

WAG Meeting in December is a reading at Sal's Restaurant: Sunday Dec. 10, 2:30–4:30 pm



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Enjoy an afternoon of music and readings in a private room at Sal's Place, a sports bar and restaurant in Northwest Gainesville, and participate in our Children's Book Project.

This December event is in place of WAG's monthly program that is normally held at Millhopper Library. Like all of our Sunday afternoon programs, this is open to the public, with no admission or cover charge. But those attending will surely want to make a selection from Sal's excellent menu. Sal has a full bar as well.

WAG members who wish to read should contact Wendy Thornton

(floridawendy54@gmail.net). You are welcome to sell your books at the end of the readings. However, the book sales will be private, attributed directly to the author, not to WAG. So bring your own change, receipts, or your personal credit card square. We also invite members and guests to participate in our 2017 Holiday Children's Book Project. We are collecting books for children caught in the middle of stressful domestic-violence situations and supporting children in the program at Peaceful Paths (http://

www.peacefulpaths.org/).

Peaceful Paths is a non-profit organization providing a safe place for women and their children, away from their abusers.



Bring a children's book

Bring a children's book or books to this gathering. What kinds of books are needed? Themes of healing, social justice, community and family diversity. No books glorifying violence. Your favorite childhood books will be well received. Donations for children's books are also accepted. Let's help make this a memorable holiday for these children with books of their own. For more information, contact <u>Roz Miller</u> or <u>Kimberley Mullins.</u>

Sal's Place is located at 5109 NW 39th Avenue in Gainesville. Parking is available around the building.





WAG Brags



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Thank you to **Mary Bast** and the Bacopa Literary Review editors who put together a fantastic November program of readers to celebrate the newest version of Bacopa. Contest winners were:

• **CREATIVE NONFICTION** "Caregiver's Journal: How to Survive, or Not" by **Raphael Helena Kosek**;

FICTION "Ignis Fatuus, and More, at Eleven" by Chad W. Lutz;

POETRY "A Mote of Dust "by **Claire Scott**. Program coordinated by **Mary Bast, Editor in Chief**.



CUTV News Radio spotlights Mallory O'Connor Listen to WAG Member Mallory O'Connor on the influence of art in our lives.



http://www.blogtalkradio.com/cutvnewsradio/2017/11/07/cutv-news-radio-spotlightsmallory-oconnor-of-oconnorartllc

Mallory O'Connor is an educator, art historian, gallery curator, writer and President of the arts consulting firm oconnorartLLC, which she co owns with her husband John, a celebrated artist and graphic designer. Combining their unique skills and superb talents, oconnorartLLC specializes in the visual and performing arts.

"We have always thought of what we do as a synergistic interactive collaboration and have been extremely focused on our work as artists," explains Mallory. "We are two genuine artists who are making a career of gaining a more diverse audience. Both of us worked tenaciously creating our own art. while remaining each other's biggest supporters."

For more information on Mallory O'Connor visit www.oconnorartllc.com

Downtown Festival & Art Show

For the third year in a row, WAG Members participated in the Downtown Arts Festival on November 11 and 12. Many books of all varieties were sold, and WAG picked up some new members. As 2018 begins, we hope to find new ways and venues to sell books in. Thank you to **Richard Gartee** for organizing this event, and for all the people who worked the booth to sell their fellow authors' works.



If you are interested in assisting with future book sales, please contact WAG author Susie Baxter, Susie Baxter (susiebaxter123@gmail.com)

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WAG Brags



Local Author Series continues

WAG Author **Susie Baxter** and **Bonnie Ogle** at the Downtown Library's Local Author Series event.

