

WAG MEETING—August 10, 2025

2:30 to 4:00 pm

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Talks for WAG Members

Traditional Publishing 1
By Judith T. Fisher
Aug. 10, 2025

Upcoming Workshop— 3
How to fit Writing Into a Vibrant Life—
Sept. 14, 2025

Mindfulness Techniques for Writers—A Workshop / Oct. 12, 2025 4

WAG BRAGS 5

The Secret to a Writing Career May Boil Down to Sheer Grit 9

WRITING CONTESTS 13

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION 18

Your Road to Traditional Publishing

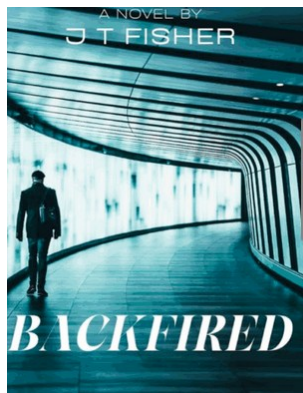
By Judith T. Fisher



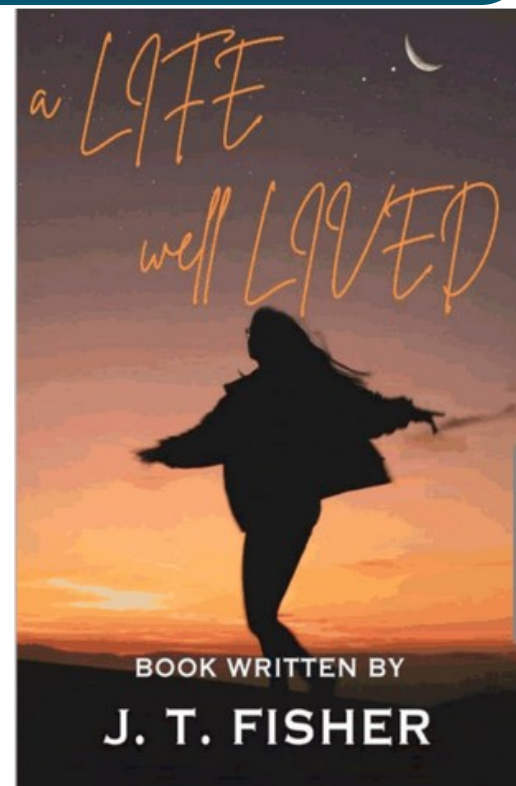
Author **Judith T. Fisher** will be WAG's guest speaker on Sunday, August 10. Her presentation, "Your road to securing an agent and a traditional publisher while avoiding pitfalls and scams," will begin at 2:30 p.m. in Room A of the Millhopper branch of the Alachua County Library. The discussion will include:

Acquisition of agents

- – query letters
- – press releases
- – awards, speaking engagements, etc.



Continued on Next Page...





Writers Alliance of Gainesville

fosters creative expression through the written word

Your Road to Traditional Publishing (cont.)

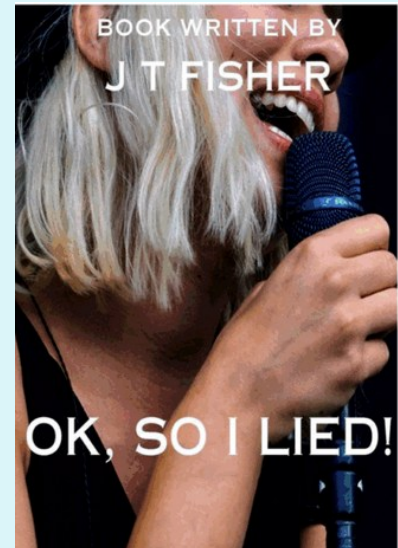
By Judith T. Fisher

Publisher's Process

- – submission acceptance calendar
- – forms required
- – secure submission portals

Pitfalls and Scams

- – *they won't call you*
- – republishing scam
- – huge contract offers and the scams that go with them



A journalism major, Fisher first began writing a heartfelt blog (<https://jtfisherauthor.com/blog/>) to fill the time previously spent tending to her husband and two children. As she wrote and gained followers, she decided to try pure fiction. She knew that women who grew up in her generation, who struggled with fears, questions, and issues, had no voice. They were silenced. She wanted to give a voice to those who still carried baggage, coupled with shame, embarrassment, and skeletons that affect how they live their lives today.

She writes about experiences that affected her profoundly, with the hope that her fictional protagonists' successful solutions will give her readers encouragement.

Her books include *Voices from the Ledge*, which deals with social issues. *A Life, Well Lived* is a fictional memoir. *Okay, So I Lied* is about following your own bliss. *Backfired* is a study in unrequited love. Her most recent novel, *Two Lost Souls*, examines miscarriages and infertility.

With two grown children and six grandchildren, Fisher currently resides in Central Florida with her husband and a four-legged "child," Mitzi.



