

- Stay Tuned  
for Articles on  
Local Poets  
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# The WAG Digest

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 11-12

DECEMBER 12, 2012

## WAG Meeting Dates for 2013 Now Set

### Save the Dates:

**January 27, 2013**

Upcoming dates for the WAG Speaker series have been set for 2013.

Please note that these dates are the second week of each month, beginning with the February meeting. Save the dates so you can attend and get the information you need to improve your writing.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2013 – Sandra Lambert – Writers Retreats

Sunday, Feb. 10, 2013

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Sunday, April 14, 2013

Sunday, May 12, 2013

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Sunday, July 14, 2013

Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013

Sunday, Oct. 13, 2013

Sunday, Nov. 10, 2013

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2013

Reminder – All meetings will be held at the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library District at 2:30 p.m. All meetings are free and open to the public.

WAG member Sandra Gail Lambert attended the prestigious Yaddo retreat in Saratoga Springs, New York and will report on the application process and the benefits - as she understands them. She is a two-time alum of the Atlantic Center for the Arts and this past summer spent six weeks at [Yaddo](#) where she was served three meals a day in a castle, stayed in the room where Sylvia Plath once slept and wrote more than she ever thought possible.

Sandra Gail Lambert is a fiction writer and memoirist. Among the places her work has been accepted are: *The North American Review*, *Arts & Letters* and *The Alaska Quarterly Review* as well as the anthologies *Something to Declare* and *First Person Queer*. She also maintains a [blog](http://www.sandralambert.typepad.com/) (<http://www.sandralambert.typepad.com/>) about her writing life.



# WAG Officers and Coordinators

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville is a Florida non-profit organization. We've also applied for Federal Non-profit status. If you'd like to volunteer for a committee position with the Writers Alliance of Gainesville, please contact Wendy Thornton at [floridawendy@cox.net](mailto:floridawendy@cox.net). We are looking for a new pod coordinator and a new Vice President. Here is your upcoming slate of officers and volunteer coordinators:

## Elected Officials

**New WAG President - Arthur Crummer** holds a Ph.D. in mathematics, Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering, and numerous blue ribbons from statewide Old-Time music competitions. An excerpt from the first book of Art's trilogy, *Fixing Things*, (in-progress, and which will include a music CD) was published in the first edition of Bacopa. After a decade of teaching technical writing in software engineering courses, Art was led to many years' involvement with (Gainesville Poets and Writers, Writers' Roundtable, and) various writing workshops to further explore his love of the emotive qualities of sounds, nuance and concept.

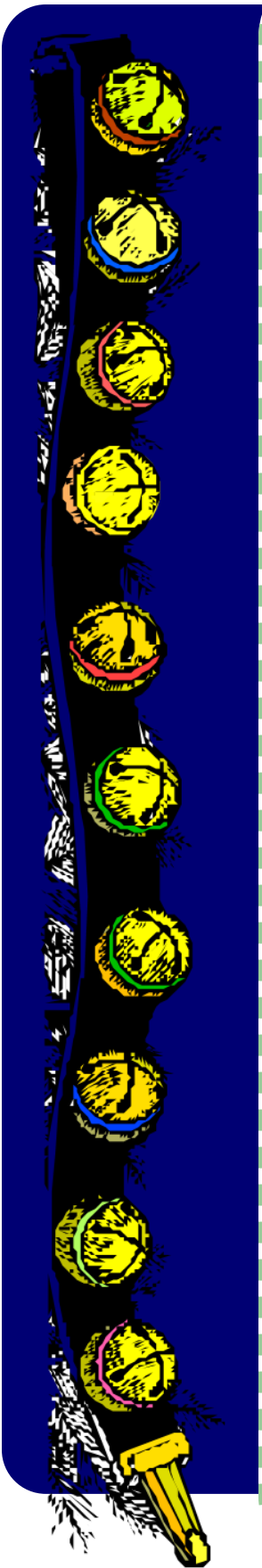
For recreation, Art designs Sudoku puzzles, and enjoys proving theorems in topology. He performs in his band at statewide festivals, has won numerous first place ribbons in statewide competitions, and has lead music workshops since 1995 (in Dobro, slide guitar, Flat-pick and Finger-style guitar, as well as gospel singing). Art was awarded the prestigious Edward Flemming, Jr. Award in 2008. Retired from teaching at the University of Florida (Computer science), Art gardens, keeps bees, and raises chickens, and tilapia. He teaches guitar and Dobro, enjoys woodworking, and writes fiction, poetry and memoir.

**VP - Andrew Mike** has had a varied career in marketing, advertising and chemical new product development with several major U.S. corporations. His participation in Fiction Pods coordinated by The Writer's Alliance of Gainesville has resulted in the recent completion of his two fiction novels and several short stories.

**Treasurer - Rick Sapp** - Rick inherited fire from his father, son of a long line of southern farmers and rebels, and ice from his mother, descended from northern miners, gangsters and factory workers. Born near Chicago in 1946, Rick believes he was reading and writing before birth, and has happily traded his concept of the soul - which, in any case, is practically worthless - for writing success.

Rick dropped out of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1967 because his faulty eyesight prohibited him from piloting jet fighters. He joined the Army as a paratrooper, but worked with the German police as an intelligence officer in Europe. Returning to the U.S. he completed a PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of Florida (1976). Eschewing the classroom and the Foreign Service, he worked for radio stations, newspapers, magazines and as a corporate advertising and public relations director.

Rick owned his own business consulting firm until 9/11 when he realized just how fragile and unpredictable life could be. That day, he began freelancing full time and has since authored more than 25 books about history, archery, guns and hunting, camping, bicycle touring and urban redevelopment. A prolific freelance writer since 1980 when he sold his



# WAG Officers and Coordinators

(Continued)

first story ("My God! A hundred dollars!"), Rick's writing resume includes thousands, of non-fiction articles, short stories and poetry. He has a close relationship with one of his two children, none of his ex-wives and his first novel will be published in 2013 under the pen name Dick Wayne, even if he has to break some agent's legs to get it done.

**Secretary – Felicia Lee** - Felicia Lee is a writer, editor, and former UF faculty member living in Gainesville. She holds a BA and MA in English from Stanford, and a Ph.D. in linguistics from UCLA. Her essays have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* magazine and in the online magazine Salon.com.

