

- The Personal Memoir
- Short Prose Genres: Defining Essay, Short Story, Commentary, Memoir, and Mixed Genre

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# The WAG Digest

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

MARCH - APRIL 2016

## WAG Speaker Series

### Inspiring Teenagers to Write Poetry — The Struggles and Benefits

April 10, 2:30 pm



Nicole Harris

Join us during National Poetry Writing Month when Nicole Harris, teacher of English literature at Gainesville High School and Coordinator of

Youth Programs for ARTSPEAKS, will speak at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 10, to the Writers Alliance of Gainesville meeting in the Millhopper Library. The meeting in honor of April as Poetry Month is open and free to all interested.

Harris founded the poetry club Canes On Da Mic two years ago, giving students the opportunity to write and share their original poetry. The results surprised her. Inspired by Harris' example as a spoken-word poet, the students competed in the 2015 Youth Speaks Brave New Voices International Poetry slam and entered the national Poetry Out Loud Contest at the regional competition in Tampa in February. A few of the students will perform their own work at WAG's meeting.

Nicole Harris's love for writing and performing was instilled early on — she began competing in oratorical contests at Oak Grove Elementary School. She is a spoken word poet and a former performer for South Florida's Word-of-Mouth Poetry Troupe, which is a chapter of Black on Black Rhyme, a group of nationally recognized poets creating a movement to educate, inspire, and change lives for the better.



### Outlining the Novel or Book You Want to Write

May 15, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Three local published authors — **Darlene Marshall**, award-winning author of six historical pirate adventure novels; **Wendy Thornton**, author of a mystery and the acclaimed memoir *Dear Oprah: How I Beat Cancer and Learned to Love Daytime TV*; and **Larry Brasington**, author of over a dozen action novels — will discuss their outlining and writing styles at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 15, at the Millhopper Branch Library, 3145 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> St., Gainesville. The authors will sign books after their discussion. This monthly meeting of the Writers Alliance of Gainesville is free and open to anyone interested in the written word.

# WAG Brags



**Darlene Marshall** writes award winning stories of romance and adventure, featuring pirates, privateers, smugglers and the occasional possum. She lives in North Florida and loves being a writer because her work wardrobe is shorts, sandals and tropical shirts with flamingos. The best days are when she puts the convertible top down and cruises over to the beach to do research. *The Pirate's Secret Baby* won the Award of Excellence from Colorado Romance Writers and the Readers' Choice Award from New England Chapter of Romance Writers of America (RWA). *Castaway Dreams* won the Aspen Gold Reader's Choice Award, and Florida-set *The Bride and The Buccaneer* received the First Coast Romance Writers Beacon Award for best historical. Her books are available in print, ebook format, Kindle editions, and in German and Estonian editions.



**Wendy Thornton** is a freelance writer and editor who has been published in *Riverteeth*, *Epiphany*, *MacGuffin* and many other literary journals and books. Her memoir, *Dear Oprah Or How I Beat Cancer and Learned to Love Daytime TV*, was published in July 2013 and is available on Amazon and Kindle. Her mystery, *Bear-Trapped: In a Trashy Hollywood Novel*, was published in February 2016 and is available on Amazon and Kindle. She has won many awards for her work including most recently, second prize in New York's *Literal Latte* essay contest. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and has been Editor's Pick on Salon.com multiple times. Her work is published in England, Scotland, Australia, and India.



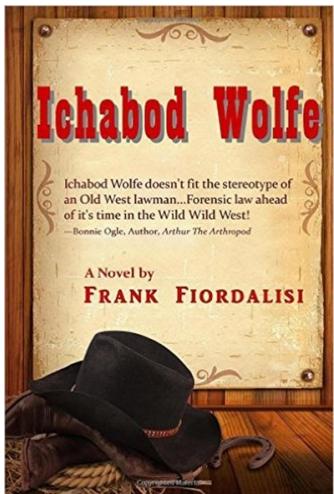
**Larry Brasington** likes to write stories with lots of action and strong story line. He most enjoys his *Shane Ireland, Elf Detective* series set in a world in which a quarter of the human race has mutated. He first published stories in 1972: "Temple in the Swamp" and "The Valley," an H. P. Lovecraft-like tale. Many of his short stories have been featured in [www.powdermonkey.biz](http://www.powdermonkey.biz), an online magazine for gamers. His latest book is *Saving Sonya*, a fantasy novel. Among his other novels are *Alien Madness*, *Brandenburgers: Invasion of Russia* (alternative history of World War 2), *Nell's Tavern* (an alien invasion on a backwater planet), and *Beyond the Wall* (historical novel 169 AD); all are available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble online, or Smashwords.

