

# WAG Digest

Volume 9, Issue 2

March—April 2018

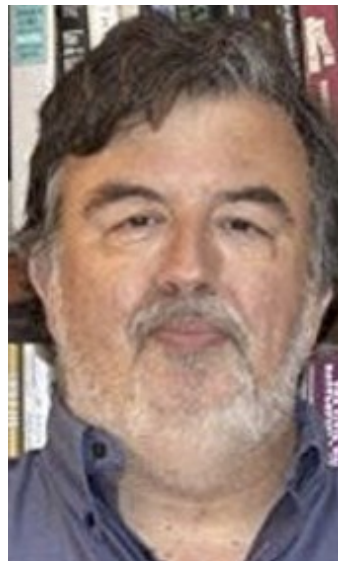
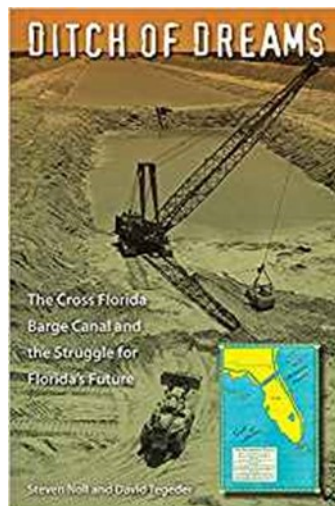
## WAG Speaker Series

### Information on the Florida Book Awards With [Steven Noll](#) and [Matt Gallman](#)



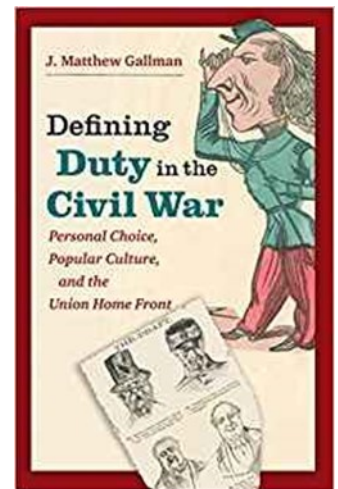
A juror in the non-fiction category, [Steven Noll](#), PhD, University of Florida, (left photos above) is a master lecturer and author of three books including co-author of [Ditch of Dreams](#). He was named one of the 300 best professors in the U.S. by the Princeton Review in 2012. Dr. Noll's writing interests include Florida history and the ill-fated Cross Florida Barge Canal.

The prestigious [Florida Book Awards](#) honors, recognizes, and celebrates Florida authors. Established in 2006, the program now gives awards in eleven categories with bronze, silver and gold awards. Learn about this elite contest from a juror and a winner. Join us as two local authors describe the best way to apply for the Florida Book Award, from various perspectives.



[Matt Gallman](#), PhD, teaches, reads, and writes about the American Civil War. His non-fiction book [Defining Duty in the Civil War](#) won a silver

award in the 2015 Florida Book Awards. Dr. Gallman earned his PhD in American History from Brandeis University and taught at Loyola College, Gettysburg College, and Occidental College before joining the Department of History at the University of Florida in 2003.



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

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## WAG Brags

**Enjoy an Afternoon of Poetry and Prose**  
**Matheson Museum, 513 E. University Avenue, Gainesville, 32601**  
**Saturday, April 14th, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

