

# WAG Digest

## Volume 13—Issue 2

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## Celebrate Poetry—Millhopper Library Monthly Meeting

**April 2, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm**



Join us at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, at the Millhopper branch of the Alachua County Library as we celebrate National Poetry Month with two of Gainesville's most talented local poets and authors, Jenna Nishida and Reinfred Addo.

**Nishida will discuss "Found Poetry" — from poet's helper to high art.** Whether as an end unto itself or as an exercise in creative thinking, found poetry can be enriching, enlivening, and freeing for poets—especially poets who might be feeling depleted or blocked. Learn about a variety of forms of found poetry, as well as tips and methods for how to write (and cite) and perform found poems.

**Reinfred Addo will explain how to do a poetry book launch.** Addo is a Ghanaian-American writer, and author of the poetry collections *Washed Over* (finalist for Eyelands Book Awards) and *The Dedicadas* (recipient of the Royal Palm Literary Awards).

# Upcoming Meetings—Sundays—Millhopper Library

## Celebrate Poetry

**April 2, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

Millhopper Branch, Alachua County  
Libraries  
3145 NW 43rd St.  
Gainesville, FL 32606

Jenn **Nishida**, who served as Fiction Editor of WAG's [2021 Bacopa Literary Review](#), is one of the co-hosts of Gainesville's Thursday Night Poetry Jam at the Civic Media Center. An educator by vocation, she earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in literature at the University of Florida. She also has an educational specialist degree in the teaching of secondary English and has taught language arts to children, teens, and adult learners. She has made a lifelong study of poetry from multiple cultures and has explored contemporary poetry through events such as the Dodge Poetry Festival.



The works of **Reinfred Addo**, including his health humanities creative writing, have been published by various organizations such as Tampered Press and in publications such as *Signs of Life: An Anthology*.

He has headlined a series of programs centering on poetry and prose. Performances at many local venues in Gainesville have included works published in *Washed Over* (such as a crowd-favorite poem "Life's Students") as well as unpublished works.

Addo currently lives in Gainesville and enjoys the area's arts initiatives, including [Bacopa Literary Review](#) (he's the poetry co-editor), Thursday Night Poetry Jam (host), DOPENmic, and ARTSPEAKS.

A book signing will follow the program.

May 2023 Speakers: Mary Bast and Wendy Thornton

## Creating Engaging Characters



Join members of the Writers Alliance on Sunday, May 7, at the Millhopper branch of the Alachua County Library where Mary Bast and Wendy Thornton will present a program on **Creating Engaging Characters**.

Mary Bast will discuss the use of the **Enneagram**, a device that has been used for years by writers and screenwriters as a powerful tool to develop original and dimensional characters. She will give a simple overview of the nine Enneagram personalities along with fictional examples of each. “Whether you are writing memoir or fiction,” she says, “you can easily adapt this approach to strengthen your character’s descriptions and actions.”

If you would like to learn more before May 7, go to “[Deepening Written Characters with Mary Bast](https://www.amazon.com/Literary-Enneagram-Characters-Inside-Out/dp/155552107X/).” (<https://www.amazon.com/Literary-Enneagram-Characters-Inside-Out/dp/155552107X/>) Bast has a PhD in Social

Psychology. She retired in 2020 from a forty-year career, first as Director of Executive Development for Federated Department Stores, then for a decade as an independent leadership consultant, and another twenty years as a personal coach and mentor using the Enneagram model of nine personalities. In addition to her published poetry and memoir, she is the author of [five Enneagram-based books](#) that feature fictionalized stories of clients’ transformational journeys, including the first Enneagram coaching book, *Out of the Box Coaching with the Enneagram*.

Wendy Thornton will discuss **Developing your Character’s Backstory**. How do you create a character that will be engaging to your readers? “Sometimes it’s important for the writer to know more about a character than the reader,” Thornton says. “If you develop the backstory, you may be able to write more realistically, and develop your character’s story in a more engaging way.”



Some things to consider:

- – Is the character a good guy or a bad guy?
- – Is the character super-normal or super-defective?
- – What are your characters’ quirks?
- – What are their backgrounds?
- – How do you decide these things?