Venue for the WAG Speaker Series: (Millhopper) Library 3145 NW 43rd Street, Gainesville.

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 WAG Member **Frank Fiordalisi** on publication of his book, *Ichabod Wolfe* by Oak Tree Press. WAG Member Rhonda Riley, author of the novel, *Adam Hope*, writes:

Don't let the title or the vibrantly rendered 1860s Kansas setting fool you, Ichabod Wolfe is more than western or a detective thriller. Frank Fiordalisi vividly delivers the tale of one good man, from boyhood into middle-age, in a time before law and order was the order of the land. Ichabod Wolfe is a character who will stay with you for a long time, a quietly smart man who keeps his head—and his heart—in

the face of perversity and corruption, an investigator in the time before the certainties of fingerprints and DNA. A good yarn, a trial of justice, well told.

The book is available on Amazon: [http://www.amazon.com/Ichabod-Wolfe-Frank-Fiordalisi/dp/1610091906/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1459135676&sr=8-1&keywords=Ichabod+Wolfe](http://www.amazon.com/Ichabod-Wolfe-Frank-Fiordalisi/dp/1610091906/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1459135676&sr=8-1&keywords=Ichabod+Wolfe)



Congratulations to WAG Member Sandra Gail Lambert, whose essay "[The Last Period](#)" has received both Pushcart and "Best of the Net" nominations.

<http://midwayjournal.com/the-last-period/> - Great Work, Sandra!

## The Last Period



The tent is set up. I've checked twice to make sure the kayak is secure. I've eaten soup and carrot sticks and an apple and rinsed the pot.

[View on midwayjournal.com](#)

Preview by Yahoo

"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."

# WAG Brags



Congratulations to **Fran Sweeney** who has published her book *The Royal Carpet*, a novel wherein the Queen arrives unexpectedly in Alachua County.

Fran adds:

"Thank you to the Writer's Alliance of Gainesville for providing a foundation for me, and so many others, to "get it done in black and white. Thank you to the members of my "pod" who hung in there with me, especially during the first year of awkward drafts. **Art Crummer, Pat Caron, Gene Cowell, Robin Ecker, Richard Gartee, Skipper Hammond, Catherine Puckett and Rhonda Riley.**

Great reviews on Amazon - Well done, Fran!



WAG Member **Kaye Linden** writes:

My prose poem: "The Future Legend of How Rising Seas Drowned Saint Augustine and its Famous Statue" has been accepted for publication in issue #4. This issue will be coming out soon.

[Young Ravens Literary Review - http://www.youngravensliteraryreview.org/](http://www.youngravensliteraryreview.org/)

Kaye has also had a number of poems published recently in the online magazine, Don't Talk to Me About Love. Check them out!

<http://www.donttalktomeaboutlove.com/kaye-lindens-poetry/>

Congratulations, Kaye!



WAG Member **Wendy Thornton** has had the following short stories accepted for publication:

*Things You Should Know About Me*, Accepted for Publication, March 2016, Steel Toe Review, Contemporary Southern Arts & Literature and

*Sandhill Cranes; In Summer Men Die*, Accepted for publication, March 2016, White Ash Literary Magazine.



