

WAG Digest

Volume 9, Issue 3

MAY—JUNE 2018

WAG Speaker Series

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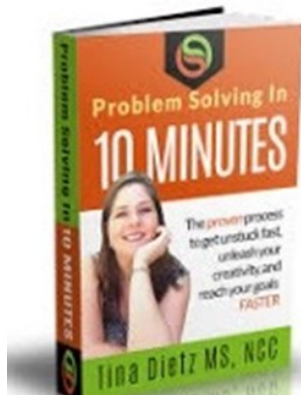
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June 10, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

On Sunday afternoon, June 10, audiobook publisher [Tina Dietz](#) will discuss the value of audiobooks and branding. Dietz is an award-winning and internationally acclaimed speaker, audiobook publisher, podcast producer, and content marketing expert who has been featured on ABC, [Inc.com](#), Huffington Post, and Forbes.

Dietz has been building businesses for over 20 years and is the owner of Start-Something Creative Business



The Value of Audiobooks and Branding

Solutions, a company committed to connecting experts, authors, and entrepreneurs with their ideal audiences through audio branding and marketing.

Her podcast, [The Start-Something Show](#), was named by *INC magazine* as one of the top 35 podcasts for entrepreneurs. She received the Evolutionary Business Council MORE award in 2016, and the Outstanding Audio Company award from The Winner's Circle in 2017.

This June 10 program is free and open to lovers of the written word.

Sunday, July 8, at 2:30 p.m. at the Millhopper Library.

Waters earned a degree in Special Education from the University of Florida and is a veteran teacher with more than 30 years in the public school system.

The founder and CEO of Expressive Song and Dance Ministries, she teaches dance through workshops and seminars and is active in dance ministry, after school programs, and theater throughout Central Florida.

Come join us on July 8 and see how Waters turned her passion for dance into books.

Turn Your Passion Into a Book July 8, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM



The author of four books, [Elois L. Waters](#) will be WAG's guest speaker on

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.

WAG Brags



WAG Members on The Ilene Silverman Show

Left to right: Darlene Marshall, Roz Miller, Ron Haase, Kimberley Mullins, Susie Baxter, and host of the show, Ilene Silverman

WAG members were recently interviewed by local celeb, Ilene Silverman. During the taping of the show, five WAG members were interviewed by Silverman in four segments. They discussed the many benefits of the organization, WAG's community outreach through various programs, and the annual journal, *Bacopa Literary Review*.

If you'd like to watch the interview, check it out on YouTube (there are some breaks between the sections):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4SvLRVDISc&feature=youtu.be>



WAG Brags



WAG President Kim Mullens closes out Library Author Series

K.E. Mullins, right, signs copies of "In the Company of Strangers," the second book in her three-book series Saturday at the Alachua County Headquarters Library in downtown Gainesville. [Photos by Aida Mallard/Special to the Guardian]
See the complete article here:

<http://www.gainesville.com/news/20180516/writers-alliance-president-shares-her-passion-for-writing>



We are pleased to announce that the Alachua County Library has picked up the Local Author Series for a second season. Thank you to all the authors who participated and all those who came out to support local writers.

Fiona Lama, library specialist at the Headquarters Library, and Kimberley Mullins, WAG President

If you're interested in signing up for the Local Author Series, here's how to do it:

Last Chance to Sign up for 2018-2019 Local Author Series

The inaugural year of WAG's Local Author Series in partnership with the Alachua County District Library was deemed a success and next year's schedule is currently being finalized.

WAG members who have a published book and wish to be considered for participation in the next series must sign up at the June 10th general WAG meeting at the Millhopper Library Branch. The Sunday meeting will be the **last day** to sign up for the 2018-2019 series.



WAG Brags

Congratulations to WAG Member **Mallory O'Connor** for winning the Northern California Publishers and Authors Prize for her book, *American River: Tributaries, Book One*. Below is a portion of her press release:

GAINESVILLE, Fla. April 27, 2018 – Gainesville author, **Mallory M. O'Connor**, has won **first prize** in the fiction category from **Northern California Publishers and Authors** for her debut novel, *American River: Tributaries*, Book One of the American River Trilogy. NCPA is a group of authors, publishers, and industry professionals in Northern California who provide advice, opportunities and encouragement to members through workshops, seminars, presentations and on-line materials.

