

# WAG Digest Page 1

## Volume 11—Issue 6

WAG PUBLIC EVENT

### HISTORIC THOMAS CENTER

**December 12, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM**

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**Ready for the holidays?  
Or ready to run screaming into the night?**

However you feel about the upcoming holiday season, you have a chance to express yourself in person by reading your work at an upcoming public event! Members of the Writers Alliance of

Gainesville will read pieces of their work on Sunday, the 12th of December, 2:30–4:00 p.m.

The readings will take place in the West Gardens/Veranda area (outdoors) in The Historic Thomas Center, 302 NE 6th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601.

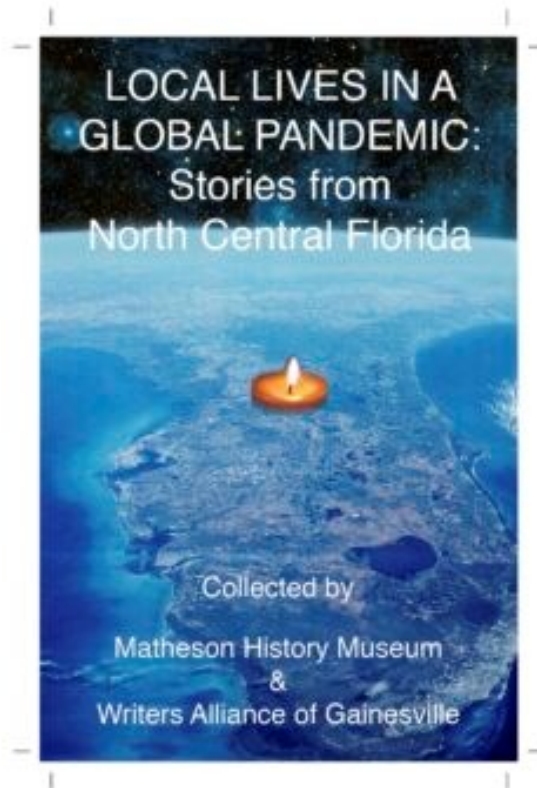
Each author will have seven to ten minutes in which to read. Readings may or may not have a holiday theme and will be public-friendly. Authors, please submit your work in advance by email to

Wendy Thornton at

[floridawendy@outlook.com](mailto:floridawendy@outlook.com)

# Book Launch at the Matheson

## December 16, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



The Matheson History Museum and the Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG) are thrilled to announce the publication of their book, **Local Lives in a Global Pandemic: Stories from North Central Florida**. The anthology was edited by WAG members Pat Caren, Ronnie Lovler, and Mallory O'Connor, along with Dr. Charles Cobb, Curator and Lockwood Professor of Historical Archaeology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. Cobb and Lovler are also members of the Matheson Board of Directors. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

For the safety of staff and attendees, capacity will be limited to 50 people and masks are required. Admission is free but registration is required. **To register**, go to this website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/local-lives-in-a-global-pandemic-book-launch-tickets-200366731287>.

A virtual option via Zoom is available for those who cannot attend in person:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Jgb5YR-aSR-llksY8loZnw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jgb5YR-aSR-llksY8loZnw).

How has the pandemic affected your life and that of your family and friends? That was the question asked by the Matheson staff and Writers Alliance of Gainesville members. They sought stories, essays, poems, etc. about personal experiences during the pandemic. Writers were asked to tell the tale in 1000 words or less, and they responded passionately. Over fifty contributors sent in numerous essays, stories, poems, illustrations, and a play.

Our January  
Meeting will be at  
the Main  
Gainesville  
Library,

401 East University  
Ave., Gainesville,  
FL 32601

[www.writersalliance.org](http://www.writersalliance.org)

## Upcoming WAG Meetings - Meeting Room A on Sunday, January 09, 2:30 PM - 4:45 PM

The Writers Alliance is planning an in-person event for January at the Main Library downtown. We are aware that this is currently planned as our first indoor event since the beginning of the Pandemic, and anything could change within the upcoming time frame. But at this point, we plan to have a speaker meet the public in person for the first time in almost two years. Please join us to hear local author:

### **Hugh Suggs**

**“Pssst, want to know a secret?”**

There’s no bottom you can’t come back from  
if you are determined to get back up, are willing to ask for help—and accept it  
when it’s offered.



Hugh Suggs, whose poignant story, “From one Field to Another,” won First Place for creative nonfiction in the 2019 Bacopa Literary Review, has written a powerful memoir dedicated to his illiterate farming father’s struggle to raise six children inside the abject poverty of itinerant farm work—who’d become teachers, county managers, decorated soldiers and successful politicians. Written novel style in a series of forty vignettes, the reader walks into Wise’s Drugs with his father in 1945 as the storyteller journeys back to his sharecropping roots in order to discover how he became the person who ended up beneath the wheels of a loaded log truck, and on this subsequent, reconfiguring, out-of-body journey through the ether the readers takes