How to Fit Writing into a Vibrant Life (without going bananas)

Talk By Educator

Michelle Dunlap

September 14,

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Do you have major responsibilities? Perhaps you are raising children or grandchildren, holding down multiple jobs, caring for aging parents, trying to make the world better through volunteerism, or dealing with health issues that sap your strength.

How can we also fit productive writing into our lives? And meet deadlines? How can we do a good job of incorporating our writing without seeming rattled? How and when do we find time?

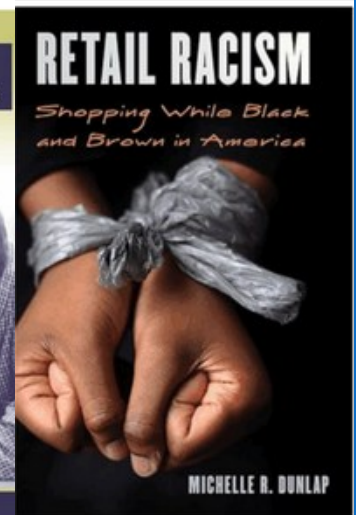
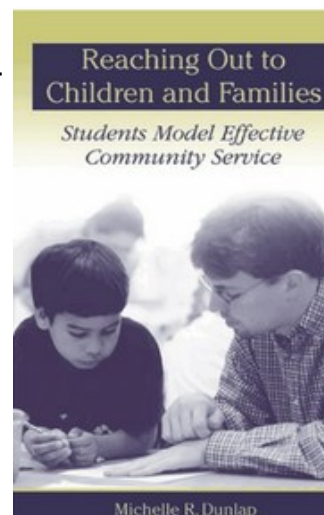
On Sunday, September 14, at 2:30 pm, let's come together at the Millhopper branch of the Alachua County Library and let's figure it out.

This interactive workshop will offer strategies that writers and other creatives can use to write while juggling multiple roles. Participants should bring a notebook, calendar, and pen for sketching out a writing plan.

The session will be lead by WAG board member, educator Michelle Dunlap (<https://drmichelleteaches.com>), who has never known a time when she wasn't juggling multiple family, work, and community responsibilities. Yet, she has managed to write a dissertation and 50 other published pieces.

She has authored two books, and co-edited three others. She managed all this while a single parent raising two children, caring for a terminally ill parent, and holding major ministerial, board, and other service responsibilities within her community.

"It was far from easy," she said, but she had to find ways to get the writing done in order to achieve all of her goals. In this workshop she hopes her strategies will help you develop your own methods for consistently finding time to write.





WAG MEETING — October 12, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm—Millhopper Library

Mindfulness Techniques for Writers: A Workshop

By Pamela Cappetta, Ed.D.

Pamela Cappetta, Ed.D., a licensed professional counselor and mindfulness teacher, is excited to lead an experiential workshop designed to enhance your creativity, confidence, and creative writing through mindfulness practices. This presentation will be held at the Millhopper Library at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 12, 2025.

In this workshop, you will be introduced to the art of paying attention on purpose by setting your intention, attitude, and attention. We will explore how to move toward more gentleness in your writing experiences, potentially opening new paths when you feel blocked in your writing. Additionally, these practices can aid in focusing on character development. Through an awareness of noticing your five senses, it is possible to have new ideas concerning set and setting in your writing.

Please bring your journal or notebook and prepare to immerse yourself in actual mindfulness practices. This workshop aims to inspire and connect writers of all levels within the writing community.

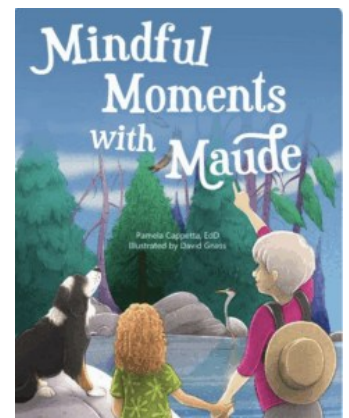
Key Takeaways for Participants:

Here are the essential insights and benefits you can expect to gain from our mindfulness practices:

- **Enhanced Creativity:** Learn how mindfulness practices can unlock new paths and ideas in your writing, especially when you feel blocked.
- **Improved Confidence:** Gain confidence in your writing through mindfulness techniques that promote gentleness and self-awareness.
- **Character Development:** Discover how mindfulness can aid in focusing on character development and bring depth to your writing.
- **Experiential Learning:** Experience actual mindfulness practices that can be applied to your writing process.
- **Sensory Awareness:** Understand how noticing your five senses can lead to new ideas concerning set and setting in your writing.

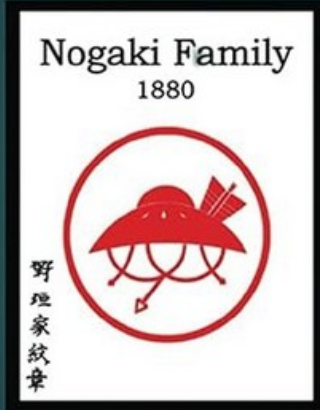
For the past 12 years, Cappetta has taught mindfulness to children, young adults, teachers, therapists, lawyers, parents, social workers, addiction therapists, patients with chronic pain including folks with neurological deficits, and private psychotherapy clients.

