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melia Island Writers

March 2025



Stretch your imagination with HAIKU

Tuesday, April 29- 3-5PM
Story & Song Center for Art & Culture
details in April Newsletter

The Lively Leprechaun

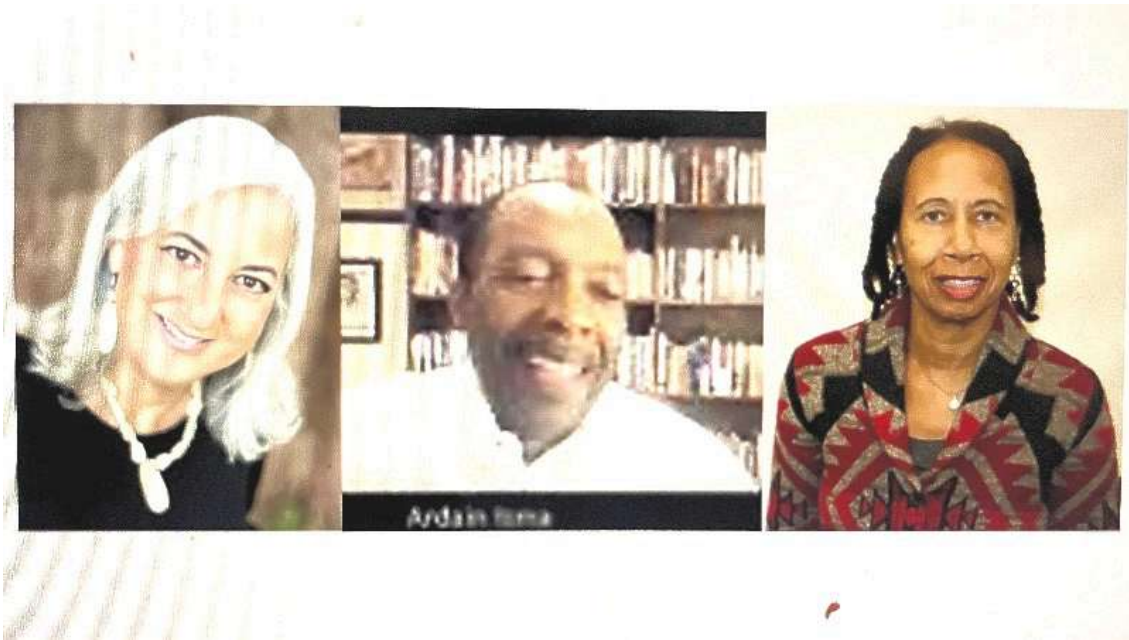
By Betsy Franco

I caught a lively leprechaun
With stubble on his face.
He promised loads of buried gold
And led me to the place.
But when I let him loose to dig,
He leaped and led a chase.
That lively laughing leprechaun
Had left without a trace!



Voices of Diversity with Multicultural Authors

Tuesday, March 25 3-5pm
Story & Song Center for Art & Culture



Left to Right: Tara Lynn Masih, Dr. Ardain Isma, Dr. Beverly Davis

Join us for this informative program. A panel with Multicultural Authors facilitated by Donna Overly, AIW Group Leader.

Come early to network and get refreshments for this event.

Donna Overly. DonnaLee Overly is an award-winning author of **The KNOT SERIES**- contemporary women's fiction novels that give a voice to social issues. She uses her self-help book, **Discover Gold: achieve happiness and reach for dreams in your life's next chapter** to teach workshops.

