

WRITER'S ALLIANCE
OF GAINESVILLE

TOPICS
COMING
IN FUTURE
ISSUES

- Using Prompts
to Spark
Creativity

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The WAG Digest

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 10

NOVEMBER 10, 2009

Join Us For A Special Wag Critique Symposium: Giving And Getting Effective Feedback



Do you know how to critique your own work? How about giving other writers effective feedback? On Sunday, Nov. 22, join us at the Tower Road Library at 2:30 for a WAG Critique Panel with Moderator Kal Rosenberg. Kal will conduct the symposium with WAG Board members Stephanie Seguin, nonfiction; Dorothy Staley, novel; Robin Ecker, short fiction; and David Maas, poetry. Bring your questions and comments to contribute to what is sure to be a lively discussion.

And at this same meeting:

- We have a SPECIAL OFFER for all members whose WAG membership expires December 31. You can renew your WAG membership for 2010 for only \$33. This is

a one-time only offer, available at the November 22 WAG meeting. Note: For members unable to attend, mail your renewal check for \$33 no later than November 30 to WAG, PO BOX 358396, Gainesville, FL 32635-8396.

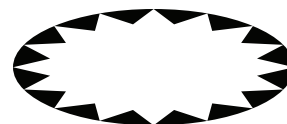
- And for those of you who haven't had a chance to submit to Bacopa, our upcoming literary magazine, we have extended the Contest deadline to Nov. 30. (And thank you, thank you to all those who e-mailed this editor to point out that the old poem says, Thirty days hath November – yes, the deadline is Nov. 30.) Please see the Web site at:

www.bacopaonline.com

- Also at the Nov. 22 meeting, we will sell "Will Write for Food" polo shirts for \$20. Profits go directly to WAG. The shirts are available in multiple sizes and colors.

NOV. 22, 2009
2:30 p.m.

Tower Road Branch –
Alachua County Library
3020 S.W. 75th Street,
Gainesville, Florida



Pod Corner—Pod Membership— an Illusive Entity in Constant Flux

Dorothy Staley—Pod Membership Coordinator



“Pods make you stick your butt in a chair and produce something. Even if it stinks, you are exercising the gray matter, and we all know exercise is good for you. .”

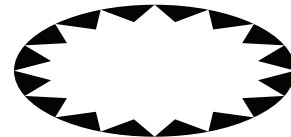
One thing I’ve learned as Pod Coordinator is that pod populations are in constant flux. Despite the ebb and flow, at last count WAG has six active pods involving 32 members and comprising the following genres; short fiction, non-fiction, poetry, novel, and memoir. Keep in mind, WAG recommends a minimum of four members to get started, five for breadth and depth, but no more than six to ensure that every member benefits from a thorough critique at every meeting.

Waiting on the tarmac are members interested in three other genres; science fiction, playwriting, and children’s literature. As soon as enough members are on board, these new pods will take off. Anybody on standby? One fledgling novel pod barely got off the ground when several members moved away. Down to their last two and determined to keep going, I invited them to sit in on my novel pod meetings. I know from past experience, new writers will sign up for pods at the November 22 meeting. But don’t wait, if you are interested in joining a critique pod, contact me at das-apr41@yahoo.com.

Here is one pod member’s point of view. I meet one evening a week at Robin Ecker’s short story pod. Having a deadline for me creates a “got to” attitude. For example, “Oh, it’s Wednesday, I got to get something written to submit for this week’s meeting.” We all have lives that get in the way of our writing. When you are working on something creative, it’s too easy to set it aside and go mow the lawn or start your Christmas shopping. This may be why some writers take ten years to write a book. Pods make you stick your butt in a chair and produce something. Even if it stinks, you are exercising the gray matter, and we all know exercise is good for you.

Shari King

Nobody cares if you can’t dance well. Just get up and dance.



Silver Springs, Florida—Photo by Ken Booth

Classes for Writers

Kal Rosenberg,

WAG Treasurer and well-published local author, will teach another great writing class at Santa Fe College in January.

This class will challenge you in ways you can hardly imagine. And, this will be Kal's last class so sign up while you can.

Here is his description of the upcoming class:

Writing is hard, but "writing it" is not as hard as "fixing it" and publishing it is the hardest of all. So that will be the focus of my seminar (plus manuscript evaluation).

The format is straight talk, no bullshit, and tips you won't find on the back of cereal boxes (Reminder: PLUS evaluation of manuscript).

I will focus on the road(s) to getting *worthy* writing in print: the "plan" and the tools you need to execute it.

Like it or not, there is a business end to writing, and a sales end too. If you are unwilling to embark on those roads then you will likely not succeed. It all starts with a belief in *yourself*.

Great writing is not enough--this is lesson one, two, three, and four.

My classes feature, in exquisite and joyous disregard of "the rules," wine and finger food. It's short (6 sessions) but concentrated!

For more information, please call Kal at 352-317-0205.

Beating Writer's Block

by Lee Masterson

Writer's Block is a fairly typical dilemma - one which most writers will find themselves in at some point in their writing career. The key to breaking writer's block is usually a personal one. Most writers have their own special "block-breaker" that is unique to that person, but may be totally ineffective for another writer. The trick is to experiment with which ones work best for you, and then, once you've cured your current block, move on to prevention measures to stop it happening again!

Let's start with some basic reasons for writer's block. Understanding a little about why you're blocked now might just help you to avoid becoming blocked again in the future.

Problem: Stress.

Too many writers put enormous amounts of pressure on themselves to write a perfect draft on the first go.