Thornton, a Pushcart Prize nominee, is a prolific freelance writer who helped found the Writers Alliance of Gainesville. Her many works have been published in *Riverteeth*, *Epiphany*, *MacGuffin* and other literary journals and books. Her memoir, *Dear Oprah: How I Beat Cancer and Learned to Love Daytime TV*, was published in 2013. Her latest book of essays, [Sounding the Depths: Memories with Music](#) published in 2018. *Bear Trapped: Blowback* (June 2020) is the most recent mystery in her Bear Trapped Series. She has also published two books of short stories: *Arrested Motion* (2022) and *Hanging On* (2023). She teaches community ed writing courses at Santa Fe College in Gainesville.



# A NEW WAG MEET AND GREET

CURIA ON THE DRAG

Thursday, April 20, 2023 from 6:00 to 8 pm

Join us for the next Writers Alliance Meet and Greet at Gainesville's Curia on the Drag at 2029 NW 6th Street. We have had a good turnout for the last few meet and greets, and enjoyed talking to our fellow writers in a casual, engaging atmosphere.

We'll meet under the pergola north of the Aux Market, which is directly behind Curia. 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.

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

WAG President Jenny Dearing reports on an opportunity to support two more students who won the Sunshine State Book Festival Essay contest this year:

I gave awards for the SSBF essay contest to Skylar Scott and her English teacher, Lindsey Franklin. In the photograph from left to right: Dr. Marchman (Director and Superintendent), Jenny Dearing (WAG President), Skylar Scott, Lindsey Franklin, and Dr. Geiger (Principal).

Thanks Jenny! We look forward to next year's contest!

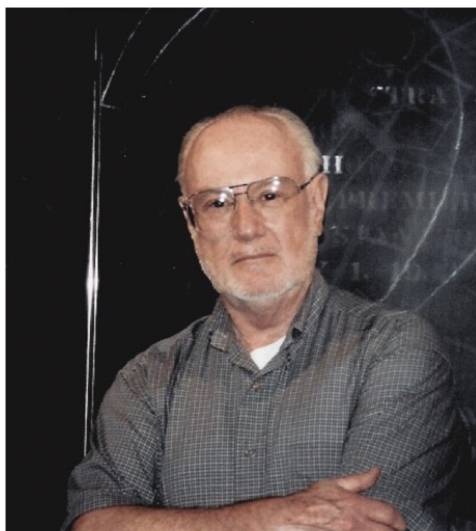


# WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to Mallory and John O'Connor on the successful launch of their new book, *The Kitchen and the Studio, A Memoir of Food and Art*. They had a successful launch at the Thomas Center on Feb. 12, 2023. This collaboration between husband and wife is billed as the story "When the chef's son met the rancher's daughter, it was love at first bite." *The Kitchen and the Studio: A Memoir of Food and Art* is a cookbook, an art book, a memoir and a love story.

Artist John A. O'Connor and Art Historian Mallory M. O'Connor met at the University of California, Davis, in 1962. They were married in January 1963. From the beginning, they shared a passion for good food and wine that has

**John A. O'Connor** is a practicing, professional artist and designer who taught art at the University of California-Santa Barbara, Ohio University, Athens, and the University of Florida, Gainesville until his retirement in 2005. His service included a number of administrative positions including Director of the Appalachian Center for Crafts and Director of the UF Center for the Arts and Public Policy. In addition, he taught Art Law at the UF College of Law and collaborated with the School of Aerospace, Engineering Science and Mechanics on several projects. He has had thirty-six solo exhibitions of his paintings and his art is in many public and private collections. He is also the author of *White Lies Matter: Decoding American Deceptionalism* (iUniverse Press, 2020).



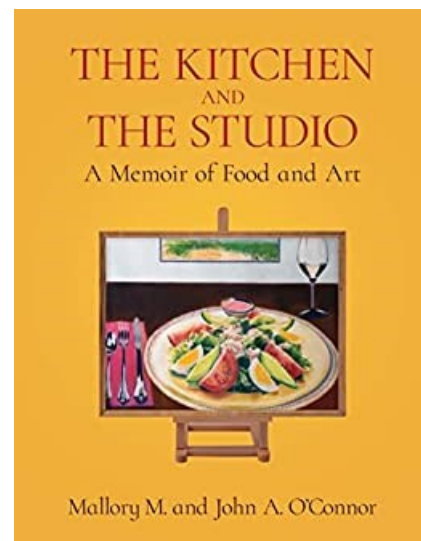
John A. O'Connor, Photo by Mallory O'Connor

Mallory O'Connor is a writer, an art historian, and a musician. Her recent novels, *Epiphany's Gift* and *Key To Eternity* are widely acclaimed as paranormal thrillers featuring, psychic detective Epiphany Mayall. *American River: Tributaries*, is Book One of her *American River Trilogy* which also includes *American River: Currents* and *American River: Confluence*. Mallory O'Connor's non-fiction books, *Lost Cities of the Ancient Southeast* and *Florida's American Heritage River* are both published by the University Press of Florida.

