

WAG Digest

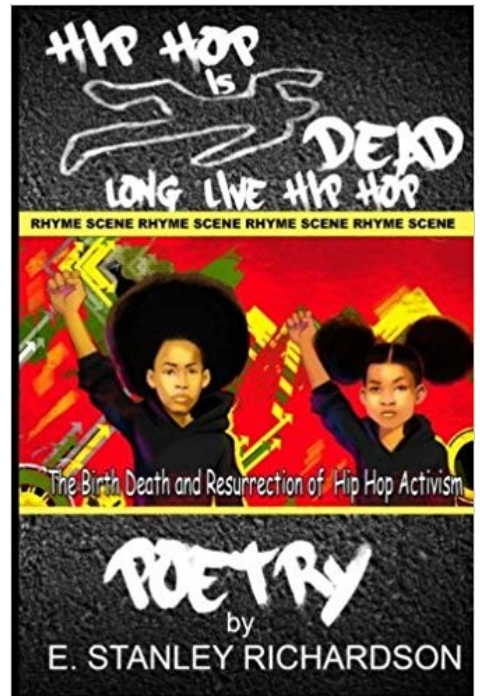
Volume 11, Issue 1

January—February 2020

WAG Speaker Series: Sunday, February 09: 2:30pm—4:00pm

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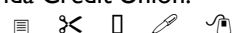


Join us on Feb. 9, 2020 at the Millhopper Library for a talk by recently elected Alachua County Poet Laureate E. Stanley Richardson on Inspiration. As Stanley says: : Soundtrack / The Inspiration Behind The Poetry. I'll discuss what inspired me to write the book, the crea-

tive process and specific challenges I encountered. I'll also read excerpts from the book.

Book Title:
Hip Hop Is Dead - Long Live Hip Hop:
The Birth, Death And Resurrection Of Hip Hop Activism

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 Speaker Series:

Sunday, March 01:

(Note the different meeting date)

2:30pm—4:00pm

And for our March meeting, Sunday, March 01: 2:30pm - 4:00pm (Note the different meeting date – our usual time was changed due to early voting).

**Create a following using the Internet—
what works and what doesn't**

Author, nutritionist, and fitness guru [Caroline Anaya](#), who writes an online newsletter, “FitBits,” is WAG’s March 1st speaker. In her newsletter, now in its seventh year, Anaya writes about food, nutrition, and her life.

At the March meeting, she will expand on relevant sales lore, such as “Sell yourself and your product will sell itself,” refining it for writers who would rather spend their time writing. But the techniques can apply to anyone who wishes to gain a following (visual artists, for example) with the use of the Internet.

Anaya’s professional years involved research developing the original Minimum Daily Requirements with the USDA and an infant formula for use in Nigeria under UNICEF. She helped set up standards for fishery products for the USDI. She then turned to industry-based food technology, developing Metrecal™, the first diet food, and many other products. She has published a dozen scientific papers and articles.

Her autobiography, *The Bite of History: Patriarchy Messing with Me and Food for 85 Years*,

has received excellent reviews. One reviewer wrote: “The story of an intrepid woman sincerely sharing the whole spectrum of her life without shying away from the grueling, even horrible encounters and tough choices. The nutritional information in the appendix is very enlightening. You’ll never look at the USDA nutritional pyramid the same way again.”

In her ninetieth decade, Anaya stays healthy with light meals of natural foods, deep sleep, daily yoga, and rides her tricycle down a wooded trail near her home.



WAG Brags

We here at the Writers Alliance would like to say thank you to our fellow Board Member, Kimberley Mullins, who has been the Speaker Coordinator for the last couple of years. Kim is resigning so she can concentrate on her busy schedule, teaching, writing and contributing to local events. Thank you, Kim, for all your work during the past two years.

Now that Kim may actually have some time to write, check out her Amazon author page at: https://www.amazon.com/K.E.-Mullins/e/B00IPXAT82?ref=db_s_p_ebk_r00_abau_000000 so you can get caught up on her books. We'll be waiting for the next one, Kim!



