

WAG Digest

Volume 12—Issue 6

S

WAG Holiday Social

Dec. 11, 2022 2:00 pm–5:00 pm—

Heartwood Soundstage

Inside this issue:

Meetings 1

Meet and Greet 4

WAG Brags 5

Point of View 11

Learning Opportunities 15

Festivals and Conferences 16

Calls for Submissions 17

Contests 19



Join us on December 11 for readings from local Gainesville writers. We will meet at 2 pm at the Heartwood Soundstage, 619 S. Main Street, Gainesville, FL 32601. Food and drink are available at nearby restaurants. Authors will be selling their books at the event as well, so come and support your local writers. Parking is available onsite and next to Depot Park. This event is free and open to the public.

How to Write and Publish Children's Books—Group Discussion

Jan. 8, 2023,
2:30 pm—4:00 pm

Millhopper Library, Meeting Room A
3145 NW 43rd St,
Gainesville, FL 32606

Join us on Sunday, January 8, at 2:30 p.m. at the Millhopper Library and learn how to *Write and Publish a Children's Book*.

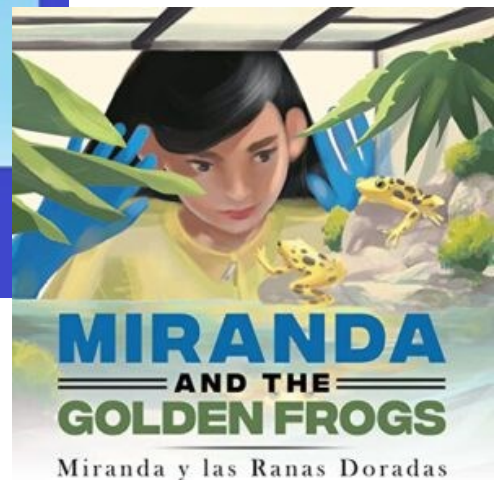
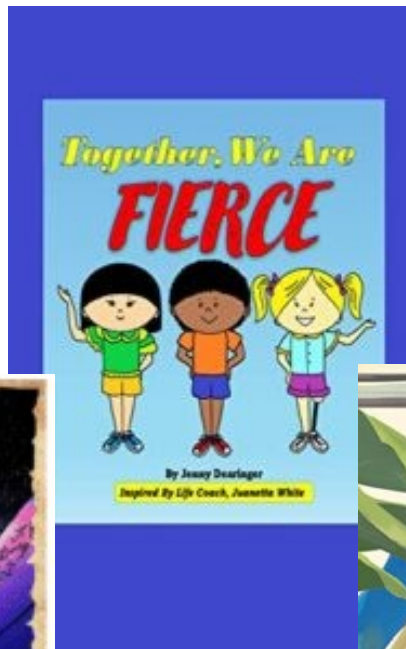
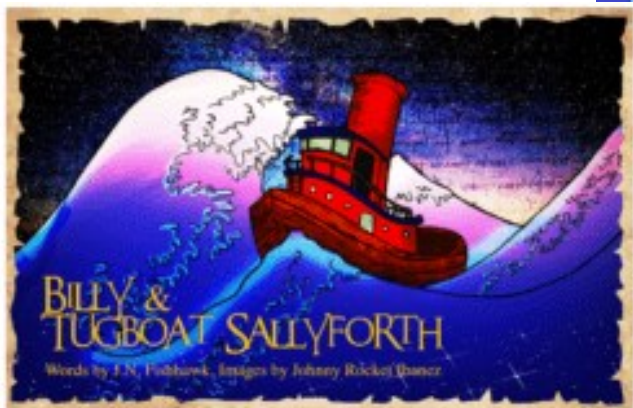
Local authors J. N. Fishhawk, Bonnie Ogle, and WAG's President-Elect Jenny Dearing will discuss the best way to write, illustrate, and advertise your children's books.

In case you didn't know . . .

J. N. Fishhawk is Editor in Chief of *Bacopa Literary Review*.

Bonnie Ogle's book, *Miranda*, won gold in the recent RPLA competition.

