

## What's in a Name? The Perks & Pitfalls of Pen Names, Rebecca Heflin



Bestselling Author Rebecca Heflin

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Thinking of writing under a pen name? Before you buy that domain name and set up a social media platform, learn the strategic advantages and potential challenges they present for writers. Whether you're an aspiring author seeking anonymity, a seasoned writer exploring new genres, or simply curious about the psychology behind literary personas, this session promises to enlighten and inspire.

Join **Rebecca Heflin** on **Sunday, 9 June at 2:30 p.m.** at the **Millhopper Library Branch** as she discusses pen names and their impact on creativity, branding, and beyond. This event is free and open to the public.

Rebecca Heflin is a bestselling, award-winning author of women's fiction and contemporary romance. (Cont. on next page).

# **What's in a Name? The Perks & Pitfalls of Pen Names, Rebecca Heflin—cont.**

## **And in July: The Value of Using Both Your I's in Writing by Bill Boe**



Heflin has dreamed of writing romantic fiction since she was fifteen and her older sister sneaked a copy of Kathleen Woodiwiss' *Shanna* to her and told her to read it. Rebecca has received the Florida Writers Association's Royal Palm Literary Award four times, among many other recognitions. She is a member of Romance Writers of America (RWA), RWA Aged to Perfection Seasoned Romance Writers, RWA Contemporary Romance, and the Florida Writers Association.

Check out her website here: [www.rebeccaheflin.com](http://www.rebeccaheflin.com)

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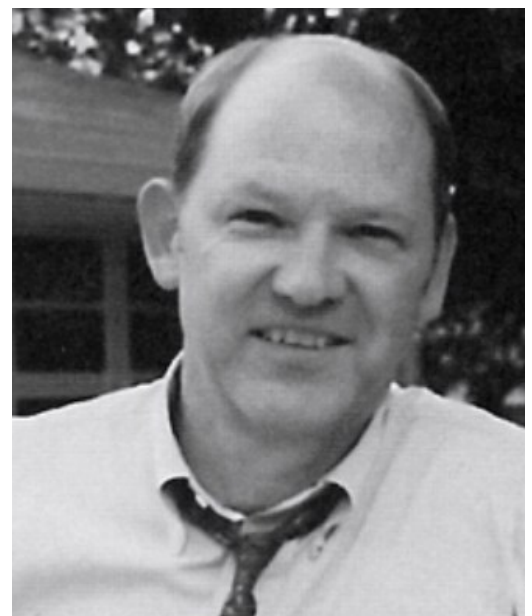
### **JULY WAG MEETING**

July 14, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Millhopper Library, Meeting Room A 3145 NW 43rd St., Gainesville, FL

## **The Value of Using Both Your I's in Writing by Bill Boe**

As a Vietnam combat veteran, Bill Boe has written for military and commercial publications, and his journal and collected letters from the Vietnam War were the primary sources for the best-selling book *LZ Bingo* by Reid Tillery. The book has over 700 reviews on Amazon.com and has been sold in eight countries.

His talk will include stories about his research while writing Public Involvement and Response Plans at multiple Federal sites, commercial writings for *Florida Wildlife*, and a co-authored investigative news story that initiated a sequence of events that led to a Broadway play and motion picture. He will share some of the documents researched and written for military and private clients, especially DuPont's Pompton Lakes Works, which made national network coverage. (cont. on the next page).



# **The Value of Using Both Your I's in Writing by** **Bill Boe (cont.)**

July 14, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm Millhopper Library, Meeting Room A 3145 NW 43rd St., Gainesville, FL

Boe is a native of a South Florida farming family. He attended UF and the University of Georgia and earned a BS in Education degree from SW Texas State University, majoring in journalism, which has been a foundation of his professional life. He is now selectively writing fear management plans and serving as a guest speaker at public and private schools on the history and culture of the Vietnam War.

For samples of Boe's writing, see [FloridaLiteraryBazaar.com](http://floridaliterarybazaar.com). ([http://floridaliterarybazaar.com./Florida\\_Literary\\_Bazaar/Home.html](http://floridaliterarybazaar.com./Florida_Literary_Bazaar/Home.html))

This event is free and open to the public.

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## **WAG's Marketing Coalition: "Top 5 Ways to Use Instagram to Sell More Books"**

**June 17, 10:00 am - 11:00 am**



WAG's Marketing Coalition is back! We hope to see you there!

