

WAG Speaker Series

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Join us on **August 9, 2:30 pm** at the **Millhopper Library** for a talk by **conservation enforcement agent, Bob H. Lee**. Bob will discuss his personal experiences in conserva-

tion law enforcement. His stories describe the cat-and-mouse games often played between game wardens and poachers of deer, ducks, gators, hogs, turkeys and other species. Bob will share some of his true stories and his path to successful writing.

Bob's book, *[Backcountry Lawman: True Stories from a Florida Game Warden](#)*, has been featured in the Florida Sportsman, Florida Wildlife, Florida Game & Fish, Palatka Daily News, International Game Warden and other publications. In 2007, Bob set out to chronicle his experiences in a package of selected stories. It took him three years to write his book that was later published in 2013 by the University Press of Florida. It was recognized in 2014 as the winner of the *[Florida Outdoor Writers Association](#)* Award for best outdoor book.

A native of Florida, Bob graduated with a degree in criminal justice from the University of South Florida. He is a 30-year veteran of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He worked as a water patrol officer on the St. John's River and a land patrol lieutenant in Flagler, Putnam and St. John's counties. He is a former teacher of man-tracking classes through the Florida Wildlife Commission Law Enforcement Academy.

And join us on **September 13, 2:30 pm** for a talk by **Mark Wayne Adams**, an award-winning author, illustrator and publisher, who will offer valuable insight and marketing techniques and reveal the untapped potential in writing for children.



Adams, as a precocious third grader, was inspired to chase his dream when he started to sell his drawings to classmates. His continued love for drawing led him to Murray State University where he graduated with a BFA in Drawing. He went on to work as an artist for Walt Disney World Company and Sea World Orlando.

He is now CEO of Mark Wayne Adams, Inc. and serves as President for the Florida Authors and Publishers Association. Adams is the illustrator of over forty books in eight years. He creates educational, interactive and entertaining books for readers of all ages. His publishing journey also includes a rewarding public speaking career. A native of Dawson Springs, KY, he now makes his home in central Florida.

He will also sell and sign books on the day of his presentation. You can learn more about him at: <http://www.mwa.company>.

Venue

NOTE: The WAG Speaker Series is held at the Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville at 2:30 pm. The regular WAG monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Parking is a problem, so come early. You are welcome to park one block south at the Florida Credit Union.



WAG Brags

Congratulations to Nick Vellis, author of the book *Dig Two Graves* (available on Amazon). His new book will go live August 1. The title is *Death in her Eyes*, the first in a series of private investigator mysteries. The copy from the back cover is below.

Mac Everett is a former Iraq war interrogator and ex cop turned Private Investigator with the ability to sense the truth by watching a person's eyes. When Mac gets a call from retired General Martin Hunt, who happens to be the wealthiest man in Central Florida, he should have been suspicious. The rich and famous don't call washed up drunks with PTSD like Mac.

The General asks Mac to sort out a blackmail scheme, but abruptly calls him off. When the General's son is arrested for murder, his daughter begs Mac for help. As he peels back layers of deception, Mac is forced to call on strained friendships, snitches, and sort out the truth from a growing list of suspects. The week that follows is filled with cops, murder, seduction, and deceit.

Looking forward to the new book, Nick!



Congratulations to Felicia Lee. Her story, "Old-Fashioned" was accepted for publication at Sanitarium magazine. And don't forget to enjoy her great blog posts on the Writers Alliance Web site, <http://writersalliance.org/blog>. Her latest begins, "I was once in the world's worst writing group."



Wendy Thornton has been invited to teach a Publishing I class at Santa Fe College again in the fall. Her new class will start on Sept. 9. More details to follow.

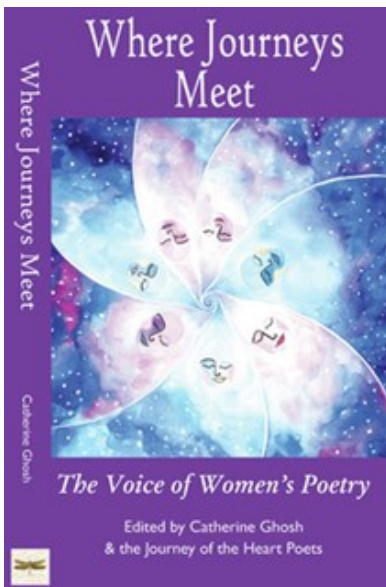
WAG Brags



WAG Publicity Coordinator Joan Carter celebrates her 90th birthday! Congratulations, Joan and thank you for all you do for the Writers Alliance.