<https://www.donnaleeoverly.com>

Tara Lynn Masih is a National Jewish Book Award Finalist and winner of a Julia Ward Howe Award and a Florida Book Award for her acclaimed novel ***My Real Name Is Hanna***, set in WWII Ukraine. Editor of *The Rose Metal Press Field Guide to Writing Flash Fiction*, Tara founded The Best Small Fictions

<https://www.taramasih.com>

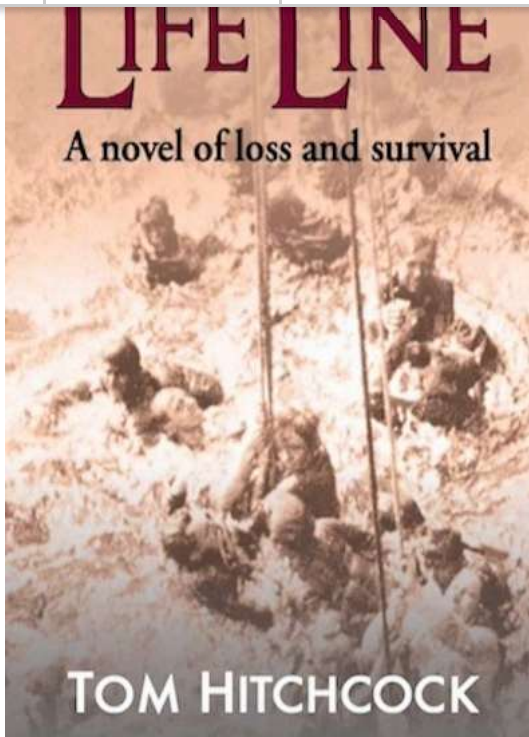
Dr. Ardain Isma, a master storyteller, crafts a narrative that resonates with finesse, elegance, and vivid imagery. An adept essayist and novelist, he's renowned for enthralling storytelling and insightful portrayal of human emotions. His acclaimed works include "**Midnight at Noon**" and "**Bittersweet Memories of Last Spring**." He teaches *Introduction to Research Methods* at Embry-Riddle University. He is the chief editor for CSMS Magazine, principal medium of the Center of Strategic and Multicultural Studies (CSMS).

<http://www.csmsmagazine.org>

Dr. Beverly Davis is one of three women who owns property at American Beach on Amelia Island that has resulted in a new book, **Life on American Beach: Voices from Within**. Beverly Davis, Berta Arias, and Marsha Phelps agree that the collaborated book was truly a labor of love. The book is not a history book; rather, it is a collection of essays and observations shared by 51 people who make American Beach home. Beverly Davis, a Midwesterner, published poet, essayist, and educator, is a member of the A.L. Lewis Museum and sits on the boards of the American Beach Property Owners Association and Friends of American Beach.

<https://www.ameliaislander.com/voices-of-american-beach/>

Member News



During the interval between his working years and golden years, Tom has transitioned from a career as a copywriter and creative director in ad agency settings, to freelance creative maven—to writing fiction.

He is the author of five novels, four of which are set to varying degrees on or around Amelia Island, Fla. The first novel, his initial foray into fiction, is set primarily in Heaven.

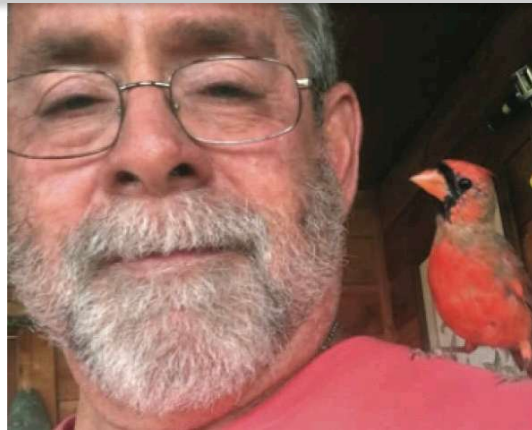
"I was, in turn, humbled and awestruck by the artistry and lyricism of John Doerr's prose in *All The Light We Cannot See*. Then inspired. I'd run across a small corner of history in Tidewater Virginia. Mathews, Va. was home to an inordinate concentration of merchant seamen. Those merchant seamen suffered disproportionately in World War II when German U-boats began sinking dozens of ships off the U.S. East Coast and the North Atlantic.

The inspiration led to a new novel, *LifeLine*, which is the story of how World War II engulfs families from both sides of the Atlantic in the inevitability of its violence and trauma. Members of those families are driven by the fates into deadly encounters that exact a grievous price from their households."