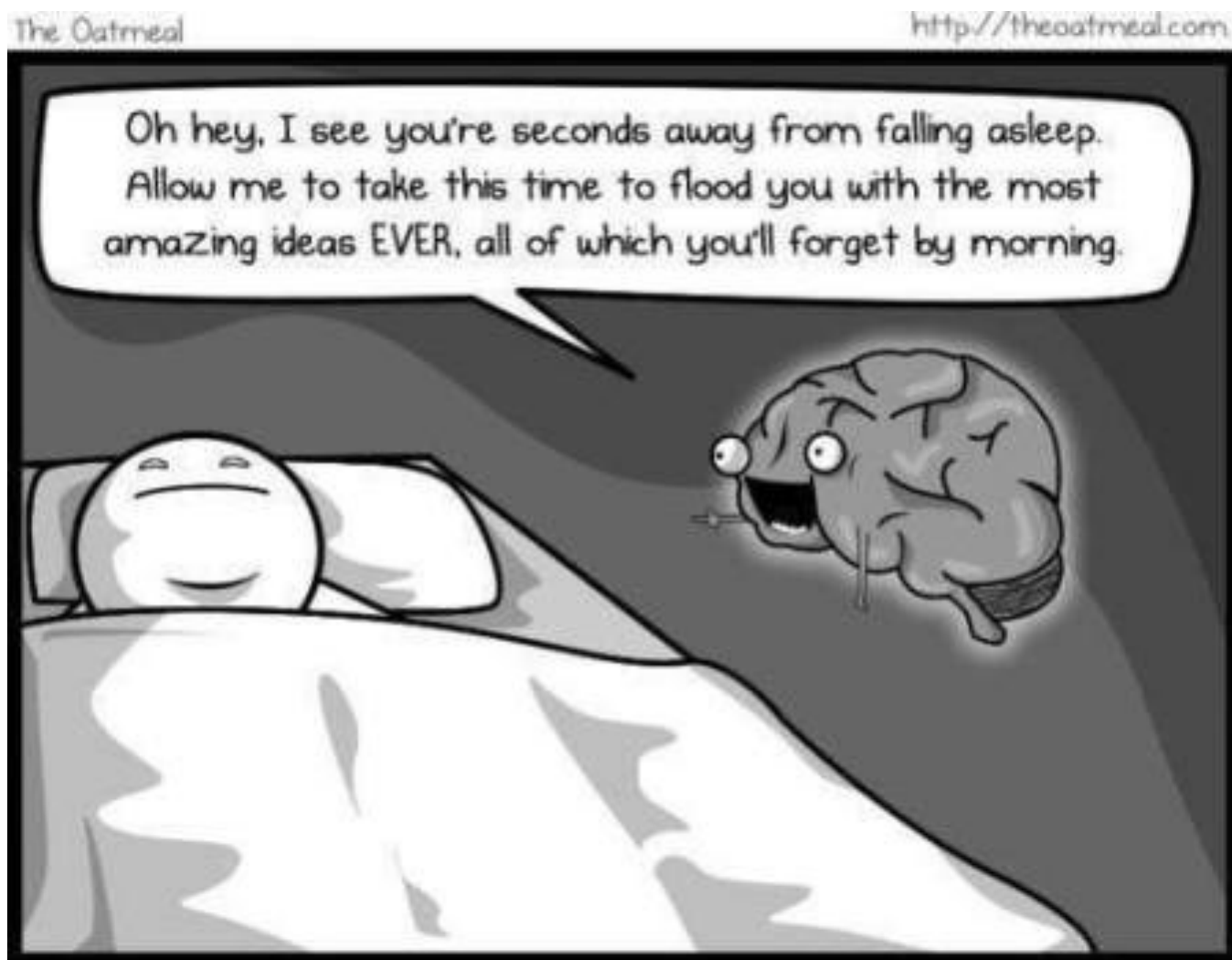
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## Upcoming Meetings, cont.

with him. His book supplies the details of that tour from the shacks of Florida, where he acquired the baggage that led to those life, body, and mind-altering several seconds when he lost his legs, but gained an enhanced perspective in his writing. His talk will center around how he combines his open-mic-honed prose poetry with the challenge of writing about a seventy year journey from his changing perspective; first as that of a gifted child laborer who becomes a budding poet and then as a baggage-carrying, struggling adult whose bad choices left him beneath those wheels. He will be highlighting this technique by reading excerpts from both his finished manuscript of creative nonfiction, "Rind and All," and performing pieces from a collection of poetry he's calling "Back on this Side / A Second Chance at Enlightenment," whose lines kept finding their way into his memoir's manuscript.

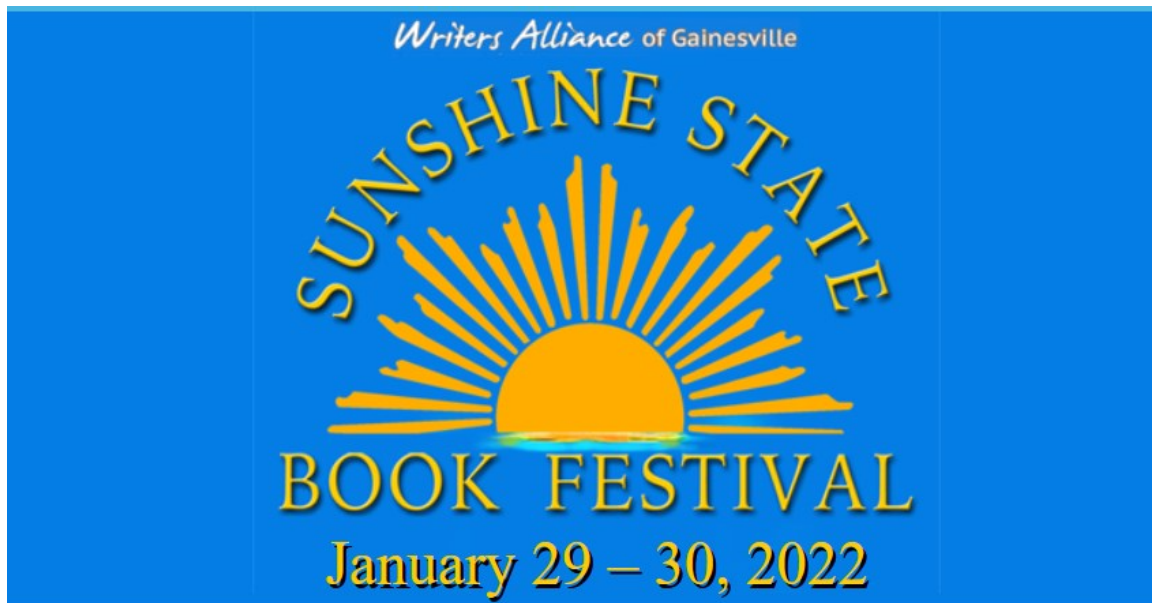
Please feel free to wear a mask and socially distance if you can. The Downtown Library Meeting Room A is spacious and parking is available around the building. If this meeting has to be changed, we will try to notify you as soon as possible.

Meeting Room A on Sunday, January 09, 2:30 PM - 4:45 PM  
401 East University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601





## WAG Brags



### Bringing Readers and Writers Together

Sponsored by:

JOIN US FOR THE IN PERSON SUNSHINE STATE BOOK FESTIVAL,



Jan. 29 to 30, 2022 at the Oaks Mall.

Registration closes January 2, 2022, or sooner if limit is reached.