# WAG Brags

## Writers in the Woods

This event, held Saturday, March 5, was a rousing success. A special thanks to **Skipper Hammond** for allowing us to use her beautiful homestead for the event. Thank you to presenters **James Schmidt** (poetry), **Wendy Thornton** (publishing), **Cassie Selleck** (marketing), **Bev Schulz** (photography), **Mary Bridgman** (freelance writing) and the new *Bacopa* Editor-in-Chief, **Mary Bast**, and members of the new editorial board for a great day of teaching. Thanks **Art Crummer** and **Jeff Shapiro** for the great lunchtime entertainment. Thanks to everyone who assisted in some way, including **Jani Sherrard**, **Carol Ray Skipper**, **Karen Porter**, **Tom Bullard**, and WAG members who attended and helped make the day a success. We're sure this workshop is the first of many.

Writers in the Woods Committee: **Ann-Marie Magné** and **Susie Baxter**



# WAG Brags

Join us for another upcoming event, May 19, as WAG members once again talk about Florida at the Matheson:

## “Scribes of the Sunshine State” at Matheson History Museum

May 19, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm



The Matheson History Museum and the Writers Alliance of Gainesville (WAG) are teaming up for the second “Scribes of the Sunshine State” program to be held on Thursday, May 19, 2016, 6:00-8:00 PM at the Matheson. Four distinguished authors — WAG Member Mary Wood Bridgman, Jack E. Davis, Kate Dupes Hawk, and WAG Member Darlene Marshall (bios below) — will share how Florida inspires their writing.

This program is being held in conjunction with the museum’s April-June, 2016, exhibition: Liquid Gold: The Rise and Fall of Florida Citrus, which is free and open to the public. Refreshments and a book signing will follow the “Scribes of the Sunshine State” program. The museum is located at 513 E University Avenue Gainesville FL 32601.

**Mary Wood Bridgman**, a lawyer and former corporate executive, resides on the shores of Kingsley Lake in Clay County. Her professional writing has appeared in national, regional, and local publications, from *Chicken Soup for the Soul* to *The Bradford County Telegraph*. Mary has won honors from Writer’s Digest, the Florida Writers’ Association, and the Sandhills Writers’ Conference. She has taught writing courses at the University of North Florida and has frequently contributed to public radio (WJCT 89.9 FM in Jacksonville). She

currently contributes to *Our Town* magazine and serves as Managing Editor for *Bacopa Literary Review*, published annually by WAG.

**Jack E. Davis** has taught history at the university level for nearly two decades. In 2002-2003, he taught on a Fulbright award at the University of Jordan in Amman. He is now a professor of history at the University of Florida, where his work focuses on U.S. environmental history. Davis prefers to write for an intellectually curious reader rather than an academic audience. His *Race Against Time: Culture and Separation in Natchez Since 1930* won the Charles S. Sydnor Prize for the outstanding book in southern history for 2001. *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*, Davis’s latest book, received the gold medal for best nonfiction in the Florida Book Awards. Two Charlie Awards — first place for best feature writing and for best in-depth reporting — from the Florida Magazine Association recognized his 2011 article on the Gulf of Mexico, the subject of his next book.

**Kate Dupes Hawk** wrote *Florida and the Mariel Boatlift of 1980*, which won the 2015 Stetson Kennedy Award from the Florida Historical Society. The 1980 Mariel Boatlift was a profound episode in twentieth-century American history, impacting not just Florida, but the entire country. During the first twenty days of the boatlift, with little support from the federal government, the state of Florida coordinated and responded to the sudden arrival in Key West of more than thirty thousand Cuban refugees, the first wave of immigrants who became known as “Marielitos.” Hawk has also developed three museums for the Florida National Guard Historical Foundation and was awarded the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service medal for her work on the Camp Blanding, Florida, Museum of World War II.

# WAG Brags

**Darlene Marshall** writes award winning stories of romance and adventure, featuring pirates, privateers, smugglers and the occasional possum. She lives in North Florida and loves being a writer because her work wardrobe is shorts, sandals and tropical shirts with flamingos. The best days are when she puts the convertible top down and cruises over to the beach to do research. *The Pirate's Secret Baby* won the Award of Excellence from Colorado Romance Writers and the Readers' Choice Award from New England Chapter of Romance Writers of America (RWA). *Castaway Dreams* won the Aspen Gold Reader's Choice Award, and Florida-set *The Bride and The Buccaneer* received the First Coast Romance Writers Beacon Award for best historical. Her books are available in print, ebook format, Kindle editions, and also in German and Estonian.



