

WAG MEETING—October 12, 2025

2:30 to 4:00 pm

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Mindfulness Techniques for Writers: A Workshop

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.

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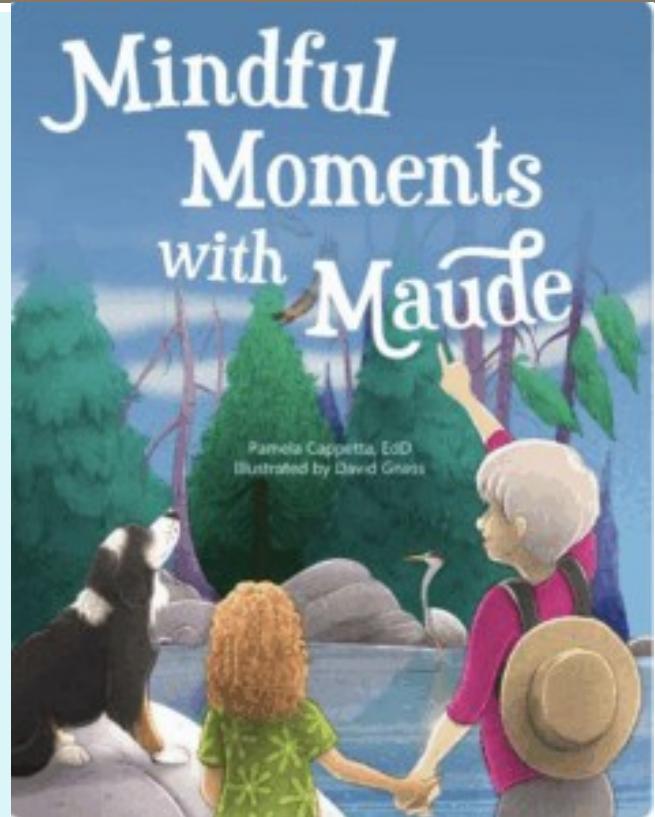


Mindfulness Techniques for Writers: A Workshop cont.

Key Takeaways for Participants:

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

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





WAG READINGS

November 9,

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Join us for readings, fellowship, and refreshments at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at the Millhopper Library.

Join us for readings, fellowship, and refreshments at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, 2025, at the Millhopper Library.

WAG members who wish to read should contact our [WAG Digest Editor Wendy Thornton](#). (floridawendy54@gmail.com). Please keep in mind that while WAG supports *all* writing, we're also a federal and state non-profit — and our events are open to the public. Therefore, Wendy will review your 5-7 minute reading in advance for approval along the criteria of suitability for all ages. Thanks, and we look forward to receiving your reading submissions!

Members: The piece you wish to read must be in Wendy's hands by October 15.

Since this event comes just before Thanksgiving, we are likely to hear some stories about Thanksgiving celebrations or expressions of gratitude.

In previous years, we held the *Bacopa* debut in November and readings in December, but this year these events are being switched. Both events are being held at the Millhopper Library.



2025 *Bacopa* Literary

Review Debut

WAG's program on

Sunday, December 14, 2025

will feature the readings from

2025 Bacopa Literary Review.

This reading will be held at the

Millhopper Library, 3145 NW 43
St, Gainesville, FL



WAG's program on Sunday, December 14, will feature the *2025 Bacopa Literary Review*.

Many of the prize-winning pieces (see below) will be read. WAG members with works published in this journal will also be invited to read. The *Bacopa* editorial board expects to have physical copies of the journal available (WAG members get a free copy!), and we will celebrate with refreshments.

Reserve this date on your calendar, and closer to the date, check here for more details about the program.

2025 Prize Winners

FICTION

Award: "Downpour" by Terry Sanville

Honorable Mention: "Knot" by Abhishek Sengupta

Best of WAG: "God and His Dog" by Bonnie T. Ogle

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Award: "Footsteps" by Joe Marshall

Honorable Mention: "Never Home in No Man's Land" by Jenn Yee

Best of WAG: "Mam Exam" by Charlotte M. Porter

FORMAL POETRY

Award: "Real Spanish" by C. J. Grandorff

Hon. Mention: "Ty-Phoo" by Dion O'Reilly

FREE VERSE POETRY

Award: "Blanca" by Ines Bellina

Honorable Mention: "Isabelline and Beige" by Toni Holland

Best of WAG: "At The Gallery & Everywhere, She Talks with Her Hands"

by Aliesa Zoecklein

VISUAL POETRY

Award: "The Ruckle" by S.D. Dillon

Honorable Mention: "My Mother's Music" by J. Nishida

Best of WAG: "My Mother's Music" by J. Nishida



Bacopas, 2010-2024

WAG BRAGS

Upcoming Market Meetings,

Free for WAG Members

October 20, 2025

Description:

Effective Social Media Strategies for Authors

Learn how to build your brand on social media platforms, create engaging content, and convert followers into readers.

Key Points:

- Choosing the right social media platforms for your audience.
- How to post consistently without burnout (content batching, scheduling tools).
- Engagement strategies: polls, questions, and direct interaction.
- Using visuals (graphics, book covers, behind-the-scenes) to attract followers.

Collaborating with other authors, bloggers, or influencers.

