



**Amelia Island Writers**

**December 2024**



# I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR CHRISTMAS

By Unknown

I've been waiting for Christmas,  
And it's almost here.

I've been waiting for Christmas,  
Santa's getting near.

Can't you hear the sleigh bells ringing?  
Reindeer up so high.

Can't you hear the children singing,  
As they watch the sky?



## Thank you to Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture

A shout out **Mark and Donna Kaufman** and the staff at **Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture** for giving Amelia Island Writers a place for our meetings in 2024. We are grateful for what you do for Amelia Island Writers, and also the good works you have done for our community. We wish you continued success in 2025.

We also recognize **The Book Loft** for hosting our Works in Progress group throughout the year and for your support of our authors. Thank you to **Sue Nelson** and the staff at The Book Loft.

Please support these local businesses as they support our creative community.

---

---

## 2025 Amelia Island Writers Programs/Events (January-June)

Mark your calendar to join us for these programs

**Tuesday, January 28, 3-5PM:** Vic DiGenti, Florida Writers Association (FWA) Regional Director, speaker, and author will present “How to Save Your History and Write Your Life’s Story.”

**Thursday, February 20, 4-6PM:** Local author Kevin Powers and honorary chair of the Amelia Island Book Festival will speak at **The Book Loft**.

**Tuesday, February 25, 3-5PM:** Shutta Crum- FWA speaker, author, and poet.

**Tuesday, March 25, 3-5PM:** Voices of Diversity with Multicultural Writers Panel  
Discussion: Dr. Ardain Isma (Haitian) and FWA speaker, Tara Lynn Masih (Jewish themes), and one other TBA.

**Tuesday, April 29, 3-5PM:** Haiku with artists and authors.

Escape into nature with the simplicity and grace of Haiku during National Poetry Month.

Includes drawings for giveaways.

**Tuesday, May 27, 3-5PM:** Dan Sharp, FWA speaker will present "Tools for Writers" and "The Writer's Life."

**Tuesday, June 24, 3-5PM:** Editing Your Manuscript Panel Discussion with Emily Carmain and other editors TBA.

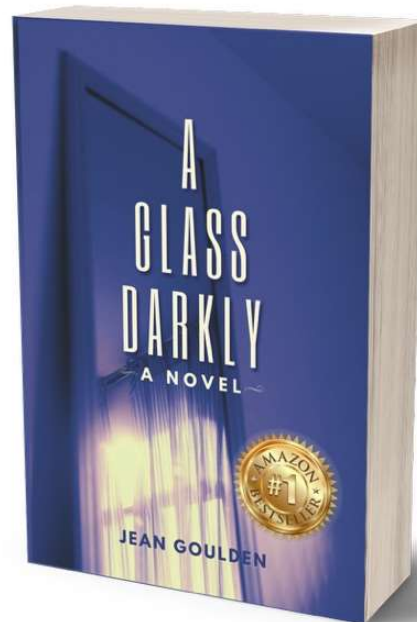
---

---

## Member News

**Jean Goulden** has released her debut novel, *A Glass Darkly*, published by Transcendent Publishing. *A Glass Darkly* is a compelling family drama, set in New England. Follow the fortunes and misfortunes of the Lenox family as everything they relied on changes on a dime. Share their secrets and surprises, their heartbreak, and their triumph. This novel is a vibrant, tender exploration of identity, courage, and compassion.

Featured on the Amazon Bestseller



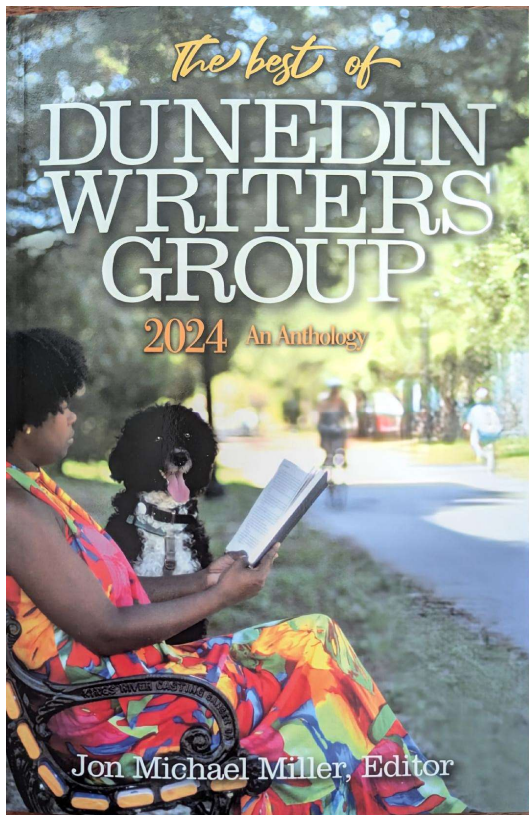
list, it is available in ebook and paperback, from Amazon or your local bookstore.