Want to take a Writing Class? WAG Members **Susie Baxter** (Writing a Memoir), **Kaye Linden** (Flash Fiction and Non-Fiction), and **Wendy Thornton** (Publishing your Work) are teaching Community Ed classes at Santa Fe College beginning in April 2016. For more information, see the section, Classes and Conferences.



## More Photos from Writers in the Woods



# How To Find an Agent: And What to Send Them

By Wendy Thornton

So, you've written your book, your Writers Alliance critique pod has faithfully reviewed every chapter, you've written a great introductory letter to an agent, and you're ready to start sending your book out. Where do you send it? How do you find agents looking for books?

An article in The New York Times recently described self-publishing as "The Wild West" and it's true that the publishing industry is changed faster than writers can keep up with it (<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/16/technology/personaltech/ins-and-outs-of-publishing-your-book-via-the-web.html>). But traditional publishing is still the goal for many authors, and they need to know how to get their books in front of an agent who can help them find a traditional publisher.

What do you look for in an agent? First of all, you want someone who is legitimate. Agents do not ask you for money, they don't ask for "finder's fees" or "copying fees." They make their living from commissions on the sales of the author's books, not from the author themselves. According to the site, AgentQuery, "10-15% is the standard commission fee for domestic sales. 20% is the standard for the sale of foreign rights" ([http://www.agentquery.com/writer\\_bs.aspx](http://www.agentquery.com/writer_bs.aspx)). They receive this money after the sale of your book. So if an agent asks for money up front, run.

Another good way to verify whether an agent is legit or not is to verify that they are members of the Association of Authors' Representatives (AAR - <http://aaronline.org/>). This organization has a strong code of ethics that member agents are required to abide by. Their Web site has a search engine that allows you to find specific agents who work with your type of materials (<http://aaronline.org/Find>). Just click on "Search by Genre" and you can choose from multiple genres to find an agent who represents your type of writing.

While agents frequently offer editorial assistance, their primary purpose is to find a publisher for your work. (An agent should not ask for money to edit your work) You want to submit a saleable, finished manuscript to them. Take a look at their Web sites and verify exactly what they're looking for. For instance, agents require various types of materials and if you don't send what they want, you won't get past the first reader. Here is some information about what to send to agents (and what not to send):

Send a one-page query letter. This is the most common request, and in some ways, the most frustrating. You must stick to one page, where you have to describe:  
Your book,  
Your potential market, including books similar to yours

# How To Find an Agent(Continued)

Your skills as a writer.

One particularly frustrating problem with the one-page query letter is that agents are now saying IF they're interested, they will contact you. If they're not, you will not hear from them. The problem with this is, did they even get your letter? Who knows? And if you ask, are you annoying them?

They want a query letter and the first three chapters. If the agent asks for this, don't send the first four chapters. Don't send chapters that are 50 pages apiece. Send what they asked for.

They asked for the first fifty pages. Don't send fifty one. Don't send pages from the middle of the book. If your first fifty pages aren't the best part of the book, rewrite the beginning of the book until they *are* that good.

They want a query letter and a synopsis. Don't send a hundred page synopsis. A synopsis should be a 1-2 line description of each chapter or each section of the book. More is not necessarily better.

Don't tell the agent your book is the best ever written, the Great American Novel, the most beloved story of all time. That's for them to decide.

Don't send a query letter to more than one agent in a firm. If you do, and they're interested in your work, they may talk about this in a meeting and decide that if you can't follow directions, they don't want to work with you.

Don't send your book to 200 agents. Start with 5 or 10, and see what kind of reaction you get. If you get nothing, tighten up your pitch letter.

Sorry poets, don't bother sending poetry to an agent. They really don't represent poetry.