WAG Member Catherine L. Ghosh sent us the following information:



The [Journey of the Heart Poetry Project](#) is delighted to announce the upcoming release of their second volume of poems! Edited by [Catherine Ghosh](#) and produced by several members of the project, [Where Journeys Meet: The Voice of Women's Poetry](#), combines artistic and creative talents to weave together the voices of over eighty women from all over the world. Featuring poems that poured in from countries like India, Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom and Iran, just to name a few, this book is a testament to the inspiring bonds of sisterhood that women can create between themselves even across the seas. This new anthology paints a portrait of the sacred spaces women share with each other when their paths intersect. A collaboration of love, impassioned expression and courage, the authors invite you to join them on their moving and heartfelt journey. To be released this summer and published by [Golden Dragonfly Press](#). All proceeds from the book go to [WriteGirl](#): a nonprofit organization based in California which promotes creativity and self expression to empower girls.

Preorder in e-book format on Kindle now! Just click http://www.amazon.com/Where-Journeys-Meet-Womens-Poetry-ebook/dp/B012J07UKQ/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8

Congratulations, Catherine!

"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."

Shut Up and Dance With Me

What to Do When You Can't Write

By Wendy Thornton

You know how it goes – you've been working on a story/essay/novel/poem for days/weeks/months and everything is going well. Every day, you sit down and write a little. Or you wait for those moments of inspiration and they come regularly. You feel like you're in a dance with the papers on your desk, or the computer screen. You're brilliant, graceful, totally in control. And then, suddenly, the music stops. Inspiration dries up. One minute you're a veritable writing machine and the next minute you're a dried up husk of a human, staring at the blank page, that stays blank.

What do you do? Well, first, work off some steam. Yes, yelling and screaming can actually help. You can spend some time feeling sorry for yourself, wondering where that little spark went, and you can even wallow in self-pity. But put a time limit on it. One hour, one day, whatever you feel is appropriate for the length of your material. You have to get over it. Ask yourself some questions.

Am I being too hard on myself? If you are, this can stop your writing dead. Don't worry about editing your first draft as you go along – just get the story down. If you allow yourself to be too critical, you will spend all your time rewriting and never finish the story.

Am I stuck because I don't know where I'm going? Many writers love to write extemporaneously. You get that feeling of magic, that flow, and you just want to let it go. But sometimes, you write yourself into a corner, or the magic just fades. To get back into the dance, try blocking out where you're going next. Write a synopsis of each chapter. Create a detailed outline. It may seem painful to go from spontaneous dance moves to meticulously plotted tango steps but you'll get back into the dance.

Did I allow myself to get side-tracked? Is your house suddenly spotlessly clean? Is your car washed for the first time in six months? Have you posted the best jokes ever on Facebook? Quit playing. Quit stalling. Sit down and write. Some people say that sitting down to write at the same time every day can cause you to unleash your creativity. Your brain automatically prepares for the release of ingenuity. Sure, there might be those days where you only write, "I hate this book, I hate this book," till you've met your 1000 word limit, but at least you're producing some words!

Can I talk about where I'm going in my story? Do you know what you want to write but just can't finish? Maybe you need to discuss your idea with an uninterested third party. For instance, you could join a writers' critique group (the WAG pods are a wonderful resource). Or if you have a supportive spouse or significant other, you could describe the ideas in the book to them. Ask for their advice. Watch their reactions closely. Are they just telling you it's a great idea because they don't want to hurt your feelings, or do they really seem engaged by the tale you're telling. What would *they* like to see in

Shut Up and Dance (Continued)

the story? What works? What doesn't? Sometimes just explaining what you're trying to do is enough to release the idea to dance on for another day.

Should I be working on something else? Maybe your dance stopped because you've tripped over something. There's an obstacle you have to work through, something that's keeping you from continuing in this particular mode. The more you try to work through it, the bigger the obstacle gets. What to do? Write about something else. Try writing a journal entry, a blog post or two. Write a poem, even if you've never written one before. The point is, sometimes it's necessary for your mind to concentrate on something else in order for you to work through whatever the block is that's interfering with your thought processes.

