

WAG Digest

Volume 12—Issue 1

The Juggling Act of Independent Authors Author William Hatfield Millhopper Library

February 13, 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

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Join us for a talk at the Millhopper library on being an Independent Author.

For independent authors, writing your story is only a part of your juggling act. First, you identify what you wish to

write. Next, you must find the time and a writing routine that is sustainable. After that, there's self-promotion to gain the attention of readers, plus ongoing marketing efforts to sell your books.

Can you simply rely on your computer expertise and the

use of social media? Or do you need to establish a speaking schedule?

Perhaps it's a curious balance of all the above and more? Join us on February 13 when independent author William Hatfield will discuss these methods and many others.

The Juggling Act of Independent Authors

Author William Hatfield

Millhopper Library

Hatfield was born in a small town in northern Michigan and attended Western Michigan University, obtaining a degree in history and communications. Musical engagements led him to Gainesville, Florida, where he continues to live with his wife Karen and their two feline daughters.

Rumor has it, he may have grown up, but it seems unlikely. Rumor also has it that on the convention circuit, no piano is safe from his inclination to cause spontaneous piano-bar singalongs.

Whether writing science fiction action/adventure or humorous LGBTQ/mysteries based in Key West, he relishes the opportunity to create interesting and challenging characters that never cease to amuse and surprise him with their inherent independence.

NOTE: The program is scheduled to be held at the Millhopper Library. But if the library has to close due to COVID, we will hold the meeting via Zoom. Check the WAG Website the day before the event—www.writersalliance.org



And join us Sunday, March 13,
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
at the Millhopper Library for a talk by
SUSIE BAXTER
Book Design: Word to Vellum

Susie Baxter will share tips she has learned from independently publishing books in various formats, from paperback and ebook to hardcover and audible.

The main focus of her talk will be on book design using Microsoft Word, InDesign, Bookow, and Vellum. But she will also discuss:

- Free resources that can help us improve our writing and the final manuscript (critique pods, Aztekera, Hemmingway, Grammarly, and beta readers)
- Advantages and disadvantages of working with a local printer versus a book publisher
- Differences between vanity publishers, hybrid presses, traditional publishing, and print-on-demand (POD)
- Costs and tasks associated with independent publishing, such as the purchase of ISBNs and applying for a Library of Congress Control Number
- Hiring editors and proofreaders
- Working with a narrator on an audible book

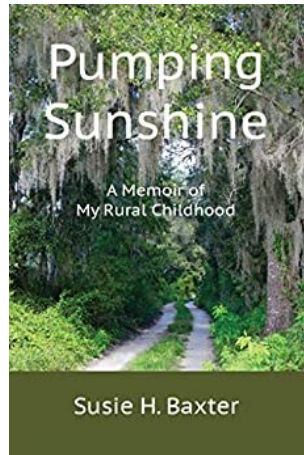
A fifth-generation Floridian, Baxter grew up on a farm in north Florida. In adulthood, she attended Louisiana State University in New Orleans and the University of South Alabama in Mobile where she earned a BFA. After working for a few years as a graphic artist, she landed a job with a health-science publishing house in St. Louis. There, she advanced from editorial assistant to acquisitions editor and finally to the publisher of primary care. During her career, she commissioned dozens of successful clinical reference books authored by world-renowned physicians.

Susie Baxter, March talk, cont.

Our March meeting will be at the Millhopper Library

3145 NW 43rd St., Gainesville, FL 32606

www.writersalliance.org



She has now written four books of her own: *C.G. & Ethel: A Family History* (2008); *Write Your Memoir: One Story at a Time* (2017), a nonfiction how-to book; *Pumping Sunshine: A Memoir of My Rural Childhood* (2018), which won that year's [Royal Palm Literary Award](#) for Memoir and was named 1st runner-up for the Published Book of the Year; and her latest, *I, Susanette...* (2022), a coming-of-age memoir.

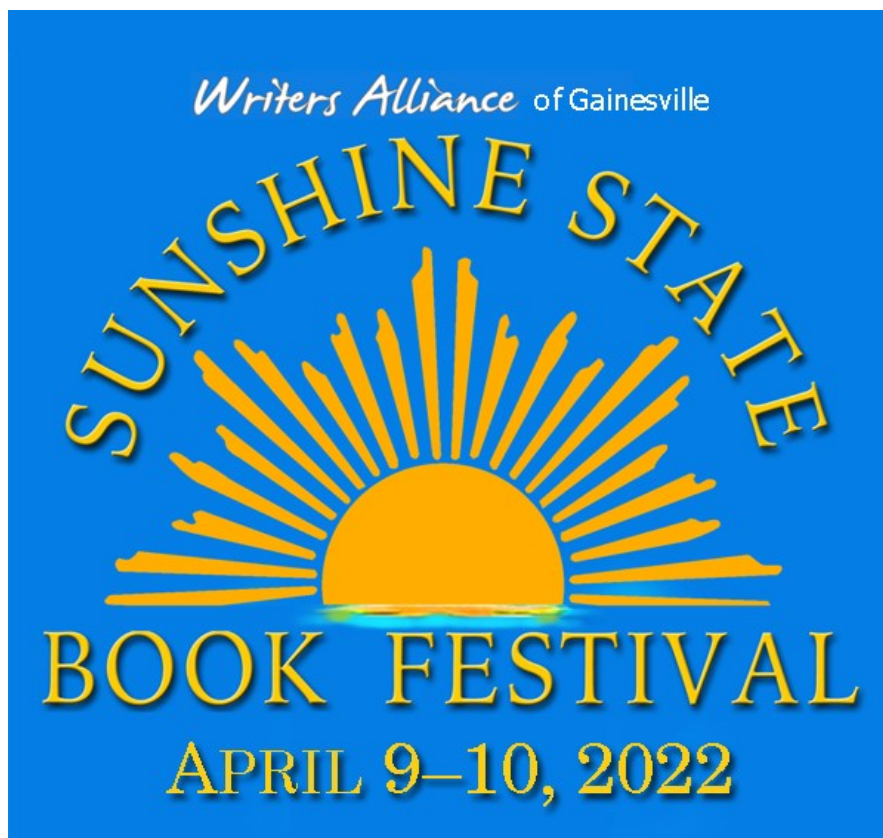
Baxter believes that everyone has a story to tell, and she drives that point home in the memoir-writing course she teaches annually at Santa Fe College in Gainesville. Information on her next course can be found on her website: susiehbaxter.com.