## Web sites to find agent listings:

**Agent Query** – They call themselves “The internet's largest free database of literary agents.” This searchable database allows you to search for agents via keywords, fiction and nonfiction genres. And they have helpful articles about how to contact an agent and solid examples of good query letters.

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

**AAR Database** – This is a list of the 400 agents who are members of the Association of Authors' Representatives. Finding an agent on this web site means that you will probably have a legitimate representative to market your book.

<http://aaronline.org/find>

# How To Find an Agent(Continued)

**The Poets and Writers Literary Database** – This database lists specific information about what each agent is seeking with specific requirements and links to their web sites. Do your homework – go on the agents' web sites and see what types of things they represent.

[http://www.pw.org/literary\\_agents](http://www.pw.org/literary_agents)

**The Agent Research and Evaluation Website** – This site offers paid services for authors seeking an agent. They will evaluate your material, even offer proofreading and editing services, and pick agents for you. The fees are relatively steep – for instance, they provide a customized report with 6-8 potential agents for your book for \$360.00. But if you're short on time and have the funds to do it, this might be a good option.

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

**Publishers Marketplace** – This site offers information about recent book sales, “deals of the day,” lists of “Buzz Books,” etc. To access their database of “thousands of agents, editors, and more,” you must pay a monthly fee of \$25.

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

**Writers Digest** – This site has unlimited information, but whenever you sign up for any regularly scheduled information, such as newsletters, you get all kinds of e-mails you weren't expecting. One of the best part of Writers Digest is the searchable database in Writers Market (see below for details). Under the section, Editor's Blogs, you can find A Guide to Literary Agents. This section also includes very helpful articles titled, “How I got my Literary Agent,” with examples of how writers got an agent and what their query letters were like. It's reassuring to hear the struggles and glories that your fellow writers have experienced.

The same section also lists new agents. While these new agents may be actively building their client list, they might be more open to new writers. Just remember, though, as soon as they're posted on this site, they probably get thousands of letters, so you might want to look at some of the older postings.

<http://www.writersdigest.com/editor-blogs/guide-to-literary-agents>

**Writers Market** – This site has a very good searchable database of potential agents, contests, conferences, publishers, etc. The cost is:

- Monthly Subscription: \$5.99
- 6-Month Subscription: \$24.99
- Annual Subscription: \$39.99

All the information is updated regularly.

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



# Calls for Submission

## Brevity Special Issue: Race, Racialization, and Racism

Brevity is excited to announce a special issue to be focused on experiences of race, racialization, and racism. For our 53rd issue, we are looking for work that considers all aspects of race: what it is, what it means, how our understanding of it is changing. We want essays that explore how race is learned during childhood, lived over the entire course of a life, and how our changing understanding of race shapes the way we experience ourselves and others. We are looking for flash essays (750 words or fewer) that explore the lived experience of race, racialization, and racism, show the reader a new way to look at the familiar, or give voice to under-represented experiences. Submissions will be open from March 15th- May 31st and the issue will be published in mid-September.

In concert with this special issue, we are announcing our first-ever student writing contest. Students enrolled at the graduate or undergraduate level will be invited to flash essays on the theme through their writing programs, and the winner will receive a \$200.00 prize and publication in the issue. We are very excited to announced that our anchor authors for this issue will be [Claudia Rankine](#) and [Roxane Gay](#).

The guest editors for this special issue will be Ira Sukrungruang and Joy Castro.

Because we are committed to showcasing a variety of lived experiences in this issue, we want to be certain that everyone is able to submit their work. If *Brevity*'s small submission fee of \$3.00 would keep you from submitting, you may submit your work to [brevity.race@gmail.com](mailto:brevity.race@gmail.com) without paying the fee. (Should you take this option, however, you need to send a word doc. not a PDF for complex technical reasons too boring to describe here.)