Solution: Don't expect to write perfect, clean copy first try.

Simply scrawl down all your ideas for the story in random order - anything - just get that story out of your head. Then, during your edit, create a second draft that adds in finer details, edits out the problems, fixes the missing characterizations etc. Then, on the third draft, polish up every word until they all shine.

Problem: Can't get past (x) amount of pages.

This is perhaps the most common problem for writers. The beginning just falls onto the page. At a certain point, though, the writing dries up and you are left with no ideas to run with.

Solution: Who says you have to write a story from start to finish anyway?

Write the climax scene instead of the boring middle. That climax might just give you a few ideas to help propel the middle along

further. Skip a section of the story and come back to it later. Write the bits that interest you now - the hazy sections will suddenly become more interesting when it's clearer to you what needs to go into them

Problem: Lack of planning.

Almost every writer begins a story without really knowing where it will end. Many stories simply 'stop', because your mind does not have a clear focus on where the story is going. The characters are ready to go, but the situations haven't arisen to get them going yet.

Solution: ~ Spend a little time in the planning phase of your story.

Be clear on the basic sequence of events needed to get your characters to that climax you have planned. Write up a short synopsis of your storyline and keep it handy, so that you can reference it as needed. Following a rough outline can really help to keep your story on track

Problem: Created too difficult an obstacle for character to overcome.

Many stories also stop when the author has backed a character into a corner and finding a way out for them seems almost too difficult, without resorting to contrived solutions

Solution: There is no such thing as "too difficult an obstacle".

You are the author. This is your fictional world. The tools, characters and situations you choose to put into it can be altered or added during a simple edit. Go back through the story and add the necessary props to assist your character when the time comes.

Ideas to Help Beat Writer's Block

All writers have moments where the last thing they feel like doing is writing - especially when Writer's Block has reared its ugly head and your muse has deserted you.



“You are the author. This is your fictional world. The tools, characters and situations you choose to put into it can be altered or added during a simple edit.”



Beating Writer's Block (Continued)

How, then, do you force yourself to sit down and keep writing?

Here are some thoughts to help increase your creative flow and keep the dreaded writer's block at bay.

Time Management. Create a time table for your writing and stick to it as rigorously as you can. Be realistic about the time set aside, and do not allow yourself to get sidetracked into doing something else during this time. This one is difficult at first. Your mind will rebel, insisting that something else urgently needs your attention. Persist. After a relatively short amount of time, your mind will come to recognize these times as 'writing time' and begin to cooperate.

Music. Listening to music while you write can often open the creative center of the mind, allowing creative thoughts to roam more freely. Listen to music that inspires certain moods that correspond to the style of writing you're working on. You'll be surprised what odd things end up on a page after listening to odd styles of music.

Watch a movie. Many writers are visually stimulated. Impassively watching the action take place before you is often a cue for the creative side of the mind to kick into action. Reading has the opposite effect to this, as your logical center must focus on translating the squiggles on the page into coherent meanings.

Take a walk. Wander around in the park, stroll around the block, roam along the beach. Where ever you are, just walk. Don't take a portable music player or a friend. This is thinking time for you. (I take my dog, a pen and a notepad) After a few minutes, your mind will run out of noisy chatter and begin to meander through unfinished creative business. Many creative people report this as being a great inspirational tactic.

Start a different project. The human mind is an odd creature. If you are working on a fiction novel and your mind will not cooperate, work on something completely different. Begin a short story in a totally different genre. Start work on a non-fiction article. Because the second project will eventually begin to bog down with details, your mind should suddenly switch modes to a project that is less difficult - i.e. the first story!

Details that were blocked before will suddenly become very clear. Having more than one project at a time can work wonders with increasing your creative output.

Use a different medium. The 'tone' of some writing can vary dramatically with the medium used to record it. For example, I like to type quickly during fight scenes - I type faster than I can write, so this works to keep up with the ideas in my head. Try writing longhand into a notepad for scenes that require a little more time to work through. Talk into a voice recorder for those stubborn ideas that just won't 'write'.

Take a nap. Lack of sleep can be creativity's worst enemy. It's hard to function properly on any task without adequate sleep.

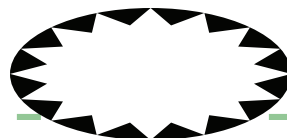
Spend time planning. Don't stand in the shower - use the time alone in the steam to work through your next scene. Don't just drive - plan your next conflict. Don't take a newspaper into the bathroom with you - take a notepad. Don't read a book in bed at night - write one!

Remember, writer's block cannot exist in an overly stimulated creative environment!

[http://www.fictionfactor.com/articles/ beatingblock.html](http://www.fictionfactor.com/articles/beatingblock.html)

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Lee Masterson is a freelance writer from South Australia. She is also the editor of Fiction Factor (<http://www.fictionfactor.com>) - an online magazine for writers, offering tips and advice on getting published, articles to improve your writing skills, heaps of writer's resources and much more. Check out Lee's newest book, "Write, Create & Promote a Best-Seller" [here](#) and **jump-start your writing career.**





“Avoid any awful anachronistic aggravating antediluvian alliterations.”

Grammar Rules for the Unenlightened; Or, How to Write Good

Original source unknown; variants of this list have been forwarded to me without attribution by several different individuals.

Don't use a big word where a diminutive one will suffice.

Don't use no double negatives. Don't never use no triple negatives.

No sentence fragments

Corollary: Complete sentences: important.

Stamp out and eliminate redundancy.

Avoid cliches like the plague.

All generalizations are bad.

Take care that your verb and subject is in agreement.