Her book, *Mindful Moments with Maude*, published in 2022, reflects her teachings in mindfulness for children. <https://www.drpamm.com/>



WAG BRAGS

The Nogaki Family: An American Journey



By Rodger
Nogaki

Local Writer Rodger Nogaki will be giving a talk about his new book on August 13, 2025 at 3 p.m. on the first floor of the Atrium at Gainesville, 2431 NW 41st St, Gainesville FL, 32606.

Nogaki is a 2nd generation American born of Japanese descent. The reason for writing this book was to tell future generations about his family's experiences after being detained "in an American Concentration Camp – Minidoka" during World War II, and how they survived. This experience, now more than ever, is currently relevant.

The talk will include opportunities for questions and the chance to buy his book.

As Rodger explains in his book: "From a total US population of about 300,000 in 1941, almost 120,000 Americans of Japanese Ancestry were sent to one of

10 American Concentration camps in 1942. We lost our homes, personal property, bank accounts, right to vote and *habeas corpus* as a result of being persons who looked like the enemy."

How did they survive? Learn about the meaning of the Japanese word Gaman.

From his back cover:
Rodger worked in the field of Risk Management – Safety, Security and Health Services. He traveled and worked in 48 of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Canada. Rodger's guiding light is his wife, Jane. They have been married for over 60 years and are still going strong!



K. Rodger Nogaki

WAG BRAGS



Congratulations to author Saul Ploch on the publication of his new book, *Melvin Krimski*.

Melvin Krimski's life unfurls from a 1960s hippie commune to Florida's pulsing streets. Battling addiction, his spirited youth is marked by misadventures, tender first loves, and abiding friendships.

Through trials, teen antics, and the throes of love, Melvin's odyssey of self-discovery and the search for meaning paints an extraordinary life canvassed against an era's backdrop. His is a narrative of resilience and the relentless pursuit of dreams, a testament to the indomitable human spirit navigating the euphoria and depth of existence.

The book is available on Amazon as a paperback, on Kindle, and in hard cover. Get your copy here:

https://www.amazon.com/Melvin-Krimski-Based-True-Story/dp/B0FBH191WH/ref=sr_l_l?

W*R*I*T*E*

What do you call a writer who doesn't follow the rules of sentence structure?

A rebel without a clause...



WAG BRAGS

Join Gainesville's poet laureate E. Stanley Richardson for an evening of first-rate entertainment, "Since I Laid My Burden Down: An Evening of Poetry and Song," for Community Night at Heartwood Soundstage.

Enjoy the rhythmic poetry of E. Stanley Richardson, accompanied by the beautiful songstress Michelle Johnson and the amazing saxophonist Emmanuel Garilus.

E. Stanley Richardson is Gainesville's first poet laureate. He is a passionate advocate for the arts, empowering his North Central Florida community through workshops, festivals, and performances that inspire action and celebrate diversity. Featured in local and regional media, his work amplifies rural + historically underserved voices and addresses vital social issues.

Stanley is Founder and Director of Gainesville's local ARTSPEAKSgnv (artspeaksgnv.org at ARTSPEAKSgnv Inc.) He is also Director at North Central Florida Youth Poet Laureate Program.



***** This Community Event**

is FREE & open to the

PUBLIC ***

Date

Wednesday
August 20, 2025

Time

Doors 6:00pm
Showtime 7:00pm

Location

Heartwood Soundstage (C)
619 S Main St
Gainesville FL 32601

WAG BRAGS



Seventh Annual Sunshine State Book Festival Gainesville, Florida

January 23 – January 24, 2026

Bringing Readers and Writers Together

Friday, January 23, 2026-

Best Western Gateway Grand Ballroom -

4200 NW 97th Blvd. Gainesville, Florida

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Workshop Intensive



Saturday, January 24, 2026

Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall

NW 83rd St., Gainesville, Florida

Meet Authors Showcase and Expo

Sign up Now!

3000



Author and actor Pamela D. Marshall will perform her original one-woman play about famous Florida author, Zora Neale Hurston.

Authors register here: <https://sunshinestatebookfestival.com/author-registration/>



The Secret to a Writing Career May Boil Down to Sheer Grit

July 22, 2025 by [Amy L. Bernstein](#)

<https://janefriedman.com/the-secret-to-a-writing-career-may-boil-down-to-sheer-grit/>



Generally speaking, writers have an unlimited appetite for discussing *writing*. The craft itself, of course, but also contracts, marketing and publicity, agent-shopping, advances and royalties, finding trusted beta readers, and so forth. Put half a dozen writers together in a room and hours later, they're still going at it, with plenty left to say as long as the drinks and snacks hold out.