Marketing Coalition Meeting February 1, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The February WAG Marketing Coalition meeting will review the Sunshine State Book Festival to determine what worked and what needs to be improved for 2021. All participants in the Festival, whether volunteers or exhibiting authors, are encouraged to attend and provide feedback.

This WAG Marketing Coalition meeting is on February 1, 2020, 1:00–3:00 PM at the Library Partnership Branch in the large meeting room.



And stay tuned for upcoming speakers from our Local Authors Series – come out and support your library and your local authors!

Local Author Series – Ann~Marie Magné

February 15, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

[Alachua County Library Headquarters, Meeting Room A](#), 4th Floor, Rm. A, 401 E Univ. Ave.

Gainesville, FL 32601

Ann~Marie Magné is excited to read from her book *Almost Ticked Off*, the story of the rare medical condition that put her husband at the brink of death. A love story. A survival story. A memoir.



Ann~Marie is a past vice president of the Writers Alliance of Gainesville and a current critique-pod leader. She is the mother of one daughter, step-mom to two sons, and Grammy to seven. She loves living in Gainesville, FL, with her husband. This is her first memoir.

Almost Ticked Off

A survival story. A love story. A memoir. Retired police lieutenant Lee Schwartz teeters on the edge of death as his brain and body are ravaged by an insidious bacterial infection. Afraid to leave his hospital bedside, Lee's wife Ann~Marie keeps a journal of every horrible moment. One doctor had a theory: a tick bite, and began treatment immediately. Was he right? Would it be soon enough to save Lee's life?



WAG Brags

Local Authors Series – Elaine Beem Robinson

February 23, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Alachua County Library Headquarters Downtown, 401 E. University Ave
Gainesville, FL 32601

Note this author reading will be held in the **children's department Story Woods Room**.

Elaine Robinson will read from her illustrated poetic story, *Uncommon Scents*, which tells the tale of Marvin, a polite but bullied and lonely little muskrat, who lives in a forest where all the other animals are smarter, swifter, and more talented than he is. At least that's what Marvin thinks. But then Marvin meets a brand-new friend who helps him realize just how gifted a modest little muskrat really is. This illustrated story is a tribute to bullied little critters everywhere—those with four feet, or six feet, or even only two feet.

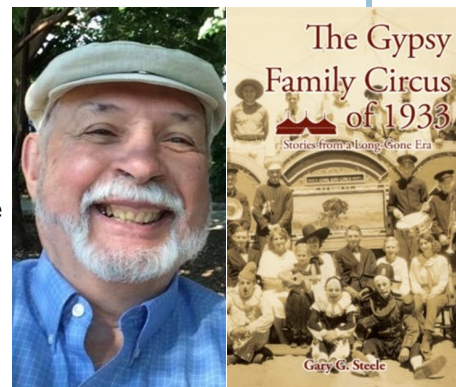
An author and illustrator, Elaine was born in New Haven, Connecticut, and moved to Florida as a child. She holds a BS from the Florida Institute of Technology and a MS from the University of Florida. As a young person, she was advised against pursuing a career in the arts and instead was directed into the unforgivingly complex world of physics, biochemistry, and molecular biology, where flights of fancy are actively discouraged. Many years followed at the University of Florida working as a research microbiologist, where she contributed to the plethora of articles written on the misdeeds of bacteria. Now retired, she is free to write about and draw a world of her own invention, a world of utter fiction, generally told in the form of children's poetry. She lives in Gainesville, Florida, along with husband Ron, Snuffy the Schnauzer, and several retired racehorses who reside in the backyard and are not asked to do much else.



Note: Held in Meeting Room B of the Alachua Library Headquarters Branch

Welcome to a world of sneaky elephants, high jumping horses, Indian dancers, and trick ropers, along with a grandson who rides Roman style and a grandmother who tells fortunes, but what goes on behind the scenes is even more intriguing. The author himself is the product of a Gypsy heritage and a circus childhood, and he weaves together old family stories of life on the road during the Great Depression, when people yearned for escape from their dreary lives and shelled out nickels and dimes for an annual escape into a circus filled with beauty, danger, comedy, mystery, and delight.