A preposition is a bad thing to end a sentence with.

Avoid those run-on sentences that just go on, and on, and on, they never stop, they just keep rambling, and you really wish the person would just shut up, but no, they just keep going, they're worse than the Energizer Bunny, they babble incessantly, and these sentences, they just never stop, they go on forever...if you get my drift...

You should never use the second person.

The passive voice should never be used.

Never go off on tangents, which are lines that intersect a curve at only one point and were discovered by Euclid, who lived in the sixth century, which was an era dominated by the Goths, who lived in what we now know as Poland...

As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I hate quotations."

Excessive use of exclamation points can be disastrous!!!!

Don't use question marks inappropriately?

Don't obfuscate your theses with extraneous verbiage.

Never use that totally cool, radically groovy out-of-date slang.

Avoid tumbling off the cliff of triteness into the black abyss of overused metaphors.

Keep your ear to the grindstone, your nose to the ground, take the bull by the horns of a dilemma, and stop mixing your metaphors.

Avoid those abysmally horrible, outrageously repellent exaggerations.

Avoid any awful anachronistic aggravating antediluvian alliterations.

This sentence no verb.

<http://www.paulhensel.org/teachgram.html>

Last updated: 6 July 2008

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Miami, Florida—Photo by Ken Booth

Deciphering Dialogue

Sunday, 9 March 2008 14:02 by Writer's Relief Staff

It's easy to get tripped up when writing dialogue. In North America the rule is to use double quotation marks around the words of the speaker; this seems simple enough but the most common problem lies in the placement of punctuation other than quotation marks.

The standard rule is to include periods and commas within the quotation marks:

She said, "I don't believe you are telling the truth."

"I don't believe you are telling the truth," she said.

"I don't believe you," she said, "and I no longer trust you."

"I don't believe you!" she exclaimed.

"Should I believe you?" she asked.

"Fine, don't believe me," he replied. "You've never trusted me."

Note that dialogue tags (she said, he replied) must be a "speaking action," whereas non-speaking actions (he snorted, she glared) are not punctuated as tags and should be treated as separate sentences:

"I don't believe you are telling the truth." She glared at him.

"Fine, don't believe me." He snorted with disgust.

Use single quotation marks to mark dialogue within dialogue:

"And then I looked at him and said, 'I don't believe you!'" she said.

She said, "And then I looked at him and said, 'I don't believe you!'"

"And then I looked at him and said, 'I don't believe you!' and he walked away."

Another general rule is to start a new paragraph for each new speaker. It makes for a clearer picture of the give-and-take of a "conversation" and helps the reader switch from speaker to speaker.

Some writers use italics to set off dialogue, while others use no special punctuation at all. However, unless you're Hemingway or Joyce, it's best to save the italics for quoted thoughts and use traditional punctuation for your dialogue. For clarity's sake, whatever format you choose, keep it consistent, and your readers will thank you.

Thank you to Writer's Relief for permission to use their articles. "Writer's Relief, Inc. is a highly recommended author's submission service. Established in 1994, Writer's Relief will help you target the best markets for your creative writing. Visit their Web site at

<http://www.WritersRelief.com>

to receive their FREE Writers' Newsflash (today, via e-mail), which contains valuable leads, guidelines, and deadlines for writing in all genres."



Shaker Village, Kentucky—Photo by Ken Booth



*“How can
you do this
without
making people
gag or fall
asleep?”*

With tongue firmly wedged in cheek, we present: Writing The Perfect Holiday Newsletter

Writer's Relief Staff

This year some people will leave holiday messages on their blogs. Others will create a holiday newsletter in the form of a YouTube video. But there will always be traditional diehards who insist on getting in touch with family and friends the old-fashioned way: a holiday newsletter filled with fun, interesting information about you and your family. How can you do this without making people gag or fall asleep? It's very simple, really. You need to jazz it up, give folks something they can really sink their teeth into, and leave out all that boring (but true) stuff.

Length. Make your letter long—really long—as in several pages. And single-spaced so that Great-Grandma needs a magnifying glass to read it. You might want to make copies of your child's artwork, reproduce your pets' paw prints, or just draw pictures on napkins and include those. Scan in photos of your backyard, your new car, the bruise on your shin. Your relatives will get a kick out of the large and unwieldy packet of information you send, and it will be well worth the postage.

Decorate it. Use lots of clip art and borders. If it's hard to choose from all the holiday clips, use them all. People love to look at pictures of trees and little Santa Clauses, and no, it won't detract from your message. (Did you really think people would read it anyway?)



Gainesville, Florida—Photo by Ken Booth

Writing The Perfect Holiday Newsletter (Continued)

Keep it generic. If you personalize your letter, some relatives or friends may get jealous. You don't want Uncle George to know that Uncle Felix dropped by last month, or a Hatfield/McCoy conflict is sure to develop. Be sure not to mention any other family members' names throughout the letter or include news from outside your own household. Remember: impersonal equals safe. (If you're not fond of a certain family member, you can also address their letter to <insert name here> but conveniently forget to insert a name. Very impersonal. Very insulting.)

Brag. This is your once-a-year permit to lay it all out there and say, I did great this year, and you should be jealous! Even if your year was less than stellar, you can still use creative license to make Aunt Tilly sigh and compare you to her own dead-beat son. Here are some ways to beef up your holiday bragfest.

If you got a 25-cent raise at Joe's Drugstore, say, "This year I was pleased to be promoted in the pharmaceutical industry."

