

WAG Digest

Volume 18—Issue 3

Trauma, Part II:

Trauma as a Character in Writing

· June 14, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

· Millhopper Branch, Alachua County Libraries

• 3145 NW 43rd St. Gainesville, FL 32606

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Few people reach adulthood without experiencing some painful, emotional, and traumatic events. Yet, for authors, those trying events can become a treasure of knowledge and understanding that we can use in our writing.

Come join us at the Millhopper Library at 2:30 p.m. on the second Sunday in June for a second look this year at using trauma as a resource in your writing.

WAG member Kathy Connor Dobronyi will share her personal stories of trauma and the stories of her characters to help you write about trauma.

Trauma is a word we often hear, yet its true nature is frequently misunderstood and underestimated. There are three levels of trauma: acute, chronic, and complex, a combination of the aforementioned.

There is no single definition of trauma; it can be different things to different people.

(Cont. on next page)



Trauma, Part II:

Trauma as a Character in Writing cont.

· June 14, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

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

Kathy has lived with complex trauma from a childhood of abuse and war. In her writing, she uses the memory of her time in Saigon, where she experienced terrorist bombings at an American theater and other facilities where Americans congregated. She also witnessed human immolation and heard the bombs and gunfire during the overthrow of the South Vietnamese President on November 1, 1963.

Kathy is not a therapist or a clinician. She is a retired high school teacher, a storyteller, and a writer. Using stories from her life and the lives of her characters, she shares the different facets of trauma and healing.

Although she wrote articles for trade journals and developed lesson plans used by the Folgers Institute, she never considered herself an author until she was asked by a local newspaper editor to write her story: *Under the Wings of a Good Luck Phoenix: Memoir of an American Girl in Saigon, June 1963 to March 1964.*

Reminder: This Event is free and open to the public.

*W*R*I*T*E*

Marketing Coalition: Amazon Ads Deep Dive: Beyond the Basics

A big thanks to Richard Gartee for volunteering to present the June 15 program.

Description:

Building on December 2025's introduction to Amazon Ads, we'll tackle intermediate strategies, troubleshooting, and when to stop throwing money at ads that don't work.

- Quick review: Sponsored Products vs. Sponsored Brands vs. Lockscreen Ads
- Reading your ad reports: what the numbers actually mean
- When to pause/stop an ad (knowing when to quit)
- Keyword research on a budget (free tools)
- A/B testing ad copy and images
- Bid strategies for different budgets (\$5/day vs. \$50/day)

CONT. on next page



Richard Gartee



Marketing Coalition:
Thank you to Jolene McFadden for serving as the volunteer coordinator for the WAG Marketing Coalition.
Next meeting:
June 15, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

- The 30-day test: realistic expectations
- Should you hire someone or learn it yourself?

Worksheets/Handouts:

- “Amazon Ads Checklist” – setup and optimization steps
- “Ad Performance Tracker” – simple spreadsheet for tracking results
- “Keyword Research Worksheet” – finding profitable keywords
- “When to Stop an Ad” decision tree

Resources:

- Free: Amazon Ads keyword tool
- Free: Publisher Rocket alternative methods
- Low-cost: Dave Chesson’s tutorials (occasional free content)
- Free: Amazon Advertising learning console
- Template: Simple ad tracking spreadsheet

***The Zoom link is always the same:**

Click on this link to join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913659127?pwd=a1hTQWl1VWVphTUxBOWdVWE9oV2ljQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 1365 9127

Passcode: 119030



MEET AND GREET—OPEN MIC NIGHT AT CURIA ON THE DRAG

June 25, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
2029 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL

Join us under the pavilion at [Curia on the Drag](#) on Thursday, June 25. Get to know fellow WAG members and welcome potential members.

We'll have an open mic night! Bring one or two pages to read! We'll invite nonmembers to read first. Then, members. Let's offer encouraging words of support. No critique.

No reservations needed. Just show up. A food truck is usually available.

The address is 2029 NW 6th Street, Gainesville FL.

Website: <https://curiaonthedrag.com/>



The Writer and the Machine: Collaborating with AI, by Jaimie Engle

July 12, 2026 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Millhopper Branch, Alachua County Libraries

• 3145 NW 43rd St. Gainesville, FL 32606

AI won't take your job. But someone who knows how to prompt it will.

In her book, *The Writer and the Machine*, Jaime Engle shows novelists, screenwriters, and entrepreneurs how to stay relevant and in demand by collaborating with AI—without losing their voice. Instead of fearing the future, she teaches how to prompt AI with story-first strategy to build intellectual property (IP) that sells.

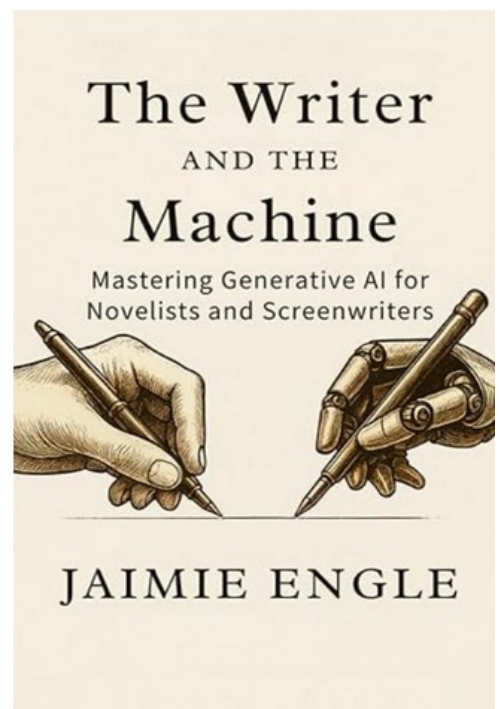
With her proven creative framework, you'll learn to write faster, pitch smarter, and build IP that lasts—just like thousands of other creatives she has helped. To get a preview of her talk, check out the Q&A sheet, [AI and Copyright](https://writersalliance.org/ai-copyright-writers-qa/) (https://writersalliance.org/ai-copyright-writers-qa/) that she has prepared.

[Jaimie Engle](#) built the [Engleverse](#) stories in books, film, and TV. She wrote, sold, and produced *Just Jake* (2023), sold and developed a story with DreamWorks Animation Studios (2025), and was hired to write an audiobook for Fresh Produce Media (2025).

