

WAG Digest

Volume 9, Issue 2

MARCH—APRIL 2017

Coming— Next Issue

- **How to Avoid Publishing Scams**

Inside this issue:

WAG Brags	2
Grammar Jokes	8
How to Write a Query Letter	9
Calls for Submission	11
Contests	14
Classes and Conferences	15

“Show, Don’t Tell” About Social Issues in Your Fiction April 9, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM



Have your fiction make a difference in the world. Retired psychotherapist turned mystery writer and WAG member Cassandra Lamb will share tips on how to incorporate social issues into your fiction in the most effective way.

Lamb was a psychotherapist for twenty years and a psychology professor for seventeen. Now retired, she enjoys writing mysteries with a psychological twist. She continues her lifelong calling of educating people about psychological issues—only now she

does so while entertaining them with her stories.

Lamb writes the Kate Huntington mysteries and the Marcia Banks and Buddy cozy mysteries. She has also published a guidebook for novice writers, *Someday Is Here! A Beginner’s Guide to Writing and Publishing Your First Book*.

You can find out more about Cassandra and her books at <http://kassandrалamb.com>. She



blogs about psychology and writing at <http://misteriopress.com>.

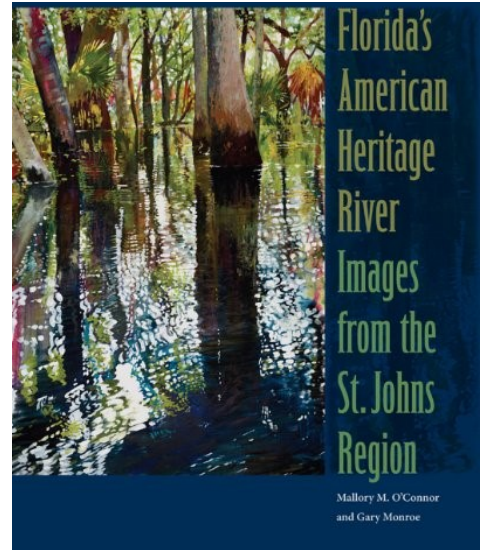
Remember, parking can be tricky – please get there early. NOTE: The WAG Speaker Series is held at the Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL. at 2:30 pm. The regular WAG monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Parking is a problem, so come early. You are welcome to park one block south at the Florida Credit Union.



WAG Brags

Book Discussion at Matheson Museum: April 8, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

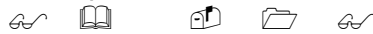
WAG member **Mallory M. O'Connor** and her co-author, **Gary Monroe**, will discuss their book, *Florida's American Heritage River: Images from the St. Johns Region* at the Matheson History Museum in downtown Gainesville at 4:00 p.m. on April 8. This event is in conjunction with the museum's current exhibit, *River of Dreams: The St. Johns and Its Springs*.



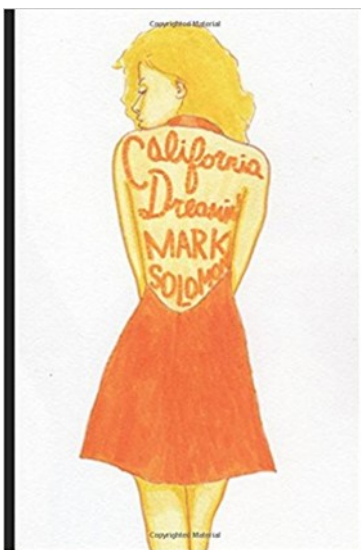
The mighty St. Johns River flows from its headwaters near Lake Okeechobee north through central Florida to Jacksonville. The river and its tributaries have been part of the cultural landscape of the peninsula for thousands of years. From the Native Americans who first settled along its banks to the French, Spanish, British and American settlers who followed, it has been a source of food, water, transportation, industry, agriculture, and recreation. In 1998 the St. Johns was declared an American Heritage River, the only one in Florida and one of only fourteen in the country to be so designated.

O'Connor is professor emerita of art history at Santa Fe College. Monroe is professor of fine arts and photography at Daytona State College. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The **MATHESON HISTORY MUSEUM**'s hours are 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday.



WAG Brags

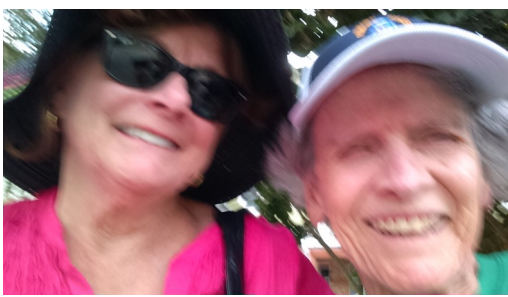


WAG Member **Mark Solomon** has published a new book. Mark writes:
 My novel, "California Dreamin", is set in Gainesville and Citrus County. I was assisted in the research for this novel by a detective in the Gainesville Police Department. <https://www.amazon.com/California-Dreamin-Mark-Ellis-Solomon/dp/1365624080/>

Congratulations, Mark!