O'Connor's historical fiction trilogy follows the interwoven stories of the descendants of three immigrant families as they struggle to build their legacies in California during the turbulent 1960s. In *American River: Tributaries*, O'Connor unwinds a compelling yarn about the pursuit of art, music, culture and love, and captures the essence of the 20th century American dream.

American River: Tributaries is filled with passionate and resolute characters who refuse to let go of their unique visions of success—even as life's tumultuous currents threaten to sweep them all away.

***American River: Tributaries* By Mallory M. O'Connor** ISBN: 978-1-4808-4867-2 (paperback); 978-1-4808-4868-9 (electronic) Available at the [Archway Publishing Online Bookstore](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Ingram](#), and [Amazon](#)

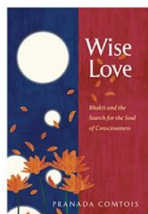


Wise-Love
Bhakti and the Search for the
Soul of Consciousness
BY PRANADA COMTOIS

has been named a finalist in the
**Next Generation Indie
Book Awards 2018**

CATEGORY: SPIRITUALITY

AVAILABLE NOW
AMAZON | B&N | INDIEBOUND
www.pranadacomtois.com



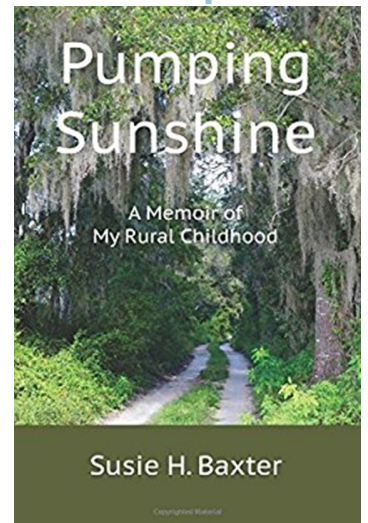
Congratulations to WAG Member **Pranada Comtois** for being a finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards, for her book, *Wise-Love: Bhakti and the Search for the Soul of Consciousness*. Her book is available on Amazon at

https://www.amazon.com/Wise-Love-Bhakti-Search-Soul-Consciousness-ebook/dp/B079NNYSG8/ref=sr_l_l?ie=UTF8&qid=1527085847&sr=8-1&keywords=Pranada+Comtois



WAG Brags

Susie Baxter, WAG Member and former President, received this e-mail from the 2018 Royal Palm Literary Awards (RPLA) competition. “Greetings and congratulations! It is our pleasure and honor to inform you that your entry, *Pumping Sunshine: A Memoir of My Rural Childhood*, is a semifinalist in the published book-length memoir genre category of the 2018 Royal Palm Literary Awards (RPLA) competition.” Congratulations, Susie, and we look forward to the final results.



Mallory O'Connor At Oak Hammock

A renowned local author, Mallory O'Connor was the speaker at the Acorn Book Club for our May monthly meeting. She is the author of *American River: Tributaries*, the first book in a trilogy. This was our book to read for discussion this month. Mallory is a talented musician and artist, as well as being a wonderful writer. She gave us some background about the place where this book takes place, discussed how she developed the fictional characters and the research that she has done for this historical novel, and answered questions from our participants during a pleasant lunch in the private dining room.

There are several copies of this book, *American River: Tributaries* in the OH library, and the second book, *American River: Currents* has recently been published, and is also available in the OH library. Don't miss reading these books! They are wonderful, and the third in the trilogy will be released this fall - fun to look forward to!

She also told us about an upcoming book fair in Gainesville in January, 2019, which will be a first for this community. We will be looking into bus transport for OH members when the time gets nearer.

