

Local author Niamh McAnally receives award and tours as cruise ship guest speaker

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Local author Niamh McAnally has received the International Impact Book Award for her memoir, "Following Sunshine: A Voyage Around The Mind, Around The World, Around The Heart."

This premier award program is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the exceptional work of international-selling authors and their impactful stories that touch readers around the world.

This latest recognition of McAnally's memoir adds to the list of awards received earlier this year, including the overall winner of the 2024 American Writing Award for multi-cultural non-fiction and the Literary Titan Award.

Having lived aboard their Caliber 40 long-range cruiser sailboat for six years, renowned author and storyteller McAnally and her husband, Gary Krieger, have become a popular fixture aboard Celebrity Cruise ships. The dynamic duo recently returned from an extended stay aboard the luxurious Celebrity Constellation, where they entertained guests on transatlantic and Caribbean voyages.

As regular guest speakers, McAnally and Krieger share their stories with audiences around the world. Their engaging and diverse talks have made them sought-after presenters. Highlights from some of their captivating presentations include:

- **"Flares Up: A Story Bigger Than The Atlantic"** – A captivating tour "behind the scenes" of McAnally's best-selling book, "Flares Up," about why two middle-aged men rowed a 20-foot boat 3,000 nautical miles across the Atlantic — and how the experience changed them as human beings.

- **"Following Sunshine: Finding Meaning Through Traveling"** – McAnally and Krieger share their individual experiences of finding meaning through the art of giving back.



Author Niamh McAnally and husband, Gary Krieger, flank cruise director and singer Ernest Marchain.

Their stories of traveling the world, often as volunteers, take you on a journey to remote islands and exotic locations.

- **"From Captain and Crew to Husband and Wife"** – The sailing project that brought them together and ultimately transformed their relationship from captain and crew to husband and wife. A love story on the high seas — but it didn't start out that way!
- **"Unleash the Writer Within"** – Where better to start writing that book or story you've wanted to tell than while gazing out to sea? McAnally shares techniques from her writer's workshops that spark

guests' creativity.

- **"Ireland: Through The Eyes of an Irish Woman"** – Whether you've been to Ireland or always wanted to visit, this

is a unique view of the country as shown by Irish-born McAnally. Guests learn the stories behind the legends and interesting facts about the Irish language. Includes Krieger's favorite places as an American visiting the Emerald Isle.

"It's been an absolute pleasure sharing our passions with the incredible guests aboard Celebrity Cruises," said McAnally. "Every voyage is a new chapter filled with inspiring people and wonderful destinations."

"Entertaining and connecting with new friends from all over the world is such a joy," Krieger added. "We're thrilled to keep bringing these experiences to life for guests."

2025 will see McAnally and Krieger entertaining guests on cruises in the Adriatic, South Pacific, Japan, French Polynesia and beyond. For more information on their upcoming appearances on land and at sea, or to receive an invitation to the launch of McAnally's new book coming in April 2025, sign up for their newsletter on www.thewriteronthewater.com.

McAnally and Krieger are active members of the local community and members of the Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association. McAnally just completed her role as vice president of the Newcomers Club. ■

In the KNOW

- Punta Gorda resident Niamh McAnally is available locally to personalize copies of "Following Sunshine" and "Flares Up." Send a message via www.thewriteronthewater/contact for more information.
- The Kindle version of "Following Sunshine" is available for \$2.99 through Dec. 21 on Amazon.com as part of a special holiday promotion.



Gary Krieger and Niamh McAnally onstage during one of their talks.

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— Niamh McAnally

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