Jenny Dearing not only writes children's books, but she also illustrates them.



March 2023 Speaker: Arielle Haughee

Polish Up That Manuscript!



Our March Speaker, Arielle Haughee (Hoy) is a six-time RPLA-winning author and the owner of Orange Blossom Publishing. She is an editor, speaker, and writing coach, and was previously the Executive Vice President and Marketing Chair for the Florida Writers Association. She was honored with the President's Award from FWA in 2020, and in 2021 her book *Pling's Party* was awarded Children's Book of the Year. Her press, Orange Blossom Publishing, publishes books about love, humor, and wellness for women and children.

Arielle will be speaking about how to *Polish Up That Manuscript!*

Get your manuscript ready for publication in this workshop, led by small press owner Arielle Haughee, where we will discuss tightening prose, the most common copy editing mistakes to look for, and how to format your document for submission. Leave with two(!) editing checklists to shine up your manuscript.

March 12 , 2023—2:30 PM– Meet at Millhopper library

W*R*I*T*E



WAG MEET AND GREET

January 19, 2023

6:00 pm–800 pm

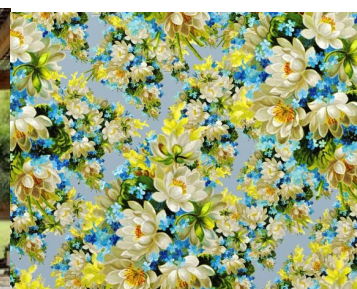
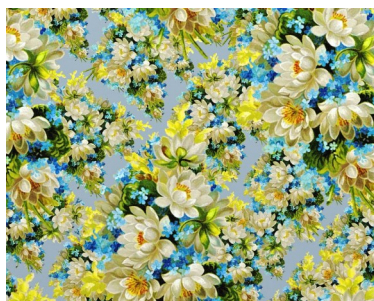
Curia on the Drag
2029 NW 6th Street
Gainesville, FL 32609



Come join us at our January Meet & Greet under a shelter outside Curia on the Drag.

The shelter is north of the Aux Market, 2029 NW 6TH STREET, Gainesville, FL. There are tables and chairs, but you might take along a folding chair just in case. Also, bring any books you'd like to give away and find one to take home.

Get to know fellow WAG members and grab a bite to eat from the food truck. **The last two Meet and Greets have been very successful. Lots of new connections made. We hope to see you there!**



WAG BRAGS

REMINDER — JANUARY IS THE SUNSHINE STATE BOOK FESTIVAL

(There will be no WAG Meeting in February)

WAG BRAGS

[https://
www.sunshinestate
bookfestival.com/](https://www.sunshinestatebookfestival.com/)



January
27–28,
2023

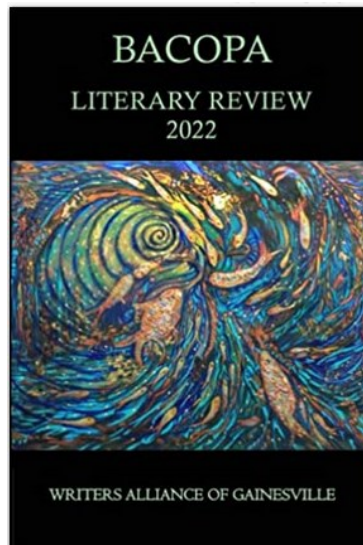
Welcome to the 2023 Sunshine State Book Festival—bringing readers and writers together again for the fourth year. Our 2023 festival will feature 150 authors writing in 15 genres. Their photos are displayed alphabetically on the [2023 Authors page](#). Over a third of them have won literary awards.

This year's keynote address will be given by Janis Owens, notable author of four novels, a regional cookbook, and a book of nonfiction. She will speak on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. New in 2023, presentations by over two-dozen participating festival authors:

- 10 readings by authors of various genres
- 12 children's book authors telling stories to kids
- Other Worlds – a panel of 4 fantasy and science-fiction authors

The fourth **Sunshine State Book Festival** will be held on Friday evening and all day Saturday, January 27-28, 2023, in the Education Building of Trinity United Methodist Church, 4000 NW 53rd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida.