Try these suggestions and see whether they help you break through your block. But remember, there's a point where you just have to say to your inner critic, "It's time to get back onto the dance floor. Shut up and dance with me."

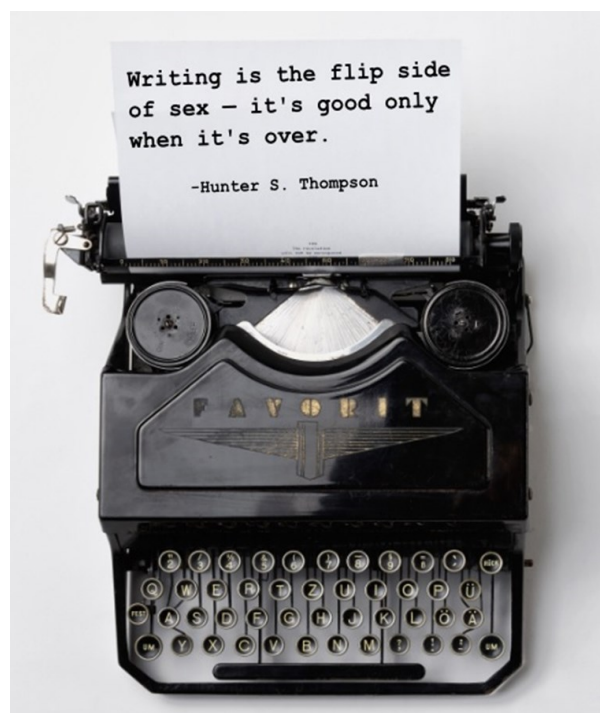
Want more advice about how to overcome your writers' block? Try these online articles:

<http://ezinearticles.com/?Breaking-Through-Writers-Block---7-Solutions-to-7-Types-of-Block&id=5274429>

<http://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/guide-to-literary-agents/5-negative-voices-and-how-to-shush-them>

<http://www.fsgworkinginprogress.com/2015/07/routine-what-routine/>

<http://www.mcsweeneys.net/articles/breaking-through-writers-block> (Warning: Not the most serious article on overcoming writers' block every written)



How To Write a Reflective Essay



Figure 1: Gibbs model of reflection

In a reflective essay, you need to express your thoughts and emotions about certain events or phenomena. Writing this type of essay provides solid training to sharpen your critical thinking skills, as well as your ability to develop and express opinions on a particular topic – either chosen by yourself or assigned by your instructor.

Steps for Writing a Reflective Essay

Think of an event which could become the [topic](#) of your essay. When you have chosen an event, ask yourself how you feel about it, how it affected (or did not affect) your life and why? This will help you create a thesis, which will serve as the focal point of your essay.

[Make a mind-map.](#) Write down your thesis and draw a circle around it. Now identify your main arguments and ideas which will support it and help readers follow the evolution of your thoughts and experiences, group them into paragraphs which you will write later, and connect

them to your central circle. Creating this type of flow diagram will help you see the overall structure of your essay more clearly. Finally, decide on the logical sequence of these paragraphs and order them accordingly.

Write a strong opening paragraph. Your [introduction](#) must be eye-catching, so the readers become engaged immediately.

1. State your supporting arguments, ideas and examples in the body paragraphs. Emphasize only one point or experience, as well as reflections on it, within each paragraph. In the first sentence of the [conclusion](#), briefly summarize your thoughts. Think about what you have learned and how your experience might be useful to others. Finish your essay with a rhetorical question to your readers about how they might act in a similar situation. Alternatively, ask them to think about a related topic on their own.

Topic Selection

Since writing a reflective essay supposes you will write about a personal experience, you can choose whatever event you like. It is almost like a diary, where you write down your thoughts about a significant happening in your life. It can be about reading a special book, a difficult situation you faced, a person you encountered – the main point is to state your opinion. For example, you can write about:

- a trip to an exotic place
 - a situation involving a human rights infringement in some distant country
 - a book you have recently read
 - a conflict in the Middle East
 - a certain personality
 - the solving of a difficult problem
 - a successfully completed research project
- the issue of alcoholism

Key Points to Consider

1. Your introductory paragraph could give a hint about the conclusions in your essay. For example, it could state: “When I first saw a desert with my own eyes, I thought it is was possibly the most lifeless place in the world. However, as I studied it in more detail, I found my surroundings were not quite so desolate as I had imagined.”