She founded [Chapter Drops](https://jaimieengle.com/chapter-drops/)™ (https://jaimieengle.com/chapter-drops/) to help people with stories write and publish books, offering a Pitch Drop service for authors to connect with producers. She has written and published 25+ books, earning awards such as Kirkus Choice Book of the Year (2020), Publisher's Book Life Prize (Fiction and Non-Fiction 2020), and the Writers of the Future Award (2016).

For a deep dive into AI, check out her book, *The Writer and the Machine*, which will be available for purchase following her talk.

This program is free and open to the public.



Finding Unheard Voices in Public Records and Documents

August 23, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

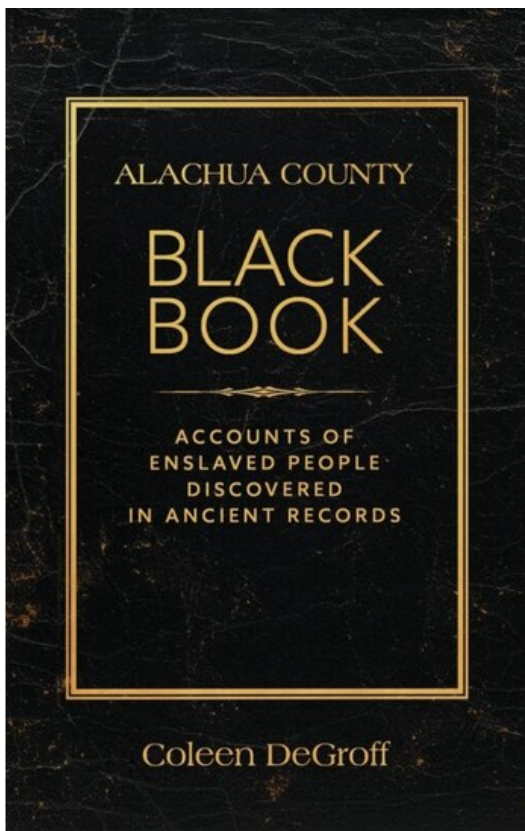
Millhopper Branch, Alachua County Libraries

Note that this program will be presented on the fourth Sunday in August.

Join Author Coleen DeGroff on Finding Unheard Voices:

In this program, Finding Unheard Voices in Public Records and Documents, WAG member Coleen DeGroff will share how she published the first book on African American enslavement in Alachua County.

She will describe her approach to creating and publishing a book using public records and historical archives, and how her discovery of long-hidden documents led her to finding accounts of hundreds of enslaved people who were brought to Alachua County to labor on nearly five dozen plantations for half a century, generating a significant amount of wealth for the region.



Alachua County Black Book: Accounts of Enslaved People Discovered in Ancient Records uses bills of sale, wills, mortgages, and more to give a glimpse into the lives of the enslaved and the people who enslaved them between 1815 and 1865.

DeGroff hopes that this compilation of long-buried accounts found in public archives will help other writers share the tales of these unheard voices so that they are not forgotten.

From the time Coleen DeGroff could pick up a pen, she has been a writer. From poetry and songs in her teen years, to writing articles for newspapers and magazines (including a stint as a humor columnist for a small Colorado magazine) to a fifteen-year career as a blogger and a real estate agent, writing has always been a part of her life. After making the decision to retire from real estate, Coleen followed her dreams back to writing about subjects close to her heart. She says she didn't set out to write *Alachua County Black Book*. Instead, she believes the book found her, and she will always be grateful that it did.

More can be found about her writing career at <https://www.coleendegroff.com/>.

WAG BRAGS



Thank you to Andy Adkins for the publication of his new important new book, The 'Nam "AC-48." As Andy explained: I wanted to let you & WAG know about my new book: **The 'Nam AC-48**. It's a tribute to the 48 men from Alachua County who died during the Vietnam War. It's available on Amazon (if someone wants a hard copy); the \$15 will be donated to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter #1092.

I also have it available to download (for FREE; PDF and eBook formats) from my website: www.azadkinsiii.com.

PRESS RELEASE

March 16, 2026. Gainesville, Florida. *For immediate release.*

Andy Adkins, author and editor of multiple military history books, announces the release of his newest book, **The 'Nam "AC-48"**.

"Forty-eight men with ties to Alachua County, Florida died while in service during the Vietnam War," Adkins conveyed. "While much has been written about the Vietnam War, I wanted a more personal look ... beyond the numbers. I didn't want to stop at the 58,266 names on the Vietnam Memorial Wall or even the 1,567 still listed as Missing in Action.

"I wanted to present a more personal side - the individual.

"**The 'Nam AC-48** is about them. These men volunteered or were inducted - it makes no difference. They answered the call from their Country. To them, it was the patriotic thing."

Adkins continued. "Patriotism has been described as love and duty to your Country. But as you read some of these stories, you will understand it is also the love and duty to their comrades ... members of their unit. These young men - sons, brothers, fathers, and husbands - were real people with real lives that were cut far too short. They will never know what we are able to enjoy, in part because of their ultimate sacrifice.

"Please take time to think of these young men, not just as another number or name as part of the KIA or MIA; don't think of them as just the cost of war.

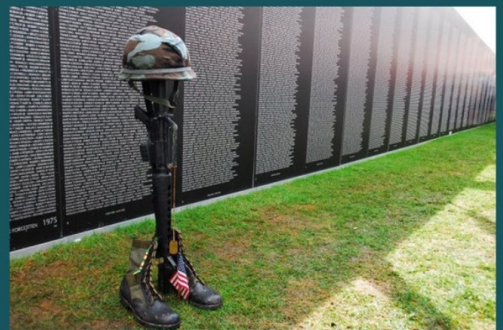
"Thank them and thank you for taking the time to read this book."

Note that all proceeds from the sale of "The 'Nam AC-48" will be donated to the **Vietnam Veterans of America, local Chapter #1092**.

How do I get a copy?