November 17, 2025

Preparing for Book Festivals as a Vendor

Description:

This session will guide you on how to prepare for a book festival, from setting up a booth to engaging festival-goers and making sales.

Key Points:

- What to include in your festival booth setup.
- Engaging with attendees: pitches, signing, and giveaways.
- Best practices for marketing before, during, and after the festival.
- How to network with other authors and publishers at events.

Tips for standing out in a crowded festival environment.

December 2025 – No meeting

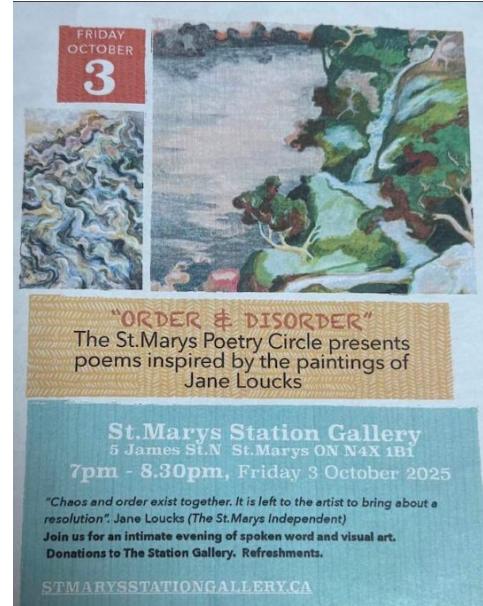
WAG BRAGS

Road Trip! :)

WAG member Alycin Hayes will be performing
her poetry at
St. Mary's Station Art Gallery in

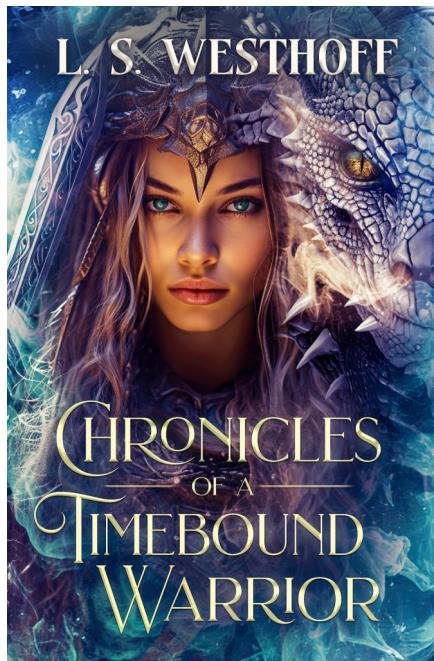
St Marys, Ontario, Canada at 7:00 pm on Friday October 3rd. We hope you have a great reading, Alycin!

*W*R*I*T*E



Check out the new podcast from Lynn Westcoff, on Host Jolene McFadden's website: **Jolene's Books and Writers Talk Year 4 Episode 21 Interview with Author Lynn Westhoff.** (Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ddk5X0CrZWc>).

Check out Lynn's book on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Chronicles-Timebound-Warrior-L-S-Westhoff-ebook/dp/B0DY5F584V/>)



Description:

Who knew riding your war horse on a beautiful day would unexpectedly thrust you into a medieval realm through a mysterious time portal?

Anwen, an elf paladin, awakens in an unfamiliar human world and meets Ashton, a paladin knight. Sparks fly, and challenges are accepted. Dominate warriors, dragons, and magic ignite their journey.

Confronted by forces greedy for wealth and power and willing to obliterate those who stand in their way, Anwen must harness her unique magical abilities, some of which are newly discovered. As she forges unlikely alliances, the enduring power of love and friendship strengthens her to stand against the encroaching darkness.

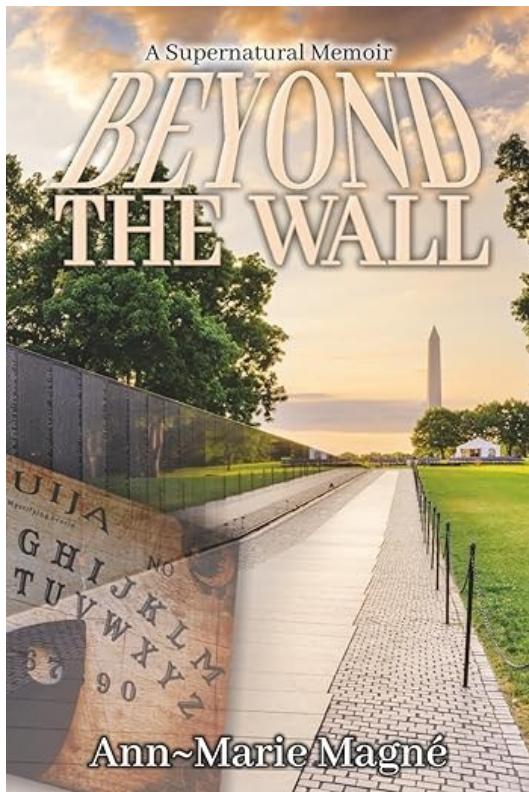
Embark on an epic journey alongside Anwen, where valor and righteousness collide against overwhelming malevolent odds.