<https://brevity.submittable.com/submit>



**BACKBONE PRESS** is now accepting chapbook manuscript submissions. We are a venue focused on publishing poets of color, other ethnic backgrounds, and cultural writing. We publish emerging and established writers. Our open reading period is February 1st through April 30th. Please see our website for complete guidelines: <http://backbonepress.org/submissions/>



**MOTHER'S ALWAYS WRITE** is a new online literary magazine, offering essays and poetry that are intended to honor parenting as life's greatest calling. We are seeking essays about the parenting experience (Dad writers are welcome too). We love deep, emotional writing that offers new insight. Please see our writers' guidelines for specific requirements at [www.mothersalwayswrite.com](http://www.mothersalwayswrite.com) (coming soon) and [http://mothersalwayswrite.submittable.com/submit](https://mothersalwayswrite.submittable.com/submit)

# Calls for Submission

## the chaos journal of personal narrative

### Share Your Stories - <http://thechaos.life/>

We seek to publish writing and visual art about personal experience. Creative work that tells **true stories of personal growth, lessons learned, life-changing events, and milestones**. Work that shows critical thought and insight, that asks questions, especially the ones we cannot answer.

Personal narrative creates meaning and order from the chaos of life. It reveals who we are, who we want to be. It connects us.

### Call For Submissions

The Chaos is accepting submissions of **creative nonfiction essays, still photography, illustration, video**, and any combination of these forms from new and established writers and artists.

### Guidelines

We do not accept previously published work. Simultaneous submissions are allowed, but let us know if your piece is accepted elsewhere.

### Creative Nonfiction

Up to 2 essays. 2,500 words max each. Double-spaced. Times New Roman 12 point font. doc or docx formats.

### Photography and Illustration

Up to 10 images. 300 ppi in jpg or tiff formats. 2MB max each.

**Videos** – Links to up to 3 videos. 1-5 minutes.

### How To Submit

**Email submissions to thechaosjournal [at] gmail [dot] com.**

Send submissions to multiple categories as separate emails. Please read our [Publishing Agreement](#) before submitting your work.

1. **Subject:** Your last name, first name, category (creative nonfiction, photography, illustration, video, or other)
2. **Body:** Please include a brief cover letter with your name, age, city and state, email address, website url and/or links to up to 2 social profiles, how you heard about The Chaos, a brief bio, and whether your piece has been submitted to other publications. If submitting videos, provide links.

**Attachments:** Essays as doc or docx, photography and illustrations as .tiff. File name format: lastname\_title.

### A Few More Details

Submissions are rolling. There is no fee to submit. We can't pay contributors at this time. Expect a 2-8 week response time.



# Contests



## 85th ANNUAL WRITER'S DIGEST WRITING COMPETITION

**\$5,000 to the winner—  
and it doesn't stop there!**

**Early-Bird Deadline: May 6**

Winning the **85th Writer's Digest Annual Writing Competition** could be the boost your writing career needs. And it's quite a boost; just take a look at the prizes. **One Grand Prize** winner will receive:

- An announcement of the win on the cover of Writer's Digest (subscriber issues only)
- \$5,000 in cash
- An interview in Writer's Digest
- One-on-one attention from four editors or agents
- A paid trip to the ever-popular Writer's Digest Conference!
- A one-year subscription to Writer's Digest Tutorials

A 30-minute Platform Strategy Consultation with Chuck Sambuchino

Cash awards (and much more) await the First-Tenth Place Winners, too. There are **ten categories, 501 prizes** up for grabs, and an **immeasurable amount of mentorship and exposure** that can't be bought.

2016 is the year. Now is the time. Earn your writing the attention it deserves.

**Enter today.**

[http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition?utm\\_source=competition&utm\\_campaign=wd-tjo-comp-160303-ANN&utm\\_content=824773\\_WC160303+V2&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.writersdigest.com/writers-digest-competitions/annual-writing-competition?utm_source=competition&utm_campaign=wd-tjo-comp-160303-ANN&utm_content=824773_WC160303+V2&utm_medium=email)

# Contests

The 2016 NANO Prize, **awarding publication and \$1,000** to a previously unpublished work of fiction 300 words or fewer, will open on March 1!

This year's contest will be judged by [Kellie Wells](#), and to celebrate *NANO Fiction*'s tenth birthday, the entry fee will only be \$10 for up to three shorts. All entrants will receive issue 10.1 and winners will be announced in mid-August.

