

- Literary or Popular Writing?
- Workshops, Conventions, Retreats

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# The WAG Digest

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2015

## Speaker Panel - National Novel Writing Month - October 11, 2:30 pm – Millhopper Library



NaNoWriMo, [National Novel Writing Month](#), takes place internationally every November. Past participants will tell us about their experiences with this fun, go-for-it approach to creative writing. On November 1, professional and amateur writers

from around the world will begin working toward the goal of writing a 50,000-word novel by 11:59 p.m., on November 30. More than 300,000 people participate in the friendly challenge. The prize for finishing is finishing, and anyone can win.

The panel will focus on the pros and cons of participating in NaNoWriMo from people who have done it; how to discipline yourself to stay focused and get the job done; how to plan ahead for November; and how to survive the challenge in general. Three speakers who have participated in NaNoWriMo and are winners are scheduled: two Alachua County Librarians, Gail Carr (Headquarters) and Jennifer Kinser (Tower Rd), and Hannah E. O'Neal, who at the tender age of fifteen is working on her fourth novel. They did it! The parent organization of NaNoWriMo organizes events where children and adults find the inspiration, endless encouragement, and structure they need to achieve their creative potential.

Be a winner... Write 50,000 words with NaNoWriMo.



### November 8, 2:30 pm – Millhopper Library

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG) will present the **Bacopa Literary Review for 2015**, the 6th annual edition of their print journal. Contest winners of cash prizes, chosen from entrants from around the world, will be announced. Prizes are awarded for first, second, and third place in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. Selections from *Bacopa* will be read by the local authors and by editors on behalf of authors not able to attend. Attendance free. *Bacopa* will be available free to WAG members and for \$10 to nonmembers.

#### Venue for the WAG Speaker Series:

Alachua County Library (Millhopper)

3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL  
32615 United States

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.



Remember – there will be no Speaker Series in December. Instead, stay tuned for our annual Holiday Party. Thanks to WAG Board member Ann-Marie Magne for this creative Save-the-Date notice!

#### SAVE THE DATE!

WAG's annual Holiday event will take place on  
Sunday Dec. 13, 2015  
from 6:00 to 9 p.m.

This free, fun and festive event is for WAG  
MEMBERS only,  
plus one guest per member.

Don't be left out! "Book" the date! It will be a  
"novel" party.

The entertainment is a "mystery!"  
You'll have so much fun you could put it in a  
"memoir."

# WAG Brags

## "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."

The WAG Board of Directors is pleased to announce a couple of changes in membership. **Sharon Ketts** has stepped down as Vice President but we are pleased to announce that she will continue the great job of updating the WAG Facebook page that she's been doing. And we'd like to welcome our former social coordinator, **Ann-Marie Magne**, as the new WAG Vice President. Thank you to both for your excellent service.



Local poet **Lola Haskins** has spoken to the WAG group many times. She has the following upcoming event:

DISTANT EARLY WARNING! Mark your calendars! December 6 (Sunday) at 2:30 PM in Meeting Room A, fifth floor, Downtown Public Library. An illustrated reading, celebrating the publication of *How Small, Confronting Morning*, **Lola Haskins'** new collection of poetry set in inland Florida. This reading is dedicated to Lars Andersen and to Cynthia Barnett, in gratitude for their exemplary dedication to the natural world.



From WAG Member **Kaye Linden** –

An old story finally found a home. Sending the link for WAG information. <http://www.literaryjournal.in/index.php/clri/article/view/75/62>  
Congratulations, Kaye!



Join WAG member **Sandra Lambert** for a free presentation at the Alachua County Library, downtown:

**Submitting to Online Journals: The Whys and Hows**—Why should you publish online? What are the differences between online and print journals? How do you choose an online journal? Do online journals accept previously published work? What goes in a cover letter or bio?

Presented by **Michele Leavitt and Sandra Gail Lambert** on Sunday, October 18th, 2pm at the Headquarters (Downtown) Library in Meeting Room B. Free

**Michele Leavitt's** poetry collection, *Back East*, won the Michael Macklin Prize, and her creative non-fiction won the William Allen Prize from Ohio State University. She is a high school dropout, former trial attorney, and hepatitis C survivor who has taught writing, literature and critical thinking in New England, Japan, Florida, and Idaho. Her writing has been accepted by a variety of both print and online journals including *Guernica*, *Gravel*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *The Journal*, and *Passager*. <http://micheleleavitt.com>

**Sandra Gail Lambert** writes fiction and memoir. Her novel, *The River's Memory*, was published in 2014. Some of the places her writing has appeared are *The North American Review*, *Brevity*, *New Letters*, *Hippocampus*, *The Weekly Rumpus*, and *Water-Stone Journal*. One of her essays has been nominated for "Best of the Net." <http://sandragailambert.com>



**Wendy Thornton** has put out an e-book of humorous essays, *Animal Crackers*. The e-book is available on Amazon at [http://www.amazon.com/Animal-Crackers-Wendy-Thornton-ebook/dp/B0053SVXU0/ref=cm\\_cr\\_pr\\_pl\\_footer\\_top?ie=UTF8](http://www.amazon.com/Animal-Crackers-Wendy-Thornton-ebook/dp/B0053SVXU0/ref=cm_cr_pr_pl_footer_top?ie=UTF8)

# WAG Brags

Congratulations to WAG Member **Catherine L. Ghosh** whose book, *Where Journeys Meet: The Voice of Women's Poetry*, just reached #1 on the Amazon new release bestseller in poetry by women. Great work, Catherine!