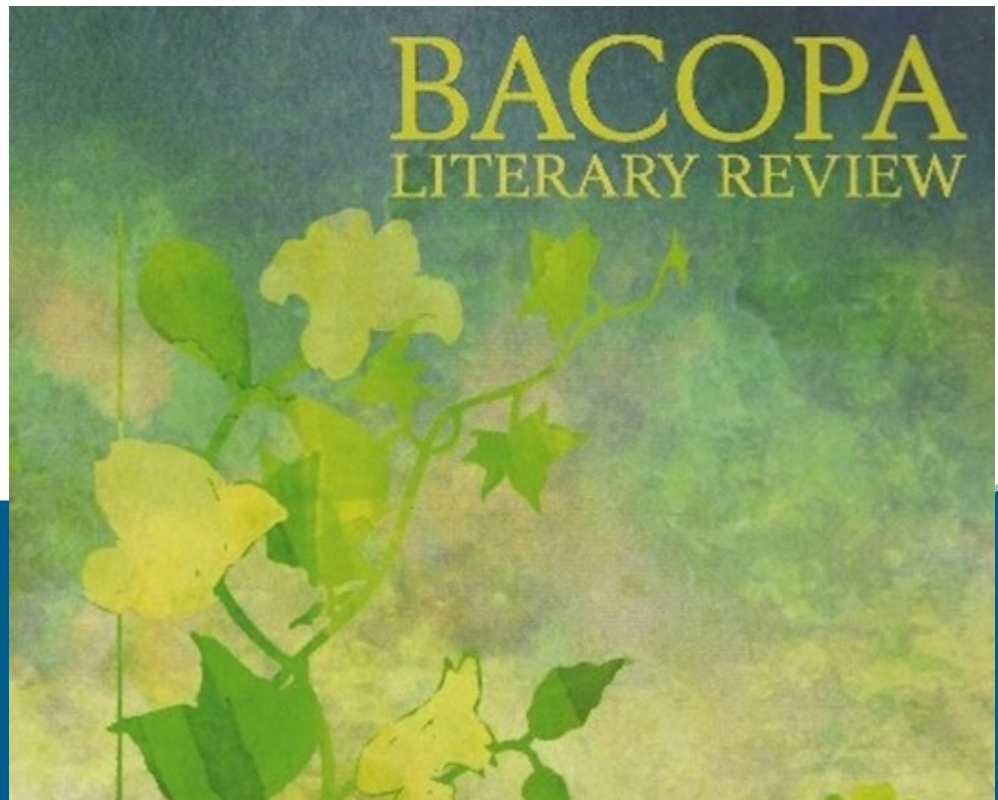
Editors of the *Bacopa Literary Review* will host an afternoon of readings at the Matheson History Museum, 513 E. University Avenue, in downtown Gainesville, on Saturday, April 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The event will feature a series of poetry and prose readings by *Bacopa* editors and Gainesville-area authors whose published works have appeared in *Bacopa*, an international print journal published by the Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG).

Presented by the [Matheson History Museum](#), [Bacopa Literary Review](#), and [WAG](#), this afternoon of readings will offer attendees a taste of the local talent reflected in *Bacopa*. The journal will also be available for purchase.

WAG will provide light refreshments, and members will be available to answer questions about WAG, a Gainesville non-profit organization that promotes, encourages, and supports aspiring and experienced writers.

This event, like most of [WAG's programs](#), is free and open to the public.  
<https://mathesonmuseum.org/>



## WAG Brags

**Bacopa Submissions Now Open**  
**March 1 - May 31**

**The 2018 contest is open March 1 — May 31.**

We expect to award a \$250 prize in each of four genres (poetry, prose poetry, short story, and creative nonfiction) plus a \$25 payment for each published work.

The submission fee is \$3 (first submission is free for members of the Writers Alliance of Gainesville).

If accepted for publication, the author agrees to grant First North American Serial Rights to *Bacopa Literary Review*.

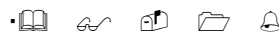
For more information, see our [Submission Guidelines](https://writersallianceofgainesville.submittable.com/submit) (<https://writersallianceofgainesville.submittable.com/submit>)

Want to know what they're looking for:

**Editor J.N. Fishhawk** invites well-wrought **Poetry** that intrigues, moves, and surprises us with stunning imagery, lyricism, sound play, structure, poems that disturb our well-trod patterns of thought.

**Editor Kaye Linden** looks forward to **Prose Poems** at the playful and daring edge of poetry, with powerful lyrical language and a truthful, commanding voice. Kaye also seeks **Short Stories** with a central story core – fiction with depth, clarity and voice, including characterization, conflict and change.

**Editor Susie Baxter** quotes John McPhee: "Creative nonfiction is not making something up but making the most of what you have." She asks for **Creative Nonfiction** with a moving inner voice; work that holds to the same standards as other literary forms while remaining grounded in fact.