Susie Baxter continued the Local Author Series at the Downtown Library on November 19 for her book, *Pumping Sunshine*. A full house showed up for Susie's speech, complete with readings from the book and refreshments mentioned in the book. Please come and support your local authors for the next readings. Those coming up include:

Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 PM- Richard Gartee with Lancelot's Disciple

Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2:30 PM- Bonnie T. Ogle with Arthur the Arthropod and The Sounds and Smells of Christmas and **Judith A. Barrett** with Pink Baby Alligator

Sunday, Jan. 21 at 2:30 PM- Darlene Marshall with The Bride and the Buccaneer

Alachua County Library Headquarters 4th Floor, Rm. A, 401 É Univ. Ave. Gainesville, FL 32601

(352) 334-3900 https://www.aclib.us/headquarters

Wendy Thornton's essay, *Ramblin' Man*, will be published in BioStories (http:// biostories.com/) in Dec. 2017. Three of her poems that were published online will also now be published in an anthology put out by the literary journal, *The Wild Word*. Publication of the paperback version of the journal containing Never Underestimate the Ring of Fire, and Fire Tower, and All for One, will be available in January, 2018.

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Richard Gartee has a new novel out, *Lancelot's Disciple*. The story of a young man who leaves Britain to join a caravan on the ancient Silk Road. While staying with a Sultan in Central Asia, he is tutored by a Taoist, a Buddhist, and a Hindu Swami. Once back in Britain, he must sort out his confusion, attain the Holy Grail, and reconnect with his saintly sister waiting at the abbey.



SHORT PROSE GENRES: Defining essay, short story, commentary, memoir, and mixed genre

The genres of short prose writing can be very confusing. For example, some writers will call their personal essay a story, and others will call their essay a memoir. To make matters even more complicated, a number of literary magazines are beginning to accept what is commonly called mixed genre writing. It's important to understand the difference between the types of short prose, whether you're writing an essay, short story, memoir, commentary, or mixed genre piece.

What is a short story?

A <u>short story</u> is a work of fictional prose. Its characters may be loosely based on real-life people, and its plot may be inspired by a real-life event; but overall more of the story is "made-up" than real. Sometimes, the story can be completely made-up. Short stories may be literary, or they may conform to genre standards (i.e., a romance short story, a science-fiction short story, a horror story, etc.). A short story is a work that the writer holds to be fiction (i.e., historical fiction based on real events, or a story that is entirely fiction).

Short Story Example: A writer is inspired by a car explosion in his town. He writes a story based on the real explosion and set in a similar town, but showing the made-up experiences of his characters (who may be partly based on real-life).

Short Story Example two: A writer writes a story based on a made-up explosion, set in a made-up town, and showing the made-up experiences of his characters.

What is a personal or narrative essay? What is an academic essay? What's the difference?

Though factual, the <u>personal essay</u>, sometimes called a narrative essay, can feel like a short story, with "characters" and a plot arc. A personal essay is a short work of nonfiction that is not academic (that is, not a dissertation or scholarly exploration of criticism, etc.).

In a personal essay, the writer recounts his or her personal experiences or opinions. In an academic essay, the writer's personal journey does not typically play a large part in the narrative (or plot line).

Sometimes the purpose of a personal essay is simply to entertain. Some personal essays may have a meditative or even dogmatic feel; a personal essay may illustrate a writer's experiences in order to make an argument for the writer's opinion. Some personal essays may cite other texts (like books, stories, or poems), but the focus of

Short Prose Genres:(Con't)

the citation is not to make an academic point. Rather, emphasis is on the writer's emotional journey and insight.

Personal Essay Example: A writer pens the story of his experience at the scene of a car explosion in his town. The work is short enough for publication in a literary journal and focuses on the author's perspective and insight.

What is a commentary?

The personal essay form and commentary may sometimes overlap, but it may be helpful to make some distinctions. A commentary is often very short (a few hundred words) and more journalistic in tone than a personal essay. It fits nicely as a column in a newspaper or on a <u>personal blog</u>. The writing can be more newsy than literary.