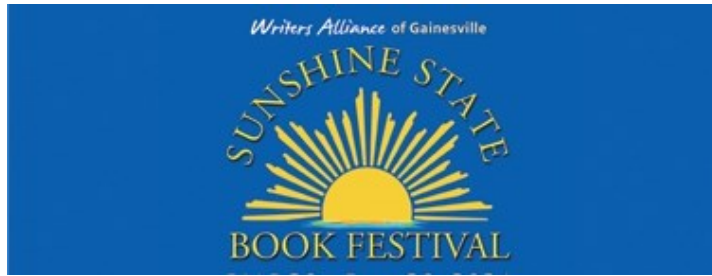
[Click here for registration info:](https://www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com/ssbf-reg.html)

<https://www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com/ssbf-reg.html>

Register early—Number of booths is limited.

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## WAG Brags



Share Your Talent!

Help make the festival a success!

January 29-30

See our list of needs, and volunteer your talents today!

**Media/Promo Coordinator:** Our biggest need right now! Send press releases to the *Gainesville Sun*, *Our Town*, *Good Life Community Magazine*, radio, TV, and in particular, the Ilene Silverman Show (maybe she'll interview you and other volunteers on her show).

**Social Media Coordinator:** Post announcements and news on Facebook, blogs, Twitter, Instagram, etc.

**Organization Outreach Coordinator:** Get the word out to book clubs, schools, colleges, retirement communities, any place you can think of. Restaurants? Galleries? Museums? Distribute rack cards and bookmarks anywhere and everywhere.

**Business Community Liaison:** Are you pretty well known in the community? Can you help us inspire business people to sponsor or promote the festival.

**Printing Coordinator:** Act as the festival's point of contact with our printers (Renaissance Printing at 43rd St. and 16th Ave. for small jobs and NextDay Flyers for large orders). Distribute printed material to festival committee members for further distribution.

**Festival volunteers:** During the festival, greet the public, hand out programs, ask survey questions, watch an author's table if the author needs a quick break. Volunteers may also sit at the WAG information table to answer questions and collect book-affle forms and give winners their books.

**Book-Raffle Coordinator:** On Saturday, visitors may pick up an entry form at the book-affle table. They can collect author signatures, stamps, or stickers. When they have ten or more, they may turn the entry form in for a chance to win a book. We will draw the names of winners hourly.

**Follow-up Evaluations Coordinator:** Tabulate authors' and visitors' survey questions following the festival.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please contact the festival chairperson, Pat Caren, by sending an email today to: [SunshineStateBookFestival@writersalliance.org](mailto:SunshineStateBookFestival@writersalliance.org). She's waiting!

## WAG Brags

### WAG President Jess Elliott publishes her next book in the Haint Blue Series—a Christmas Classic!

Haint Blue needs a vacation. It looks like she'll be alone for Christmas. Her relationship with Buster is in limbo. Why not slip off to the beach? She can almost taste the fish tacos and fried shrimp. But before she can make a motel reservation, psychic Aunt Moira calls. "I had a vivid dream this morning. There was a bright Christmas tree...children laughing...an empty deep freezer in a garage. You were wringing your hands in a red apron. Some weird nursery rhyme repeated 'the larder was bare, the larder was bare'. The dream tells me that you need to stock your pantry; you're going to be a busy hostess this Christmas. Get your holiday cookbooks out, sweetheart."

Surely not.

As the 25th approaches, the phone calls begin. "Haint? This is Yolanda, from Paco's. Our restaurant stove--something is wrong. It's gas. Sometimes it works and then suddenly *nada*. Sometimes I swear I smell gas. I'm not going to play with gas. I'm afraid of gas. We were wondering if you had a few cabins?"



## Wag Brags – Haint Blue cont.

"Haint? Max. Listen, my sister Nellavon thinks I'm dying. She's got this hairbrained notion to get the family together. I can't talk her out of it. I know business has been slow, and I was wondering, you gonna be open for the holidays?"

"We're travelling with alpacas. Do you have space to exercise them?"

"We're the Lame Brain Zombie LARPers...party of seven, do you have a cabin?"

"My client wants privacy."

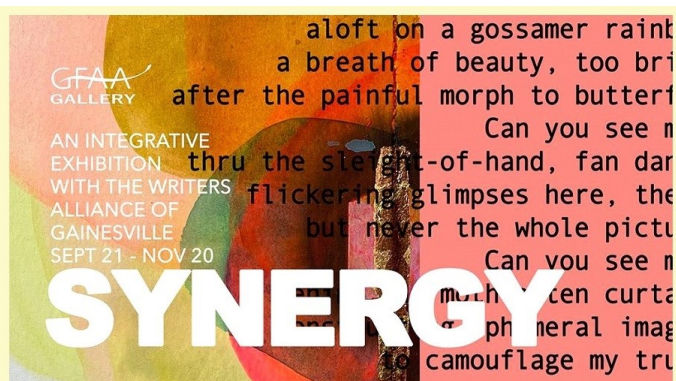
The calls keep coming. And odd little gifts keeping showing up and disappearing. What's *that* about?

As the retreat fills to capacity, strangers become family as they come together for a Haint Blue Christmas. Looking for a funny, feel-good holiday romp with a bit of mystery? This is the one!

[Amazon.com: It's a Haint Blue Christmas: \(Illustrated in Color\): 9781734354164: Elliott, J.: Books](https://www.amazon.com/Its-Haint-Blue-Christmas-Illustrated/dp/173435416X/) (https://www.amazon.com/Its-Haint-Blue-Christmas-Illustrated/dp/173435416X/)

Link for eBook and black and white versions: [It's a Haint Blue Christmas - Kindle edition by Elliott, J. . Literature & Fiction Kindle eBooks @ Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com/Its-Haint-Blue-Christmas-Elliott-ebook/dp/B09LJD5TGZ/) (https://www.amazon.com/Its-Haint-Blue-Christmas-Elliott-ebook/dp/B09LJD5TGZ/)

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**



**Immerse Your Senses in the Dynamic Pairing of Visual Art and the Spoken Word at the Opening Reception of Synergy**

Friday, September 24, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. | Gainesville Fine Arts Association  
1314 S Main St., Gainesville, FL 32601

Authors from the Writers Alliance of Gainesville selected paintings from GFAA artists and responded with stories, poems and reflections. The result is the integrated exhibition Synergy. The opening reception includes music, refreshments and readings from local authors.

Thank you to all the writers and artists who participated in our first interaction with the Gainesville Fine Arts Association, **Synergy**. The results were a fantastic success and we received so much positive feedback for the stellar writing from our group. Stay tuned—we'll be working with them again!