And thank you to *Bacopa Literary Review's* **Associate Editor Cynthia D. (Cindy) Bertelsen**, who's now also managing the WAG blog. If you're interested in writing a blog for the WAG Web site ([www.writersalliance.org](http://www.writersalliance.org)), please send information to Cindy at: [blogmaster@writersalliance.org](mailto:blogmaster@writersalliance.org)



Cynthia also just got a personal essay published in the Tampa literary review, *Saw Palm*. (<http://sawpalm.org>) As she explains: My short personal essay, "The Fish Shack," just came out in *Saw Palm: Florida Literature and Art*. (The following image is the cover of the issue where my work appears.)

**Congratulations, Cynthia!**

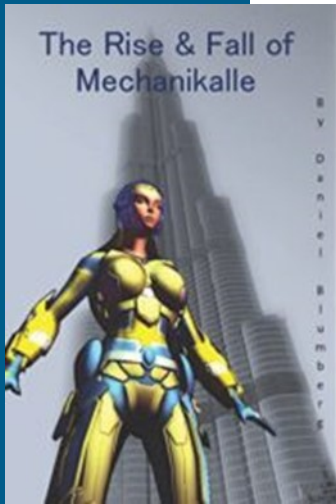


## WAG Brags



Thank you to **Susie Baxter and Felicia Lee** for representing WAG at the event described below:

[Susie Baxter](#) and I had the honor of presenting a workshop on memoir writing for the residents of [The Village at Gainesville](#) last Friday--lots of great questions and discussion! It's always fun to chat with people with good stories to tell.



Come on out and support local author and WAG Member, **Daniel Blumberg**, at the Main Library, Downtown. **Daniel Blumberg**, the author of [The Rise & Fall of Mechanikalle](#) will discuss and read from the book at the library on Saturday, April 21, at 2:30 p.m.

Kalle Talbot has always wanted to be a superhero. When her sixteenth birthday passes without her developing any powers, she decides to create her own power armor suit. Follow Kalle as she grows as a hero, all while attempting to keep things from blowing up around her.

"Daniel Blumberg is incredibly imaginative and original," writes one reviewer. "Great premise. Refreshing to see a self-made superhero."

**Blumberg** has lived in the Gainesville, Florida, area since 1980 and enjoys fantasy and sci-fi. This is his second published book. Two to three times a month, he works to save the world in weekly pen and paper superhero games.

His talk is part of the ongoing Local Author Series, sponsored by the Alachua County Library and Writers Alliance. Join Blumberg at the downtown library in Meeting Room A, fourth floor.



## WAG Brags



### [The Raven Chronicles](#)

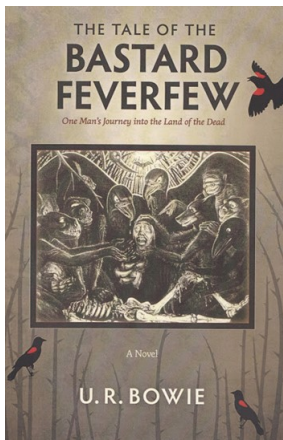
a journal of art, literature, and the spoken word

Congratulations to **Kaye Linden**, who writes:

I just received an acceptance for my creative flash nonfiction "Reflections on a Photograph Hanging in My Hallway" for the next print issue of 'The Raven Chronicles'. <http://www.ravenchronicles.org/home/>



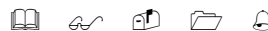
## U.R. BOWIE WINS DACTYL FOUNDATION LITERARY AWARD FOR 2017



Big news at the turn of the New Year. My novel, "The Tale of the Bastard Feverfew," has won the 2017 Dactyl Foundation Award for Literary Fiction and an honorarium of \$1000. My thanks to V.N. Alexander, director of The Dactyl Foundation. I am also beholden to Gen Aris, who did such a great job editing the book, and to Raghu Consbruck, graphic artist, who put those lovely redwing blackbirds on the cover.

<https://dactylreview.com/2017/12/28/dactyl-foundation-2017-literary-fiction-award/>

Congratulations to Mr. Bowie!



Congratulations to **Mallory O'Connor** on publication of her second book in her historical fiction trilogy.