Michael J. Seidlinger ✓
@mjseidlinger

Writing a book is like taking the road less travelled, learning a life lesson or two, and still having to finish writing that damn book.

3:02 AM · Jul 8, 2021 ·



PLEASE NOTE — AN IMPORTANT CHANGE

Due to COVID concerns, the Sunshine State Book Festival has been moved to April 9-10, 2022. It will still be held at the Oaks Mall. Thank you to all the WAG Members who worked so hard to establish this new date.

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunshine State Book Festival

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA — You are cordially invited to the 3rd annual Sunshine State Book Festival, bringing readers and writers together, on April 9 and 10, 2022. The two-day event is free and open to the public.

North Central Florida's cultural landscape is enhanced by this annual event, produced by the Writers Alliance of Gainesville with support from local sponsors. Come enjoy the festival—rain or shine!

Saturday's festival will be held in the spacious Oaks Mall on West Newberry Road immediately east of I-75 in Gainesville. It begins at 11:00 a.m. and goes until 5:00 p.m.

You will have the opportunity to meet and engage with nearly 100 authors, purchase books, and have them signed. There will be books in most genres and books for all ages. Parents will find books for themselves as well as young adult books, children's books, and picture books for their little readers.

SUNSHINE STATE BOOK FESTIVAL cont.

There will also be hourly drawings for free books.

Author tables will be arranged throughout the spacious mall so that social distancing is easy, and health department guidelines regarding masks will be followed.

Sunday's program will feature talks on hot topics by five renowned authors. The program is slated to take place between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Matheson History Museum, 513 E. University Avenue in downtown Gainesville.

If there are any changes in the programs, details will be posted on the Sunshine State Book Festival website: <http://www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com/>. Please check the website for information about the authors and speakers and for any necessary changes in the April 9-10 festival.

W*R*I*T*E

Sunday, April 10, 2022

- **1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Matheson History Museum** Across from the museum at the Alachua County Public Schools building, 620 E. University Avenue.
- Festival attendees are invited to four presentations by five well-known authors and subject matter experts. Free admission. Click on names to learn more about the presenters
- 1:00 p.m. Voices of Color: Negro Spirituals to Black Education**, Presented by [Carol Richardson](#), Program Director of A. Quinn Jones Museum.
- 2:00 p.m. Saving Florida's Springs: A Prescription for Springs' Health**, Presented by [Robert Knight](#), President, Odum Springs Institute.
- 3:00 p.m. Writing About War: Two Views**, Presented by award-winning authors [Robert and Patience Mason](#).
- 4:00 p.m. The Struggle for Democracy: From Slavery and Colonialism to Black Lives Matter**, Presented by [Paul Ortiz](#), Director of the Samuel T. Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida.

Ancient City Poets



We are pleased to announce that the Ancient City Poets will also be having their Poetry Fest in St. Augustine the weekend of April 8th and April 9th, on the campus of Flagler College. Ancient City Poets have partnered with the English Department of Flagler College and the St. Johns Cultural Council to present a day-long celebration of creative writing and reciting on Saturday April 9th, the day after the Henry Rollins spoken word show at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall. The day of events, the haiku contest, and the last Sunday of the month open mic reading will be St. Johns County's local recognition of National Poetry Month (April) .

Michael Rothenberg, founder of 100 Thousand Poets for Change, is going to travel from Tallahassee to the campus of Flagler College to be our key-note and perform with his avant-garde jazz group: the EcoSound Ensemble.

Here is an opportunity to spend an entire weekend on literary events of the highest order. More information will be available in the next issue of the WAG Digest.

WAG Brags



Adventure She Magazine

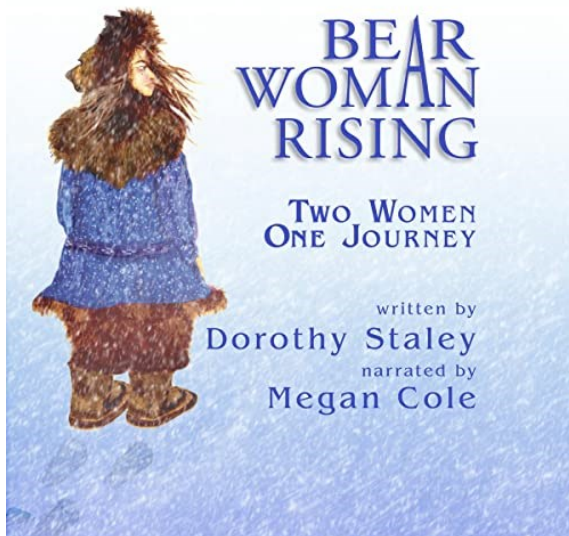
Empower Educate Entertain

WAG Member Alycin Hayes writes:

I wanted to let you know that one of my true short stories about hitchhiking in Brazil is featured this month in a great British journal "Adventure She Magazine" It features women adventure travelers.