Some very short nonfiction pieces may be better suited to newspapers than to literary journals; however, literary magazines have been known to publish commentary-esque pieces that have a literary bent. Commentary Example: A writer tells the story of a car explosion in his town to illustrate the point that the police are not vigilant enough about people throwing flaming marshmallows out their windows.

What is a memoir?

<u>Memoir</u> generally refers to longer works of nonfiction, written from the perspective of the author. Memoir does not generally refer to short personal essays. If you're writing a short piece based on your reallife experiences, editors of literary journals will identify this as a personal essay. If you're writing a book about an experience, it's a memoir. A collection of interrelated personal essays may constitute a memoir. Memoir Example: A writer composes a full-length book about his experiences after a car explosion in his town.

Learn more: Creative Nonfiction: How To Stay Out Of Trouble

What is a nonfiction short story?

There's no such thing as a nonfiction short story. Short stories are inherently fiction (with or without real -life inspiration). Personal essays are not fictional.

Example: None.

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.

So what is mixed genre writing?

Mixed genre writing is creative work that does not sit comfortably in any of the above genres. Mixed genre writing blends some elements of fiction with elements of nonfiction in a very deliberate way. Some examples:

Mixed Genre Example One: A professional accountant named John Jones is writing a story about a man named John Jones, who is John Jones and lives John Jones' life—except that the fictional John Jones one day decides to leave his real-life accounting job, and live his dream of being a rock star (since the real-life John Jones is thinking of doing the same thing).

Is this a short story? An essay? If ninety percent of the story is true and ten percent is fiction, then what should the writer call this?

Mixed Genre Example Two: A writer decides to compose a family history, using pictures and documents from her family albums. But sometimes her story veers into fiction. She finds herself embellishing elements or omitting characters; and, the result is a story that's better than the one she might tell if she

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Short Prose Genres:(Con't)

were to stick to the facts.

Again, is this an essay? A short story? If half of the story is made-up, but half is very obviously true, it might be best called mixed genre.

NOTE: Sometimes the term mixed genre is defined in terms of the novel or book. A mixed genre novel might be a novel that mixes science fiction elements with characteristics of a legal thriller. Or a mixed genre novel might also be a work that plays fast and loose with fact and fiction. If you're going to refer to your book as mixed genre, be clear about what you mean.

Learn more: <u>Genre Fiction Rules: Find Out If Your Novel Meets Publishers' And Literary</u> <u>Agents' Criteria For Publication</u>

Tips on Writing Mixed Genre

If you're going to write mixed genre prose, do so with care. Mixed genre writing often has a kind of self-aware, almost tongue-in-cheek, element to it—a wink to the reader who is not fooled by the mixing of fiction and nonfiction, even if the lines are blurry. Mixed genre can be considered experimental, and as such, it's important that the writing be exceptionally smart in order to live up to the demands of the (mixed) genre. Why is mixed genre writing so often self-referential? Writing mixed genre and passing it off as an essay or a short story could make editors think that you are trying to dupe them, so it helps to include something in the work that makes reference to itself as being a mixture of fact and fiction. These "meta" elements can help put the reader at ease.

Who is publishing mixed genre short prose?

The primary markets for short prose are literary magazines and journals. Writer's Relief frequently helps writers target their work to literary journals. For more information on how to find markets for your short prose, please read <u>Researching Literary Markets for Your Work</u> if you plan to research on your own. Or learn about Writer's Relief submission services if you'd like <u>help targeting your submissions</u>.

This article has been reprinted with the permission of <u>Writer's Relief</u>, 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, <u>Submit Write Now!</u> Visit our site today to learn more.



If you're going to write mixed genre prose, do so with care.

Contests

River Styx Micro-Fiction Contest

Deadline: December 31, 2017 Entry Fee: \$10

Cash Prize: \$1.500

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Website: http://www.riverstyx.org/submit/microfiction-contest

A prize of \$1,500 and publication in *River Styx* is given annually for a short short story. Submit up to three stories of no more than 500 words each with a \$10 entry fee, which includes a copy of the prize issue (for an additional \$10, entrants will receive a subscription to *River Styx*) by December 31. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

River Styx, Micro-Fiction Contest, 3139A South Grand Boulevard, Suite 203, St. Louis, MO 63118. Theresa Brickman, Managing Editor.