A social worker visited your house last month: "We were blessed by a visit from an important government official last month

If you got a 25-cent raise at

Joe's Drugstore, say, "This year

I was pleased

to be promoted

in the

pharmaceutical industry."

Little Suzie was arrested for shoplifting: "Our hardworking daughter even received a full police escort downtown!"

One more note: Write your letter as if you were a high school English teacher, and try to use as many big words as possible, even if you have to make some of them up. Your vocabulary will intimidate your relatives and make you feel good about yourself.

"This year it was good to be a Jones. As neighbors tried to emulate our personality traits and lifestyle, we formulated a plan to elevate our standards to an even higher level by utilizing our superior gene pool and intellectual motivation to create a nearly impossible plateau of greatness."

People are gonna love it.

Thank you to Writer's Relief for permission to use their articles. "Writer's Relief, Inc. is a highly recommended author's submission service. Established in 1994, Writer's Relief will help you target the best markets for your creative writing. Visit their Web site at <http://www.WritersRelief.com> to receive their FREE Writers' Newsflash (today, via e-mail), which contains valuable leads, guidelines, and deadlines for writing in all genres."

Our members get published! (WAG Brag)

Kal Rosenberg:

Coming in the
November issue of
Back in the Bronx magazine,
the short story,
"Naked in the
Walton High Pool."
Can't wait to read
this one, Kal.

Wendy Thornton:

Accepted for the
Spring issue of
Hiram Poetry Review, the poem,
Shipbreakers.

* * *

**Have you had a publication you want
our members to know about?**

Send the information to

wagmail@cox.net.

Upcoming Writers Conferences:

Greetings, Writers--

We're inviting you to a brand-new, one-day workshop in Orlando,

BRAND NEW!

THE ARTIST'S DATE

FIELD TRIP!!

On Sunday, December 13th, 2009, writers--and folks just looking to increase their creative mojo--are invited to join us from 9:30-4:30 when we visit, first, a local working artist's gallery and, then, her studio, writing to prompts in each inspiring location. After that, we'll settle in for lunch and more creative writing play at the artist's private home in College Park.

Fine art painter Maria Reyes-Jones (www.MariaReyesJones.com) will host the event, which will be facilitated by Woodstream's own Jamie Morris. Maria, who often includes text in her pieces, has won numerous awards for her work and will be sharing some of her painting process as, together, we explore the intersections of the visual and literary arts.

An opportunity to spark your imagination and offer fresh approaches to writing, this can't-be-missed workshop is limited to just ten writers.

The cost for the day, \$145, includes breakfast, lunch, and beverages. To register, contact

jamie@WoodstreamWriters.com,

or 407-644-5163 for more information.

Cross Creek (Gainesville area), Writing Marathon

WEB Site:
[http://](http://www.woodstreamwriters.com/)

www.woodstreamwriters.com/

On Saturday, January 23rd, 2010, join us at a lovely, private home in Cross Creek--just around the bend from Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' home! We'll celebrate the new(-ish) year with a full-day Writing Marathon where, from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., all writers will be invited to work/play with fresh writing prompts and exercises as they create new pieces or develop works-in-progress.

We'll share food, writing, and camaraderie with one another over the course of a delightful day-to-remember.

Writers at all levels of experience, working in any genre, are invited to participate.

Woodstream Marathon attendee Marge Clauser, former "Write On!" columnist for *The DeLand-Deltona Beacon*, says, "The writing marathon was one of the best experiences I've had. At the marathon, I experienced a shift in my mind, spirit, and writing. When the marathon was over, I wanted to stay in touch with the new possibilities the day had brought both to my writing and my life."

Join us. Discover your own new possibilities!

The cost for the day, \$125, includes breakfast and lunch, as well as snacks and beverages.



Upcoming Writers Conferences:

Eckerd College Writers' Conference: Writers in Paradise 2010

Web Site: <http://writersinparadise.eckerd.edu/>

Join best-selling authors, **Anita Shreve** (*Testimony*, *The Pilot's Wife*, and *The Weight of Water*), **Sheri Reynolds** (*The Rapture of Canaan* an Oprah's Book Club Selection), and **Dennis Lehane** (*Mystic River*, *Shutter Island*, and *The Given Day*) for the **Sixth Annual Eckerd College Writers' Conference: Writers in Paradise** which will take place on the shores of Boca Ciega Bay at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, **January 16-24, 2010**.

This intensive eight-day experience of intimate workshop classes, roundtables, panel discussions, readings, book signings and cocktail receptions is designed for those who are passionate about writing. Our award-winning faculty and guest speakers will also include **Denise Duhamel** (*Ka-Ching!*), **Beth Ann Fennelly** (*Tender Hooks*), **Tom Franklin** (*Smonk*), **Ann Hood** (*Comfort*), **Michael Koryta** (*Envy the Night*), **Laura Lippman** (*Life Sentences*), **Peter Meinke** (*Lines from Neuchatel*), **Stewart O'Nan** (*Songs for the Missing*), **David Hale Smith** (DHS Literary) and **Sterling Watson** (*Sweet Dream Baby*).

What Makes Us Different?

The tranquil seaside landscape sets the tone for this informal gathering of writers, teachers, editors, and literary agents. The intimate size and secluded location of the **Eckerd College Writers' Conference** allow you the time and opportunity to share your manuscripts, critique one another's work and discuss the craft of writing with experts and peers who can help guide you to the next level. After eight days of workshopping and engagement with peers and professionals in your field, you will leave this unique opportunity with a new and better understanding of your craft and solid ideas about how to find an agent and get published.