**Per her press release:**

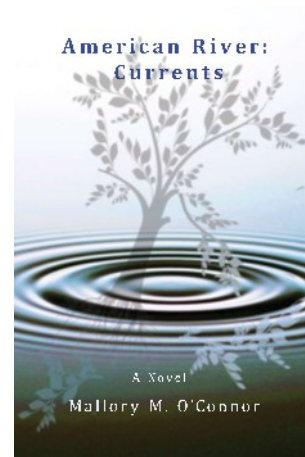
**GAINESVILLE, Fla. March 20, 2018** – A writer and art historian has released the second novel in her debut historical fiction trilogy, which follows the interwoven stories of the descendants of three immigrant families as they struggle to build their legacies during the 1960s. In "American River: Currents," author Mallory M. O'Connor continues to unwind a compelling yarn about the pursuit of art, music, culture and love and captures the essence of the 20th Century American dream. In the second book of the American River trilogy, a cavalcade of disasters—both personal and public—threatens to overwhelm the scattered members of the McPhalan, Ashida, and Morales clans. Alliances fray, relationships dissolve, divisive secrets are revealed, and promises are broken as the members of three California families struggle to salvage their shattered dreams.

**"American River: Currents" By Mallory M. O'Connor** ISBN:

9781480858848 (electronic) Available at the [Archway Publishing Online Soon](#) available at [Bookstore](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Ingram](#), and [Amazon](#)

### About the author

Mallory M. O'Connor is a writer, art historian and professor of art history emerita for Santa Fe College. O'Connor holds master's degrees in both American history and art history from Ohio University. A life-long social justice advocate, her high school artwork often depicted migrant workers and the homeless, and she was part of the Women's Strike for Peace during the 1960s. She currently resides in Gainesville, Fla. To learn more, please visit [www.mallorymoconnor.com](http://www.mallorymoconnor.com).



# TOP 10 WRITER MYTHS OF ALL TIME

By Christie Wright Wild

<https://christiewrightwild.blogspot.com/2016/09/top-10-myths-writers-believe-that-keep.html>

These ten author myths are dangerous to believe. Writers who believe them are allowing these myths to keep them from moving forward in their writing careers.

## 1. It's going to be easy.

Life isn't easy. Why should anything else be? Just kidding. But, seriously, writing isn't easy. And having a writing career is definitely not easy.

*"Anything in life worth having is worth working for." - Andrew Carnegie*

On the other hand...

*"Find something you love to do, and you'll never have to work a day in your life." - Ray Bradbury*

So, depending on your perspective on work, this may or may not be a solid myth. However, it bears repeating, that you still have to work hard to achieve success. How much you enjoy that work is up to you.

## 2. Being a writer is a solitary job.

Yes, writing is a very solitary act. But the best writers are surrounded by others. Being a writer doesn't have to be a solitary job. In fact, it shouldn't be. Yes, you sit at your desk and type on a keyboard for hours on end. Or, you take a notebook wherever you go, constantly writing down observations and working on the stories in your head. That? It must be solitary. But the rest of it? Not so much. You can instantly connect with other writers online. They'll help you and encourage you and keep you going. Don't be solitary ALL the time.

Being a writer doesn't have to be a solitary job. In fact, it shouldn't be.

## 3. You should write every day.

Some writers really believe this. Write every day. That's all fine and good if it works for you, but it doesn't work for every writer. At the other end of the spectrum, some writers only write when the Muse strikes. The best thing is to find your own personal balance. Jane Yolen says it best:

*"Exercise the writing muscle every day, even if it is only a letter, notes, a title list, a character sketch, a journal entry. Writers are like dancers, like athletes. Without that exercise, the muscles seize up." - Jane Yolen*

But even exercising the writing muscle every day doesn't mean that you're writing or revising heavily on your one novel, story, or book. Even athletes take rest days. Let journal and letter writing be *your* rest days.

## 4. Writer's block doesn't exist.

Some say it does. Some say it doesn't. Some say writer's block only exists if you don't know how to get through it. And that once you do know how to get through it, then it doesn't exist anymore. Well, that's one way to look at it.

Let me just say that writer's block really *does* exist. In its most simplistic definition, it actually applies to ALL professions, all fields of interest, all walks of life, not just writers, though we probably face it more often than anyone else.

## TOP 10 WRITER MYTHS (Con't)

**NOUN:** The condition where one is unable to think through a problem. Not knowing how to proceed. The feeling of being stuck.

Basically, it's a blockage. You just have to get your brain thinking again and your thoughts flowing again. How? Go for a walk! Trust me, it works. Though you might have to do it multiple times before you finally [see a breakthrough](#).