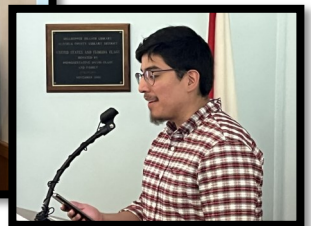
WAG BRAGS



WAG BRAGS

Thank you to the readers and the hard-working editors who came out for the Bacopa Readings at the Millhopper Library in November 2022. This was a great meeting. To get a copy of the Bacopa Literary Review, go to Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Bacopa-Literary-Writers-Alliance-Gainesville/dp/BoBN43KD49/>



WAG BRAGS

Congratulations:



To Bonnie Ogle for winning the Royal Palm Literary Award. As Bonnie writes:

Honored to receive the Gold Royal Palm Literary Award for my bilingual children's book, *Miranda and the Golden Frogs/Miranda y las Ranas Doradas!*

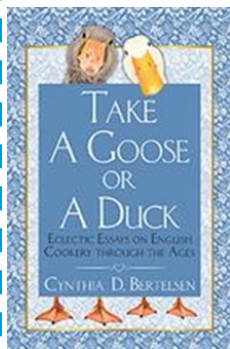
Available on Amazon and Kindle!

<https://www.amazon.com/Miranda-Golden-Frogs-Ranas-Doradas-ebook/dp/B09SQGLNYW/>

W*R*I*T*E

Lots of good news from author Cynthia Bertelsen — As she says:

"Lovely review of "Take a Goose or a Duck," from author Sam Bilton,"



Sam Bilton (Book Review) | *Take a Goose or a Duck* by Cynthia Bertelsen

"*Take a Goose or a Duck* is a proper page turner. This study of culinary history is as addictive as it is entertaining. An essential read for cookbook enthusiasts and history buffs on both sides of the pond."

Cynthia just released her newest book, "Mangoes & Roosters." Not a food book at all, this a bunch of short stories/tales about Haiti. <https://www.amazon.com/Mangoes-Roosters.../dp/173455794X/>



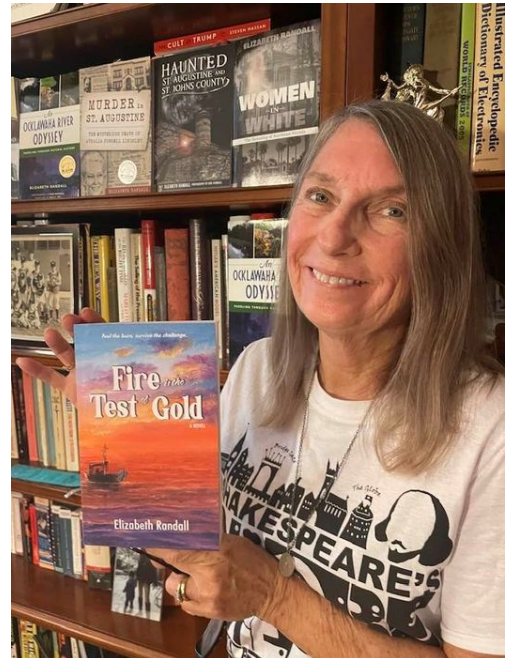
WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to WAG Member Elizabeth Randall who writes:

My first novel, *Fire is the Test of Gold*, is available for preorder today. Although I have six traditionally published non-fiction books, this is my first novel. It's set in Florida and tells the tale of two men who set out in a small boat in prescient weather and disappear. Published by Brother Mockingbird, a small Mississippi press that specializes in southern authors.

The book is available here in Kindle and Paperback:

<https://www.amazon.com/Fire-Test-Gold-Elizabeth-Randall-ebook/dp/B0BHM1K4HC/>



*W*R*I*T*E*

Great Opportunity to get involved with WAG and improve your writing résumé:

WAG needs someone who will send information about upcoming events to the *Gainesville Sun* and other local news outlets. The information may be pulled from the events page of [WAG's website](http://www.writersalliance.org) (www.writersalliance.org).