How To Write...(Continued)

2. Since a reflective essay is particularly based on personal experience, it is acceptable to use the personal pronoun "I."
3. Usage of one or more quotations in the introduction can make your writing more authoritative.

In most reflective essays, apart from describing what went right, you may also describe what went wrong, or how an experience could have been improved.

Do and Don't

Do

- Do write your ideas in a descriptive manner. Your thoughts must be stated clearly, so your readers understand exactly what you wanted to say.
- Do remember: despite your essay being of a reflective type, it is still an academic paper, so try to keep it as formal as possible.
- Do follow the classical structure: an introduction, main body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Do keep in mind: you should write your essay basing it not only on a personal experience, but also using some factual material.

Don't

- Don't be too personal. Despite the fact a reflective essay is based on personal experience, remember you are writing an academic essay, not a letter to a friend.
- Don't try to cram all your experiences into one essay; choose the most important and significant examples.
- Don't try to write everything at once. Compose a mind-map and create an outline which gives a clear direction to your writing.
- Don't make your essay a free-flowing analysis, including all your unstructured thoughts, insights and ideas. Sort your ideas in a logical order.

Common Mistakes When Writing a Reflective Essay

- The inclusion of too much personal information in your essay. Remember: your main goal is to state your opinion and analyze a certain issue, referring to some of your past experiences and reflecting on them – not to write your autobiography.
- Ignoring the structure of an essay. This results in a disorganized, incoherent text which the reader will find difficult to comprehend.
- Being too informal. When writing a reflective essay, keep a formal tone in mind.

Since you have acquainted yourself with the basic analysis essay writing tips and rules, you can check out our [reflective essay samples](#) to link theory with practice.

Thank you to Academic Help (<https://academichelp.net/academic-assignments/essay/write-reflective-essay.html>) for use of this article.

Calls for Submissions

The Acentos Review

Looking to Get Published? Try One (or more!) of these 24 Journals for [Black and Diverse Voices](#) :

http://blavity.com/looking-to-get-published-try-one-or-more-of-these-24-journals-for-black-and-diverse-voices/?utm_campaign=coschedule&utm_source=facebook_page&utm_medium=Blavity&utm_content=Looking+to+Get+Published%3F+Try+One+%28or+more!%29+of++these+24+Journals+for+Black+and+Diverse+Voices



The Acentos Review

Issues per Year: 4

Website: www.acentosreview.com

Genres Published: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction

Formats: Web

Submission Guidelines: www.acentosreview.com/Submission_Guidelines...

Reading Period:

Jan 1 - Dec 31

Reporting Time: 3 to 6 months

Editorial Focus

The Acentos Review publishes poetry, fiction, memoir, interviews, translations and artwork by emerging and established Latin@ writers four times a year. We welcome submissions in English, Spanish, Spanglish, Portuguese, and indigenous languages. Reviews, interviews and translations are the only areas in which we publish those who do not identify as Latin@ themselves.

Tips From the Editor

Read the submission guidelines closely. All those who submit are required to answer the prompt: "Being Latin@ means ..." Submissions without these statements must be declined. The Acentos Review offers opportunities for feedback on every submission, whether through written feedback from the editors or an opportunity to talk with the co-founding editor herself during designated times on Google Hangout or Skype in response to specific questions about the work. Authors and artists must have addressed and fit the guidelines.

Contact Information

Raina Leon, Founding Co-Editor

Post Mail Room Box 3088

1928 Saint Mary's Road

Moraga, CA 94575

raina.leon@gmail.com



Calls for Submissions

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QUANTUM FAIRY TALES

E-mail: editor@quantumfairytales.com

Website: quantumfairytales.com

About

Quantum Fairy Tales is a nonprofit, all-volunteer, all-donation, quarterly e-zine showcasing art and literature with elements of science fiction, fantasy, and the supernatural, with weekly website articles and author/artist highlights. "The best part about QFT is that real, live gnomies reply with feedback to every submission."

Freelance Facts

Guidelines online.

Nonfiction

Submission Method: "Want to write a column? Want to write a nonfiction article, interview, book review, or exegesis? If it's pertinent to the interests of speculative fiction fans, we'll consider it." E-mail submission with title, type of submission, and word count in submission line.