The Marketing Coalition was established to help authors who are WAG members to market their works, and we are happy to have [Jolene MacFadden](#) serving as the volunteer coordinator of the group, which meets by **Zoom** at 10:00 a.m. on the third Monday of each month.

Jolene MacFadden

**The Zoom address is the same each month:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913659127?pwd=a1hTQWl1WVphTUxBOWdVWE9oV2ljQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 819 1365 9127

**Passcode:** 119030

If you'd like to review the last one, check it out at this site: [Pinterest for Authors - WAG Marketing Coalition April 24 - Presentation on YouTube](#) Link below

<https://youtu.be/5ivD3tOjZo4>

# Beta Readers and Authors Connect Through WAG!

Do you love to read? The Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG) has writers who seek beta readers. If interested, contact the Beta Reader Coordinator, [Leo Hines](#) - ([betareader@writersalliance.org](mailto:betareader@writersalliance.org)). WAG members who need beta readers should also contact him.

**What is a Beta Reader?** A Beta Reader reads an entire book and gives feedback in specific areas such as: general flow, characters, and whether the story holds the interest of the reader.



What makes the difference between a “page turner” and a book that is boring? You can make a difference!

If you enjoy reading new books, and helping authors hatch them, become a Beta Reader today. You do not need to be a member of a WAG critique pod to be a Beta Reader. You don't even need to be a member of WAG!

The Beta Reader looks for these traits:

- Does the book hold my interest?
- Are the characters well-defined and consistent throughout the book?
- Are there any issues with time sequences?
- Is the book too wordy – too much detail?
- Not enough detail?
- Are any parts confusing?
- Are there technical terms or other information that the reader may not understand?
- Does the book adhere to general guidelines for its specific genre? A mystery or a romance, for example, has specifics that should happen to make the book fit within that genre.
- What type of audience would enjoy reading the book?

A Beta Reader is not an editor and is **not** expected to edit specifically for grammar, sentence structure, or writing style. In fact, no editing expertise is needed, though any feedback in this area can be helpful to the author.

Both the Beta Reader and the author will agree on a time of completion, and the reader will adhere to guidelines provided by the author.

If you are interested in serving as a Beta Reader for WAG authors, or you are a WAG member who needs a Beta Reader, email the Beta Reader Coordinator, ([betareader@writersalliance.org](mailto:betareader@writersalliance.org)) and please type “WAG Beta Reader” in your subject line.

# Write a post for the *Hogtowne Quill*



Do you want to get published?  
Do you want to have something  
to put on your list of publications?  
How about writing a post for the  
blog, *Hogtowne Quill*?

WAG members are invited to  
write posts related to writing, the  
writing life, and the writing  
journey.

If you have an idea for a blog post,  
read the guidelines below and  
email your idea to Tamm Walters

at [BlogEditor@writersalliance.org](mailto:BlogEditor@writersalliance.org).

**ALERT: Outlook and Yahoo email do not always play well together!** If the address shows up in an email application you do not use (Outlook), simply copy the address and paste it into the email application you use before typing your message and sending it.

## Guidelines:

**1 – Content:** Want to write an article but need ideas? Check out all of the WAG “Blog Topics” at the bottom of this page, ([betareader@writersalliance.org](mailto:betareader@writersalliance.org)), this [blog post](#), this list of [ideas](#), and this post from *Writers Write* called “[30 Inspiring Blog Post Ideas for Writers](#).” A previously published article *will be considered* if you freshen it with new information and include a footnote linking to the original article.

**2 – Length:** 500 to 1,000 words for all blog topics except for “Story of My Life: Self-Portraits” and “Flash Friday,” which are 500 words or less.

**3 – Submitting:** Email your work as a Word document to [BlogEditor@writersalliance.org](mailto:BlogEditor@writersalliance.org). Double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point is preferred, but the formatting and font aren’t dealbreakers. (Unless you submit using Blackadder ITC. Or Broadway. Then we’ll know you’re just messing with us.)

**4 – Links:** Feel free to include links to website pages that will give your reader additional information on your topic. There is no need to make the links yourself; just include URLs.

**5 – Images:** Try to include at least one high-quality image (jpg or gif) that relates to your post. Credit the photographer or give the source. ([Unsplash](#) and [Pixabay](#) are two good sources of free, high-quality images and photos.) If you include an image to which you do not own rights, please have the creator of the image send an email giving WAG permission to use the work. YouTube videos do not require permission and may be included without attribution.

## Write a post for the *Hogtowne Quill* (cont.)

**6 – Hints to increase traffic to your post:** Choose a catchy title using key words. Repeat the key words in the first sentence and again within the first paragraph. Use numbers in the title (e.g., “Best 8 Ways to Promote Your Book”).