The book is available on Amazon at:

[https://www.amazon.com/Kitchen-Studio-Memoir-Food-Art](https://www.amazon.com/Kitchen-Studio-Memoir-Food-Art-ebook/dp/B0BY39KTJC/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1680142785&sr=8-2)

[-ebook/dp/B0BY39KTJC/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1680142785&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Kitchen-Studio-Memoir-Food-Art-ebook/dp/B0BY39KTJC/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1680142785&sr=8-2)



continued for almost sixty years. This book is both a memoir of their life together as artists and teachers and a collection of the celebrations that they shared with family and friends over the years. The book is illustrated with John's original paintings along with photographs of celebrations and participants. In this unique love story of a creative couple who have always "lived the artist's life," John and Mallory O'Connor share their favorite special occasions and recipes along with the places and the people who made them memorable.





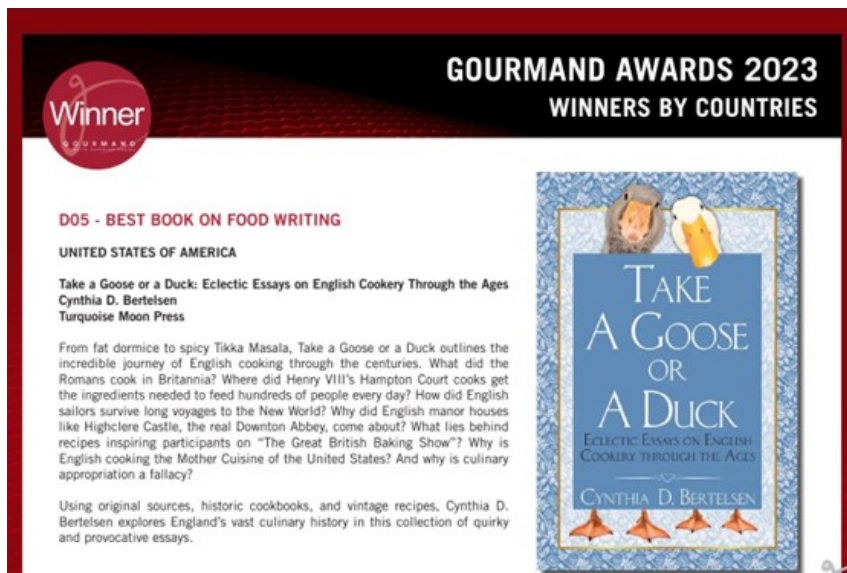
# WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to writer [Cynthia Bertelsen](#) whose book "Take a Goose or a Duck" has won another great award, the Gourman 2023 Award for Best Book on Food writing!

As Cynthia explains:

Winner in USA for Best on Food Writing, along with Tom Jaines (UK), Henry Notaker (Norway), and two others - from Peru and Sweden. Will find out in May if it's one of the Best in the World.

Good luck, Cynthia!



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

Alycin Hayes' adventure travel memoir "Amazon Hitchhiker" received a great review in the Portuguese magazine Snapshot!

Congratulations, Alycin!



## WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to William (Bill) Snyder for two beautiful publications in the journal Review Americana.

You can read his poems here:

*The Easiness of Pleasure*, and, *Mulberrylullberrynullberry*, Review Americana, Volume 17, Issue 2 (Fall 2002):

[https://americanpopularculture.com/review\\_america/fall\\_2022/snyder.htm](https://americanpopularculture.com/review_america/fall_2022/snyder.htm)

Great work, Bill!

*\*W\*R\*J\*T\*E\**

A number of local Gainesville authors will be attending the following event in St. Augustine:

### **ST. AUGUSTINE POETFEST - Weekend of April 14-16**

Friday, April 14, 2023 Kick off evening open mic hosted by the English Department of Flagler College, followed with a full day on Saturday the 15th of book talks, panels, five hour open mic marathon, and keynote presentation.