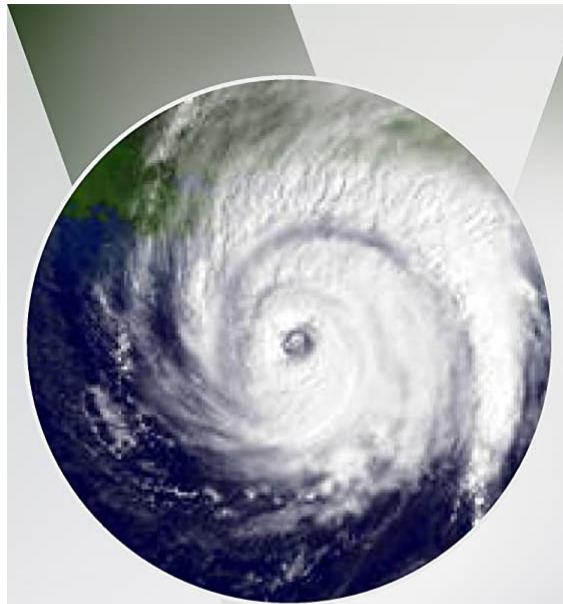


## Wag Brags

**Congratulations to Pat Caren (writing as Marie Q. Rogers) on publication of her new book on Vella!**

### **Season of the Dove** **by Marie Q Rogers**

In 2123, the U.S. has fallen apart socially, economically, and politically. The oligarchs rule. Time for pitchforks and torches... Rob is a Prince of Industry, until his father catches him committing a charitable act. Rosa is a working class teacher. Friends in college, due to class differences, there is no possibility of romance. Until a category 6 hurricane strikes... Rosa and Rob struggle through tragedy, poverty, and revolution, solve a decades-old mystery, and begin to rebuild their world. **The book is available here:**



### **Season of the Dove** Marie Q Rogers

**<https://www.amazon.com/kindle-vella/story/B09GLLR87>**

**\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\***

READY TO JOIN A POD? Critique pods can help you get your work ready for submission or publication. You can check out the critique pods available to WAG members at this site: <https://writersalliance.org/membership/critique-pods/>

You can join an available pod or maybe start one of your own. Contact our critique pod coordinator, Kimberley Mullins, at this e-mail:

**[podcoordinator@writersalliance.org](mailto:podcoordinator@writersalliance.org)**

# Wag Brags

## Ready to write? Write about Writing!

Have an idea for a blog post? The Writers Alliance is seeking bloggers for our Web site.

### Guidelines:

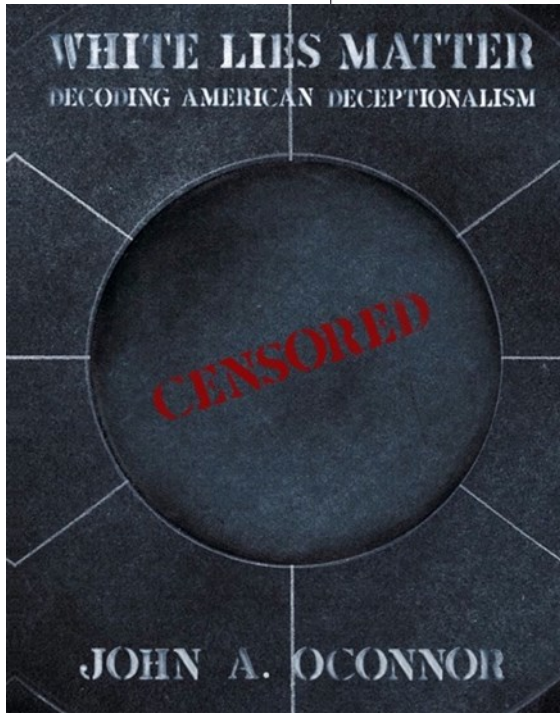
- 1 – Content:** The article should relate to writing, marketing, publishing, or to the WAG organization — and be original. A previously published article *will be considered*, however, if you freshen it with new information and include a footnote linking to the original article.
- 2 – Length:** 500 to 1000 words
- 3 – Style:** Write in first person. Blogs may include personal opinions.
- 4 – Links:** Include 1 to 5 links to website pages that will give your reader additional information on your topic. There is no need to make the links yourself; just include URLs.
- 5 – Hints to increase traffic to your post:** Choose a catchy title using key words. Repeat the key words in the first sentence and again within the first paragraph. Use numbers in the title (e.g., Best 8 Ways to Promote Your Book).
- 6 – Images:** Try to Include at least one high quality image (jpg or gif) that relates to your post. Credit the photographer or give the source. YouTube videos may be included without attribution.
- 7 – Self-Promotion?** You may reference your own publications if they are related to your topic. However, you should not use WAG's blog just to promote yourself or your works. Note that all WAG members may promote their publications on the [Books](#) page of WAG's website by completing the ["Get Listed"](#) form.
- 8 – Bio and photo of yourself:** For your first post, include a bio (up to 50 words) and a high quality photo of yourself. If you have a website, include the URL. For bio examples, look at previous posts.
- 9 – Submissions:** Email the post as a Word document to the [Blog Editor](#).
- 10 – Timing:** Blog posts are due ten days before your scheduled posting date.
- 11 – Rights:** In submitting your blog post, *you retain copyright, but you give the Writers Alliance of Gainesville one-time, non-exclusive digital rights to publish the content.*
- 12 – Permissions:** If you are including an image to which you do not own rights, please have the creator of the image send an email giving WAG permission to use the work. YouTube videos do not require permission.
- 13 – Editing:** Your piece will be edited for appropriateness, length, clarity, proper English and use of language. The blog editor may also add illustrations and links.
- 14 – Publication:** You will be notified when your piece goes live on the website, after which it will be emailed to subscribers. (If you have not subscribed, go here to the bottom right to sign up—

<https://writersalliance.org/blog/wag-blogging-guidelines/>

## Wag Brags

Congratulations to WAG Member **John A. O'Connor** on publication of his new book:

### WHITE LIES MATTER



“Artist/art professor John A. O’Connor characterizes his series *White Lies Matter: Decoding American Deceptionalism* as ‘a history of American hypocrisy.’ Using the image of the slate as a consistent base, *White Lies Matter* ranges across historical and contemporary America, touching down at flashpoints of inequality, misunderstanding, and conflict.

