

WAG Speaker Series

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Finding Your Voice and Telling Your Story

June 12, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

On June 18 at 2:30 p.m., professional speaker [Lou Heckler](#) will help you see how your unique voice is the most important gift you can bring to your readers. He will also share techniques of story-telling he has used for over thirty-six years as a motivational speaker and coach.

Lou began his career as a television journalist and has worked at stations in Charlotte, Chapel Hill, Richmond, and Indianapolis. In 2012, he was the closing essayist every Friday night on the nationally-televised PBS television program, "Nightly Business Report." Lou has spoken professionally in 47 of the 50 states and a dozen countries. His specialty is crafting powerful messages filled with hope and practical ideas—always infused with his whimsical sense of humor. A few of his talks may be seen on [YouTube](#).

Lou and his wife Jonellen, a retired five-times-published novelist, live in Gainesville.



Getting Your Work Noticed

July 10, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Author Mohana Rajakumar, a South-Asian American, will cover these four points in her presentation, *Getting Your Work Noticed*, at the Millhopper Library on Sunday, July 10:

- How to use a blog/newsletter to grow your audience
- How to set up an online book-blog tour
- How to plan in-person events or a series of promotional appearances
- How to get your book reviewed

Formerly of Gainesville, Mohana has lived in Qatar since 2005. Moving to the Arabian Desert was fortuitous in many ways, she said, since this is where she met her husband, had two sons, and became a writer. She has since published eight e-books, including a memoir aimed at first time mothers, *Mommy But Still Me*; a guide for aspiring writers, *So You Want to Sell a Million Copies*; a short story collection, *Coloured and Other Stories*; and a novel about women's friendships, *Saving Peace*. Her coming of age novel, *An Unlikely Goddess*, won the SheWrites New Novelist competition in 2011.

Her recent books have focused on various aspects of life in Qatar. *From Dunes to*



Speaker Series

(Continued)

Dior, a collection of essays, was named as a Best Indie book in 2013. *Love Comes Later*, a literary romance set in Qatar and London, was the winner of the Best Indie Book Award for Romance in 2013. *The Dohmestics* is an inside look into compound life, the day-to-day dynamics between housemaids and their employers.

After joining the e-book revolution, Mohana said, she now dreams in plotlines. Learn more about her work on her website or follow her latest on Twitter: @moha_doha.

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.

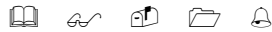


Photo by Wendy Thornton

WAG Brags

Congratulations to WAG Member **Mary Bridgman** for her oral contribution to the Chicken Soup for the Soul (Hers is the second story – see below for the link):

Mary Wood Bridgman's "Tell Them You Can Do It" is the second story on Chicken Soup for the Soul's April 4th Motivational Monday podcast. <http://chickensoup.podbean.com/e/motivational-monday-tell-them-you-can-do-it-fake-it-till-you-make-it>



Congratulations to **Kaye Linden** who writes:

My prose poem: "The Future Legend of How Rising Seas Drowned Saint Augustine and its Famous Statue" has been accepted for publication in issue #4. <http://www.younggravensliteraryreview.org/>



Kathy Connor Dobronyi's book is now available on Amazon. http://www.amazon.com/Under-Wings-Good-Luck-Phoenix/dp/1682227863/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1464655252&sr=8-1&keywords=kathy+Dobronyi

She writes: "*Under the Wings of a Good Luck Phoenix* is a narrative nonfiction coming-of-age memoir of when I lived in Saigon with my family from June 1963 to March 1964."

On my Author FB page, I've been sharing my mother's diary entrees from 1963-64 when we were in Saigon. (<http://www.kathydobronyi.com/about-me/>)



Wendy Thornton's story, "Things You Should Know about Me" will be published in the next issue of Steel Toe Review (<https://steeltoreview.com/>).



Thank you to WAG Members **Larry Brasington**, **Darlene Marshall**, and **Wendy Thornton** for their presentation on Outlining Your Book at the Millhopper Library on May 15, 2016. If you didn't get a chance to attend, here are a few helpful Web sites that might help you decide whether to outline or fly by the seat of your pants.



"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."

Writer's Resources

Article: How to outline your Book

<https://lisanowak.wordpress.com/outlining/>



[Climbing Mt.Story: How to Survive the Creative Journey](#)

A guest blog by Larry Brooks of [Storyfix.com](#)



<http://writetodone.com/climbing-mt-story-how-to-survive-the-creative-journey/>



Outline your novel: Why and How

<http://www.thecreativepenn.com/2010/01/25/outlining-novel/>



Planning, Outlining, and Organizing Your Novel – Or Not!