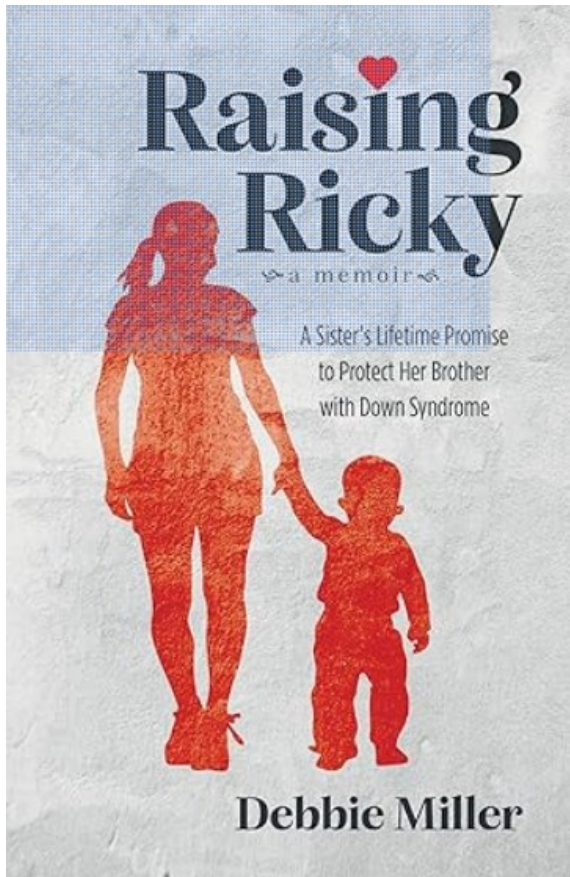
The 'Nam "AC-48" is self-published and available for purchase on Amazon (paperback, \$15.00. Also note that Adkins provides a downloadable version (PDF and/or eBook) on his website, www.azadkinsiii.com.

The 'Nam "AC-48"



VERNON T CARTER JR • NOAH M KRAFT • JEROME C WINTERS • LORENZO C MAULDEN •
FREDDIE LEE KLECKLEY • JOSHUA WELCH Jr • MANUELE MESA Jr • LINDY E HENRY •
JAMES M JEFFERSON • AUBURN D McCOMB • WESLEY I GOSWICK •
LARRY WILL BLOODSWORTH • ROBERT E THOMPSON • CHARLES E ROLAND •
JAMES M RUNNELS • MARCUS C JONES • HENRY D BABERS • DAVID E WIELAND •
DONALD L HETTICH • ROBERT I RICE • ROBERT L SHORTER • FREDERICK J HAMPTON •
TOMMY LEE HANKISON • THOMAS W PETERSON • JOHNNY LEE PROCTOR •
RANDOLPH W FORD • CHARLES A GORDON • CARL P HETRICK • NORMAN K BRISTOW •
FREDERICK M VICKERY III • ROSS T HULSLANDER • JAMES R GOLDING •
E SCOTT HANCOCK • WILLIE LEE BROWN Jr • TERRY D GRAHAM • JAMES BOSTON Jr •
MARTIN R BECK • MICHAEL W KIRKPATRICK • CHARLES R GEIGER • NEAL A SMITH •
HENRY B WRIGHT • LESLIE E REMBERT • CHARLES R TOWNSEND •
JOHNELL WITHERSPOON • RONALD M RIGDON • BENJAMIN C LANG •
JOHN W LAWRENCE Jr • SAMUEL HARKELL •

Andy Adkins



WAG BRAGS

WAG President Debbie Miller received a very positive review of her memoir in a blog called “Why Honest Memoirs Connect More Deeply Than Perfect Stories.” **As the blog explains:**

An Example of This Kind of Story

In *Raising Ricky*, Debbie Miller tells the story of her life alongside her brother with Down syndrome. What makes the memoir stand out is not just the subject but the honesty with which it is told.

It doesn't simplify the experience.

It presents it as it is, complex, emotional, and real.

You can read the blog here:

<https://todaysarticlewriter.com/why-honest-memoirs-connect-more-deeply-than-perfect-stories>

And Debbie's book, *Raising Ricky: A Sister's Lifetime Promise to Protect Her Brother with Down Syndrome*, is available here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Raising-Ricky-Sisters-Lifetime-Syndrome-ebook/dp/B0DVQ3W9MG/>

W*R*I*T*E

Want to be a guest speaker for the Marketing Coalition? Here are some upcoming opportunities:

Guest Speaker Opportunities

If you can serve as a speaker for one of these programs, please email [Jolene MacFadden](mailto:JoleneMacFadden@jolenemacinjax@gmail.com) (JoleneMacFadden<jolenemacinjax@gmail.com>)

July (Direct Sales): Someone already selling successfully through their own store

August (AI Tools): A tech-savvy author who's been experimenting

September (Video): A BookToker or author comfortable with video

November (Festival Prep): An author who does 10+ festivals per year

WAG BRAGS



Congratulations to Gainesville author Mallory O'Connor for publication of her fourth book in the Firehorse Psychic Detective Series:

***Firehorse*, Book 4 of the Psychic Detective Series by Gainesville author Mallory M. O'Connor released by Book Baby Publishing**

Award-winning author Mallory M. O'Connor announces the release of her latest book, *Firehorse*, Book Four of the Epiphany Mayall Psychic Detective series.

About the Book

As part of her paranormal/cli-fi series, Mallory O'Connor continues her exploration of psychic phenomena amid the ravages of climate change. In Chinese astrology, 2014 was the year of the horse. When the horse and the element of fire align, it is said to create the firehorse, also known as hinoeuma. In East

Asian culture and astrology, women born in the year of the firehorse are considered unlucky; doomed to have poor relations with men. The last firehorse year was 1966, and the next will be 2026. As the story begins, a 54-year-old woman in Marion County, Florida owns a horse farm. She was born in 1966 (Fire Horse) and runs the farm with an iron fist. Someone has stolen a firehorse talisman that she believes protects her from the evil associated with that sign. She calls in Epiphany, who then contacts Maro Gaido, a PI and close friend of Epiphany who is an expert on art theft. Then, something starts killing her racehorses. Marion County is also suffering its worst drought on record. Epiphany has to establish a psychic link to a horse to find out what's going on. It turns out to be a rare viral disease, but the stakes rise when a stable hand falls ill with it. Then comes a wildfire...

About the Author

Mallory McCane O'Connor, Professor Emerita of Art History, Santa Fe College, holds degrees in art, art history and American history from Ohio University. For 20 years she taught art history at the University of Florida and Santa Fe College. While writing the first of several books, O'Connor became interested in psychic archaeology and phenomena. Now retired, O'Connor resides with her artist husband, John, in Gainesville, Florida. *Firehorse* is the fourth book in her series of psychic/ "cli-fi" novels.