Gary grew up on circuses and is of Gypsy descent. He offers a work of historical fiction that reflects his background in many ways and is inspired by tales he heard in his childhood from his own family. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa, taught at Santa Fe College, lived in four foreign countries, did consultant work and presented technical courses in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He and his wife have now retired back to Gainesville.



WAG Brags

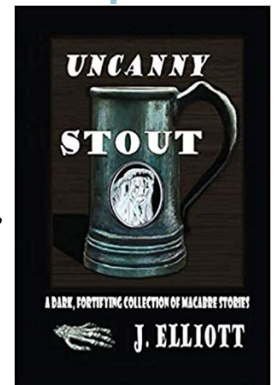
Check out WAG VP, Jess Elliott's new book, *Uncanny Stout*:

This is author J. Elliott's third collection of spooky short stories. It departs from its predecessors in that this one features peculiar monsters as well as spooks. The grout for this mosaic of tales is the story of Zap, an exhausted electrician with the Earle Power Company. Coming off a double shift restoring power after a wicked storm, he stops at the BW&S for a bite to eat. There's something a bit *off* about the place, beyond the perpetual Halloween décor. While Zap tucks into his "Beastie Burger" and works on his Uncanny Stout, nine stories unfold.

You'll meet Coral, an aging gardener with an invasive plant problem. In an homage to the M. R. James story "A View From A Hill", is Bill, a flea market picker who finds old night vision goggles and sees more than wildlife. "The Lost Island of Unsonsy" is a whopper of a Chesapeake Bay fishing story. In "Pillow Talk" all the foster child Humphrey asks of his new parents is to have a brand new pillow all his own. "Hoarder House" features a woman who has been collecting something more bizarre than newspapers, clothes or bric-a-brac for decades.

Ghosts, vampires, witches... *Uncanny Stout* is a fortifying collection of shivery offerings--a blend of classic ghost story with accent notes of *The Twilight Zone*.

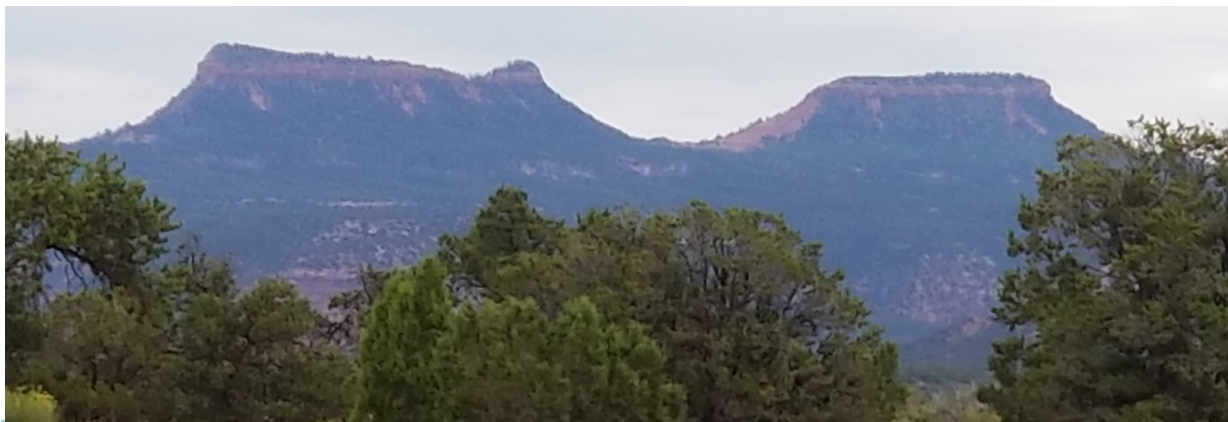
Available in paperback and as an ebook on Amazon. (<https://www.amazon.com/Uncanny-Stout-Fortifying-Collection-Macabre/dp/1734354135/>)



WAG Member Bonnie Ogle has published her latest book, *I Pledge Allegiance with the Pledge Rap*.

