

- How to Find Inspiration
- Freelancing!?

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Market Suggestions 2

WAG Brags 3

Reading Poetry for Contests 4

Sentence Structure —Part II 5

Conferences and Courses 7

Contests 10

Calls for Submissions 12

The WAG Digest

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 6

JUNE 30, 2012

WAG Speaker Series—Mystery in July, August Sci-Fi



Please join us July 22 at the Millhopper Library for a talk by writer Vic DiGenti. Have you always wanted to write your own mystery, but weren't sure how to start? Mystery author

Vic DiGenti (*Matanzas Bay* written as Parker Francis) teaches a full-day workshop on mystery writing for the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. In this one hour workshop, he'll show WAG members how to turn ideas into compelling mystery. Participants will learn:

- The key elements of a mystery.
- How to create compelling characters.
- How to create a crime scenario.
- How to add tension and conflict to your scenes.

Vic will also offer his one day workshop in Gainesville on October 13 at the Unitarian Universalist church. The workshop charge is \$89, a portion of which will go to the Writers Alliance to support local programs. If you are interested in signing up, please e-mail floridawendy@cox.net, or you can talk to Vic at the July 22 program. Sign up soon, as this workshop tends to sell out quickly.



And join us August 26 when another East Coast writer will give a talk on science fiction. "You could call me the accidental author," says St. Augustine's

Chris Berman. While recovering from a bicycle versus SUV accident, Berman wrote his first novel, *The Hive*. The book went into bookstores in the U.S. and U.K. in February, 2009. He quickly followed that with *Red Moon* and *Star Pirates*. His novels *Das Bell* and *Ace of Aces* await publication.

"I love science fiction," he says. "I grew up on a diet of science fiction from the classic writers, but sci fi was no more my passion than science fact. As a boy, a neighbor was an amateur astronomer and he taught me about the heavens and how to photograph astronomical events, even grind my own mirrors and lenses to make telescopes. I'm also a spaceflight enthusiast and have some expertise in our world's space programs. I recently received my MA in military history from Norwich University, Vermont."

WAG Meetings are free and open to the public. Directions and map to Millhopper Library here: <http://www.aclib.us/milhopper>

UF Professor Shares Market Suggestions



"We are grateful to Dr. Wade for her talk and for sending us this list of potential poetry markets for our members."

The Iowa Review
 The New Yorker
 Crazyhorse
 Ploughshares
 Lyric
 Prairie Schooner
 The American Scholar
 Five Points
 The American Poetry Review
 Boulevard
 Barrow Street
 Gulf Coast
 The Virginia Quarterly Review
 The Southern Review
 Meridian
 Harvard Review
 32 Poems
 FIELD
 Phoebe
 The Paris Review
 MARGIE
 Southern Poetry Review
 Smartish Pace
 Northwest Review
 Crab Orchard Review
 Painted Bride Quarterly
 The Cincinnati Review
 The New Republic
 Poetry East
 Pleiades
 Poet Lore

On Sunday, June 24, poet Sydney Wade gave a speech to an appreciative audience of WAG members and visitors who braved the elements to hear her presentation. Dr. Wade gave an excellent talk on how to find inspiration and how to improve your work when writing poetry.

We are grateful to Dr. Wade for her talk and for sending us this list of potential poetry markets for our members.

Journals to send to, in no particular order:

Poetry
 AGNI Review
 The Southeast Review
 The Kenyon Review
 Parthenon West Review

The Hampden-Sydney Review
 New Letters
 Black Warrior Review
 Ninth Letter
 Hayden's Ferry Review
 The Laurel Review
 Fence
 Literary Imagination
 The Threepenny Review
 Western Humanities Review

Kwame Dawes, Prairie Schooner
 Peter Stitt, Gettysburg Review
 David Baker, Kenyon Review
 Don Bogen, Cincinnati Review
 Wayne Miller, Pleiades
 Nathaniel Perry, Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review
 Jordan Davis, The Nation
 Willard Spiegelman, Western Humanities Review

Editors who are MFA@UFL alumni:

Deborah Ager, John Poch, 32 Poems
 C. Dale Young, New England Review
 Adam Vines, Birmingham Poetry Review
 Geri Doran, Northwest Review