**7 – Self-Promotion?** You may reference your own publications if they are related to your topic. However, you should not use WAG’s blog just to promote yourself or your works. Note that all WAG members may promote their publications on the [Books](#) page of WAG’s website by completing the [Get Listed](#) form.

**8 – Bio and photo of yourself:** For your first post, include a bio (up to 50 words) and a high-quality photo of yourself. If you have a website, include the URL. For bio examples, look at previous posts.

**9 – Response time:** ALL submissions will be read and receive a response. If you haven’t heard from the blog editor after 2 weeks, please see the “Alert” above (not all email apps play well together!) and try submitting again.

**10 – Rights:** In submitting your blog post, *you retain copyright, but you give the Writers Alliance of Gainesville one-time, non-exclusive digital rights to publish the content.*

**11 – Editing:** Your piece will be edited for appropriateness, length, clarity, proper English, and use of language. The blog editor may also add illustrations and links.

**12 – Publication:** The blog editor will send you a preview link for the layout of your post at least 3 days before publication. Posts will generally be published the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month, and all subscribers will receive email notification of your post on that day. If you are not a subscriber, sign up here (<https://writersalliance.org/blog/>) on the right.

**13 – Post-publication:** Check periodically to see if viewers have left comments, and please take a moment to respond to them.

**14 – Have Fun and Happy Writing!**



# WAG BRAGS

apofenie

**Congratulations to Charlotte Porter, who writes:**

“My poem, *War Dogs*, has been accepted with two others on the same theme by *Apofenie*, a well-regarded lit mag based in Ukraine.” (Charlotte M. Porter, Ph.D.)

The Winter/Spring Issue will be out soon—you can read her work here: <https://www.apofenie.com/>

In addition, she also wrote: “A short story of mine, *The Repair*, was accepted by *ZiN*, a lit mag out of Croatia that publishes in many languages. The piece will appear in the June issue.” Great work, Charlotte!

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Congratulations to former WAG president Jess Elliott, who has completed her latest exciting book:



J. Elliott's first ghost story novel is now available in paperback on Amazon:

## Jiko Bukken on Amazon

A haunted onion of a ghost story about a *jiko bukken*, a stigmatized property, that being a property that lists for well-below market price due to an unsavory history. This could refer to a natural disaster, illness, death, or worse.

Lulla, an American exchange student, can't pass up this great deal on a historic home. While she will be the only renter, she will not be living alone.

Her book is available here on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Jiko-Bukken-ghost-J-Elliott/dp/B0CZ9DPY84/>

## WAG BRAGS



*Orgone Gizmo*, the latest novel by Richard Gartee, tells the story of Gizmo Carson, a Korean War vet, turned hippie, who tries to make up for the US Government burning six tons of psychiatrist Wilhelm Reich's books in the 1950s.

Gartee was initially inspired when a profusion of book banning across our nation brought to mind the case of Wilhelm Reich—the last, and hopefully, the only time the US government confiscated and burned a scientific author's books.

Research for the novel led Gartee to several aspects of Reich's work, including his discovery of orgone (life force energy), and his atmospheric experiments in Arizona attempting to end one of the area's worst droughts.

Although Reich is not a character in the book, much of the plot concerns Gizmo's exploration and promotion of orgone energy. His saga spans the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, recalling key milestones of those decades, and concludes with a surprising twist that harkens back to an incident during Reich's work in Arizona.

Richard Gartee is an award-winning novelist who is a longtime member of WAG. *Orgone Gizmo* is his eighth novel, and thirtieth published book. He has also authored seven college textbooks, six collections of poetry, a biography, and the history of the Hippodrome Theatre.

Richard's book is available on Amazon at this site:

[https://www.amazon.com/Orgone-Gizmo-Richard-Gartee/dp/1736395777/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?](https://www.amazon.com/Orgone-Gizmo-Richard-Gartee/dp/1736395777/ref=sr_1_1?)





[https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-nonfiction/christina-myers-stop-talking-yourself-out-of-your-book-dream?utm\\_source=pushly](https://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-nonfiction/christina-myers-stop-talking-yourself-out-of-your-book-dream?utm_source=pushly)

## Christina Myers: Stop Talking Yourself out of Your Book Dream

In this interview, author Christina Myers discusses how her community around her helped inspire her new work of nonfiction, *Halfway Home*.