### 5. If you're good, you'll make it.

Hate to break it to you, but those who make it are usually better than good. Do you think Michael

Jordan "made" it because he was good? No! He made it because he was awesome! Yes, being good is part of it. But your book has to be good too. Ever hear the phrase, "It's all about the book"? Yep! It's all about a great book being so well written that an editor can't put it down.

However, in order to "make" it, there's a lot more to it than writing. You have to be able to sell. You have to be able to sell your manuscript to someone who thinks the book will sell. You also have to be able to sell the book. It's called marketing. You can't be good at marketing either. You have to be good *and* relentless.

### 6. Editors will fix all your grammar mistakes.

Um... see #5. You *do* have to be good to begin with. Editors are bombarded with manuscripts. They don't even see half of them. Assistants and editors alike will not wade through paragraphs full of grammar mistakes. Automatic rejection.

What an editor *will* do is make your book better. They will push you. They will help you tighten your work. What an editor does is magical. Books are a collaborative effort and editors are word wizards. So wield your mighty magic wand of a pen and fix all your grammar mistakes if you want a real word wizard to help you [take your best writing to the next level](#).

### 7. Once you're published, your books will sell like hotcakes.

Not so much. Remember #5? You actually have to market your books. They won't sell themselves. Books sit on shelves until someone buys them. The point of writing a book is to have people read it. And people won't be reading your books if they aren't selling. Just because you're published now doesn't mean you're successful. Yes, it's an awesome, amazing, wonderful, thrilling accomplishment that most writers never reach. So, congratulations on this success!

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In order to "make" it, there's a lot more to it than writing

## TOP 10 WRITER MYTHS (Con't)

On the flip side, you can do better. So, don't stop now. Keep going! There are things authors can do to increase their fan base, their reach, and ultimately their sales. Social media only goes so far. But you do have to DO something to make people think about hotcakes when they see your name. Then maybe your books will sell like hotcakes. When they do, be sure to offer people syrup. And a napkin.

### 8. You get fewer rejections after you're published.

Again, not so much. Just because you're published doesn't mean that the writing life is any easier. It just means you're doing all the right things to reach that milestone. It certainly doesn't mean that rejections are going to happen less often. In fact, you may even get more! Remember, agents and editors get rejected all the time too. Agents get rejected by editors, and editors get rejected by marketing teams. YOU, however, understand this. Rejections are just a part of the business.

*"You ask me about tragic accidents? If I am on my tractor at my farm and it rolls over on me and kills me, that's a tragic accident. If I die in a race car, that's life. I died doing what I love." - Dale Earnhardt*

If a writer was to sum that up, it would go something like this. "You ask me about rejections? If I'm at the Yankee Stadium and I use the billboard to propose to my girlfriend and the camera captures her telling me NO, that's rejection. But if my book gets rejected - again, that's life. It's part of being a writer." In writing, each rejection is one step closer to a YES. Remember that.

### 9. You're going to get rich.

Did you hear that? I'm going to get rich!!! No, not that. I meant did you hear that sound of laughter? Yeah, that... That's the sound of Shakespeare laughing you right off the stage. Your book will likely not get turned into a movie. Or sell a million copies. It's not impossible, for sure. But let's just say it's highly *unlikely*. Your book will not be an overnight success. But then again, it might. An author's *first* book is almost *never* an overnight success.

*"Successful people make money. It's not that people who make money become successful, but that successful people attract money. They bring success to what they do." - Wayne Dyer*

Seriously, most writers do not earn a living strictly from advances and royalties. It's likely that you're not going to be the exception. I know I'm not. However, most writers *can* earn a decent living once they add other gigs to their writing, whether it be teaching,

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In writing, each rejection is one step closer to a YES. Remember that.

## TOP 10 WRITER MYTHS (Con't)

coaching, editing, or something else. Don't quit your day job either, even after you sell a book or two. Most writers are not able to quit their day job to make a living from writing. BUT, success IS what you make of it, so don't focus on getting rich. Focus on what you DO, which hopefully is WRITING.

### 10. Mistakes are bad.

The final myth is that mistakes are bad. If you believe this, then you're going to have a very long, hard road ahead of you. It's okay to make mistakes, so long as you learn from them. However, [you don't have to make the same mistakes](#) that others have made. You can learn from *their* mistakes so that you don't have to. You can make new ones. Learn from those. Most importantly, keep writing!