From the gradual decay of national institutions to more immediate political crises, O’Connor’s project traverses a list of illegalities and cover-ups, oppressions and suppressions, tracing links between individuals and institutions in positions of influence. It begins with Christopher Columbus and the First Thanksgiving—mythologies that crumble very easily by now—and moves on through the

contradictory and belated embedding of religion in the nation’s founding documents, to the calamitous installation of Donald Trump as its 45th president.

#### **Praise for *White Lies Matter***

*White Lies Matter: Decoding American Deceptionalism* reveals the deceptions, lies, and cynicism of America and the ‘fake news’ and “alt- facts” that permeate contemporary society.”— Author Michael Wilson (*How to Read Contemporary Art*)

“For a public numbed by fake news, John A. O'Connor's digital masterwork, *White Lies Matter*, provides a brilliant corrective curriculum.” —Charlotte Porter, Ph.D.

“John A. O’Connor is an artist who believes that it is very important to re-establish the artist’s historical contributions to the formation of public policy and social justice issues.” — David Todd, *BookTrib* Review

“A timely and impressively presented expose and study, *White Lies Matter: Decoding American Deceptionalism* is especially and unreservedly recommended for personal, professional, community, college and university library Political Science collections.” —Michael J. Carson, *Midwest Book Review*

“A remarkable and timely book, *White Lies Matter* is an elegant ‘coffee table book,’ but with significance.” — Dr. Barbara Newell, former Chancellor of the Florida State University System.

## Wag Brags

Congratulations to WAG Member **Ronnie Lovler**. She has had a busy couple of months!

"Just had an article published today in Mainstreet Daily News. Here is the link."

[https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/local\\_living/florida-finds-james-museum-andy-warhol/article\\_65d6bab4-416b-11ec-bb11-27892d61ce3d.html](https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/local_living/florida-finds-james-museum-andy-warhol/article_65d6bab4-416b-11ec-bb11-27892d61ce3d.html)

Then, shortly thereafter, she sent us this:

"I am the recipient of a fellowship from the *Journalists in Aging Fellowship Program of the Gerontological Society of America* and the *Journalists Network on Generations*. My work will look at The Villages in Florida, which the 2020 Census determined was the fastest-growing metro area in the United States, to try to dig into understanding why it has become such a draw and model for other over-55 communities. I was awarded the fellowship in October 2021 and am working on my project now."

And:

"An Article published in *Gainesville Sun* headlined: *Watergate Prosecutor Jill Wine-Banks to Speak Nov. 6*. Article ran Saturday, Oct. 30"

<https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/2021/10/30/watergate-prosecutor-jill-wine-banks-speak-nov-6-gainesville/6177059001/>

**Great job, Ronnie!**

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

Reminder—two upcoming events—Please contact Jess Elliott if you want to attend:

1. O'Connell Center Craft Fair-- Dec 4 and 5 and
  2. A Holiday Open House December 10th at Thornebrook from 5-9PM.
- Here's the description they sent us:

"Friday December 10th from 5:00pm to 9:pm we are hosting a Holiday open house. Thornebrook will be fully decorated. We will have music, a snow machine and the big man himself is scheduled to show up. We are inviting you to set up a booth ( No Fees \*\* It's Free\*\*). This is a small one-night, low-key event so no big booths or tents, you can set up under the building on the sidewalk."

**IF YOU CAN BE PRESENT FOR ONE OR THE OTHER OF THESE EVENTS, YOU MAY HAVE YOUR BOOKS FOR SALE AT BOTH.**

**PER JESS**—You can call me at 386-418-8839 --it's a landline. You know, old-school stuff. I might pick up, you might get a message, but I will call you back. I'm good like that.



## Wag Brags

### From WAG Member **Karen Porter:**

I recently published my Blue Emotatude Christmas book. It is a story about how to be resilient at Christmas when you feel blue. I attach a link from youtube promoting my book. Please let me know if you have any questions and feel free to like and subscribe. 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IworcU4ZU7A>

ps. This is only a one and a half minute duration.

Karen Porter

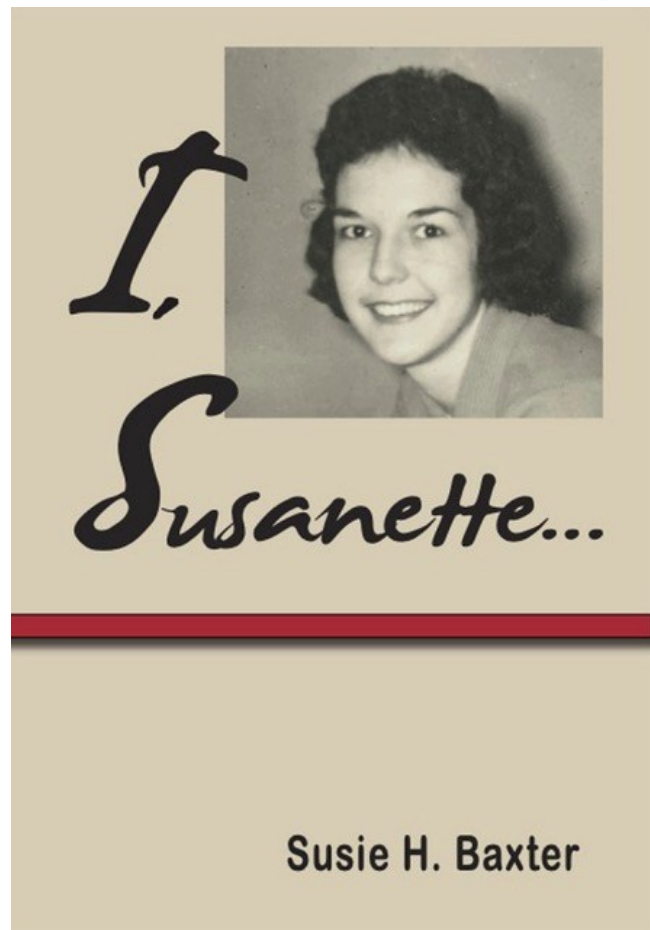
Christmas is coming—check it out!

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

Former **WAG President Susie Baxter's** latest book, a coming-of-age memoir, *I, Susanette...* is publishing in early December.