Congratulations to Penny Church-Pupke, our current Publicity Coordinator, who was recently elected Vice President. She must step down as Publicity Coordinator, but she will be happy to provide you with the details about when and where to send information.

As the Publicity Coordinator, you would become a member of the WAG Board, which meets at 1:00 p.m. before WAG's monthly program. If you can volunteer for this position, please email Penny at publicity@writersalliance.org.

WAG Brags



a postcard review of {mini} poetry and prose

Home

Congratulations to WAG President Jess Elliott, who sent this interesting piece of information:

Woot! Well, this is a HOOT!

Seems like ages ago, I submitted a little non-fiction piece to this outfit called HOOT, which promotes uplifting tiny stories via online and actual postcard posts by subscription. I never heard from them, so assumed the worst and forgot about it.

Just got a lovely email apologizing for the delay, and they'd love to run it! So tossing this out there as a thought for a retro gift idea, a thinking of you, or adding a bit of whimsy to your life or someone else's... not quite a stocking stuffer, but potentially a mailbox stuffer...

<http://www.hootreview.com/>

HOOT is a postcard. A very nice-looking one. With writing on it!

It is also a little more complicated than that. It is also:
a brief, displayable, shareable literary magazine.

The idea is:

- to have stories and poems on a postcard, so that they can be displayed and shared easily. Stick it on the fridge! Tuck it in your husband's/wife's briefcase or nephew's book bag!
- for people to have a literary magazine that they can both afford to subscribe to and have time to read. Never again will you be able to claim that you don't have time to read current literature! Each post card will have fewer than two "Tweets." Except it's not digital!

The idea is:

- to have a literary magazine that is excellent in a pure way.
- want to read more? Well, you can check out [HOOT online](#)— which is equally good work, but without the postcard...because let's face it, we can't avoid digitalness completely. HOOT online follows the same standards—gimmick-free, short, excellent work—no more than four published each month.

Other than that, you'll have to subscribe! It is a real *thing*. Subscribe. Read it! Touch it! . . . with your hands!

WAG Brags



WAG Member Ronnie Lovler found a tough way to write a story on caregiving—by experiencing the situation personally. She turned her experience into a great article for the *Main Street Daily News*:

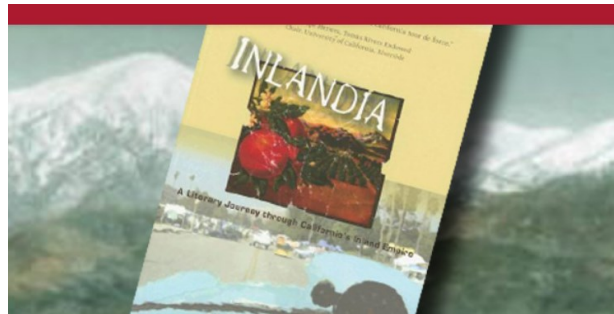
Lovler: Inside lessons on caregiving—available here:

<https://www.mainstreetdailynews.com/local-living/lovler-inside-lessons-on-caregiving>

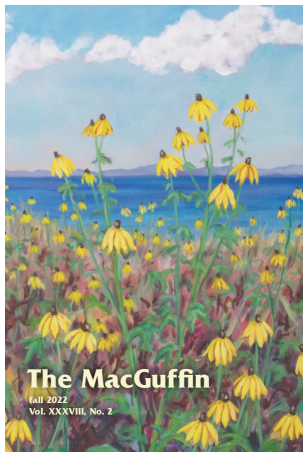
We are happy to report that Ronnie is home now and doing better. We wish you the best, Ronnie, and look forward to seeing you soon.

W*R*I*T*E

CONGRATULATIONS To Bill Snyder for a most impressive series of fall 2022 achievements:



Bill Snyder's book-length poetry collection, *Brush Bristle Love*, was a finalist for the 2022 Inlandia Institute, Hillary Gravendyk Prize.



His poem, "Oh What I Would Give," was published in *The MacGuffin*, Vol. XXXVIII, No. 2 (Fall 2022): 118

Great work, Bill!