At the final Evening Reading Series Event, Co-directors Dennis Lehane and Sterling Watson will announce "**The Best Of**" nominees of the **2010 Eckerd College Writers' Conference**. Winners will be published in the conference's literary journal, *Sabal*.

Located on the beautiful waterfront campus of Eckerd College, this writers' conference features professional writers at the top of their form spending time with motivated and talented participants who seek an intimate, unhurried climate for learning . . . in paradise.



New Mexico—Photo by Ken Booth

CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

TIPS for contest submission:

- **Submit only your best work – the competition is fierce.**
- **Check the Web sites. Review the work offered. Go to the library and look for copies of the journal so you'll know what they print.**
- **Have someone else proofread your work. It's easy to overlook mistakes when you're editing yourself!**
- **Submit to magazines that include a free subscription or copy of the journal – this way you get to know your markets.**

THE 2010 IOWA REVIEW AWARDS

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview/mainpages/iowaaward.html>

Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction
Brenda Hillman, Michael Cunningham, and Jo Ann Beard, judges

\$1,000 to each winner * \$500 to runners-up

Plus publication in our December 2010 issue

Submit during January 2010

Submit up to 20 pages of prose (double-spaced) or 10 pages of poetry (double or single; one poem or several). Work must be previously unpublished. Simultaneous submissions are fine assuming you inform us of acceptance elsewhere.

Manuscripts must include a cover page listing your name, address, e-mail address and/or telephone number, and the title of each work, but your name should not appear on the manuscript itself.

Enclose a \$20 entry fee (checks payable to *The Iowa Review*). All entrants receive a yearlong subscription to the magazine.

Label your envelope as a contest entry, for example: "Contest: Fiction." One entry per envelope.

Postmark submissions between January 1 and January 31, 2010.

Enclose a #10 SASE for final word on your work. Enclose a SAS postcard if you wish confirmation of our receipt of your entry.

No electronic submissions.

**The Iowa Review
308 EPB
Iowa City, IA 52242**

<http://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/nell/sub.htm>

THE NELLIGAN PRIZE FOR SHORT FICTION 2010 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

\$1,500 will be awarded for the best short story, which will be published in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue of *Colorado Review*.

This year's final judge is Andrea Barrett; friends and students (current & former) of the judge are not eligible to compete, nor are Colorado State University employees, students, or alumni.

Entry fee is \$15 per story, payable to *Colorado Review*; there is no limit on the number of entries you may submit. If you prefer to pay the entry fee online (best for entrants outside the US), click below. Please print a copy of your PayPal receipt and include it with your entry. Please do not submit before January 12, 2010.

Stories must be previously unpublished.

There are no length or theme restrictions.

All manuscripts must be typed and double-spaced.

No submissions via e-mail.

Include two cover sheets: on the first, print your name, address, telephone number, and the story title; on the second, print only the story title. Your name should not appear anywhere else on the manuscript.

Provide SASE for contest results.



CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Manuscripts will not be returned.

Contest opens January 12, 2010.

Deadline is the postmark of March 12, 2010.

Winner will be announced in July 2010.

All submissions will be considered for publication.

Entries must be clearly addressed to:
Nelligan Prize - Colorado Review
 9105 Campus Delivery
 Department of English
 Colorado State University
 Fort Collins, CO 80523-9105

Announcing the 2010 Gulf Coast Prizes in Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction:

<http://www.gulfcoastmag.org/index.php?n=7&sn=14>

The 2010 Gulf Coast Contests, awarding publication and \$1,000 each in Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction, will open **December 21, 2009**. Contest judges will be announced on this page at that time.

Guidelines: After December 21, submit one previously unpublished story or essay (25 double-spaced pages max) or up to five previously unpublished poems (10 pages max). Indicate your genre on the outer envelope. Your name and address should appear *on the cover letter only*. Include a SASE for results. Manuscripts will not be returned.

Your \$20 reading fee, payable to "Gulf Coast," will include a one-year subscription.

Postmark deadline: March 1, 2010.

Send Entries to:
 Gulf Coast Prize in [Genre]
 Department of English
 University of Houston
 Houston, TX 77204-3013

St. Petersburg Review

2010 St. Petersburg Review Poetry Contest

Prize: \$1000

and publication in St. Petersburg Review 2010

All writers not associated with the editors of *St. Petersburg Review* may enter. Postmark deadline: January 15, 2010 for publication in fall 2010. Entry/reading fee: \$15.00 (U.S. checks or money orders made payable to *St. Petersburg Review*). Each entrant will receive a copy of the issue carrying the winning poem if a complete address is enclosed. An entry may consist of up to three unpublished poems.

There will be one winner. All entrants will be considered for publication (*St. Petersburg Review* will publish four entrants in addition to the 2009 winner in its 2009 issues). Simultaneous submissions are OK; please let us know immediately if they have been accepted elsewhere. Fees will not be refunded and submissions will not be returned. Please type all entries and submit individual entries separately. Include a page with your name, address, phone number, email address and the title(s) of your poems. Your name must not appear on the manuscript itself.

Send entries to
St. Petersburg Review,
Attention: Contest,
Box 2888,
Concord, NH 03302.

The Fifth-Ever Fiction and Poetry Contests

<http://www.bwr.ua.edu/>

Black Warrior Review is proud to announce the Fifth-Ever Poetry and Fiction Contests. This year's contests will be judged by Larissa Szporluk and Brian Evenson, respectively.

All entries must be postmarked or submitted online by October 1, 2009. Winners in each genre will receive \$1,000 and publication in the spring/summer issue.