How to Choose a Critique Partner for Your Writing

Posted on November 9, 2009 by [Writer's Relief Staff](#) • [7 Comments](#)

If you've ever suffered through a [bad critique](#), you know how damaging feedback can be to the creative process. Here are a few simple tips to help you determine how to find and choose a critique partner to help with your writing.

Why do I need a critique?

If you're looking for an honest and objective viewpoint, a critique partner (or beta reader) may be the answer. Your best friend might shower you with well-intended praise, but a good critique partner will spot problems in your writing that you may be unable to see.

Where can I find a critique partner?

Check your local [writers groups](#), libraries, bookstores, and the English department at local colleges and universities. If you live in an outlying or remote area, many online writers' sites offer the opportunity for writers to connect with beta readers. If you write in a specific genre, check writers' sites and critique groups dedicated to that particular genre (i.e., horror, mystery, romance, and science fiction).

What should I look for in a critique partner?

First, avoid family, friends, neighbors, or anyone who may be afraid to hurt your feelings. Feedback that showers you with praise and feeds your ego will not improve your writing skills.

Second, choose a fellow writer, someone with experience and credentials—someone who knows the ups and downs of the publishing industry and is familiar with the market, the genre, and the nitty-gritty business of writing. If your partner can't qualify his or her opinion based on education and/or experience, you may be receiving bad advice. Get a sense of your potential beta reader's writing in advance—if you don't respect his or her writing, you won't respect his or her comments.

Third, look for a critique partner who will be respectful and helpful. General comments such as "Pretty good story" or "I hated the plot" aren't constructive—neither are rude and belittling comments like "Where'd you learn to write, anyway?" Your partner should be able to point out specific areas of concern without leaving you feeling small and stupid.

Above all, [be patient](#). Like affairs of the heart, it might take several partners before you find that perfect fit.

Be clear about your expectations from the start.

Are you looking for an overall opinion on plot and pacing? Worried about your [point of view](#)? Concerned about your characters? Or are you simply looking for a [line edit](#) to catch grammatical errors and typos? Let your critique partner know exactly what you want and avoid conflict down the road.

Go over your expectations of turnaround times. If you want to submit your novel or short fiction in a specific time frame, will your beta reader be able to deliver?

Will you be expected to critique your partner's work as well? What kind of volume and frequency will be involved?

Online versus face-to-face critique partners.

Interacting with your beta reader online offers greater flexibility, such as submitting your novel at 2:00 a.m. while in your pj's, and allows for e-mail accessibility at all hours (why wait for next month's meeting?).

Feedback that showers you with praise and feeds your ego will not improve your writing skills.

How to Choose a Critique Partner for Your Writing (Con't)

Face-to-face critiques can sometimes get heated; online feedback can be more tactful. Your online reviewer has time to carefully frame his or her comments, and you have time to absorb the feedback in private, giving your ego a chance to recover before you respond.

People can be influenced by a physical presence—sloppily dressed, mumbling and muttering people may be perceived as strange and sloppy writers, and witty, charismatic people may offer substandard writing despite their dazzling personalities—while online critiques are based solely on the writing itself.

Interacting in person with a critique partner offers a social respite and often inspires idea-generating brainstorming sessions. Writing can be a solitary business, and many fiction writers benefit from interacting with other writers on a regular basis. Online interaction is less personal, less social.

Other considerations.

You don't have to implement every change your critique partner suggests. Think about his or her suggestions carefully before you implement them.

Be prepared for criticism. This is a business rife with criticism and rejection, and thick skin and determination to improve your craft are essential to succeed. If you break down in tears every time someone finds a problem in your fiction, you may not be ready to take your writing to the next level.

If you are critiquing for your partner, give them the same respect and consideration you would expect in return. Provide concrete, specific comments and advice in a respectful manner. And don't hesitate to point out what you like: well-developed characters, certain passages that really caught your attention, anything that stood out in a positive way. Writers should be aware not only of their weaknesses but also of their strengths. And let's face it: a little good news is always welcome in this business.

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.

What is the best critique advice you've ever received? What is the worst critique you've ever received? Send your responses to floridawendy@cox.net if you'd like to have them published in the WAG Digest.