The MacGuffin is available here:

<https://www.schoolcraft.edu/macguffin/>

From Writers College Blog By Hannah Green

How to Keep Your Point Of View Consistent



Every story is told from a particular point of view. It is the reader's way "in," enabling them to experience the world they are reading about. When the point of view shifts without warning, it takes the reader out of the action. Not only does it disrupt their experience, but it can confuse them about what is taking place in your story.

Let's take a look at what point of view is, and how to avoid the common point of view mistakes beginner fiction writers make.

BY HANNAH GREEN

What exactly is point of view?

Put simply, it is the perspective through which the story is told. The point of view that you choose is important because it's the lens through which your reader experiences the story.

The three primary points of view are:

First person: The narrator is a character in the story, describing events to the reader. The pronoun used here is "I". Example: "I went to the pool today."

How to Keep Your Point of View Consistent: Cont.

- **Second person:** The story is told from the perspective of “you”. This is fairly rare in fiction, but it does happen. Think back to those *Choose Your Own Adventure* books we all loved in primary school. Example: “You went to the pool today.”
- **Third person:** The narrator is outside of the action, describing what is happening to a character (or characters) within the story. The pronouns used are “he/she/it”. Example: “She went to the pool today”. Third person narration is done in two ways:
 - ♦ **Limited:** The narrator only knows what the POV character knows, and only has access to the POV character’s thoughts and emotions.
 - ♦ **Omniscient:** The narrator is “all knowing”. Just as the name suggests, the God-like narrator knows everything about all events and characters at all times.

Why is a story’s point of view important?

In a [guest post on the Writer’s Digest Blog](#), Joseph Bates, author of *Writing Your Novel Start to Finish*, wrote that the point of view is the basic foundation of the reader’s relationship with a story. “Your goal in selecting a point of view is not simply finding a way to convey information,” he says, “but telling it the right way—making the world you create understandable and believable.”

When done effectively, the point of view you choose can accomplish 3 things:

1. Completely immersing the reader in your fictional world.
2. Tight control over the flow of information, enabling you to create suspense and tension in your story.
3. Sympathy and empathy for your POV character(s). When a reader sympathizes with a character, they want to keep on reading to find out how that character’s story ends.

How do you choose the right point of view?

It comes down to what type of story you are trying to tell and what message you want to get across.

You can tell your story from any character’s perspective; just ask yourself how much information you want to give the reader and how this will affect their interpretation of events.

For example, if you’re writing a courtroom drama and you want your readers to sympathize with the accused, then you will tell it from their perspective, not from the prosecutor’s point of view.

Can you switch between multiple points of view?

Bear in mind that you can change the point of view to give a broader overview of the story. For example, you can tell a story from the point of view of the person on trial in addition to the perspectives of the judge and the lawyers. This would only work in a novel or novella, of course. Very rarely would this be possible in a short story where your word count is too limited to allow for competing points of view.

How to Keep Your Point of View Consistent: Cont.

If you decide to switch between multiple characters in your story, use caution. Always make it clear to your reader when you've changed perspective, and whose point of view you're using. To show that you have changed point of view, you can either use a decorative motif, a double paragraph break, or a chapter break to indicate that the scene has changed, and the point of view has changed along with it.

Changing the point of view can have its advantages. It allows you to give different versions of the same story. It can help you lead your reader towards a well-crafted twist in your tale. You can add suspense by feeding the reader bits of information from different sources, and then connecting all the threads together at the end. However, you need to tread carefully when switching between multiple points of view.

How to avoid confusing your readers

Mistakes with point of view can have disastrous effects on your story, but they are easy to avoid if you follow these rules:

Stick to one perspective at a time

Readers can easily become confused when you change your narrative point of view in a story. The best way to avoid confusion is to stick to one perspective for each scene. If you want to change perspectives, make it clear to the readers that you are doing so by adding spaces between paragraphs and making sure that it is obvious from the start which character or perspective you are using. Don't be afraid to state the obvious and use names. Make sure to do so from the beginning of each scene.