Alycin Hayes is a writer of poetry and prose, an actress, filmmaker, producer, singer, songwriter and wildlife conservationist.

Congratulations, Alycin! The magazine is here: <https://www.adventureshe.com/>



W*R*I*T*E

WAG Member Dorothy Staley has her book, *Bear Woman Rising*, available as an audiobook!

NEWS FLASH! *Bear Woman Rising, Two Women, One Journey*, is available in audiobook. I'm thrilled to announce the audio version of my novel is out and available at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08KJ42841>.

Listeners can also go to the Amazon shopping site and type in *Bear Woman Rising*. Once there, click on Audiobook and the Audible Sample to hear

the beginning of a powerful tale of female friendship, Alaskan wilderness, and the strength of both.

Wag Brags

BEAR WOMAN RISING AUDIOBOOK CONTINUED:

Months ago, stage and television actor Megan Cole and I began our collaboration to produce this audiobook. She provided “a dramatic narrative” of the story, one in which she created a unique voice for each of the story’s 88 characters.

Warning, commuter listeners. Megan’s narrative is so compelling, you may not be able to drive and listen safely. If in doubt, pull over. *Bear Woman Rising* is worth it.

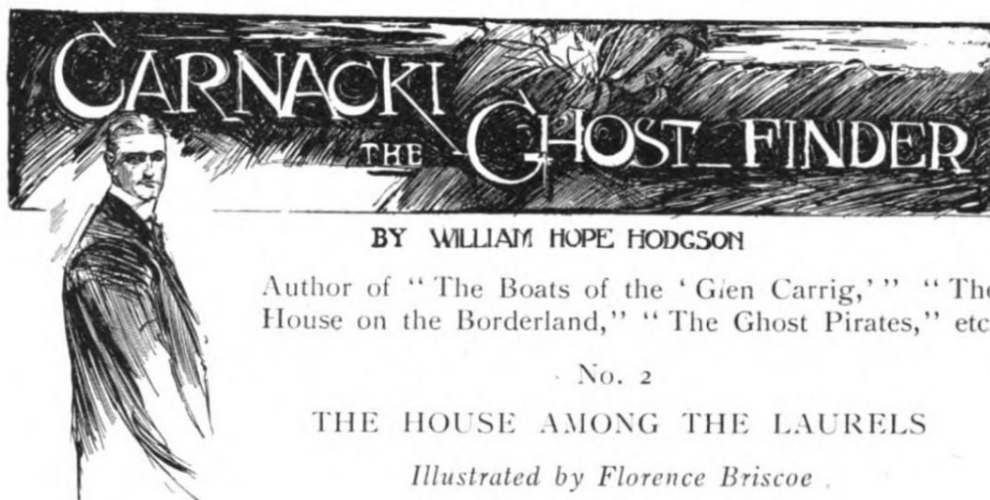
Wishing all well for 2022.

Dorothy Staley

W*R*I*T*E

Congratulations to WAG President Jess Elliott, whose story "Individual Bookcases", a three-part homage to William Hope Hodgson, M.R. James, and Hugh Walpole, has been accepted for the upcoming publication, *The Book of Carnacki*.

As the editor, John Linwood Grant, explains: “I had conceived of a cycle of strange stories which centred around the Edwardian era, with references – direct or in passing – to the world of Hope Hodgson’s occult detective, **Carnacki the Ghost Finder**. Not pastiches, but a development of period themes...” As Linwood explains, “Thomas Carnacki remains the first TRUE independent occult detective.” When published, *The Book of Carnacki*, will be available on Amazon. Keep us informed, Jess!



Wag Brags

Check out WAG Member Ronnie Lovler's great article on the St. Augustine Lighthouse, a great day trip from almost anywhere in North Florida. Ronnie's article is in the Main Street Daily News: <https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/>

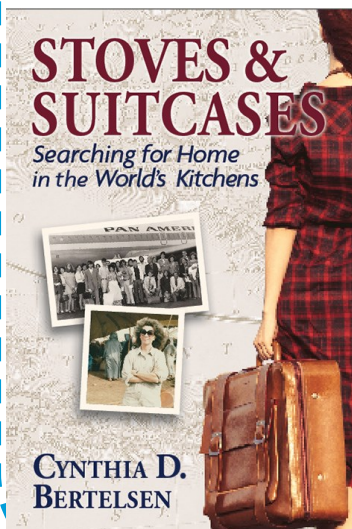
Just type in Lighthouse to go to the article.

Ronnie Lovler— Mainstreet Daily News correspondent

Ronnie Lovler is an author, editor and longtime journalist who has worked as a correspondent and producer for CNN and CBS. She is a University of Florida graduate, where she teaches journalism classes. Ronnie resides in Gainesville and loves to travel.



W*R*I*T*E



Congratulations to WAG Member Cynthia Bertelsen for a great review of her book, *Stoves and Suitcases* by Leo Racicot. Racicot, a food writer, poet, and movie critic, among other things, was befriended by noted food writers Julia Child and M.F.K. Fisher.

You can read his glowing review of Cynthia's book on her blog:

<https://gherkinstomatoes.com/2021/10/06/stoves-suitcases-a-review-by-leo-racicot/>

Wag Brags

Congratulations to WAG Member Richard Gartee for publication of two new poems in the Ann Arbor Review.

