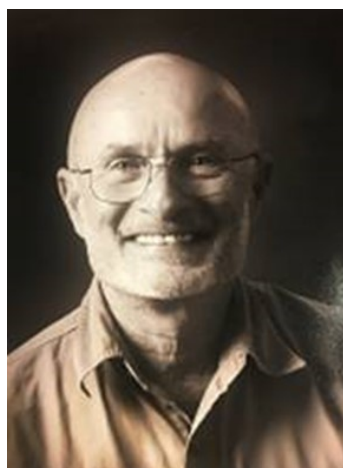


WAG Digest

Volume 9, Issue 4

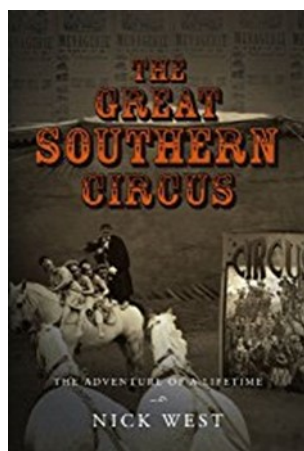
July—August 2017

WAG Speaker Series



Nick West:
Writing Historical Novels

Author Nick West will describe how he threads family stories—many of them passed down through five generations—into page-turning historical novels. He is the author of four books:



Join us for the next edition of the WAG Speaker series August 13, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM at the Millhopper Library.

The Great Southern Circus (2010) entertains with stories of Orton and Older's Great Southern Circus, which performed in eighteen states from Wisconsin to Florida, just before the Civil War. The author weaves together the tales passed down from his great-great-great-grandmother, Miranda Madderra, one of the circus performers.

The Long Road Home (2011) follows the characters in *The Great Southern Circus* as they traverse the difficult and painful years of the American Civil War.

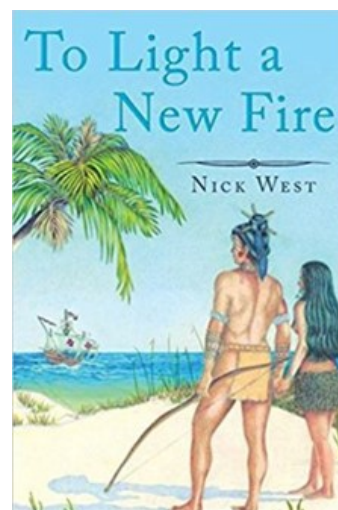
The Sandspur Special (2014) relates the adventures of West's ancestors as they moved from Sand Mountain, Alabama, to Archer, Florida, in 1917 to farm in what was then a semi tropical wilderness.

His most recent book, *To Light a New Fire*, chronicles the lives of a young Timucua native Floridian during the period of first European contact in the mid 1500's. The book is based on the Potano village that existed for over

12,000 years on the edge of Payne's Prairie.

Remember, parking can be tricky – please get there early.

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



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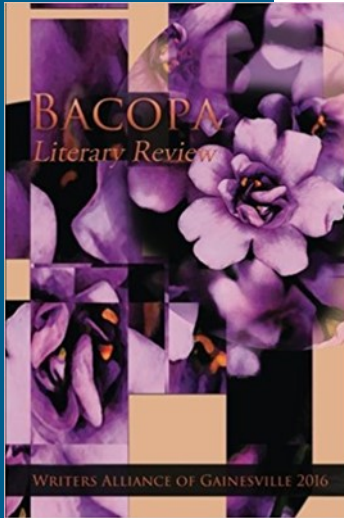
WAG News and Info

WAG Membership Advantages

NEW BACOPA ASSOCIATE EDITOR, CYNTHIA D. BERTELSON

Bacopa Literary Review's new Associate Editor, **Cynthia D. Bertelsen**, is a writer and photographer who's published numerous essays, book reviews, and photographs, both online and in print. Her book, [*Mushroom: A Global History*](#), sprouted from her blog, "Gherkins & Tomatoes" (gherkinstomatoes.com), while her magical realism novel-in-progress grew from the roots of medieval mysticism and herbal healing. For inspiration in her art, she draws upon her experiences while living and working in Mexico, Paraguay, Honduras, Haiti, Morocco, Burkina Faso, and France. She's joined us just in time to share production tasks and help promote *Bacopa* 2017, including its debut at the November 5 WAG meeting in the Millhopper library:

https://www.amazon.com/Bacopa-Literary-Review-2016-7/dp/1539140253/ref=sr_l_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1501343550&sr=1-5&keywords=bacopa



Marketing Coalition

September 2, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Social Media will be the topic at the Marketing Coalition meeting on September 2, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Library Partnership Branch, 1130 NE Sixteenth Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

At the October meeting, **Mallory O'Connor** will discuss websites.