Avoid jumping between characters unnecessarily

Often a conflict can arise between using a particular point of view and trying to show the reader what's happening in the grand scheme of the story. In an effort to show your readers all that is going on in a particular scene, you may end up jumping between characters in order to describe everything. All this does is complicate the story and confuse your readers. What's worse, you run the risk of boring the reader because you're likely:

1. Giving a lot of information away – eliminating tension.
2. Repeating things that your reader already knows.

In an excerpt from her book, *Writing the Intimate Character* (which can be found [here](#)), Jordan Rosenfeld demystifies how to work with multiple POVs. She makes three key points:

- Don't repeat a single scene from multiple points of view unless that scene offers something new that will drive the plot forward.
- Don't use peripheral characters as tools to make exposition or information dumps in an effort to explain everything to your reader.
- Keep your character switching consistent.

Rosenfeld advises, "Many writers use a formula wherein each co-protagonist gets a POV chapter or scene in a set rotating order: Protagonist A, Protagonist B, Protagonist C, all the way through the novel. Others might structure their scenes so one character appears more often than the others: A, B, A, C, A, B, A, C, or even A, A, B, C, A, A, B, C."

Essentially, pick a formula and stick to it.

How to Keep Your Point of View Consistent: Cont.

Keep your pronouns consistent

A common error with point of view occurs when writers don't pay attention to pronouns. The scenario often goes like this: you start out writing in the first person, using pronouns like I, my, me, etc. In the next paragraph, you accidentally switch to using "you," the second person perspective. Example:

I now find myself in uncharted terrain. The rain is sluicing down the car windows, the glass already so fogged up that the trees and fence posts outside have been reduced to black shadows that loom ominously close as I drive past.

Suddenly, due to an error of judgment and plain old stubbornness, you realize that you are lost.

It might seem bizarre that writers could change perspective like this, without noticing that their lines now barely make sense, but it happens all the time.

If you have difficulty sticking to one point of view, imagine that you're the character whose point of view you are using. Think of yourself as playing a role in a production, like an actor. Think of what that character can see and know. They can imagine what another character is thinking, but cannot know for sure.

They can see what is going on around them but this is influenced by their own beliefs and opinions. Pay close attention to what is possible and what is likely to happen in a scene when told from one character's point of view. It is not possible for them to know everything about everyone, and it is unlikely that they will be describing their own cherry red lips unless they have cause to do so.

Reading your story aloud is also helpful for catching these little logical slips.

In Conclusion

Always remember that when you choose a point of view, you need to stick to it for the duration of a scene. Secondly, keep asking yourself if it's possible for your character to know the information that he or she is revealing to the reader. If not, then you might be making a mistake with your use of point of view. Bestselling author Joe Bunting put it best when he said:

"[W]hen point of view goes wrong—and believe me, it goes wrong often—you threaten whatever trust you have with your reader and fracture their suspension of disbelief."

Remember, point of view is an essential part of your story's foundation. Just like a building, a story without structural integrity is likely to collapse in on itself.



About the Author:

H R Green is a writer of short stories and has a passion for teaching Creative Writing. She recently won the 2011 SA Writers' College Short Story Competition with her story "The Tokoloshe". With a BA Degree in English Literature from the University of the Witwatersrand (2007) and an HonsBA Degree from the University of South Africa (2009) she is about to embark on her Masters Degree. She completed the Short Story Writing Course at the Writers College in 2010. Photo credit: Bowen Murphy