## Becoming a Writer

The Alachua County Library is sponsoring a program on "Becoming a Writer," from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at the High Springs Branch, 135 NW 1st Avenue, High Springs, FL 32643. Several authors, members of the Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG), will talk about how they became writers, followed by a Q&A and book signing. This program is free and open to the public. A map and directions may be found on the library's [website \(http://www.aclib.us/high-springs\)](http://www.aclib.us/high-springs)



## Bacopa Literary Review Openings for New 2016 Editorial Board

The 2015 *Bacopa* Editorial Board is turning over the reins to a brand new editorial board beginning in January with the 2016 edition. After many years of service, the Board feels it is time to open the opportunity for other WAG members to serve in this exciting literary capacity.

The current Editorial Board consists of the Editor in Chief (EIC), Associate Editor, Managing Editor, and three Genre Editors: Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Nonfiction. Going forward, these particular roles can be adjusted based on the skills and interests of the new board members.

In general, all Editorial Board members participate in the final selection of works for *Bacopa* based on the initial recommendations of the genre editors. Editors need to be reasonably computer literate since all submissions are online through Submittable. Editors also participate in outreach/networking efforts to solicit submissions and promote *Bacopa*. Going forward there is a particular need to increase *Bacopa's* outreach to the highest quality global print and online writing communities.

The Editor in Chief should be able to work well with others, have the ability to shape policy and the book through leading the board to consensus toward goals and decisions on content etc., should be able to objectively assess works on merit, and should have some awareness of literature and current literary culture and trends.

The Managing Editor should be tech literate, able to facilitate advertising to solicit submissions, and must learn and work with the Submittable software. This editor draws up production and print schedules, and works with the layout vendor as well as with Amazon's CreateSpace production team.

The Genre Editors—Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry—should have a working knowledge and or publishing history in the genre. They read all their genre's General and Contest submissions, select "Publish" and "Maybe Publish" works, and recommend Prize selections for consideration and final selection by the entire *Bacopa* Editorial Board.

If you are interested in serving on the 2016 *Bacopa* Editorial Board please email a brief one-page letter of interest and your publications and/or your print production experience to Jani Sherrard, [jsher@cox.net](mailto:jsher@cox.net) by November 15, 2015. We also welcome nominations, but please check with the individual and secure their agreement before submitting name(s).

## Where Journeys Meet



## The Voice of Women's Poetry

Edited by Catherine Ghosh  
& the Journey of the Heart Poets

# Golden Opportunity

## Sell Your Books at Thornebrook!

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville has been invited to participate in the 2015 [Thornebrook Village Art Festival](#), Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, WAG authors may sell their works at this event, which will feature 130 artists.

If you are a WAG author and wish to participate, contact [Wendy Thornton](#) ([floridawendy54@gmail.com](mailto:floridawendy54@gmail.com)). Two or more WAG members will “man” the WAG booth at all times and are expected to present a personable and professional image in promoting their own works and those of fellow WAG members. Wendy will be creating the schedule during the week of Oct. 5-9 so get your requests in now if you want to participate. Be aware that if you’d just like to support other WAG members and help sell their books but don’t have one of your own yet, you are welcome to join the team.

If you plan to sell your books at Thornebrook:

- Consider creating flyers, bookmarks or handouts in advance to give to potential buyers at the book sale. Sometimes, customers don’t have money to purchase right then, or they prefer to order a digital copy of your book online. It’s a good idea to let them know where they can purchase your book if they cannot buy it at the festival.
- Consider pricing your book for the festival goer. For example, if you sell your book for \$13.57 on Amazon, consider a special festival price of \$10.

Remember that the purpose of this book sale is to support ALL WAG members, so please be sure to help your fellow authors when it’s your turn to “man” the booth.