But one topic we don't discuss nearly enough in my view is the role that *grit* plays in predicting and shaping who will succeed as a career author (that is, become happily and serially published) and who will walk away from it all, possibly heartbroken and defeated, or at least having decided there are better and certainly more lucrative ways to suffer.

Our species would never have gotten this far without a large dose of raw grit, which we can thank for enabling us to solve problems (hunting woolly mammoths, heating frigid caves) and to persevere in the face of daunting odds (draught, floods, war, famine).

About a dozen years ago, the concept of grit was revived for the modern age by psychologist [Angela Duckworth](#) (author of *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*), who described it as "a facet of conscientiousness defined as passion and perseverance for long-term goals."

The short-hand term for grit might be stick-to-it-ive-ness. It's a quality every writer needs to meet short-term goals, such as finishing or revising a book chapter, as well as long-term goals, which include weathering dry creative spells and bouts of rejection.



The Secret to a Writing Career May Boil Down to Sheer Grit (continued)

Grit is not a function of intelligence

Since Duckworth burst onto the scene with fresh insights into what grit is, who has it, and how to get it, many researchers have delved into the topic and produced new insights. [One study from 2022](#), for instance, offered the encouraging news that “high grit people do not necessarily have a greater cognitive capacity. Rather, they use it in a different way.”

Simply put, a writer’s capacity for grit (or anyone’s) isn’t tied to how smart they are, but rather, how they manage and regulate emotions and responses to external stimuli.

Think about this: Really smart people don’t necessarily succeed because they’re smart but because they pay close attention to what’s going on around them and tend toward mindfulness over impulsivity. Researchers refer to this as a “cautious profile of control.”

Not every writer fits this profile, of course. Think of Hunter S. Thompson and his long cocaine-and-alcohol-fueled benders, to name just one scribe who behaved impulsively and perhaps not entirely mindfully.

But let’s not miss the larger point here, which is that grittiness is a deeply useful social construct that operates like the low hum of your refrigerator motor; it’s always there in the background, doing its job, keeping the machine running at a steady rate. Because these days, any writer pursuing a career based on creativity must also grapple with the business end of the business, so to speak. It’s hard to do that without leaning into—and making a point of developing—the kind of gritty perseverance that sees you through the tough times and uncertainties every writer faces.

Another [fairly recent finding about grit](#) that writers should welcome is the idea that “*perseverance of effort predicts ... success more reliably than consistency of interests.*” The subject here revolved around academia, but surely we can extrapolate to the writing community at large. My takeaway is that it’s fine to flit from genre to genre, fiction to nonfiction and back again, books to essays, as long as you remain consistent in your commitment to your writing practice and all that goes with, i.e., the ups and downs.

Writers planning for a serious career need to take grit seriously as a part of their survival toolkit. [Research suggests several factors](#) to consider as you build your grit muscles. (I want to acknowledge that writers who identify as neuro-atypical, neuro-divergent, diagnosed with ADHD and more, may need to adapt some of these tactics, and draw upon others, to align with the way their own brains operate. Thus, what follows is a generalization.) These factors include:

(continued on next page)



The Secret to a Writing Career May Boil Down to Sheer Grit (continued)

Maintaining self-control

Writing can certainly feel like an emotional roller-coaster, between the creative act itself, the submission process, and everything that leads up to a publishing deal—followed by tussles with an editor who you believe is out to maul your copy. But you're not well-served by allowing strong emotions to get the better of you at any stage of the business. Tears one day followed by champagne the next is no way to sustain a career. Make the pursuit of an even keel your goal. It's an essential component of grit. And remember that a writing career spans years and your sense of success, failure, and self-worth cannot be measured in weeks or months. When you turn 90, then you can assess.

Remaining focused

Be grateful to your brain's prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for executive functions including planning, decision-making, working memory, and impulse control. This is, in part, the biological basis for grit. In the face of challenges, these capacities can help you remain focused on crucial tasks as you work to avoid spinning out emotionally and/or losing the ability to concentrate. If you want help getting in touch with the power of your prefrontal cortex, check out *Breathe. Write. Breathe.* by Lisa Tener; *Do You Feel Like Writing?* by Frankie Rollins; and *Creative Resilience* by Erica Ginsberg.

Responding to stress

As professions go, writing may not be as stressful as, say, open-heart surgery, but it's up there. But stress isn't all bad. Some people with a severe peanut allergy can acquire a healthy tolerance for the stuff by frequent, short-term exposure to increasing amounts. Being gritty means tolerating stress, sometimes lots of it. Avoiding stress is rarely the answer to managing it. Rather, think of your ability and willingness to handle stress as part of your [stress inoculation strategy](#), which begins by understanding your stress triggers and responses and reframing stress as a solvable challenge. Learning to handle stress with healthy coping mechanisms sure beats freaking out every time something doesn't break your way.

The artist's life is bumpy and unpredictable. By tapping into your inner grittiness, you'll give yourself and your career a fighting chance to blossom for years to come.





