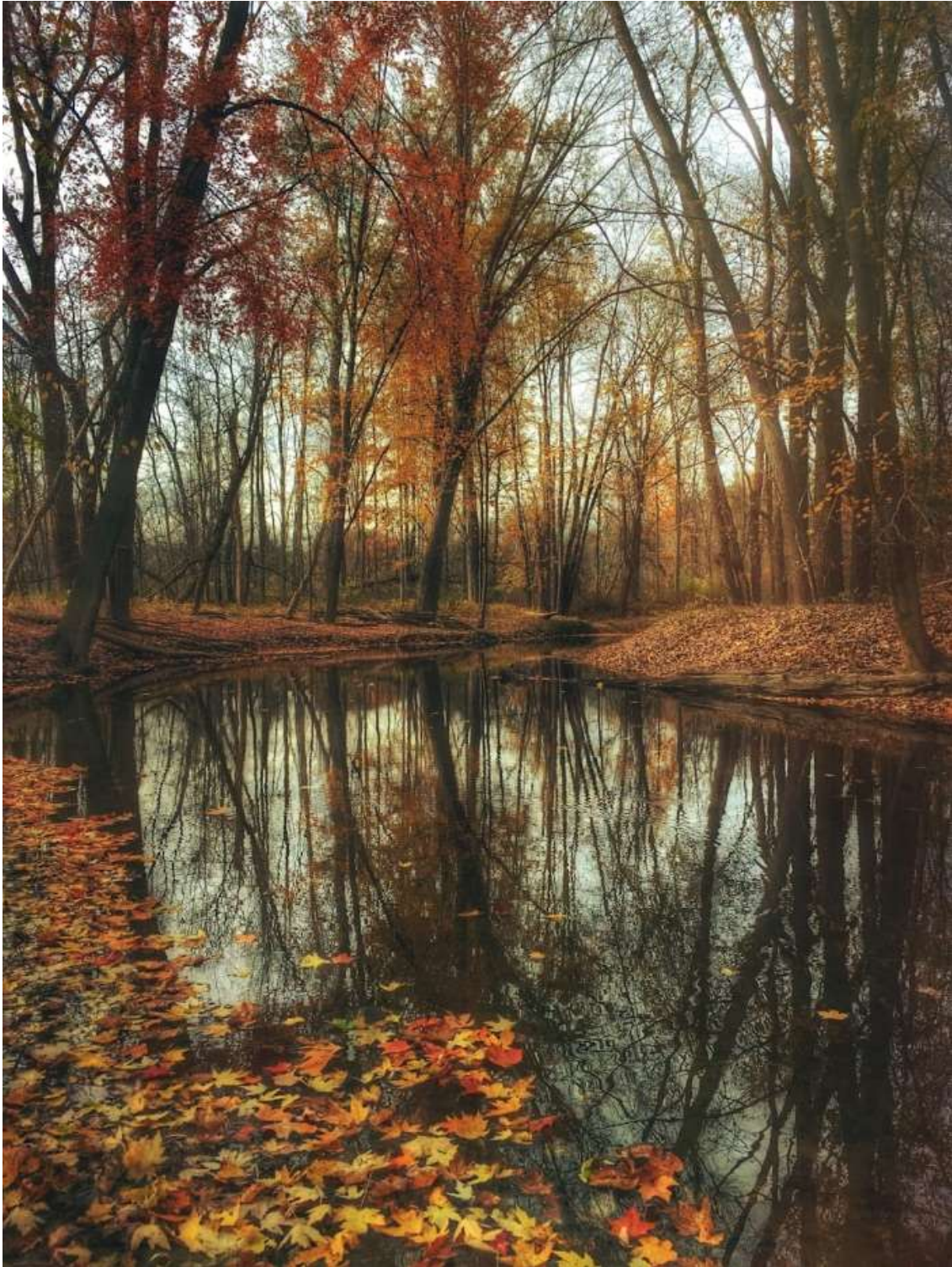




Amelia Island Writers

November 2024



Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving!

"Appreciation can change a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."

— Margaret Cousins

Tuesday, November 26, 3-5pm
Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture
1430 Park Ave, Fernandina Beach

Inquiring Minds Want to Know

Join us for an informal gathering to close out 2024

"What Writers Are Reading"

**Tell us about a favorite book or two that
you read this year!**

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Member News



Leah Ward Lee has a passion to help people start their own small business. Her book, ***\$1,000 Start-Ups: 60 Businesses for Micro-Entrepreneurs***, has an additional workbook. She co-wrote ***The Bartender's Guide to Financial Freedom***, with her son, Tony.

\$1,000 Start-ups is hosting its next Celebrate Small Business Market on Saturday, Nov. 16, 1-5 at Peck Center, 510 S. 10th St., Fernandina Beach. Come and support the vendors and find something special for the holidays.

\$1,000 Start-Ups, a 501 (c)3 nonprofit charitable corporation, has a new physical location at the Nassau Co. Council on Aging, Fernandina Beach location. Leah is a military veteran, and took part in AIW's happy hour panel (last year) of veterans who are authors.

Details about this organization to help under served communities:

<http://www.1000dollarstartups.org>



Neena Lee is Seeing Things by Sheila Athens won two awards at the [Florida Writers Association](#) Royal Palm Literary Awards banquet: first place in the Mainstream Fiction category and third place in the Women's Fiction category. Ms Athens says that readers enjoy the middle-aged protagonist, the unique Southern-island setting, and the fun, cozy feeling they get while reading it. Visit the author: <http://www.sheilaathens.com>



Julia McDermott recently signed a contract with traditional publisher Red Adept Publishing for her next novel, a thriller (as yet untitled) inspired by true events. The novel is an expansion of her short story "The Riverfest" published in crime stories anthology, **Down to the River** by Florida publisher Down & Out Books.