**Book description:** Even before *Susanette* starts first grade, she thinks her daddy will pity her if she fails to marry. Her prospect of finding a Prince Charming dims when schoolboys nickname her Rabbit Teeth. Yet, through many hard-working years as a tobacco farmer's daughter, she does not abandon hope as she yearns for a different kind of life. Self-conscious about her looks, she is disheartened by her luck with boys. A popular boy in her Spanish class annoys her to the point she despises him. But then, he asks her out. What follows, *Susanette* could never have imagined.

Remember – Support local authors!



## **The Secret to a Tight, Propulsive Plot: The Want, The Action, The Shift**

by [Tiffany Yates Martin](#)



Creating a story without at least some idea of your plot is like planning a trip without a route: You're likely to wind up meandering, stuck, or lost.

But strong plot is more than just a series of interesting events. It's a foundational element of what creates *story*—the road along which your character travels and is changed en route to a strongly held desire.

This basic definition of story means that plot is intrinsically tied to character. As a story element it doesn't exist in a vacuum, but is both driven by and drives the protagonist: what she wants, the steps she takes to get it, and how she's affected by each step on that journey.

## (Cont. ) A Tight, Propulsive Plot

You can adapt how much you decide to plot in advance of drafting based on whether you're a die-hard plotter, a pantsier, or something in between ("plantser"), but framing the overarching story, as well as each scene within it through the lens of your characters and these three key elements—the **want**, the **action**, and the **shift**—will help guide you through creating a consistently cohesive and propulsive plot.

### Think of your protagonist(s) as Tarzan.

If you want him to fly through the air with the greatest of ease, your job as the author is to make sure there's a vine within reach when he needs it, that it swings him smoothly through the jungle canopy, and that there's another vine ready for his grasp when he reaches the end of that arc. He can travel the whole jungle that way, all the way home to Jane.

That's the sense readers should have of your character's journey—that they're effortlessly borne along with your protagonist on an unbroken series of arcs toward the final destination. The **want** is the vine awaiting the character's grasp; the **action** is the swing; and the **shift** is the transfer from one vine to the next awaiting vine.

If any of these three stages fail, that smooth momentum is broken and you risk sending your protagonist—and your reader—plummeting to the forest floor, or stranded in the treetops or on a motionless vine.

This formula applies not just to each individual scene, but to the story as a whole. Before you even begin drafting, see if you can define your story through the lens of the want, the action, and the shift:

Hypercautious Marlon is desperate to keep his sole remaining child close to the safety of home and his protection after the rest of their family is killed, but when his son is swept out to sea, Marlon must face the dangers of the open ocean in trying to find him—and learns that life must be lived fully, despite the risks.

Did you recognize the key plot points in *Finding Nemo*?

- The **want** is clownfish Marlon's desire to keep Nemo safe in their little anemone and corner of the sea.

## (Cont. ) **A Tight, Propulsive Plot**

- The resultant **action** is his journey to track Nemo down and bring him safely home, and all the challenges, obstacles, setbacks, and advances along the path to that goal.
- The **shift** is Marlon's realization that he can't shelter Nemo from every danger, and that a meaningful life can't be lived in fear.

Even if this is all you establish before starting to write, it will still create a map to keep you on track as you travel the road of your story. And as a bonus, it can also double as a clear, concise log line to use when you're ready to query and pitch.

### **How scenes work with *want*, *action*, and *shift***

The want, the action, and the shift should also form the foundation of each scene within the story, either as you outline or as you're drafting. In stories with the strongest momentum, every single scene in the plot comprises a necessary step along the protagonist(s)' path toward their ultimate goal—each scene is a “mini-story” of its own, with its own want, action, and shift, each in service to the über want-action-shift we defined above.

#### **The Want**

One of the most important skills an actor learns is never to walk onstage without knowing what their character wants in that scene. The same goes for fiction: Before you begin writing a scene, know what “want” your character enters with. That's how you put that vine in Tarzan's hand as he reaches for it.

- A character's want in a scene might be a strong, tangible, urgent goal: to rescue the princess, to escape the bad guy, to win a promotion or a love interest or a battle.
- It might be a less concrete, internal one: to attain a parent's approval, to assuage a spouse's anger, to help a friend.
- The immediate want could also be a subtractive goal: Your characters might want to *not* feel a certain way, or to avoid a particular outcome.

How scenes  
Work with  
Want



## The Action moves to the Shift

You don't have to have a major story- or character-defining goal in every scene—as long as whatever that “want” is directly or indirectly serves the character's *overarching* want in the story: i.e., attaining this immediate goal will (theoretically) move the character closer to her end-goal.

### The Action

As a direct result of her desire for that goal, your character should take some definitive action to attain it—this is the swing of the vine that moves us through the story.

If, for instance, your protagonist's “want” in a scene is to avoid yet another fight with her partner, what does she do to pursue that goal? Does she come into the house with a big smile and a bouquet of flowers? Slink in the garage door as quietly as possible so as not to draw her partner's attention or ire? Not go home at all, but instead delay her arrival with an extended happy hour with friends?

This scene, then, will be about her attempting to achieve her want by taking those specific actions—and whatever results from what she chooses to do (or not do) will create further action within the scene:

- Maybe she succeeds in disarming her partner with the flowers, and the two wind up having an unexpectedly pleasant evening together over wine and a nice dinner.
- Perhaps she tries sneaking silently inside, but her partner intercepts her with a hurt expression, asking why she's avoiding them, and the evening ends in wounded feelings and tears the protagonist can't assuage.
- Maybe she gets home late from her unannounced happy hour, only to find her partner waiting up for her, loaded for bear, and a spectacular fight ensues.

### The Shift

The character's action in the scene will either move her closer to her end goal or cause a setback from it. In either case, readers need to see how she is affected by the results of her actions, and how they change her behavior, thoughts, and actions going forward—the “shift” that directs readers toward that next vine, a.k.a. the new want that results from the character's shift.

## (Cont. ) A Tight, Propulsive Plot

If our hypothetical protagonist enjoys an unexpectedly nice evening with her partner, for example, maybe it changes her attitude toward them, and the next day she finds herself eager to get home, planning to surprise her partner with dinner from their favorite restaurant.

That original shift led to a new want, which will lead to new action. Is her partner not home and our protagonist tries to figure out where she went? Or have they reverted to their resentment of her and start another fight? Or do the two sit down over dinner and decide to work on their relationship and save it? Which will lead to a new shift...a new want...new action...and so on.

This pattern of want-action-shift creates powerful momentum, vine to swing to new vine, over and over, and creates a plot that keeps readers carried effortlessly, seamlessly along throughout your story.