Thornebrook Village  
2441 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville, 32606



Photo by Wendy Thornton





## Golden Opportunity, Too



And stay tuned for more information – we will also be selling our books at the Gainesville Downtown Arts Festival, Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Gainesville Downtown Festival & Art Show

The nationally recognized Downtown Festival & Art Show transforms downtown Gainesville into a masterful blend of art, music and entertainment and draws a crowd of more than 100,000. Presented by the City of Gainesville Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, the festival celebrates its 34th anniversary in 2015. For two days, visitors can leisurely stroll through historic downtown and marvel at works from more than 240 of the nation's most talented artists, who display their original oils and acrylics, vibrant watercolors, captivating sculptures, dazzling jewelry, decorative ceramics and vivid photography. With such a diverse array of unique art displayed for sale and competition, the Downtown Festival & Art Show is a great way to purchase one-of-a-kind art for you or a friend. On Saturday, Nov. 14, and Sunday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., visitors can meet the exhibiting artists, enjoy live music and sample international cuisine. Since its creation, the Downtown Festival & Art Show has risen dramatically in national rankings. Since 1996, it has ranked among the top festivals in the nation and has steadily climbed in rankings in recent years. The Downtown Festival & Art Show was ranked No. 14 on Sunshine Artist magazine's "200 Best" list of top fine arts festivals in the nation.



Photo by Wendy Thornton



## How Can I Help?

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville is a dynamic organization. In our brief existence, we have gone from a few interested people to hundreds of members, we have become a Florida non-profit and a Federal non-profit, we have put out a literary magazine, had public readings, monthly speakers, parties and events. We've been invited to speak at some of the major Gainesville venues including the Harn and Matheson Museums, libraries, etc. Our organization is constantly growing. Would you like to be more involved? Here are some opportunities:

- 1. Photography:** We need someone with a good camera to take quality photos at WAG events for the website and the *WAG Digest*.
- 2. Research:** Could you search writing magazines and websites for upcoming writer conferences and workshops that could be listed on WAG's website and in the *WAG Digest*?
- 3. Member outreach:** Would you be interested in welcoming new members and getting them involved?
- 4. Website:** Are you interested in . . .

**Writing articles** about our Sunday programs? Check out this one by WAG member Bonnie Ogle about guest speaker Nathan Whitaker, <http://writersalliance.org/event/you-cant-get-there-from-here-how-i-became-an-author>.

**Blogging?** What writing-related topic would you like to write about? Here's an example of what we're looking for: <http://writersalliance.org/5-ways-to-bounce-back-from-rejection>

- **Learning Wordpress?** Training is available for members interested in assisting with updates.
- 5. Writers' workshop/retreat:** WAG will sponsor a workshop/retreat on Saturday, March 5, 2015. Is there a topic you could teach to a group of 5-10 people? Would you like to serve on the Planning Committee?
  - 6. Staff positions:** Members of WAG's all-volunteer staff—elected officers, as well as editors and coordinators—normally serve for two years. Which position are you most capable of filling?

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Bacopa Editor-in-Chief  
Fiction Editor  
Creative Nonfiction Editor  
Poetry Editor  
Associate Editor  
Managing Editor

Critique Pod Coordinator  
Membership Coordinator  
Program Coordinator  
Publicity Coordinator  
Social Events Coordinator  
WAG Digest Editor  
Webmaster

# How Can I Help, Too?

## Fandomonium 2016

Dear WAG Members,

We recently received an invitation for a few of our members to participate in the Fandomonium 2016, sponsored by the Alachua County Library District. The program is planned for April 9, 2016 (time TBD) at the Headquarters Library.

The Topics:

**Comics:** Not just a boyzone

**Ethical Cosplay:** Race, culture, disabilities, gender

**Tabletop Gaming 101:** Pitfalls and pro tips

**Stories about Time Travel:** TV Outlander, Doctor Who, etc.

**Creating Imaginary Races Doesn't Erase Racism:** How real-world racism bleeds into secondary worlds

**Toxic Masculinity as Villain:** All encompassing TV/movies, comics, etc.

If you are interested in sitting on a panel, please reply to me on or before October 15, 2015. The library has asked that we gather a list and submit it to the Fandomonium committee. Someone from the committee will contact you. If you have questions, please save them; hopefully, they will be answered when you are contacted. **Please do not call the library.**