<https://lynwesthoff.com/>

WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to WAG Member Ann~Marie Magné on the publication of her new book,
Beyond The Wall: A Supernatural Memoir

This fascinating book, available on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Wall-Supernatural-Ann-Marie-Magn%C3%A9/dp/B0FNNBCJJ5/>) is an exploration and “an invitation—to open your mind, awaken your intuition, and perhaps even reach out to your own guides and angels.”



As described on Amazon, the book is about four women who find themselves in an experience beyond their expectations:

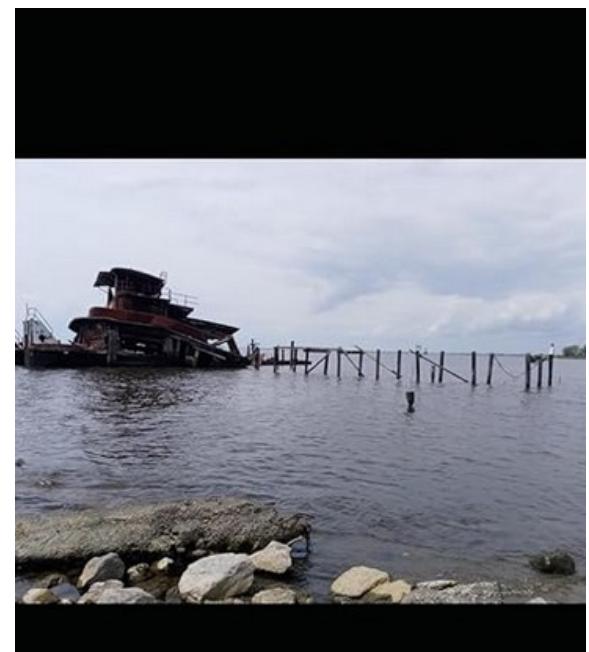
On July 13, 1998, four women unfolded an Ouija board and unfolded an incredible experience. They were curious, skeptical, and completely unprepared for what awaited them. What began as a casual experiment with a Ouija board swiftly turned into an extraordinary journey that would reveal secrets about life, death, and the unseen forces that surround us. In *Beyond The Wall—A Supernatural Memoir*, the veil between worlds is lifted and these friends make contact with energies and entities from beyond—spirits and guides with stories, warnings, wisdom, and truths. The past life regressions of each of them sealed their belief in multiple lives. With meticulous documentation and honesty, this memoir presents their experiences exactly as they happened—unfiltered and authentic.

W*R*I*T*E*

And from WAG Member Michael Urban:

“I am still in disbelief, but my latest work, *They Did Not Go Into the Light: A Travelers' Guide to Haunted Lighthouses*, has been requested to be in the 3rd Annual Ximenez-Fatio Book Festival in Saint Augustine, Florida, on September 20, 2025. Its a fun book that will go great at Halloween parties this year for ghost stories. Please share and check out my books on Amazon.” Congratulations, Michael. Check out his book here:

https://www.amazon.com/They-Did-Not-Into-Light/dp/B0D7TND3K6/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?



WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to WAG member and Sunshine State Book Festival Coordinator Pat Caren who writes:

I have some bragging: my unpublished novel *The Tale of Moses and Rila* and my short story "The Drawer" are **both** finalists in the Royal Palm Literary Awards! Cross your fingers for me. I will learn their fate on October 18th.

Here's a brief description of both works:

In *The Tale of Moses and Rila*, Moses is an enslaved man with paranormal abilities that usually get him out of danger. He escapes to freedom in Canada, only to be kidnapped by an alien race that uses psychic humans for interstellar communication. Moses resents being enslaved again and never gives up on regaining freedom. He falls in love with Rila, another captive with paranormal abilities. They combine their talents to escape to an unpopulated planet where they establish a safe haven for their family and friends.

In "The Drawer," Gerald is a lonely old man with little to look forward to. After he steals an old dresser from outside a second-hand store, he is drawn into a Twilight Zone of impossible happenings. Is he delusional? A victim of the supernatural? Both?

Let us know the results, Pat! Great work!

W*R*I*T*E*

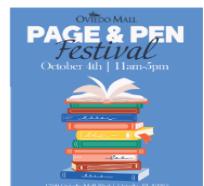
Award winning author and Sunshine State Book Festival coordinator Richard Gartee has a busy month coming up.

He sent us information about the following book fairs and a new audio book available.

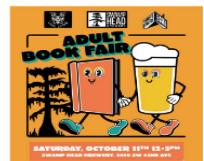
What's up and upcoming

On the immediate horizon, I will be in two upcoming book fairs:

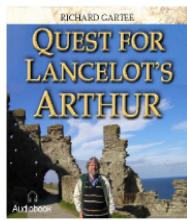
October 4th from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, I'll be at the Page & Pen Book Festival in the [Oviedo Mall](#) (1700 Oviedo Mall Boulevard, Oviedo, FL)



October 11th from noon to 5:00 PM, I'll be at the [Swamp Head Brewery](#)'s first-ever Book Fair (3650 SW 42nd Ave, Gainesville, FL)



Quest for Arthur Audio



My latest nonfiction book, *Quest for Lancelot's Arthur*, is now available as an audio book, ebook, or paperback. Since one of the main features of the book is the 90 color photographs from my trip, if you're buying the audio book, consider getting the ebook as well.