WAG Brags

- Congratulations to WAG Member **Dave Byrd** for being a finalist in the Crab Creek Review Poetry Contest. His poem, "Spring Cleaning" will be published in Vol I of the 2013 volume.
- **Elizabeth McCulloch** has had a great month of writing success. Her short story, "Bananas" was published by Slow Trains at www.Slowtrains.com. And her novel in progress won the Ruffin-Walz award for best novel, and the Edna Sampson award for best novel by first-time attendee, at the Southeastern Writers's Workshop.
- WAG's **Fred Malphurs** has published his most recent book *Spies and Lies: The Paradox* through luniverse.com where it is available in soft- or hard-cover editions. Fred has used this medium to publish his memoir *My Life in the VA: Lessons in Leadership*, his novel *Mex-ia* (the fictional memoirs of J.C. Mulkey) and the novel *Meanie Mouse versus the Orlando Operators*. In *Spies and Lies*, Fred says he has a "gripping story about espionage, politics, deceit, and romance as one man risks everything to defend his country - and his reputation - from evil forces." Shiver me timbers, mate, but this sounds like a good read. Way to go Fred!
- I had to share with someone who would understand," writes **Larry Brasington**. "Good news. My novella, *Sum Yung Gye: Adventures of Shane Ireland, Elf Detective*, is now number 14 on the best seller list with the [Kindle store](#) in the category adventure and #1115 overall. It is exciting to see something I wrote that high."
- **Wendy Thornton** has a story about a hitchhiking waitress named Rachel titled *Lying Still* in the June 2012 issue of the online journal "Halfway Down the Stairs" (<http://www.halfwaydownthestairs.net/index.php?action=view&id=365>) She has been invited to publish her story *Margaret and the Two Inch Tomato*, originally printed in Australia's *Bright Lights Cafe*, (<http://www.brightlightmultimedia.com/BLCafe/ShrtStories-MargaretAndTheTwoInchTomato.htm>) in a school textbook for ESL students in India. The publishing company, [Madhubunbooks](#), asked to print the story as part of an English language translation series for grades 1-8. Wendy says her pods helped her polish this story – thank

Stay tuned
for a special
double issue
of the WAG
Digest in
July.



Jamaca, Photo by Ken Booth

Reading Poetry for Contests

Jeffrey Skinner

The Writers Alliance is pleased to offer an essay from Jeffrey Skinner, an American poet, writer, playwright, and professor of Creative Writing at the University of Louisville, on what he looks for when he judges poetry contests. Thank you to Professor Skinner for letting us share these insights with our members.

The first “first” reading I did was for Daniel Halpern, who ran the National Poetry Series. My colleague in this task was Henri Cole, and we were each given 500 manuscripts, from which we were to cull around thirty. I found it very difficult. Unless the poetry was obviously, glaringly inept (titles like *Reflections* or *Poems of Love* were a tip-off; the first lines of the first poems were all one had to read of these), I felt duty-bound to plow through at least five poems in the beginning and five at the end of the manuscript. It’s amazing how long just such a reading takes when the desk is piled with five hundred densely packed envelopes.

But many of the manuscripts were interesting or teasing enough that I read even deeper. MFA writing programs were firmly ensconced at this point, and very popular. So the percentage of “sophisticated” manuscripts was high, though not as high as today.

Every so often I’d glance over at Henri, who was moving at warp speed—barely did he draw a book from its manila casing before he was sheathing it back in. Apparently he knew something I didn’t.

Now, after more than thirty years of judging contests and teaching creative writing, I can more easily and rapidly discern the truly good from the half-good, and then, in the case of the last culling, the exceptional from the truly good. It is a matter of experience. The top ten percent of any pile of manuscripts fairly leap out of the pile. This, in spite of the fact that the number of writing programs has grown exponentially since my work with the National Poetry Series, and *sophistication* is an over-abundant quality.

Every generation has its mode. In my seventies and eighties generation it was the very sincere lyric/narrative hybrid. The current generation has absorbed a greater range of influences, but its mode is characterized by such postmodern tropes as disjunction and an absence of the un-ironic *I*. Irony, in fact, seems the only sure thing on the contemporary landscape. As always, one has to look beyond (underneath?) the gestures of the current mode to find the exceptional.