PoetFest at Night will be this year's new addition and will include a ticket evening event off campus at Sarbez (115 Anastasia Blvd, Saint Augustine, FL 32084) Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening. The \$10 per person price of the ticket goes to the performers. PoetFest at Night performers include spoken word artists, indie rappers, and singer songwriters.

### **POETFEST INFO WEBSITE QR CODE AND LINK**

Here is the link to get all the info on St. Augustine PoetFest:

<https://linktr.ee/stapoetfest>

Check it out, Gainesville Poets.

## WAG BRAGS

**Check out our new blog post, *Self-Editing and Designing the Layout of a Children's Book* by WAG President Jenifer Dearing.**

<https://writersalliance.org/self-editing-and-designing-the-layout-of-a-childrens-book/>

And remember, writing a good blog is a great way to advertise our publishing abilities. Let's get those blogs written and sent in to our WAG Website! Blogging guidelines are available here: <https://writersalliance.org/blog/wag-blogging-guidelines/>

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

And support your local poets during April National Poetry Month by attending this great event, sponsored by our Poet Laureate, E. Stanley Richardson:

### North Central Florida Poetry Festival

*Unity in the Community through Text & Image*

- Thurs, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 6-9 PM: Open Mic at Harn Museum Nights at UF's Harn Museum of Art
- Fri, April 14<sup>th</sup>: Text & Image Workshop at A. Quinn Jones School with Artist Patrick Grigsby and Alachua County Poet Laureate E. Stanley Richardson
- Fri, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM: Poetry Workshop with ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE at The Matheson History Museum
- Sat, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 3-5 PM: NCFL Youth Poet Laureate Commencement at Alachua Co. Library Headquarters
- Sat, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM: The Acrosstown Repertory Theatre's *The Tempest* at the Historic Thomas Center
- Sun, April 16<sup>th</sup>: Special Guest poet JOHN MURILLO at Alachua County Library Headquarters
  - 1-3 PM: Poetry Workshop
  - 4-5 PM: Poetry Reading & Book Signing



North Central Florida Poetry Festival

Brought free to the community by  
**ARTSPEAKSgny Inc.**

Co-sponsored by





# WAG Brags

***Bacopa Literary Review,***  
WAG's Literary Journal, is accepting  
Submissions for their annual contest

## Contest Rules

- Submission dates: **March 19 — April 16, 2023**
- No submission fee
- \$200 Award and \$100 Honorable Mention in each of six categories
- Authors submit to **only ONE category** (see below).
- Submissions to more than one category can result in disqualification.

Entries are to be submitted to [Submittable](https://writersallianceofgainesville.submittable.com/submit). (<https://writersallianceofgainesville.submittable.com/submit> )

- No submission fee
- \$200 Award and \$100 Honorable Mention in each of six categories
- Authors submit to **only ONE category** (see below).
- Submissions to more than one category can result in disqualification.

## Category Descriptions

**Fiction (up to 2,500 words):** *Bacopa Literary Review* is looking for engaging and original pieces of short fiction capable of capturing and engaging the reader. Unique descriptions, vivid language, and original ideas are appreciated. Use precise language, make sure your work is as polished as possible before submitting, and most of all, enjoy the writing process!

**Creative Nonfiction (up to 2,500 words):** We publish true stories, written beautifully, and based on the author's experiences, perceptions, and reflections in the form of personal memoir or literary essay (for example, nature, travel, medical, spiritual, and food writing).

**Humor (up to 2,000 words):** Make us laugh in any literary form up to 2,000 words. This can include personal essays, satire, poetry, short fiction, grocery lists, manifestos, or modified insurance policies.



## WAG Brags

### Bacopa categories, continued:

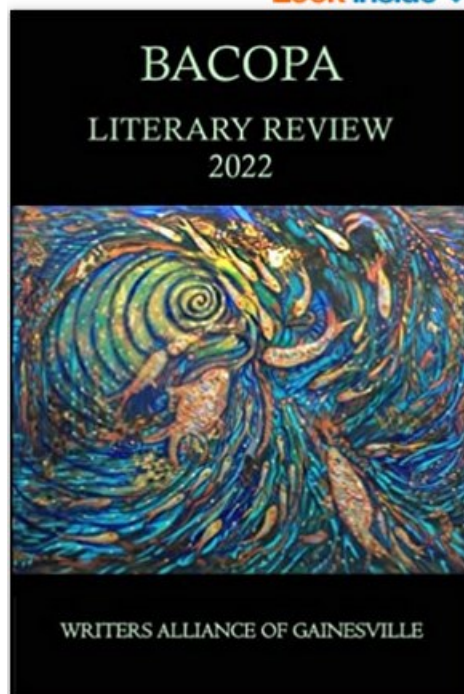
**Formal Poetry (1-3 poems):** Sonnets, villanelles, pantoums, haiku, and other established forms. We are seeking words that illuminate the human condition, tell us something new, or just entertain. Send us your best. **Please note the specific form of each poem you submit.** All voices are welcome, and we are interested in reading poems on all themes and subjects.

