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From: Amelia Island Writers <marla@ameliaislandwriters.org>
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 8:24 PM
To: mstokes@segatechnology.com
Subject: Welcome 2025

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Amelia Island Writers

JANUARY 2025



January 1st is the first blank page of a 365-page book.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

Promise

By Jackie Kay

Remember, the time of year
when the future appears
like a blank sheet of paper
a clean calendar, a new chance.

On thick white snow
You vow fresh footprints
then watch them go

with the wind's hearty gust.
Fill your glass. Here's tae us. Promises
made to be broken, made to last.

From [*A Poem For Every Day Of The Year*](#)

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 3-5 PM

Story & Song Center for Arts & Culture



**Join AIW for this program and
meet our Florida Writers
Association Regional Director!**

***HOW TO SAVE YOUR
HISTORY & WRITE
YOUR LIFE STORY***

Everyone has a story to tell. Too often, these stories and personal histories are lost unless they've written a biography or memoir. It's not easy, and new writers may wonder how and where to start, what to include, and what to leave out.

Vic DiGenti is an award-winning author of six novels, a collection of short stories, and twelve works of non-fiction. Working as a ghostwriter and biographer for the past nine years, he has penned biographies and family histories for many clients, including WWII veterans, jazz musicians, entrepreneurs, and retired corporate executives. Vic has edited and published books for other

individuals through his imprint Windrusher Hall Press. He's a member of the Association of Ghostwriters, a longtime member and former Executive Vice President of The Florida Writers Association and serves on the Board of the Beaches Museum based in Jacksonville Beach. He lives and works in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida with his wife and four frisky cats.

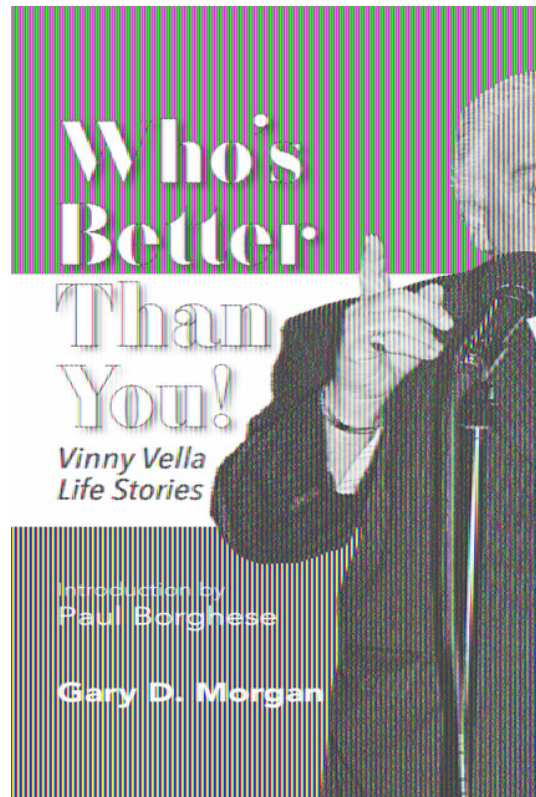
Visit him at: <http://www.windrusherhallpress.com>

Member News

Gary Morgan will present his book, *Who's Better Than You! Vinny Vella Life Stories* at Story & Song on Saturday, Jan. 11th (Vinny Vella's birthday) at 3:00 p.m.

The second presentation will be at the Yulee Library, 76346 William Burgess Blvd. (FSCJ Nassau Campus), Tuesday, Jan. 14th, 5:30 pm.

After both presentations books will be for sale and signing. Gary's website for more information, click [here](#).





Local author, Jean Goulden, will be in conversation with local actress Sue Weiner, to discuss Jean's recent novel, ***A Glass Darkly***.

When: Thursday, Jan. 16,
3:30 - 4:30 pm

Where: Story & Song -
refreshments served.