Send your entry to:

Fiction Contest or Poetry Contest
Black Warrior Review
Box 862936
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486

(Continued Page 14)

CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Each entry must include name, phone number, and email on cover sheet only, as well as SASE and reading fee. The Reading Fee is \$15 per short story (up to 7500 words) and \$15 per group of up to 3 poems. Make checks payable to The University of Alabama. All contestants will also receive a complimentary one-year subscription. That's \$1 less than ordering by conventional means.

Black Warrior Review only considers previously unpublished work. Finalists in each category will receive notation in the Spring 2009 issue and are also considered for publication.

GLIMMER TRAIN VERY SHORT FICTION AWARD

<http://www.glimmertrain.com/>

Guideline:

We are interested in reading your original, unpublished very short stories!

We don't publish stories for children, I'm sorry.

It's fine to submit more than one story or to submit the same story to different categories.

When we accept a story for publication, we are purchasing first-publication rights. (After we've published it, you can include it in your own collection.)

To make a submission: Please send your work via our new online submission procedure. It's easy, will save you postage and paper, and is much easier on the environment. Just click the yellow [Submissions](#) button above to get started!

Dates: The category will be open to submissions for one full month, from the first day through midnight (Pacific time) of the last day of the month.

Results will be posted at www.glimmertrain.org.

January. Results will be posted on March 31.

July. Results will be posted on September 30.

Reading fee:

\$15 per story.

Prizes:

1st place wins \$1,200, publication in *Glimmer Train Stories*, and 20 copies of that issue.

2nd-place: \$500

3rd-place: \$300

Other considerations:

Open to all writers.

Stories not to exceed 3,000 words. (Any shorter lengths are welcome.)

We look forward to reading your work!

Willow Springs invites submissions for The Willow Springs Fiction Prize, \$2,000

plus publication in Willow Springs.

Submission deadline: **March 1, 2010**

<http://willowsprings.ewu.edu/contests.html>

Contest Submission Guidelines

Include a **\$15.00 entry fee**. Submissions without an entry fee will not be judged.

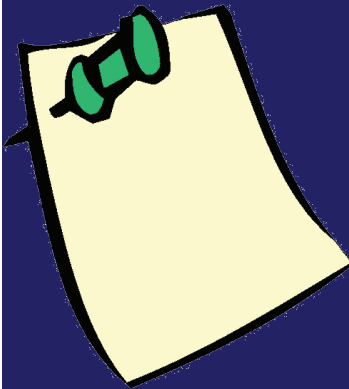
Send only one story per submission.

Use a **check or money order only**; cash will not be accepted. Please make the checks and money orders payable to *Willow Springs*.

Submissions should be **typed**. Handwritten submissions will not be judged and the entry fee will not be refunded.

Submissions must be 7,000 words or fewer.

(Continued Page 15)



CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, as well as a short bio, should appear in a **cover letter** included with your submission.

Do not include indentifying information anywhere else in your submission.

Submit **only original, unpublished work**. Contest entries may neither be previously published nor simultaneously submitted elsewhere.

Do not send an SASE.

Don't send us your only copies—manuscripts will not be returned.

If you would like confirmation that your work has been received, include a self-addressed, stamped postcard instead.

Entries for both awards must be **postmarked by March 1, 2010**.

Please send entries to:

**The Willow Springs Fiction Prize
Willow Springs
501 N Riverpoint Blvd, Ste 425
Spokane, WA 99202**

All contest entrants will receive the *Willow Springs* issue containing the award-winning works. We look forward to receiving your entries. Good luck!

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

SEVENTEEN

300 W. 57th St.
17th Floor
New York, NY 10019

Phone: (917)934-6500
Fax: (917)934-6574

Website: www.seventeen.com

About

Seventeen is a young woman's first fashion and beauty magazine. Tailored for young women in their teens and early twenties, Seventeen covers fashion, beauty, health, fitness, food, college, entertainment, fiction, plus crucial personal and global issues.

Monthly magazine

Freelance Facts

Established: 1944

20% freelance written

Circulation: 2,400,000

Byline given.

Pays on acceptance.

Offers 25% kill fee.

Publishes ms an average of 6 months after acceptance.

Buys one-time rights.

Queries accepted by mail

Responds in 3 months to queries.

Writer's guidelines available online

Nonfiction

Articles and features of general interest to young women who are concerned with intimate relationships and how to realize their potential in the world; strong emphasis on topicality and service. Send brief outline and query, including typical lead paragraph, summing up basic idea of article, with clips of previously published works. Articles are commissioned after outlines are submitted and approved.

Length: 1,200-2,500 words.

Pays \$1/word, occasionally more.

Tips

Writers have to ask themselves whether or not they feel they can find the right tone for a Seventeen article--a tone which is empathetic, yet never patronizing; lively, yet not superficial. Not all writers feel comfortable with, understand, or like teenagers. If you don't like them, Seventeen is the wrong market for you. An excellent way to break in to the magazine is by contributing ideas for quizzes or the 'My Story' (personal essay) column.



CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

TALEBONES

21528 104th St. Court E.
Bonney Lake, WA 98391

Fax:
E-mail: info@talebones.com
Website: www.talebones.com

Contact:

Patrick Swenson, editor

About

"Talebones publishes an eclectic mix of speculative fiction. We want literate stories that entertain readers."

Magazine covering science fiction and dark fantasy.

Freelance Facts

Established: 1995

100% freelance written

Circulation: 1,000

Byline given.

Pays before publication.

Offers 100% kill fee.

Publishes ms an average of 6 months after acceptance.