For a more comprehensive review of Mallory's career and additional information on her books, please visit her website at www.oconnorartllc.com

Firehorse is available at [Book Baby Bookstore](#)

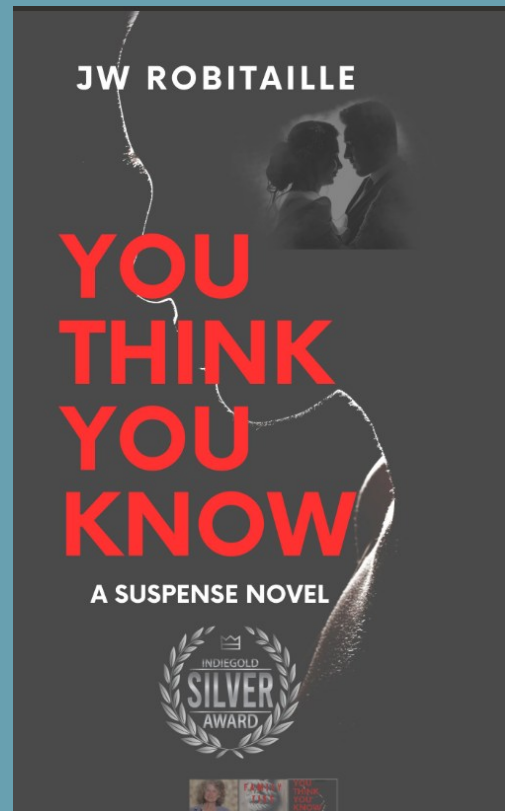
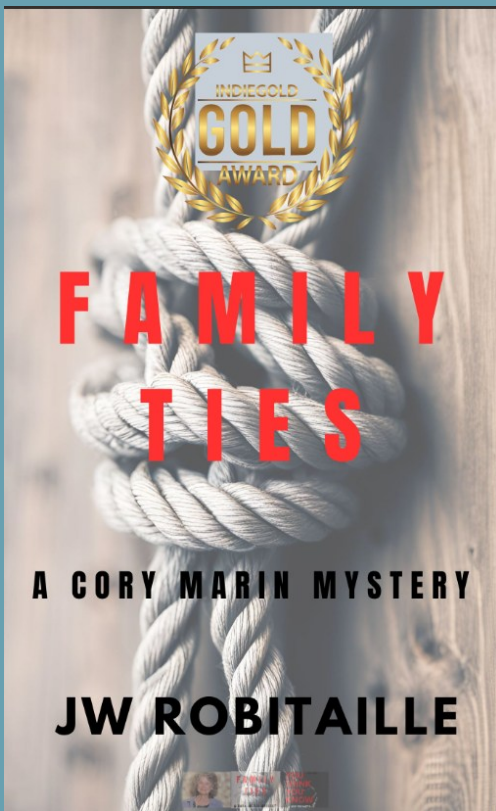
And at Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Firehorse-Mallory-M-OConnor-ebook/dp/B0F1ZF7Z44/>),

And at Barnes & Noble, and Ingram Sparks.

WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to Julie Robitaille for winning two recent awards for her novels:

I'm pleased to announce that the 7th and most recent Cory Marin novel, *Family Ties*, was a Gold Finalist in the Indie Gold Awards. My stand-alone psychological suspense novel, *You Think You Know*, was a Silver Finalist.



Her books are available on Amazon:

Family Ties: A Cory Marin Mystery

<https://www.amazon.com/Family-Ties-Cory-Marin-Mystery-ebook/dp/B0F4ZZCMQ8/>

You Think You Know: A Suspense Novel

<https://www.amazon.com/You-Think-Know-Suspense-Novel/dp/B0F9QPCI51/>

WAG BRAGS



BIG APPLE FILM FESTIVAL AND SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

Nov. 6-12, 2026

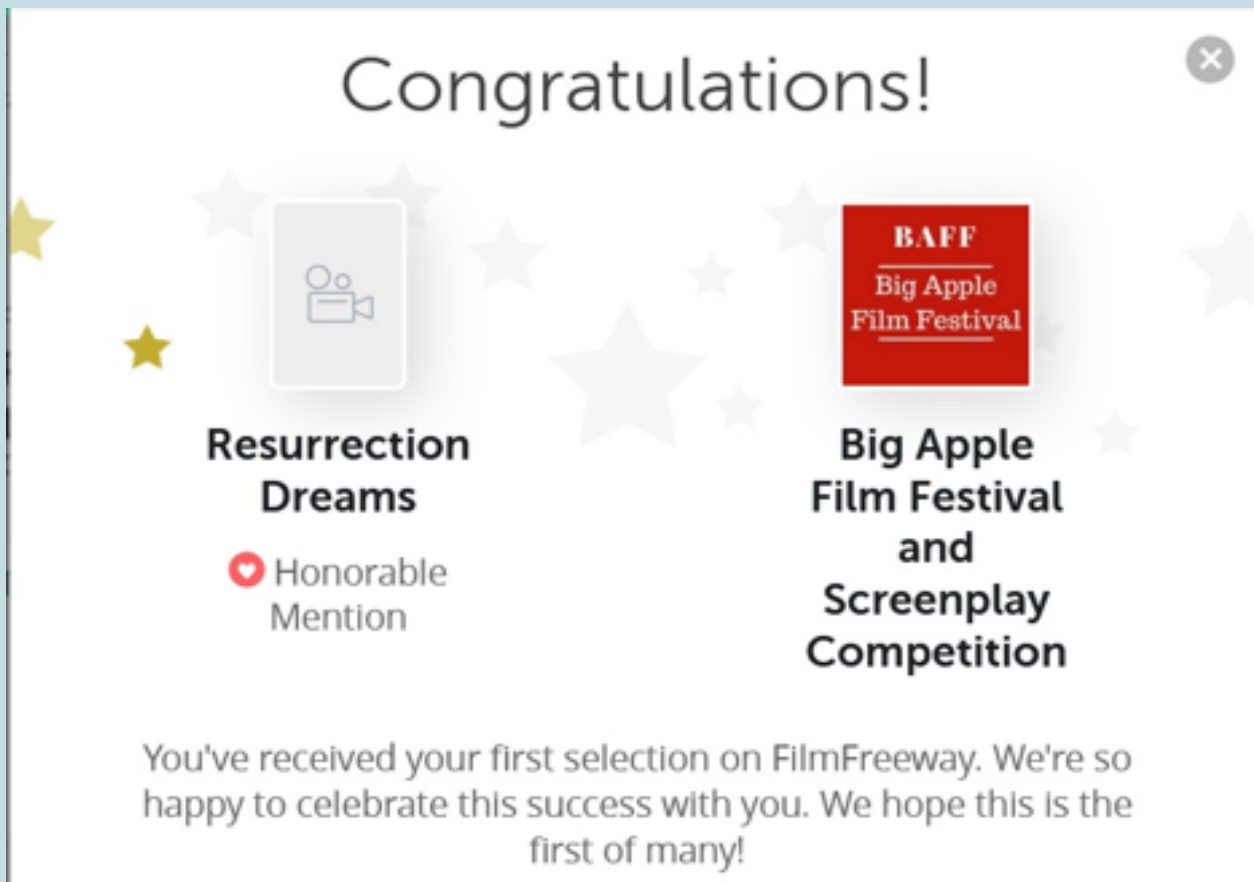
Congratulations to Wendy Thornton whose screenplay, Resurrection Dreams, about the Seminole Indian Chief Osceola, was selected for Honorable Mention in the New York City Big Apple Film Festival and Screenplay Competition. Now finish those other screenplays, durnit, Wendy :)