Book was released the week of February 10th.

<http://www.tomhitchcockwrites.com>

published several books, contributed to others, is a regular writer for AMERICAN DIGGER magazine and a professional storyteller. He shares his success with writing short stories for **Chicken Soup For the Soul**.



A Bowl of Chicken Soup

Two years ago, a friend suggested that I send stories for CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL, which is a series of themed books, each with about 101 short stories.

For submissions, the stories must relate to the theme, be true, written in first person, and can have up to 1200 words. In the past, I've sent stories about family, work, pets, weather, life and death. Some stories were funny, others sad; some were frivolous and others serious. Due to the vast number of stories submitted for each theme, it can be a long time before any response is received. The first story I sent, took so long I had forgotten and thought they were crediting me with somebody else's work.

I had one story in their book published in July 2024. This year, four of my stories were accepted in three different books. One story released February 2025, another coming in April, and two stories will appear in their May publication.

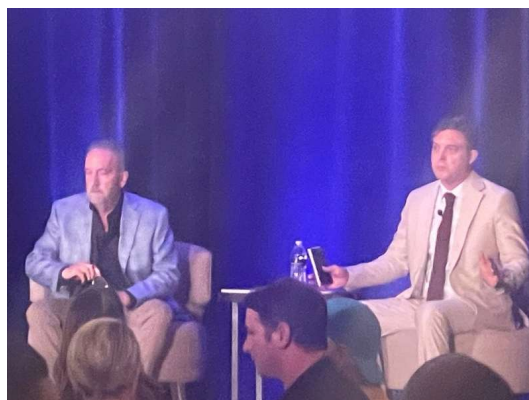
FYI- Chicken Soup for the Soul will pay \$250 per published story and give the author ten copies per story.



Amelia Island Writers Reception with Kevin Powers, Honorary Chair of The Amelia Island Book Festival hosted by The Book Loft was held on Thursday, Feb 20 with 28 people in attendance. Kevin spoke to us as writers sharing his journey and his writing habits. His first novel **The Yellow Birds** has won prestigious awards. **A Line in the Sand** is his current novel. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kevin_Powers



2025 Photos from the Amelia Island Book Festival



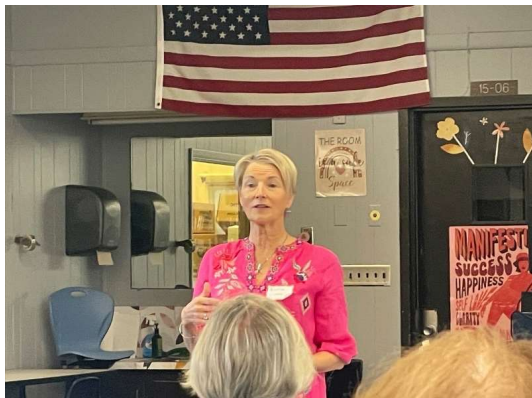
Amelia Island Writers participated in many of the events at the AIBF. AIW members were at the gala Friday evening. And Saturday at the Author Expo, AIW members Kristine Ochu, Linda Sexton, Rachel Glover, Jane Woods, Suzanne Schiffman, and Donna Overly had scheduled breakout sessions. Many members bought tables to sell their books. Overall, it was a great event enjoyed by all.

Pictured above first row, left to right: David Baldacci, Alafair Burke, Angie Kim, Moderator

Donna Kaufman;

Next photo-Kenny Pinson, Poe Pinson (celebrating her 20th birthday), Moderator Kate Harris.

Third row: Moderator Linda Sexton, Britt Menzies, Heather Macht; George Pelecanos with Honorary Chair Kevin Powers at the Gala.



Pictured from Left to right: AIW member Kristine Ochu presented a workshop on Marketing and Branding. AIW members at the Gala: Robin Pullen, Julia McDermott, Kristine Ochu, Celebrity Author Shelly Read, LeeAnn Shobe, and Donna Overly.

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Amelia Island Writers*

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Contact Donna at Donnaleeoverly@gmail.com

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