**Free Verse Poetry (1-2 poems):** Free verse, visionary poems, the strange and unusual. Absurd, thoughtful, experimental, political, romantic, funny, entertaining. Give us your best work, unfettered, unrestrained, free from forms—or make up your own form. All voices are welcome, and we are interested in reading poems on all themes and subjects.

**Visual poetry (1 poem):** In a new category for us, we are seeking visual poems. At the moment we can only accept images in black and white that can fit within a 6 x 9-inch page. We don't know what we are looking for—surprise us! Please submit only one visual poem.

You do not have to be a member of Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG) to submit. To join WAG [click here](https://writersalliance.org/membership) (https://writersalliance.org/membership). Membership (\$36) includes a copy of the most recent *Bacopa Literary Review*.

Look inside ↓



## WAG Brags

### NEW PODS AVAILABLE

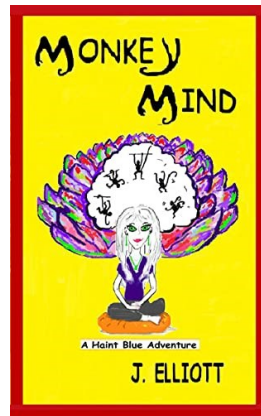
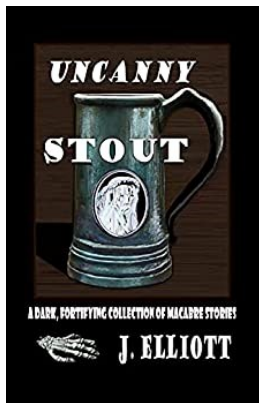
Some new pods are starting. If you're interested in getting involved with a pod, please contact [critiquepodcoordinator@writersalliance.org](mailto:critiquepodcoordinator@writersalliance.org).

Former WAG President Jess Elliott is thinking about starting a new mystery pod. Jess is an experienced mystery writer (see her books here:

[https://www.amazon.com/stores/J.-Elliott/author/B07NBQQWYL?](https://www.amazon.com/stores/J.-Elliott/author/B07NBQQWYL?ref=ap_rdr&store_ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true)

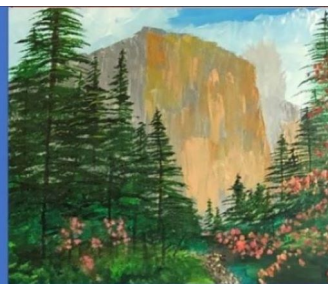
[ref=ap\\_rdr&store\\_ref=ap\\_rdr&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true\)](https://www.amazon.com/stores/J.-Elliott/author/B07NBQQWYL?ref=ap_rdr&store_ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrated=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true)

She will probably have most meetings by Zoom but is open to having some meetings in person for the benefit of the crowds :)



Wendy Thornton is trying to get a poetry pod together. At this point, the pod will meet in person every other Monday from 6 pm to 8 pm. Again, if you're interested in getting into a pod, please see the contact e-mail listed above.

Wendy Thornton is a freelance writer whose poetry has been published in *Poetry Quarterly*, *The Lake*, (United Kingdom), *Underground Voices*, and many other literary journals and books. Her book of music essays, *Sounding the Depths*, was published in 2018. Her second Bear-Trapped mystery, *Bear Trapped: Blowback*, was published in 2020. Her book of short stories, *Arrested Motion*, was published in 2022, and her second book of short stories, *Hanging On* was published in Jan. 2023. She teaches at Santa Fe College, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and has won many literary awards. In 2009, she started the Writers Alliance ([www.writersalliance.org](http://www.writersalliance.org)).



### Physics as a Cure for Grief

By Wendy Thornton





# POV – Don't Confuse the Reader

By Emily-Jane Hills Orford

Whose story are you telling? Yours? Or someone else's? Are you planning to share the story from multiple perspectives? From the point of view of the protagonist as well as the antagonist? Not to mention the other characters in the story?