Jane Friedman®

The Secret to a Writing Career May Boil Down to Sheer Grit (continued)

A personal grit story

Looking back over the last decade of my own writing journey, I see now that I have grit to thank for anything I've accomplished as a writer. Grit—not talent, not luck, not connections—has sustained me through a crushing load of rejections, a publishing deal gone bad, years of intense self-doubt.

Grit is the pillar that remained upright when the foundations crumbled around me. And I clung to it. I chose to persevere, no matter what.

I recently signed a contract for my third traditionally published novel after more than two years of fruitless pitching. I was on the cusp of giving up. But the gritty voice inside me wouldn't let me—and I'm so glad I listened.

As I write this, another rejection has dropped into my inbox. But that's okay. Because the definition of grit is to put one foot in front of another every single day, to keep creating, even as obstacles arise and foundations crumble.

The artist's life is bumpy and unpredictable. By tapping into your inner grittiness, you'll give yourself and your career a fighting chance to blossom for years to come.



Amy L. Bernstein's latest book is *Wrangling the Doubt Monster: Fighting Fears, Finding Inspiration*, shortlisted for the Eric Hoffer Grand Prize. Her new novel, *Seed*, will be published by Running Wild Publishing in 2027. Amy teaches writing and creativity workshops and brings an empowering message to writers and multi-media artists around the world. Her weekly Substack, [Doubt Monster](#), explores the realities of living a creative life. Learn more at [amywrites.live](#).

W*R*I*T*E*

For more information about the varied writings of Jane Friedman on how to be successful in the publishing industry, see her Website here: <https://janefriedman.com/about/>

Or sign up for her newsletter here:

<https://janefriedman.com/i-send-a-lot-of-email-newsletters/>

Contests



click image to open flyer

Posted July 3, 2025 Inverted Syntax's Poetry Book Contests

Deadline: August 15, 2025

Inverted Syntax [est. 2018] is a press where the margins take center stage. We're now accepting submissions to our annual poetry book contests: **the Sublingua Prize for Poetry** (1st Book Award) for exceptional debut collections by female-identifying writers, and the **Aggrey & Tabbikha Prize for Poetry** for writers with first or second collections who identify as Black and/or part of the S.W.A.N.A diaspora. We welcome intersectional, hybrid, experimental, and speculative poetry—including visual work and multilingual text, as long as the manuscript is primarily in English. Winning entries receive \$500, publication and more. We're also open to submissions in all genres for

Fissured Tongue Series Vol. VII. invertedsyntax.submittable.com/submit

*W*R*I*T*E*

The Headlight Review presents the Anthony Grooms Prize in Fiction

Deadline: August 31, 2025



The Headlight Review 2025 Anthony Grooms Prize in Fiction awards a first prize of \$750 is awarded to the winning writer, along with 20 copies of the winning chapbook, published by The Headlight Review Press. The chapbook will be perfect-bound and feature a four-color cover. Submissions will run through August 31. Manuscripts are not to exceed 12,500 words.

The content may include a single story, multiple stories, multiple flash stories, or a stand-alone novel excerpt. Finalists will be revealed by October 15 and will be judged by the esteemed author James Cherry.

theheadlightreview.com

Contests

Futurepoem

Other Futures Award

Deadline: August 15, 2025

Entry Fee: \$28

Cash Prize: \$1,000

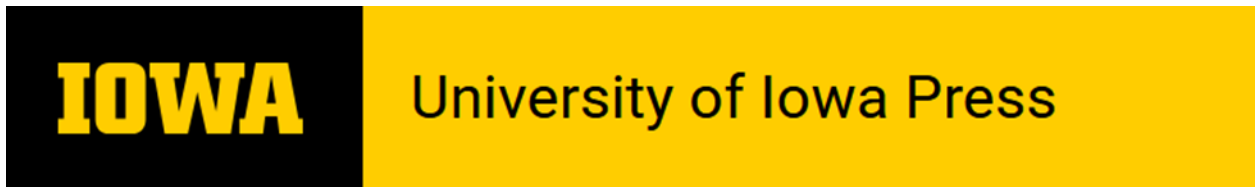
E-mail address: ahana@futurepoem.com

Website: <http://futurepoem.com/submit.php/other-futures-award>

A prize of \$1,000, publication by Futurepoem, and 25 author copies is given annually for a book of innovative poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or hybrid work “that challenges conventions of genre and language, content and form.” The editors will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of up to 200 pages with a \$28 entry fee (or a sliding-scale fee of \$9 or \$18 based on financial need) from July 15 to August 15. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Futurepoem, Other Futures Award, P.O. Box 7687, JAF Station, New York, NY 10116. Ahana Ganguly, Assistant Editor and Submissions Manager.