Ann Arbor Review has published two new poems by Richard Gartee in its winter 2022 issue. Both poems may be read online at: http://annarborreview.net/aArborReview_XXVI/AARPg19.htm

Ann Arbor Review is a widely respected poetry journal that has been publishing for 55 years, and Richard is a frequent contributor. A long-time member of WAG, Richard has published five collections of his poetry, six novels, seven college textbooks and a biography. Find a complete list of his works at www.gartee.com

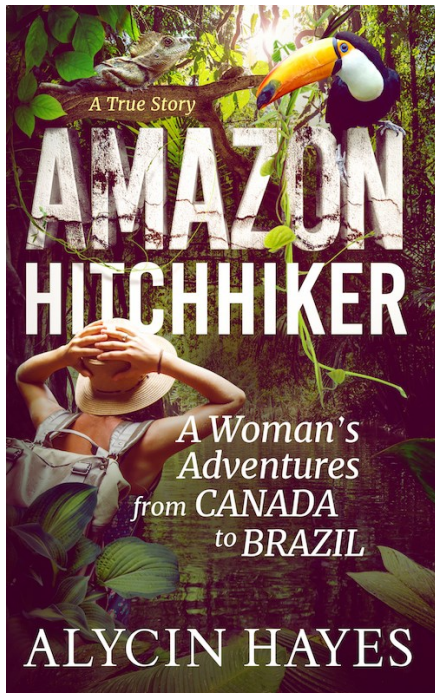
http://annarborreview.net/aArborReview_XXVI/AARPg19.htm

Richard also read at the recent holiday event at the Thomas Center. Thanks to all the writers who came out to participate.



W*R*I*T*E

Stay tuned for WAG Member Alycin Hayes' new book,



AMAZON HITCHHIKER: A Woman's Adventures from Canada to Brazil

AMAZON HITCHHIKER is the true story of Alycin Hayes, a young woman who hitchhikes alone in the 1970s across the USA, Mexico, and Central America to the Amazon Basin. On the spur of the moment, she buys an old dugout canoe, thinking she can paddle from Colombia to Brazil.

Without enough food or even a map, she soon discovers the Amazon rainforest is not the idyllic paradise she had imagined. She forges her way through this challenging, sometimes mystical adventure, facing life-threatening obstacles, while falling in love on the journey. (Cont. on next page)

With candid honesty and a lifesaving sense of humour, Hayes has written an account of her travels that you won't want to put down.

(Cont. next page)

Wag Brags

Amazon Link to book:

https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Hitchhiker-Womans-Adventures-Canada/dp/0973032049/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2U561XHTKOUDE&keywords=amazon+hitchhiker&qid=1640300922&sprefix=amazon+hitchhiker%2Caps%2C82&sr=8-1

Website: <https://www.echohillproductions.com>

W*R*I*T*E

Congratulations to WAG Vice President Jenny Dearinger for publication of her book, "The Tooth Sleuth." As Jenny explains:

It is a mystery for four through 10 year old children, which are the children in the tooth-losing years. Flossy the Tooth Fairy finds a tooth in the garden. She goes on the hunt for the tooth-loser. There aren't very many mysteries for small children and I'm sure they will enjoy reading one that they can relate so closely to.

People can purchase it on Amazon by going to

www.amazon.com/author/jeniferdearinger

THE TOOTH SLEUTH



Written and Illustrated by Jenifer Peters Dearinger

Wag Brags

Wait till you see all the books she has available on this site—very impressive, Jenny!

And thank you to Jenny Dearing for starting WAG's first Instagram account! As she explains:

I started an Instagram account for WAG. In one month it's gotten over 200 followers which is pretty good in the world of social media.

The name of the account is writers_alliance_ofgainesville

(Yes, I know it looks strange! But an Instagram Name cannot be over 30 characters long. If I added the space between of and Gainesville, the name is 31 characters.)

I hope everyone with an Instagram account checks it out and follows along.



We appreciate all your hard work for WAG, Jenny!

W*R*I*T*E

New Memoir Pod

A new memoir pod is starting up in February. If you are interested in joining this pod, which will meet via Zoom, please send an email to critiquepodcoordinator@writersalliance.org. Mike Kite will be the pod leader, and the first meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 19.

Wag Brags

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking to improve your writing bio? Volunteer for the Writers Alliance and the Sunshine State Book Festival so you can increase your credibility as a writer.



Check in at the web address below to volunteer for the Sunshine State Book Festival, April 9-10, 2022.

Volunteer opportunities include check-in, hospitality and closing.

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

GET PUBLISHED

The Writers Alliance of Gainesville blog needs YOU to write on topics of your choice, at least those pertaining to any aspect of writing. Share your expertise, your experience, your hard-earned knowledge about writing with your colleagues.



Please send your ideas or finished pieces to Cynthia D. Bertelsen, WAG's blog editor at BlogEditor@writersalliance.org.

W*R*I*T*E



The Bacopa submissions period for 2022 will be April 25th to May 23rd. Get your best poems, stories, etc. ready to submit to our great literary review. More information to follow.

The Seven Most Common Manuscript

By Emily Harstone

When I talk to agents, writers, and editors I always hear them complain of the same mistakes over and over again. The other day I was reading a back issue of *Poets & Writers*, and based on the question “What kind of submissions do you not take seriously?” (I am paraphrasing here) I was able to guess exactly what the agents would say in response to this question.

Even writers who write imaginative and creative pieces are capable of falling into the same traps, particularly if you don’t know what other writers are doing in terms of submissions or what agent’s and editor’s expectations are. Speaking from personal experience, I made a lot of mistakes when I started submitting.

Agents and editors are so used to seeing query letters and sample chapters day in and day out, but most writers only interact with their own submission packet. If you do have a chance to see other authors submission packets, that is always a good place to start.

