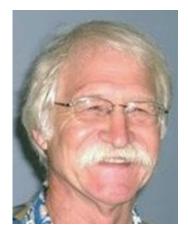


The WAG Digest

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4

JULY-AUGUST 2

WAG Speaker Series



Writing Songs, Writing Stories August 7 @ 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Musician, poet, and novelist Arthur Crummer will describe the essential elements common to both successful songs and stories at the monthly meeting of the Writers Alliance of Gainesville. The winner of ten blue ribbons in the Florida Old-Time Championships in singing and multiple instruments, Art became a judge. He has produced two instructional booklets and three musical CD's and written numerous original songs in addition to publishing Book I of a trilogy *Fixing Things*. Art, past president of the Writers Alliance, teaches guitar and writes poetry, creative memoir, and fiction. He is working on the second book of his trilogy and regularly returns to the Piedmont region of Western N.C., the locale of his novel Wrestling God, which is available on Ama-



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Writing a Memoir of Love, Loss and Survival September 11 @ 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Nancy Rankie Shelton, professor, researcher, and writer, will show how her memoir, 5-13: A Memoir of Love, Loss and Survival, adapts for any writer's personal story of surviving a lost love. She'll also tell how she found her publisher. Shelton teaches courses at the University of Maryland at Baltimore in Reading and Language Arts, Literacy/Culture, and Composition Theory/Practice. Her research interests, after teaching ten years in Florida schools, focus on children's writing development, the effects of mandated instruction on elementary literacy development, connections between literacy and art, and children's literature.



She has 23 publications that appear in premier academic journals or with leading publishing companies that specialize in literacy research and/or education policy. She earned her Ph.D., Ed.S, and M.A. from the University of Florida. Her B.A. is from SUNY at Albany.

Click here (http://garnpress.com/2016/book-announcement-5-13-a-memoir-of-love-loss-and-survival-by-nancy-rankie-shelton/) for a review of her memoir and more biographical information.

This meeting is open to anyone interested in the written word.

NOTE: The WAG Speaker Series is held at the Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville 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.





Congratulations to WAG Member **Richard Sanders**, whose book, **One Eyed Jack** is now available on Amazon and Kindle. Is One-Eyed Jack a hero or a villain? Jack moves through life in fast, action-packed adventures one step away from the hangman's noose, as he encounters Texas Rangers, Pinkerton agents, bounty hunters, Indians, Canadian Mounties, and the Chinese Tong. This is a good-time western read with little or no hidden meanings or underlying innuendos. It is what it is. Richard Sanders scribbled the story just as One-Eyed Jack told it. To buy a paperback copy, head to this site: https://www.amazon.com/One-Eyed-Jack-Richard-C-Sanders/dp/1534938079/ref=sr 1 15?ie=UTF8&qid=1470017593&sr=8-15&keywords=one+eyed+jack

Congratulations to our intrepid Communications Coordinator, **Joan Carter**, who completed the 7th Annual Run for Haven Hospice in March. Joan, we don't know how you do it all! The person beside her is our talented former Speaker Coordinator, **Carol Ray Skipper**.

Congratulations to WAG Member **Eddie Suggs**, whose book, **Stepping on Cracks**, is now available on Amazon. A college campus becomes the hunting ground for a fledgling serial killer. Unwittingly, a disturbed coed who believes she sometimes sees people's dark secrets in her nightmares, is both the trigger for his descent into madness as well as the key to stopping him. So, while the clock is ticking, the body count is rising, and another nightmare is unleashed upon the world. If you'd like to read this exciting thriller, go to: https://www.amazon.com/Stepping-Cracks-Hugh-E-Suggs-ebook/dp/B01HR8IVG2/ref=cm_cr_arp_d_pb_opt?ie=UTF8#nav-subnav

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville provided refreshments and writers to the Matheson Museum for their May event, Scribes of the Sunshine State. WAG Members **Mary Bridgman** and **Darlene Marshall** shared their unique memories of writing about Florida. Below are their bios:

Mary Wood Bridgman, a lawyer and former corporate executive, resides on the shores of Kingsley Lake in Clay County. Her professional writing has appeared in national, regional, and local publications, from Chicken Soup for the Soul to The Bradford County Telegraph. Mary has won honors from Writer's Digest, the Florida Writers' Association, and the Sandhills Writers' Conference. She has taught writing courses at the University of North Florida and has frequently contributed to public radio (WJCT 89.9 FM in Jacksonville). She currently contributes to Our Town Magazine and serves as Managing Editor for Bacopa Literary Review, published annually by the Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG).