Ann Arbor Review International Journal of Poetry has published three poems by Richard Gartee in their Winter issue: Blinds and Shutters, The Deva, and Last Dance of the Year. Here is the link: http://annarborreview.net/aArborReview_XVII/AARPg22.htm



Carol Ray Skipper writes:
 Please, could you give special recognition to our awesome WAG Member, **Joan Carter**? She did it again, competed in the walk for Haven Hospice. She's 91!!!👏
 It Was so exciting to watch her cross the Finish Line!!!



WAG Brags

WAG Member Judith A. Barrett writes:

My children's book, *Pink Baby Alligator* has been published by Marcinson Press and is available on Amazon. https://www.amazon.com/Pink-Baby-Alligator-Judith-Barrett/dp/0996720758/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1485987166&sr=8-1&keywords=pink+baby+alligator

Congratulations, Judith!



Bacopa Submissions Open April 1

Each author published in *Bacopa Literary Review 2017* will receive a copy of the print journal and will be promoted online after publication. Every submission is automatically entered into the prize competition.

\$400 prize in each of these genres:

- Poetry
- Flash Story
- Literary Fiction
- Creative Nonfiction

Submission Dates: April 1 – May 31, 2017

Fee: \$3 per submission (except in poetry; 1-3 poems per entry)

WAG Members first submission is free!

Refer to the WAG website for full details and guidelines.

The editorial board invites you to surprise us with your ingenuity.

Mary Bast, Editor in Chief

Susie H. Baxter, Creative Nonfiction Editor

U. R. Bowie, Literary Fiction Editor

J. N. Fishhawk, Poetry Editor

Kaye Linden, Flash Story Editor



WAG Brags

****DIG THIS BOOK ON EARTH DAY****

April 22nd

April 22nd

Book Launch

Nudge & Boost for Better Living

* * * * *

Everyone wants to know more about getting desired learning and doing by others or themselves. *Nudge* and *Boost* are sensible, science-based tools you can use everyday to build more positive personal life and improve global living.

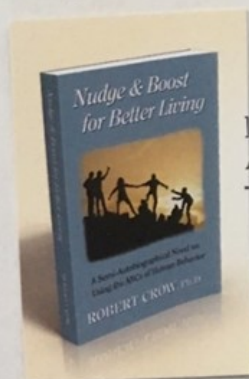
Join us at BMW of Gainesville
North Main Street
2 PM to 4 PM

Presentation and book Signing by Author

Discount Price on Books on Sale

Drawings for Prizes

- *Coupons for Pilates
- *Free Car washes at BMW for a Month
- *Test Drive a Premium BMW
- *Embroidered T-Shirts



For more information Visit www.NudgeAndBoost.com
Available at Amazon.com in paperback and e-book formats

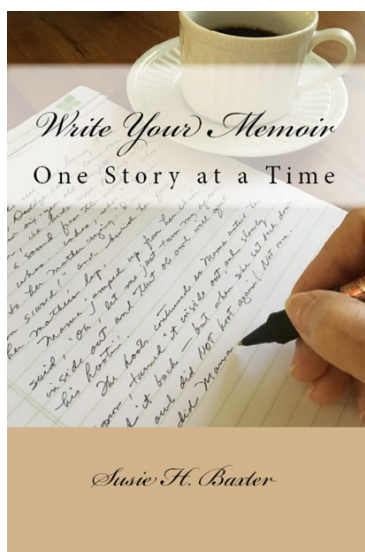
Congratulations to Susie Baxter on publication of her book on writing a memoir:

Write Your Memoir One Story at a Time
by Susie H. Baxter

This manual is packed with writing prompts, exercises, questionnaires, assignments, and resources to help prod your memory and guide you to write a cohesive memoir. Whether you are writing to discover yourself, leave a legacy for your descendants, or publish a best seller, you'll be guided from your first story to publication.

111 pages. \$7.95 on Amazon

If you'd like to take a class with Susie, see the Classes and Conference Section at the end of this newsletter for information. Class begins at Santa Fe College on April 8.



Wag Brags

Don't Miss Out!