## Volunteer Positions

**Pod Coordinator – Susie Baxter** - Baxter believes that every person has a story to tell. "The authors of *Angela's Ashes* and *The Glass Castle* were relative unknowns," she reminds us, "before they wrote their memoirs."

For more than a decade Baxter was editor and publisher at Mosby, a health-science publishing house in St. Louis. A fifth-generation Floridian, she published her family's tales, *C.G. and Ethel: A Family History*, in 2008. She is now working on a memoir that focuses on her rural childhood in North Florida.

Susie is the guiding force behind a WAG memoir pod and a dedicated writer whose evocative memoir is near completion.

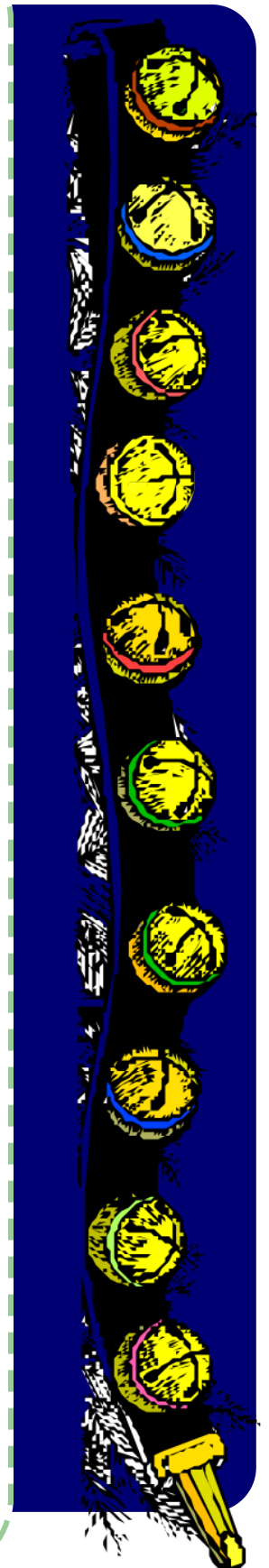
**Membership Coordinator – Aileen McCready** - I obtained a BA in English with a concentration in writing from Loyola University New Orleans. I've written for *Slidell Sentry-News* and *The Villages Daily Sun*. I also served as editor for *Why I Stayed*, an essay and photo project highlighting Hurricane Katrina survivors. You can visit my blog at [aileenrmccready.wordpress.com](http://aileenrmccready.wordpress.com).

**Speaker Coordinator – Gene Cowell** – Gene Cowell recently completed the third revision of his first novel, *The Linden Tree*. He has published several short stories and received an Honorable Mention in *The Best American Short Stories 1961*. A life in advertising included creative director at Ogilvy & Mather Direct in NYC. He formed his own ad agency in 1974 with offices in Vermont, Connecticut and Southwest Florida. In 1985 he concurrently founded a subscription newsletter on buying Caribbean real estate, sold in 1994. His current and sole vocation is creative writer.

**Webmaster – Rick Sapp** (see Treasurer)

**Publication Coordinator - Joan Carter** - After years of writing for business people and computers, I've graduated to trying to write memoirs and stories for the general public.

**Marketing Coordinator – Stephanie Seguin** - Stephanie Seguin received a B.A. in English and French from the University of Florida that remains in her closet protected by the cardboard tube it was mailed in. Her humor blog, [www.stephaniesays.net](http://www.stephaniesays.net), features relevant topics such as fake collectible primate babies, chubby girls running marathons, and rubber truck testicles. Her online journals about her battle with thyroid cancer are read by people from all over the world. She currently lives in Gainesville, Florida where she writes, mothers, and conspires to overthrow tyranny.



# WAG Officers and Coordinators

(Continued)

**WAG Digest Editor - Wendy Thornton** – Wendy has a BA in English and MA coursework in English and Cultural Studies. She recently retired from the University of Florida and is devoting herself to full-time writing and editing. She is about to upload her e-book, *Dear Oprah: Or How I Survived Cancer and Learned to Love Daytime TV*, and is currently editing and marketing six other completed books.

Wendy has had fiction, non-fiction and memoir published in such journals as *The Literary Review*, *Riverteeth*, *Main Street Rag*, and many others. She is published in England, Scotland and India, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and won various other contests and awards. Her blog on writing is here: <http://www.floridawendy.typepad.com/>; her blog on music is: <http://floridawendy.typepad.com/sounding-the-depths/>.

## Bacopa Editors

**Gen Aris** was born in the land of Elvis in the time of Sputnik to people with a decent sense of appreciation for the arts. After a long separation from the creative life—working in the social services industry—that old romance bloomed anew. Now, a writer and all-around artsy type also working the other side of the desk in his second turn as a *Bacopa* editor.

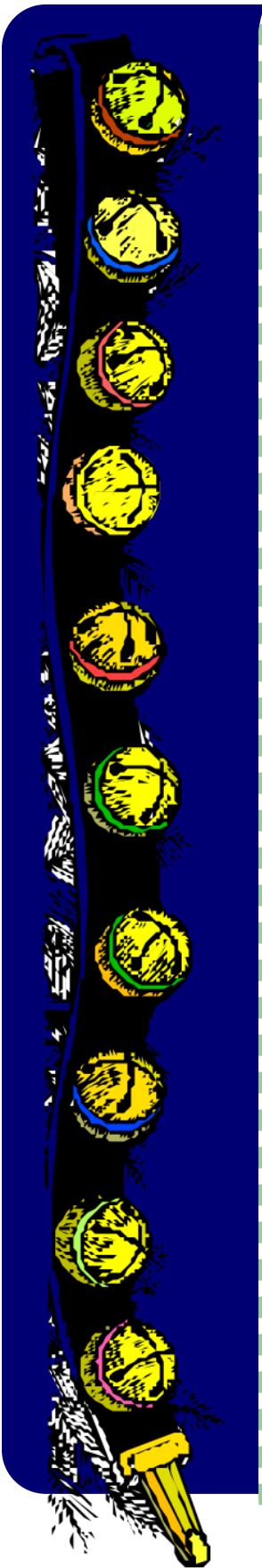
**Jani N. Sherrard** is the author of *Mother, Warrior, Pilgrim*, a book of essays and poetry about feminist inspired motherhood. Winner of the Hippodrome State Theatre's 2006 Florida Senior Playwright Festival for her play, "You Poor Thing," and the 2009 Tallahassee Writers Association Stagelight competition for her short play, "Bedtime." Recent publications include essays in *Senior Times* and poetry in *Penumbra*.