Know any other myths? Your favorites? Funny ones? Which myth speaks to you the most? **Share in the comments** on the original blog post!



<https://christiewrightwild.blogspot.com/2016/09/top-10-myths-writers-believe-that-keep.html>

If you want to break free from writing mistakes that hold you back (and have nothing to do with grammar, spelling, punctuation and the like), then download Christie's free tip sheet: **6 Surprising Mistakes That Make Writers Look Like Amateurs... and How to Avoid Them.**

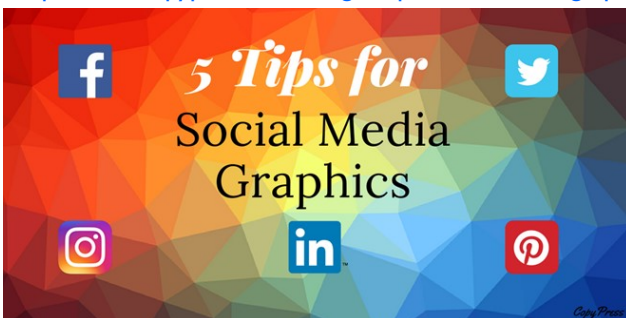
<https://christiewrightwild.lpages.co/writer-mistakes-tip-sheet/>

Find out more about Christie at her website, [www.christiewrightwild.com](http://www.christiewrightwild.com).

There are things authors can do to increase their fan base, their reach, and ultimately their sales.

### More good places to get solid information on writing:

<http://www.copyright.com/blog/5-tips-social-media-graphics/>



<https://www.publishersweekly.com/>



National Association of Memoir Writers

<http://namw.org/>



## Writer Resources

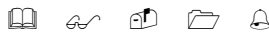


<https://www.janefriedman.com/>

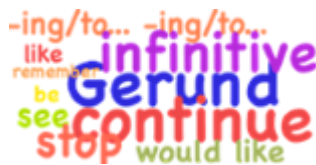
Anything by Jane Friedman is worth signing up. She has multiple resources for writers including classes, a newsletter, writing assistance on her web site, etc.

Check out her archive of helpful articles here:

<https://www.janefriedman.com/writing-advice-archive/>



Need to hone your proofreading skills?



<https://www.proofreadnow.com/>

Check out their blog to see if your skills are up to date:

<https://www.proofreadnow.com/blog>



## Calls for Submission

Thanks to WAG Member Charlotte Porter for new Kindle info for Indie Publishers:

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kindle direct publishing

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# INDIE PUBLISHING

## N E W S L E T T E R

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*In this issue: Proof and author copies, Tax-related resources, Kindle Unlimited promotion, Pen to Publish Winners, Make your book look great and an opportunity for manuscript feedback.*

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### Proof and author copies are now available

We are excited to announce that proof and author copies are now available for all publishers on KDP.

Proofs allow you to review a physical copy of your draft paperback prior to publication. Learn more [here](#).

Author copies are copies of the live version of your paperback that you can order from Amazon. Learn more [here](#).

When you order copies of your own book, you pay just the printing costs plus shipping and applicable taxes. With this new feature, KDP proof and author copies for the UK and the rest of Europe are printed and shipped from within Europe – an improvement for authors who previously used CreateSpace.

By publishing a paperback on KDP, you can reach more readers through Amazon websites in the US and Europe, as well as manage your print and eBook publishing from one website. In addition, you can use the KDP website in English, Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese or Dutch. Learn more [here](#).