Robert Lee Brewer (Writers Digest)

Christina Myers is a writer, editor, and former journalist. She is the author of the novel *The List of Last Chances*, winner of the Canadian Book Club Award for Fiction and longlisted for the Leacock Medal for Humour, and editor of the award-winning anthology BIG. An alumnus of the Writer's Studio at Simon Fraser University, she now teaches creative writing through SFU's continuing studies. She is a member of Da'naxda'xw First Nation and lives in Surrey, British Columbia. Follow her on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

In this interview, Christina discusses how her community around her helped inspire her new work of nonfiction, *Halfway Home*, her hope for readers, and more!

**Name:** Christina Myers

**Literary agent:** Emmy Nordstrom Higdon at Westwood Creative Artists

**Book title:** *Halfway Home: Thoughts from Midlife*

**Publisher:** House of Anansi

**Release date:** May 21, 2024

**Genre/category:** Nonfiction; essay; memoir

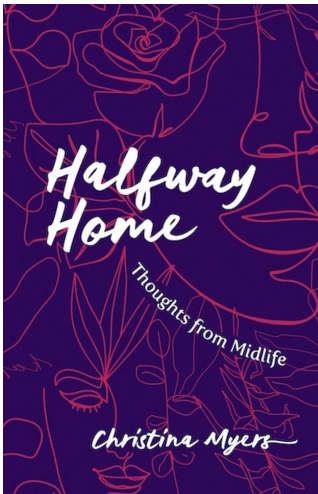
**Previous titles:** *The List of Last Chances* (2021)

**Elevator pitch:** From first bra to first hot flashes, the essays in *Halfway Home* consider and reconsider the lessons we've learned through media and culture—and often from each other—about our bodies, gender roles, aging, parenting, and our own futures in an uncertain world, as we reach and move through midlife. With warmth and wit, tears and laughter, *Halfway Home* is a reminder that none of us are walking home alone.

### What prompted you to write this book?

One of the ways I've always made sense of my world is by talking to friends and mentors and the people around me about their experiences—in what ways do we differ, in what ways are we the same? I've navigated much of my life this way—puberty, early career, motherhood. And nowhere had I discovered as much commonality as in midlife, all of the uncertainty and emotions I was experiencing, the women around me were too, and all in the midst of so much upheaval and change in the world. I thought, *How many of us are thinking about these things, alone—and maybe it will help to hear you're not alone at all?*

## Christina Myers: Stop Talking Yourself out of Your Book Dream (cont.)



**How long did it take to go from idea to publication? And did the idea change during the process?**

About three years from the start of writing a proposal to when it'll be on shelves. The final book looks very close to what I envisioned—even the order in which the essays appear is almost exactly as I'd planned. But I did end up writing about a few things I hadn't thought I'd be brave enough to tackle. Once the work was underway, I found a little more courage than I had expected and so those topics found their way into the book, too.

**Were there any surprises or learning moments in the publishing process for this title?**

This book reinforced what surprised me in my first publishing experience, which is how much work comes after a publisher picks up your manuscript. We think of the writing as the biggest part of creating a book, but what comes after that—from the editing to the layout, to the promotion, etc.—is such a lot of work for both the writer and the publishing team.

**Were there any surprises in the writing process for this book?**

I was surprised (pleasantly) by how straightforward the writing process was when I had the entire book laid out chapter by chapter in the proposal. It really felt like I had given myself a map and every day I just had to sit down and take another step on the route laid out on that map. I could see what was ahead and how much I had accomplished, and it made the writing process so much more productive.

**What do you hope readers will get out of your book?**

That the only thing we can count on is change—in our lives, in the world, even in our own ideas about ourselves. We just keep changing. And the best way to navigate that is with other people, by sharing, by being vulnerable and making mistakes, and learning new ways to be.

**If you could share one piece of advice with other writers, what would it be?**

Stop talking yourself out of your book dream. Stop asking “what if” and filling in the answer with the worst-case scenarios, like “What if I can't finish this?” and “What if no one wants to publish it?” Instead, start asking “what if” and filling in the answer with the best possibilities: **(Cont. on next page.)**

## Christina Myers: Stop Talking Yourself out of Your Book Dream (cont.)



“The only thing we can count on is change—in our lives, in the world, even in our own ideas about ourselves.”

Christina Myers



Christina Myers/Photo by Wendy Lees

What if I finish writing this book and it's great? What if it gets published and readers love it? What if I get the chance to write more books? The former will slow you down and make you doubt yourself; the latter will convince you to keep going.'