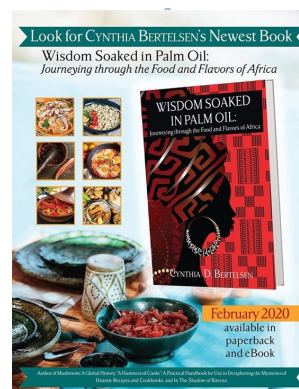
As Bonnie says:

So excited! Available TODAY on Amazon: *I Pledge Allegiance with the Pledge Rap* by Bonnie T. Ogle! You can purchase the book here: <https://www.amazon.com/I-Pledge-Allegiance-Rap/dp/153946248X/>



WAG Brags

Cynthia Bertelson's new book, *Wisdom Soaked in Palm Oil*, is coming out in February 2020. More information will come out soon!

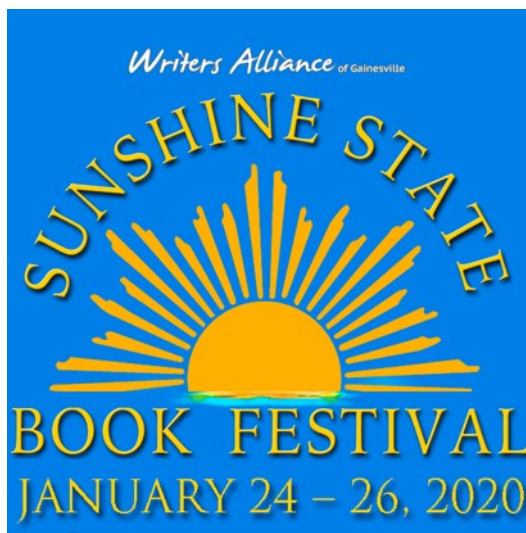


Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science and WAG Member Ken Wald reports:
By the way, my most recent book, *Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism*, just won the 2019 National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies.
Congratulations, Dr. Wald!



Celebrating Florida's Literary Culture
Reminder: The Sunshine State Book Festival is Coming!
Jan. 24-26, 2020

Friday, January 24, 2020
Festival Kickoff
5:00 – 7:00 PM
at the Matheson History Museum
513 E. University Avenue
Gainesville, FL
Saturday, January 25, 2020
Sunshine State Book Festival
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall
3000 NW 83rd Street
Gainesville, Florida
Sunday, January 26, 2020
Tours and reenactments of Gainesville literary heritage
See the Website at <http://www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com/>

3 Ways Promote Yourself As A Writer (Even When You Don't Want To)

Written by Emily Harstone

"Writing is something you do alone. It's a profession for introverts who want to tell you a story but don't want to make eye contact while doing it."

— John Green

As an introvert, a writer, and a very reluctant self-promoter, this quote has always struck me as being particularly profound. Not just because of what it says, but because of who said it. John Green is a bestselling Young Adult novelist as well as a video blogger watched by millions of people every week. He is also very clearly an introvert. Having met him once at a reading before he was as famous as he is now, I was struck by how uncomfortable he looked interacting with everyone, yet even that discomfort came across as charming.

He had found a way through YouTube to connect with people. He created a fanbase with his brother, and they used it to promote books and various other projects that had a positive impact on the world. In short John Green did not have to stop being an introvert to promote his books, and he never had to become heavy handed about it either.

As a writer, one has to find unusual ways to promote oneself without feeling like you have to force it down someone's throat. Some authors are naturally self-promotional and they understand and know how to promote themselves in a positive way. I am in awe of authors like this, but I definitely do not have their talent. Below are three ways that a reluctant self-promoter (like myself) can support their work.