Multiple points of view can be complicated, both for the writer and the reader. And, it's the reader who matters most. If the reader is confused, you've lost them.

The point of view (POV) is the keystone to your story's success. If you're writing in first person narrative (I, me, we), and you want to change perspective, you can't just jump into another character's mindset and allow them to tell their story in first person narrative. It's a little less complicated changing POV if you're writing in third person narrative (she, he, they), but even in this format, there needs to be a link to identify the POV to the reader. And second person narrative? Good luck maintaining second person narrative throughout (although a few authors have, it's very rare).

Here are a few tips to help you manipulate the minefield of POV without losing your readers.

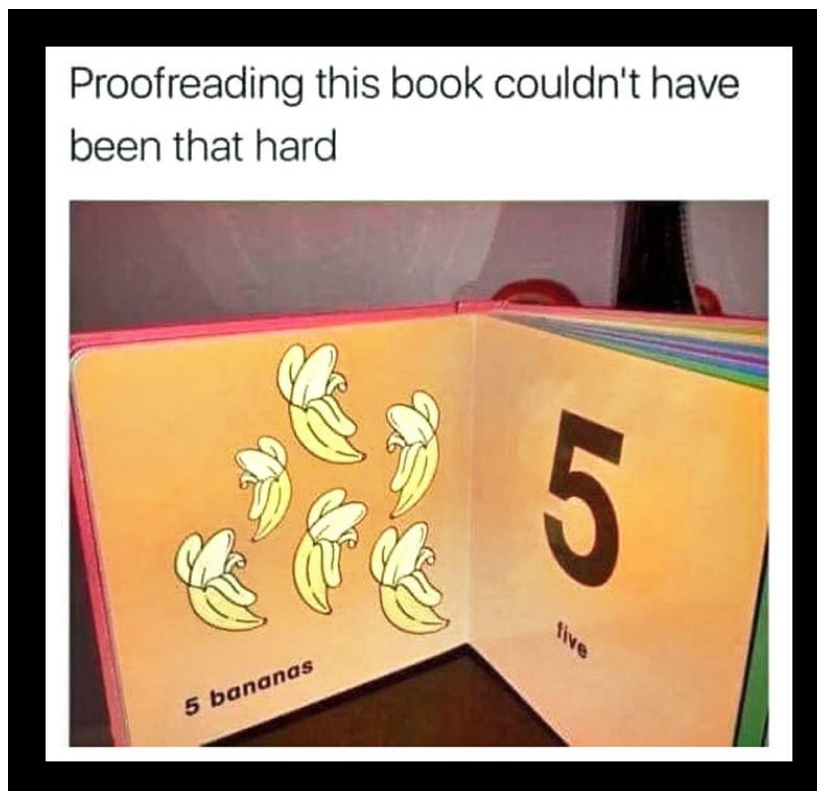
- Decide on your point of view before you even start writing. If you start writing your story in first person, then suddenly decide you want to write the story in third person, you must be very diligent in changing all the first person pronouns appropriately to their third person counterparts.
- Once you've chosen your point of view, study some published examples, especially if you plan to experiment and use multiple points of view.
- If you're writing in third person narrative and you plan to change the point of view from one character to another, make sure it doesn't happen mid-chapter, or, worse, mid-paragraph. Start a new point of view with a new chapter.
- If you're writing in first person narrative and you plan to maintain the first person approach throughout but using different characters to tell their story in first person, then, once again, start a new character's point of view with a new chapter. AND – be sure to identify the character who is speaking in the new chapter. An excellent example of this is Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*. The author heads each chapter with the character's name. It's a technique she's mastered in several of her novels.

## Point of View, Cont.

- There is a downfall of writing in multiple points of view, first person narrative. Authors tend to fall into the trap of repeating what's already been shared from the new perspective. **DON'T!** Don't repeat the story that's already been told. The reader doesn't want to hear the same story multiple times from different perspectives. Move the plot along.
- Don't migrate between first person and third person narrative. It's too confusing for both the writer and the reader. It's a recipe for disaster and will lose the reader very quickly. The exception, of course, is in dialogue which is predominantly in first person, as the speaker is ultimately talking about themselves, unless they're sharing someone else's story.

There is another alternative: second person narrative (you did this, you did that, you thought, you spoke). Simply put, writing in second person narrative is a challenge. For one thing, it's next to impossible to maintain the second person point of view. You can't continually use the word 'you' without sounding like a dictator. Without the 'you', however, the point of view quickly slips into third person or even first person.