This article on how to outline your novel includes links to lists of various character types, personality types and even personality disorders.

<https://wordsharpeners.wordpress.com/2009/09/02/planning-outlining-and-organizing-your-novel-or-not/>



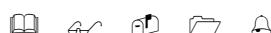
Writing Sci-Fi? Here's a good article on "World Building"

<http://blog.janicehardy.com/2013/08/world-building-101-foundation.html>



How to Structure a Killer Novel Ending

<http://www.writersdigest.com/online-editor/how-to-structure-a-killer-novel-ending>



Software for novel planning:

Scrivener – mostly for Mac

Page Four or Rough Draft – for Windows.

What Is Women's Fiction?

WritersRelief.com

Posted on May 19, 2016 by [Writer's Relief Staff](#)

[“Women’s fiction”](#) is a publishing industry term that’s rarely used by readers but is useful to writers, booksellers, and publishers. There’s just one problem: Few people agree upon what women’s fiction actually is. While romances, mysteries, and sci-fi novels often have pretty clear characteristics, women’s fiction is so wide, the parameters are difficult to define. Take a look at these “frequently asked questions” about women’s fiction to see if your writing qualifies:

Women’s Fiction FAQ:

What are the key characteristics of a women’s fiction novel?

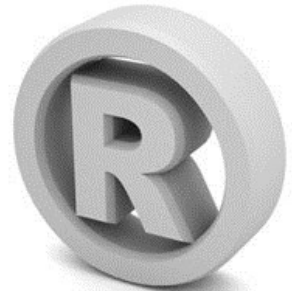
Women’s fiction embraces themes that revolve around the home, family, and community. Often, women’s fiction asks that characters overcome staggering real-life challenges—divorce, cancer, job loss, betrayal, etc. For that reason, this Salon.com writer was prompted to ask if women’s fiction is simply “[all misery and martinis](#).”

Is women’s fiction the same thing as romance?

Most often, people outside of the publishing industry hear the term “women’s fiction” and think that means [romance novels](#). But, while romances focus on romantic relationships that have happy endings, women’s fiction typically explores broader themes. Some women’s fiction novels do have central romantic storylines with happy endings, but those romantic plotlines are often counterbalanced by other concerns as well.

Is women’s fiction the same as chick lit?

[Chick lit](#) refers to a light, often comic genre focusing on young women working out problems of life and love, often in urban environments, with an emphasis on consumer culture. Think, *Sex in the City*. Women’s fiction is usually more serious in tone.



Women's Fiction (Continued)

Must women's fiction have a happy ending?

Not necessarily. [Women's fiction author Lisa Verge Higgins](#) has described a typical women's fiction ending as being "satisfying, realistic, and life-affirming," as opposed to "happy."

Does women's fiction have to be written by women?

Not at all! Many people feel Nicholas Sparks is a quintessential women's fiction writer.

Does women's fiction have to focus on the life of a heroine?

You may be surprised to learn that a male character can be the focus of a women's fiction novel. The key is whether or not the male character faces issues of modern life that follow core themes of women's fiction: home, family, interpersonal relationships, parenting, etc. Another factor to consider is whether or not the story appeals to a female audience.

Who is the target audience for women's fiction?

Women's fiction is for women. Usually, the audience is women who are no longer in their twenties.

Can women's fiction have elements of other genres in it?

Yes! Women's fiction stories might also feature some mystery, some romance, even some edge-of-your-seat thrills. Historical novels and magical realism novels might also be considered within the women's fiction realm, provided the themes are consistent with the genre. Women's fiction can take on [literary, mainstream, or commercial sensibilities](#).

Who are some examples of women's fiction writers?