1. Start A Blog (or a Vlog, or a Tumblr)

Most writers have blogs so this might be obvious, but what I am suggesting is not to start a blog directly about yourself or your writing, but about something else. Perhaps your blog can be devoted to favorite quotations, or the best literary journals, or even pictures that remind you of books; it could be anything. Tumblr, a micro blogging site, is particularly full of blogs with a very specific focus. There is even a blog there devoted to women poets wearing sweatpants. You can also start a video blog about things you care about, book reviews for example, or short biographies of your favorite authors. Readers are more likely to stumble across your work through search engines and links, and you will probably reach a lot of readers who don't know you in person.

2. Use Your Facebook Page

Now a lot of people these days suggest starting an author's Facebook page to promote your literary work. I definitely think that you should do that, but you can also use your personal page to your advantage. On my personal page I never talk about anything too personal: most of what I write about and post are pictures of my dog, the rural area where we live, and good books I have read. But because I have over 400 friends, many of whom I am barely in touch with, I get a

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3 Ways Promote Yourself As A Writer (Even When You Don't Want To)

lot of responses to what I post. So I try to shuffle in talk about writing, links to my poems published in literary journals, and things like that fairly often. Often those links get shared by other people, and so my readership broadens. My work has also been solicited by editors who are friends, or friends on Facebook. It really helps my career to be on there.

3. Have A Beautiful Business Card

I bump into people who want to read my work all the time. Sometimes it will come up in a coffee shop, or at the gym, or, well, volunteering. However, even though I have a website that is easy to Google, I know most people won't take that step without a reminder. That is why I have a business card. It doesn't mention my other profession as a professor, it just has my name, my website, my email address, and the word poet. My business card has all that information, and on the other side is a beautiful picture of a willow tree. Everyone comments on the picture. It is important to have some sort of visual image, because that encourages the individual that receives the card to save the card; it isn't just another scrap of paper. I made my cards at moo.com, but I am sure there are many other good options.

From AuthorsPublish (<https://www.authorspublish.com/3-ways-promote-yourself-as-a-writer-even-when-you-dont-want-to/>) - *About Us:* We're dedicated to helping authors build their writing careers. We send you reviews of publishers accepting submissions, and articles to help you become a successful, published, author. Everything is free and delivered via email. You can view our [privacy policy](#) here. To get started [sign up for our free email newsletter](#) (<https://www.authorspublish.com/?source=footer>).



However, even though I have a website that is easy to Google, I know most people won't take that step without a reminder



Classes and Conferences

Join **WAG Member Gary Gordon** for his new class:

INTRO TO SCREENWRITING

This course is designed to introduce you to the basics of writing a screenplay. You'll learn to create a log-line, think about your protagonist and antagonist, plot your story in a screenplay format, and avoid some of the classic mistakes made by beginning screenplay writers. You may even achieve writing the first ten or fifteen pages, or the first act. Discussion is part of this class, so you will be encouraged to participate.

[Course Details](#)

ENG0053.IFI

Number of Weeks: 5

Days: Mo

Starts: 01/27/2020, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM

Instructor: [Gary Gordon](#)

Location: SF - NW CAMPUS S-220

3000 NW 83rd St

Gainesville

Course Fee: \$69.00

Lab Fee: \$0.00

Notes: Bring a laptop or tablet, a paragraph to a page about your favorite movie: what it is and why, and any screenplay writing you've done or started.

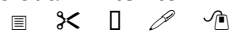
Also, here's a comment from a previous student:

"I really enjoyed the class, learned a tremendous amount, and respect Gary enormously. He is always on the lookout for materials that will benefit the specific students he is working with. He is very responsive to student questions and to the work we bring in to class. He knows how to meet each student where she is and to help that person build from that point. I would recommend him to anyone. I feel that my money was very well spent " - D.B.