However, it can add a modicum of intent to really bring the reader into the plot. This was done very effectively in Erin Morgenstern's novel, *The Night Circus*. By inserting sections where second person narrative dominates, the author effectively involves reader into the story. For example, the opening scene describes the arrival of the circus and concludes with the cliff-hanger statement: "Now the circus is open. Now you may enter." (cont. on next page)



## Point of View, Cont.

The reader is now a vital part of the story. The author uses the ‘you’ intermittently to remind the reader that ‘you’ is an important character in the plot. The author wraps up the story with these final words: “You are no longer certain which side of the fence is the dream.” It’s a clever ploy, but, in no means does the second person continue throughout. It just doesn’t work.

Finally, your choice of point of view should keep in mind the genre and age category you’re writing, as well as the publisher you hope will publish your work. Some editors refuse to consider first person narrative for specific genres or age categories. Second person, if effectively used, is a hard sell to any editor.

Many writers choose third person as the safest choice to attract more interest. Research the potential markets, read examples of published works in your genre and age category, and make an educated choice based on your findings. And, remember, be consistent.

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**Emily-Jane Hills Orford** is a country writer, living just outside the tiny community of North Gower, Ontario, near the nation’s capital. With degrees in art history, music and Canadian studies, the retired music teacher enjoys the quiet nature of her country home and the inspiration of working at her antique Jane Austen-style spinet desk, feeling quite complete as she writes and stares out the large picture window at the birds and the forest. She writes in several genres, including creative nonfiction, memoir, fantasy, and historical fiction. <http://emilyjanebooks.ca>





# Festivals and Conferences

## **Register for the Killer Nashville Conference** **<https://www.killernashville.com/register>**

Killer Nashville is the premier forum for all genres incorporating mystery, thriller, or suspense elements; learn, present, meet agents & editors, sign books, mingle with forensic experts, and network.

The Killer Nashville International Writers' Conference was created in 2006 by author/filmmaker Clay Stafford in an effort to bring together forensic experts, writers, and fans of crime and thriller literature.

Our objective is simple: to educate and empower aspiring and established writers, and connect them with other industry professionals. We pride ourselves on our intense, intimate workshops and panels, and on our close-knit community of writers.

At the conference, we try diligently to ensure that the weekend has something for every writer and lover of literature, and our sessions are structured to assist writers on multiple career levels. Our learning tracks tackle the craft of writing, business of writing, marketing, and forensics.

Killer Nashville features 60+ panels & workshops, nine breakout sessions for intense smaller group interaction, an authors' bar (free for hotel guests), a moonshine and wine tasting, agent/editor roundtable pitch sessions, a mock crime scene designed by special agents and other law enforcement professionals, cocktail receptions, the Killer Nashville Awards Dinner, film previews, live music performances and—of course—all the great activities one can enjoy in downtown Nashville.

Killer Nashville reserves the right to change conference offerings at any time based upon any unforeseeable circumstances.



<https://www.killernashville.com/>

## Calls for Submissions



March 30, 2023 **Deadline:** Year-round

### **Palooka Seeks Chapbooks, Prose, Poetry, Artwork, Photography**

*Palooka* is an international literary magazine. For over a decade we've featured new, up-and-coming, and established writers, artists, and photographers from around the world. We're open to diverse forms and styles and are always seeking unique chapbooks, fiction, poetry, nonfiction, artwork, photography, and graphic narratives. Submissions open year-round. [palookamag.com](http://palookamag.com)

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

### **About Place Journal Call for Submissions: On Rivers**

**Deadline:** April 15, 2023

Each issue of *About Place Journal*, the arts publication of the Black Earth Institute, focuses on a specific theme. From February 1st to April 15th we'll be accepting submissions for our Spring 2023 issue *On Rivers*. Our mission: to have art address the causes of spirit, earth, and society; to protect the earth; and to build a more just and interconnected world. We publish prose, poetry, visual art, photography, video, and music which fit the current theme. More about this issue's theme and our submission guidelines: [aboutplacejournal.org/submissions/](http://aboutplacejournal.org/submissions/).