All WAG members are welcome to these sessions. For more information about this group, contact Pod Coordinator [Skipper Hammond](#).



WAG FACEBOOK COORDINATOR NEEDED

A big thanks to WAG member **Sharon Ketts** for her service as WAG's Facebook page administrator! Ketts posts timely announcements, enlightening articles, humorous anecdotes about writing, and links to other writing-related websites. WAG members and writers far and wide enjoy and benefit from these posts.

Continued Next Page

WAG News and Info

The number of followers has grown exponentially during Ketts' tenure. If you are not a follower already, check out [WAG's Facebook page](#) today.

Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG) Facebook page, July 23, 2017

At the end of August, after more than two years of service, Ketts will step down as our Facebook page administrator and give other WAG members the opportunity to bring their talents into focus.

If you are interested in assisting with Facebook (or with Twitter or other social media) contact [WAG President Kimberley Mullins](#). If you have a Facebook page yourself, you know how it works. But if you need more information about what's involved with the administration of WAG's Facebook page, send your email to facebook@writersalliance.org.



One of the benefits of the Writers Alliance of Gainesville is you get a bimonthly newsletter delivered right to your e-mail address. The WAG Digest allows you to post information about writing related events and publications. Deadline for submission is 10 days before the publication date. Here is the breakdown of the issues:

Jan/Feb	January 31	Deadline – Jan. 21
March/April	March 31	Deadline – March 21
May/June	May 31	Deadline – May 21
July/August	July 31	Deadline – July 21
Sept/Oct	Sept. 30	Deadline – Sept. 20
Nov/Dec	Nov. 30	Deadline – Nov. 20



WAG BLOG POSTS

Get the WAG Blog delivered right to your e-mail inbox. Go to the WAG Website and sign up here:

<http://writersalliance.org/blog/> (Bottom left hand corner). If you're not signed up, look what you're missing:

Blog Topics

[Editing](#) (3)

[How To](#) (14)

[Legal Issues](#) (1)

[Marketing](#) (3)

[NaNoWriMo](#) (3)

[Publishing](#) (5)

[Volunteering](#) (4)

[WAG Membership](#) (8)

[Writer's Craft](#) (20)

[Writer's Life](#) (6)

[Writing Groups](#) (5)

If you'd like to write a blog for the WAG Website, go to this site and contact one of our board members with an idea <http://writersalliance.org/about/>



Would you like to help young kids learn to write? WAG President **Kimberley Mullens** and WAG co-founder **Wendy Thornton** have been working with local organizations to teach children about creative writing.

WAG Brags

We are pleased to announce a new program, in conjunction with the **Alachua County Library**, a local author reading series. More information about each of the readings listed below will be available as they come closer. Thank you to WAG member **Richard Gartee** for assistance in putting this program together.

Local Author Series Readings Fall 2017 through Spring 2018

All Readings at 2:30 PM

Alachua County Library District Headquarters

401 East University Avenue

Gainesville, FL 32601

All are in **Meeting Room A** on the fourth floor (except the December 9, 2017 Children's program)

Saturday, September 16, 2017 — Mallory M. O'Connor

American River: Tributaries, Book One of the American River Trilogy

In the mid-1800s, three immigrant families—Irish, Mexican, and Japanese—settled along the banks of the American River in Northern California. A century later only one family remains. From the concert halls of Europe to Kyoto's ancient avenues, and Manhattan's artist's lofts to San Francisco's North Beach, the members of a new generation—artists, musicians, poets and politicians, the inheritors of their immigrant ancestors' hopes and dreams—make their way through the turbulent decade of the sixties. But when an unexpected tragedy brings the three families together, they find that they are torn apart by conflicting opinions, dangerous secrets, engrained prejudices, and their own lofty ambitions.

Set against the natural beauty of Northern California, O'Connor weaves a complex tapestry of interrelationships and betrayals that captures the mood and resonance of a decade that began in innocence and ended in dismay.

Mallory M. O'Connor grew up in Northern California near the American River. She has degrees in art, art history, and American history from Ohio University. She taught art history at the University of Florida and at Santa Fe College for more than twenty years. She is also the author of two non-fiction books published by the University Press of Florida. Mallory resides with her husband, artist John O'Connor, in Micanopy, Florida.