W*R*I*T*E



The Iowa Short Fiction Award & John Simmons Short Fiction Award

Deadline: August 31, 2025

E-mail address: uipress@uiowa.edu

Website: <http://uipress.uiowa.edu>

Two prizes of publication by University of Iowa Press are given annually for debut collections of short fiction. Submit a manuscript of at least 150 pages by August 31. There is no entry fee. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

<https://uipress.uiowa.edu/resources/prospective-authors/iowa-short-fiction-award>

University of Iowa Press, Short Fiction Awards, 102 Dey House, Iowa City, IA 52242. (319) 335-2000.



CONTESTS

Indiana Review / 1/2 K Prize

Deadline: August 15, 2025

Entry Fee: \$20

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: inreview@iu.edu

Website: <http://indianareview.iu.edu/Prizes/index.html>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Indiana Review* is given annually for a poem or a work of flash fiction or creative nonfiction. Submit up to three poems, stories, or essays of up to 500 words each with a \$20 entry fee, which includes a subscription to *Indiana Review*, by August 15. All entries are considered for publication. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Indiana Review, 1/2 K Prize, Indiana University, English Department, Ballantine Hall 554, 1020 E Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47405. Doug Paul Case, Production Manager.

W*R*I*T*E

Howling Bird Press

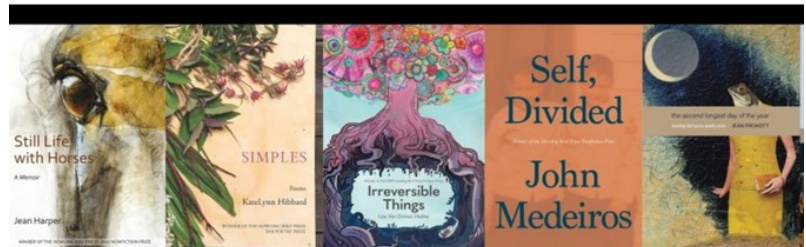
The publishing house of Augsburg's MFA in Creative Writing

Deadline: August 31, 2025

Entry Fee: \$20

Cash Prize: \$2,500

E-mail address: rundquis@augsborg.edu



Website: <http://engage.augsburg.edu/howlingbird>

A prize of \$2,500 and publication by Howling Bird Press is given in alternating years for a book of poetry, fiction, or creative nonfiction. The 2026 prize will be awarded in nonfiction. Using only the online submission system, submit a manuscript of 17,500 to 40,000 words with a \$20 entry fee by August 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Howling Bird Press, Book Prize, Augsburg University, 221 I Riverside Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55454. Naye Rundquist, Publisher.

Contests



Black Lawrence Press

Black Lawrence Press

St. Lawrence Book Award

Deadline: August 31, 2025

Entry Fee: \$30

Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: editors@blacklawrencepress.com

Website: <http://blacklawrence.com/submissions-and-contests/the-st-lawrence-book-award>

A prize of \$1,000, publication by Black Lawrence Press, and 10 author copies is given annually for a debut collection of poems, short stories, or essays. The editors and a panel of previous St. Lawrence Book Award winners will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a poetry manuscript of 45 to 95 pages or a prose manuscript of 120 to 280 pages with a \$30 entry fee by August 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

W*R*I*T*E



**JOURNAL OF
EXPERIMENTAL
FICTION**

The 2026 Kenneth Patchen Award For The Innovative Novel

[Home](#) - [News](#) - [The 2026 Kenneth Patchen Award for the Innovative Novel](#)

Deadline: August 31, 2025

Entry Fee: \$25 / Cash Prize: \$1,000

E-mail address: egerdes@experimentalfiction.com

Website: <http://experimentalfiction.com/news/kenneth-patchen-award>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication by JEF Books, the publisher of *Journal of Experimental Fiction*, is given annually for an innovative novel. Derek Pell will judge. Submit a manuscript of any length with a \$25 entry fee by August 31. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Journal of Experimental Fiction, Kenneth Patchen Award, 833 Central Avenue, P.O. Box 1271, Highland Park, IL 60035. Eckhard Gerdes, Founder and Editor.

Contests



Gemini Magazine

Flash Fiction Contest

Deadline: September 2, 2025

Entry Fee: \$8

Cash Prize: \$1,000

1,000 Words

**17th ANNUAL FLASH FICTION PRIZE
WIN \$1,000 & PUBLICATION!**

E-mail address: editor@gemini-magazine.com

Website: <http://gemini-magazine.com>

A prize of \$1,000 and publication in *Gemini Magazine* is given annually for a work of flash fiction. The editors will judge. Submit a story of up to 1,000 words with an \$8 entry fee by September 2. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Gemini Magazine, Flash Fiction Contest, P.O. Box 1485, Onset, MA 02558. (339) 309-9757. David A. Bright, Editor.

W*R*I*T*E



Santa Fe Writers Project

Literary Awards

Deadline: September 15, 2025

Entry Fee: \$30

Cash Prize: \$1,500

E-mail address: sfwpinfo@gmail.com

Website: <http://sfwp.com/literary-awards>

A prize of \$1,500 and publication by the Santa Fe Writers Project is given biennially for a book of fiction or creative nonfiction. Deesha Philyaw will judge. Using only the online submission system, submit a story collection, a novel, an essay collection, or a memoir of any length with a \$30 entry fee by September 15. Visit the website for complete guidelines.