When I’m doing the final reading I look for those manuscripts that involuntarily engage me; I read for thirty pages or more without thought of comparison or judgment. I suddenly realize I’ve stepped outside of the whole book-contest business. I’ve not been reading *evaluatively*; I’ve been reading *poetry*, and my consciousness belonged wholly to the poet. This is rare, and it is the surest way I know I’ve run into the real thing. Later, when I do step back and consider such writing *as writing*, of course I can find the poet’s influences and lineage; I can name his or her attributes, and weaknesses.

But it’s the first stunned, thoughtless engagement that tells me I have found real poetry.

Bottom-Line, Low-Anxiety Grammar & Sentence Structure ~ Part II

Contributors: Elaine Handley | Susan Oaks
From Empire State College, State University of New York

Regular & Irregular Verbs

Regular

- verbs that do not change into substantially different words as they move from singular to plural or past to present (ex., most verbs, such as walks/walk/walked, lifts/lift/lifted, hears/hear/heard)

Irregular

- verbs that change into substantially different words as they move from singular to plural or past to present (ex., am/are, has/have, does/do)

Agreement - Regular Verbs

To agree with a singular noun, a regular, present-tense verb should end in -s, -es, or no ending.

Michael walks every day, and every day a loose **dog turns** him into a marathon runner for a while.

The **dog catcher** regularly **catches** an average of ten loose dogs per day, at least **five** of whom **add** to the odor that pervades the back of the truck.

"Hey, I don't mind that odor," **the dog catcher exclaims**. "To me, it's the sweet smell of success."

To agree with a plural noun, a regular, present-tense verb does not need any special letters at the end.

Michael and Melissa leisurely **walk** the streets of Paris every morning, and every day the street-cleaning **trucks** seem to **direct** their spray toward them a bit more aggressively.

You could say that **they** regularly **catch** a shower, which adds to their exhilaration and joie de vivre.

"Hey, **we like** to walk, and **we** really do not **mind** the wetness," they exclaim. "It makes others think that we've just completed a long run."

Regular, past-tense verbs (showing action in the past) do **not** have to agree with their nouns; the past-tense ending (-d or -ed) overrides the need for further agreement.

Michael completed a long run.

Michael and Melissa completed a long run.



Sentence Structure

Continued

Agreement - Irregular Verbs

You just have to memorize the singular and plural verb forms of the **irregular**, present-tense verbs in order to make the verb agree with its noun (sorry, folks!).

Singular

am/is
was
has
does

Plural

are
were
have
do

I **am** one of the best grammarians in the class.

They are the best grammarians in the class.

Verb Agreement with "Trick Singular" Nouns and Pronouns

For example:

Monday is the day when **each department head** in Marketing **activates** his or her voice mail; it's all-day meeting day.

Everybody who **hears** little Loretta sing **tells** her parents that she is so expressive, she would make a good mime.

You know that "each department head" and "everybody" **do** actually refer to more than one person, but they function as singular nouns because of their wording--they contain special words such as "each" and "every" that make them act as singular nouns.

The following words make a noun act as a singular noun:

anybody.....every.....no one.....someone
anyone.....everybody.....nobody.....something
each.....everyone.....none
either.....neither.....somebody

With these words, you need to use verb forms that agree with singular nouns.

Agreement When Words Come between the Noun and Verb

For example:

The highest **percentage** of voters **is** in favor of passing Proposition 94.

Either of the options is consistent with the company's mission.

- Interrupting words--especially those phrases that start with "of" or "to"--are **not** considered part of the noun, so the verb does **not** have to agree with any of the words in the interruption.



Q: How many critics does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Critics can't change a light bulb. But they'll watch you do it and tell you a hundred things you could have done better.

Conferences and Courses

<http://www.fhbookfest.com/e-pub.htm>

E-Publishing — The Future Is Now!