Another good place to start? Learning what not to do. Below, I cover the top five most common complaints agents and editors have about submission packets. All of these are based on information I have learned from talking directly with agents and editors. This is concrete information you can use to craft the best submission packet you can.

1. The Submission Did NOT Obey Their Submission Guidelines

Agents and publishers receive submissions all the time where the submitter does not follow directions at all. They include the whole manuscript when only the first 30 pages are asked for. They don’t include a cover letter at all. They submit a marketing packet instead of a manuscript or cover letter. The variety of mistakes are wide ranging, but the fact remains the same – the author did not follow that agent or publisher’s submission guidelines at all.

Submission guidelines exist for a reason. Ignore them at your peril. Most of the editors I have talked to either automatically reject submissions that do not follow guidelines, or they refuse to respond to them entirely.

2. They Didn’t Submit to the Right Agent or Publisher

There is no way to predict which agent or publisher will be the right fit for you or your novel. But it is pretty easy to eliminate ones that won’t fit at all based on genre.

(Cont.) Submission Mistakes

If you have written a young adult (YA) book, don't submit it to a publisher that does not publish YA. They will not accept your book. If you submit your work of fantasy to an agent that only focuses on literary fiction they will not accept it.

Most authors think of this in terms of what the agent or publisher explicitly states on their site that they don't publish, but when submitting, particularly to agents, it is important to see what books they represent. For example an agent might not say "No Fantasy" but the only books he has represented are works of literary fiction. Even if he was to be won over by your wonderful dragon-filled novel (which is unlikely) he probably would not be the right person to represent it because his connections are in a different genre.

Also, and this is a bit of a tangent, most small publishers who accept unsolicited submissions and are open to multiple genres do not sell as many books as those publishers who focus on one or two niche markets. If you have a fantasy novel it is generally best to place it with a fantasy publisher.

3. Do Not Include Rhetorical Questions

What would you do if your parents were killed by pirates? What would you do if you could breathe underwater? What would you do if your boyfriend became a werewolf?

These and many other rhetorical questions are something that agents are so used to seeing in cover letters that some agencies just toss them into a pile together and leave it at that.

Sometimes an entire paragraph of a cover letter is devoted to rhetorical questions, other times it is just a sentence or two. But after reading a few hundred or so of them, most agents grow to dislike them.

It is really easy not to use them in a cover letter and really much more effective. So, if you have any in yours, remove them. They might seem like a fun way to intrigue the agent, but that isn't what the agent is thinking.

4. Don't Talk about Copyright

Never say you have copyrighted your book with the Library of Congress. Your book is copyrighted the moment you put the words on paper. To have it done officially, dates your material—forever. Let the publisher do that.

A book with a copyright date of 2013, and submitted in 2016, speaks volumes to an editor or agent. It means it's been shopped around, a lot! If you are really worried someone will steal your material, register it with the Writers' Guild, East or West. For a small fee they will record the work,

Submission Mistakes (Cont.)

proving when you wrote it. And then, unless you are submitting to an entertainment agent or producer, keep your mouth shut. Copyright marks and WGA numbers suggest you don't trust us.

Tempted to use this symbol © instead of talking about copyright directly? Don't! It sends the message that not only do you not trust the agent, you are new to submitting. If you don't trust a publisher or an agent you probably shouldn't be submitting your manuscript to them for consideration.

5. Don't Query (Yet)

Most publishers and agents mention a time frame within which they respond to most submissions. For some publishers it is 2-4 months, for others it is a week, others 6 months. After that time has passed and you have not heard from them, it is fine to query. Querying involves sending a polite email inquiring about your submission. I actually like waiting an extra month on top of the time they mention before querying, just to be polite.

If they don't mention a time frame at all, don't query for at least six months. If they ask you not to query, don't! These are rules they set in place for a reason, but more importantly, querying too quickly, or bothering them too frequently about your work can really tick them off. It can also send them the wrong message – that if they were representing you, you would be very needy. Don't do that.

6. Politeness and Formality Is a Must

I have already talked a little about how important politeness is if you are following up on your manuscript, but it is vitally important throughout the entire process.

I've seen cover letters that are rude. Usually along the lines of "You are so very lucky to receive my wonderful manuscript." Often the rudeness is right at the end of the cover letter, such as signing off with this line, "I can't wait to receive the acceptance letter you will send me."

It is also particularly important to respond politely, or not at all, if they decline your submission. Sending them an email imploring them to give your work a second look or calling them out for rejecting your work, will only do you harm. Remember agents, agencies, and publishers talk to each other. If you behave badly it could hurt your reputation at a much larger scale than you might be thinking.

Remember that it isn't just when engaging with the agent directly that you have to be polite. If you are polite via email, but then blog or tweet to complain about the whole experience, the agent will likely find out, and then be even less pleased.

(Cont.) Submission Mistakes

But don't go over the top. I have read a cover letter where every other word was archaic and appeared to be pulled from the thesaurus. It did not make a positive impression.

7. Know the Agent's Name

Number one on my list of things never to do, is to address a query to 30 or 40 agents or editors at the same time. I'm talking about listing them in the header of your query. We usually toss those without even reading the subject line. Someone sent me one yesterday addressed to at least 50 other agents. I took a moment and tried to figure out what their reasoning might be. Did the writer think I would immediately jump on the material, worried someone would beat me out of a bestseller? Really?

I'm not foolish enough to think authors aren't submitting to more than one agent or editor at a time. I certainly do, but I never list them so *everyone* knows.

By the same reasoning, don't ever, ever, send material to all the agents at one agency. We do talk to one another.