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## Calls for Submission

***Kind of a Hurricane Press is open again!***

### **Upcoming Anthologies:**

#### ***Jeté Away***

Theme: Dance

Deadline: April 30, 2018

For details check out the guidelines page [Here! \(http://www.kindofahurricanepress.com/p/anthology-jete-away.html\)](http://www.kindofahurricanepress.com/p/anthology-jete-away.html)

#### ***Without Words***

Theme: Silence

Deadline: July 31, 2018

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



**FLASH FICTION MAGAZINE** is accepting submissions between 300-1000 words. They pay \$40 for stories accepted to be in their anthologies. Read Submission Guidelines and Submit [<https://flashfictionmagazine.com/submissions/>]

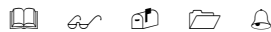


## Calls for Submission



**CALLING** the thought-provoking, the humorous, and the quirky—we want to read your writing! We ask for quality and intrigue in up to 3 poems of flash fictions, sequential art up to 10 pages, or prose up to 4,000 words. Simultaneous submissions are accepted, but please inform us immediately if your work is accepted elsewhere. Visit [offbeat.msu.edu](http://offbeat.msu.edu) for details/to submit. PS—we're not a good place for unnecessarily explicit content.

*The Offbeat* is affiliated with the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures at Michigan State University. We read year round and publish biannually. Head over to our [Submit](#) and [Contests](#) pages to see what we're currently accepting.



## Classes and Conferences

Join the talented writer and WAG member, Susie Baxter, to write your memoir:



### Write-Your-Memoir Class Begins April 7

WAG member and author Susie Baxter will teach a course in memoir writing at Santa Fe College, Apr. 7–28, 2018. Classes will meet every Saturday for four weeks, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Santa Fe's main campus. The course is for anyone who wishes to write about his or her life. Students may share their stories in class and receive feedback, though sharing is not mandatory. Look for the course, ENG0048.1F6, in Santa Fe's Spring, 2018, *Enrich* catalog. You may register online at <https://www.sfcollege.edu/cied/communityed/index> or call (352) 395-5193.



## Classes and Conferences

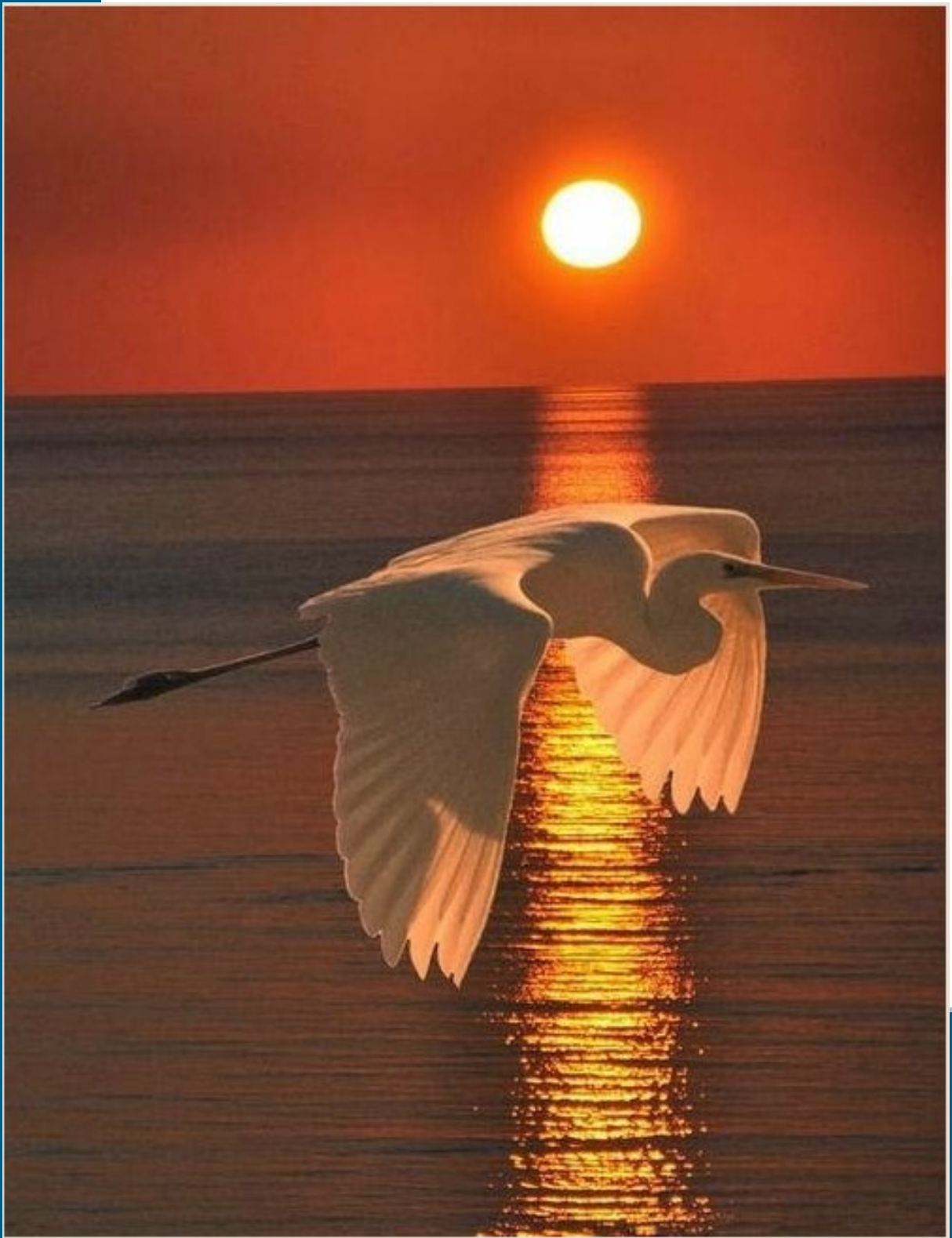
WAG member Perky Granger has news of a June writers' retreat for men and women in New York, for any writers heading to the northeast: **12th Annual Adirondack Mountain Writers' Retreat, June 21-24, Lake George, NY.** Days are filled with workshops and consultations with writer/poet/teacher Ira Joe Fisher, interspersed with blocks of personal writing time. [www.PersisGranger.com](http://www.PersisGranger.com) or email Perky to ask questions or request a registration form.