That way you can listen to the audio and see the photos which accompany it. You can get both the [audio](#) and [ebook](#) editions from Google Play Store for less than the cost of the paperback.

WAG BRAGS

ARTSPEAKS GNV
E Stanley Richardson · 1h · 

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 2025

13th Annual ARTSPEAKS: Bringing Poetry & People Together
#ARTSPEAKSgnv



1 like You and 1 other

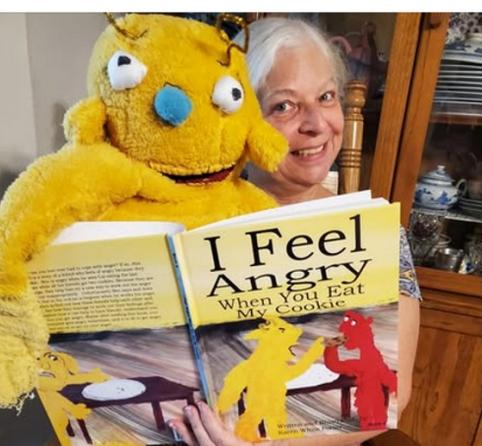
 Love  Comment  Send  Share

Thank you to our talented Gainesville Poet Laureate, E. Stanley Richardson, for another amazing evening of ArtSpeaks: Bringing Poetry & People Together on Sunday, Sept. 7th. And thank you to all the fabulous Gainesville poets and WAG members who came out for the event. We are pleased to say that Stanley's position as Poet Laureate has been extended for another year! Well deserved!

W*R*I*T*E*

 Karen White Porter Author
10h · 

Thank you Ben and friends for making this possible! I got nominated as Royal Palm Literary Award finalist for my book 'I Feel Angry When You Eat My Cookie.'



Congratulations to Karen White Porter for her nomination as a Finalist for the 2025 Royal Palm Literary Award Competition. These competitions are very competitive. Great work, Karen!

Her book is available here:
<https://www.amazon.com/Feel-Angry-When-You-Cookie/dp/1946785555/>

WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to WAG Member Richard Walczak on publication of his new book, Masterson Academy. As Richard describes his series:

"The book series is a modern age written with heavy sword and sorcery elements. The days where magic is fading and Mana has taken over as the mainstream use where schools have been constructed across the world with Masterson Academy being a fan favorite. We join the adventures of Viktor, Aiden, Bryan and Selene as they take to the halls of the school only to learn of a dire threat lingering in the shadows."

W*R*I*T*E*



WAG Member Julie Robitaille sent us this information:

JW Robitaille is proud to announce the publication of two new novels, *Family Ties*, the seventh novel in the Cory Marin Mystery series, and *You Think You Know*, a stand-alone psychological suspense novel.

She is also pleased to announce that all her novels are now available as audiobooks. The Cory Marin series, which features a strong female detective with a diverse group of friends and a complicated love life, includes:

[Romancing the Crime](#)

[Marshland](#)

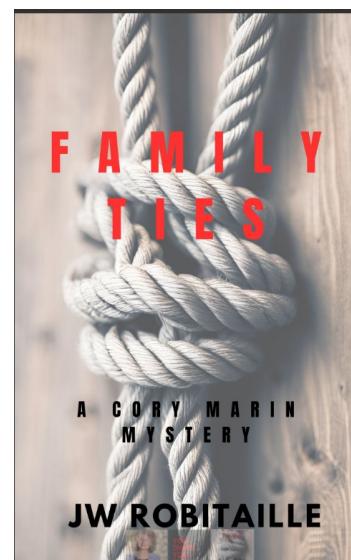
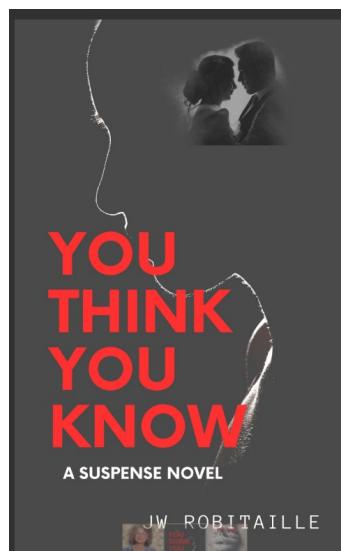
[Second Self](#)

[Consequences](#)

[Spring of Fire.](#)

[Above the Law,](#)

[Family Ties](#)



Descriptions and links to all her novels are available on her website [jwrobitaille.com](#)



**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

3000 NW 83rd St., Gainesville, Florida

Come and enjoy a day of book browsing. Meet 100 local and regional authors (<https://sunshinestatebookfestival.com/meet-the-authors/>)

Outstanding authors from around Florida and the nation, in many genres, will gather at the Santa Fe College Fine Arts Hall on January 24, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to sell books and talk about their work.

Festivities include guest speakers, giveaways, storytelling, and a play.