Sunday, October 22, 2017 — Gene Cowell

Gene Cowell's second novel, ***Bring Me the Gypsy***, set in 1964-65, follows American Gypsy Dix Arcos, who believes he's found a safe haven in a remote Florida fishing village, listening to Mozart, sailing his beloved boat Mariposa—and occasionally running bales of high-grade Mexican marijuana from the Gulf to New York City. It's nearly an ideal life, until two bodies turn up in a nearby swamp and Dix suspects his volatile partner is the killer. Dix's pursuit of evidence puts him at risk of his own life, when his iron-fisted boss orders him to commit a crime he refuses to execute.

Gene Cowell is the author of novels *Cousin Raymond* and *Bring Me the Gypsy*. His fiction and non-fiction writing has appeared in numerous publications including *Best American Short Stories*. He lives with his wife Linda in Alachua, Florida.

WAG Brags

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, November 19, 2017 — Susie H. Baxter

Pumping Sunshine, a memoir

Sunday, December 3, 2017 — Richard Gartee

Lancelot's Disciple, novel

Saturday, December 9, 2017 — Bonnie T. Ogle & Judith A. Barrett

Held in the Story Woods room in the Children's Department

Pink Baby Alligator, Children's book

Sunday, January 21, 2018 — Darlene Marshall

The Bride and the Buccaneer, Romance

Sunday, February 18, 2018 — Robert Crow

Nudge & Boost for Better Living: A Semi-Autobiographical Novel on Using the ABCs of Human Behavior.

Saturday, March 17, 2018 — Wendy Thornton

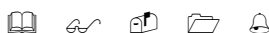
Sounding the Depths: A Memoir with Music - Nonfiction

Saturday, April 21, 2018 — Daniel Blumberg

The Rise and Fall of MechaniKalle, Sci-Fi Fantasy

Saturday, May 12, 2018 — K. E. Mullins

In the Company of Strangers, Thriller, Chick Lit

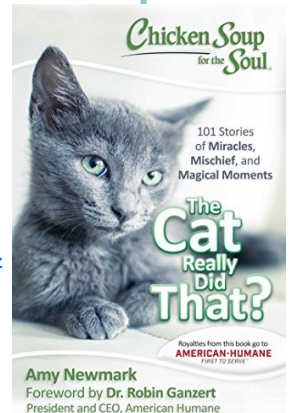


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WAG Brags

Congratulations to **Connie Morrison** for publication of her story in the latest Chicken Soup for the Soul book. For those of you not familiar with this anthology, the Chick Soup books are extremely competitive! See the Calls for Submission section for some information about upcoming deadlines. Great job, Connie!

You can buy a copy of the book here: https://www.amazon.com/Chicken-Soup-Soul-Miracles-Mischief-ebook/dp/B01MYMXDN0/ref=sr_l_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1494027451&sr=8-1&keywords=chicken+soup+for+the+soul%3A+the+cat+really+did+that%3F



Wendy Thornton's poems, *Never Underestimate the Ring of Fire*, and *Fire Tower*, have both been published in the *All for One*, Issue #18 edition of the online literary journal, The Wild Word - <http://thewildword.com/>.

She has also been invited to teach another publishing class in the fall at Santa Fe College:

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 today'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.

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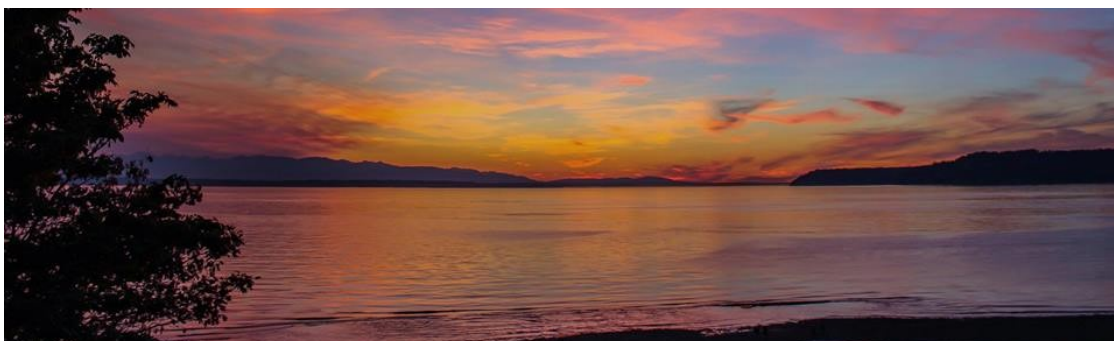
6 Wed., starts 9/6/17, 6:00:00PM - 8:00:00PM