I recently received a query stating the author had done his homework and investigated dozens of agents and agencies. It boiled down to me being the perfect person to represent his masterpiece. (Yes, that's what he called it.) Unfortunately for him, he addressed the query to Ms. Gallagher. Lesson: Be very careful before you press the send button.

When you submit directly to a publisher, unless they specifically state which editor you are submitting to, you don't know the editor's name. If you know the editor's name, use it. If it isn't obviously provided for you – don't use a name. Just say Dear Editors. Assume that more than one will see your submission.

Conclusion

If you are ready to submit your manuscript, the following article [walks you through the process.](https://authorspublish.com/how-to-submit-your-manuscript-for-publication/)

<https://authorspublish.com/how-to-submit-your-manuscript-for-publication/>

Submitting Your Work (cont.)

How to Submit Your Manuscript for Publication

Written by Emily Harstone

When I finish the first draft of a novel I always have a great surge of adrenaline. When I was younger I would enjoy the thrill of completion for days and then start on a new project. It should surprise no one that my early efforts were not published (thank goodness).

Now that I am older and wiser I know that the first draft is just that, a draft.

For a long time submitting seemed strange and mysterious to me. It seemed too overwhelming to actually do. In fact, for the most part submitting is relatively easy. Most publishers want the same two things – a query letter and a synopsis. They also expect an excerpt of your book, generally the first two chapters.

There are specific requirements that differ from publisher to publisher and from agency to agency, however it is good to have a basic query letter and synopsis that you modify to meet the needs of the given agent or publisher. Just make sure you send the correct version to the right person, it really annoys a publisher to receive submissions with another publisher's name on it. The same goes for agents.

You should spend a lot of time and consideration crafting the cover letter. This is the first impression you will make on agents and publishers.

It is important to note that many publishers expect information about your author platform or marketing plan. Don't know where to start in terms of an author platform? [Building an Author Platform](https://authorspublish.com/building-an-author-platform/) by Chantelle Atkins is a great place to start. (<https://authorspublish.com/building-an-author-platform/>)

Not all publishers and agents require a synopsis, but many do. Most want a complete synopsis of the plot that fits on one page. By complete synopsis, I mean that they want spoilers. They also generally want information about character development.

It should go without saying, but edit and polish the query letter and synopsis. If you can afford an editor get them to review the query letter, the synopsis, and also the first twenty pages. Twice. Or more. The first twenty pages of the novel are all that most agents and many publishers will initially see, so make sure they are compelling and error free.

**How to
Submit
Your
Manuscript
for
Publication**

Submitting Your Work

M.J. Moores interviewed a literary agent, an editor, and a published author to see what the top reasons most manuscripts are rejected. Her article **The Top Three Reasons Most Manuscripts get rejected** (<https://authorspublish.com/top-3-reasons-why-fiction-manuscripts-get-rejected/>), should be read before you begin the submission process.

Once you have completed a query letter and a synopsis, that you are happy with start to research where you are going to submit your book. You can start your research earlier if you want. You should decide early on if you want to submit directly to publishers or if you want to submit to an agent.

If you are focusing on finding an agent you should read the article **The Safest Way to Search For an Agent** (<https://victoriastrauss.com/advice/safest/>) before proceeding. Remember there is no such thing as a legitimate traditional publisher that charges its writers. You should be paid by your publisher, not the other way around.

Some publishers can respond to submissions within weeks, others within years, so keep that in mind. If you have not heard from a publisher in six months, you should email them to ask about the status of the manuscript, unless they explicitly say they will take longer on their website.

Once you find agents or publishers that you feel would be a good fit, you should check and double check their submission guidelines.

Most publishers accept electronic submissions through email or a submission manager, but a few still require submissions through the post. Either way, the publishers submission guidelines should walk you through the steps. The same goes for agents. It is important not to submit to an agent or publisher if they say they are closed to unsolicited submissions. Your manuscript will not be read and in all likelihood you will annoy the person or persons who receive it, which could hurt your chances in the future.

Hopefully this helps give you the courage, the motivation, and the information to start taking steps to turn your manuscript into a published books. If you have any additional questions please email me at support@authorspublish.com

Bio: Emily Harstone is the pen name of an author whose work has been published internationally by a number of respected journals. She is a professional submissions adviser. You can follow her on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/emilyharstone/>

**How to
Submit
Your
Manuscript
for
Publication**

**Classes at
Santa Fe
College**

Upcoming Classes

SF SANTA FE COLLEGE

WRITE YOUR MEMOIR

If you wish to write about your life for yourself, your family, or the world, this course is for you. Participants will write short stories about everyday life, the people who have 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, although it is not mandatory to take part.

ENG0048.1F6

4 Sat., starts 04/23/2022, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Instructor: Baxter, Susie

ONLINE-ZOOM

Fee \$49.00

NOTE: No sr. waivers. Have a pen and paper for notes.
Class is limited to 12 students.

W*R*I*T*E

WRITING A NOVEL

Are you a pantser or a planner? Wendy Thornton will be offering her "Writing a Novel from Start to Finish" class at Santa Fe College in April. This class is currently scheduled for Wednesdays 6pm to 8 pm in person. For more information, please contact Wendy at

floridawendy54@gmail.com

Upcoming Conferences

Classes and conferences

02/05/2022 - Romance Writing Virtual Conference



Romance
Writing
Virtual
Conference

Writers Digest University - Course Runs: Feb 5th 2022 – Feb 5th 2022
\$129.99

Writer's Digest University is pleased to present a one-of-a-kind online event for romance writers! On **February 5, 2022**, our **WDU Romance Writing Virtual Conference** will provide expert insights from **FOUR** award-winning and bestselling authors on the finer points of how to write within the romance genres. Spend the day learning techniques for honing your craft from four different published authors*, then (if you choose) pitch your novel via query letter to a literary agent specifically looking for material in the romance genre. The agent will provide you with a personalized critique of your query – and maybe ask to see more.