Buys first North American serial rights, buys electronic rights.

Queries accepted by mail; e-mail

Responds in 1 week to queries. Responds in 2 months to mss.

Sample copy for \$7.

Guidelines available online.

Fiction

Needs:

fantasy

horror

science fiction

Does Not Want: Does not want "vampire stories, writer stories, or stories about or narrated by young adults or children."

Buys 16 mss/year

Send complete ms.

6,000 words maximum

Pays 1-2??/word.

Poetry

Needs:

avant-garde

free verse

light verse

traditional

Buys 3-8 poems/year.

Submit maximum 8 poems.

Pays \$10 maximum

Tips

"We publish a wide variety of speculative fiction. Reading a sample copy of Talebones will help the writer understand our eclectic tastes. Be professional and humble. We do publish a lot of new writers."

SMART HOMEOWNER

Navigator Publishing

P.O. Box 569

Portland, ME 04112

Phone: (207)772-2466

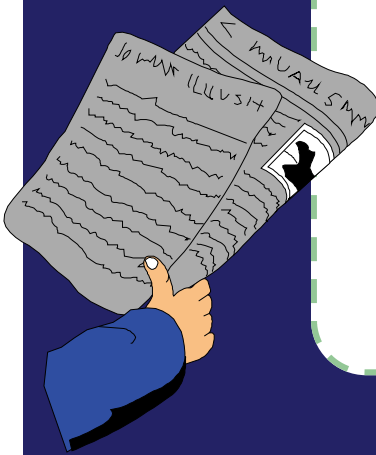
Fax: (207)772-2879

E-mail: editors@smarthomeownermag.com

Website: www.smarthomeownermag.com

About

We tell our readers how to build better homes. Primarily, we focus on 3 areas of residential home building: greenbuilding (eco-friendly building), energy efficiency, and healthy home building. We focus on products and systems homeowners can use to build better homes. We are not a DIY magazine, but rather strive to educate our readers about the options available to them if they are building or remodeling a home. Among the subjects we cover: Energy Star appliances, reclaimed flooring, nontoxic building materials, energy-efficient windows and



CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

doors, mold-resistant building materials, efficient heating and cooling systems, and anything else for residential building that is innovative, durable and nontoxic, and that results in a more efficient, healthy, comfortable home.

Bimonthly magazine covering smart residential building practices, greenbuilding, energy efficiency, healthy home building and home automation.

Freelance Facts

75% freelance written

Byline given.

Pays half before publication; half on publication..

Offers \$150 kill fee.

Publishes ms an average of 2-4 months after acceptance.

Buys first North American serial rights, buys all rights.

Makes work-for-hire assignments.

Editorial lead time 4 months.

Submit seasonal material 4 months in advance.

Queries accepted by mail;e-mail;fax

Accepts simultaneous submissions.

Responds in 2 weeks to queries. Responds in 1 month to mss.

Sample copy available online.

Guidelines free.

Nonfiction

Needs:

general interest

interview

new product

technical

Special Issues: Green Issue (May/June); Home Energy Issue (September/October), both annual issues.

Does not want DIY articles or anything that's too far out of the mainstream. We are a mainstream greenbuilding magazine.

Buys 45 mss/year.

Query.

Length: 800-2,400 words.

Pays \$400-1,200.

Sometimes pays expenses of writers on assignment.

Photography

State availability

Reviews contact sheets, GIF/JPEG files.

Buys one time rights.

Negotiates payment individually

Columns

Greenbuilding (residential green/eco-friendly residential building); Home Tech (home automation, energy efficient controls), 1,000-1,400 words.

Buys 18-25 mss/year

Query.

Pays \$500-700.

Tips

We're particularly interested in what we call 'whole-house' articles, which focus on a single home and the resident homeowners.



CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION



Deadline: 12/01/09.

Submit to: *Alive Now*. JoAnn Evans Miller, Editor. E-mail to (preferred): alivenow@upperroom.org, or mail to: 1908 Grand Avenue, Box 340004, Nashville, TN 37203-0004.

Theme: Spiritual friendship; **MUST BE** about Christian spirituality; **NO** adult language or sexual imagery. Theme listed on each page of submission.

Type: Poetry (40 lines MAX), short shorts (400 words MAX).

URL: http://www.upperroom.org/alivenow/writing_for.asp

Deadline: 12/01/09.

Submit to: *And Then It Shifted Anthology*. E-mail (via attachment) to: andthenitshifted@gmail.com.

Theme: Women who open up about leaving men for women.

Type: First-person essays (4,000 words MAX).

URL: <http://sites.google.com/site/andthenitshifted/home/call-for-submissions>

Deadline: 12/31/09.

Submit to: *A Cup of Comfort*. Submit via online form: <http://www.cupofcomfort.com/memberlogin>.

Theme: For Golfers.

Type: Personal essays (2,000 words MAX).

URL: <http://www.cupofcomfort.com/CallForSubmissions>



Arizona—Photo by Ken Booth

“look for contests that offer copies of the journal or subscriptions to the magazine as part of the entry fee.”



CONTESTS and CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

Deadline: 12/31/09.

Submit to: *The Four Horsemen: An Anthology of Conquest, War, Famine & Death*. E-mail to: pillhillpress@gmail.com (Subject line should say: SUBMISSION: FOUR HORSEMEN - Title of Story).

Theme: Conquest, War, Famine/Pestilence, and Death.

Type: Short stories (5,000 words MAX).