Tampa Review Danahy Fiction Prize

Deadline: December 31, 2017 Entry Fee: \$20 Cash Prize: \$1,000 E-mail address: <u>utpress@ut.edu</u> Website: <u>http://www.ut.edu/tampareview</u>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Tampa Review* is given annually for a short story. The editors will judge. Submit a story of 500 to 5,000 words with a \$20 entry fee, which includes a subscription to *Tampa Review*, by December 31. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Tampa Review, Danahy Fiction Prize, University of Tampa Press, 401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33606. Richard Mathews, Editor.

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Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

Deadline: December 31, 2017 Cash Prize: \$10,000 E-mail address: <u>submit@anisfield-wolf.org</u> Website: <u>http://www.anisfield-wolf.org</u>

Prizes of \$10,000 each are given annually for books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction

(including creative nonfiction) published during the previous year that "contribute to our understanding of racism and appreciation of human diversity." Rita Dove, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Joyce Carol Oates, Steven Pinker, and Simon Schama will judge. Submit five copies of a book published in 2017 by December 31. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for the required entry form and complete guidelines.

Cleveland Foundation, Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards, 1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1300, Cleveland, OH 44115. (216) 685-2018.

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Contests

Society of Classical Poets Poetry Competition

Deadline: December 31, 2017 Cash Prize: \$500

E-mail address: submissions@classicalpoets.org

Website: <u>http://classicalpoets.org</u>

A prize of \$500 and publication on the Society of Classical Poets website is given annually for a group of three to five poems on a theme. At least one poem must address human rights in China, terrorism, or the environment; the remaining poems must address one or more of the following themes: beauty, humor, or classical culture. Poems that incorporate meter and rhyme are preferred. Evan Mantyk will judge. Submit three to five poems of up to 50 lines each via e-mail by December 31. There is no entry fee. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Society of Classical Poets, Poetry Competition, 11 Heather Lane, Mount Hope, NY 10940. Evan Mantyk, President.



Colorado Review Colorado Prize for Poetry

Deadline: January 14, 2018 Entry Fee: \$25

Cash Prize: \$2,000

E-mail address: creview@colostate.edu

Website: http://coloradoprize.colostate.edu

A prize of \$2,000 and publication by the Center for Literary Publishing is given annually for a poetry collection. John Yau will judge. Submit a manuscript of 48 to 100 pages with a \$25 entry fee (\$28 for online submissions), which includes a subscription to *Colorado Review*, by January 14, 2018. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Colorado Review, Colorado Prize for Poetry, Colorado State University, Center for Literary Publishing, 9105 Campus Delivery, Ft. Collins, CO 80523. (970) 491-5449. Stephanie G'Schwind, Editor.

Asheville Poetry Review William Matthews Poetry Prize

Deadline: January 15, 2018 Entry Fee: \$20 Cash Prize: \$1,000

Website: http://www.ashevillepoetryreview.com

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Asheville Poetry Review* is given annually for a poem. The winner is also invited to read at Malaprop's Bookstore in Asheville, North Carolina. Alfred Corn will judge. Submit up to three poems of any length with a \$20 entry fee by January 15, 2018. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Asheville Poetry Review, William Matthews Poetry Prize, P.O. Box 7086, Asheville, NC 28802. (828) 450-0357. Keith Flynn, Managing Editor.



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Calls for Submission

palookamag.com Posted November 21, 2017

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 literary criticism, 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. <u>www.driftwoodpress.net</u>

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Aji Magazine Call for Submissions for Spring 2018 Issue Deadline: When issue is filled.