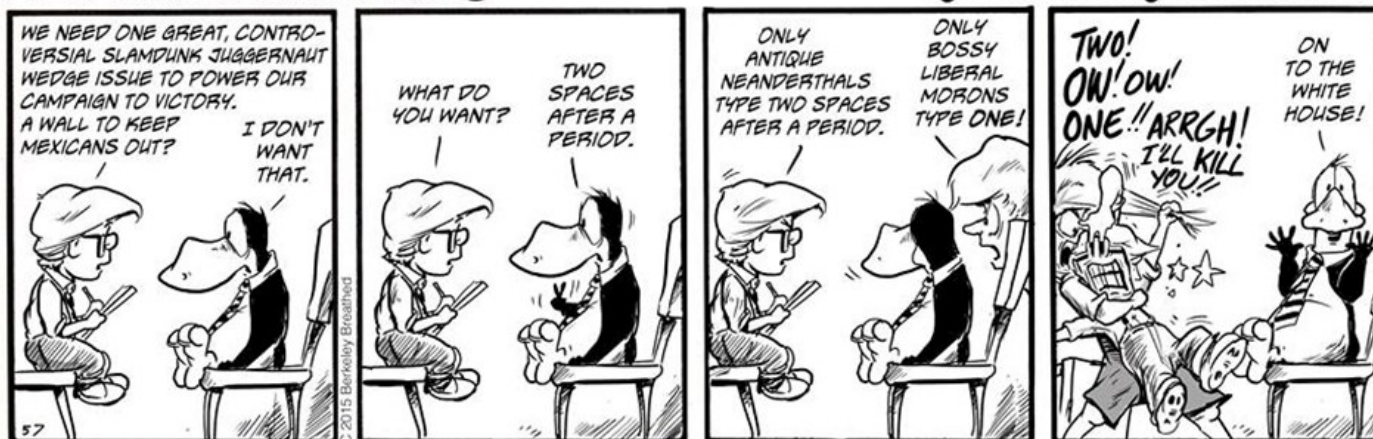
Thank you for your support,

[programs@writersalliance.org](mailto:programs@writersalliance.org)

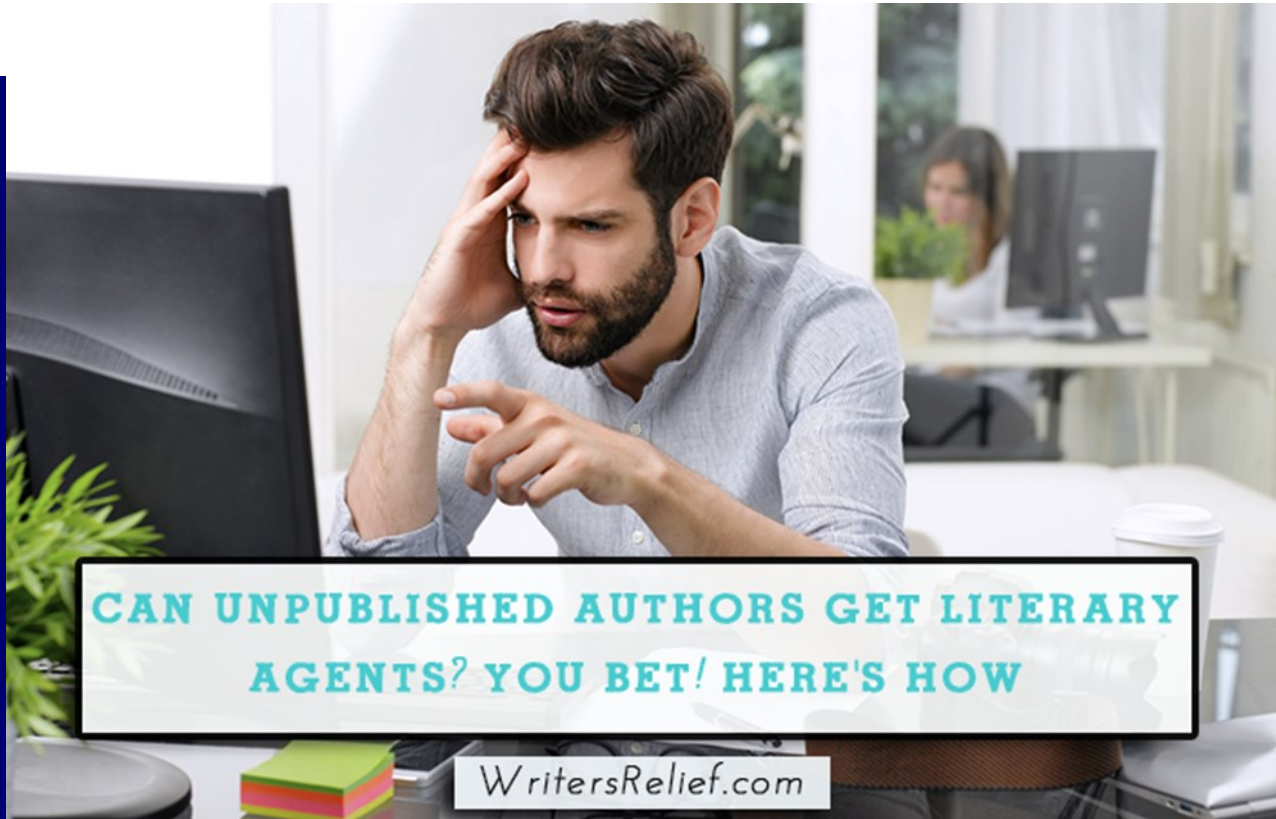
Carol Ray Skipper, WAG / Program Coordinator

## BLOOM COUNTY 2015

by Berkeley Breathed







## CAN UNPUBLISHED AUTHORS GET LITERARY AGENTS? YOU BET! HERE'S HOW

WritersRelief.com

Some unpublished authors still believe that old chestnut, “you have to be published to get published.” But here at Writer’s Relief, we are often able to connect new writers with literary agents. Yes, the statistics may seem daunting and insurmountable—but it’s not impossible to get a literary agent even if you’ve never been published. Here’s how!