Fiction

Prose fiction submissions should be 7,000 words or less. E-mail submission with title, type of submission, and word count in submission line.

Poetry

E-mail submission with title, type of submission, and word count in submission line. Poetry submissions should be 50 lines or less.

Tips

"Your writing and art work must fall in the category of speculative fiction for us to consider it."



Calls for Submissions

Turn :Turn :Turn Seeking Flash Fiction

Deadline: Rolling

Turn : Turn : Turn : A Season of Short Short Stories is a quarterly journal of flash fiction, each issue containing 30 authors with 3 stories each for a total of 90 days of fiction or a season of flash. We're current seeking submissions of 7 stories (100% reprint with secured rights is OK) for our upcoming issues. A minimum of 3 stories per contributor, if accepted, will be chosen. Please limit length of stories to 750 words. Payment is one contributor's copy. www.eljpublications.com



Mothers Always Write seeks essay and poetry submissions about motherhood.

Deadline: Rolling

Mothers Always Write is an online literary magazine for mothers by mother writers. Please submit up to 3 poems (<25 lines) or a creative essay (<2,000 words) about parenting. We also seek micro-nonfiction (<300 words) and posts for our parenting blog. Writers guidelines are available on our website www.mothersalwayswrite.com. Please submit through Submittable.



MEN'S HEALTH

Rodale, Inc.
400 S. 10th Street
Emmaus PA 18098
Phone: (212)697-2040
E-mail: mhletters@rodale.com
Website: www.menshealth.com

Contact Kevin Donahue, senior managing editor.

About

The world's largest men's magazine brand, with 40 editions in 47 countries.

Covers: Covers various men's lifestyles topics, such as fitness, nutrition, fashion, and sexuality.

Editor's Note: Query before submitting.

Freelance Facts

- Established: 1987
- Circulation: 1,918,387



Contests

Sustainable Arts Foundation

Writing Awards

Deadline: September 4, 2015

Entry Fee: \$15

Website: <http://www.sustainableartsfoundation.org>

Up to five awards of \$6,000 each and up to five Promise Awards of \$2,000 each are given twice yearly to poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers with children. Writers with at least one child under the age of 18 are eligible. Using the online submission system, submit up to 10 poems totaling no more than 25 pages or up to 25 pages of prose with a biography, an artist statement, a curriculum vitae, a project statement, and a \$15 entry fee by September 4. Visit the website for the required entry form and complete guidelines.

Sustainable Arts Foundation, Writing Awards, 1032 Irving Street #609, San Francisco, CA 94122.



NINETEENTH ANNUAL ZOETROPE: ALL-STORY SHORT FICTION CONTEST

Guest Judge: [Adam Johnson](#), winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

First prize: \$1,000 **Second prize:** \$500 **Third prize:** \$250

The three prizewinners and seven honorable mentions will be considered for representation by William Morris Endeavor; ICM; the Wylie Agency; Regal Literary; Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency; Markson Thoma Literary Agency; Inkwell Management; Sterling Lord Literistic; Aitken Alexander Associates; Barer Literary; the Gernert Company; and the Georges Borchardt Literary Agency.

Important Dates:

Entries must be complete by October 1, 2015, at 11:59 P.M. PDT. Results will be announced at the website December 15 and in the Spring 2016 issue of *Zoetrope: All-Story*; and the winning story will be published as a special online supplement to that Spring 2016 issue.

Complete Guidelines:

We accept all genres of literary fiction. Entries must be: unpublished; strictly 5,000 words or fewer; and accompanied by an entry fee of \$20 per story. There are no formatting restrictions; please ensure only that the story is legible. Please omit all personal information from the manuscript itself (ie, name, address, e-mail address, phone number), as all stories are read blindly.

We welcome multiple entries (\$20/story), simultaneous submissions, and entrants from outside the U.S. We will e-mail contest updates and results to anyone who provides an active e-mail address. Entrants retain all rights to their stories. Once a story is submitted, we cannot accept an updated draft. (However, an entrant is welcome to submit an updated draft as a new entry.) Entry fees will not be returned or adjusted.

Please e-mail us at contests@all-story.com with further questions. Thank you for your interest, and good luck!