## Calls for Submissions

### Delve Books Now Accepting Submissions

Delve Books is an award-winning trade imprint from Irwin Law that focuses on examining diversity and social justice in Canada through the lens of law and policy. Our aim is to produce insightful, accessible books that illuminate the histories and realities of prejudice in Canada, as well as books that celebrate and promote the people who take steps to challenge the status quo. We are seeking non-fiction titles that explore issues related to race, Indigeneity, gender, sexuality, disability, and other under-discussed social realities, as well as True Crime.

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

Minerva Rising, an independent literary press that celebrates the creativity and wisdom in every woman, is seeking stories, poems, and essays showcasing how subversion has been and continues to be a necessary antidote to oppression within our lives, communities, and the world. We offer a contributor copy and a small stipend for all published pieces. Submissions are open now through May 15. For submission guidelines and more information, visit [minervarising.com/submissions/submissions-journal/](http://minervarising.com/submissions/submissions-journal/).





## Calls for 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. 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/](http://bluemountainreview.submittable.com/)



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

### Sky Island Journal: Issue 24 Call for Submissions



*Sky Island Journal* is an independent, international, free-access literary journal dedicated to publishing the finest poetry, flash fiction, and creative nonfiction. We publish accomplished, well-established authors—side by side—with fresh, emerging voices. We provide over 125,000 readers in 145 countries with a powerful, focused, free-access, and advertising-free literary experience that transports them: one that challenges them intellectually and moves them emotionally. We publish quarterly, and our average response time is 9 days. Every submission receives a prompt, respectful response detailing what we appreciated. Enjoy our previous issues and submit to our stunning Issue 24 before midnight on March 31st at [www.skyislandjournal.com](http://www.skyislandjournal.com).

## Contests

**Extended Deadline: April 30, 2023**



Barrow Street Press is proud to announce the [2023 Inaugural Barrow Street Prose Contest](#). Entry deadline extended to April 30, 2023. The 2023 Prose Contest will be judged by Mary Cappello. Our winner will receive \$1,500 and the prizewinning book will be published by Barrow Street Press in 2024. This year's contest welcomes submissions of creative nonfiction. The competition is open to all original works of creative nonfiction in English. All nonfiction subgenres are eligible: this includes personal essay; lyric essay; memoir; hybrid or experimental nonfiction; poetry in prose. (Please do not submit novels or stories, fiction manuscripts will not be read this year.) Select finalists will be considered for future publication, as funds allow. For contest queries, contact Rachel Rothenberg, Associate Editor: [rrothenberg.barrowstreet@gmail.com](mailto:rrothenberg.barrowstreet@gmail.com).

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## **Baltimore Review Summer Contest— 1,000 Words or Less**

**Deadline: May 31, 2023**

*Baltimore Review Summer Contest*—No theme! Flash fiction and CNF. Prose poems. One, two, or three works in a single submission, but no more than 1,000 words total. We want to wonder at how you abracadabra so few words into magic. We want to be amazed and maybe a little jealous of how you do that. \$300 awarded in each category. All entries considered for publication, with payment for accepted work at our regular rate. \$8 contest fee. Final judge: Kelly Weber. Deadline: May 31. Visit our site, read some of the fine work there, then submit: [www.baltimorereview.org](http://www.baltimorereview.org).

## Contests

March 28, 2023

### **The Sunlight Press 2023 Spring Flash Fiction Contest**

**Deadline:** May 1, 2023

We're excited to announce that we will open our **2023 Spring Flash Fiction Contest** on April 3, 2023. Send flash stories (1,000 words or less) from April 3 until May 1, or until we reach 175 submissions, whichever comes first. Please identify your submission with Flash Fiction Contest in the subject line. Upon review of all entries, we will choose one winner and two finalists; the top cash prize for the winner is \$750; the prize for the finalists is \$100. All other stories accepted will receive our regular payment for published work (\$40 for fiction) and will appear later this year. Details on the [Submit page](#) of our website.

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### **Autumn House Press Prizes (Poetry, Fiction, and Nonfiction)**

**Deadline:** May 31, 2023

Winners of each prize receive publication of their full-length manuscripts. Each winner also receives a \$1,000 honorarium and a \$1,500 travel/publicity grant to promote the book. The submission period opens on January 1 and closes on May 31 (Midnight, Eastern Time). To submit online, please visit our online submission manager. The judges for the 2023 full-length prizes are Toi Derricotte (poetry), Pam Houston (fiction), and Jenny Bouilly (nonfiction). [www.autumnhouse.org](http://www.autumnhouse.org)





**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.