Writing-Related Articles Delivered to Your In-Box

Friday, March 10, marked the launch of WAG's new content delivery system, RSS (Rich Site Summary). See sample below. This means that WAG's writing-related blog posts are now being delivered automatically to the inbox of all subscribers.

Anyone with an email address may sign up, and there is no cost whatsoever. So tell your writing friends about this. Subscribers receive the content each Friday that a new WAG blog post has published.

Try it! You have nothing to lose and much to gain! You may cancel at any time.

[Sign up today!](#)

[\(http://writersalliance.org/blog/\)](http://writersalliance.org/blog/)



Wag Brags

Support the Writers Alliance and benefit your own writing:

WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT? WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Would you like to read a blog post on any of these topics?

- How to Write Surprise Endings
- Aspects of Internet Publishing
- What Makes a Good Cover?
- Volunteering for WAG: What's in It for Me?
- How to Get Started in Freelance Writing
- What to Look for in a Writers' Conference
- How to Find a Good Editor
- How Writing Changed My Life and How It Can Change Yours
- Promoting Your Book on Social Media
- Ten Marketing Tips

Could you write an article on any of them? What about those shown on the website, [Writers Write](#)?

Consider writing about what you've learned and share it with fellow writers on WAG's blog. Posts are receiving greater exposure through our RSS content delivery system. So get your writing out there! Share what you know and develop a following.

For more information, refer to WAG's [Blogging Guidelines](#) and contact our President and Blogging Scheduler, Kimberly Mullins. Get your name and topic on the schedule today.

Continued Next Page

Having a website
should be the
cornerstone of
your online
strategy

SEVEN BAR JOKES INVOLVING GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION.

BY ERIC K. AULD

1. A comma splice walks into a bar, it has a drink and then leaves.
2. A dangling modifier walks into a bar. After finishing a drink, the bartender asks it to leave.
3. A question mark walks into a bar?
4. Two quotation marks “walk into” a bar.
5. A gerund and an infinitive walk into a bar, drinking to drink.
6. The bar was walked into by the passive voice.
7. Three intransitive verbs walk into a bar. They sit. They drink. They leave.



True Story: How To Write A Query Letter For A Memoir

WritersRelief.com



Posted on November 3, 2016 by [Writer's Relief Staff](#)

6 Tips For Writing A Query Letter For A Memoir In Order To Get A Literary Agent

Write a great first line. We've talked a lot on our blog about [how to write a killer first line for a query letter](http://writersrelief.com/blog/2015/02/query-letter-write-fantastic-first-line/) (<http://writersrelief.com/blog/2015/02/query-letter-write-fantastic-first-line/>). Start strong!

Choose the right POV. Memoir writers often struggle with POV in memoir. "Should I write my query in first person? Third person?" In most cases, a query for memoir is best written entirely in first person. Why? Because a memoir tells the true story of *you*. And unless you regularly talk about yourself in the third person, your memoir query should capture your authentic voice.

Use the correct verb tense. A good query letter for a memoir tells a story in a natural way—just like the way you would tell a true story to an intimate friend. And so while query letters for novels often feature book blurbs in present tense, we recommend that the synopsis portion of a memoir query should be in past tense. Your query mimics real life.

Know your genre. If you're hoping for a massive book deal via a reputable literary agent, it can help to know the market, to see how other memoirs are positioned, and then, to use your query to highlight those elements that make your memoir unique and emotional.

True Story: How To Write A Query (Con't)

Remember the “uplifting” factor. Many breakout memoirs dwell on moments in a person’s life that are especially challenging—after all, the bigger the obstacle, the more emotional the reward. If your book tackles especially difficult material, consider trying to focus your query on the good things that came out of a bad experience.

Learn more about [factors that can affect the salability of your memoir](http://writersrelief.com/blog/2015/11/factors-that-affect-memoir-success/) (<http://writersrelief.com/blog/2015/11/factors-that-affect-memoir-success/>)

Cultivate a strong author bio. If possible, try to publish [short excerpts from your memoir](#) in magazines and literary journals prior to sending your book query to literary agents. Great publishing credits demonstrate that there’s existing interest for your work and that you are a skilled writer.

2 FAQs About Writing A Query Letter For A Memoir

My memoir is mostly true, but I’ve changed names and also added a few plot elements that didn’t really happen. Is that okay? Sure it’s okay. It’s your book and you can do anything you want. But if you’ve added in a love interest, an exploding car, or any other plot device that didn’t actually happen, then you’re not really writing a memoir anymore. Learn more about [how to deal with books that straddle the line between fiction and nonfiction](#).