Darlene Marshall writes award winning stories of romance and adventure, featuring pirates, privateers, smugglers and the occasional possum. She lives in North Florida and loves being a writer because her work wardrobe is shorts, sandals and tropical shirts with flamingos. The best days are when she puts the convertible top down and cruises over to the beach to do research. The Pirate's Secret Baby won the Award of Excellence from Colorado Romance Writers and the Readers' Choice Award from New England Chapter of Romance Writers of America (RWA). Castaway Dreams won the Aspen Gold Read-

er's Choice Award, and Florida-set The Bride and The Buccaneer received the First Coast Romance Writers Beacon Award for best historical. Her books are available in print, ebook format, Kindle editions, and also in German and Estonian editions.

As the Matheson director, Peggy MacDonald, said of the event, "Funny, poignant, and inspiring, the writers featured at Scribes of the Sunshine State all shared stories of their personal process that showed how essential Florida is to their work—or as Jack Davis eloquently put it, writers should be mesmerized by their surroundings.



Pictured here from upper left to lower right are Mary Wood Bridgman, Jack E. Davis, Kate Dupes Hawk, and Darlene Marshall. — at Matheson History Museum."

"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."

Wendy Thornton's poem, The Physics of an Empty Room, has been published in the United Kingdom journal, The Lake. http://www.thelakepoetry.co.uk/poetry/wendy-thornton/
Wendy will be teaching a continuing education class at Santa Fe College this fall, Publishing 1. The six-week course covers various aspects of publishing depending upon the interests of the class.
PUBLISHING YOUR WORK Whether you have a book of poetry, memoir, graphic novel, mystery, or other you no doubt want your work in print or available as an e-book. How do you get your work published in to-day's competitive market? Learn about the different types of publishing options available, how to prepare a query letter, find an agent or self-publish, depending on your individual needs.
ENG0002.1A1 6 Wed., starts 9/7/16, 6:00:00PM - 8:00:00PM Instructor: Wendy Thornton SF - NW Campus FEE \$54.00
To register, go to http://www.sfcollege.edu/cied/communityed/ The new classes will be posted soon.
•☐ ← ① □ ← ① Wag member Richard Gartee writes: Dear fellow WAG members,
Ann Arbor Review International Journal of Poetry has published two more of my recent poems. Here is a link to read them online: http://annarborreview.net/aArborReview_XVI/AARPg20.htm Congratulations, Richard!
Thank you to our July speaker, Author Mohana Rajakumar, for sending the following information:
WAG Members, you can get a free copy of <i>Coloured and other Stories</i> via the newsletter, available at this site: www.mohadoha.com/newsletter . Also, Mohana's "Book Sell Sheet" is available on the next page.
KAYE LINDEN's flash fiction "The Future Legend of How Rising Seas Drowned Saint Augustine and its Famous Statue" was published in the May edition Issue number 4 of The Young Raven's Literary Review.
http://www.youngravensliteraryreview.org/issue-4.html • 🚇 🐼 🗗 🗁 🚨

Congratulations to Catherine Ghosh who writes:

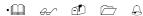
My Dear Friends,

I am happy to announce that the third, and last, book in the trilogy of anthologies that I've produced via the *Journey of the Heart: Women's Spiritual Poetry Project* has been published today, on this beautiful full moon! It is called **POETRY AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: Embracing the Awakened Woman.**

If you would like to take a peek at this new book that I felt so honored to work on these last few months, you may click on this link, which includes a video trailer: $\underline{\text{http://}}$

womensspiritualpoetry.weebly.com/our-third-book.html

It has been very meaningful for me to facilitate such projects as the women who participate often emerge feeling more confident in their voices, and eager to share their gifts. Building such a supportive sisterhood online has also felt like a wonderful blessing to many. I am very grateful to be able to serve women in this way, celebrating all the spiritual insights they have to offer the world! May women all over the world always feel that their value is being honored and their voices cherished.