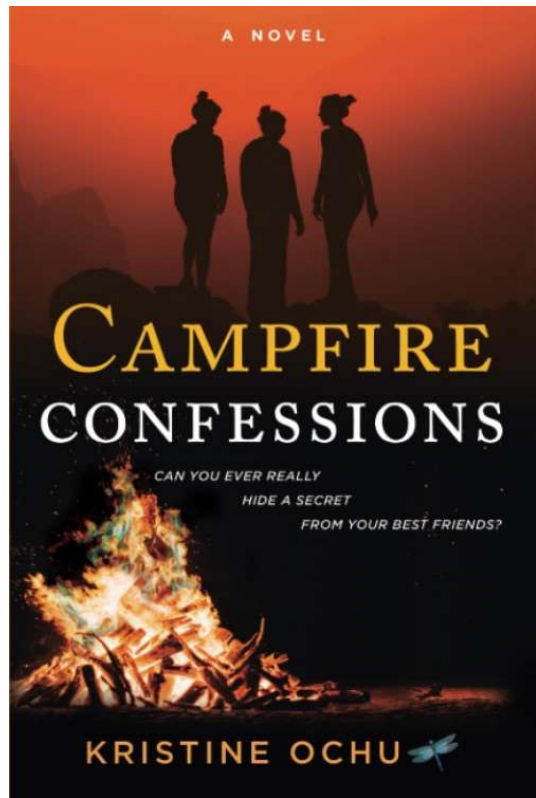
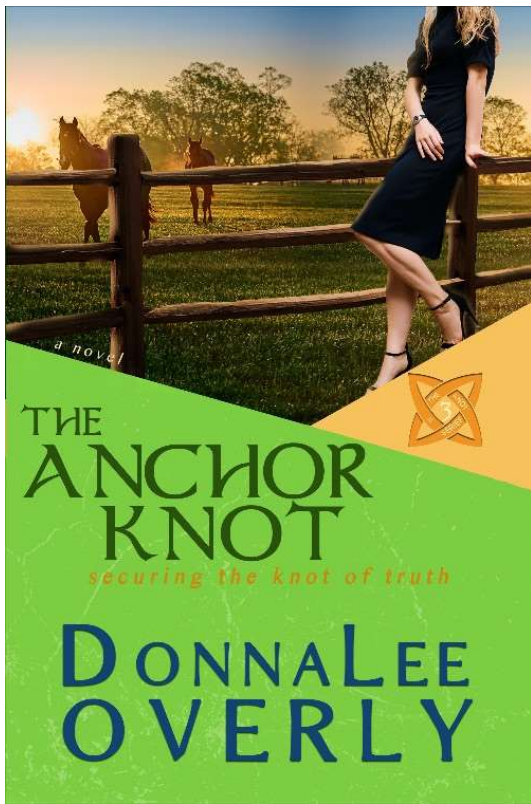
Visit the author: <http://www.juliamcdermottbooks.com>

What you don't know won't just hurt you, it could kill you...

After a corporate move to Kansas in the 1990s, wife and mother Dolly Garner stumbles upon the town's dark secret: A serial killer who targets women new to town has been on the loose for decades. Then, when Dolly's doppelgänger is found strangled to death and the newspaper publishes a handwritten note from the killer claiming credit, her fear and anxiety turn into alarm—and panic.

Congratulations Chip Kirkpatrick! He received notification that CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL has accepted another one of his stories. ***Daddy Killed Frosty the Snowman*** will appear in *Laughter is the Best Medicine* publishing in June 2025. He is also the author of ***Roscoe: My Cardinal Sin*** and ***Tweedles and Ellie***.

**2024 New York City Big Book Award
Distinguished Favorites**



Donna Overly's *The Anchor Knot* (<https://www.donnaleeoverly.com>) was recognized in the Women's Fiction category and Kristin Ochu's *Campfire Confessions* (<https://kristineochu.com>) for the Friendship Category. Congratulations!

Thank you for joining Amelia Island Writers

Thank you to members who came to our **Welcome Meet and Greet Coffee** held on October 28. The coffee was accompanied by intimate conversation about writing, publication, and marketing. We were delighted to meet members that were able to attend a morning gathering as they have been unavailable to attend our Tuesday afternoon programs. We will plan more of these informal events in 2025.



Kudos to **Linda Sexton** and **Nancy Blanton** for their presentation at our Tuesday, October 29 program, continuing our series Helping Authors to Publication with **Branding the Author**. Twenty-six members were in attendance for this informative program.

We are grateful for members who share their experiences and knowledge to help others on their writing journey. **Writers Helping Writers** is our moto.

Mark Your 2025 Calendar and join AIW for these programs:

Saturday, January 18, 2025 --Florida Focus Literary Luncheon Event partnering with Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture. Leslie Poole, Rollins College professor, will launch *The Wilder Heart of Florida: More Writers Inspired by Florida Nature*.

Start the new year by joining friends for this educational and entertaining event. Details coming soon.

Tuesday, February 24, 2025 -- Florida Writers Association (FWA) speaker, Shutta Crum, author of children's books and poetry, will entertain us with her wit and humor as she speaks on the craft of writing.



Want to find out what's going on for writers this month around the area? For FWA regional news from Vic DiGenti, NE Florida Director, click [here](#).

Amelia Island Writers is a chapter of the FWA. Membership in FWA is not required to participate in local meetings and programs. Find out if membership is right for you at: <https://www.floridawriters.org/>



Florida WritersCon 2024

October 18-20, 2024

Hilton Orlando/Altamonte Springs

FWA | FLORIDA
WRITERS
ASSOCIATION



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