The total list is available here:

<https://www.bigapplefilmfestival.com/spring-2026-honorable-mention>

And if you want to submit a screenplay or film, go here:

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



WAG BRAGS

Thank you to all the WAG Writers and members who came out for the 5th Annual Artists Conference at the Thomas Center in April. This was a great event. The readers are listed below.

April 24, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm



The following writers read from their work at the Fifth Annual Artists Conference, on the topic “Where Nature and Culture Meet,” at the Historic Thomas Center on Friday, April 24th: Susie Baxter; Jenny Dearing; Ronnie Loveler; Debbie Miller; Mallory O’Connor; Rob Rogers; Allen Stewart; and Wendy Thornton.

And thank you to our WAG President, Debbie Miller, for organizing this event! The event was well received and we hope to have more readings in the future. More to come!

WAG BRAGS

Overcome Your Fear of Publishing Your First Blog in 5 Steps

By Charlotte Farrow



Publishing your first blog can be daunting. Here are some tips to help you overcome the fear of getting your debut blog article published.

One of the biggest obstacles for a budding writer is fear. Fear that our work isn't good enough, fear of trolls, fear of judgement, maybe even fear of success. We put so much pressure on ourselves to get things right and create the perfect article, but let's be realistic – our first article is probably not going to be our best work.

Here's how to overcome that fear and get your work out there.

ONE: Understand your writing fears

First, you need to understand what drives your fear – is it fear of judgement? Fear of success? Fear of failure?

My fear has always been the fear that my work is never good enough – it doesn't help that I'm a perfectionist!

Once you understand what drives your fear, you can arm yourself with tips and tricks to help overcome it.

TWO: Stop putting off your writing

You could spend a lifetime researching different blogs, reading articles or books to help you write the perfect first blog post.

Allison Barclay, who has an established blog, spent three years, she says, 'reading blog post after blog post and book after book' in an attempt to learn everything she could to help her write a successful blog (www.paintedsummers.com). Instead, just get on and write.

Your First Blog, cont.

Two. Cont.

Write about what you're passionate about, try new things and experiment with your writing – it's the best way to find out what your audience responds to.

THREE: Understand your WHY that is fuelling your writing

As Allison Barclay said, 'Your WHY is the driving force behind everything you do.' Why do you want to write? Why do you want to start a blog? Why this article? Why now?

As Allison says, 'Your why prevents you from giving up when things get tough.'

FOUR: Remember – you're not alone

Every writer started from nothing, from the most famous writer you can think of to everyday Joe Bloggs who has their own blog. Everyone goes through the same or similar fears. Get in touch with other new writers so you can support each other.

Get in touch with an experienced writer and ask them for their experiences and how they overcame their fear of getting out there.

Building a community can help you feel less alone, and you can share tips and tricks with each other – helping you learn and grow.

FIVE: Get motivated to learn

We all make mistakes. You've probably made plenty in the past, and you'll make more in the future. But instead of feeling down about making a mistake, use it as a learning exercise. Ask yourself a couple of key questions: 'What went wrong?' and 'What I can do to make sure this doesn't happen again?' Without mistakes, you'll never grow and improve.

Leo Babauta, creator of the blog [Zen Habits](#) – a top 25 blog with a million readers – gives a great summary: 'Writing is transformative. It changes you, and it changes the reader. You get feedback from the reader and learn from them. You get accountability, and you have to reflect on what you're learning. You become greater from the attempt to overcome the fear.'

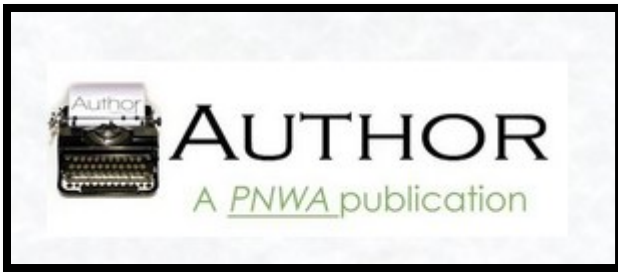
It can be scary publishing your first blog and getting your writing out there, but if you can understand your fears, embrace them and learn from them, you'll become a better writer over time.

Your fears only hold merit if you let them, so tackle them head on and just hit publish.

About the Author:

Charlotte Farrow has been blogging for State and AMI Insurance for 18 months, with a focus on educational content. She enjoys writing trusty tips and tricks that make life a little easier. In her spare time, you might catch Charlotte enjoying a book at her local beach, or out photographing the beauty of the Hibiscus Coast in New Zealand.





The Push That Turned My Stories into a Book

By Elena S. Smith

<https://www.authormagazine.org/articles/2026/1/1/the-push-that-turned-my-stories-into-a-book>

Today, in 2026, when someone hears my accent and asks where I'm from, I hesitate. I lower my eyes, give a small smile, and say, "I was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Russia." I hear the words and feel a pinch of embarrassment. I don't always want to explain the Russia I knew—my Russia—because it feels so different from the Russia people picture today.

But things were very different in 1993. That was the year I moved, by a rather unlikely twist of fate, from St. Petersburg to a small college town with a surprising name: Moscow... Moscow, Idaho.

Back then, when new friends asked how on earth I ended up trading the grandeur of palaces and canals for wheat fields and rolling hills, I was delighted to tell them. I shared the stories of my improbable journey across the ocean to the American Northwest—the culture shocks, the winter storms, the discoveries both comic and heartbreaking.

Often my listeners would lean in with curiosity, laugh at the funny bits, and then say the words that seemed, to me, completely absurd: "Oh wow! How interesting! You should write a book!" A book? Me? I usually laughed it off. Surely, they were joking. After all, who in their right mind would ask a young Russian woman—still thinking in Russian and translating on the fly—to write an entire book in her second language?