**Deadline: July 1, 2016**

Visit [nanofiction.org](#) for more information on how to enter.

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## KUNDIMAN

**2016 Kundiman Prize - <http://kundiman.org/home>**

Ends on 4/15/2016

### GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE SUBMISSION

**Eligibility:** Asian American writers living in the United States.

- Reading period is February 1 – April 15
- Manuscripts must be typed, paginated, and 50 – 70 pages in length (single spaced).
- Individual poems from the manuscript may have been previously published in magazines, anthologies, or chapbooks of less than 25 pages, but the collection as a whole must be unpublished. Translations and self-published books are not eligible. No multi-authored collections, please.
- Manuscripts must have a table of contents and include a list of acknowledgments for poems previously published. The inclusion of a biographical note is optional. Your name, mailing address, email address and phone number should appear on the title page of your manuscript.
- No illustrations, photographs or images should be included.

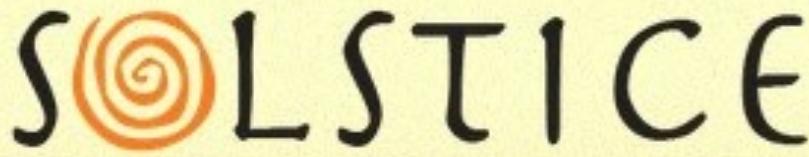
The Kundiman Poetry Prize is judged by consensus of the members of Kundiman's Artistic Staff and the Tupelo Press Editorial Board. Manuscripts are not read anonymously. Learn more about our [judging process](#).

Winner will be announced in June. Please check <http://www.kundiman.org/prize> for notification of winners and finalists.

The entry fee for The Kundiman Prize is \$28. Payment for online submission must be made online.

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# Contests



A MAGAZINE OF DIVERSE VOICES

## ANNUAL LITERARY CONTEST

**\$500 Stephen Dunn Prize in Poetry, final judge: Richard Blanco**

(Stephen Dunn is the Pulitzer-Prize winning author of *Different Hours* and 15 other collections of poetry and prose, including the recently published *Here and Now*.)

**\$1,000 Fiction Prize, final judge: Celeste Ng.**

**\$500 Nonfiction Prize, final judge: Michael Steinberg.**

Winners as well as finalists will be published in our Summer Awards Issue due out in early August. All winners and finalists will be cited in future advertisements and announcements.

Previous judges have included Martha Collins, Kim McLarin, Randall Keenan, Jennifer Haigh, Jerald Walker, David Huddle, A. Van Jordan, Andres Dubus III, and Terrance Hayes.

**DEADLINE: April 20, 2016**

WRITING CONTEST FEE FOR FICTION, NONFICTION, OR POETRY:

\$18.00/entry

## GUIDELINES

1. Cover sheet required with name, address, telephone number and email. Email and/or phone **MUST** be included to be considered. Please include cover sheet in the same file as the actual submission. Do not put your name on the manuscript itself. Final judges will be choosing on the basis of the quality of your work.
2. 12-point font. Microsoft Word attachment. Online submissions only.
3. Each entry: Fiction or Nonfiction: 23-page maximum, double-spaced; free-standing excerpts from books also accepted. Poetry: 3-poem maximum.
4. You may submit more than once but must pay a separate fee for each entry.
5. You may submit simultaneously elsewhere, but please email us immediately if accepted at another journal.
6. We will not accept previously published work. Solstice has first publication

# Contests

rights, but copyright reverts to you upon publication. We will publish the piece after the Summer Awards Issue in our Archives.

7. If you won last year's contest, you must skip a year before resubmitting to the contest, but we encourage you to submit work to Solstice for general publication.
8. We will announce the winners online on our Home Page approximately 6-8 weeks after the contest deadline.
9. After announcing the winners, all contest submissions will be automatically considered for standard publication unless you indicate otherwise.
10. The \$18.00 entry fee must be paid online.