**Pranada Comtois** has thirty years' experience in the international publishing field. She has published essays and papers in magazines, journals, and on the Internet. She writes poetry and nonfiction and is currently working on her memoir.

**Dorothy Staley** grew up in Wisconsin. Upon graduating from Lawrence College with a BA in English, she took a teaching job in Anchorage, Alaska. After spending 20 years in the far north, including five in the Arctic, she accepted a technical editing job in Washington, DC. She had the good sense to migrate to Florida in 1993. Upon her retirement in 2001, she began work on her memoir and her novel *Come Good Home ...* now in its ninth revision.

**Eldon R. Turner** recently retired from the University of Florida faculty where he taught American studies and history. His academic publications include articles on early American theology, music and jurisprudence. When he was twelve, his first published poem appeared in *The Smokey Valley Historical Society Newsletter*. No copy survives, but he traces his interests in words and the cadence of language to that period of his life. More recently, his poems have appeared in *Harpur Palate*, *Hemlock*, *Main Street Rag*, *Prairie Writers*, *Poetalk* and other print and on-line journals.

**Kaye Linden** has an MFA in fiction from the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts. She is currently working on a collection of fifty Australian tales, set in the magical urban sanctuary of Ma's Place. Kaye's short stories have appeared in *The Raven Chronicles*, *Expressions Magazine*, *Breves no tan breves*, *Whispers from the Unseen: Journal* and *Forum for Writing in the Arts*, *Soundings Review*, *Bacopa Literary Review*, *The Camel Saloon*, and *Danse Macabre*.





# WAG Brags

## Congratulations to Bonnie Ogle, who wrote:



"My short fiction piece, *Petite Gourmands*, a spoof of *Hansel and Gretel*, has been accepted by Wayman Publishing for their Open Doors Fractured Fairy Tales Anthology. All profits from the anthology between December 1-20th will be donated to Primary Children's Medical Centers in the form of Christmas gifts to long-term patients."

Happy Writing!  
Bonnie Ogle"

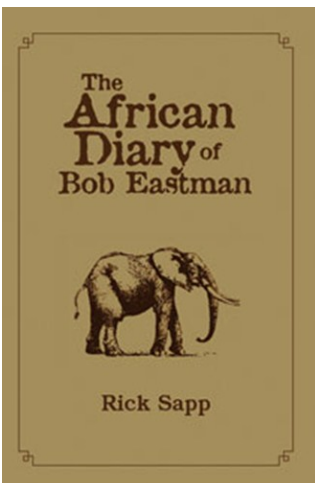
To purchase this anthology for Christmas, and to help contribute to this important cause, go to this site: <http://waymanpublishing.webs.com/>

\*\*\*\*

WAG Member **Michael W. Gordon** will speak at the Alachua County Library, Main Headquarters, Sunday, Dec. 9 at 2pm. You might not think of the sport and solace of fly fishing when you consider mystery books but retired UF law professor MW Gordon is going full sail. His first novel *Deadly Drifts* was published earlier this year. *Crosses to Bear*, his second book, is due very soon.

This author reading is a free event, open to everyone. For more information about the reading and Michael's books, see this library Website: <http://www.aclib.us/books-movies-music/blog/local-author-mw-gordon> ,

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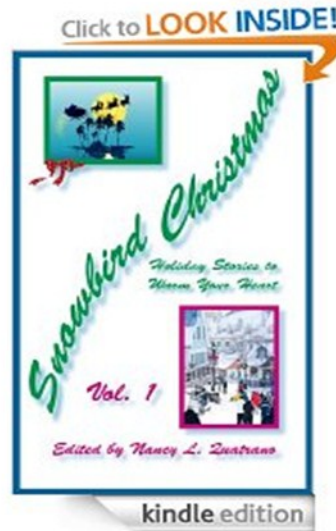
**Rick Sapp's** new book is out in a limited hardback edition from Safari Press (<http://www.safaripress.com/The-African-Diary-of-Bob-EastmanLtd/productinfo/SAPP99Z/>):

"If you like the writings of Ruark and Hemingway, you will like this book, for a taste of Africa comes through on every page. No listings of *I shot this and I killed that*, but rather the book offers interesting and riveting anecdotes from safaris that happened to other people while the author was in camp. Bob Eastman is a long-bow hunter who started hunting in Africa in 1967. He has hunted in just about all of the places that were open to hunting in the last 40-plus years—Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Mozambique, Cameroon, Kenya, and many more."



# WAG Brags

(Continued)



Congratulations to **Jack Owen** for his story, "The True Meaning of Christmas," in the book ([http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00A96FT74/ref=rdr\\_kindle\\_ext\\_tmb](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00A96FT74/ref=rdr_kindle_ext_tmb)) :

**Snowbird Christmas (Holiday Stories to Warm Your Heart) [Kindle Edition]**



"Most editors are failed writers, but so are most writers." - T.S. Eliot



# Dangerous Writing: How to Amplify What's at Stake in Your Next Short Story, Novel, or Poem

by Chris Robley on November 1, 2012 in Writing Tips



Safe writing will sink you. Here's a couple publishing clichés for ya: **literary journals and magazines are looking to accept writing that “takes risks;” they want to feel “what’s at stake” in your work.**

Well, as tired as these phrases have become, that's what ALL readers are looking for—writing that takes real chances (with the reader, with the subject, with

the style, with the revelations or insinuations, with the process itself).

**But to take risks in your writing means, of course, that you're risking failure—**and that is scary stuff! Scary, scary, necessary stuff.

**3 Things You're Scared to Risk in Your Writing (but should!)**

## 1. Risk offending people

**Touchy subjects are compelling subjects:** politics, religion, race, sexuality, class differences, morality, sports rivalries, etc. Tap into the emotional reservoirs that lurk beneath those surfaces.

