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## February 2024 Newsletter



**"There is only one happiness in this life, to love and be loved." *George Sand***

**Save The Date- Tuesday, March 26, 4-6 pm Crime Authors Happy Hour Event**

**Amelia Island Museum of History**

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More details to follow in the March newsletter.

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## Tuesday, February 27, 3-5pm Story & Song Center For Arts & Culture-- Mock Pitch Workshop, facilitated & organized by Rachel Glover

Our February program is a pitch workshop. To learn more about this workshop, visit Rachel's website: <http://www.4pocalypsearts.com> Scroll to her Blog, and 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 Jane Friedman. Part 8 explains the pitch session.

The goal of this workshop is to give writers firsthand experience practicing their oral pitch in front of friendly faces, our three mock literary agents. Writers will need to gather the following materials, which are required for a pitch session: a query letter and one of the following: a one-page synopsis for fiction or a book proposal for non-fiction. Writers should also consider having a professional-looking business card with their author info.

**If interested in participating and for more details, please send an e-mail to Rachel at [racheldglover@gmail.com](mailto:racheldglover@gmail.com). You must register with Rachel for this free workshop.**

**Amelia Island Book Festival Author Expo  
Saturday, February 24, 10am-4pm,  
Fernandina Middle School, 315 Citrona Dr, FB**

100 local and regional authors will be selling their books

## **AIBF Author Expo starts Saturday, February 24 from 9-10am with an Amelia Island Writers Breakout Session**

**Event is free of charge, however, registration is required. Go to AIBF website:**  
<http://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/authors-expo-readers-extravaganza>

### **Inspiration to Motivation: Shifting a notion to motion**

Where to begin? Fear of failure? Creative block?

Move forward with your 2024 goals!

#### **Interviewer**

**Donna Overly** -- Group leader Amelia Island Writers, author of *Discover Gold: achieve happiness and reach for dreams in your life's next chapter* and *The KNOT Series*. [www.donnaleeoverly.com](http://www.donnaleeoverly.com)

#### **Panelists**

**James Bruner** -- Attorney licensed in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, and Florida. He draws on legal experiences, Amelia Island, and his history in Southern Maine to form the settings for his legal thriller series, *The Bike Cop*.

<https://thebikecop.com>

**Jane Buyers**-- Formerly a New York City based banker, she has recently "completed" her memoir, 15 years in the making, *Eight Septembers: Woman on Wall Street—9/11 to Lehman*. 2023 Winner of a Gold Florida Royal Literary Palm Award, unpublished memoir category. [www.idealsatwork.org](http://www.idealsatwork.org)

**Julia McDermott** - Author of thrillers *Underwater* and *Daddy's Girl* and memoir *All the*

**Kristine Ochu** -- Author of *Campfire Confessions*, and "*No Pooping On the Dock!*" She was named one of the Top 100 Global Woman Entrepreneurs and Mentors of the Year in 2023 by Global Woman Magazine and is the Founder of "Be UnStoppable! Create Your Amazing Life!" programs. [www.KristineOchu.com](http://www.KristineOchu.com) [kristineochu@gmail.com](mailto:kristineochu@gmail.com)

### **AIW Table at The AIFB Author Expo**

**Come and Visit our Writers**

**Thank you to Linda Sexton for organizing.**

**Schedule of our exhibiting authors:**

<b>10:00-11:30</b> Suzanne Schiffman.	<b>12:00-1:30</b> Barb Flor
<b>10:30-12:00</b> Kristine Ochu	<b>1:00-2:30</b> Linda Sexton
<b>11:30-1:00</b> Julie McDermott.	<b>1:30-3:00</b> Rachel Glover
	<b>2:30-4:00</b> Open

Event closes at 4pm.

### **Member News- Book Release-Save the Date** ***The Branches We Cherish* by Linda Sexton**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024 3-5pm at Story & Song Bookstore & Bistro**

Join award-winning author Linda R. Sexton for her book launch presentation followed by book signing and reception.

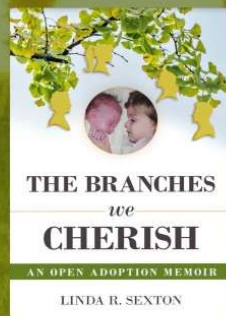
Her books will be available locally at The Book Loft and Story & Song, and online.

Sign up for Linda's blog and news at her website:  
<http://www.lindarsexton.com>

# Open Hearts Open Minds

How adoptive and birth  
parents build lifelong  
relationships to benefit  
the child and each other.

**A compelling account  
based on three decades  
of true life experience**



*An award-winning  
memoir by open adoption  
pioneer, Linda R. Sexton*

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Want to know what's going on around NE Florida for writers this month? The Florida Writers Association regional news is right [here](#). You can subscribe directly for this monthly news, details at the bottom of their page.

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