Contests

FIRST NOVEL CONTEST

Harrington & Harrington Press
3400 Yosemite
San Diego CA 92109

E-mail: press@harringtonandharrington.com

Website: www.harringtonandharrington.com

Contact

Contact: Laurie Champion, contest/award director.

Annual contest for any writer who has not previously published a novel. Entries may be self-published. Accepts full-length works in literary fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir, genre fiction, and short story collections. No poetry. Guidelines available online.

Judged By: Judged by the Harrington & Harrington staff for the preliminary round. A respected author with numerous publications will act as the final judge.

Prize: Prize: \$500 advance royalty and publication by Harrington & Harrington Press.

Costs: \$20

Deadline: August 15



Raccoons in Gainesville, Florida. Photo courtesy of Cheryl Pinkham.

Contests

Creative Nonfiction Essay Contest:

<https://www.creativenonfiction.org/news/essay-contest-marriage-0>

Essay Contest: Marriage

For an upcoming issue, Creative Nonfiction is seeking new essays about MARRIAGE.

Whether you've celebrated your 50th anniversary or 5th marriage; eloped to Vegas or fought for (or against) marriage equality in DC; just filed your divorce papers or proposed to your high school sweetheart, we're looking for well-crafted essays that truthfully portray what married life is all about.

Send us your true stories of arranged marriages or shotgun weddings; walking down the aisle or running from the altar; mail-order brides or stay-at-home dads. We're looking for a variety of perspectives—from fiancés to florists; ministers to marriage counselors; divorce attorneys to wedding planners.

Essays must be vivid and dramatic; they should combine a strong and compelling narrative with an informative or reflective element and reach beyond a strictly personal experience for some universal or deeper meaning. We're looking for well-written prose, rich with detail and a distinctive voice; all essays must tell true stories and be factually accurate.

A note about fact-checking: Essays accepted for publication in Creative Nonfiction undergo a rigorous fact-checking process. To the extent your essay draws on research and/or reportage (and it should, at least to some degree), CNF editors will ask you to send documentation of your sources and to help with the fact-checking process. We do not require that citations be submitted with essays, but you may find it helpful to keep a file of your essay that includes footnotes and/or a bibliography.

Creative Nonfiction editors will award \$1,000 for Best Essay and \$500 for runner-up. All essays will be considered for publication in a special "Marriage" issue of the magazine.

Guidelines: Essays must be previously unpublished and no longer than 4,000 words. There is a \$20 reading fee, or \$25 to include a 4-issue subscription to Creative Nonfiction (US addresses only). If you're already a subscriber, you may use this option to extend your current subscription or give your new subscription as a gift. Multiple entries are welcome (\$20/essay) as are entries from outside the United States (though due to shipping costs we cannot offer the subscription deal). All proceeds will go to prize pools and printing costs.

You may submit essays online or by regular mail:

By regular mail

Postmark deadline August 31, 2015.

Please send manuscript, accompanied by cover letter with complete contact information including the title of the essay and word count; SASE or email for response; and payment to:

Creative Nonfiction

Attn: MARRIAGE

5501 Walnut Street, Suite 202

Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Online

Deadline to upload files: 11:59 pm EST August 31, 2015

To submit, please click the appropriate link:

Reading fee + 4-issue subscription (\$25; US submitters only)

Reading fee only (\$20)



Contests

CHRISTIAN BOOK AWARDS

Evangelical Christian Publishers Association
9633 S. 48th St.
Suite 140
Phoenix AZ 85044

Phone: (480)966-3998
Fax: (480)966-1944
E-mail: info@ecpa.org, mkuyper@ecpa.org
Website: www.ecpa.org

Contact: Mark W. Kuyper, president and CEO.

About

The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association recognizes quality and encourages excellence by presenting the ECPA Christian Book Awards (formerly known as Gold Medalion) each year. Categories include children, fiction, nonfiction, Bibles, Bible reference, inspiration, and new author.

Freelance Facts

- Established: 1978
- Deadline: September 30. Submission period begins September 1.

Needs

Needs: fiction, juvenile, nonfiction, novels

All entries must be evangelical in nature and submitted through an ECPA member publisher. Books must have been published in the calendar year prior to the award. Publishing companies submitting entries must be ECPA members in good standing. See website for details.





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
<http://writersallianceofgainesville.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.



Aquarium and Botanical Gardens, Columbia, South America, Courtesy of Ron Wilson.