Please tell us about your book.

LA VIDA VAMPIRE is the story of 227-year-old Cesca Marinelli, a vampire who was turned in 1800 and has been buried for over 200 years. Maggie O'Halloran rescues Cesca during a house renovation and gets her up to speed with the 21st Century.
Cesca is determined to make the most of her new lease on afterlife, and everything is peachy until she finds a body. Now she's a murder suspect who must join forces with hunky preternatural investigator Deke Saber to find the real killer.

What inspired the story?

Cesca was conceived while I was watching a peanut butter commercial, but the city of St. Augustine was a huge piece of the inspiration as I built a world for the main character and her cohorts.

Who would you cast in a film adaptation of your book?

Wow, great question! I've actually talked that over with someone in the industry, but we didn't come up with many names. I have adapted the book to a screenplay, and am revising that now. The project isn't sold, but there appears to be some general interest, which is waaaay cool!

What is your favorite part of being a writer? Least favorite?

My favorite part of writing is going out to play with my characters, finding out what they're up to, what new insights on life they have. My least favorite? Hmmm, as a woman who is without makeup most of the time, I'd say dressing up for an appears is my least favorite part of being "a writer." Love the meeting people, not the prep for it. <g>

Do you have a "call story" you would like to share? Or how did you learn you would be published?

I learned I'd be published when Leis Pederson call me on February 21st of last year. When she said, "We want to make you an offer," I almost fell over! After all the years of work and hope, I was selling? I have no idea what I said initially, but I finally allowed myself a little squeal of excitement. Then I stood in my office absorbing the news for about two minutes before I ran up stairs to my hubby's office to tell him the news. I think he was more excited. I was still stunned.

Since becoming a published author what has been your favorite moment?

My favorite moment has been an on-going one, and began when I told my mother I'd sold. She is still so excited, it just tickles me.

Who has inspired you as a writer?

Oh, gosh, so very many authors have inspired me! Lorraine Heath, Judith McNaught, Maggie Osborne, Pearl Buck, Georgette Hyer, Kathleen Givens. There's a huge list just of mystery authors who've been an inspiration!

What would you like to tell aspiring writers?

Be real with yourself. If you love writing, the entire process, warts and all, then go for it with conviction, and persist in your path!

Describe yourself in 3 words.

Spiritual, idealistic, pragmatic. (My hubby said beautiful, lovely and cute, but he was just after the Honey Points. <g>)

How do you relax?

I walk on the beach, sit on the beach, meditate on the beach, think about being on the beach … I guess you see the trend, huh? In addition to beachy activities, I relax by reading, doing Sudoku puzzles, and watching TV or a favorite movie.

What do you like to read?

I read a bit of everything in fiction and nonfiction, but utterly devour mysteries and romances. I tend to like the light tone in any entertainment, but a walk on the dark side is fun, too!

If you had a time capsule to be opened 50 years in the future, what would you put in it?

You know that feeling when you experience an incredible moment of joy -- your heart opening wide to complete, unconditional, pure love? That's what I'd put in. One moment of that joy for everyone who's ever lived, or ever will.

What is next for you?

I'm doing polish revisions on Book Two in Cesca's series, and hope to be writing more of her books in the near future. I'm also working on a cozy mystery series, and on several screenplays.

What would you like to ask readers?

What is your favorite "classic" book, and what's your favorite you've read recently? (If you can pick just one. <g>)