Find festival event details here (<https://sunshinestatebookfestival.com/event-details/>)

Make sure to bring the kids for story time—from 12 to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

PLAYWRITING BOOTCAMP

Idea to Script

**HOSTED BY PLAYWRIGHT
K.E. MULLINS**



**Thursday, October 23, 2025
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**ROSA B WILLIAMS CENTER
(BLUE BUILDING)**
524 Northwest 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
AMPLE PARKING ACROSS THE STREET

FEE \$20

Registration [LINK](#)
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1735140384599?aff=oddtdtr_creatorRegistration

Deadline: October 21, 2025
REGISTER EARLY – LIMITED SEATING

Fellow WAG
Members – this is
your chance to:

- broaden your writing range
- genre resume
- learn how to turn ideas into powerful play scripts

Kim “K.E.” Mullins
Past WAG President
Author of thrillers, adventures, and poetry
Playwright and producer of *Napkins* – semi-finalist in the 5th Annual Hippodrome Theatre New Works Festival 2025

**You have ideas. Let's turn them into scripts.
Don't miss this chance to level up your playwriting craft!**

WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to Rob Rogers who has had a busy month. We missed his Sept. 27th meeting at this web site, but look forward to reading his essay here: <https://www.redrosethorns.com/thornandbloom>

He writes:

Rob Rogers will be presenting his essay titled "Cognitive Distortion" at an online [Live Author Reading event on Saturday, September 27th at 2 pm \(PST\)](#) hosted by *Thorn & Bloom* magazine. Rob's essay will also be published in the next issue of *Thorn & Bloom*, set for publication on September 30th. "Cognitive Distortion" explores Rob's struggles to overcome self-doubt and warped perceptions

Another essay of Rob's, titled "Mardi Gras '95," has also won First Place for Nonfiction in the [SLO \(San Luis Obispo\) Night Writers Golden Quill Writing Contest](#). "Mardi Gras '95" will also be published in the next issue of *The NightWriter Review*, scheduled for publication in January 2026.

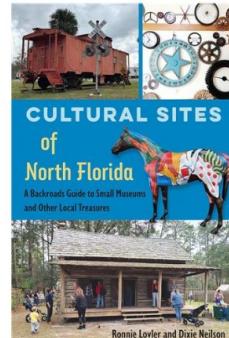
W*R*I*T*E*

Writer Ronnie Lovler has had a busy month as well. She sends us this information:

Mainstreet Daily News correspondent Ronnie Lovler won a bronze award from the Florida Press Association in August for her Outdoor & Recreation story on the Florida Agricultural Museum in Palm Coast. It is one of the many "Florida Finds" stories that Ronnie has written for Mainstreet.

And she has a new book coming out soon:

Cultural Sites of North Florida is your guide to 43 intriguing, little-known destinations in the northern part of the Florida panhandle, from Crystal River to Jacksonville. In this book, local experts Ronnie Lovler and Dixie Neilson highlight places that can be reached by a short trip away from the highways and down meandering backroads, inviting you to discover forgotten history, immerse yourself in the stories of diverse communities, and learn what makes this area of the state unique.



**Cultural Sites of North Florida
A Backroads Guide to Small Museums and Other Local Treasures**

Ronnie Lovler and Dixie Neilson

Original Price: \$19.95
Discount Price: \$15.00
Use Code 31AU825

Congratulations, Ronnie.

The book is available here:

<https://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813081199>



3 Publicity Mistakes Debut Authors Make (and How to Avoid Them)



September 11, 2025

By Shanetta McDonald

Today's post is by Shanetta McDonald, founder of [The Giselle Agency](#).

"After this press event, I'm pretty much done." The words reverberated throughout my body, causing my eyes to bulge and my breath to slow. Why? Because the statement came from a debut author at their launch event, in response to me asking about her remaining plans and activities to promote her book.

I didn't know the author well, but I knew enough to understand that her minimal publicity plans as a new author were a big mistake. But I don't blame her. Publicity is a mystery to most people, but especially debut authors whose main job has been writing a 60,000+ word manuscript.

Publicity matters because it supports sales, builds credibility and creates visibility. While publicity is *not* sales, it does get your book visible where your ideal customer is reading, watching and listening.

As a publicist for more than 16 years, first for Fortune 500 companies and now for women, BIPOC and queer authors, I know that some authors totally get the value, some need guidance, and some misunderstand publicity entirely.

Most debut authors fall somewhere in the middle. They think they need it, but have no clue how it works.

It's like the old saying, "If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" As an author, you can have the most beautifully crafted, strong story, but if no one knows your book exists, then how can your gifts be seen?

Both traditional media (magazines, blogs and podcasts) as well as non-traditional media (Booktok and Substack spaces) are incredibly useful avenues to plug your new book. And unfortunately, I see too many authors failing to tap into some key areas of publicity that they should be ramping up on.

Here are three mistakes I see debut authors making, and how you can avoid them.

Mistake #1: Relying too much on your publisher

Publishers have some great in-house teams, but I tell every author I work with: you are not the only author your publisher is doing publicity for. In fact, depending on the size of your imprint, you could be one of dozens of authors launching a project in the same window. Because they can be stretched thin, they're often only focused on the book versus you as the author, the brand *and* the thought leader.