Susie Baxter's "Write Your Memoir"

course at Santa Fe College is scheduled for March 28 through April 25. The class will meet from 10:00 a.m. until noon each Saturday, except for Easter weekend. If you wish to write about your life for yourself, your family, or for the world, this course is for you. Participants write short stories about everyday life, the people who influenced them, and life-changing events. Can't remember the details? Handouts and charts will aid recall. Classmates will have a chance to share stories, though sharing is not mandatory. Those interested can sign up after the next *Enrich* program comes out. Limited to 12



Classes and Conferences

WAG Member and Novelist Wendy Thornton is offering her novel-writing course this spring:

WRITING A NOVEL START TO FINISH

Do you want to write a novel? This course will teach you how to/whether you should outline your book, how to define your audience, follow a classic story structure, and get started. The course will also address the best ways to find inspiration and how to confront the blank page. You'll get solid tips on how to carve out time for your work and how to overcome the dreaded writer's block!

ENG0045.1F3

6 Thu., starts 1/30/20, 6:00:00PM - 8:00:00PM

Instructor: Wendy Thornton

SF - NW CAMPUS

FEE \$59.00

NOTE: No class on 3/5 – college is closed for Spring Break.

If you'd like further information about the class, please contact Wendy at floridawendy54@gmail.com.

Writing

Very Short Stories

Learn to create short story or prose poem structure. Includes discussions of the necessary skills, review of established fiction and non-fiction short stories and prose poetry, as well as in-class prompts, creative writing exercises and discussions on how to improve your short stories for publication - this will be an interactive and energetic class where questions and discussions are encouraged.

6 Thu., starts 1/23, 6 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

Instructor: Kaye Linden

SF NW Campus, A-29

FEE \$69

SF SANTA FE COLLEGE

Community Education

For more information or
to register, call

352-395-5193

or visit our website at
sfcollege.edu/communityed



Calls for Submission



2River View

Website: <http://www.2River.org>

Genres Published: Poetry

Formats: Web, E-publication, Audio

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.2River.org/office/submit.html>

Reading Period: Jan 1 to Dec 31

Reporting Time: Less than 3 months

Charges Reading Fee: No

Accepts Electronic Submissions: Yes

Accepts Simultaneous Submissions: No

Accepts Unsolicited Submissions: Yes

Number of Debut Authors per Issue: 10

Payment: Contributor copies only



100 Word Story

Website: <http://www.100wordstory.org>

Genres Published: Fiction

Subgenres: [Autobiography/Memoir](#), [Experimental](#), [Prose Poetry](#), [Narrative Nonfiction](#)

Formats: Web

Submission Guidelines: <http://www.100wordstory.org/submit>

Reading Period: Jan 1 to Dec 31

Reporting Time: Less than 3 months

Charges Reading Fee: Yes

Accepts Electronic Submissions: Yes

Accepts Simultaneous Submissions: Yes

Accepts Unsolicited Submissions: Yes

Number of Debut Authors per Issue: 2-3

[100 word story]



Just an Accident

By Mark Bacon

Tim flipped a dashboard switch and a red light blinked. When Larry got in the car, Tim pulled out. "So," Larry growled, "whadda want now?"

[Read More](#)

Calls for Submission



About Place Journal

About Place Journal is the literary publication of the Black Earth Institute. Black. BEI is dedicated to art serving the causes of spirit, earth and society. Issues are guest edited by fellows of the Institute. Themes (titles of issues) are chosen by the editors. We seek pieces that relate to the specific call but always reflecting literature that speaks in such a way to awaken us and help create a better world.

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

Genres Published: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction

Formats: Web

Submission Guidelines: <http://aboutplacejournal.org/submissions/>

Reading Period: Jan 1 to Dec 31

Reporting Time: Less than 3 months

Charges Reading Fee: No

Accepts Electronic Submissions: Yes

Accepts Simultaneous Submissions: Yes

Accepts Unsolicited Submissions: Yes

Number of Debut Authors per Issue: 5-10



Theme: Revitalizing the Small Town!