**Creating  
Powerful  
Momentum**

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[Tiffany Yates Martin](#) has spent nearly thirty years as an editor in the publishing industry, working with major publishers and *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* bestselling and award-winning authors as well as indie and newer writers, and is the founder of FoxPrint Editorial and author of the best-seller [Intuitive Editing: A Creative and Practical Guide to Revising Your Writing](#). Under the pen name Phoebe Fox, she's the author of six novels, including the upcoming [The Way We Weren't](#) (Berkley). Visit her at [www.foxprinteditorial.com](http://www.foxprinteditorial.com) or [www.phoebefoxauthor.com](http://www.phoebefoxauthor.com).

This blog is courtesy of :



**Jane Friedman**

<https://www.janefriedman.com/the-secret-to-a-tight-propulsive-plot-the-want-the-action-the-shift/>

**Homographs are words of like spelling but  
with more than one meaning.**

**A homograph that is also pronounced differently  
is a heteronym.**

**You think English is easy??**

**I think a retired English teacher was bored...THIS IS GREAT!**

**Read all the way to the end.....**

**This took a lot of work to put together!**

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
- 4) We must polish the Polish furniture..
- 5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.
  
- 6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert..
- 7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- 10) I did not object to the object.
  
- 11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
- 13) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
  
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- 17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear..
- 19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

THANKS TO WRITER BONNIE OGLE FOR THESE GREAT JOKES!

In Person  
meetings  
coming  
back.

## Upcoming Classes

SF SANTA FE COLLEGE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION—<https://www.sfcollege.edu/cied/communityed/index>

### INTRO TO SCREENWRITING

This class is an introduction to the basics of writing a screenplay. You'll learn to plot your story in a screenplay format and avoid some of the classic mistakes made by beginning screenplay writers.

#### ENG0053.1FI

5 Mon., starts 01/31, 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM

Instructor: Gordon, Gary

SF - NW CAMPUS

Fee \$69.00

**NOTE:** Bring a laptop or tablet, a paragraph to a page about your favorite movie: what it is and why along with



## Upcoming Classes

# SF SANTA FE COLLEGE

COMMUNITY EDUCATION—<https://www.sfcollege.edu/cied/communityed/index>

### PUBLISHING IN THE MODERN WORLD

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. Now that Create Space is no longer in existence, how do you self-publish most effectively? We will cover the latest info on the publishing world in general.

### ENG0002.IF4

6 Thu., starts 01/27/2022, 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Instructor: Thornton, Wendy

SF - NW CAMPUS

Fee \$69.00

**NOTE:** No sr. waivers.

Spring  
Classes  
Resume at  
SFC

Continued Next Page

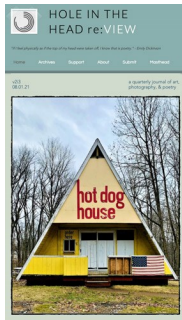


# Calls for Submission

## BLUE MOUNTAIN REVIEW

- Our Doors are Open
- **Deadline:** Year-round

The *Blue Mountain Review* launched from Athens, Georgia in 2015 with the mantra, “We’re all south of somewhere.” As a journal of culture, the *BMR* strives to represent all life through its stories. Stories are vital to our survival. What we sing saves the soul. Our goal is to preserve and promote lives told well through prose, poetry, music, and the visual arts. We’ve published work from and interviews with Jericho Brown, Kelli Russell Agodon, Robert Pinsky, Rising Appalachia, Turkuaz, Michel Stone, Michael Flohr, Lee Herrick, Chen Chen, Michael Cudlitz, Pat Metheny, Melissa Studdard, Lyrics Born, Terry Kay, and Christopher Moore. [bluemountainreview.submittable.com/submit](http://bluemountainreview.submittable.com/submit)



*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

*Hole In The Head Review*—a quarterly journal of art, photography, & poetry—was founded in 2020. We are enthusiastic about publishing both new and established poets like Richard Blanco, Denise Duhamel, Peter Johnson, Betsy Sholl, Richard Jones, David Weiss, Marie Harris, Mimi White, Richard Foerster, Lisa Zimmerman, Sheleen McElhinney, Cyrus Cassells, Charles Simic, James Crenner, Ralph Savarese, and Kenneth Rosen—and artists/photographers like Charter Weeks, Richard Heckler, Eva Rose Goetz, Greg Clary, K. Johnson Bowles, Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest, Paul Brahms, and Garrett Speirs. *Hole in The Head Review* is published four times a year—Groundhog Day, May Day, the editor’s birthday in August, and the day after Halloween. [www.holeintheheadreview.com](http://www.holeintheheadreview.com)

## Calls for Submission

### Sand Hills

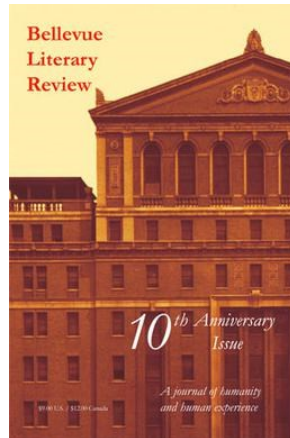


Literary Magazine

**Deadline:** January 15, 2022

*Sand Hills* is a national literary magazine that invites both emerging and established writers to contribute to our literary community. We want writers to submit their truths, their fictions, their poetry, their art—to share their humanity. We are currently open for submissions for our Spring 2022 issue and for our online Spotlight Series! Learn more about us at [www.sandhillslitmag.com](http://www.sandhillslitmag.com). We are excited to see your work!

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**



- Bellevue Literary Review Seeks Submissions About Recovery
  - **Deadline:** December 31, 2021

*Bellevue Literary Review* is seeking poetry, fiction, and nonfiction for a special issue devoted to Recovery, which has become more dimensional than ever as we grapple with the fallout from medical disasters, environmental catastrophe, economic devastation, and political upheaval. Are we capable of bouncing back from our isolation? Can we recuperate from our depression and disunity? How will our children grow up in the wake of such upheaval? Is true “recovery” even achievable? We all need to read these writings. Especially now. Deadline: December 31.