Santa Fe Writers Project, Literary Awards, 369 Montezuma Avenue, #350, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Andrew Gifford, Director.

Calls for Submissions

Page 18

June 18, 2025

Kings River Review Call for 2-Year College Student Submissions

Deadline: Rolling

The *Kings River Review* publishes artwork, creative nonfiction, short fiction, and poetry of current 2-year **community college students**. Submission Deadlines: March 15 for the spring issue and October 15 for the fall issue. Submission requirements: up to 5 pieces of artwork and photography sent as .JPEG files; creative nonfiction and fiction of up to 3,000 words; and up to 5 poems.



Go to kingsriverreview.com for full submission guidelines.

*W*R*J*T*E*

The Branches

A Journal of Literature and Philosophy

The Branches Fall 2025 Call for Submissions – THEME - VOICE

Deadline: September 13, 2025

The Branches is seeking submissions of previously unpublished written and visual work for our fall 2025 theme VOICE. We are especially interested in cultural criticism, personal essays, and book/movie discussions and also publish poetry, short fiction, art, and photography on the theme of VOICE. We recommend reading some of our previous issues (click issues on our website) to get a feel for what we publish. Give us your big ideas and small thoughts, the ways you're interacting with and understanding the world. We love Joan Didion, C. S. Lewis, Ada Limón, Susan Sontag, Flannery O'Connor, Patti Smith, and (hopefully) you! Off-theme submissions welcome. www.thebranchesjournal.com

Calls for Submissions

Page 19

Website: <https://baltimorereview.org>

Genres Published: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction

Charges Reading Fee: No

Accepts Unsolicited Submissions: Yes

Accepts Simultaneous Submissions: Yes

Baltimore Review



 Baltimore Review



Submission Guidelines: <https://baltimorereview.org/submit>

Reading Periods: Aug 8 to Nov 30

W*R*I*T*E

Colorado Review



Website: <https://coloradoreview.colostate.edu>

Genres Published: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Translation

Subgenres: [Autobiography/Memoir](#), [BIPOC Voices](#), [Creative Nonfiction](#), [Graphic/Illustrated](#), [Literary Fiction](#), [Lyric Essay](#), [Narrative Nonfiction](#)

Submission Guidelines are available here:

<https://coloradoreview.colostate.edu/colorado-review/#submission-guidelines>

Reading Period: Aug 1 to Mar 30

Response Time: 3 to 6 months

Charges Reading Fee: Yes

Accepts Unsolicited Submissions: Yes

Accepts Simultaneous Submissions: Yes

Colorado Review's only commitment is to the publication of serious poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. It does not publish genre fiction nor does it subscribe to a particular literary philosophy or school of poetry or fiction. Note that the editors read nonfiction year-round.

Tips From the Editor—Please be familiar with the journal before submitting. We feature examples of each genre from every issue on our website. Successful writers are prolific readers. The simple cover letter is the best cover letter. Poets are encouraged to submit groups of poems that work together.



Calls for Submissions

Speckled Trout Review: A Call For Submissions!

Deadline: August 20, 2025

Speckled Trout Review is an independent literary magazine publishing an online issue every summer and winter. In our short time, we have published former poet laureates, Pushcart Prize nominees, Best of the Net recipients, contributors whose work has landed in *Ploughshares*, *Prairie Schooner*, *POETRY*, *Tar River Poetry*, *ThreePenny Review*, and numerous anthologies. The submission window for Summer 2025 (6.1) is now open.

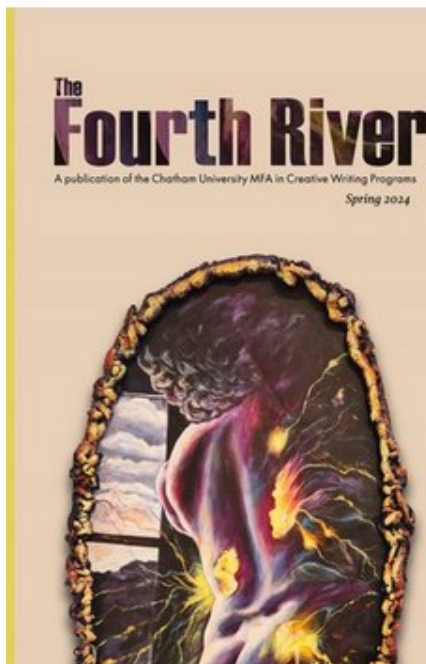


Please read specific submissions guidelines, which can be found at www.speckledtroutreview.com.