So, what can you do? If you have the budget, hire an outside public relations agency (or freelance publicist, which is likely to be more cost effective). They'll build custom strategies designed around your unique story, focus on you as an author and thought leader in your niche, and they'll pitch you beyond launch week to keep your name in conversations long after release day. And if you don't have the budget (an extra \$2,000 to \$3,000 per month on the low end), don't panic. There are lots of publicity levers you tap into on your own, which brings me to my next point.

Mistake #2: Overlooking local media opportunities

Most authors get hung up on landing big national media placements. I mean, who wouldn't want to be featured on the TODAY Show's #ReadWithJenna list? While that may be a high-profile media hit, it's also really competitive.

According to PR Daily, journalists only open 45% of pitch emails they receive, and that number drops drastically when you're pitching national websites, book clubs, blogs and morning news shows.

You know who is waiting to hear from you? Your local TV station and community newspaper. Get familiar with the ABC, NBC, and other affiliates in your town or region, or your XYZ-Times newspaper. Draft a simple introductory pitch and email them. They prioritize local news from local residents. It's literally their job. Unlike national news outlets, local media are waiting for your pitch, your news and insight on how it's in service to the community. A quick Google search or look at their website will give you the best person to contact. You have a better chance at getting their attention than an outlet where thousands of people are vying for the same mention. Local media helps you get bigger media. In fact, one client I had was turned down by national broadcast because she didn't have any local media market live recordings.

Mistake #3: Stopping publicity too soon

The marketing rule of 7 is a principle that states a potential customer must see a message at least 7 times before they'll be provoked to take an action or, in this case, make a purchase. Book sales are no different. Promoting beyond launch week is vital and many debut authors who are new to the industry may not know this.

Instead of stopping at launch week, make a list of all the outlets you'd still like to be featured in and go after them, at least for the first 90 days, then periodically. I wish the author I mentioned earlier would've known that her audience, or new audiences, needed to be repeatedly exposed to her book before considering a purchase. I just signed a debut author to support them six months pre-launch and six months post-launch because of this. In my mind, ending press outreach and events the week a book launches leaves book sales on the table. Sustain your momentum for as long as you can. It's impossible to execute book publicity perfectly the first time around. But there's a lot you can do to give your project the best shot at visibility. Focus on what you can control, stay consistent, and your book will continue reaching new readers long after launch.



Shanetta McDonald is the founder of The Giselle Agency, a boutique PR agency dedicated to supporting women, BIPOC, and queer authors with intentional, story- and mission-driven book launches. In addition to her communications work, Shanetta is a writer and future memoirist. Her writing has been featured in Allure, Refinery29, HuffPost, Essence, and Well+Good, where she explores themes of identity, healing, body image, and belonging. She is also a mother and a passionate advocate for young girls, serving on the Advisory Board of Shero's Rise, a nonprofit that empowers girls from underserved communities to become agents of change.

Upcoming Writers Conferences

Register Now for the Atlanta Writers Conference: October 24-25, 2025

Our 33rd conference offers an in-person experience for all activities—critiques and pitches, coaching, a workshop, Q&A panels, free talks, an award ceremony, a book fair & more—and a virtual option for agent/editor/coach meetings

18 literary agents and publishing company acquisitions editors (including one agent seeking movie and TV scripts) doing manuscript sample critiques (you can pick three), pitches (you can pick three), and query letter critiques (you can do two of these meetings).

Six pre-conference editors covering short story collections, poetry collections, and picture books, along with all major fiction and nonfiction genres. You can now register for two pre-conference edits.

A workshop on the legal issues for writers taught by international bestselling author Sherrilyn Kenyon.

A discount on the book fair vendor price. And more...

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



Upcoming Writers Conferences



The Conference

January 17 – 24, 2026

Located on the beautiful waterfront campus of Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, this writers' conference features professional writers at the top of their form spending quality time with motivated and talented participants seeking an intimate, unhurried climate for learning...in paradise.

Full week, \$950, 12 participants max per workshop

3-Day Workshops, \$495, 6 participants max per workshop

Manuscript Consultation with Sterling Watson (\$450)

NEW FOR 2026

New York Times' #1 best-selling author, Michael Connelly, will join our 2026 lineup as Keynote Speaker

Writers in Paradise welcomes back two award-winning alumni, Nancy Johnson and Jemimah Wei, to welcome the 2026 cohort

Didi Jackson & Major Jackson will co-lead a weeklong Poetry workshop (see above for description)

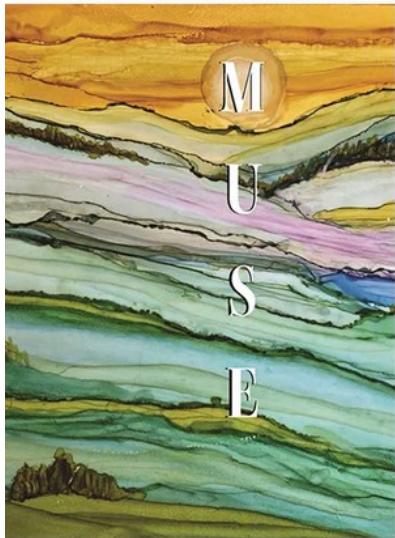
Joining our publishing panel, VP & Editor at W.W. Norton, Jill Bialosky will bring her unique eye and poetic expertise