### Six Steps For Unpublished Writers Who Want A Literary Agent To Represent Their Book

- Step 1. Join a [writers association](#).** While meeting regularly with a writers group is a wonderful way to stay inspired and on track, keep in mind that you’re going to need experienced, *professional* advice to get your book published. A writers association will make it easier for you to network with industry experts, ask them smart questions, and increase your odds of getting a literary agent.
- Step 2. Be sure your book meets the criteria of your genre.** It’s a competitive marketplace, especially for new authors who are trying to break in. So along with mastering the craft of writing, be sure your book has every advantage by knowing your genre and checking to see if your book meets the word count specifications of that genre. If the submissions that literary agents receive are anything like the submissions our Review Board receives, agents can eliminate about HALF of all book submissions based on inappropriate word count alone.
- Step 3. Try to build your publishing credits.** Not every new writer will be able to approach literary agents with an impressive writing bio. And not every writer *has* to. In fact, some of our unpublished clients experience immediate success in their first round of submissions. If you are able to take the time and build some publishing credits, the effort can only help ([here’s why](#)). But if you feel ready to submit your book to literary agents even though you’re a new, unpublished writer, here are some things you can do to [make your bio look great](#).



# Get a Literary Agent (Con't)

**Step 4. Build your author platform, starting with your author website.** Because many traditional publishers expect writers to do so much of their own marketing and promotion, establishing a website is KEY—even if your book is not published yet. By building a website, starting a Facebook Author Page, and opening accounts on other social media sites, you'll show literary agents that being unpublished doesn't mean you're without ambition! And remember this: It's not the quantity of your followers that counts; it's the quality of your interactions.

From effectively targeting markets, writing dynamic query letters, building authors' online platforms, and much more—find out how Writer's Relief can boost your exposure and maximize your acceptance rate.

**Step 5. Write a killer query letter.** Writing a great query letter isn't easy (*that's* the understatement of the year). You'll need to have a masterful grasp of industry etiquette, as well as a strong ability to effectively summarize your own work. If you would like to put our 20+ years of writing successful query letters to work for you, contact Writer's Relief for more information.

**Step 6. Submit your book to many, many literary agents.** And then, send it to even more agents. While some people think an unpublished writer should send only a few query letters to literary agents at a time, we've seen unpublished writers get an acceptance from a literary agent on their 100th try (and it's happened more times than we can count). So submit, submit, submit! And if you would rather be writing than submitting, you know who to call. (Okay, it's not the Ghostbusters—it's us!)

This article has been reprinted with the permission of Writer's Relief, an author's submission service that has been helping creative writers make submissions since 1994. Their work is highly recommended in the writing community, and there are TONS of freebies, publishing leads, and writers resources on their website. Check it out! (<http://writersrelief.com/>)



Photo by Wendy Thornton

## BOULEVARD SHORT FICTION CONTEST FOR EMERGING WRITERS

\$1500 AND PUBLICATION  
ENTRIES CLOSE 31 DECEMBER 2015

## Contests

**Boulevard is accepting entries for its annual short fiction contest for emerging writers. The winner will receive US\$1500 and have their story published in the magazine.**

Boulevard is an American literary magazine established in 1985 and based at St. Louis University in Missouri. Boulevard aims to publish the finest in fiction, poetry and non-fiction and was described by Poet Laureate Daniel Hoffman as 'one of the half-dozen best literary journals'. The magazine has been edited throughout its history by [Richard Burgin](#), a five-time Pushcart Prize winner.

Boulevard's Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers is open people who have not yet published a book of fiction, poetry or creative non-fiction with a nationally distributed press. Stories may be up to 8000 words and must be previously unpublished.

The 2014 contest was won by [Courtney Sender](#) for her story 'The Disappearance of J. Frank Donaldson'.

An entry fee of \$15 is payable but all entrants will receive a one-year subscription to the magazine. The contest is open to writers around the world and entries may be submitted online or in hard copy.

Entries for the Boulevard Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers close on **31 December 2015**. For full entry information and conditions visit the [Boulevard](#) website.

Between 1 October and 1 May, Boulevard also welcomes [unsolicited submissions](#) from both established and emerging writers. The minimum payment for prose is \$100, maximum \$300.



## ENGLISH IS HARD

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,  
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.  
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,  
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.  
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,  
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,  
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?  
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,  
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?  
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,  
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,  
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,  
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,  
But though we say mother, we never say methren.  
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,  
But the plural is not the, this, or thim!



grammarly

- ADAPTED FROM AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR

# Calls for Submission

## South 85 Journal Submission Guidelines

South 85 Journal accepts submissions for its Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Poetry categories during its formal reading period, **September 1 through April 30**. We accept artwork and blog submissions year-round. Reviews are written on assignment only, and we accept applications for reviewers year-round. Check out [our Submittable page \(https://south85.submittable.com/submit\)](https://south85.submittable.com/submit) for more information



## Santa Fe Literary Review: Call for Submissions

Deadline: December 1, 2015

[SFLR](#) is now accepting creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, bilingual works, comics, graphics, art, and photography. This year's suggested theme is Invisible Borders. Prose submissions should not exceed 2500 words. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for our response; original submissions will not be returned. Mail poetry and prose submissions to: Kate McCall, *Santa Fe Literary Review*, 6401 Richards Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87508. E-mail art (via jpeg) to: [sflrartsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:sflrartsubmissions@gmail.com) Deadline for Submissions: December 1, 2015.