Experience the education, camaraderie, and opportunities provided by a live writing conference without ever having to leave your home!

All participants will benefit from:

- **FOUR all-new, one-hour webinar presentations provided by award-winning and bestselling romance authors***, all examining different aspects of writing novels in this genre. Each session will include an opportunity for **live Q&A with the authors!**
- **A critique (with written feedback) of your query letter from an agent with experience in the romance genre.**

Continued Next Page

Classes and Conferences

WDU Romance Writing Virtual Conference

- A **bonus 90-minute OnDemand webinar covering how to write a query letter** so you're prepared when pitching your novel to agents. (A \$79.99 value!)
- The ability to **network with fellow romance writers** via discussion boards that will be open throughout the day. Share ideas, and even your work if you choose.

Unlimited OnDemand viewing! *How to Master Point of View in Romance Writing by Tiffany Yates Martin *Using practical examples, writers will learn the different types of point of view, and how to strengthen character, deepen reader engagement, and bring a story to life by developing a strong, clear POV and perspective.* Join us for the live event and get **written feedback on your query letter** from a literary agent who works with romance authors.

Register now to join us for this unique online event!

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\$129.99

<https://www.writersonlineworkshops.com/courses/romance-writing-virtual-conference>



Conferences

SleuthFest

SleuthFest is an annual conference for writers and fans of mysteries, thrillers, & crime fiction

We are excited to welcome you to sunny South Florida for SleuthFest 2022!

- SleuthFest kicks off Thursday evening with **Freddie's Noir at the Bar**.
 - Friday and Saturday are filled with **workshops** by our SleuthFest faculty, **craft talks**, **panels**, and **forensic classes**.
 - Agents & Editors will be accepting **pitches**.
 - Friday evening is the **Guest of Honor Gala**.
 - Saturday evening is the **Fla-Mingle Cocktail Party** and **Razzle-Dazzle Raffle Drawing**.
- Registration will open on February 1, 2022.**

Please join our mailing list and follow us on social media for timely information and announcements. -

<https://sleuthfest.com/>

Want to be a panelist at Sleuth Fest?

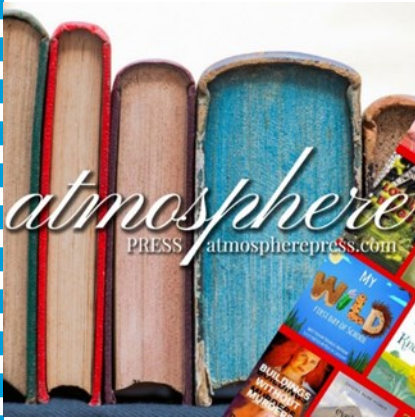
We are a mystery writing craft conference presented by the Florida Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America (MWA). We have earned a reputation for hosting top-notch educational programs in both writing and forensics. This would never be possible without the authors, law enforcement, and forensic experts that populate our panels and present our workshops. Starting this year, panelists and presenters selected to participate will receive a discounted registration of \$200, but you must apply by **April 15, 2022**.

From debut authors to established pros, we want you to be part of SleuthFest. This application will help us get to know you. Tell us about yourself and what topics you are excited about. We strive to build our program around what authors and experts want to talk about. Unfortunately, it may not be possible for us to include everyone who applies, given the number of applications we receive and the slots available on our schedule. All applications will be responded to by **April 15, 2022**. It will be best to fill out your application early.

<https://sleuthfest.com/sleuthfest-application/>

Sleuth Fest

Calls for Submission



Atmosphere Press Reading Book Manuscripts in All Genres

Deadline: Rolling

Atmosphere Press currently seeks book manuscripts from diverse voices. There's **no submission fee**, and if your manuscript is selected, we'll be the publisher you've always wanted: **attentive, organized, on schedule, and professional.** We use a model in which the author funds the publication of the book, but retains 100% rights, royalties, and artistic autonomy. This year Atmosphere authors have received featured reviews

with *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *Booklist*, and have even appeared on a giant billboard in Times Square. **Submit your book manuscript at atmospherepress.com.**

W*R*I*T*E

We received this information from the Moderate Review—don't let the title fool you—their cover page reads, "Make art a dangerous place."

Dear Writers Groups,

Please share this opportunity with your members & alumni to submit to The Moderate Review, a newly established online journal showcasing some of the hottest emerging literary talents. We invite your words and voices to the ongoing creative discussion.

The Moderate accepts creative text (fiction, poetry, screenplays), zeitgeisty essays, reviews, and interviews as well as visual art such as painting, sculpture, and photography. We especially seek work that interfaces with the current moment.

We are currently accepting submissions on a rolling basis.

Submissions should be sent as a word attachment to moderatereview@gmail.com with "A Moderate Submission" in the subject line. There are no word limits, guidelines, or restrictions. However, all submissions must be original work and not previously published.