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

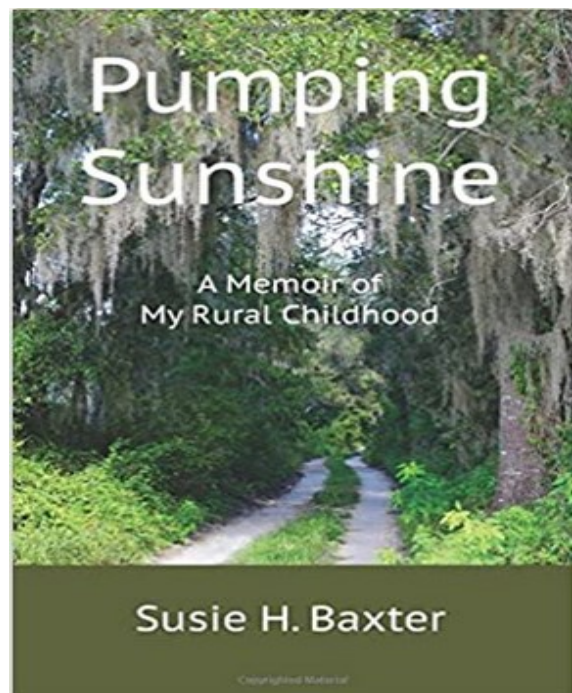
Join former WAG President and Award Winning Author Susie Baxter for her popular Write Your Memoir Course through the Community Education program at Santa Fe. You may contact Susie here: <https://susiebaxter.com/home/>

Write-Your-Memoir Course, February 6 - 26, 2023

Susie Baxter's Write-Your-Memoir course, offered through the Community Education Program, Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Florida, will be held on the four Saturdays in February 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you wish to write about your life for yourself, your family, or the world, this course is for you. Participants write about everyday life, the people who influenced them, and life-changing events. Can't remember the details? Handouts and charts will aid recall. You and your classmates will have a chance to share stories in class, although sharing is not mandatory.

If you are interested, contact [Susie](https://susiebaxter.com/home/) on her website. <https://susiebaxter.com/home/>
She will notify you when registration begins. Or contact Santa Fe at (352) 395-5193.

**Winner of the
2018 Royal Palm
Literary Award.
Available in hard-
cover or paper-
back, on Kindle,
and as an audio-
book.**



Festivals and Conferences



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Second Annual Poetry Festival Planned for April 14-15 During National Poetry Month

St. Augustine, FL - Internationally published author Chris Bodor is giving back to the literary community in St. Johns County in the new year. In April, for National Poetry Month, he is partnering with the St. Johns Cultural Council, and Flagler College to present the Second Annual St. Augustine PoetFest, at no cost to the public. Poetry fans and authors throughout Florida and across the county will gather on Saturday April 15, from 8 am to 5 pm on the campus of Flagler College for a full day of author talks, a book fair, a five-hour open mic marathon, and panel discussions. After a dinner break, a keynote performance will begin at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. A PoetFest after event is being planned for off campus. The festival will kick off with an open mic on Friday April 14th at 7:00 p.m. hosted by the English Department of Flagler College.

On the last Sunday of every month, since August of 2009, the Ancient City Poets have gathered to set up a microphone, and a podium, and celebrate creative writing and reciting. Over the years, Chris has handpicked poets to present at the Sing Out Loud Festival, the Romanza Festival, and PAM Jam 2020. During the Global Pandemic, local poets gravitated to Zoom and other computer-based solutions, where they gained an international audience through Facebook Live. They are currently planning to share the local literary scene with the world by recording their monthly readings and creating a "Poetry Flows" television series for the group's channel on YouTube. Ancient City Poets are also excited to announce that their new host venue for 2023 will be the Waterworks, located at 184 San Marco Avenue in St. Augustine (accessible through the parking lot of the downtown public library).

"We have a lot of huge plans for the new year, and we are going to need countless amounts of energetic, passionate, and creative volunteers to make these dreams come true," said Chris Bodor. All those interested in supporting the Ancient City Poets, please contact them through their social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

For more information: <https://www.bodor.org/>
Or <https://www.facebook.com/ancientcitypoets/>

Calls for Submissions

Sand Hills Literary Magazine
Open for General Submissions

Deadline: March 20, 2023

Sand Hills Literary Magazine, in print since 1973, is now open for general submissions. We are a national publication, only accepting works from the United States. Emerging and established writers and artists are encouraged to submit. We are accepting art, poetry, and prose for our 47th issue. The deadline for submissions is March 20, 2023. We look forward to reviewing your work: sandhillslitmag.com/