## CONSEQUENCE Magazine Fiction Prize

2015 Consequence Magazine Fiction Prize Guidelines

**Judge: Jesse Goolsby**

\$250 Honorarium and Publication

SUBMIT: September 1, 2015 – October 15, 2015

Entries must capture the nuances of the cultures and consequences of war; the topic is not limited to military operations, but includes social, political, cultural, and economic issues. All entries will be considered for publication. All entries will be considered anonymously.

Your name should NOT appear anywhere on the story itself. Entries must be submitted

online, and a \$10 entry fee is payable through PayPal. Go to

[www.Consequencemagazine.org](http://www.Consequencemagazine.org) / Contests.

Send no more than one story. CONSEQUENCE will not consider work from anyone currently or recently (within the past 2 years) affiliated with the prize judge. (The judge for the 2015 Prize is Jesse Goolsby.) Each story must not exceed 15 double-spaced pages in 12 point font. Previously published works (print and electronic) and works accepted for publication elsewhere cannot be considered. Stories that do not meet submissions requirements will be disqualified. Simultaneous submissions are acceptable, but the contest fee is non-refundable if the submission is withdrawn. Please notify the editors as soon as possible if a submitted story is accepted elsewhere.



# Calls for Submission

## CONSEQUENCE Magazine Poetry Prize

2015 Consequence Magazine Poetry Prize Guidelines

**Judge: Tom Sleigh**

\$250 Honorarium and Publication

SUBMIT: September 1, 2015 – October 15, 2015

Entries must capture the nuances of the cultures and consequences of war; the topic is not limited to military subjects, but includes social, political, and cultural issues.

Entries must be submitted online. A \$10 entry fee is payable through PayPal.

Go to [www.Consequencemagazine.org](http://www.Consequencemagazine.org) / Contests.

CONSEQUENCE will not consider work from anyone currently or recently (within the past 2 years) affiliated with the prize judge. (Previous judges have included Afaa Michael Weaver, Brian Turner, Martha Collins, Fred Marchant, Joyce Peseroff, and Kevin Bowen.)

Previously published works (print and electronic) and works accepted for publication elsewhere cannot be considered. Poems that do not meet submissions requirements will be disqualified. All entries will be considered for publication. Simultaneous submissions are acceptable, but the contest fee is non-refundable if the submission is withdrawn.

Please notify the editors as soon as possible if a submitted poem is accepted elsewhere.

Guidelines:

- All entries will be considered anonymously. Your name should NOT appear anywhere on the poem itself.
- Entries must be submitted online. A \$10 entry fee is payable through PayPal. Go to [www.Consequencemagazine.org](http://www.Consequencemagazine.org) / Contests.
- Please submit no more than 3 poems of any length.
- Poems must be formatted in 12 point font.
- Each poem must begin on a separate page.
- In a separate cover letter please include a short biography of no more than 75 words.
- Your entry must be received by October 15, 2015.



Photo by Wendy Thornton



# Calls for Submission

## Cricket Media Calls for Submission

Cricket Media seeks fiction, non-fiction, and poetry submissions for its literary magazines for children and teens: *Cicada* (ages 14 and up), *Cricket* (ages 9–14), and *Spider* (ages 6–9). Please visit [cricketmag.submittable.com](http://cricketmag.submittable.com) for general guidelines and to submit.

## Call for Submissions: Knights and Castles

Deadline: Monday, October 26, 2015

*Cricket* and *Spider* are looking for stories, poetry, and nonfiction exploring the theme of Knights and Castles. We seek not only traditional historical fiction and legends, but also stories with a contemporary spin—realistic fiction about a modern quest or metaphorical “knight,” or fantasy fiction and sci-fi. We especially welcome twists on traditional character roles—a girl who pretends to be a boy to become a knight, or a bold youth who doesn’t want to be a knight like his father but aspires to be a court musician or jester. Exploring different cultures within this theme—such as a friendship between a Christian and a Muslim in Moorish Spain—can be especially rich. Humor, too, is always welcome. And remember: Here there be dragons!

**Call for Submissions: Flash Fiction** - Deadline: Monday, October 26, 2015

Wanted: your flash fic. Submit!\*

\*Limit: 750 words. Oh! Who are we? We edit *Cicada* the finest YA lit/comics mag in the land!

Relevant to our interests: teens, literature, literature about teens, vikings, robots, *Sherlock*, feminist fairy tales, SFF, and cookies. Especially excited to hear from LGBTQIA+ writers, writers with disabilities, and writers of color. Bonus points if your story plays with form: a grocery list, a GoFundMe, a Twitter feed ... (Listen, we never said we were good at brevity. We're not. That's where you come in.) (And your flash fic.) SUBMITTTTTTTTT!

