schedule, whew! But now you have it. Here's to you and your writing goals this year. Someone new to creative writing has ordered *1,000 Words, a Writer's Guide to Staying Creative, Focused, and Production All Year Round*, by Jami Attenberg. She highly recommends it!

Welcome to new area residents who have become members of Amelia Island Writers (AIW) this month. AIW, a chapter of Florida Writers Association, provides programs, workshops, and events. We support the work of local authors, as well as beginners to creative writing.

Find and follow our Facebook page for timely and additional information. Our website contains our mission, purpose, resources, and newsletter archive. Thank you, Michael Stokes, for your volunteer time in administering the AIW website.



<http://www.floridawriters.org>.

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