3-Hour Workshop

Saturday, July 14, 8:30 am to Noon

Flagler College, Ringhaver Student Center

50 Sevilla Street, St. Augustine, FL

Gamache-Koger Theater

E-books have turned the publishing industry on its head. Like never before, you, the author, can seize control of your future by climbing aboard the digital bandwagon. This 3-hour workshop provides you with the answers to many of your questions about how to best take advantage of e-publishing and join the tens of thousands of authors now adding their titles to Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com, and iBookstore.

\$60 (June 1–July 2); \$75 at the door.

Register on the Web site or send checks to:

Make checks payable to the

Florida Heritage Book Festival.

Send to: Kathy Dvornick

1261 Paradise Pond Road

St. Augustine, FL 32092

info@fhbookfest.com



Newberry, FL— Photo by Ken Booth

Conferences and Courses

Fifth Annual Florida Heritage Book Festival and Writers Conference

September 13-15, 2012

EDNA BUCHANAN

chosen as 2012 Literary Legend

Florida's rich and colorful literary heritage is celebrated every year in September when the Florida Heritage Book Festival is held. The Festival returns to St. Augustine on September 13, 14, and 15, 2012.

It is a must for book lovers and aspiring authors. You will have the opportunity to rub elbows with authors, fellow book lovers, publishing professionals, and others at this exciting event.

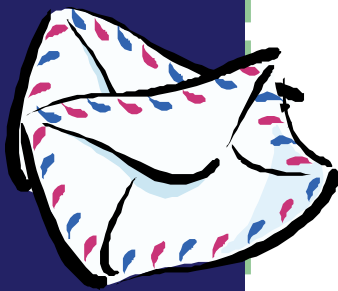
The Florida Heritage Book Festival is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All proceeds benefit The Friends of the Libraries of St. Johns County and The St. Augustine Record News In Education program.

St. Johns County Convention Center at

Renaissance World Golf Village Resort

500 S. Legacy Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32092

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



Conferences and Courses

LIFE PRESS CHRISTIAN WRITERS' CONFERENCE

To Be Held On - August 4, 2012

CONTEST DEADLINE: July 7 Postmark

Covenant United Methodist Church

8350 Walnut Grove, Cordova, TN

901-683-5386

Director: Frances Brinkley Cowden

Assistant Director: Mary Frances Broome

P O Box 2018, Cordova, TN 38088

PHONE: 901-309-3692

E-mail: Gmoeearth@gmail.com

<http://www.grandmotherearth.org>

2012 FWA Conferences The Magic of the Pen October 19-21, 2012

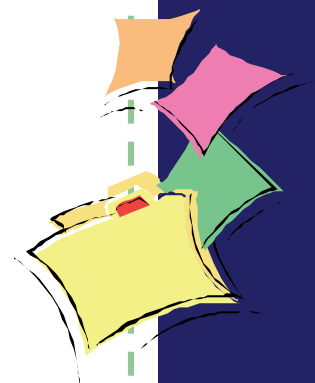
http://www.floridawriters.net/2012_FWA_Conference.html

Find your agent, meet your publisher, and get the scoop on the industry at FWA's 11th annual conference, the most comprehensive conference in Florida for writers of all genres. Register early and get a free gift from FWA.

NOTE: FWA's Annual Conference is a member benefit. If you are not an FWA member and would like to attend, we welcome you, but there will be an additional \$45 charge. You may elect to pay this charge and not become a member, or, you may join FWA for an annual fee of \$45.



Martin County, KY— Photo by Unknown



Contests

2012 Barthelme Prize for Short Prose.

Gulf Coast is now accepting entries for the 2012 Barthelme Prize for Short Prose, judged by Ander Monson. The contest is open to pieces of **prose poetry, flash fiction, and micro-essays** of 500 words or fewer. The contest awards its winner **\$1,000** and publication in the journal. Two honorable mentions will also appear in issue 25.2, due out in April 2013, and all entries will be considered for paid publication on our website. **Entry fee is \$17**, and submissions are accepted both online and via post. **Deadline: September 1.** Visit www.gulfcoastmag.org/contests for more information.

Wilda Hearne Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: Oct. 1, 2012. \$300, publication in Big Muddy. Best short-short story, 500 words or less. **\$10 fee includes copy of Big Muddy with winning story.** Wilda Hearne Flash Fiction Contest, Southeast Missouri State University Press, MS 2650 One University Plaza, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701. www6.semo.edu/universitypress/hearne

FROM WAG FLASH FICTION EDITOR KAYE LINDEN

<http://www.shelfstealers.com/contests/>

Can you be so kind as to include this link in the monthly newsletter?