Deadline: March 1, 2020

Jenny Magazine is a literary journal founded and run by students from Youngstown State University. We've decided Issue 18 will have a theme: revitalizing the small town. We are looking for pieces from those who grew up in the decaying Rust Belt to bring new life to our stories. We may be living in ghost towns, but we are still the faces of hope.

www.jennymag.org



Calls for Submission



HWP Submissions: Tin Can Literary Review & From the Depths

Deadline: Rolling

Haunted Waters Press now seeking submissions for consideration in *Tin Can Literary Review*—our upcoming fiction anthology celebrating the works of new, emerging, and seasoned authors. We seek stories told in as little as 500 words and as many as 12,000. Contributors to be paid \$250 per published story. Also seeking works of fiction, poetry, and flash for paid print publication in the 18th issue of *From the Depths* and for 2020 HWP Awards. Details: www.hauntedwaterspress.com. Visit the [HWP Contributor Showcase](#) to learn more about our published authors and poets.



High Desert Journal Now Accepting Submissions

Deadline: March 15, 2020

High Desert Journal is now accepting submissions of essays, stories, poems, and artwork for its Spring 2020 issue. Deadline to submit is March 15. We're especially interested in work that expands and challenges the usual notions of the interior West. Since 2004, *HDJ* has uniquely combined the elements of the West: elegance and grit, urban and rural, arid and wet. *HDJ* is a publication that elicits a sense of place, honors the myths and evokes the emergent West, and portrays the joys and challenges of life in the high desert. Please submit using our submission manager www.highdesertjournal.com/submissions.



Contests



Morton and McCarthy Prizes

Deadline: February 15, 2020

Entry Fee: \$29

Cash Prize: \$2,000

E-mail address: info@sarabandebooks.org

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

Two prizes of \$2,000 each and publication by Sarabande Books are given annually for collections of poetry and fiction. For the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry, submit a poetry collection of at least 48 pages with a \$29 entry fee by February 15. For the Mary McCarthy Prize in Short Fiction, submit a collection of stories or novellas or a short novel of 150 to 250 pages with a \$29 entry fee by February 15. Alberto Ríos will judge in poetry and Alice Sebold will judge in fiction. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Sarabande Books, Morton and McCarthy Prizes, 822 East Market Street, Louisville, KY 40206.



Hunger Mountain

Deadline: March 1, 2020

Entry Fee: \$20

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: hungermtn@vcfa.edu

Website: <http://www.hungermtn.org/submit-contests>

Three prizes of \$1,000 each and publication on the *Hunger Mountain* website are given annually for a poem, a short story, and an essay. Submit up to three poems or a story or essay of up to 10,000 words with a \$20 entry fee by March 1. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Hunger Mountain, Literary Prizes, Vermont College of Fine Arts, 36 College Street, Montpelier, VT 05602.



Hemingway Flash Fiction Prize

Deadline: March 31, 2020

Entries for the Ernest Hemingway Flash Fiction Prize should be approximately 1,500 words or less. Entry fee: \$10. 1st place: \$200 and publication in *Fiction Southeast*. Finalists considered for publication. Check out full guidelines at our website: www.fictionsoutheast.com.



Contests

Puerto del Sol Prose and Poetry Contests

Puerto Del Sol will be accepting entries to our annual poetry and prose contests from January 1 to April 1, 2020. Poetry Contest Judge: Rodney Gomez. Prose Contest Judge: Vi Khi Nao. Winners receive \$500 and publication. \$9 entry fee includes a one-year subscription. All entries considered for publication. Go to puertodelsol.org for complete guidelines.



Killer Nashville Writing Competitions for Published & Unpublished Works

Deadline: April 1, 2020

Killer Nashville is the premier forum for all literature incorporating mystery, thriller, suspense, or true crime. We host two annual writing competitions: The Killer Nashville Claymore Award and the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award. The Claymore competition is for unpublished works. Prizes include the Claymore Award, possible publication, publicity, and more. Written critiques are also available. The Silver Falchion competition is for works published in 2019. Prizes for this award include a \$250 cash prize, a medal, publicity, and more. Winners will be announced at the Killer Nashville International Writers' Conference August 22, 2020. killernashville.com/awards



Backbone Press 2nd Annual Chapbook Competition

Deadline: March 1, 2020

We are currently accepting submissions to our 2nd annual Backbone Press Chapbook Competition. The winner will receive publication, \$250 prize, and funding assistance for a reading. Poets of color and those considered to be marginalized voices are strongly encouraged to enter. The final judge is Geoffrey Davis. See website for full guidelines: backbonepress.org.