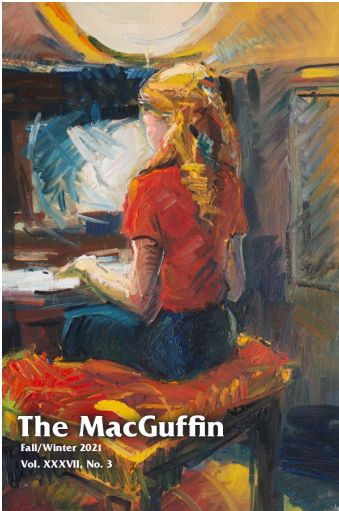
*W*R*I*T*E*



- Third Street Review
- **Deadline:** Rolling

Third Street Review is a new online literary journal for flash fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, art, and photography. We are a paying market and welcome work from writers and artists from all cultural backgrounds and experience levels. For complete submission guidelines, please visit our website,

www.thirdstreetwriters.org.



Calls for Submissions

- MacGuffin Seeks Work that Takes Risk with and Evolves Form
- **Deadline:** Rolling

The MacGuffin is seeking new work that innovates, inspires, and experiments: Prose that takes risks with and evolves the form of the short story; Poetry that speaks volumes in small spaces; submissions that reflect our now post-post-post-modern times. Send up to five poems and up to two stories (in separate files and no longer than 5000 words each, fiction and/or creative nonfiction) to us at themacguffin.submittable.com or see our website, schoolcraft.edu/macguffin, for full submission guidelines.

*W*R*I*T*E*



Contests

2023 New American Poetry Prize

Deadline: January 15, 2023

NEW AMERICAN POETRY PRIZE. \$1,500 and book publication. Final judge: Jamaica Baldwin, author of *Bone Language* (forthcoming 2023). Deadline: January 15, 2023. Minimum length: 48 pages (no maximum). Reading fee: \$25. Online submissions only, please. Complete guidelines:

Complete guidelines: <https://newamericanpress.com/category/announcements/>

★ **NEW** ★
AMERICAN
POETRY PRIZE
\$1500 & PUBLICATION
DEADLINE JAN 15, 2023
FINAL JUDGE
JAMAICA BALDWIN

W*R*I*T*E



2023 Press 53 Award for Short Fiction

Deadline: December 31, 2022

2023 Press 53 Award for Short Fiction is awarded to an outstanding, unpublished collection of short stories. **Reading Fee:** \$30. **Award:** \$1,000 cash advance, publication, and fifty copies (35 softcover/15 hardcover). **Enter:** Submit online with Submittable or by mail from September 1–December 31, 2022. Press 53 short fiction editor in chief Claire V. Foxx will serve as the only judge. Winner and finalists announced by May 1, 2023; advance review copies sent to major reviewers and outlets; publication in May 2024. Complete details at www.Press53.com/award-for-short-fiction.

Contests

Mississippi Review Prize

Deadline—January 1, 2023

Entry Fee: \$15 EMAIL: msreview@usm.edu

Website: <http://sites.usm.edu/mississippi-review>

Three prizes of \$1,000 each and publication in *Mississippi Review* are given annually for a single poem, a short story, and an essay. Current or former University of Southern Mississippi students are ineligible. Submit three to five poems totaling up to 10 pages or a short story or essay of 1,000 to 8,000 words with a \$15 entry fee (\$16 for electronic submissions), which includes a copy of the prize issue, by January 1, 2023. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.



W*R*J*T*E

Essay Press/University of Washington Bothell

Deadline: December 15, 2022

Entry Fee: \$20

Website: <http://essaypress.org>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication by Essay Press will be given annually for lyric essays, prose poems, and works of experimental biography and autobiography that “challenge the formal possibilities of prose.” The winner will also be invited to read at the University of Washington Bothell in downtown Seattle; all travel expenses will be covered. Collaborative, digital, and hybridized work, including text and art, are eligible. Using only the online submission system, submit a prose manuscript of 70 to 200 pages with a \$20 entry fee (or \$25 to receive a copy of a previous or forthcoming Essay Press book) by December 15. All entries will be considered for publication.

Visit the website for complete guidelines.



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



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.

January
27–28, 2023

4000 N.W. 53rd Ave
Gainesville, Florida