Instructor: Wendy Thornton

SF - NW Campus

FEE \$54.00

Sign up here - <http://www.sfcollege.edu/cied/communityed/> or come the first day of class (let Wendy know if you do this so we hold a space – floridawendy@cox.net)





Posted on February 4, 2016 by [Web Design Relief Staff](#)

Here are some tips to make readers fall in love with your website.
Create an Author Website That's A Real Heartthrob

1. Dress to impress.

You wouldn't show up to an important rendezvous looking shabby, unkempt, or unfashionable—unless you wanted your date to bolt. Keep your website fresh, up-to-date, and well-groomed so that your visitors will stick around and get to know you better. And you don't necessarily need an expensive makeover; even [simple website updates](#) like changing the color scheme or updating your headshot can really revitalize your site.

2. Don't be a cheapskate.

A fast-food joint isn't usually the best venue when you're trying to impress a date. It's one thing to be smart about budgeting, but it's another to cut corners and settle for something that is substandard. When it comes to Web design, there's nothing wrong with wanting the best possible price. But [a cheap site can sometimes cost more than what you bargained for](#). All your supposed savings can be quickly spent fixing unexpected problems and paying hidden fine-print fees. Remember: If a Web design company's offer looks too good to be true—it probably is. Choose quality first. (Learn more about [Web Design Relief's](#) budget-friendly, writer-specific websites!)

3. Set the mood.

The way you set the tone for a special evening says a lot about you—and sets you apart from the competition for your sweetie's attention! As a writer, having a clear, easily identified [author brand](#) will help you successfully market your work. When you can be recognized by the topic, genre, and unique quality of your writing, your audience will be able to immediately distinguish you from other authors. So when you create your author website, [maintaining the mood of your unique](#)

Having a website
should be the
cornerstone of
your online
strategy

Continued Next Page

Make Readers Fall in Love (Con't)

[brand](#) through visual continuity is a must when choosing design elements.

4. Don't be pushy.

The quickest way to sabotage a potential relationship is to hard-sell yourself. The same is true if you're trying to market your book on your author website. A much more effective way to build sales via your website and social media is to [entice rather than sell](#). Let potential agents, editors, and readers get to know the real you: Share your interests and inspirations. Then they'll be more inclined to consider representing you, publishing you, or buying your book.

5. Move from "just dating" into a relationship.

You've done your best to impress your date, but your ultimate goal is to move your relationship to the next level. When it comes to [turning your author website's visitors into repeat fans](#), the sooner that happens, the better. Give them reasons to commit to staying connected by building an interactive website featuring a blog, your publication credits, [book trailers](#), excerpts—maybe even giveaways! Be sure to encourage visitors to sign up for your email list so you can keep them up-to-date on your latest news.

Good relationships require attention and nurturing to keep them going strong—and so does your connection with your fans. It's not always going to be easy to maintain an effective author platform, but if you invest your time and energy wisely, you are very likely to reap the reward of a faithful and growing fan base!

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.



The
quickest way to
sabotage a
potential
relationship is to
hard-sell
yourself.

Contests

Blue Mesa Review

Each year Blue Mesa Review holds a writing contest in Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction. The 2016 judges are: Ocean Vuong for Poetry, Jensen Beach for Fiction, and Debra Monroe for Nonfiction. We encourage you to submit your very best work online through our submissions manager. First place winners receive a cash prize and publication in Blue Mesa Review and second place will also receive publication. We look forward to reading your work!

<http://blumesareview.org/writing-contest/>

Guidelines

Submission Period

June 1 – August 31

Award

Publication, \$500 cash prize

Eligibility

This competition is open to original English language works in the genres of Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction. The submission must be an unpublished work. Simultaneous submissions are acceptable; please note that reading fees are non-refundable, and you must withdraw the submission immediately via Submittable if it is accepted elsewhere.

Reading Fee

\$12

What We're Looking For

Startling, compelling, and beautiful original work. We're looking for fresh prose and powerful poetry.

Guidelines for Electronic Submissions

Submissions are accepted exclusively through our online submissions manager, Submittable. Entries must be received no later than August 31. Please submit a packet of up to 3 poems or up to 6,000 words of prose. The same person may submit in both genres, as well as submit multiple works per genre. Results will be announced via e-mail and posted on our website in mid-October.



