

**For Immediate Release**

## **Regional writers add literary depth to 2008 Riverside Arts Festival**

A dozen regional authors will join 150 artists and craftsmen at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Riverside Arts Festival, September 6 and 7 in Jacksonville's historic Riverside Park. This will be the fourth year the literary arts, in the form of a Writer's Tent, are part of one of the largest and best-attended arts and crafts festivals in northeast Florida.

Festival organizers worked with the Florida Writers Association to find outstanding authors representing different genres from children's picture books to paranormal romance and science fiction, from young adult novels to historical fiction and travel books. The authors will be signing their books plus giving readings on both Saturday and Sunday of the festival.

Saturday's authors include **Randy Cribbs**, the author of a half dozen books of short stories, poetry and novels, many of them set in his home town of St. Augustine. A former Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army, Randy also writes of his experiences in Vietnam. His books include *Tales from the Oldest City*, *Illumination Rounds*, and *The Vessel*.

**Victor DiGenti** is a retired broadcaster who used his love of cats for inspiration for three adventure/fantasies featuring a cat as the protagonist. The award-winning *Windrusher* novels introduced readers to a world where cats can be as heroic—and maybe more sensitive—as people in plots tinged with mysticism and adventure. His third in the series, *Windrusher and the Trail of Fire*, was recently released.

**Nancy Haddock** is another St. Augustine-based author. Nancy's debut novel, *La Vida Vampire*, launched a new series of paranormal romantic mysteries from Berkley. Though this book is her first published work, Nancy, a former speech pathologist, has written articles, comedy sketches, screenplays, children's picture books, poetry, and has tried her hand in a number of genres.

**Pamela Bauer Mueller** has worked as a flight attendant, commercial model, actress, an English and Spanish language instructor, and as a U.S. Customs inspector before turning to writing. Pamela wrote and published *The Kiska Trilogy*, *Hello, Goodbye, I Love You*, *Neptune's Honor*, *An Angry Drum Echoed* and the recently released *Aloha Crossing*. She was named the 2008 Georgia Writer of the Year.

**Hank & Jan Racer** are the award-winning writing and illustrating team of the children's picture book, *Marky the Barking Bullfrog*. Hank is also the author of *The River Rats*, a middle-grade adventure/mystery. The Orange Park residents are both graduates of Ball State University and are working on their next books.

**Kevin Pettway** tells us in his website, "In a desperate bid never to amount to anything or accumulate wealth beyond the double digits, I decided to pursue a career in illustration and writing." Kevin frequently works as a freelance illustrator for Principle Woods, helping to create a character education-driven series of chapter books for elementary and kindergarten aged children. His latest project is a fantasy comic titled *Heroes of Lesser Earth*.

Sunday's Writer's Tent schedule adds the following authors:

**Maggie deVries**, is a Fernandina Beach author of the historical novel, *Amelia's Secret*, which is set in her hometown during the 1880's. Maggie is a writer who jumps from genre to genre. Her writings include ghost stories, young adult, religious short stories and poetry.

**Rene Fix** is a shareholder with Rogers Towers, the largest law firm in Northeast Florida. While his legal career is highly rewarding, his passion is writing fiction. Rene wrote and published the legal thriller *Informed Consent* and is hard at work on his next novel.

**Jim Morgan** has had successful careers in law enforcement and the world of academia. He used some of his experiences in nearly forty years in law enforcement to write *The Copper Indian*, the story of a Native American who joins the NYPD.

**Gertie Poole** is a blind author who has been unleashed thanks to technical advances allowing the blind to write. *Realm* was her first book published in September 2007. *Magic Trash*, her newest book, is the winner of the 2006 Royal Palm Literary Award from the Florida Writers Association, and the 2007 POW/High Pitched Hum Publishing Award.

**Lucy Beebe Tobias** worked for the New York Times Regional Group in Florida for 23 years as an award winning reporter and columnist. After she retired in 2005, Lucy became a freelance writer, photographer & graphic artist. She is the Authentic Florida Expert for VISIT FLORIDA and does videos, a blog & stories from around the state. Her book, *50 Great Walks in Florida*, guides readers through the deepest swamps to the most civilized sidewalks.

The Writers Tent will be open from 10:00 a.m. to closing each day of the festival.

Contact:

Roxanne Henkle, [rox\\_of\\_spazhouse@bellsouth.net](mailto:rox_of_spazhouse@bellsouth.net)  
Vic DiGenti, [vicdig@mac.com](mailto:vicdig@mac.com) or call 904-285-2258