

# VENICE BOOK FAIR AND WRITERS' FESTIVAL NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2026



VeniceHeritage  
Florida

Presenting Sponsor  
GULF COAST  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## It's the Centennial!

**3 Day Fair and Festival : Thursday, March 26, Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, 2026**

### Writers' Festival Agenda

Thursday, March 26  
**"The Foreword"**

**The Collectors Gallery**  
**212 Miami Ave W.**  
**Venice, FL**

Join us for a **wine-and-cheese reception** to start the weekend **at The Collectors Gallery** as South Beach Shakedown **bestselling author Don Bruns**, **Heal America: The Remarkable Life of Mary Lasker**, author **Judy Pearson**, and **collaborative writer and coach Karen Kelly** kick off the literary weekend with a look back and a look forward on our area and publishing overall.

**Click to register at:** <https://veniceheritage.org/vbf-writers-festival-registration/>

\*Guaranteed entry to the first 40 registrants; \$20 payable by credit card.

Friday, March 27  
**"Table of Contents"**

**Gulf Coast Community Foundation**  
**Community Room, William H. Jervy Jr.**  
**Venice Public Library**

**Note:** Registration for the "The Forward" and "Table of Contents" Writers' Festival is separate from registration for the Book Fair. [Click here to register for the Writers' Festival.](#)

#### **11:00 to 11:45 a.m.** Imagine Yourself a Writer: Tools and Tips for Getting Started

Michele Swift, Michael Schlesinger, Bill Glover, Ken Brennen, Diane Turner, and Jason Gallourakis reflect on a year of starting to write and edit and giving practical tips and resources for beginning and mid-process authors, moderated by Venice Theatre Publishing Course instructor Camille Cline.

#### **Noon to 1:00 p.m.** Do You Plot or Do You Write by the Seat of Your Pants?: Which Are You and Does It Make a Difference?

USA Today bestselling author of The Last Book Club author Joanne Rock of the local Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime, Tremaine: A Lakota Warrior in Roosevelt's Rough Riders author Jim Kelly, and Pan in the Park author Susana Falcon will discuss the value of planning versus winging it when starting the writing process. Creating tension, pacing, and developing characters will also be discussed. Moderated by children's book author/illustrator Alis Sefick. Followed by a half-hour book signing.

#### **1:30–2:30 p.m.** The Impact of AI on Writing and Marketing

The Island Bookshop Founder Michael Rank, Kinzie's Kinventions series and the Claw & Order Fairy Goose Unit detective series author Donna Boock, and When I Grow Up author Kelly Duyn go point-counterpoint on the merits and pitfalls of artificial intelligence in producing and marketing works for publication. The Literary Spa founder Camille Cline, moderator. Followed by a half-hour book signing.

#### **3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Celebrating Venice's Centennial: Writing about Your Hometown

Gondolier Sun Features Editor Kim Cool, local historian and Venice: A Century on the Gulf author Larry Humes, Heart of Venice author-photographer Lee Grace Mathews, and Forgotten Florida author Clarissa Thomasson offer perspectives on celebrating Venice or any hometown in words and pictures. Followed by a half-hour book signing.

**Note to Registrants:** After you submit your registration, you will receive a **"Thank you" confirming we received your Book Fair registration.** The **receipt for your tent payment will be from PayPal.** Your tent registration is **not a donation to Venice Heritage**, funders of the Venice Book Fair. It is payment for the **purchase of goods and services of providing you a tent at the Fair.**

**Saturday, March 28**  
**"The Book Fair"**  
**[Click here to register for the Book Fair](#)**