Some examples from WAG Digest Editor Wendy Thornton:

Continued Next Page

Above all, be patient. Like affairs of the heart, it might take several partners before you find that perfect fit.

How to Choose a Critique Partner for Your Writing (Con't)

Best critique:

When I was sixteen, I once sent the New Yorker (yes, really) a bunch of poems. Because they said send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, I put the only copies of my poems in a big envelope and enclosed a little envelope with my return address. Some kind soul at the New Yorker took my only copies (yes, really) of those poems, put them in a new envelope and returned them to me with a note that said, "When we ask for a self-addressed, stamped envelope, please do not enclose a little ladies' envelope – it's not big enough to return your poetry." But see, I thought the self-address stamped envelope was FOR THE CHECK .

Worst critique:

I once began a story with a little epigraph from one of my favorite poets at the beginning. A lively, understandable spirit/once entertained you./It will come again./Be still/Wait. The epigraph is by Theodore Roethke. One of my fellow writers' group members commented, "The only good thing in the whole story, and it's not even yours." Ouch...



Ode to the Spell Checker

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.



FYI**Oxford Comma**

@IAmOxfordComma



Dear world,

I am stylish, useful, and in some cases, absolutely necessary.

Sincerely,

Oxford Comma (HT
[@alex_macdonald](#))

Among those interviewed were Merle Haggard's two ex-wives, Kris Kristofferson and Robert Duvall.

This book is dedicated to my parents, Ayn Rand and God.

Highlights of Peter Ustinov's global tour include encounters with Nelson Mandela, an 800-year-old demigod and a dildo collector.

Classes and Conferences

Stay Tuned – Classes coming to Santa Fe Community Education for Fall, 2018:

Kaye Linden will be teaching about prose poems and short stories. As Kaye explained: “I will be teaching the writing and understanding of prose poems and short stories in a Saturday morning class in the Fall.”

And WAG Member **Wendy Thornton** will be teaching Publishing I in the Fall 2018 Community Ed class.

More details to follow in the next issue of the WAG Digest.



<http://www.palmbeachpoetryfestival.org/>

Workshop Faculty will include: Ellen Bass, Laure-Anne Bosselaar, Stuart Dischell, Aracelis Girmay, Campbell McGrath, Gregory Pardlo, Matthew Olzmann, Eleanor Wilner. Six days and evenings of workshops, readings, craft talks, panel discussion, social events, and so much more. Additional Faculty: Lorna Blake, Sally Blumiss-Dunn, Nickole Brown and Stephen Gibson. Special Guest: Sharon Olds, and, Poet-At-Large, Tyehimba Jess.



Contests and Calls for Submission

Los Angeles Review Literary Awards

[Printable Version](#)

Deadline: June 30, 2018

Entry Fee: \$20

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: assteditor@losangelesreview.org

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

Four prizes of \$1,000 each and publication in *Los Angeles Review* are given twice yearly for a poem, a short story, a short short story, and an essay. Douglas Manuel will judge in poetry, Doug Lawson will judge in fiction, Ron Koertge will judge in flash fiction, and Sarah Cannon will judge in nonfiction. Using the online submission system, submit up to three poems of no more than 50 lines each, a short story or essay of up to 2,500 words, or a piece of flash fiction of up to 500 words with a \$20 entry fee by June 30. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Los Angeles Review, Literary Awards, P.O. Box 40820, Pasadena, CA 91114. Keaton Maddox, Managing Editor.



Cider Press Review Editors' Prize Book Award

Deadline: June 30, 2018

Entry Fee: \$26

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Website: <http://www.ciderpressreview.com>

A prize of \$1,000, publication by *Cider Press Review*, and 25 author copies is given annually for a poetry collection. The editors will judge. Submit a manuscript of 48 to 80 pages with a \$26 entry fee by June 30. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Cider Press Review, Editors' Prize Book Award, P.O. Box 33384, San Diego, CA 92163. Caron Andregg, Publisher.