**Accepted Document Types:** doc, docx, txt, rtf

<https://solsticelitmag.submittable.com/submit/19575>



# Conferences and Classes



## Florida Writers Association

Writers Helping Writers

<https://floridawriters.net/conferences/florida-writers-conference/>

### 15th Annual Florida Writers Conference

CARPE DIEM: CONQUER THE WORLD, ONE BOOK AT A TIME

OCTOBER 20 – 23, 2016 IN ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Florida Writers Association (FWA) members all over the globe look forward to the Florida Writers Conference year after year.

Whether you're an aspiring writer or a seasoned professional, you'll benefit from all the conference has to offer you this year.

Rub elbows with acquisition editors, publishers, film producers, editors, designers, book marketers and writers, into the wee hours. Connect with old friends and make new ones.

Fun and informative, your conference days will be packed from early morning until late at night with plenty to keep you busy.

#### 10 Reasons You Should Come to the Florida Writers Conference

1. 70+ workshops and panels with stellar faculty
2. Keynote Speaker, John Gilstrap, New York Times Bestselling Author
3. Network with writers and publishing industry professionals
4. Pitch to agents and publishers
5. Fabulous cuisine included in the cost of the conference
6. Sell your book at the conference bookstore and hold a book signing
7. Celebrate the winners at the Royal Palm Literary Awards Banquet
8. Bid on silent auction items and benefit literacy programs sponsored by the Florida Writers Foundation
9. One-to-one meetings with conference faculty
- Door prizes, open mic, and more!



# Conferences and Classes

## Santa Fe College Community Education Classes (taught by WAG Members)

Want to take a class on writing? WAG Members **Susie Baxter, Kaye Linden and Wendy Thornton** are teaching six week community ed courses starting in April. To register, go to this site: <http://www.sfcolllege.edu/cied/communityed/>, click on Take a Class, and look for the section on "Writing." Or you can show up for the first day of class.

### WRITING A MEMOIR

This course is designed for anyone who wishes to write about his or her life. The focus will be on writing short stories about your experiences, about everyday life, and about the people who influenced you. Handouts and charts will aid recall. You will have a chance to share your stories and receive feedback, though sharing is not mandatory.

#### ▼ Course Detail

**ENG0048.1F6**

5 S, starts 04/09, 10.30 am—12.00 pm

Instructor: Susie Baxter

SF - NW Campus, P-164

Fee \$34.00

Total Seats: 15, Seats Filled: 0

Notes: Bring pen and paper for notes. Suggested book by Dr. Hilda K. Ross, *Writing Your Life Story*. Available at your local library, purchased from Amazon or the instructor for approximately \$20.

Seats Open: 15

[Register](#)



# Conferences and Classes

## ▼ Course Detail

### FLASH FICTION AND NONFICTION

The writing and critiquing of stories under a thousand words in length. This is a fun and interactive class where the students write and read flash fiction and nonfiction. The writing of memoir in flash style will also be covered.

## ▼ Course Detail

#### ENG0060.1F1

6 T, starts 04/05, 06.00 pm—07.30 pm

Instructor: Kaye Linden

SF - NW Campus, B-224\*

Fee \$49.00

Total Seats: 20, Seats Filled: 2

*Notes: You should have basic writing skills. Bring a laptop or pen and paper for notes and text book: "35 Tips for Writing a Brilliant Flash Story" by Kaye Linden.*

*Available on Amazon (paperback or kindle format). No sr. waivers. \*Classroom has been changed to B-224.\**

Seats Open: 18

[Register](#)

### PUBLISHING YOUR WORK

Whether you have a book of poetry, memoir, graphic novel, mystery, or other you no doubt want your work in print or available as an e-book. How do you get your work published in today's competitive market? Learn about the different types of publishing options available, how to prepare a query letter, find an agent or self-publish, depending on your individual needs.

## ▼ Course Detail

#### ENG0002.1F1

6 H, starts 04/07, 06.00 pm—08.00 pm

Instructor: Wendy Thornton

SF - NW Campus, A-28

Fee \$54.00

Total Seats: 15, Seats Filled: 0

Seats Open: 15

[Register](#)



**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.**



Photo by Wendy Thornton