Yes, I had a degree in English. But having an English degree in Russia is a bit like owning a good pair of running shoes; it doesn't automatically mean you're ready to run a marathon. Writing a whole book in English felt more like trying to run an ultra-marathon uphill. So, I smiled politely, shook my head, and went on with my new life.

Life in Idaho was both ordinary and extraordinary. I learned to navigate grocery stores without getting lost between the cereal boxes. I figured out that a smile was expected when you passed strangers on the street. I adjusted to the strange concept of "self-serve" gas stations and the equally strange idea of Halloween, where even grown-ups are dressed as pirates or pumpkins.

Two years later, I finally landed a position as an ESL instructor at the University of Idaho. It was a good job, but I had no idea it would lead to the next chapter—literally—of my story.

At a cultural event on campus, I met a professor from Washington State University. We struck up a conversation, and soon I found myself, as usual, telling the story of how I'd come to Idaho. But this time, something was different. She didn't just nod politely and say, "You should write a book." She looked me straight in the eye and said, with unmistakable seriousness: "You really need to write these stories down. And when you do, email them to me." Her words felt less like a suggestion and more like a command: kind, but firm.

Cont. on Next Page

The Push That Turned My Stories into a Book, cont.

Weeks went by. I told myself I was too busy, too tired, too uninspired. Still, her insistence lingered in the back of my mind. Then, one rainy October day, with the clouds hanging low over the Palouse hills, I finally gave in. I sat at my small desk, opened a blank document, and began typing.

Words poured out—memories were my inspiration. When I finished, I had something that felt substantial enough to call Chapter One. I took a deep breath, attached the file to an email, and hit “send.” An hour later, her reply pinged into my inbox: “It’s fabulous! Love it. Do you have Chapter Two? Send me everything you have.”

Her enthusiasm startled me. I didn’t have a Chapter Two. I barely had Chapter One! But her words lit a small, bright flame inside me—the kind of encouragement that makes you believe in possibilities you hadn’t dared to imagine.

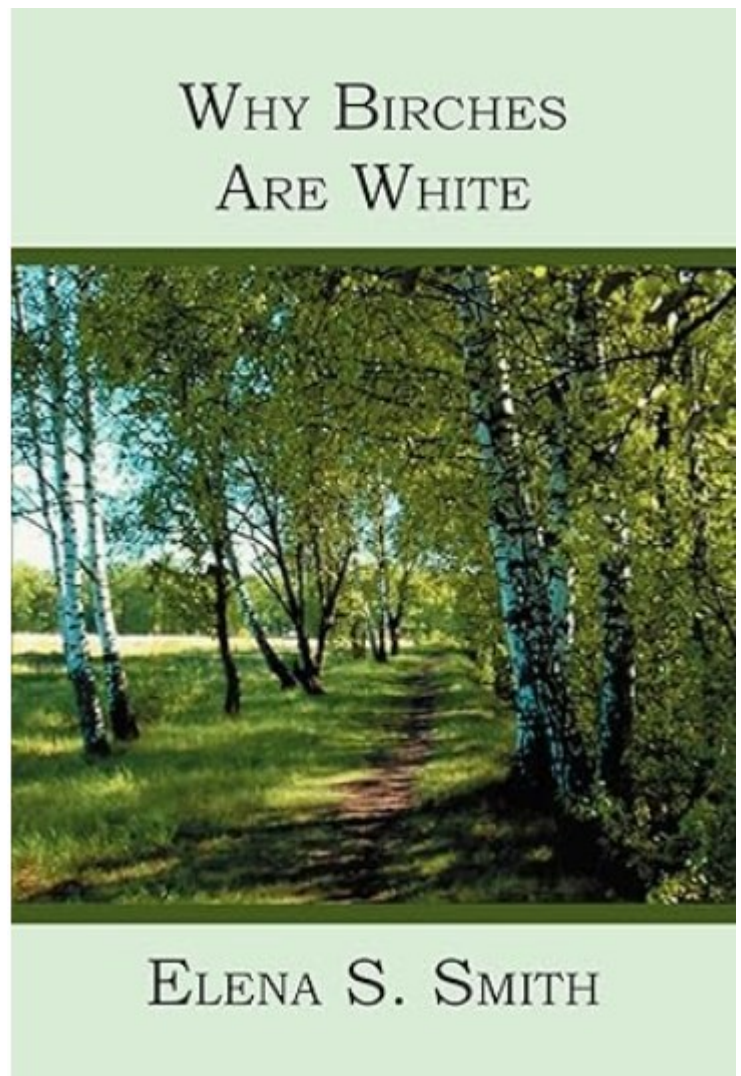
That email was the spark that began a ten-year writing journey. Over the next decade, I shaped and reshaped the stories of my life’s “Big Change”—the move that altered everything. I wrote in airports and coffee shops, in quiet moments after classes, sometimes with joy and sometimes with frustration. I deleted whole sections, rewrote paragraphs until they sounded right in English and still felt true to my Russian soul.

At last, in 2006, I held in my hands the finished book: *Why Birches Are White*—245 pages of my journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow, Idaho, and all the laughter, confusion, and transformation along the way.

Most of us have life stories to tell, but they remain to be just our memories until it takes one special person who will push us in the right direction, and a book will be born.

This book is available on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Why-Birches-White-Elena-Smith/dp/1419627511>



Classes and Conferences

Poets & Writers

ONLINE CLASSES



Longing, Love, Heartbreak, and Loss: The Art of the Love Poem

Led by Douglas Manuel

July 8, 15, & 22
7:30 – 9:30 PM EDT

Early-bird discount ends June 23

Make it a summer of love and learning with an exploration of longing, heartbreak, and loss—in poetry. Welcoming to poets of all levels, the workshop will include close readings, discussion, and generative writing to help you conjure effective and emotive poems that speak the full volume of your feeling, without falling victim to cliché or easy construction.

Douglas Manuel is the author of the poetry collections *Trouble Funk* (Red Hen Press, 2023) and *Testify* (Red Hen Press, 2017). His poems and essays can be found most recently in *Ploughshares* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. A recipient of the Dana Gioia Poetry Award and a fellowship from the Borchard Foundation Center on Literary Arts, he also teaches at Whittier College and Spalding University's low-res MFA program.

Sign up here: https://www.pw.org/content/workshops_classes



The Sustainable Author Platform: Writing, Community, and the Digital Age

Led by Namrata Poddar

July 11 & 18
12:00 – 2:00 PM EDT

Early-bird discount ends June 26

What does it mean to build an author platform without losing sight of the work itself? Rather than treating platform-building as separate from writing, we will approach it as an extension of the writing life—rooted in voice, shaped by values, and sustained through community. By the end of the workshop, participants will have practical tools for engaging digital spaces with intention.