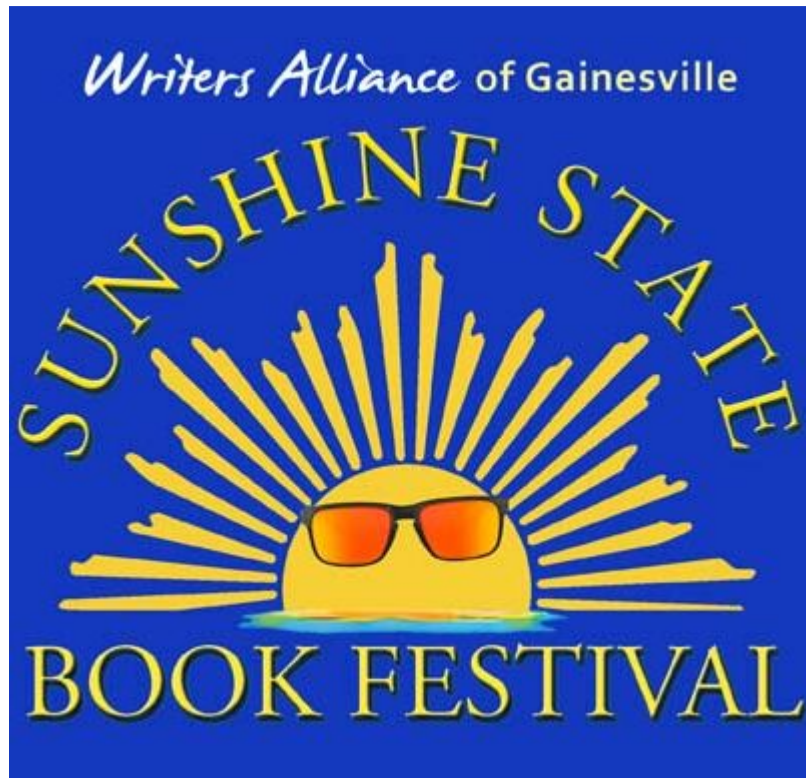
A summary of her works of fiction, nonfiction, and popular blog "Salt Spray and Aspens," can be found at:

<http://www.jeangoulden.com>



The Second Annual **Festival of Stories & Songs** is **Jan. 30 - Feb. 2**, with events at Spring Hill Suites, Story & Song, and Wildlight YMCA. A talented line-up of authors, story tellers, and musicians make for a great weekend. Learn how to craft a good tale, and enjoy some laughs with accomplished guest presenters coming in to entertain us on Amelia Island.

<https://storyandsongarts.org/festival/>



Sunshine State Book Festival Author Showcase and Expo

Saturday, February 1

10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

Several AIW members are exhibiting in this festival: **Nancy Blanton, DonnaLee Overly, Robin Pullen, Linda Reynolds, and Linda Sexton.**

Come and enjoy a day of browsing—and meet 200 local and regional authors who will talk about their writing, sell, and sign books.

2025 Amelia Island Book Festival Events

Honorary Chair Kevin Powers and Celebrity Authors

Visit the AIBF website for more details:

<https://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org>

Kevin Powers, 2025 Amelia Island Book Festival

Honorary Chair and author, will be at **The Book Loft**
Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, 4-6 pm. Open to the public, this reception is with
Amelia Island Writers and Kevin as guest speaker.
The Book Loft, 214 Centre Street, Fernandina Beach

2025 Festival Gala

Friday, February 28, 2025,
6:00 pm Ritz Carlton Amelia Island
4750 Amelia Island Pkwy, Fernandina Beach
Cocktail attire suggested.

Author Breakout Sessions and Author Expo

Saturday, March 1, 2025
Fernandina Beach Middle School
315 Citrona Drive, Fernandina Beach

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

Mark your calendar to join us for these programs to be held at Story & Song
Center for Arts & Culture unless otherwise noted

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 3-5 PM: Vic Digenti- FWA Regional Director and
author will present, “How to Save Your History & Write Your
Life’s Story.”

Thursday, Feb. 20: Local author Kevin Powers, honorary
chair of the Amelia Island Book Festival, will speak at
The Book Loft 4-6 PM. Reservations not necessary.