**Jestine Ware**, Assistant Editor

**Cricket Media**

[jware@cricketmedia.com](mailto:jware@cricketmedia.com)

(312)701-1720 X343

<http://www.cricketmedia.com>

<CallforSubs24AUG2015.pdf>



## Conferences, Classes and More

### MFA in Creative Writing

The University of Tampa **Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing** is a low-residency program designed to help poets, fiction writers and creative nonfiction writers advance their command of craft through exposure to literature from a writerly perspective and with supportive critique and mentoring. The course of individualized study covers four semesters over two calendar years, followed by a fifth culminating residency. Our program focuses on individualized instruction, while fostering the rich interplay of participation in an extended literary community; as working writers, all of us seek to deepen the understanding of writing as an ongoing engagement with discovery and transformation. Students attend four, 10-day working residencies on UT's historic campus in downtown Tampa, on the banks of the Hillsborough River. Each residency is followed by a semester-long one-on-one tutorial with a faculty mentor focused on the student's written work and readings as negotiated in an individual plan of study.

As part of the requirements for the degree, the student completes many drafts and revisions, resulting in the master's thesis, a substantial manuscript of original work in the selected genre. Along the way, the student reads and comments on works that have shaped the genre, completes a 25-page critical essay in the third semester and assembles an annotated bibliography that conveys the importance and influence of great writers on their own work. In the fifth, culminating residency, the student teaches a seminar on a pre-arranged topic of interest and gives a public reading of his/her own work. Each semester grade is pass/fail accompanied by a narrative evaluation composed by the student's mentor. All students have the opportunity to serve in an editorial capacity on [Tampa Review Online](#), the 100 percent MFA student-edited cousin of the award-winning *Tampa Review*.

**[Apply online](#) or contact the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies at [ut-grad@ut.edu](mailto:ut-grad@ut.edu) or (813) 258-7409.**

- See more at: <http://www.ut.edu/mfacw/#sthash.gpWEAqO7.dpuf>



Photo by Wendy Thornton

# Conferences, Classes and More

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<http://www.creativenonfiction.org/online-classes>

## Online Classes

Tell your story, better.

Creative Nonfiction's online classes give you the opportunity to learn in a small classroom environment on your own time. Write at night, on your lunch break... even in your underwear. All you need is an Internet connection and a little motivation.

Participants receive personalized feedback on assignments from their instructor, as well as responses from classmates on discussion board forums. All [instructors](#) are university professors and/or working professional writers--and there are never more than 14 students in any class. Conversation, firm deadlines, and feedback help keep you writing and improving your work throughout the class.

Whether you're just starting out or looking for an advanced class to help you refine and polish your work, we have a course for you. Class sessions begin in January, March, July, and September. Because of the flexible nature of our courses, we can gladly accept students from all across the globe.

## Winter Classes: Now Enrolling

### January 11 - March 20

Advanced Memoir & Personal Essay - Curriculum B (10-week class)

*This class is suitable for both new students and those who have taken our previous Advanced Memoir - Curriculum A class. It includes a completely different set of readings and lectures from Curriculum A.*

**Instructor: Lisa Ohlen Harris** - This class is designed for those who have already explored the basics of personal writing and wish to move on to a larger project or more challenging forms. Participants can choose one of two paths, working either on sections of a memoir or on personal essays in a variety of styles. Class members will learn how to structure their chapters or essays, how to incorporate research into personal writing, how to develop character, how to use descriptive language effectively, and more. We will examine personal essays and memoir chapters from published authors to analyze their writing techniques, and discuss ways to use those techniques in our own writing. If participants wish to submit work that does not strictly fit the assignments given they can arrange to do so with the instructor.

[Learn More / Enroll »](#)

Creative Nonfiction Boot Camp (5-week or 10-week class)

**Instructors: TBA (5-week) and TBA (10-week)** - You want to do it. You mean to start that writing project ... eventually. Now is the time to put excuses aside and start your writing project. Creative Nonfiction's special boot camp sessions will do just that by providing firm deadlines, writing exercises, and weekly feedback. Along the way you'll also develop the habit of writing regularly which will serve you well all through 2015 (and beyond!). After 5 weeks, if you've completed the minimum number of assignments, you'll have an essay of between 3,000 and 6,000 words, or at least a dozen passages to use as starting points for future essays. Five weeks not enough? Sign up for a full 10-weeks of Boot Camp. Not only will you get a discounted rate; you'll get double the deadlines and support. [Learn More / Enroll »](#)

## Conferences, Classes and More

### Foundations of Creative Nonfiction - Curriculum A (10-week class)

*This class is suitable for both beginners and those who have taken our previous Foundations of Creative Nonfiction - Curriculum B class. It includes a completely new set of readings and lectures.*