Namrata Poddar is author of the novel *Border Less* (7.13 Books, 2022), serves as interviews editor for *Kweli*, and teaches literature at the University of California Los Angeles. Her writing has appeared in publications including *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *Literary Hub*, *Longreads*, the *Kenyon Review*, and *The Best Asian Short Stories*.

Sign up Here: https://www.pw.org/content/workshops_classes

Classes and Conferences



The Premier Career Launcher for Aspiring Authors

Far More Than Just a Pitch Event

There are no great writers, only great rewriters.

- 1 **NYC LIVE [JUNE 25 - 28, 2026](https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Registration.htm)** (<https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Registration.htm>)
- 1 **NYC LIVE [SEPT. 24 - 27, 2026](https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Registration.htm)** (<https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Registration.htm>)
- 1 **[FAQ + HOTELS AND AIRBNB](https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-FAQ.htm)** (<https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-FAQ.htm>)
- 1 **[PUBLICATION HISTORY](https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Commentary.htm)** (<https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Commentary.htm>)
- 1 **[BOOK CONTRACTS](https://algonkianconferences.com/authorconnect/index.php?/topic/16696-new-york-write-to-pitch-reviews-latest-book-contracts-and-reports/)** (<https://algonkianconferences.com/authorconnect/index.php?/topic/16696-new-york-write-to-pitch-reviews-latest-book-contracts-and-reports/>)
- 1 **[REVIEWS AND INTERVIEWS](https://algonkianconferences.com/authorconnect/index.php?/forum/107-new-york-write-to-pitch-conference-reviews/)** (<https://algonkianconferences.com/authorconnect/index.php?/forum/107-new-york-write-to-pitch-conference-reviews/>)
- 1 **[CONFERENCE REGISTRATION](https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Registration.htm)** (<https://newyorkwritetopitch.com/NYWP-Registration.htm>)

The goal of this conference, and all its companion editorial and development programs, is to set you on a realistic path not only to publication, but to becoming a career author. The Write to Pitch utilizes a time-tested methodology that works to get writers published.

1 **The event is held four times a year** and features successful commercial agents, TV/Film content seekers and producers, as well as accomplished acquisition editors from major houses and renowned presses such as Penguin, St. Martins, Harper Collins, Tor, Del Rey, Kensington, and many more, all actively searching for new voices in a variety of genres.

Classes and Conferences

Atlanta Writers Conference

Bringing the top literary professionals to you!



On Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7, 2026, the Atlanta Writers Club will present its 35th Atlanta Writers Conference, in-person at the Westin Atlanta Airport Hotel, with 20 top publishing acquisitions editors and literary agents on hand as well as another 8 of them participating virtually in a pitch slam we call *lightning pitches*.

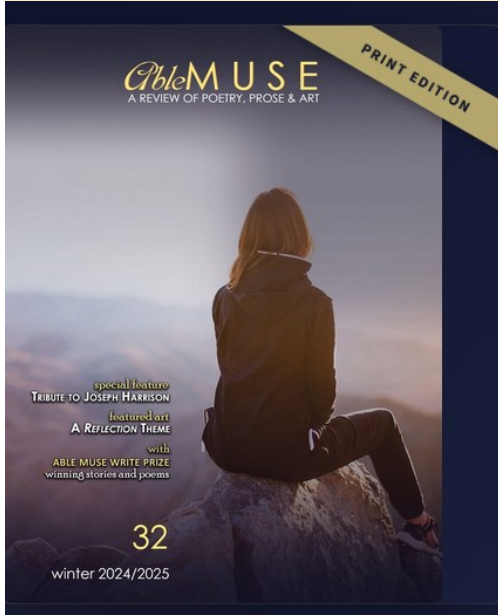
We offer a virtual option for meetings with the agents and publishers—manuscript sample critiques, query letter critiques, query letter pitches, and lightning pitches—a lightning pitch critique by an author panel to help you practice for this new event, and professional consultations. Due to the ever-increasing expense of the audio-visual equipment and personnel involved and the dwindling number of virtual participants, these are the only activities we can accommodate online.

The goals of this conference are to offer you access to a total of 28 top publishing acquisitions editors and literary agents actively seeking new clients (see their profiles on our [Editors and Agents page](#)); help you get your work ready for them with pre-conference editing assistance; give you a chance to ask an entertainment attorney your top 5 burning questions about copyright, contracts, and legal issues surrounding books and/or your questions for a book publicist about what you can start doing now to tackle marketing and publicity for your current or future books in our [Professional Consultations](#) activity; and educate you with a workshop and talks by experienced authors and other industry professionals. The [Conference Activities](#) page details each activity you can register for: select them all, only one, or some number in between—it's entirely up to you, so you can craft the conference experience that will be best for your growth, interests, and budget.

For more information: <https://atlantawritersconference.com/about/>

To register go here: <https://atlantawritersconference.com/registration/>

Calls for Submissions



SUBMIT NOW TO ABLE MUSE (Poetry, Fiction, Essays, Art & More)

Deadline: July 15, 2026

Able Muse is now accepting submissions for our forthcoming issue, winter 2026/2027. Submit poetry, fiction, essays, book reviews, art, and photography. Submission opens yearly January 1 and closes July 15. Read our guidelines and submit at www.ablemuse.com/submit/.

W*R*I*T*E*

The Columbus Review

Genres Published: Creative Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry, Cross Genre Hybrid, Drama, Experimental, Humor

Our mission is to publish raw, experimental, and unconventional poetry, prose, scripts (plays and screenplays), and satire that does not easily fit into traditional outlets. Based in Columbus, Ohio, The Columbus Review (TCR) seeks bold, risk-taking writing from new and emerging voices that explores the complexities of human experience through honest artistic expression. We are particularly drawn to hybrid and cross-genre forms, work that makes the everyday feel strange or uncanny, and pieces that emerge at the intersection of chaos and order. We prioritize urgent, alive writing over polished perfection and welcome voices that feel defiant, tender, and necessary.

Submission Guidelines URL:

<https://www.thecolumbusreview.com/submissions>

Reading Period: Year round

No Fee.



Calls for Submissions

Yawning Fox Press is open for book manuscripts

Yawning Fox Press is open for submissions of fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, and hybrid work. We welcome full-length manuscripts of poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and hybrid forms that reflect our mission and our love for the wild.

We do not charge submission fees.