Allow some of your characters to hold a megaphone up to their strong opinions (even if they differ from your own). It's YOUR story, after all. Sure, some readers might be turned off—but the ones who are turned on will love you all the more for it.

## 2. Risk excluding people

If you've ever been involved in a writing group or workshop, you know that everyone has a different opinion, and art should rarely be made by committee. **If you water down your writing to suit everyone's needs, you'll lose the power of your own voice.** Agreeableness is dull. **Part of finding your niche is knowing who you're NOT aiming to please.** If you're writing accessible thrillers ala Dan Brown, forget about what the literati thinks. If you're writing cowboy romance, don't waste your time worrying about the sci-fi romance fans. If you're working on the next *Ulysses*, get used to the idea that the “average” reader won't like your book until 50 years later.

In other words, don't cast a wide net; spear your fish one at a time!

## 3. Risk exposing yourself

Well, not THAT way! But KINDA like that—emotionally, philosophically, etc.

**What are you scared or ashamed to say about yourself, your past experiences, your doubts, your family or romantic relationships, your friends, your enemies?** Let your characters say those things for you.

If the reader knows what's at stake, they have the power to reject you—but they also may respond to the story and feel appreciation for you trusting them with such secrets.

If the real-life people you're channeling to fuel the drama of your narrative get offended by the stuff you're writing—well, that's always one giant professional hazzard. But you might also consider the fact that shining a spotlight on existing areas of shame and resent-



## Writers Contests,

## Submission requests

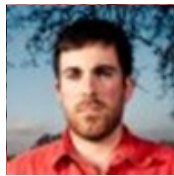
ment could ultimately be a healthy thing for everyone involved, and be the catalyst for some needed repair. Though my inner-adult is telling me you should probably address these interpersonal issues BEFORE the book comes out!

You can't start off trying to write a book that will appeal to everyone. That's the surest way to end up with something that appeals to no one. Instead, **you've got to figure out what your own creative Rubicon is—and cross it!** Explore the danger of sharp edges and exposed nerves.

By writing "out on a limb" (I'm piling up the clichés here, huh?), you'll bend the pointy branches towards the ground, hopefully snagging the readers who will eventually become your loyal fanbase.

[Sell your book for Kindle, Nook, iPad, Kobo, and more!](#)

<http://blog.bookbaby.com/2012/11/dangerous-writing-how-to-amplify-whats-at-stake/>



About Chris Robley

[Chris Robley](#) splits his time between the Portlands Oregon and Maine, always longing for the other. He plays music on the West Coast and writes poems on the East. His music has been praised by NPR, the LA Times, the Boston Globe, and others. Skyscraper Magazine said he is

"one of the best short-story musicians to come along in quite some time." Robley's poetry is forthcoming in the 2013 issue of RHINO. Chris is also the editor of CD Baby's DIY Musician Blog and the BookBaby Blog. This essay originally appeared on the BookBaby blog (<http://www.bookbaby.com/>)

# Season's Greetings



# How to Write a High-Quality eBook in 30 Days



What if, 30 days from now, you had a finished, well-crafted eBook sitting on your hard drive, ready to distribute and sell? That might sound next-to-impossible to you, but it's not. Every November, over 200,000 people worldwide take part in [NaNoWriMo](#) — “(inter) National Novel Writing Month”. NaNoWriMo participants aim to write 50,000 words during the month, and tens of thousands of them manage to do it.

If those writers can do that, *you can write a 20,000 word ebook in a month*. Right? And I am absolutely not talking about some scrappy, thrown-together document. You'll have more than enough time to properly plan, organize, and edit your eBook as well.

Think I'm pulling your leg? Here's how to do it:

## Pick your topic (Days 1–2)

Maybe you've got an idea in mind already: a book you'd really love to write.

Go ahead and write that idea down, and then store it in a safe place.

Leave it there for the next 30 days.

Yep, seriously. You'd probably have a great time writing it ... but chances are, it's not [what your audience is looking for](#), so it's not going to sell.

A great ebook idea needs to be:

- **Specific.** Don't try to write the definitive guide to your topic: it's overwhelming for your readers, and it doesn't leave you much room for your next eBook.
- **Useful.** If you do consulting or coaching, what problems come up again and again? Do your blog readers always ask for posts dealing with a particular issue?

Ask your audience what they want, and give them a few possibilities to choose from.

You've only got two days here, so you won't have time for a full-blown survey — but you can tweet out a question, or put up a thread on your Facebook page.

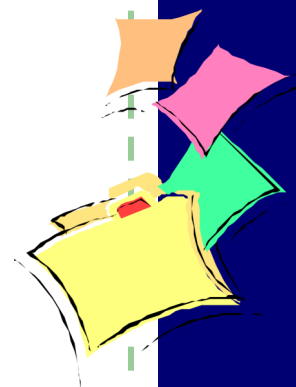
Be prepared to be surprised!

Once you've got a solid idea, you can ...

## Create an outline (Days 3–4)

Your outline is your roadmap.

It lays out the territory ahead, and lets you spot any tricky patches before you're half-way through the first draft.



## How to Write a High-Quality eBook in 30 Days

There's no one "right" way to outline, but one or more of these might work well for you:

**#1: Draw a mindmap.** Put your topic or ebook title in the centre and start adding ideas to it as they occur to you. Use lines or arrows to create connections. At this stage, put everything down, however big or small — you can tidy the entire thing up later.

**#2: Work backwards.** Start at the end: what do you want your reader to be able to accomplish once they've finished your ebook? Then take a step back — what will they need to know before they can do that? And what about before *that*?

**#3: Write a list.** If you're already extremely familiar with your topic, you've probably got an outline in your head. Start writing a list: what chapters or major sections will your ebook need? Once you've got the big pieces in place, write a list of 3–5 key points for each chapter/section.

**#4: Examine other eBooks and books.** Look through several chapter lists to see what topics appear in almost every book. Is there anything that you're missing from your outline?

At this stage, it's worth considering whether each chapter (or each section) could have a consistent structure.

This will make [the writing process](#) much easier and faster: you'll have fewer decisions to make.

For instance, your chapters could follow a simple pattern like this:

- Quotation at the start
- An example mid-way through
- Practical exercise at the end

Once you have a clear outline and, if possible, a structure in place, it's time to ...