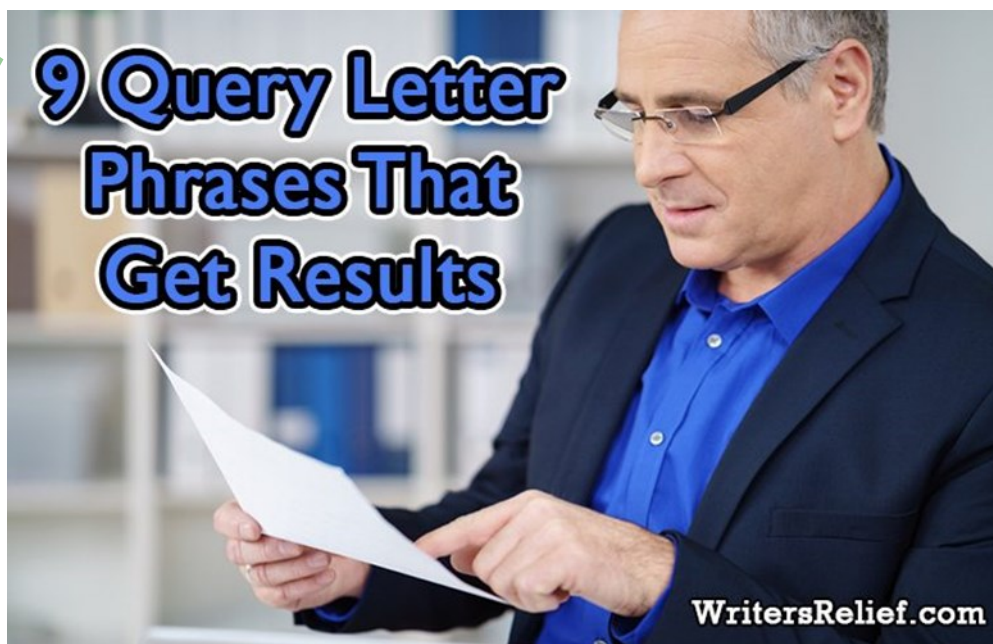
Jodi Picoult, Elinor Lipman, Alice Hoffman, Elizabeth Berg, and Alice Walker have been called women's fiction authors, though we can't say that these authors would identify themselves that way. Find a [list of women's fiction authors here](http://www.wrl.org/books-and-reading/adults/100-contemporary-american-women-fiction-writers) (<http://www.wrl.org/books-and-reading/adults/100-contemporary-american-women-fiction-writers>)

Should You Categorize Your Novel As Women's Fiction If Pitching To A Literary Agent?

If you're not sure whether or not your book falls neatly into the category of women's fiction, you have two options. First, do more research on book genres by [following these guidelines](http://writersrelief.com/blog/2011/07/determine-book-genre/). (<http://writersrelief.com/blog/2011/07/determine-book-genre/>)

If you're still confused about your genre, don't include that information in the [first line of your query](#)—leave it up to the literary agent to decide.





Posted on May 19, 2016 by [Writer's Relief Staff](#)

If you're [writing a query letter](#) asking a literary agent to represent your book, there are key phrases that might help your cause. Our expert query letter writers share the strategies that can get better results when used in our clients' letters.

Great Phrases And Sentences To Include In Your Query Letter

1. My XX,000-word [genre] book, Title Here.

[The first line of your query letter](#) is key: It lays the groundwork for everything that comes after. By putting the most important information first instead of burying it deep in the body of your letter, you demonstrate that you're not one for wasting time.

2. Thanks so much for your time. I truly appreciate it.

Cookie-cutter phrases that profess your gratitude won't make a personal connection with literary agents. Instead, choose language that feels natural and genuine when expressing thanks.

3. I hope to explore this book's series potential with you.

Instead of telling an agent that you've already written nine of the ten books in your series—when you haven't even sold the first one—express the possibility of a marketable series. If the literary agent shows interest in your first book, you can always go into detail about what's already written in further discussions.

4. I'm the author of Title Here (publisher, date).

If you forget to include your book publisher and date in your author bio, literary agents might peg you for a newbie. If you self-published, specify that as well!

5. I self-published this book in [year], but have only just started to approach literary agents. OR I self-published, but haven't done any marketing beyond friends and family.

If your book has been available but hasn't had many sales, it may help to explain why.

6. I am a member of XYZ Writing Organization and have attended the XYZ Writer's Conference.

No publishing credits? That's okay! The important thing is to show agents that you're taking your craft seriously. Learn more about how to [make the most of your author bio even if you haven't been published](#).

7. I have begun preliminary marketing efforts to build my audience on Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Even if you don't have a gazillion fans on Facebook yet, you can still show that you're actively setting the stage for a fabulous fan base. Learn more about [how to get more Face-](#)

Query Letter Phrases (Continued)

[book fans.](#)

8. I hope you'll visit my author website to learn more.

Directing a literary agent to your author website suggests that there's lots more to say, and it demonstrates that you take your online presence seriously. Tip: Web Design Relief creates affordable, professional [websites specifically for writers.](#)

9. When I'm not writing, I enjoy...

Because social media has had such a huge impact on book marketing strategies, it can help to demonstrate that you've got a personality that makes you likable, interesting, and warm.

Thank you to Writers Relief for use of this article:

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.