**Instructor: Meghan O'Gieblyn** - Creative Nonfiction is a versatile genre that accommodates a vast array of styles and approaches. This course is designed to introduce students to the many sub-genres of creative nonfiction and the possibilities of the form. Students will have the opportunity to try their hand at different types of essays, including memoir, the profile essay, participatory journalism, and the immersion essay, among others. In the weekly lectures and discussions, we will talk about basic craft issues and discuss other writerly skill sets, such as performing research and conducting interviews. Readings will include classics from each genre of creative nonfiction, as well as more recently published work. Students will write three 3,500 essays and participate in three optional writing assignments. [Learn More / Enroll »](#)

### Blogging for the Writer (10-week class)

**Instructor: Becky Tuch** - These days, it's not unusual for writers to have a blog. This can be a terrific forum for writers to talk about issues that are important to them. Yet, if handled poorly, a blog could be just another voice in the vast internet sea. How do you get readership for your blog? How do you make your blog pieces distinct and resonant? What should you blog about? Should you start your own blog or try to pitch pieces to blogs already running? How do bloggers regularly come up with new ideas? In this multi-week workshop, we will discuss "best practices" for successful blogging. We will look at examples of outstanding blog posts in order to understand why certain pieces resonate with readers. We will also look at blog pieces that don't quite hit the mark in order to understand what's missing. The basics of marketing and driving internet traffic to one's blog will also be covered. Students can expect weekly writing prompts which will be workshopped. You will come away with a deeper understanding of why blogging is fun and how to blog successfully. [Learn More / Enroll »](#)

### Narrative Medicine (10-week class)

**Instructor: Ellen Ficklen** - This class will guide all types of medical professionals (doctors, nurses, researchers, aides, social workers, etc.) through the various skills needed to write and publish narratives—personal stories of their experiences in health care (and those of others in the field). We will cover every step in the writing process, from brainstorming to researching to writing to revising, as well as the steps needed to pitch and publish an article or essay. Our instructors—experienced writers of health care narratives and creative nonfiction—will communicate with participants through a combination of written lectures, written feedback, and email. In addition, the class will include phone conferences with guest lecturers Theresa Brown and Manoj Jain. [Learn More / Enroll »](#)

### Selling Your Work: A Writer's Guide (10-week class)

**Instructor: Emily Stone** - You've enjoyed reading great essays in Esquire, The New Yorker, and of course Creative Nonfiction, but by some counts there are also more than 1,000 "little magazines" out there waiting for the next Best American Essays writers to look in their direction. But how do you break in? This class introduces creative nonfiction writers to the culture of literary periodicals, writing fellowships, and publishing. Through weekly assignments and lectures, you'll learn how to assemble a literary writer's toolkit and navigate the world of small-press and online publishing. You'll also learn about the fellowship opportunities available for emerging writers looking for time and funding to support their writing, and get an introduction to the basics of large-press publishing. Just as importantly, you'll get out there and begin submitting your work. [Note: This class was formerly named Publishing & Funding.] [Learn More / Enroll »](#)



# Conferences, Classes and More

Spiritual Writing (10-week class)

Information coming soon.

The Thirty-Minute Memoir (10-week class)

**Instructor: Joelle Fraser** - Patterned after our popular Boot Camp course, this class is designed to help break the potentially overwhelming task of writing a memoir into manageable daily writing. Each week will focus on a different aspect of memoir writing, from opening chapters to scenes involving dialogue. Every weekday participants will be encouraged to post 300 words of new writing, and at the end of the week they will choose 1,000 words from the week's work to submit to their instructor for comment. You must post at least three times per week in order to receive feedback from the instructor for that week—ensuring that you're motivated to stay on task. By writing for 30 minutes a day (or longer, if you choose), you'll finish the class with 60 pages of a memoir draft, and receive invaluable feedback and support along the way. [Learn More / Enroll »](#)

Writing the Personal Essay - Curriculum B (10-week class)

*This class is suitable for both beginners and those who have taken our previous Writing the Personal Essay - Curriculum A class. It includes a completely different set of readings and lectures.*

**Instructor: Barrett Swanson** - In this class we'll take a close look at the writing and research skills needed to write a memoir or personal essay, and refine them over the course of 10 weeks. We'll discuss how to best use essential literary elements such as detail, dialogue, structure, and description, as well as how to collect information through interviews, research, and other methods. Participants will complete three essays, and will also be given optional shorter exercises that can later be developed into longer works. There will be substantial time spent on revision, that magical process that takes a pleasant anecdote and turns it into a breathtaking essay. Participants will receive personal feedback on their work from the instructor and feedback from other class members via Group Review sessions. [Learn More / Enroll »](#)



## ICFA 37

Thirty-Seventh International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts

Marriott Orlando Airport Hotel

Theme: Wonder Tales

March 16-20, 2016

<http://www.fantastic-arts.org/annual-conference/icfa-37/>



Photo by Wendy Thornton



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**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 WAG Member Mary Adams