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

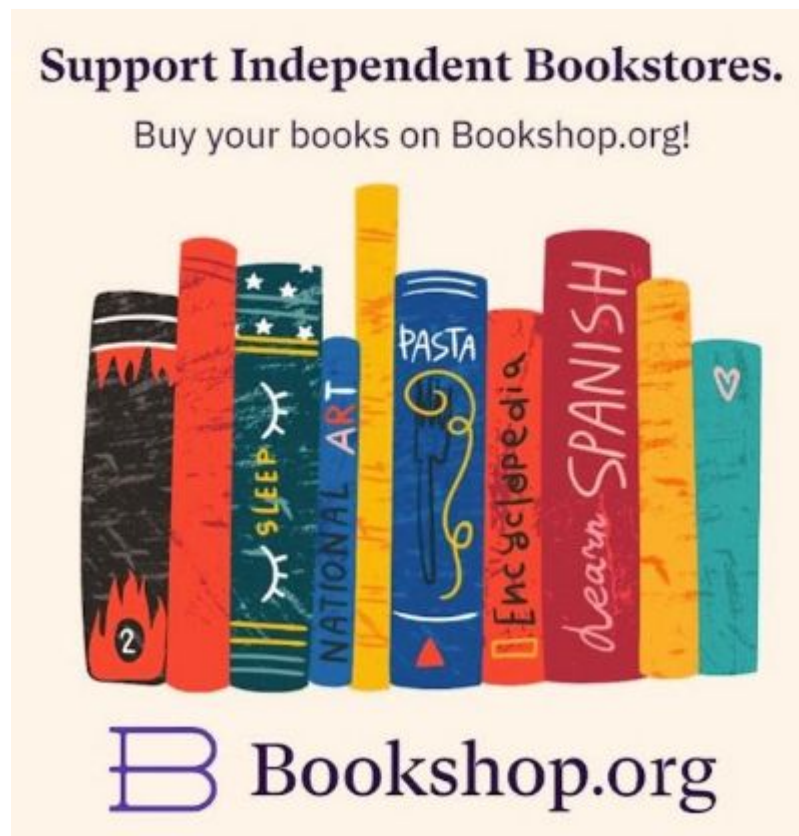
Tuesday, March 25, 3-5 PM: Voices of Diversity with Multicultural Writers
Panel Discussion: Dr. Ardain Isma (Haitian) and FWA
speaker, Tara Lynn Masih (Jewish themes), and another
TBA.

Tuesday, April 29, 3-5 PM: Fun Poetry With Haiku. Nature is a feature of traditional Haiku, and Amelia Island is a perfect setting for this program with authors and artists. Join in or simply attend and enjoy.
Celebrating April - National Poetry Month

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

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

Did you know that books can be ordered from Bookshop.org? Simply choose your local bookseller to receive credit for the sale. Over 35 million has been raised to help our local bookstores continue their presence in our community. You might find one or two from What Writers are Reading, Amelia Island Writers annual year-end book chat. List below -



The Paris Daughter, Kristin Harmel: The Women, Kristin Hannah: Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow, Gabrielle Zevin: The Night Circus, Erin Morganstern: Theo of Golden, Allen Levi: Table for Two, Amor Towles: The Measure, Nikki Erlick: Flashman, George Fraser: Enchantment - Reawakening Wonder in an Exhausted Age, Katherine May: Circe, Madeline Miller: Till We Have Faces, C.S. Lewis: Fuzz - When Nature Breaks the Law, Mary Roach: One Second After, William Forstchen: The Rising Tide - A Novel of WWII, Jeff Shaara: The Remains of the Day, Kuzuo Ishiguro: American Midnight, Adam Hochschild: Sea People - The Puzzle of Polynesia, Christina Thompson: The Girl with the Pearl Earring, Tracy Chevalier: A Glass Darkly, Jean Goulden.

Thank you to AIW writers who attended, or sent in their choices for our annual book chat.



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/>



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