Ponds, eddies, oceans—murmuring tides, stormy seas, meandering rivers that baptize, heal, flood, and drown, hiding mysterious creatures of the deep. Clouds, vapor, ice, teardrops, tap, bottled, from sulfurous springs or moss-rocked creeks or streams—send us your poems, stories, and graphic art featuring H2O, 50-60% of the adult human body, around 71% of our planet's surface—let's celebrate water, a core element of life, the Jungian symbol of the unconscious, pure, polluted, or hopelessly stagnant. *Aji Magazine* is accepting submissions on this or any topic—submissions will close when the magazine is filled. Send submissions to <u>ajimagazine.submittable.com/submit</u>.



Call For Submissions from Girls Worldwide Deadline: January 1, 2018

Girls Right the World is a literary journal inviting young female-identified writers and artists, ages 14 through 21, to submit their work for consideration for the second issue. We believe that girls' voices can and do transform the world for the better. We ask to be the first to publish your work in North America; after publication the rights return to you. We publish annually. Send your best art and writing, in English or English translation, to by January I, 2018. Please include a note that mentions your age and where you're from and briefly describes the work. www.girlsrighttheworld.com



45th Parallel Magazine is Open for Submissions Deadline: March 31, 2018

45th Parallel, a literary magazine run by Oregon State University's MFA and MA students, seeks work by established and emerging voices in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, hybrid forms, and visual art with an eye toward promoting diverse voices and talents within (and without) each genre. We seek writing that pulses with life, blood, and guts—work whose rhythm we can set our hearts to. 45th Parallel's submissions period runs from October - March. For more on our submissions guidelines check out our website: <u>45thparallelmag.com/submissionguidelines</u>.

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Calls for Submission

It's Raining Cats and Dogs Deadline: January 15, 2018

Spider (for ages 6-9) is looking for fiction, nonfiction, poetry, activities, crafts, and recipes on the theme It's Raining Cats and Dogs. We want wacky and weird stories about kids and their pets—cats, dogs, parrots, horses, lizards, hamsters, gerbils, bunnies, chickens, fish, guinea pigs, snakes. Tell us about a special relationship with one prized pet or about a whole menagerie. Send us stories about heroism, friendship, loyalty, and odd talents. Take us to a pet or horse show, to the farm, to a city dog park, or in a suburban backyard. cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/17817/spider-magazine-for-ages-6-9



Stories, Essays, & Poetry for Paid Publication in Boulevard Deadline: May 1, 2018

Bellevue Literary Review



G There is a gut-deep gratification to reading the *Bellevue Literary Review*. The offerings here are extremely satisfying literature, well worth your attention because you're human—and good writing heals." *NewPages*

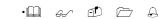
SUBMIT: We would love to read your work. The current call for submissions is for a theme issue on **displacement**, and the annual *BLR* prizes (open March 1 - July 1 each year) award outstanding writing related to themes of health, healing, illness, the mind, and the body. Visit our website for guidelines.

READ: Visit our website for Editors' Picks of their favorite fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction from the *BLR*, author interviews, roundtable discussions, and more.

EXPLORE: Free *BLR* study guides provide a framework for encountering illness from a variety of perspectives and prompt the reader to further examine the implications of style, voice, and content in various forms of creative writing. These are useful teaching tools for instructors of literature, ethics, and humanities.

www.BLReview.org

We are especially interested in emerging writers, diverse voices, literary journalism, and hybrid essays. We've been called "one of the halfdozen best literary journals" by Poet laureate Daniel Hoffman. Visit <u>www.boulevardmagazine.org</u> for guidelines and excerpts. Send questions to . Open October 1 to May 1.



Call for Submissions: BLR's Theme Issue on Displacement Deadline: January 1, 2018

Bellevue Literary Review seeks submissions for a themed issue that explores the idea of displacement, both literal and metaphorical. Fiction, nonfiction (5,000 words max). Poetry (3 poems max). We welcome submissions for this issue through January 1, 2018. See complete guidelines and submit at www.blreview.org.