Kimberly Witherspoon and Richard Pine from Inkwell Management Literary Agency will both talk industry, interest, and how to pitch

For more information, go here: <https://www.writersinparadise.com/>

Contests

RCC MUSE Now Accepting Submissions & Spangler Poetry Award Entries



Deadline: January 31, 2026

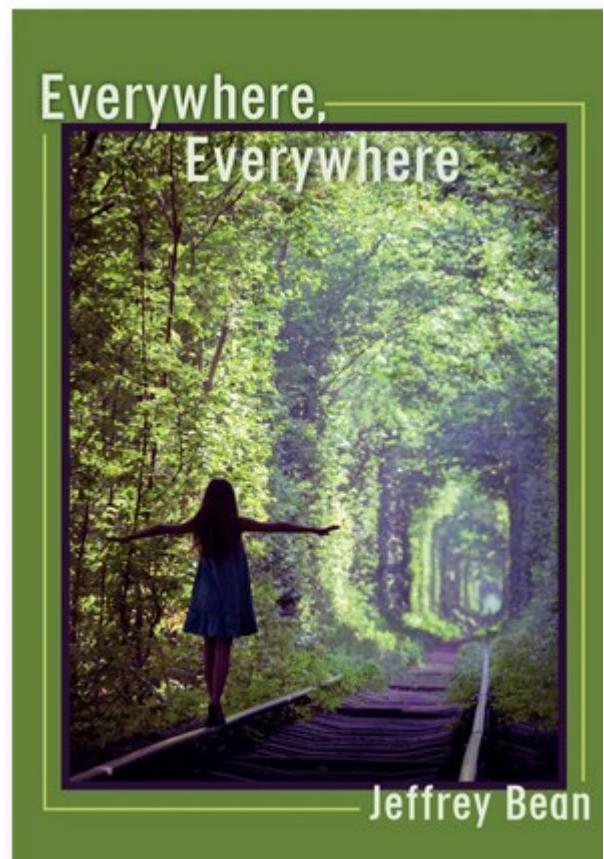
RCC MUSE is now accepting general submissions for the Spring 2026 edition and poetry submissions for the Spangler Award. For the Spangler Award—Submit up to 3 poems about a child or childhood for a chance to win \$200 and publication in the Spring 2026 edition of RCC MUSE. A \$5 entry fee is required (payable by check to “RCC MUSE” or via Venmo @RCCMUSE). Email your submission as an attachment to muse@rcc.edu with the subject line: “LastName—Spangler Award—Title.” General submissions are also open through January 31, 2026. You may submit 1 prose piece (1,500 words max) or up to 3 poems. Use the subject line format: “LastName—Genre—Title” and include your contact info and a short bio. Full guidelines at www.rcc.edu/muse.

*W*R*I*T*E*

Vern Rutsala Book Contest \$1000 Prize

Deadline: October 31, 2025

A prize of \$1,000 is awarded, plus publication of the manuscript and 50 free books to the winner of the 2026 Vern Rutsala Book Contest. Submit 70 to 90 pages of poetry and/or flash fiction, including a Table of Contents and Acknowledgments page. Reading fee is \$25. Electronic and postal submissions are accepted from around the world with no citizenship limitations. The first 50 writers submitting to contest receive a Cloudbank book or journal. *Everywhere, Everywhere* by Jeffrey Bean was the winner of the 2025 Contest. For complete guidelines go to Rutsala Book Prize on cloudbankbooks.com.



Contests

2026 National Indie Excellence© Awards

Deadline: March 31, 2026

The 2026 National Indie Excellence© Awards (NIEA) are open to all English language printed books currently for sale including self-published authors, small to midsize independent publishers, and university presses. Now in our twentieth year, NIEA is a proud champion of self and independent publishing and authors of all genres who produce books of excellence and distinction. Eligible books must have been published within the two calendar years prior to our deadline. Please visit our website for more information about our prizes, awards, and how to submit:

www.indieexcellence.com.



THE NATIONAL INDIE EXCELLENCE AWARDS©

Perks Include:

- National Recognition
- Certificates for Winners and Finalists
- Medals for Winners and Finalists
- Book Stickers for Winners and Finalists
- Listing in the Speakers Bureau
- Potential Financial Prizes or Sponsorship

OPEN FOR ENTRY

Available categories here:

<https://www.indieexcellence.com/categories>

W*R*I*T*E



2026 Press 53 Award for Short Fiction

Deadline: December 31, 2025

Awarded to an outstanding, unpublished collection of stories. Reading Fee: \$30. Award: publication, \$1,000 advance, 53 copies. If runner-up is named, publication, \$500 advance, 25 copies. Submit online via Submittable until December 31. Press 53 publisher Kevin Morgan Watson will serve as judge. Winner and finalists announced by May 3, 2026. Publication in May 2027. Details at www.Press53.com/award-for-short-fiction.