Kind Regards,

The Moderate editors

Submissions

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. bluemountainreview.submittable.com/submit

W*R*I*T*E

CHESTNUT REVIEW (“for stubborn artists”) Invites Submissions Year Round
CHESTNUT REVIEW (“for stubborn artists”) invites submissions year round of poetry, fiction, nonfiction, art, and photography. We offer free submissions for poetry (3 poems), flash fiction (<1000 words), and art/photography (20 images); \$5 submissions for fiction/nonfiction (<5k words), or 4-6 poems. Published artists receive \$120. Notification in <30 days or submission fee refunded. We appreciate stories in every genre we publish. All issues free online which illustrates what we have **liked**, but we are always ready to be surprised by the **new**! chestnutreview.com

W*R*I*T*E

Feels Blind Literary is Open for Submissions for Issue #7
Deadline: March 6, 2022

Feels Blind Literary, a publication featuring work from artists and writers who are nonbinary or identify as women, is currently accepting art, photography, fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and plays. Issue #7 will launch in time for AWP where we will have a table and host an off-site reading. All profits from our small fee go to organizations like the Richmond Community Bail fund, though submissions are free every Monday, as it’s important to us that cost is not a barrier to access for our contributors. We nominate for the Best of the Net and Pushcart. Dazzle us with your best!

Submissions

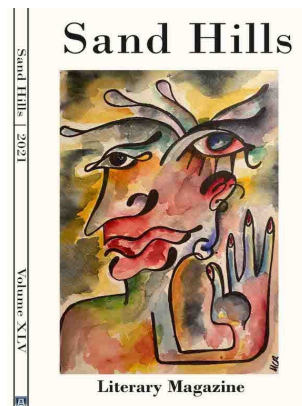


Wood Cat Review | Emerging Voices from the Wild

Deadline: Year-round

We are a new literary journal looking for emerging writers and poets who capture the spirit and experience of life out-of-doors. Artists whose lives and work thrive in the mountains, forests, and along the open road. From Cascadia to Acadia, Voyageurs to Big Bend, and all the life in between, yours are the voices which speak to travel & adventure, triumph & disaster, challenge & hope, love & loss. Open submissions are accepted year-round for flash fiction, short fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Visit website for more information: www.woodcatreview.com.

W*R*I*T*E



Submit to 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. We are excited to see your work!

Contests



Posted January 03, 2022

2022 Prime Number Magazine Awards for Poetry and Short Fiction

Deadline: March 31, 2022

\$1,000 first prize in each category plus a Pushcart Prize nomination. Winners and two Runners-up in each category published in *Prime Number Magazine*. Reading fee \$15.

Poetry judged by Faith Shearin, author of *Lost Language* and others. Short Fiction judged by Jubal Tiner, author of *The Waterhouse* and founding editor of *Pisgah Review*. Open January 1 to March 31. Submit online through Submittable. Details at www.Press53.com/prime-number-magazine-awards.

*W*R*J*T*E*

New American Press

Poetry Prize

Deadline: February 14, 2022

Entry Fee: \$20

Cash Prize: \$1,500

E-mail address: david@newamericanpress.com

Website: <http://newamericanpress.com/category/contests>

A prize of \$1,500, publication by New American Press, and 25 author copies is given annually for a poetry collection. Eduardo C. Corral will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of at least 48 pages with a \$20 entry fee by February 14. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

New American Press, Poetry Prize, P.O. Box 1094, Grafton, WI 53024. David Bowen, Executive Director.

Contests

Fordham University at Lincoln Center Poetic Justice Institute Prizes

Deadline: October 15, 2022

Entry Fee: \$28

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Website: <http://poetic-justice.org>

Two prizes of \$1,000 each and publication by Fordham University Press are given annually for poetry collections. The winners also receive a publicity consultation and headline at the annual Poetic Justice Institute Festival at Fordham-Lincoln Center in New York City. All writers are eligible for the Poetic Justice Institute Prize; the Poetic Justice Institute Editor's Prize will be given to a poetry collection by a Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) writer. Eligible writers may enter both contests. Srikanth Reddy will judge the Poetic Justice Institute Prize and Elisabeth Frost will judge the Poetic Justice Editor's Prize. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of 50 to 120 pages with a \$28 entry fee (no fee for entries for the Editor's Prize) by October 15, 2022. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Fordham University at Lincoln Center, Poetic Justice Institute Prizes, 113 West 60th Street, Room 924i, New York, NY 10023. (212) 636-6792. Elisabeth Frost, Series Editor.

W*R*I*T*E

Broadside Lotus Press Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award

Deadline: March 1, 2022

Cash Prize: \$500

E-mail address: broadsidelotus@gmail.com

Website: <http://broadsidelotuspress.org>

A prize of \$500 and publication by Broadside Lotus Press is given annually for a poetry collection by an African American poet. Submit two copies of a manuscript of 60 to 90 pages by March 1. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for complete guidelines. Broadside Lotus Press, Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award, c/o Gloria House, 8300 East Jefferson Avenue, #504, Detroit, MI 48214.

Contests

Sarabande Books Morton and McCarthy Prizes

Deadline: February 15, 2022

Entry Fee: \$29

Cash Prize: \$2,000

E-mail address: info@sarabandebooks.org

Website: <http://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. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Sarabande Books, Morton and McCarthy Prizes, 735 Lampton Street, Suite 201, Louisville, KY 40203.

W*R*I*T*E

Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

Deadline: February 15, 2022

Entry Fee: \$15

Cash Prize: \$1,500

E-mail address: shortstorykeywest@hushmail.com

Website: <http://shortstorycompetition.com>

A prize of \$1,500 and publication on the competition website is given annually for a short story by a writer whose fiction has not appeared in a nationally distributed publication with a circulation over 5,000. Using only the online submission system, submit a story of up to 3,500 words by February 15. The entry fee is \$15 until February 1 and \$20 thereafter. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition, 1501 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.



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.

How to rewrite your book:

1. Procrastinate until you panic.
2. Consider deleting the manuscript.
3. Cry.
4. Bargain with the writing gods.
5. Eventually, start the rewrite.



@Writers_Write