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Classes and Conferences



Fresh Ideas for Marketing December 2, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

On Saturday, December 2, at 1:00 p.m., the Marketing Coalition will brainstorm fresh ideas for marketing. This meeting will be held at the Library Partnership Branch, 1130 NE Sixteenth Avenue in Gainesville.

Members of the Marketing Coalition meet monthly to discuss and share successful marketing ideas and strategies for their books. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Pod Coordinator <u>Skipper Hammond</u>.

WAG Digest editor **Wendy Thornton** will be offering her class, *Publishing Your Work*, beginning Jan.25 at Santa Fe College. Please go to this website to sign up for 2018 classes when they're posted:

https://www.sfcollege.edu/cied/communityed/index

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.

ENG0002.1F1

6 Thu., starts 1/25/18, 6:00:00PM - 8:00:00PM Instructor: Wendy Thornton SF - NW Campus FEE \$54.00



Classes and Conferences



http://www.floridacwc.net/

Welcome to the Florida Christian Writers Conference! We are so glad you stopped by to check out what we have in store for you this year. This conference is nestled in the heart of Florida at Lake Yale Conference Center. The sunrises and sunsets are breathtaking, and the spreading Oak trees beckon you to sit beneath their limbs and write a page or two in your journal.

Tell the Story ~ Expect the Unexpected

Join us for FCWC 2018 when we welcome best-selling author



Tosca Lee

Tosca Lee is the award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of *Iscariot; The Legend of Sheba; Demon: a Memoir; Havah: The Story of Eve;* and the Books of Mortals series with New York Times bestseller Ted Dekker (*Forbidden; Mortal; Sovereign*). A notorious night-owl, she loves watching TV, eating bacon, playing video games with her kids, and sending cheesy texts to her husband.

You can find Tosca hanging around the snack table or wherever bacon is served.

It's an opportune week to meet agents and editors, award winning writers and others who have heard the same call to write. Come attend workshops and continuing classes that will sharpen your pen, develop your platform, and strengthen your resolve. Critique groups, meetings with agents and editors, writing contests, and camaraderie with fellow writers make this week one to remember.

If you have a book inside of you, if you have the dream to publish that book, and you don't know where to begin, come be encouraged and trained at the Florida Christian Writers Conference February 21-25.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

http://www.floridacwc.net/seecostsandregister



https://www.ameliaislandbookfestival.org/2018-festival-summary-schedule-of-events 17th Annual Amelia Island Book Festival

February 15 - 17, 2018

An Amelia Island Encounter—Romance, Action and Mystery

2018 Event Description:

The Seventeenth Annual Amelia Island Book Festival (AIBF) is set to run from Thursday, February 15 through Saturday, February 17, 2018. This year's offerings are designed to make our events even more scintillating and attractive to larger and diverse audiences. In addition, the Festival, in partnership with the Amelia Island Convention and Visitors Bureau, and with the support of our sponsors, is significantly expanding advertising in social media outlets reaching broader markets in key areas of the country than ever before.

<u>acyrologia</u>

An incorrect use of words - particulately replacing one word with another word that sounds similar but has a diffident meaning - possibly fuelled by a deep-seeded desire to sound more educated, witch results in an attempt to pawn off an incorrect word in place of a correct one. In academia, such flaunting of common social morays is seen as almost sorted and might result in the offender becoming a piranha, in the Monday world, after all is set and done, such a miner era will often leave normal people unphased. This is just as well sense people of that elk are unlikely to tow the line irregardless of any attempt to better educate them. A small percentage, however, suffer from severe acyrologiaphobia, and it is their upmost desire to see English used properly. Exposure may cause them symptoms that may resemble post-dramatic stress disorder and, eventually, descend into whole-scale outrage as they go star-craving mad. Eventually, they will succumb to the stings and arrows of such a barrage, and suffer a complete metal breakdown, leaving them curled up in the feeble position.



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

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.