Calls for Submission

**A LITERARY
MAGAZINE
DEDICATED TO
THE SPIRIT OF
THE
ADIRONDACKS**

CURRENT ISSUE AND NEWS SUBMISSIONS OUR HISTORY INTERNSHIPS CONTACT

Blueline Magazine

Blueline Magazine Seeks Quality Nature Writing

Deadline: November 30, 2025

BLUELINE: A Literary Magazine Dedicated to the Spirit of the Adirondacks seeks poems, stories, and essays about the Adirondacks and regions similar in geography and spirit, focusing on nature's shaping influence. Submissions window July 1 to November 30. Decisions mid-February. Payment in copies. Simultaneous submissions accepted if identified as such. Please notify if your submission is placed elsewhere. Electronic submissions encouraged, as Word files, via email. Please identify the genre in the subject line. Further information at bluelineadkmagazine.org.

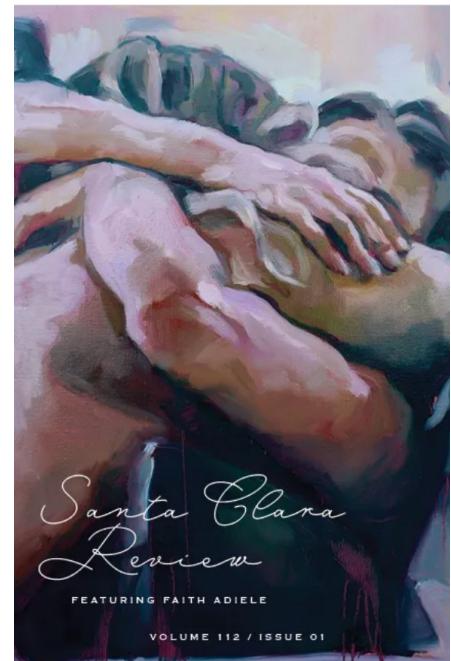
W*R*I*T*E

The Santa Clara Review: The California Edition

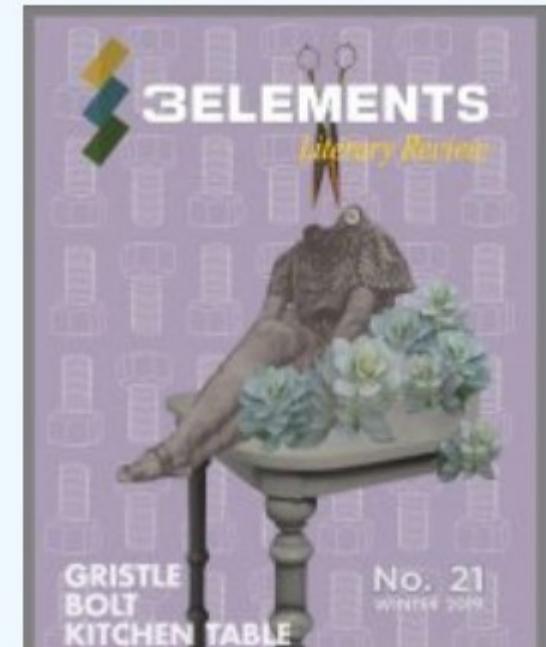
Deadline: October 15, 2025

The *Santa Clara Review* is thrilled to announce that Volume 113.1 will feature writing and art focused on California. As one of the oldest literary magazines in California, we invite you to consider the vast geographic, cultural, political, and technological landscapes of the world's fourth largest economic region. From Hollywood to the Mojave, from the redwoods to Silicon Valley, migrant workers to tech bros, California offers dreams and illusions for everyone. We prompt you with this: What are your perceptions, your dreams, your experiences of California? All works about The Golden State—past, present, and future—will be considered. **Submissions open for our Winter 2026 issue via**

Submittable on September 1st. santaclarareview.com



Calls for Submission



3 Elements Literary Review

Reading Period: Jan 1 to Dec 31

Genre: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction

3 Elements Literary Review is a quarterly, online literary journal founded in Chicago in 2013, now based in Des Moines, Iowa. It publishes fiction, nonfiction, poetry, art, and photography.

Genre: Poetry, Fiction, Creative Nonfiction

*W*R*I*T*E*

<https://www.bicoastalreview.com>

Bicoastal Review is a quarterly journal of poetry, nonfiction, interviews, reviews, and art that sparks cross-genre conversations. We welcome submissions from around the world. We have a special interest in literature, art, politics, ecology, love, the body, feminism, queer identity, and social issues. Purchase a copy of Issue 10 in print, and submit to our ekphrastic poetry contest, annual single-poem contest, or nonfiction contest: bicoastalreview.submittable.com/submit.

Tips from the editor:

Please read our past issues and submissions guidelines. Send us work that fits our themes and/or is seasonal. We especially welcome ekphrastic work that speaks to poems we have already published. No AI-generated writing/images.





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.

<https://writersalliance.org/>

How to Take a Great Author Photo



Do not make direct eye contact.



Act like you've got better things to do.



Go viral. Include cats.



Represent your co-author well.



Exercise your laser beam eyes.



Excite readers with an action shot!



Camera shy? Go with a personal caricature.



Place your index finger in your ear.



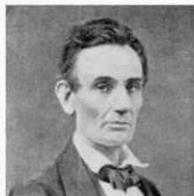
Demonstrate how a book works.



Keep things clean with a look of innocence.



If you're worth it, flaunt it!



Remember: You need their votes this year.

Author Tatiana de Rosnay

WAG on Social Media