By Robert Lee Brewer

Robert Lee Brewer is Senior Editor of *Writer's Digest*, which includes managing the content on [WritersDigest.com](http://WritersDigest.com) and programming virtual conferences. He's the author of *40 Plot Twist Prompts for Writers: Writing Ideas for Bending Stories in New Directions*, *The Complete Guide of Poetic Forms: 100+ Poetic Form Definitions and Examples for Poets*, *Poem-a-Day: 365 Poetry Writing Prompts for a Year of Poeming*, and more. Also, he's the editor of *Writer's Market*, *Poet's Market*, and *Guide to Literary Agents*. Follow him on

Twitter [@robertleebrewer](https://twitter.com/robertleebrewer).

# Classes and Conferences

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# SAGA

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<http://sagaconference.com/>

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## **Killer Nashville's 18th Annual International Writers' Conference**

August 22-25, 2024, Franklin, TN  
Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center

**Voted #1 Writing Conference in the USA  
in *The Writer* magazine**

“Killer Nashville was a runaway favorite among our readers, earning more votes than any other event on our list and attracting writers, agents, editors, fans of crime and thriller literature, and forensic experts from across the country every year.”— *The Writer*

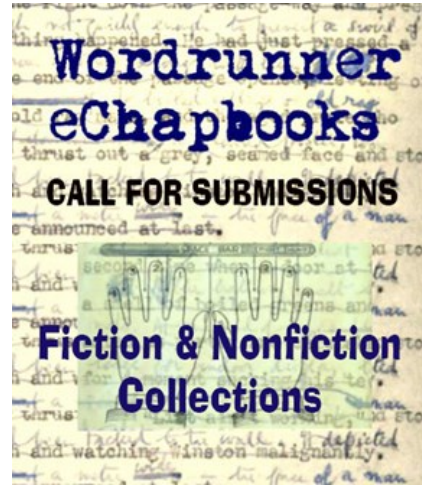
**Register Here: <https://www.killernashville.com/home>**

## Calls for Submissions

### Wordrunner eChapbooks Seeks Prose Collections

**Deadline:** July 15, 2024

Wordrunner eChapbooks will select one fiction and one nonfiction collection for our 2024 eChapbook series, to be published in August and December, respectively, online and as kindles. Maximum word count: 20,000. Prose pieces may be flash or longer, from 500 up to 5,000 words each. We'd like four to six stories or essays; if the pieces are very short or flash, a maximum of 15. We prefer emotional complexity and nuanced characters in prose collections. See [www.echapbook.com/submissions.html](http://www.echapbook.com/submissions.html) for detailed guidelines and submission link. Authors are paid \$125 plus royalties for kindles. Submission fee: \$8. Deadline: July 15, 2024



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## **About Place Journal Call for Submissions: Shaping Destiny**

**Deadline:** August 1, 2024

Each issue of *About Place Journal*, the arts publication of the Black Earth Institute, focuses on a specific theme. From June 1st to August 1st, we'll be accepting submissions for our Fall 2024 issue *Shaping Destiny: Election Season, Before, During and After*. 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

### The Cincinnati Review



THE  
CINCINNATI  
REVIEW

This literary magazine accepts fiction, fiction translations, literary nonfiction, poetry, poetry translations, and art. They also have a weekly online Flash feature called miCRo. See their [editors' preferences](#) (<https://www.cincinnatiareview.com/what-were-looking-for/>). They accept online submissions only, except from writers with disabilities or those who are incarcerated. They open for print journal submissions at the beginning of September, December, and May, and will accept submissions until a cap is reached. For miCRo, submissions are usually ongoing, with temporary closures. For print, length guidelines are: fiction up to 40 pages, non-fiction up to 20 pages, and up to 5 poems. Pay is \$25/page for prose and \$30/page for poetry in the print journal;

and \$25 for miCRo contributions. Details [here](#) (<https://www.cincinnatiareview.com/submission-guidelines-2021/>) and submit here—<https://cincinnatiareview.com/submissions/>