I heard that only famous people are getting memoirs published these days. Is that true? Nope. Not true at all. Being famous obviously helps get a literary agent to be interested in your query letter. And we all know there are plenty of [celebrity memoirs](#) that, frankly, aren’t really worth reading. But even if you’re not famous, your memoir query letter might have a shot at securing interest if you have a compelling story to tell. It’s the story that matters most!

This article has been reprinted with the permission of [Writer’s Relief](#), a highly recommended author’s submission service. We assist writers with preparing their submissions and researching the best markets. We have a service for every budget, as well as a free e-publication for writers, [Submit Write Now!](#) Visit our site today to learn more.

Calls for Submission

For those of you new to submitting to literary magazines and journals, please remember this:

Check out the website of the journal first. Read some of their material. Know your market!

Send your best work.

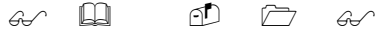
Follow the publication's guidelines to the letter.

Send what they asked for – don't send a 20,000 word essay to a journal that takes 5,000 word fiction. Don't send 10 poems to an anthology that requests 3.

If you get rejected, just let it go. Don't ask why – they won't answer. Just resubmit according to their guidelines.

The next OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS for Blue Heron Review will be from March 20th through April 20th, 2017. THE HEALING ISSUE: As always, Blue Heron welcomes all meditative, reflective, and metaphysical poetry. For this issue, Blue Heron is looking specifically for poems about HEALING. This can take any form you wish: physical healing, emotional healing, spiritual healing, global healing, and the healing of our planet. (See the Submission Guidelines page for full details.)

(<https://blueheronreview.com/>)

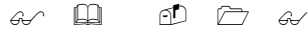


Calls for Submission

Aliens

Deadline: April 27, 2017

Cicada YA/teen lit magazine seeks fiction, poetry, comics, and essays on the theme of Aliens. Tell us a story of a stranger in a strange land, whether they be a three-headed visitor from the Andromeda Galaxy or just someone trying to navigate an unfamiliar place. Of course, feeling like an alien does not always have to do with physical location—sometimes you might feel like an alien in familiar spaces. We love works about extraterrestrials and outer space, but we also encourage authentic and diverse works about immigration, gentrification, and feelings of otherness and dissociation. Not welcome: cultural appropriation. cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17820/cicada-magazine-for-ages-14



Folktales, Myths, and Legends

Deadline: April 27, 2017

Cricket (for ages 9-14) and *Spider* (ages 6-9) are looking for retellings of folktales, myths, and legends from around the world. We seek tales of humorous tricksters, of adventurous heroes on epic quests, of clever and strong women, lovable fools, and formidable demons, as well as traditional wisdom tales and creation myths. Retellings should be lively and dramatic, with an authentic voice that engages the imaginations of our young readers. They must also be well researched, accurately reflecting the meanings and traditions of the story's cultural background. Please include a list of sources and your credentials with your submission. cricketmag.submittable.com/submit



<https://rigorous.submittable.com/submit>

Rigorous is an online journal highlighting the works of authors, artists, critics, and educators of color. They accept [all genres](#), and have a particular affinity for science fiction, superheroes, and other “geek” genres.



What is *Unlikely Stories Mark V*?

Unlikely Stories Mark V is the new incarnation of the electronic magazine, *Unlikely Stories*, which has been published on the Web, more-or-less continually, since 1998. We publish [poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction](#), especially [firsthand accounts of sociopolitical activism](#). We publish galleries of [visual art](#), [music](#), [spoken word](#), other forms of aural art, and [audiovisual presentations](#), by which we usually mean short movies, but we might mean something else. We publish [criticism](#) of all these art forms, when that criticism engages with the reader and aspires to art itself.



Calls for Submission

BY & BY POETRY

BY&BY POETRY

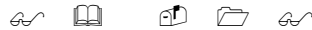
is looking for submissions to bolster their already stellar line-up for Issue 7. We only accept the best poetry available and we typically respond within a week. We want to read your words—<http://www.byandbylit.org/submit/>

By&By reads year-round. Above all, we are interested in publishing poets who are serious about their work. Quite simply, **we want your best.**

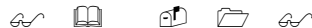
We welcome poems of any form, length, or style, but please limit submissions to five poems at a time. Please include a cover letter and short bio with your submission; we do read them. We would love to know why you've selected these poems for By&By.

By&By asks for First North American Rights to publish. Upon publication, all rights revert back to the poet. Please, however, grant us online archival rights, and credit *By&By Poetry* in any further publications of the selected work. If you receive a rejection letter, we ask that you kindly wait a few months before your next submission (unless we specifically request that you submit for the next issue). Currently, we are unable to pay the poets we publish.