Photo by Wendy Thornton

Contests

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Verbolatry Laugh-a-Riot Contest 2016

Send us your funnies about writing, and win £100!

Entries are now being accepted for the Verbolatry Laugh-a-Riot Contest. Humorous essays and cartoons about writing/publishing.

Deadline 31 August 2016. Two categories, free and paid, with cash prizes and publication. Results announced October 2016. Sponsored by Anam Cara Writer's and Artist's Retreat. Details at

<http://devyaniborade.blogspot.com>

TWITTER: @v3rbolatry

<http://bit.ly/1pSghsz>

#Verbolatry #LaughContest



\$300 Hummingbird Flash Fiction Prize

Deadline: June 15, 2016

Got something short, sharp, and snappy to tell? Wow us with 1000 words of economical and brilliant storytelling. Final contest judge is flash fiction master, Bob Thurber. (Look him up! Seriously. You'll thank me later.) Entry fee \$15. Prize \$300 and publication in *Pulp Literature* Issue 13. Limited to 300 entries. Critiques available. Details, details: pulpliterature.com/contests/the-hummingbird-flash-fiction-prize/



2016 NANO Prize Now Open

Deadline: July 1, 2016

The 2016 NANO Prize, awarding publication and \$1,000 to a previously unpublished work of fiction 300 words or fewer, will be judged this year by Kellie Wells! To celebrate *NANO Fiction's* tenth birthday, the entry fee will only be \$10 for up to three shorts, and all entrants will receive issue 10.1. Winners will be announced in mid-August. nanofiction.org



2017 Press 53 Award for Poetry

Deadline: July 31, 2016

A \$1,000 advance plus a 1/4-page color ad in *Poets & Writers* magazine will be awarded to an outstanding, unpublished collection of poems. Tom Lombardo, Press 53 Poetry Series Editor, will serve as judge. Press 53 will publish the winning manuscript as a Tom Lombardo Poetry Selection under a standard publishing contract; all prizes will be awarded upon publication. Finalists will also be considered for publication. Deadline: Midnight Eastern Standard time, July 31, 2016. Winner and finalists announced on or before November 1. Reading fee: \$30. Complete information at www.press53.com/Award_for_Poetry.html.

Calls for Submission

***Collateral Literary Journal*—New Military Themed Magazine**

Submissions accepted year-round.

Collateral is a new online literary journal affiliated with the University of Washington, Tacoma. We showcase high quality creative writing and art that explores the impact of the military and military service on the lives of people beyond the active service person. These voices sometimes go unheard, and this journal captures the “collateral” impact of military service, whether it is from the perspective of the partner or child; parent or sibling; friend or co-worker; veteran, refugee, or protester. Our editorial vision is to be as inclusive as possible and ideologically diverse. We encourage submissions from professional and emerging writers. collateraljournal.com



Kind of a Hurricane Press

is seeking submissions for their upcoming anthologies. No simultaneous submissions, please. For more information, see their Web site:

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

Emergence

Theme: Emergence

(<http://www.kindofahurricanepress.com/p/anthology-emergence.html>)

Deadline: July 31, 2016

Emergence, our fourth anthology for 2016, invites original and previously unpublished poetry and flash fiction **in the theme of emergence**, however you choose to interpret or include that theme, to its pages. . .

Deadline for Submissions: July 31, 2016

Send **1-3 poems** or **1 flash fiction piece** (750 words or less) or **in the body** of an email to: kindofahurricanepress(at)yahoo(dot)com

Subject line of email: "[author's name] [Genre] Submission for Emergence"

Please include a third-person author bio with your submission.

By submitting their work, upon acceptance the author grants *Kind of a Hurricane Press* one time print/electronic publication rights. Upon publication, all rights revert immediately to the author. If a piece published in *Emergence* is later published elsewhere, we respectfully ask that you credit us as the original market.

Absolutely **NO** simultaneous submissions. The editor will do her best to review work and respond in as timely a manner as humanly possible. Simultaneous submissions just add unnecessary complications that interfere with that process.

Absolutely **NO** attachments. Any submission received that has an attachment will be deleted. (Please do not make me banish potentially excellent work for such a pointless mistake in following directions.)

Calls for Submission

What the editors want to see:

- High quality Free Verse poetry – literary, mainstream, and experimental forms are welcome
- High quality Flash Fiction
- Imagery that makes her feel something strongly – whatever that something is
- Prose Poetry is also welcome, but must be exceptional

Please note overtly violent (i.e. gore for the sake of gore) or racist materials are not welcome or appreciated.