Submission Categories:

Fiction (short story collections, novellas, novels – <125 words)

Creative nonfiction (includes memoir – <125 words)

Poetry (60-90 pages)

Hybrid (60-90 pages)

Note: Page limits are guidelines, not requirements

Submissions Guidelines URL:

<https://yawningfoxpress.org/submissions>

Website: <https://yawningfoxpress.org/>

Calls for Submissions



The Dolomite Review

Submissions for The Dolomite Review are now open for the Fall 2026 issue.

We seek writing that tells a story—whether driven by plot or character, it should pull readers in through vivid voices and authentic moments. The Dolomite Review celebrates the spirit of the Midwest and the art of storytelling in all its forms. We welcome submissions from both emerging and established writers.

Manuscript Guidelines are available here:

<https://www.thedolomitereview.com/submit>

Deadline: Nov. 11, 2026

W*R*I*T*E*



Quills and Cosmos Press

Sci-fi/Fantasy manuscripts by Women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other minorities! (Deadline Aug. 15)

What are we looking for? The possibilities are as vast as the cosmos itself. Whether you're spinning tales of futuristic civilizations, weaving spells in fantastical realms, or exploring the depths of magical realism, we want to hear from you. From space operas to romantasy, from cyberpunk dystopias to high fantasy epics, your imagination is the only limit.

- Genre: Science Fiction or Fantasy (including magical realism)
- Length: Submit the first three chapters of your prose novel
- Total Length: 75,000 to 100,000, ballpark
- Tone: No horror, please. We're seeking adventurous and imaginative storytelling.
- Audience: Adult readers (no YA material)

Full guidelines here: <https://www.quillsandcosmos.com/submissions>

Calls for Submissions

LOBLOLLY  PRESS

Loblolly Press is an indie publisher in Asheville, NC, spotlighting contemporary poetry, short fiction, and novels by emerging and marginalized Southern writers. We champion bold, underrepresented voices and build a literary community where readers see their own stories reflected on the page.

Hand to Mouth: Southern Writers on Poverty **FEE: USD \$5.00**

Poverty in the South is too often discussed at a distance. Flattened into stereotype, policy language, nostalgia, or shame, it is rarely given the complexity, dignity, and literary force it deserves.

Hand to Mouth seeks new work by Southern writers whose lives have been shaped by poverty. We are interested in writing that reflects on poverty as lived experience, inherited condition, social structure, class passage, stigma, kinship, resourcefulness, hunger, desire, labor, and survival.

While nonfiction will anchor *Hand to Mouth*, we welcome work that is personal, reflective, critical, and formally alive. We are especially interested in personal essays, lyric essays, hybrid essays, memoir-driven criticism, and other nonfiction forms that help us think more fully about what poverty means in the South — including grounded theory and scholarship. We will also consider a limited number of poems and visual art.

For this project, *Southern* refers to writers who were born in or spent a significant part of their life in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, or Tennessee.

Upon publication, contributors will receive a one time payment of \$50. Select contributors may also be invited to share their work at a public event hosted by the editor and the publisher.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit original, unpublished work.
- Suggested length: 1 piece, 2,000–6,500 words for prose.
- Poets: 1–2 poems
- Artists/Photographers: 1–2 pieces

Please see this site for submission guidelines:

<https://duotrope.com/duosuma/submit/loblolly-press-hJgJP>

Contests

THE 2026 ORISON CHAPBOOK PRIZE

Judged by Orison Books founder & editor
Luke Hankins

\$300 + publication
Open to all literary genres
Submission Period:
April 1 – July 1
orisonbooks.com/submissions



The **2026 Orison Chapbook Prize** will award \$300 and publication by Orison Books for a manuscript of 20–45 pages in any literary genre (poetry, fiction, nonfiction, drama, or hybrid). Orison Books founder and editor Luke Hankins will judge. Submission period: April 1–July 1. Entry fee: \$15.

Find complete guidelines, see www.orisonbooks.com/submissions.

W*R*I*T*E*

**Call for Submissions: 2026
Gival Press Short Story
Award**



Gival Press

Deadline: August 8, 2026

Submissions are open for the 23rd Annual Gival Press Short Story Award, honoring the best previously unpublished literary short story in English. Stories should be approximately 5,000 words and must stand alone (not excerpted from a novel). The winner receives \$1,000 and publication on the Gival Press website. The reading fee is \$25 per story submitted. Writers of all backgrounds and styles are encouraged to submit their strongest work. Full guidelines and the submission portal are available at givalpress.submittable.com, with additional information at www.givalpress.com. Print correspondence may be sent to Gival Press, PO Box 3812, Arlington, VA 22203.

Contests



2026 Housatonic Book Awards

Deadline: June 15, 2026

The MFA in Creative and Professional Writing at Western Connecticut State University is currently accepting submissions for their 2026 Housatonic Book Awards.

The award will be given to book-length works of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry published in 2025.

The award carries a \$1,000 honorarium in exchange for appearing at the winter or summer residency to give a public reading and a master class with MFA students. The award also includes a \$500 travel stipend and hotel stay during the residency. For more information on submission guidelines and past winners, visit: [Housatonic Book Awards](https://housatonicbookawards.wordpress.com/) website. <https://housatonicbookawards.wordpress.com/>

W*R*I*T*E*

International Voices in Creative Nonfiction Competition. Prize: \$1000 and publication

Deadline: July 1, 2026 (11:59 PM EEST)

Not all true stories get told. Yours should. Small presses have the power to make a real impact, and at Vine Leaves Press, we take that responsibility seriously. We are committed to giving underrepresented voices the opportunity to build rich, lasting literary legacies. Why? To sustain hope for a more loving, tolerant, and open world. It begins with art. That's why we invite you to submit your manuscript to the 2027 International Voices in Creative Nonfiction Competition. Prize: \$1000 and publication in 2028.

www.vineleavespress.com/international-voices-in-cnfi.html

Not All True Stories Get Told. Yours Should.

We're looking for the ones that don't fit neatly into boxes. If your work is raw, real, and ready, we're listening.

THE 2027 INTERNATIONAL VOICES IN CREATIVE NONFICTION COMPETITION

\$1000 prize & publication

Submissions open: Feb 1 - July 1, 2026

SUBMIT YOUR MANUSCRIPT TODAY



Writer's Alliance of Gainesville
A not-for-profit Florida corporation
P.O. Box 358396
Gainesville/Florida/32635-8396
<https://writersalliance.org/>

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.



Hogtowne Quill



Writers Alliance of Gainesville blog