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Contests and Calls for Submission

Cathy Smith Bowers Chapbook Contest

☐ **Deadline: June 15, 2018**

The Cathy Smith Bowers Chapbook Contest is sponsored by Main Street Rag and named in honor of the former poet laureate of North Carolina, who also serves as final judge. Deadline: June 15. Prize: \$1000 + 50 copies of published book. Reading Fee: \$15 (\$17 for email entry). Length: 28-40 pages of poetry. We are looking for the highest quality, most unique collection. Detailed guidelines are available on our website:

03c9c48.netsolhost.com/WordPress/contests/cathy-smith-bowers-chapbook/.



International Short Story Prize

The Moth

International Short Story Prize

Deadline: June 30, 2018

Entry Fee: \$15

Cash Prize: \$3,690

E-mail address: enquiries@themothmagazine.com

Website: <http://www.themothmagazine.com>

A prize of €3,000 (approximately \$3,690) and publication in the *Moth* is given annually for a short story. A second-place prize of publication, a weeklong retreat at the Circle of Missé in Missé, France, and a €250 (approximately \$308) travel stipend; and a third-place prize of €1,000 (approximately \$1,230) and publication are also given. Kevin Barry will judge. Submit a story of up to 5,000 words with a €12 (approximately \$15) entry fee by June 30. Visit the website for the required entry form and complete guidelines.

The *Moth*, International Short Story Prize, Ardan Grange, Milltown, Belturbet, County Cavan, Ireland H14 K768. Rebecca O'Connor, Editor.



William Van Wert Fiction Award

Hidden River Arts

William Van Wert Fiction Award

Deadline: June 30, 2018

Entry Fee: \$17

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: hiddenriverarts@gmail.com

Website: <http://hiddenriverarts.wordpress.com>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Hidden River Review of Arts & Letters* is given annually for a short story or a novel excerpt. Using the online submission system, submit up to 25 pages of fiction (and a synopsis if submitting a novel excerpt) with a \$17 entry fee by June 30. Visit the website for the required entry form and complete guidelines.

Hidden River Arts, William Van Wert Fiction Award, P.O. Box 63927, Philadelphia, PA 19147.



Contests and Calls for Submission

Literal Latté

Poetry Award

Deadline: July 15, 2018

Entry Fee: \$10

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: litlatte@aol.com

Website: <http://www.literal-latte.com>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Literal Latté* is given annually for a poem or group of poems. Submit up to ten poems totaling no more than 2,000 words each with a \$10 entry fee (\$15 for up to 15 poems) by July 15. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Literal Latté, Poetry Award, 200 East 10th Street, Suite 240, New York, NY 10003. (212) 260-5532. Je-nine Gordon Bockman, Editor.



Crab Orchard

First Book Award

Deadline: July 15, 2018

Entry Fee: \$20

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Website: <http://craborchardreview.siu.edu/poetry-series.html>

A prize of \$1,000, publication by Southern Illinois University Press, and a \$1,500 honorarium to give a reading at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale is given annually for a poetry collection. U.S. poets who have not published a full-length book of poems in an edition of over 500 copies are eligible. Vandana Khanna will judge. Using the online submission system, submit a manuscript of 50 to 80 pages with a \$20 entry fee between May 15 and July 15. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Crab Orchard, First Book Award, Southern Illinois University, English Department, Mail Code 4503, 1000 Faner Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901. Jon Tribble, Series Editor.



Gris-Gris:

An Online Journal of Literature, Culture and the Arts is thrilled to announce our flash fiction contest, judged by Pulitzer Prize Winner, Robert Olen Butler. The winner receives \$500 and publication in *Gris-Gris*.

Submissions open May 15 and close on July 30, 2018. Submit fiction of no more than 1,000 words. All entries will be considered for publication. 10-dollar entry fee per submission. Submit at <https://grigris.submittable.com/submit/114619/summer-flash-fiction-contest>.



GRIS-GRIS
AN ONLINE JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

SUMMER FLASH FICTION CONTEST

Judged by Robert Olen Butler, author of sixteen novels and six short-fiction collections, including *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

FLASH FICTION CONTEST!