[blreview.org/submit](http://blreview.org/submit)

## Contests

### Cleveland Foundation Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards

Deadline: December 31, 2021

Cash Prize: \$10,000

E-mail address: [submit@anisfield-wolf.org](mailto:submit@anisfield-wolf.org)

Website: <http://anisfield-wolf.org>

Three to four prizes of \$10,000 each are given annually for a poetry collection, a book of fiction, and a book of nonfiction (including creative nonfiction) published during the previous year that "contribute to our understanding of racism and appreciation of cultural diversity." Rita Dove, Henry Louis Gates Jr., Joyce Carol Oates, Simon Pinker, and Steven Schama will judge. Submit five copies of a book published in 2021 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.

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

### Press 53 Award for Short Fiction

Deadline: December 31, 2021

Entry Fee: \$30

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: [kevin@press53.com](mailto:kevin@press53.com)

Website: <http://press53.com>

A prize of \$1,000, publication by Press 53, and 50 author copies is given annually for a story collection. Claire V. Foxx will judge. Submit a manuscript of 100 to 250 pages with a \$30 entry fee by December 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Press 53, Award for Short Fiction, 560 North Trade Street, Suite 103, Winston-Salem, NC 27101. (336) 770-5353. Kevin Morgan Watson, Publisher.





## Contests

### Poetry Society of America Alice Fay di Castagnola Award

Deadline: December 31, 2021

Entry Fee: \$15

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Website: <http://poetrysociety.org>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication on the Poetry Society of America website will be given annually for a group of poems from a manuscript-in-progress. Major Jackson will judge. Submit two copies of 10 pages of poetry with a \$15 entry fee by December 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Poetry Society of America, Alice Fay di Castagnola Award, 15 Gramercy Park South, New York, NY 10003. (212) 254-9628.

*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

### Boulevard Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers

Deadline: December 31, 2021

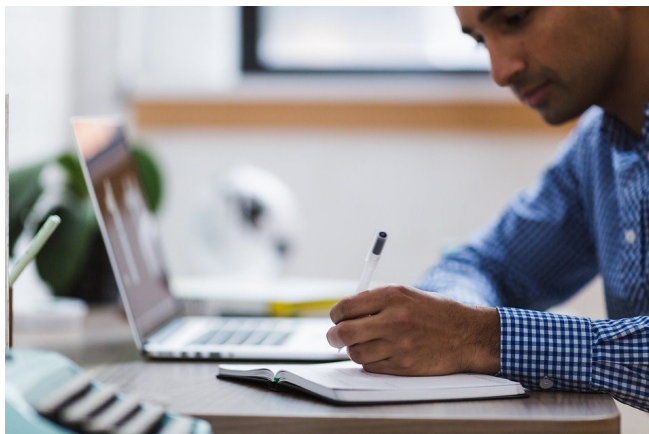
Entry Fee: \$16

Cash Prize: \$1,500

Website: <http://boulevardmagazine.org/short-fiction-contest>

A prize of \$1,500 and publication in *Boulevard* is given annually for a short story by a writer who has not published a nationally distributed book. The editors will judge. Submit a story of up to 8,000 words with a \$16 entry fee, which includes a subscription to *Boulevard*, by December 31. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

*Boulevard*, Short Fiction Contest for Emerging Writers, 3829 Hartford Street, Saint Louis, MO 63116. Jessica Rogen, Editor.



## Contests

### Hub City Press C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize

Deadline: December 31, 2021

Entry Fee: \$25

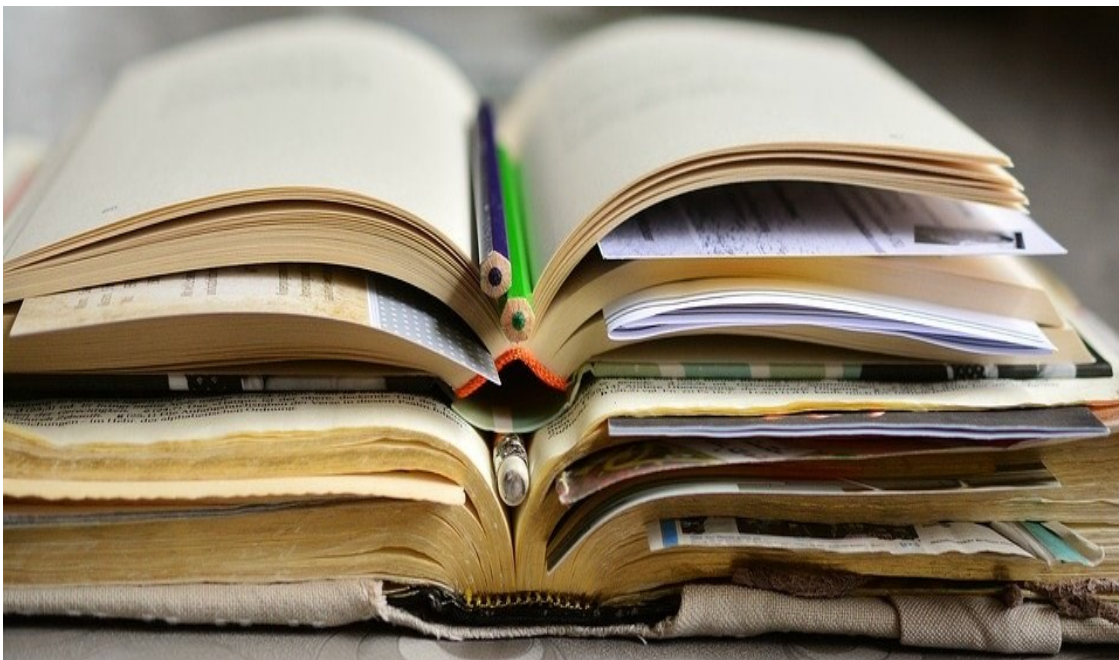
Cash Prize: \$5,000

E-mail address: [meg@hubcity.org](mailto:meg@hubcity.org)

Website: <http://hubcity.org/publishing>

A prize of \$5,000 and publication by Hub City Press is given biennially for a short story collection. Writers who have published no more than one book and who currently live in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, or West Virginia are eligible. Kevin Wilson will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of 140 to 220 pages (no story should exceed 15,000 words) with a \$25 entry fee by December 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Hub City Press, C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize, 186 West Main Street, Spartanburg, SC 29306. (864) 577-9349. Meg Reid, Prize Coordinator.





**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.**

## **Me starting up my laptop to write**

Instagram

Search



**Just kidding. I'm browsing the internet**