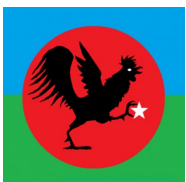
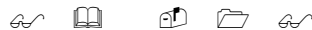
We aim for a speedy seven day turnaround time. If we haven't reached out to you within a month, feel free to gently prod us into action via Submittable.



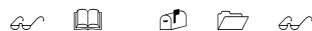
DRIFTWOOD PRESS: John Updike once said, "Creativity is a plus name for regular activity. Any activity becomes creative when the doer cares about doing it better." Driftwood Press accepts fiction, poetry, graphic narrative, and visual art. We're partial towards narrative poetry and stream of consciousness prose, but open to all literary styles. We offer premium one-week responses and guest editorships. <http://www.driftwoodpress.net>



THE GEEKY PRESS is seeking narrative essay, creative nonfiction, script, photo, and poetry submissions for an edited book titled *Dear America: Reflections on Race*. We want personal reflections from people who come from diverse backgrounds and want to share their American story. Guidelines: www.thegeekypress.com/race. Deadline: July 31.



Submissions are open for the debut issue of **THE OCOTILLO REVIEW** to be published Summer 2017. We are accepting previously unpublished Fiction, Poetry, Flash Fiction and Narrative Nonfiction. <http://www.kallistogaiapress.org/>



Contests



Glimmer Train very short fiction contest

CONTEST GUIDELINES

- The Very Short Fiction Contest is open to all writers.
- Any story that has not appeared in a print publication is welcome.
- We invite any length stories from 300 to 3,000 words.

DEADLINES

The Very Short Fiction contest is held twice a year and is open to submissions in March/April and July/August, with the following **deadlines**:

April 30 | August 31

NOTE: All contest deadlines have a one-week grace period.

READING FEE

\$16 per submission



Classes and Conferences

WRITING A MEMOIR

This course is designed for anyone who wishes to write about his or her life. The focus will be on writing short stories about your experiences, about everyday life, and about the people who shaped who you are. Handouts and charts will aid recall. You will have a chance to share your stories and receive feedback, though sharing is not mandatory.

ENG0048.1F6

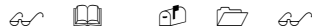
5 Sat., starts 4/8/17, 10:30:00AM NOON

Instructor: Susie Baxter

SF NW Campus,

FEE \$34.00

NOTE: Bring pen and paper for notes.



From our talented WAG Member, Perky Granger, comes this information on the Adirondack Mountain Writers' Retreat:

Adirondack Mountain Writers' Retreat

Registering now for June 2017

The Adirondack Mountain Writers' Retreat, open to a small group of men and women, is registering now for the event hosted in the Lake George region of New York's Adirondacks. This retreat, the 24th such event organized by WAG member Perky Granger, and led this year by author/poet/teacher/public speaking coach Ira Joe Fisher, begins the afternoon of Thursday, June 22 and ends Sunday, June 25. Held in a rental home with access to a small lake, the retreat offers workshops, free writing time, as well as opportunities to consult privately with Ira, and to share work aloud with the group for feedback. Participants may stay on site (expect to share a room) or commute daily. Family-style meals are prepared on site by participants. Participant cost may be reduced by arranging to supply a lunch or supper. For more information, visit www.PersisGranger.com or contact Perky at PersisGranger@aol.com.

Continued Next Page

Persis Granger

PersisGranger.com



Classes and Conferences

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

The Colrain Poetry Manuscript Conference



...and stunning views! We are now enrolling for our June 9-12 conference at Truchas Peaks Place in Truchas, New Mexico, returning for our seventh year to the gorgeous Sangre de Cristo mountains and a spacious, adobe-style retreat. Join us for a total immersion in a rigorous (and revitalizing) manuscript analysis with poet-editors [Joan Houlihan](#) (Founder & Director), [Rusty Morrison](#) (Omnidawn Press), [Hilda Raz](#) (University of New Mexico Press), and [Ellen Dore Watson](#) (Smith College).
[June 9-12, Truchas Peaks Place, Truchas, New Mexico.](#)

Colrain Conferences
c/o Concord Poetry Center
40 Stow Street
Concord, MA 01742
978-897-0054

Classes and Conferences

Wendy Thornton, WAG Member and newsletter editor, is teaching a class at Santa Fe College Community Ed beginning on April 6, 2017

WRITING A NOVEL: START TO FINISH

Do you want to write a novel? This course will teach you how to/whether you should outline your book, how to define your audience, follow classic story structure and get started. The course will also address the best ways to find inspiration and how to confront the blank page. You'll get solid tips on how to carve out time for your work and how to overcome the dreaded writer's block.





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.