- Win \$500 and publication in *Gris-Gris: An Online Journal of Literature, Culture, and the Arts*.
- Submit May 15-July 30, 2018.
- 10-dollar entry fee per submission.

Contests and Calls for Submission

Cricket Magazine for Ages 9-14 Seeks Submissions on Escapes & Rescues

Deadline: June 15, 2018

Cricket (for ages 9-14) seeks science fiction and fantasy, contemporary and historical fiction, and true adventure on the theme of escapes and rescues. Fictional stories should feature protagonists in the age range of our readers who rely on their own pluck and ingenuity to escape a danger or rescue someone from a difficult situation. In contemporary stories, the danger might be more social than physical—such as avoiding an embarrassing situation, an unwelcome obligation, or divulging a secret. True adventures should be well researched and include a list of sources. Stories can also feature heroic animals or pets.

cricketmag.submittable.com/submit/



Spider Magazine for Ages 7-10 Seeks Submissions on Mysterious Monsters

Deadline: June 15, 2018

Spider (for ages 6-9) is looking for fiction, poetry, activities, crafts, and recipes for the theme Mysterious Monsters. Bring on the claws, sharp teeth, tails, and larger-than-life creatures. We're interested in age-appropriate monster stories that introduce kids to old urban legends like river and lake monsters, the Chupacabra, and Big Foot as well as other creatures that go bump in the night—jumbies, trolls, poltergeists, giants, werewolves, vampires, zombies, or beings we've never heard of before. Send us your spooky ghosts and growling, howling beasts who might want to eat you or just be your friend.

cricketmag.submittable.com/submit



The Broke Bohemian's Summer Edition 2018

Deadline: June 21, 2018

The Broke Bohemian is now accepting submissions for our Summer Edition 2018! Up to three poems, flash fiction, art (photography, digital media, etc.), or prose. We publish pieces at the forefront of unconventional thought and outlandish perspectives. Get wild. Wear your activism proudly. Bare your teeth. Rise up, and rave in the name of Beauty! We commit ourselves to fostering the voices of all people, especially those who've been disenfranchised and unheard among the ever-booming holler of the bourgeoisie! Be sure to read our submission guidelines before submitting. www.brokebohemian.com



Submissions Open for Fall Themed Journal

Deadline: June 30, 2018

borrowed solace is a literary journal on our third edition. Submissions are back open! Our theme for the fall 2018 journal is "Home." Where is home? What makes a home? How does a home contain so many emotions and can keep them as secrets or unleash them? What is home to you? We would like to know these answers, and we can't wait to see what you will answer with! We accept: creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, art, and photography. Submissions will close June 30th, 2018. Check out our submission guidelines here and submit: borrowedsolace.com/contact/.



Contests and Calls for Submission

Urban Farmhouse Press

Deadline: December 1, 2018

Urban Farmhouse Press currently seeks book-length manuscripts of poetry, fiction, novels, and science fiction. We are an independent small press located in the Windsor, Ontario-Detroit, Michigan area. We are looking for writing that crosses borders and talks about the people and places it comes from. Submissions welcome from US, Canada, UK, and Australia. More details at www.urbanfarmhousepress.com/submissions.html.



Driftwood Press:

**Now Paying Contributors & Offering Comprehensive Interviews
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.

www.driftwoodpress.net



Valley Voices Seeks Poetry on Rivers & Waters

Deadline: September 30, 2018

Valley Voices (18.2 Fall 2018) seeks submissions of poetry on rivers/waters. Please send no more than 5 poems. We encourage double-sided manuscripts. Please enclose a SASE to guarantee a return of your manuscript. Send submissions to The Editor, *Valley Voices*, 14000 Hwy 82 W., #7242, Itta Bena, MS 38941-1400, USA. Submissions saved in Word (**in one file**) may be e-mailed with an attachment to . Cutoff date for submissions: September 30 for the fall issue. No previously published material or simultaneous submissions will be considered.





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.