W*R*I*T*E

THE FOURTH RIVER

A Journal Of Nature And Place-Based Writing Published By The Chatham University MFA Program



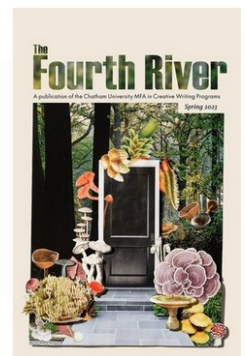
Website: <https://thefourthriver.com>

Genres Published: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction

Subgenres: [Nature/Environmental](#)

Submission Guidelines: <https://4thriver.submittable.com/submit>

Reading Periods: Jul 15 to Sep 15



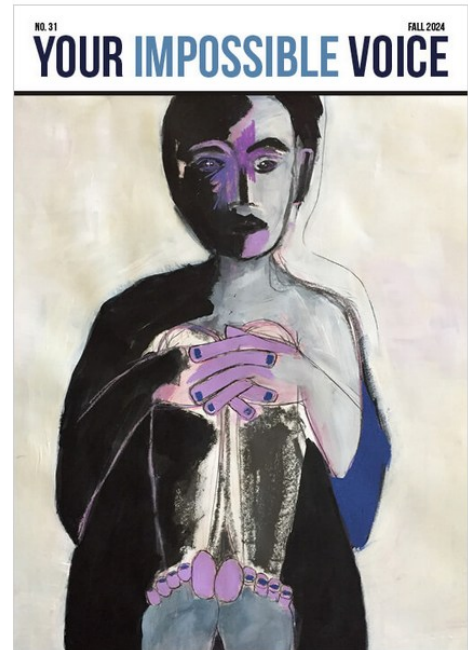
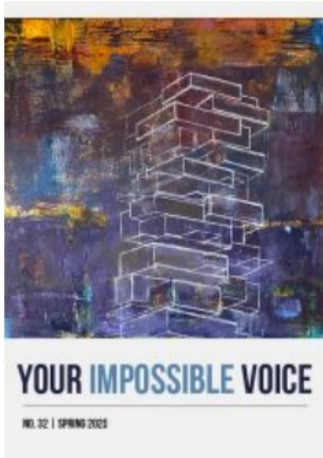
Issue 18, 2023



Issue 17, Salvage, 2022

Calls for Submissions

Your Impossible Voice



Website: <https://yourimpossiblevoice.com>

Genres Published: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Translation

Submission Guidelines: <https://yourimpossiblevoice.com/submit>

Reading Period: Jan 1 to Dec 31

Response Time: 3 to 6 months

Charges Reading Fee: No

Accepts Unsolicited Submissions: Yes

Accepts Simultaneous Submissions: Yes

From Issue 32 | Spring 2025

Your Impossible Voice #32 is fanning the flames of righteousness as we teeter toward a smoke-crazed horizon. We are tracing the minutia of generations through room-sized replicas and reenactments. We are drying laundry on a patchwork of metal sheets. We are back on campus, on the prowl, clawing at mattresses, chasing ghosts and radiance, plagued by absentia. Above all, we are secure in our knowledge that every fact reigns absolute, even its opposite.



Writer's Alliance of Gainesville

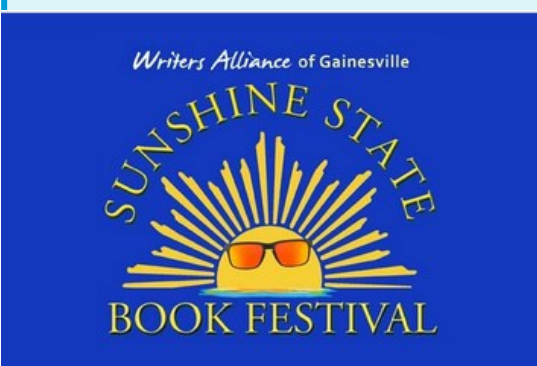
A not-for-profit Florida corporation

P.O. Box 358396

Gainesville/Florida/32635-8396

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer
Services: License #: CH66096.

The **Writers Alliance of Gainesville** (WAG) promotes, encourages, and supports aspiring and experienced writers. Most of our [programs](#) are free and open to the public. To learn more about WAG benefits writers, click on [How WAG Can Benefit You](#), and watch this [video](#). **Questions?** Send an email to Wendy Thornton at: ForInformation@writersalliance.org.



Registration is now open for our 7th annual [Sunshine State Book Festival](#). If you can help, email SunshineStateBookFestival@writersalliance.org.

Zoom planning meetings are held on Thursdays at 4 p.m.

<https://writersalliance.org/>

Resources & Opportunities

- **Love to read new books?** Sign up for WAG's [Beta Reader](#) program. You do not have to be a WAG member to be a beta reader.
- **Need readers** for your manuscript? Contact the [coordinator](#).
- [Hogtowne Quill](#) - Sign up to receive blog updates via email (below, right). Contribute articles to this blog; see [guidelines](#).
- [Marketing Coalition](#) - Established for WAG members to discuss and share successful marketing ideas and strategies for their books.
- [Speakers Bureau](#) - Need a speaker? Want to serve as a speaker? Contact the [coordinator](#).

WAG on Social Media