<https://mybook.to/aglassdarkly>

**Jean Goulden** has published two non-fiction titles, *Hiking England's Coast to Coast Way* and *Tracking the Camino de Santiago de Compostela* and writes the popular blog "Salt Spray and Aspens" about her adventures here in Florida and at her summer home in Colorado. To find out more visit

<http://www.jeangoulden.com>

---



**Marla McDaniel** was chosen again for inclusion in the Best of Dunedin Writers Group 2024 annual anthology. 32 members participated with diverse stories perfect for a coffee break, the beach, or a quiet bench along the trail. Marla's story, *Moonlight Mystic*, is about a gifted and unusual neighbor who helped her in a time of job change, a cross-country move, and a personal relationship.

Marla kept her late mother's home in Dunedin, and enjoys her time on

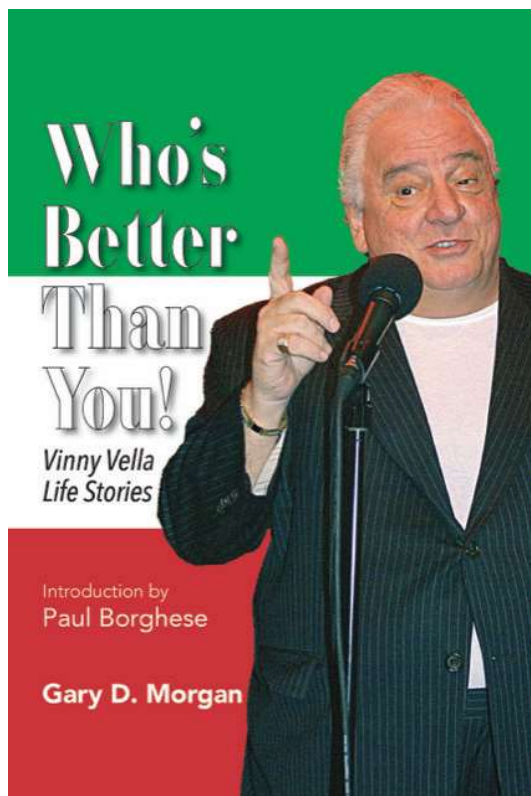


Florida's gulf coast.

The book is available at Back in the Day Bookstore, Dunedin Fine Arts Center, Dunedin History Museum, and online. If you are planning a visit to the gulf coast, the **Southwest Florida Reading Festival** is March 1, 2025, in Fort Myers. Something for all ages include celebrities sharing tips, local author marketplace, and a variety of children's activities.

Details at: <https://readfest.org/attend/>

---



See **Gary Morgan** at Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture, 1430 Park Ave,

Fernandina on **Saturday, January 11th** (Vinny Vella's birthday) at **3:00 p.m.**

He will do a second presentation at the Yulee Library, 76346 William Burgess Blvd. (on the FCCJ Campus), on **Tuesday, January 14th, at 5:30 p.m.** His books will be on sale and for signing after each event.

Gary's book is titled: *Who's Better Than You! Vinny Vella Life Stories*. Check his website at: <http://www.heywhosebetterthanyou.com>

Vinny Vella appeared in over 100 movies, TV episodes, and commercials. Best known for his role as Artie Piscano in Martin Scorsese's *Casino*, Vinny saw it all and delighted in telling everyone he encountered about his life, escapades, and acting career. Vinny in story after story in *Who's Better Than You: Vinny Vella Life Stories* regales the reader with the deeds and misdeeds of his life. Throughout his tales, you will witness Vinny's use of cunning, wit, and unpredictability to achieve his winning ways.