A sad Goodbye to treasured WAG Member, **John Donis**:

WAG member John Donis, passed away on Friday, June 3. John wrote memoir and was an active participant in WAG's Writers and Readers of Memoir (WARM) Critique Pod, led by **Patsy Murray**. Several members of WAG attended his memorial service on June 14. A native of Philadelphia, John served 20 years in the Navy as a pilot. He flew more than 90 combat missions in Vietnam and received the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals. He later served as a test pilot for the F-14 Tomcat. After his Navy service, he led teams of analysts at the Institute for Defense Analysis in Alexandria, VA. He moved to Gainesville in 2000 and was an active and highly valued Guardian Ad Litem for Florida's Eighth Judicial Circuit. He is survived by his wife, Ida, and children Peter and Jean.





Flowers at Epcot—Photo by Wendy Thornton

A Useful Tool

Here's an example of a sell sheet:

PUBLISHER NAME (You could use a Twitter handle if you have one, and/or a logo) **Book category**

Book cover

Author

photo

Author: Name

Foreword by: Name

Format: Print

Other Formats: Kindle, ePub,

audio

Pages: 200

Price: \$3.99

ISBN: 109283857382

Publication Date: July 2015

Stockists: Amazon, Ingram

Book Title Subtitle

A [strapline]

More about the book. You want your main selling points here.

For fiction, this would be a short synopsis that lures the reader in to want to know more.

For non-fiction, you can use bullet points with the key themes. Think about how your book meets your potential reader's needs: heals their pain points, gives them information that will make a difference in his/her life.

Testimonials

"Couldn't put it down."

Name

"Changed my life."

Name

About the Author

Author Name has been ... and is qualified/experienced/interested in. He/she is currently ...

Your author bio needs to be short and memorable. Check out other authors' bios on Amazon for ideas.

We created this sample sell sheet by using a large text box and adding shapes inside it. You can download a template at: www.authorunlimited.com/sellsheet. Don't worry too much about the format, it's the content that really matters.



Does your writing capture the spirit of the moment? Literary agents and editors at literary journals are constantly on the lookout for submissions that speak to the state of the world we're living in now. They want writing that reflects, influences, or critiques our lives as they are today. They want contemporary voices, cutting-edge thinkers, and fresh perspectives on today's headlines. When you submit a well-written work that cuts to the zeitgeist of this era, you may be more likely to receive an acceptance letter.

Here Are Five Signs Your Submissions Are Relevant and Timely

- I. You tap into the emotional truths of the human experience. You explore classic themes that resonate across cultures, years, and demographics. You write about topics that make us weep or laugh—and those themes are intensely engaging, relevant, and universal, no matter the context.
- **2. You care about what's going on in the world.** Whether you're carrying a picket sign at a peaceful protest or watching events unfold on the news, you're aware of what's going on in the world today. Even if you're not actively writing about current issues, their impact will be felt in your work. Simple awareness of today's hot topics will keep your writing current.
- **3. You write—but you don't preach.** You don't sit down to write because you want to wag your finger and teach the world a lesson. You write because there's something you passionately want to express. A longing to make yourself understood drives you, not the urge to "correct" other people's opinions. Learn more about writing with a message.
- **4. You read what other people are writing.** Sure, you've read the classics. But you believe that contemporary writing is vital to understanding the world we live in. So you subscribe to lit mags and attend public readings when you can. You browse the "new fiction" or "new nonfiction" shelves in the bookstores. You listen to what other writers are saying and you write because you have something to say in return.
- **5. You're aware of trends.** Maybe you enjoy the challenge of writing in a "collaborative" way, toying with <u>current themes, styles, and forms</u>, and engaging with others in a national or global conversation. Or maybe you have no intention of writing anything trendy—in fact, you want to challenge trends (or start your own). Either way, the fact that you know what's relevant in the world of literature means you are plugged in, on topic, and ready to have your say.

Writing That Stands The Test of Time

Surprisingly, it's often the most era-specific works of literature that survive the onslaught of time and our natural human inclination to forget the old and turn to the new. <u>Literary works</u> that challenged injustice, captured the voice of a specific generation, or frightened readers into awareness of dystopic possibilities all remain on bookshelves today. So when you write for this moment, keep in mind—you're also writing for the future.

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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.

Conferences, Meetings, Presentations, Performances

For the past few years, the Writers Alliance of Gainesville has supported ArtSpeaks, a local poetry event, by providing various WAG performers and refreshments.

ARTSPEAKS "Bringing Poetry and People Together" features poets and spoken word artist. ARTSPEAKS is hosted by poet E. Stanley Richardson . Young people are particularly encouraged to participate.

Stanley writes:

OUR NEXT "ARTSPEAKS" EVENT WILL BE AUGUST 28TH, 2016 @ 5:00 PM At The Historic Thomas Center. 302 NE 6th Ave. Gainesville Florida Be sure to sign up early.