### Start writing (Days 5–25)

This is where the bulk of your time will be spent: 20 of your 30 days.

If you're aiming for a 20,000 word ebook (around 80–100 pages, assuming you're including a few images) then that breaks down to writing 1,000 words a day.

Yep, that's a sizeable commitment — but, the trade-off is, *you're going to get your ebook done within a month*, instead of having it drag on for a year or more.

Here's a few tips to speed up your writing and get to 1000 words a day:

- **Work on your ebook at the right time of day.** If you're focused and motivated in the mornings, write in the morning. If you're at your best at 10pm, do your writing then.
- **Turn off distractions when you're writing.** You might want to switch off your internet connection entirely, or use a program that blocks it for a certain period of time.

**Use a timer.** [Set a timer for 30 minutes](#), then write until the time is up. Having the minutes ticking away is a real help when you need to stay on-task.

- **Don't stop writing.** If you need to check a quick fact, look up a link or add a screenshot, mark the place with yellow highlighter or something else highly visible — and come back to it later.
- **Don't edit while you write.** Maybe you just can't get the first paragraph right: it doesn't matter. Leave it and move on. You can come back to it at the editing stage (and you may find that it works fine after all).

Aim to write every day for these 20 days — even if you only manage a couple of hundred

# How to Write a High-Quality eBook in 30 Days

words on some days.

The more you make writing a habit, the easier it becomes.

But you're not done yet. You still need to ...

## Redraft your eBook (Days 26–28)

Ideally, you'd put your eBook aside for a while before revising it — but you've only got a few days left.

So, to see your eBook with fresh eyes, print it out — or transfer it onto your e-reader.

Read through the whole thing in one go, and make a note of:

- Any material that you've covered in more than one place
- Any missing information that you left out during the writing
- Chapters that would flow better in a different order

At this stage, don't agonize over every word.

Obviously, fix any glaring typos or mistakes that you spot, but avoid getting too bogged down.

Spend these three days focusing on cuts, re-ordering and additions.

This might mean cutting out unnecessary tangents, juggling sections or paragraphs around, and adding in any hyperlinks and quotes that you didn't have time to look up earlier.

At this point, your ebook might look finished.

But there are two days left, and you've still got time to ...

## Make final changes (Days 29–30)

These two final days can turn your eBook into a professionally finished piece.

Print out the ebook again, or view it as a PDF.

Read through slowly, checking every sentence and word.

Particularly, look out for:

- Clumsy or confusing sentences
- Misspellings (especially commonly confused words like "its" and "it's")

Missing words — surprisingly common, and often hard to spot when you're reading at a normal pace

And now ...

Hurrah! You're the proud author of a finished eBook!

Well, you *will* be that proud author 😊

Which means it's time to get out your calendar and write "EBOOK" onto every page of every day for the next month.

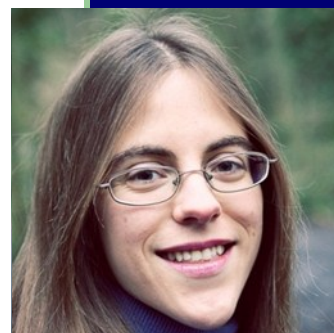
Yes, writing an ebook takes time, effort and energy. Yes, the next month looks incredibly busy already: *but every month looks incredibly busy, right?*

If you write a small, free eBook, you'll have a great piece of promotional content.

Or, if you write an eBook to sell, you'll be able to make money for months, even years, from just one month of work.

Right now is the best time to write.

One of the quickest and simplest ways to give yourself a motivational boost is to make a public commitment to your goal — so, write a comment below and tell us to look out for your *finished* ebook next month!



### About the Author:

*Ali Luke is author of Publishing E-Books For Dummies*

*(Wiley, Sept 2012), a step-by-step guide to help you finish, publish, and market your ebook. If you want clear, friendly help and expert tips, pick up a copy today. It's available in paperback and ebook form.*

Article posted on copyblogger -

<http://>

[www.copyblogger.com/ebook-in-30-day/](http://www.copyblogger.com/ebook-in-30-day/)

# Conferences and Workshops

## AT THE INTERSECTION OF PERSON AND PLOT:

How Characters Shape (and Are Shaped by) Their Stories . . . in Gainesville, Florida.

Join us on Saturday, February 9th, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., to explore the many (organic) ways your characters' attitudes, desires, strategies, hopes, loves, and fears drive them into and through the story that will change their fictional lives forever.

Among other considerations, you will come to understand the "roles" readers expect to see filled in any narrative, distinguish between Reluctant and Active Heroes (and how to capitalize on the foibles of either!), see how even minor characters can express different aspects of your theme, appreciate the benefits and pitfalls of various narrative points of view, and, importantly, develop a road map that includes the six most pivotal plot points on your main character's journey.

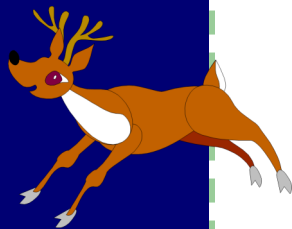
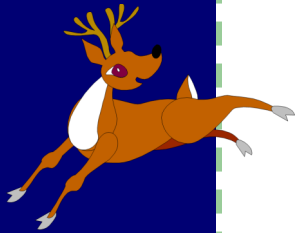
Woodstream Writers director, Jamie Morris, will offer writers an instructive, experiential day filled with opportunities to learn fresh literary approaches, practice new skills, and contribute to lively group discussions!

The cost for this one-day workshop, \$135, includes full breakfast and lunch, as well as all snacks and beverages. Enrollment is limited to 12 participants. Register with [jamie@WoodstreamWriters.com](mailto:jamie@WoodstreamWriters.com) or call 407-644-5163 for more information. (Note: The private home in which this workshop is being held includes two feline residents. Those with allergies may want to consider their comfort level in this home.)

As an additional benefit, writers registered for this workshop may request a critique of up to 25 pages of a work-in-progress at a special attendees-only price. Please inquire about your critique when you register.