Payment: contributors to our anthologies receive a free copy of the ebook version of that anthology. The ebook will be made available to the contributors prior to the print publication going to press. In the future, we hope to be able to provide monetary payment to our contributors, but we are not quite at that point yet.

We look forward to seeing your work!



The Quiet Circle:

Introspective Essays, Subtle poems, Gently Unreal Fiction

Submissions accepted year-round.

For its inaugural issue, *The Quiet Circle* seeks writing that journeys inward and cares about the human condition while avoiding flashiness or shock value. We seek fiction in non-realist categories (surreal, fabulist, speculative, and others) but we avoid harshness and spectacle in favor of depth. We desire sincerity and humanity in essays. We seek poems that maintain grace and gentleness even in revolution. thequietcirclemag.wix.com/home#!submit/cee5



SWAMP PAPER REVIEW

Poetry, Fction, Nonfiction, Visual Art, Swamp

Deadline: September 1, 2016

Swamp Ape Review is the new beast in South Florida's growing body of literature. We are a national online journal (produced by the MFA in Creative Writing at Florida Atlantic University) looking for original work in 5 areas: poetry, fiction, nonfiction, visual art (graphics/photography, multimedia, or video), and swamp—our fifth category for works that defy genre. Submissions will be accepted until September 1st for publication in winter. For more info and the "why" behind our name and nature, visit www.swampapereview.com.



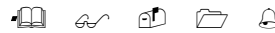
Calls for Submission

Young Adult: Duality and Doppelgangers

Deadline: June 20, 2016

Split it, reflect it, flip it, multiply it—*Cicada* YA lit/comics magazine is looking for poetry, fiction, comics, and humor dealing in doubles, division, dyads, and dichotomies. Send us your terrible twosomes: distorted mirrors, shape-shifters, uncanny similarities, life-stealing doppelgangers. What might you find in a reflection? A perfect copy? Sometimes you might only understand a thing by looking at what it is not. Duality might mean pitting two opposite but equal forces against one another—and not just good/evil or light/dark!

cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17820



KYSO Flash Calls for Your Best Short-Shorts

Deadline: June 15, 2016

Online journal *KYSO Flash* (Knock-Your-Socks-Off Art and Literature) seeks to publish memorable literature and visual arts. Short forms (fiction, “faction,” poetry, and hybrids) up to 1,000 words each, including title. Please submit original, unpublished works only. Works accepted for publication will appear in Issue 6 online and may be considered for our annual print anthology. Payment: One complimentary copy per contributor. Reading Period: 15 April through 15 June 2016. Admin fee: \$5 (USD) for up to five pieces. (No limit on total number of submissions, but each submission of 1-5 pieces must include an additional five-dollar payment.) Guidelines: www.kysoflash.com/Submissions.aspx



Photo by Wendy Thornton

Conferences

Okay, so we know that no Gators truly want to attend anything in Tallahassee, but let's face it – writers are multicultural. You might actually enjoy it. Just don't yell "Go Gators" in the middle of the conference!

Tallahassee Writers Conference – Sat. Sept. 24, 2016

presented by the Florida State University School of Information in conjunction with the TWA

(<http://www.tallahasseewritersconference.org/about-the-tallahassee-writers-conference/>)

About the Tallahassee Writers Conference

The Tallahassee Writers Conference provides aspiring and established writers with the opportunity to network and learn more about their craft.

The Tallahassee Writers Conference and Book Festival is organized annually by members of the [Tallahassee Writers Association](#).

The 2016 Tallahassee Writers Conference and Book Festival will be held on Saturday, September 24 at the [Augustus B. Turnbull III Conference Center](#) at Florida State University.

The conference brings in world class talent to cover topics ranging from mysteries, non-fiction, and young adult literature to marketing and promotion in the modern age of publishing.

Whether you are a beginner or an advanced writer of poetry, fiction or nonfiction, you will have the opportunity to mix and mingle with other writers, editors, agents, cover designers, publishers and more!

Attend the Tallahassee Writers Conference for the opportunity to:

- Meet other writers
- Learn practical information that you can use
- Get energized, motivated and inspired
- Find new markets for your work
- Meet editors, agents and publishers
- Participate in onsite contests
- Win prizes

Spend time with other writers, ignite your muse, and feed your writer's soul!

Sign up to our [mailing list](#) to receive up-to-date information about the 2016 Tallahassee Writers Conference and be ready to reserve your spot!



Photo by Wendy Thornton



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.



Photo by Wendy Thornton