If you'd like to sign up for the next ArtSpeaks event on August 28th, check out this page on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ArtSpeaks-650257945026338/





Conferences, Meetings, Presentations, Performances



OTHER WORDS literary conference

http://www.floridarts.org/other-words-conference/

2016 Other Words Conference: The Literary Art of Writing Funny Other Words is coming **November 3-5, 2016** at Flagler College in St. Augustine. This year's theme is Writing Funny: The Literary Art of Humor. We imagine this to include writing humorous works in all literary genres. Essentially, our focus is on the intersections and interactions of comedy and literary writing. Let us reiterate that Other Words focuses on writing and not literary criticism. Be sure to join us!



Amelia Island Book Festival

Feb. 16, 17 and 18, 2017

http://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/

Celebrating books, people, culture, and creativity

NYT Bestselling & Number One International Bestselling Author Steve Berry returns as Festival's Honorary Chairman





Contests

BLACK WARRIOR REVIEW's Twelfth-Annual Contest

Is open now! Grand prize in each genre: \$1000 and publication.

Runner-up prize in each genre: \$100

Cost to enter: \$20 (comes with one-year subscription)

This year we are honored to have Hoa Nguyen (Poetry), Sofia Samatar (Fiction/Prose), and T Clutch Fleischmann (Nonfiction) as our guest judges. Send us your best work to-

day; we can't wait to read it! Deadline: September 1, 2016.

bwr.ua.edu



THE CONIUM PRESS 2016 BOOK & CHAPBOOK CONTEST

is open for fiction and hybrid submissions of any length. The winning author receives \$1,000, publication of the winning manuscript, ten author copies, and a copy of the judge's latest book. This year's judge is Matt Bell, author of several books, most recently the novel Scrapper. \$25 entry fee. September 1st deadline. Full guidelines at http://coniumreview.com/contests



Blue Mesa Review Annual

Fiction, Poetry, and Nonfiction Contest

Deadline August 31st

Our summer 2016 contest promises to be the best yet! We are very excited to announce the judges:

Poetry: Ocean Vuong Fiction: Jensen Beach

Nonfiction: Debra Monroe

First place winners receive a cash prize of \$500 each and publication in *Blue Mesa Review*. Second place winners will also receive publication.

Please submit up to 6,000 words of prose or a collection of 3 poems. You can enter via Submittable (https://bluemesareview.org/writing-contest/) for more information. We look forward to reading your work!

- The Editors at Blue Mesa Review

Fourteenth Annual American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest

https://www.zoetrope.com/contests/screenplays-2016/

Guest Judge: Francis Ford Coppola

	Date	Entry Fee	Time Remaining
Early Deadline	Monday, August 15	\$35	14 Days
Submission Deadline	Thursday, September 15	\$50	45 Days
Winners Announced	Wednesday, February 15		198 Days

The mission of the American Zoetrope Screenplay Contest is to find and promote new and innovative voices in cinema. Every script is read closely by a select handful of professional readers, and Francis Ford Coppola selects a grand prize—winner from among the top ten finalists. The grand prize—winner receives a cash prize, and the scripts of all top ten finalists are sent by Zoetrope to leading production companies and talent agencies for consideration.

The winner of the contest will receive the grand prize of \$5000. The winner and nine honorable-mentions will be considered for representation by William Morris Endeavor, CAA, The Gersh Agency, Exile Entertainment, ICM, Oasis Media, UTA, The Radmin Company, Prolific Entertainment, Energy Entertainment, and Dontanville/Frattaroli. Their scripts will be considered for film option and development by leading production companies, including: American Zoetrope, Samuel Goldwyn Films, Fox Searchlight, Sony Pictures Classics, IFC Entertainment, Paramount Classics, Verisimilitude, Lionsgate, Icon Pictures, Lleju Productions and Films, Second and 10th, Working Title, Dimension Films, Frelaine, Michael London Productions, Hope for Film, Kulture Machine, Number 9 Films, Folo Films, Pretty Pictures, Roserock Films, Benderspink, Astrakan Films, Industry Entertainment, Anonymous Content, Jim Wedaa Productions, Robert Evans Company, Fortis Films, Jean Doumanian Productions, Agape Media International, FX, and Ziskin Productions.

Before you enter the contest, please read the <u>Official Rules</u>. Answers to commonly asked questions about the contest can be found on <u>our FAQ page</u>.