Gemini Magazine

Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: August 31, 2017

Entry Fee: \$5

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: editor@gemini-magazine.com

Website: <http://www.gemini-magazine.com>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Gemini Magazine* is given annually for a short short story. The editors will judge. Submit a story of up to 1,000 words with a \$5 entry fee (\$4 for each additional entry) by August 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Gemini Magazine, Flash Fiction Contest, P.O. Box 1485, Onset, MA 02558. (339) 309-9757. David Bright, Editor.



Contests

Red Hen Press

Quill Prose Award

Deadline: August 31, 2017

Entry Fee: \$5

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: editorial@redhen.org

Website: <http://www.redhen.org>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication by Red Hen Press is given annually for a short story collection, a novel, or an essay collection by a queer writer. Ryka Aoki will judge. Submit a manuscript of at least 150 pages with a \$5 entry fee by August 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Red Hen Press, Quill Prose Award, P.O. Box 40820, Pasadena, CA 91114. (626) 356-4760. Keaton Mad-dox, Associate Editor.



FESTIVAL of FAITHS
CENTER for INTERFAITH RELATIONS

POETRY *of the* SACRED

The Center for Interfaith Relations is delighted to launch the 2017 Poetry of the Sacred Contest!

Online submission form closes at 11:59 pm (EST) August 27.

<https://centerforinterfaithrelations.submittable.com/submit/89882/2017-poetry-of-the-sacred-contest>

Submission Details:

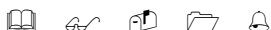
- Submission fee of **\$15.00**
- Online submissions only (call 502.583.3100 if you are unable to submit online)
- Maximum length of **1000 words**
- Poem must be **ANONYMOUS**—the author's name or address must not appear anywhere on the attached document containing the poem
- One winning poem will receive the **Merton Prize in Poetry of the Sacred** and \$500
- Three honorable mention poems will receive \$100

Contests



Thomas Merton (1915-1968) was Trappist monk at Our Lady of Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky and writer. His writings include such classics as *The Seven Storey Mountain*, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, and *Zen and the Birds of Appetite*. Merton is the author of more than seventy books that include poetry, personal journals, collections of letters, social criticism, and writings on peace, justice, and ecumenism.

[MORE ABOUT THOMAS MERTON](#)



Calls for Submission

Indie Shelves Publishing: Fantasy and Horror Anthologies

Submissions are open for two anthologies: fantasy and horror. Adult themes are allowed, but submissions relying too heavily on these will not be accepted.

Deadlines: 31 August for Fantasy, 30 September for Horror

Word count: 7,500-10,000 for each anthology

Pay: Royalties

Details [here](#).



Fantasy Anthology =

<http://www.indieshelves.com/opportunities.html>

Submissions Deadline: August 31, 2017

Tentative Publication Date: November 30, 2017

Restrictions

No Erotica

Sex, profanity, gore, and adult themes are allowed, but any submission that relies too heavily on any of these will not be accepted.

Word Count- 7,500-10,000

Genre: Fantasy

Compensation-Royalties

Accepting between 12 and 17 submissions.

The goal is to showcase the talent of budding Independent Authors. The Fantasy Anthology will be around 500 pages. The final amount of accepted submissions will de-

Calls for Submission

pend on the length of each accepted submission. Indie Shelves Publishing will retain 25% of the net profits of each unit sold. The remaining 75% of net profit from each unit sold will be split between the accepted authors, with each author earning an equal split. 5% of Indie Shelves Publishing's 25% royalty will go to the chosen editor/s. 5% of Indie Shelves Publishing's 25% royalty will go to the chosen cover designer/s.

Each chosen author will be allowed a marketing page, immediately following their submission. They will be able to list any other works, upcoming works, social media accounts, blog sites, or websites. The goal is to help get you exposure.

Indie Shelves Publishing values the success of the individual author, over its own financial gain. If, at any time, the author is offered a more beneficial arrangement, or no longer feels that the inclusion of their work, in this anthology, is in their best interest, they may request the removal of their work from the anthology. The request must be in writing.

Once the written request is received, Indie Shelves Publishing will, within 30 days, remove the authors story from the published anthology. Any/all distribution rights, with Indie Shelves Publishing, for works featured in this anthology, have no minimum term for inclusion.

<http://www.indieshelves.com/opportunities.html>



Horror Anthology

Horror Anthology

Submissions Deadline: September 30, 2017

Tentative Publication Date: December 31, 2017

Restrictions

No Erotica

Sex, profanity, gore, and adult themes are allowed, but any submission that relies too heavily on any of these will not be accepted.