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## CHESTNUT REVIEW

for stubborn artists

#### Chestnut Review

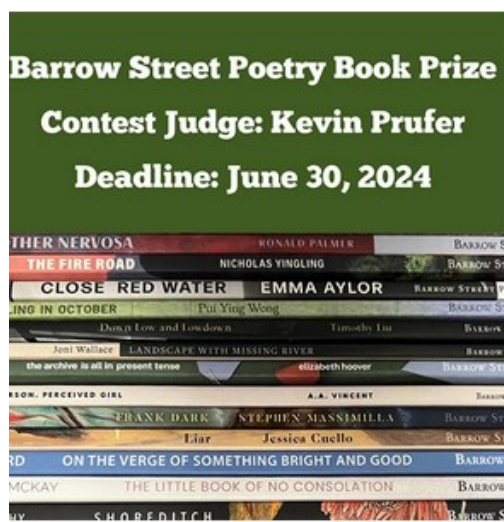
This is a print and online magazine. “We are drawn to beautiful language, resonant images, and we crave narrative.” They have fee-free submissions of flash (up to 1,000 words), poetry, and art. Also, “If you have work that doesn’t fit neatly into the below categories, that doesn’t mean we won’t want to see it. Choose the most appropriate and include a note—we’ll figure it out.” They read throughout the year, with cut-off dates for issues. General submissions of short prose, and of more than 3 poems, have a fee attached. They accept short prose submissions for Black and Indigenous authors (1,000-5,000 words) without a submission fee.

They pay \$120. Details [here](#) (<https://chestnutreview.submittable.com/submit>)

#### Reading Periods:

- **Jan 1-March 31:** reading for Summer Issue (July 15th release)
- **April 1-June 30:** reading for Autumn Issue (October 15th release)
- **July 1-Sept 30:** reading for Winter Issue (January 15th release)

## Contests



### Barrow Street Press Annual Poetry Book Contest

Deadline: June 30, 2024

We are thrilled to announce that Kevin Prufer will be our distinguished judge for the 2024 Poetry Book Contest! Deadline to enter is June 30, 2024 at midnight Eastern.

Submit your manuscript here using our online submission manager: [barrowstreet.org/press/submit/](http://barrowstreet.org/press/submit/). For contest queries, contact Rachel Rothenberg, Senior Associate Editor: [rrothenberg.barrowstreet@gmail.com](mailto:rrothenberg.barrowstreet@gmail.com).

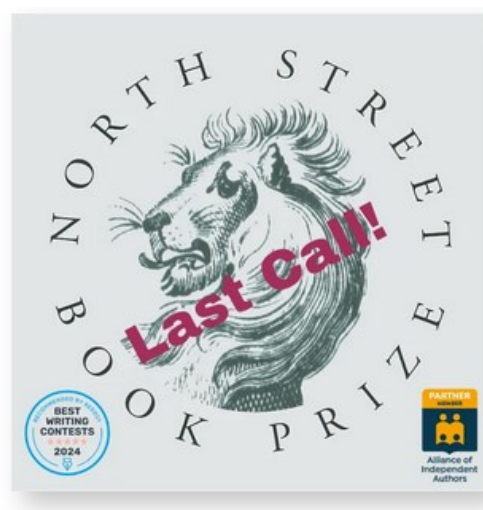
*\*W\*R\*I\*T\*E\**

## 2024 North Street Book Prize

Deadline: July 1, 2024

For the 10th year, sponsored by Winning Writers and recommended by Reedsy. Submit self-published and hybrid-published books in eight categories. Grand prize of \$10,000.

Category winners each receive \$1,000. Gifts for everyone who enters, and everyone who enters online will receive a brief commentary from one of the judges (5-10 sentences). Entry fee: \$79. Final judges: Jendi Reiter and Ellen LaFleche. Submit online or by mail by July 1. Learn more at [winningwriters.com/northnpc24](http://winningwriters.com/northnpc24).



## Contests

### Katherine Anne Porter Prize—University of North Texas Press

**Deadline:** June 30, 2024

**Entry Fee:** \$25

**Cash Prize:** \$1,000

**E-mail address:** [joseph.alderman@unt.edu](mailto:joseph.alderman@unt.edu)

**Website:** <http://untpress.unt.edu/authors/porter-prize-submissions>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication by University of North Texas Press is given annually for a collection of short fiction. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of 100 to 200 pages with a \$25 entry fee between May 1 and June 30. Visit the website (see above) for complete guidelines.

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**Deadline:** June 30, 2024

**Entry Fee:** \$27

**Cash Prize:** \$1,000

**E-mail address:** [info@ciderpressreview.com](mailto:info@ciderpressreview.com)

**Website:** <http://ciderpressreview.com/bookaward>

A prize of \$1,000, publication by *Cider Press Review*, and 25 author copies is given annually for a poetry collection. The editors will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of 48 to 80 pages with a \$27 entry fee by June 30. Visit the website (see above) 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.**

**Writers Alliance—[www.writersalliance.org](http://www.writersalliance.org)**