URL: <http://www.pillhillpress.com/4-horsemen.html>

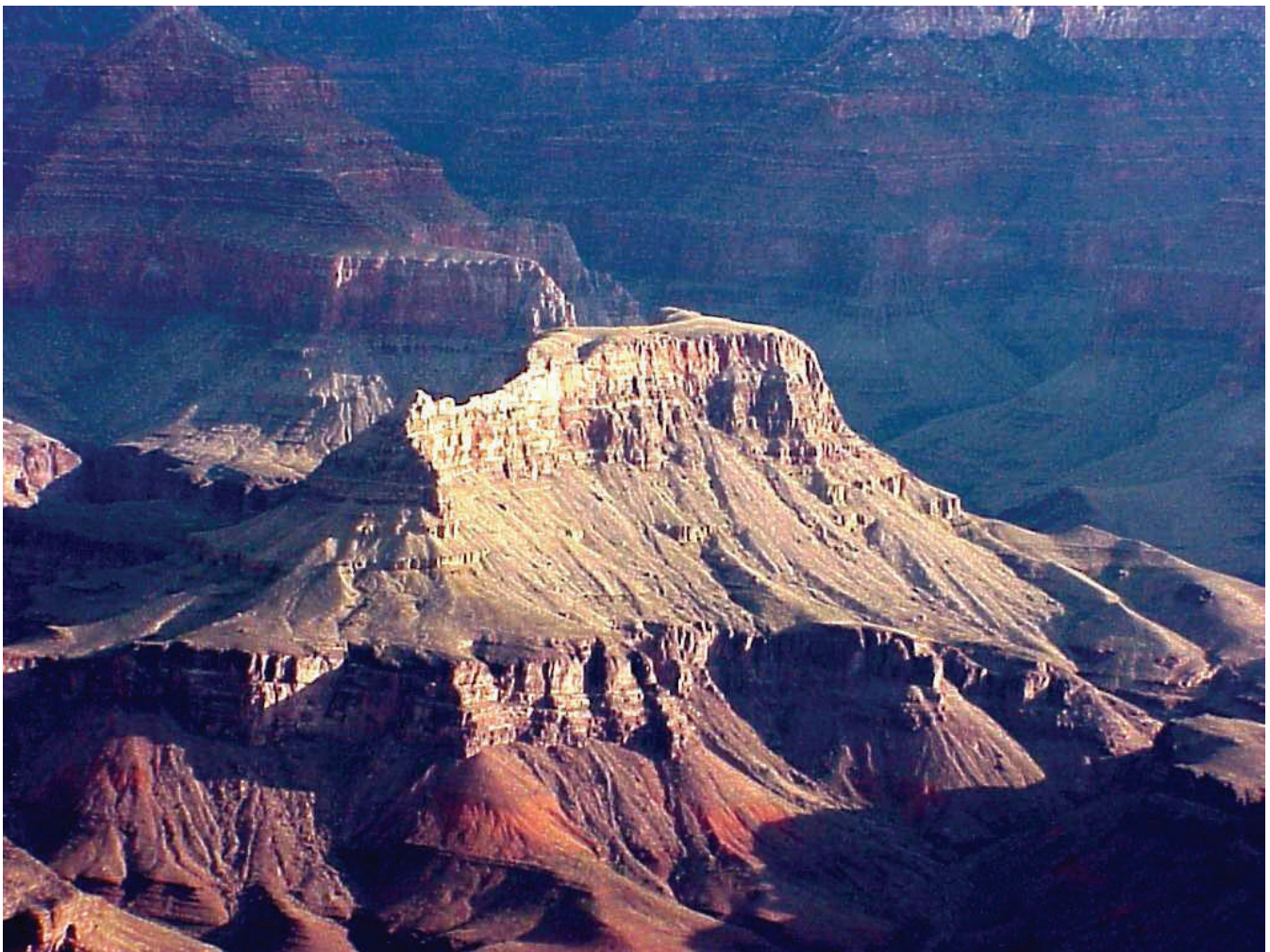
Deadline: 12/31/09.

Submit to: *Robot Hearts: Twisted and True Tales of Seeking Love in the Digital Age*. E-mail to: red@lifesabitchbooks.com, or mail to: Life's a Bitch Books, PO Box 4788, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Theme: Looking for pieces that focus on the uniqueness of trying to make a human connection in this digital age.

Type: First-person essays (5,000 words MAX).

URL: <http://www.lifesabitchbooks.com/anthologies/calls-for-submissions>

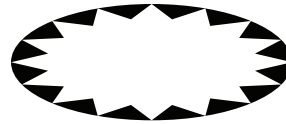


Grand Canyon—Photo by Ken Booth



Writer's Alliance of Gainesville
A not-for-profit Florida corporation
p.o. box 358396
gainesville/florida/32635-8396
[352-336-8062/wagmail@cox.net](mailto:wagmail@cox.net)

The **Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG)** promotes, encourages and supports aspiring and experienced regional writers. This goal is accomplished via **WAG** monthly meetings, public readings, ongoing small critique groups, a literary journal, writers' contests, and collaborations with schools and civic organizations to foster creative expression through the written word.



Contest Information (Continued)

Announcing

A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville is pleased to announce that we're ready for submissions to our new literary journal, Bacopa. (Want to know what Bacopa is? See the picture below. Maybe you've seen this plant around Gainesville.)

**WE DON'T CARE WHERE, WHEN,
OR IF YOU'VE PUBLISHED.**

We just want quality fiction, nonfiction, and poetry for our new literary journal. Open submissions deadline 6/30/09. Cash Contest entries July 1-November 30, 2009.

Visit WWW.bacopaonline.Com for further informations