If you're a writer who likes being active, you might want to try the upcoming Writers Who Run (or Walk) Retreat this June 25-30, 2018 in Fontana Dam, NC.

For more info, visit [www.writerswhorunretreat.com](http://www.writerswhorunretreat.com).





## A Cautionary Comic For Writers

I AM GOING TO GET  
\*SO\* MUCH WRITING  
DONE TODAY!



BUT FIRST, I'LL JUST  
CHECK E-MAIL ONE  
MORE TIME...



Check e-mail.

Follow link in e-mail.

Find great blog post,  
decides to forward it  
to a friend.

Also tweets  
about it.

Friend loves it, asks  
about getting together  
for coffee.

Oh, and on  
Facebook, too!

Checks calendar.  
Notifies an upcoming  
event she forgot  
about!

While on Twitter,  
notifies some  
other interesting  
tweets...

While on  
Facebook,  
catches up  
on reading  
posts...

Doublechecks dates  
on Web. While on  
Web, realizes she  
wanted to research  
other attendees...

Discovers a fab  
blog for writers!  
Figuring this is  
work-related, she  
reads recent posts...

Posts happy  
birthday msgs

Discovers one of  
her FAVORITE  
authors is going to  
be there. And the  
author has a new  
book! Must buy  
this book right  
away...

Notifies  
her RSS  
feed is  
SO messy!  
Spends "just  
a minute"  
cleaning it  
up...

Someone responds  
to her FB post  
with funny story  
that makes her LOL

Friend she  
hasn't heard  
from in a  
while sends  
her a msg...

Oh darn. Book is  
sold out. Goes to  
search for other  
online bookstores...

Great post inspires  
her to start a list  
of her career goals  
and time management  
list...

Amused, she  
responds with  
a related funny  
story...

Suddenly  
remembers  
she forgot  
to phone  
a non-FB  
friend on her  
birthday...

SO great  
to hear  
from this  
friend again!  
Won't take  
more than  
a few  
minutes to  
shoot back  
a reply...

Comes across  
photo of  
cookbook whose  
cover makes her  
hungry. Mmm.  
time to find food...

Tries to print list  
but printer cartridge  
is running low! Goes  
to office supply site...

Sadly, someone  
takes her  
story the  
wrong way  
and is offended.  
Damage control  
needed...

Horrified, she  
immediately writes  
a long e-mail to  
send to her  
friend...

FIVE HOURS LATER...

ACK! WHERE DID  
THE TIME GO?!?



2011 Debbie Ridpath Ohi. URL: Inkygirl.com. Twitter: @inkyelbows.

2011 Debbie Ridpath Ohi. URL: Inkygirl.com. Twitter: @inkyelbows.



**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.**