With further questions, please email contests@zoetrope.com.



Calls for Submission

THE COSSACK REVIEW is reading submissions of fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and work in translation for our next issue. Since 2012 we have published meaningful new writing in our print and online issues. We look for work that is surprising and thoughtful; our favorite pieces are distinguished with an unusual capacity for psychological understanding. No submission fees. Our magazine wants more submissions from women, people of color, and new and diverse writers.

Visit our page: http://www.thecossackreview.com Submit: https://thecossack.submittable.com/submit



ENDPAIN is looking for high quality non-fiction narratives from writers, photographers, and artists of every stripe. Stories can be funny, horribly dark, or anything in between. But all should be intimate, emotionally honest, and moving. And all should help us to further understand something universally experienced and uniformly under discussed—pain. Submit your work: endpain.com/tell-us-your-story



MOTHER'S ALWAYS WRITE is a new online literary magazine, offering essays and poetry that are intended to honor parenting as life's greatest calling. We are seeking essays about the parenting experience (Dad writers are welcome too). We love deep, emotional writing that offers new insight. Please see our writers' guidelines for specific requirements at www.mothersalwayswrite.com (coming soon) and http://mothersalwayswrite.submittable.com/submit



STORM CELLAR seeks new, surprising writing and art: fiction, flash, poetry, creative nonfiction, hybrids, images in any medium. This is a literary journal of safety and danger. We like inventive, risky, aesthetically ambitious work; we like what we've not seen. Especially listening for under-represented voices and authors connected to the Midwest. Send your volcanoes, mantises, codes, and spells. Visit <u>stormcellarquarterly.com</u>. Submissions: <u>stormcellar.submittable.com</u>.

Dying Dahlia Review: Call for Submissions

Deadline: September 1, 2016

Dying Dahlia Review is seeking poetry, flash fiction, and cover art by women writers and artists for our first ever eBook issue. The issue will be released at the end of the year. For an idea of what we are looking for, visit our site and check out the archives. Please send up to 5 poems (each no longer than a page), 3 flash fiction pieces (no longer than a 1000 words each) or 3 images (no bigger than 5 MB each). Submissions for the eBook issue must be received by September 1st. For complete guidelines, please visit DyingDahliaReview.com.

Calls for Submission

shufPoetry Submissions Open

Deadline: August 31, 2016

shufPoetry is now open for submissions for Issue 7, Fall 2016. Submissions open until August 31st. shufPoetry publishes experimental genre bending work that pushes the very definition of poetry. In lieu of a contest, we will choose one poet to be our featured poet. Featured poets get \$100 (that's 1000 dimes), a feature on our website and full bragging rights. Take a look at what we like, and submit (submissions always free!). www.shufpoetry.com

Jazz Cigarette is Now Accepting Poetry Submissions

Deadline: September 30, 2016

Jazz Cigarette is looking for fresh, engaging verse for its Fall 2016 issue. Visual poetry and prose poems are welcome, and forms both experimental and traditional are encouraged. Everything from the natural to the social. We want to see with your words. www.jazzcig.com

Plenitude, Canada's Queer Literary Magazine, Seeks LGBTQ Writers

Submissions accepted year-round.

Plenitude aims to complicate expressions of queerness through the publication of diverse, sophisticated literary writing, graphic narrative and short film, from the very subtle to the brash and unrelenting. Since 2012, we have been publishing emerging as well as established queer writers, such as Betsy Warland, Michael V. Smith, Lydia Kwa, Ashley Little, and many more. We are seeking poetry, creative nonfiction, short fiction, novel excerpts, book reviews, and interviews. Currently, we offer a modest honorarium of \$25 per poem and \$60 per prose piece. LGBTTQ* writers only. Please see our website for details: plenitudemagazine.ca/submit/.

Happy Holidays! Submit to Themed Issue

Deadline: August 31, 2016

Sediments Literary-Arts Journal is starting Christmas in July with our next themed issue: "Happy Holidays!" We love everything Christmas, from decorating the tree, to baking cookies for Santa, to singing at Holiday concerts. But what we love most of all are the stories! Send us your holiday-spirited poems, short stories, and art. We're not strict on Christmas. If you have a Hanukkah story, submit it! Kwanzaa? Go for it! New Year's? Who doesn't love a sloppy New Year's kiss in the middle of Time Square? Visit sedimentslit.com/submit for more info and submission guidelines.



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.