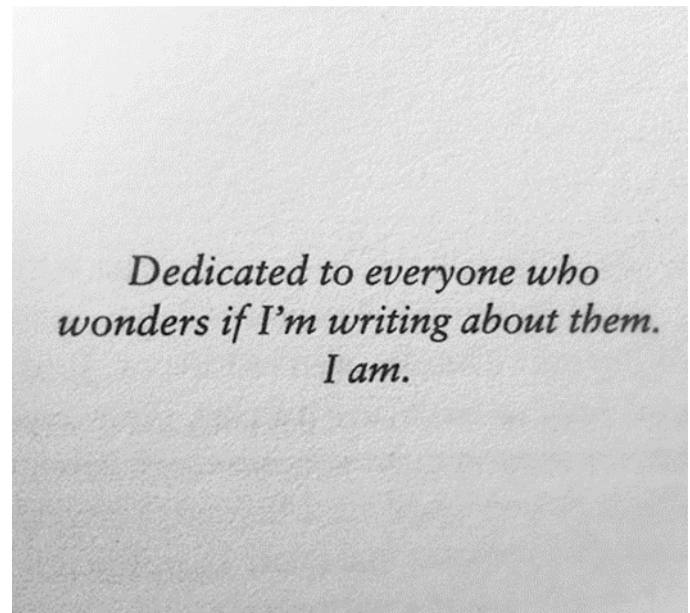
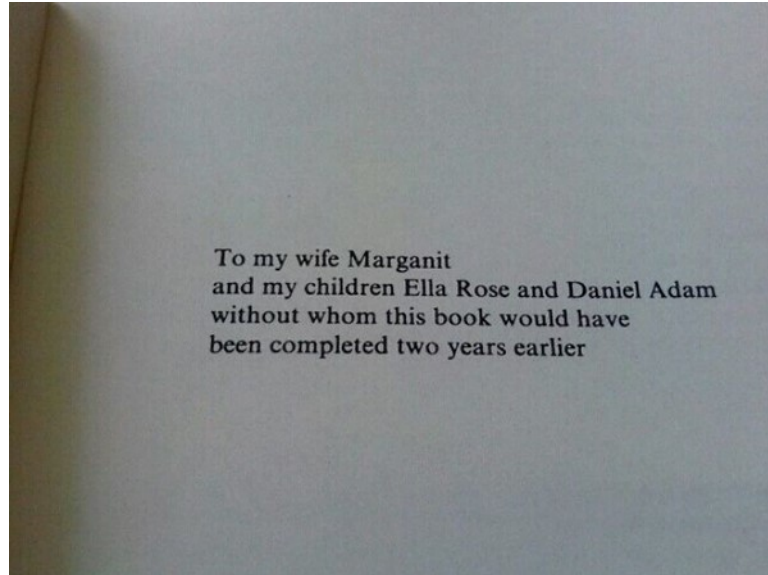


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On a Lighter Note

From Fifty Most Creative Book Dedications

(<https://www.demilked.com/creative-book-dedication-pages/>)



On a Lighter Note

This book is dedicated, with great reluctance, to my editor, Nick Lake, because he is forcing me to.

Personally, I would have liked to include Gillie Russell and Michael Stearns who, along with Nick, really welcomed me into the publishing world with my first book.

Unfortunately, because Nick is now my sole editor, he has threatened to edit this dedication down to an unrecognisable mess of blacked-out lines, and so as a result this dedication is to him, and him alone.

Personally I think that this shows a staggering amount of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], which proves that Nick is nothing but a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] for [REDACTED], but hey, that's just my personal opinion.

Here, Nick. You finally get a book dedicated to you.
Hope you're [REDACTED] happy.

[REDACTED].

(Editor's Note: Nick Lake is a great guy.)



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.