Helping Writers Become Authors: [www.WoodstreamWriters.com](http://www.WoodstreamWriters.com)  
407.644.5163 ~ [jamie@WoodstreamWriters.com](mailto:jamie@WoodstreamWriters.com)

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# Writing Opportunities

Ghost writer opportunity (please contact Diana Tonnessen directly – see e-mail address below):

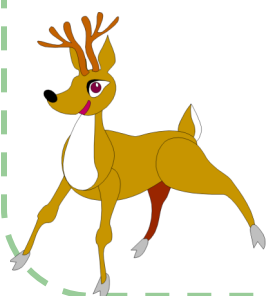
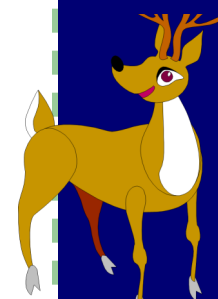
"I've been working with an 85-year-old client who approached me about a year ago and asked me to help him write a book narrating his late wife's story. Brief synopsis of the story: Helena Delinikajtis Hoffman was an American citizen raised in Poland who, along with her sister, Malina, was arrested and detained by the Nazis in October, 1942, along with other Americans living abroad. The sisters spent nearly two years in German internment camps in Poland and France during the Nazi occupation of those countries in World War II. When Helena and her sister finally were released and sent to America in March, 1944 as part of a German-American prisoner exchange program, some of the detainees who were left behind begged the sisters to smuggle notes and messages to their loved ones past the Germans and deliver them to their families living in the United States. Helena and Malina agreed to do so. But when the young women reached Ellis Island and told customs agents about the notes they had sewn into their coat sleeves and hidden in their luggage, they were detained by the FBI for three months while they were investigated on the suspicion of being German spies. This is the story of Helena's homecoming and healing from those traumatic events.

Through interviews, transcripts of recorded memories of both him and his wife, news clips, FBI reports, other published memoirs and diaries, I've managed to tease an outline out of him, but am unable to continue working on this project due to other commitments. He is willing and able to pay a writer to develop a manuscript and it would be a good opportunity for an early-stage writer to hone his or her storytelling skills.

Would you please ask anyone who may be interested in either working with me or taking over this project to contact me to discuss the project in greater detail? Best way to reach me is via the contact information below my signature line."

Thanks so much!

Diana Tonnessen  
Associate Editor  
Gainesville Magazine  
Home office: 352-379-8781  
Mobile: 352-665-9331  
E-mail: [DLTonnessen@msn.com](mailto:DLTonnessen@msn.com)





# Calls for Submission

**First rule of submitting? *Know your market.* Go to their Web sites and see exactly what they're looking for.**

## Special Section - Sci-fi Contests and Calls for Submission

Electric Dragon Cafe Science Fiction and Fantasy Quarterly Short Story Contest

<http://www.electricdragoncafe.com>

**Deadline: MONTHLY**

Entry Fee: None

Prize: 1st place: \$25 Barnes and Nobel gift certificate 2nd place: \$10 certificate

Seeking short fiction contest entries. Must be science fiction, fantasy or horror with fantastic elements and adhere to a theme which we will provide.

Please visit the website for full contest details and guidelines.

E-mail: [contest@electricdragoncafe.com](mailto:contest@electricdragoncafe.com)

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## Aberrant Dreams

[http://www.hd-image.com/aberrant\\_dreams/index.htm](http://www.hd-image.com/aberrant_dreams/index.htm)

Aberrant Dreams accepts short fiction of any genre, though we primarily focus on the genres of fantasy, science fiction, and supernatural horror. We look for stories with a solid plot and good character development. Stories should grab the reader's attention quickly. Stories should be original and not a rehash of tired old themes. If you do draw from an old theme, add a twist to make it unique. Submit to the appropriate genre. Pays 3 cents per word (to max \$100). Please read full guidelines before submitting.

Submission Guidelines:

[http://www.hd-image.com/aberrant\\_dreams/submission.htm](http://www.hd-image.com/aberrant_dreams/submission.htm)

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## L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future® Contest

<http://www.writersofthefuture.com>

An international search for new and amateur writers of new short stories or novelettes of science fiction or fantasy. No entry fee is required. Entrants retain all publication rights.

**Deadline is December 31, March 31, June 30 & September 30.**

Contest Rules:

1. No entry fee is required, and all rights in the story remain the property of the author. All types of science fiction, fantasy and horror with fantastic elements are welcome; every entry is judged on its own merits only.
2. All entries must be original works in English. Plagiarism, which includes poetry, song lyrics, characters or another person's world will result in disqualification. Submitted works may not have been previously published in professional media.
3. Eligible entries must be works of prose, either short stories or novelettes under 17,000 words in length. We regret we cannot consider poetry or works intend-

# Sci-fi Contests and Calls for Submission

ed for children. Excessive violence or sex will result in disqualification.

4. The Contest is open only to those who have not had professionally published (more than 5,000 copies) a novel or short novel, or more than three short stories, or more than one novelette in any medium.
5. Entries must be typewritten and double spaced with numbered pages (computer-printer output okay). Each entry must have a cover page with the title of the work, the author's name, address and telephone number and an approximate word count. The manuscript itself should be titled and numbered on every page, but the AUTHOR'S NAME MUST BE DELETED to facilitate fair judging.
6. Manuscripts will be returned after judging. Entries MUST include a self-addressed return envelope. U.S. return envelopes MUST be stamped; others may enclose international postal reply coupons.
7. There shall be three cash prizes in each quarter: 1st Prize of \$1,000, 2nd Prize of \$750, and 3rd Prize of \$500, in U.S. dollars or the recipient's locally equivalent amount. In addition, there shall be a further cash prize of \$4,000 to the Grand Prize winner, who will be selected from among the 1st Prize winners for the period of October 1 through September 30. All winners will also receive trophies or certificates.
8. The Contest will continue yearly with the following quarterly periods:  
October 1 - December 31  
January 1 - March 31  
April 1 - June 30  
July 1 - September 30  
To be eligible for the quarterly judging, an entry must be postmarked no later than midnight on the last day of the Quarter.
9. Each entrant may submit only one manuscript per quarter. Winners in a quarterly judging are ineligible to make further entries in the Contest.
10. All entries for each quarter are final. No revisions are accepted.
11. Entries will be judged by professional authors. The decisions of the judges are entirely their own, and are final.
12. Winners in each Quarter will be individually notified of the results by mail.