Word Count- 7,500-10,000

Genre: Horror

Compensation-Royalties

Accepting between 12 and 17 submissions.

Continued Next Page

Calls for Submission

The goal is to showcase the talent of budding Independent Authors. The Horror Anthology will be around 500 pages. The final amount of accepted submissions will depend on the length of each accepted submission. Indie Shelves Publishing will retain 25% of the net profits of each unit sold. The remaining 75% of net profit from each unit sold will be split between the accepted authors, with each author earning an equal split. 5% of Indie Shelves Publishing's 25% royalty will go to the chosen editor/s. 5% of Indie Shelves Publishing's 25% royalty will go to the chosen cover designer/s.

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East of the Web

<http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/index.php?p=submissions/20132>

Submit on the Web site above.

Call for submissions:

Children's short stories, ages 5 to 12.

What we are looking for:

We're seeking children's stories aimed at age ranges between 5 and 12. We're looking for stories written by authors who know children and what children want to read. We want storytellers who can capture a child's imagination and who also know the children's book market, know what's original and understand what's interesting and appropriate for children of the age their stories are aimed at. We consider stories of all genres as long as kids will love them!

We pay for selected stories starting at \$0.05 per word with a minimum of \$200.

We encourage the submission of previously published as well as new stories. If you're looking for a way to make some money from your back catalogue or to get those stories in front of new readers, we would like to hear from you.



Calls for Submission

Chicken Soup for the Soul

The following books have deadlines that are approaching:

- Christmas and Holiday Collection – 2018 / October 31 2017
- Love Stories / October 31, 2027
- Miracles and More / August 31 2017
- My Crazy Family / September 5th, 2017
- Stories of Redemption / August 31, 2017

Writers should expect a response within 60 days of the book's "on sale" date. If you haven't heard back by that time, they have not selected your story for publication. They have a sort of strange company culture, which discourages negative communication – which is why they don't send rejection letters.

To learn more, and to submit, [visit this page](http://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story).

<http://www.chickensoup.com/story-submissions/submit-your-story>



Posted July 26, 2017

BLJ Wants Your Extraordinary Words and Art!

Submissions accepted year-round.

Issue 6 of *BALLOONS Lit. Journal* (BLJ) is looking for extraordinary poetry, short stories, and artwork for our young audience (12+). BLJ publishes twice a year and we are open to all themes and generations of writers and artists. Every issue is downloadable for free as a PDF and contributors get a print copy as payment. Please visit www.balloons-lit-journal.com for details.



Driftwood Press:

Call for Submissions (One Week Response Option Available)

Submissions accepted year-round.

John Updike once said, "Creativity is merely a plus name for regular activity. Any activity becomes creative when the doer cares about doing it right, or better." At *Driftwood Press*, we are actively searching for artists who care about doing it right, or better. We are excited to receive your submissions and will diligently work to bring you the best in craft essays, short fiction, poetry, graphic narrative, photography, art, and interviews. We also offer our submitters a premium option to receive an acceptance or rejection letter within one week of submission; many authors are offered editorships and interviews. Please submit on our website or use our short fiction critiquing service at www.driftwoodpress.net



Classes and Conferences



Florida Writers Association

Writers Helping Writers

16th Annual Florida Writers Conference

[Home](#) » [Conferences & Events](#) » 16th Annual Florida Writers Conference

“What A Character”

October 19 – 22 in Altamonte Springs, Florida

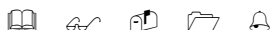
Whether you're just getting started, or midway through a 400-page opus, or have published multiple books, the Florida Writers Conference is the one writers conference for you.

This year there are even more reasons why you should attend, ranging from the lineup of agents and editors from leading literary agencies and publishing houses, to our National Guest of Honor David Morrell, and Steve Berry, the Florida Writer of the Year.

<https://floridawriters.net/conferences/florida-writers-conference-2017/>



Classes and Conferences





Writer's Alliance of Gainesville

A not-for-profit Florida corporation

p.o.box 358396

gainesville/florida/32635-8396

[352-336-8062/wagmail@cox.net](mailto:wagmail@cox.net)

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG) promotes, encourages and supports aspiring and experienced regional writers. This goal is accomplished via WAG monthly meetings, public readings, ongoing small critique groups, a literary journal, writers' contests, and collaborations with schools and civic organizations to foster creative expression through the written word.