---

**Who's Better Than You! Vinny Vella Life Stories**

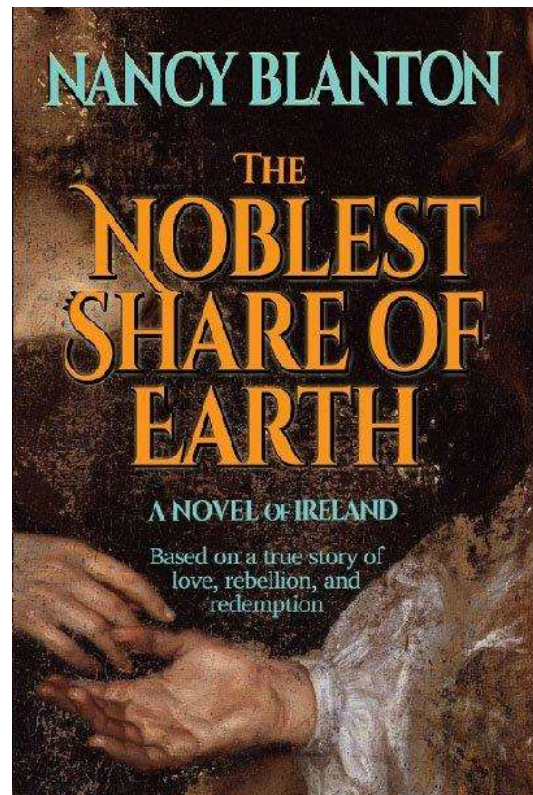
---

---

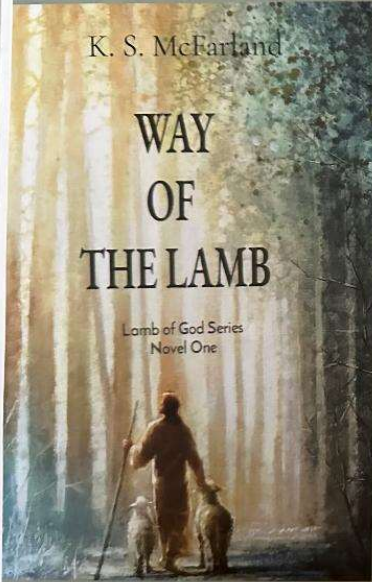
**Nancy Blanton's** latest novel of 17th century Irish historical fiction has been released. In the far north of Ireland, a family legacy and land holdings are threatened on the strategic peninsula of Inishowen.

The book is based on the true story of Sir Cahir O'Doherty of County Donegal, his wife Maire Preston of County Meath, and his rebellion against the English in 1608. Nancy's website is a journey in itself, which you can visit here: <http://www.nancyblanton.com>

---







K. S. McFarland  
**WAY  
OF  
THE LAMB**  
Lamb of God Series  
Novel One


**BOOK SIGNING  
WITH AUTHOR  
K.S. MCFARLAND**

Date: December 11th, 2024

Time: 3:00 Story & Song

A historical novel of spiritual renewal.

Come and meet Jesus the Messiah as if for the first time. Experience his life, mission, and the clash of kingdoms during Israel's Roman occupation.



**Kathy McFarland** is a retired pastor and local author. Her studies led her to a Master of Divinity degree and Bachelor of Business Administration, among others. She has devoted over thirty years to ministry and helping people in a variety of roles. *Way of the Lamb* is a biographical novel of the early events and life's work of Jesus Christ within the first century of the Roman-Greco world. *Victory of the Lamb* is the latter half of Christ's mission. <http://www.lamb58.com>. Join Kathy for seasonal inspiration and conversation.

## Editorial Services

I'm **Holly Black** (no, not that one)! I'm a freelance line editor and proofreader based in sunny Jacksonville, and I run Bird and Bear Editorial Services. My passion is helping indie authors polish their manuscripts to perfection. While I've worked on a wide range of genres and manuscript lengths, my specialties are romance, fantasy, and young adult fiction. I've

edited all spice levels but prefer to work on closed-door stories.

I hold a BA in English from Kennesaw State University and am a proud member of the Editorial Freelancers Association. I've honed my skills through copyediting courses with EFA and CIEP, so you can trust your book is in expert hands.

Curious to see how I can transform your words? Check out my portfolio, glowing testimonials, and pricing details at <http://www.birdandbearediting.com>. And for new clients, I offer a free sample edit—let's see if we're a perfect match!

I'm currently booking clients up to a year in advance, so don't wait. Reach out today, and let's make your book the best it can be!

---

---

## Literary Fair Opportunities

**The Turner Center** is accepting author applications for the 2025 Literary Fair on Saturday, September 13, 2025, 10am-3pm! All information can be viewed online at our [Literary Fair webpage](#). It will likely be spring of 2025 when applications begin to be reviewed, and authors contacted about participation. They will also be looking for authors as speakers for the event, so please let them know in the application notes if you'd also be interested in speaking. Thanks so much, and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

[Hailey A. Rathmann](#)

Art Education Administrator

Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts

527 N. Patterson St. Valdosta, GA. 31601

229.247.2787 ext. 143

\*\*\*\*\*

Author registration is open:

**The Sixth Annual Sunshine State Book Festival**, Gainesville, Florida

Dates: Jan 30, 2025- Feb 1, 2025

Visit the website for details and forms at:

---

---

## AIW Advisory Council Members

It's the end of a great 2024. We enjoyed serving on the Advisory Council and we appreciate our members. AIW increased programs to every month except for a vacation in August. The topics chosen reflected the outcome of the results of the 2023 survey. Topics centered around the theme, "Helping Authors to Publication." As per the group suggestion for additional social events, the October Meet and Greet Coffee was added.

Your Advisory Council is open to your ideas and your talents to make this group the best it can be. Member feedback is encouraged. There have been sign-up sheets at the meetings so take a look and see how you can help. We appreciate your commitment to this group and all of us on the Advisory Council wish you a safe and Happy Holiday. See you in 2025!

Donna Overly- Group Leader

LeeAnn Shobe- Publicity, Memoir Critique Group

Linda Sexton- Works In Progress Critique Group

Marla McDaniel- Editor, Past Group Leader

Michael Stokes- Webmaster

Pat Martocci- Advisor

Suzanne Schiffman- Advisor

---

---



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/>



---

---

*Copyright © \*2024 Amelia Island Writers, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

Contact Donna: [donnaleeoverly@gmail.com](mailto:donnaleeoverly@gmail.com)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

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