This contest is void where prohibited by law.

Send your entry to:

L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of The Future Contest,  
P.O. Box 1630,  
Los Angeles, Calif. 90078.

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# Sci-fi Contests and Calls for Submission

## Asimov's Science Fiction

<http://www.asimovs.com>

Asimov's Science Fiction magazine is an established market for science fiction stories. "... we're looking for "character oriented" stories, those in which the characters, rather than the science, provide the main focus for the reader's interest. Serious, thoughtful, yet accessible fiction. A good overview would be to consider that all fiction is written to examine or illuminate some aspect of human existence, but that in science fiction the backdrop you work against is the size of the Universe. ..." No S&S, explicit sex/violence. No reprints.

We pay on acceptance. Pay rate is 6.0 cents a word to 7,500 words, 5.0 cents a word for stories longer than 12,500 words, and \$450 for stories between those lengths.

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.asimovs.com/info/guidelines.shtml>

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## Blue Shift Magazine Accepting Submissions

<http://www.whitecatpublications.com/?p=3193>

### Who we are:

*Blue Shift* is the science fiction specific periodical of White Cat Publications, LLC. Our goal is to present the very best examples of the genre we represent. We are a bi-annual publication publishing short stories, flash fiction, interviews, reviews, and columns for print and digital download.

### What we seek:

We are interested primarily in good quality writing in the sci/fi genre. We will consider stories of any variant of this genre. We desire First English Language serial print, audio and digital rights so that we might present your work in all formats within the magazine.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Dark Matter Journal

Online submission deadline for Winter 2012 issue: December 14, 2012

*Dark Matter: a journal of speculative literature* accepts submissions of poetry, fiction, essays, and musings year round. Selected pieces appear on the blog. Online issues are published in summer and winter. Submit now for the 2012 winter issue. Go to [www.darkmatterjournal.org](http://www.darkmatterjournal.org) for guidelines and to submit your work.

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# Sci-fi Contests and Calls for Submission

## Fantasy & Science Fiction Magazine

<http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/index.htm>

The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, founded in 1949, is the award-winning SF magazine which is the original publisher of SF classics like Stephen King's *Dark Tower*, Daniel Keyes's *Flowers for Algernon*, and Walter M. Miller's *A Canticle for Leibowitz*. We have no formula for fiction. We are looking for stories that will appeal to science fiction and fantasy readers. The SF element may be slight, but it should be present. We prefer character-oriented stories. We receive a lot of fantasy fiction, but never enough science fiction or humor. Do not query for fiction; send the entire manuscript. We publish fiction up to 25,000 words in length. Please read the magazine before submitting. A sample copy is available for \$5 in the US and \$7.50 elsewhere.

Payment is 6-9 cents per word on acceptance. We buy first North American and foreign serial rights and an option on anthology rights. All other rights are retained by the author.

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/glines.htm>

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## Horrificed Press

Call for Submissions - <http://horrificedpress.wordpress.com/>

I need all submissions to arrive by February 20th. The sooner the better though, so that I can have the book mostly edited and ready for publishing around the 28th.

*Suffer Eternal* is an anthology about the down side of Eternal life. You can write about zombies, vampires, or any other undead entity.

*Hell whore* is an anthology about the mistresses of Hell. Stories can be historic in nature, (e.g. Elizabeth Bathory) or can be about other undead females or feminine spirits aligned to Satan. Poems and stories are cool. If you write a tale and it goes over on the word count that's fine.

Email your submission as an attachment to; [nathan.rowark@live.co.uk](mailto:nathan.rowark@live.co.uk)

The email subject line must read "SUBMISSION – Title of anthology – 'your story title'" or your submission will not be considered for this anthology.

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## Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction

<http://www.sfmag.com>

Needs: SF/F/DF, wants more SF, humor. "We are looking for stories that will appeal to science fiction and fantasy readers. The SF element may be slight, but it should be present in all submissions. We prefer character-oriented stories."

Fiction: to 25,000 words, pays 6-9/word on acceptance. We buy first North American and foreign serial rights and an option on anthology rights. All other rights are retained by the author.

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.sfsite.com/fsf/glines.htm>

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# Sci-fi Contests and Calls for Submission

## The Pedestal Magazine

<http://www.thepedestalmagazine.com>

This online venue is looking for fiction of all genres. For horror, they want intelligent, high-quality, character-driven stories. "We are receptive to high-quality literary fiction of all sorts, including traditional and experimental works. Genre fiction (such as science fiction, horror, mystery, and romance) is encouraged as long as it crosses or comments upon its genre and is both character-driven and psychologically acute."

Currently pays \$30 for poems and 5 cents per word for fiction up to 6,000 words.

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.thepedestalmagazine.com/submit1.asp>

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## Spellbound: Children's Fantasy E-zine



About <http://eggplantproductions.com/general-guidelines/>

Spellbound is a children's fantasy e-zine published by Eggplant Literary Productions for kids 8-12 years of age. Published quarterly, each issue contains stories, poetry, art and more all centered around a featured creature.

**FICTION:** We're looking for stories involving magic, myth, legend and adventure in a fantasy setting. We're especially interested in young protagonists and showing girls in a "heroic" role are welcome.

**POETRY:** We will gladly read either free verse or traditionally rhyming poetry, but we are not interested in poems which toss masses of meaningless and conflicting imagery at the reader, in the hope that he or she will be able to make some sense out of the muddled result. We expect rhymes and meter in traditional poetry to be neither forced nor strained. Likewise, all poetry, even free verse, should flow well and have a musical quality. As Spellbound is a fantasy magazine for children, poetry should have a strong speculative element.

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## Weird Tales

<http://www.weirdtalesmagazine.com>

**Needs:** Fantasy/Dark Fantasy/Horror/SlipStream/Poetry in Weird Tales style. "The best in horrific horror, heroic fantasy, and exotic mood pieces, plus the occasional 'odd' story that won't fit anywhere else." Likes fantasy-world & S&S, but avoid genericism. "Your protagonists must at least try to cope, and must try to change something, even if the outcome is tragic." Cover letter optional, don't mention more than 2-3 prior sales. Weird Tales was recently sold to Wildside Press.