The odds of winning \$50 is great. Monthly competition.



Contests

So You Think You Can Write ATTENTION – ROMANCE WRITERS! Deadline: 13 October 2012 - but start now!

Eligibility: not yet available

First Prize: a publishing contract from Harlequin Mills & Boon

No entry fee

<http://www.soyouthinkyoucanwrite.com/2012/06/get-ready/>

Do you dream of being a world-famous published author? Take your first step toward that goal by preparing for Harlequin and Mills & Boon's first ever global writing competition!

This year's So You Think You Can Write event is going worldwide. The event begins with a 24/7 online week-long conference, then launches into a contest where we hope to find fresh new writing voices. We're getting all our readers involved, too, because we'll be asking the public to vote for their favorite stories.

You will need a completed manuscript to enter the contest. So get out that WIP, or boot up that laptop and start a new project. We'll be here, ramping up for the big event and providing you with the tools you need to write a story that will get you noticed by the largest publisher of romance fiction in the world.

**MORE DETAILS WILL BE POSTED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE –
But now you have no excuse for not having your manuscript ready by the
October 2012 deadline.**



Calls for Submission

Vishnu Temple Press and editor Rick Kempa

are seeking well-crafted essays for an anthology that captures the experience of hiking in the Grand Canyon. Tell us about:

- adventures and discoveries
- challenges faced and overcome
- the sensory experience of a Canyon hike
- close encounters with flora and fauna, rock and water
- specifics of particular Canyon places
- interactions with other people, present or past

Deadline December 31. Guidelines at www.vishnutemplepress.com. Questions? E-mail canyonhikingessays@gmail.com.

From the Depths, Fall 2012

Online Submission Deadline: August 31, 2012

Theme: "Horror: Dark & Dreadful"

Haunted Water Press is seeking works of fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry for the Fall 2012 issue of our quarterly literary journal, From the Depths. "Bring on the strange, the twisted, and the bizarre. We seek stories and poetry that will make us want to sleep with the lights on. Psychological thrillers, bedtime stories for very bad children, and unusually likable anti-heroes are sure to please. Give us the grim, the dark, the seriously creepy....just scare us already!" Visit www.hauntedwaterspress.com/Submissions.html for details.

Damselfly press seeks to promote exceptional writing by women.

We welcome work from female writers of all experiences. We accept fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. We are now accepting submissions for our twenty-first issue, due out in October, 2012. The deadline to submit is September 15, 2012. damselflypress.net



Calls for Submission

MAD MAGAZINE
1700 Broadway
New York NY 10019
Phone: (212)506-4850
Fax: (212)506-4848

E-mail: submissions@madmagazine.com

Website: www.madmag.com

About – PLEASE READ THE MAGAZINE – this is a tough market!

Covers: Monthly magazine always on the lookout for new ways to spoof and to poke fun at hot trends.

Freelance Facts

- Established: 1952
- Simultaneous Submissions: No Answer
- Guidelines available online.
- Buys all rights.
- Byline given.
- Pays on acceptance.
- Sample copy available online.
- Responds in 10 weeks to queries.
- Publish time after acceptance: Publishes ms an average of 6 months after acceptance.
- 100% freelance written
- Submit seasonal material 6 months in advance.

Nonfiction

"We're not interested in formats we're already doing or have done to death like 'what they say and what they really mean.' Don't send previously published submissions, riddles, advice columns, TV or movie satires, book manuscripts, top 10 lists, articles about Alfred E. Newman, poetry, essays, short stories or other text pieces."

Buys mss/year: 400

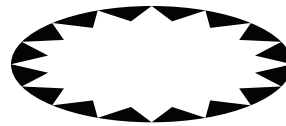
Pays minimum of \$500/page.

Tips - "Know what we do! MAD is very specific. Everyone wants to work for MAD, but few are right for what MAD needs. Understand reproduction process, as well as give-and-take between artist and client."



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.



Newberry Florida, Photo by Ken Booth