**Fiction:** to 10000 words (prefers <8000), pays 3-4 cents per word plus two contributor copies.

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.darkfantasy.org/weirdtales/WeirdTalesGuidelines.pdf>

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# General Contests, Submission requests

## True Stories contest:

**Flash Fiction** \* \$2500 SE True Stories Contest \* <http://www.storyevent.com>

Categories Accepted: Nonfiction \*\*\* **Deadline: MONTHLY** \*\*\* Entry Fee: Free

Prize: \$500 to top five voted stories

Details/Restrictions: Enter for free! \$2500 SE True Stories contest: share your stories and pictures about Life, Travel, Humor, Concerts, and more. Instantly submit your story at the above link.

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## TRI Studio Books

A Picture is Worth 300-500 Words - Flash Fiction

<http://www.tri-studio.com/ezone.html>

**Deadline: MONTHLY** \* Entry Fee: Free \* Prize: \$10

TRI Studio Books sponsors a bi-monthly contest with cash prizes for writers of Flash Fiction.

There is no entry fee. The first one, "A Picture is Worth 300-500 Words," uses a photo for a prompt. The guidelines for the contest are listed below and in the February, 2007 TRI Studio free ezine for writers, The Fiction Flyer. Here's the link to the pdf files for The Fiction Flyer: Entrants must be subscribers (no fee). Interested parties may subscribe by sending an email to [kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kgogolewski@sbcglobal.net) with EZINE written in the subject heading.

### Guidelines:

Here's an opportunity to have some fun, publish your story, and win a prize! Your story must be at least 300 words, no more than 500 words, and inspired by the prompt (see website for each monthly prompt).

Now, to the prizes: The first place winner will receive a check for \$10 along with a First Place Contest Award Certificate. Second and third place winners will receive \$5 each and a Contest Certificate of Honorable Mention. Winning stories, along with author's Bios, will be published in the next issue of The Fiction Flyer.

Please submit the following information using Size 12, Times New Roman or Arial Font:

Your Name

Your Address

Your email Address

Word Count

Author's Bio (Up to 50 words)

Link to your blog/website (optional)

Your Story

Stories shorter than 300 or longer than 500 words will not be read.

Stories that bear no relation to the prompt, as determined by us, will be rejected.

Do not attach your story to your message; attached stories will not be opened.

Please send your email with particulars and story to: [raygogo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:raygogo@sbcglobal.net).

Raymond Grant/Contest Editor

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# General Contests, Submission requests

## The Dora and Alexander Raynes Poetry Prize

from *Jewish Currents* awards a \$1000 first prize, two \$180 prizes, and publication for a poem on the theme of "The American Dream" (interpret as you see fit). Gerald Stern will judge. The top 36 poems will be collected into a chapbook, and all submissions will be considered for future publication in *Jewish Currents*. The \$18 submission fee includes a year's subscription to the magazine. Writers of all religions/non-religions/backgrounds are encouraged to submit. Submissions can be via email or regular mail. Go to [jewishcurrents.org/poetry-prize](http://jewishcurrents.org/poetry-prize) for details.

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## Perfume River Poetry Review

Postmark Deadline: December 15, 2012

*Perfume River Poetry Review* is accepting submissions for its first print issue, which will feature the Perfume River Poetry Prize. The winner of the contest will be awarded \$500. Please submit 3-5 of your best poems of any size, style, or subject. For complete contest guidelines, please visit our website: [touranepoetrypress.wordpress.com/about-4/](http://touranepoetrypress.wordpress.com/about-4/).

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## Creative Nonfiction

Online submissions/postmark deadline: January 15, 2013

For a special "Sustainability" issue and book, *Creative Nonfiction* is looking for true stories/essays that illuminate environmental, economic, ethical and/or social challenges related to the state of the planet and our future. Deadline January 15, 2013. Best essay prize awarded by guest editor Donna Seaman. For more information: [www.creativenonfiction.org](http://www.creativenonfiction.org).

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## Whistling Shade

<http://www.whistlingshade.com/1202/12-2.htm>

The theme for the Spring/Summer 2013 issue will be pets. Send us your memoirs, stories, or even poems about your favorite cat, dog, iguana, or other pet. A section will be devoted to short accounts (1-3 paragraphs) by contributors. When writing about pets, we recommend focusing on a particular event or idiosyncrasy. The deadline for pet theme submissions is March 1, 2013. So if you have a wonderful pet story, send it in!

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Happy Chinese New Year!

# General Contests, Submission requests

## 2013 SPR POETRY CONTEST

**Prize: \$1000 and publication in St. Petersburg Review –**

(<http://drupal.stpetersburgreview.com/drupal/?q=contest> )

All writers not associated with the editors of St. Petersburg Review may enter. Postmark deadline: March 1, 2013 for publication in fall 2013. Entry/reading fee: \$20.00 (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 mailing address is enclosed. An entry may consist of up to three unpublished poems.

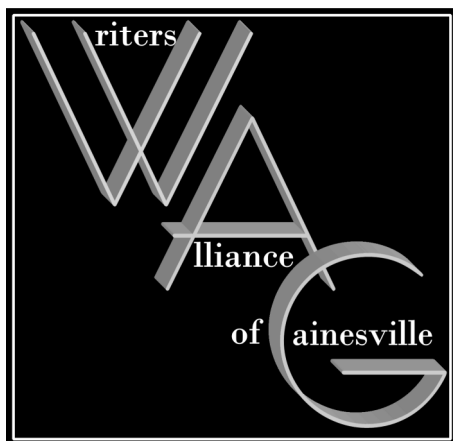
There will be one winner. All entrants will be considered for publication (e.g. St. Petersburg Review will publish 13 entrants in addition to the 2010 and 2011 winners in its 2010/11 issue). Simultaneous submissions are OK; please let us know immediately if they have been accepted elsewhere. Fees will 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.

SPR will not be able to answer individual entrant requests for information about contest status. If you would like to receive the results by mail, please send a SASE.

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

St. Petersburg Review is an independent, international, nonprofit review of contemporary literature that seeks to foster and promote global connections and affinities through the annual publication of quality fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama from all countries.





**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**  
<http://writersallianceofgainesville.org>

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.

