

WAG Digest

Volume 17—Issue 1

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Ins & Outs of Getting Your Book in Audio

February 8, 2026

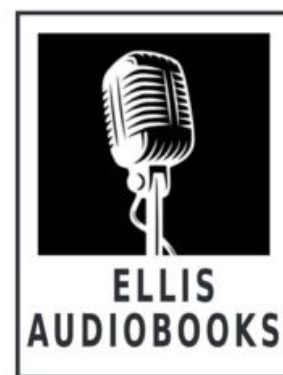
2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

A dynamic presentation by Scott Ellis of [Ellis-Audiobooks](#).

Ellis will address the ins and outs of audiobook production—everything from understanding the different platforms and payment lingo to the narrator/author responsibilities and expectations. He will provide details to help authors think through all options of putting their stories in audio.

Ellis is a two-time Audiobook of the Year award-winning narrator with over 100 audiobooks recorded and 250 audiobooks produced. He holds degrees in theatre and education. He spent nearly 30 years teaching middle school literature and serving as an elementary school librarian—perfect training for character voices, managing chaos and surviving on caffeine and patience. This classroom experience honed his storytelling skills, pacing, and sense of dramatic timing.

Scott owns Ellis-Audiobooks with his wife, Josie. They live in Western Massachusetts, and when not behind the mic and managing the business, they enjoy all things outdoors, especially escaping to Sanibel Island during the winter months.



NARRATION & PRODUCTION



Co-Narrator and Producer of *Skull's Vengeance* – 2024 Audiobook of the Year for Fantasy



Producer of *Magda, Standing* – IBPA 2024 Gold Medal Winner Young Adult Fiction Audiobook of the Year



Narrator of *Puck and Minnie: All That Is* – 2021 Young Adult Fiction Audiobook of the Year

Passion Dey Couldn't Steal **by** **Pamela Marshall-Koons**

March 8, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

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

Join us for Pamela Marshall-Koons' *Passion Dey Couldn't Steal*, a powerful one-woman theatrical work inspired by the life, voice, and legacy of author Zora Neale Hurston. The Writers Alliance is grateful to Pamela Marshall-Koons for her willingness to perform again on March 8, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., at the Millhopper Branch of the Alachua County Library.

Through story, movement, music, and embodied narration, the play explores Zora Neale Hurston's unwavering devotion to truth, creativity, and self-

definition in the face of racism, sexism, and erasure.

This intimate performance invites audiences into Zora's world—from Eatonville to Harlem—while reflecting on the enduring power of voice, cultural memory, and spiritual resilience. It is both a tribute and a testimony, reminding us that passion, once claimed, cannot be taken.

Pamela Marshall-Koons is a writer, performer, and cultural storyteller whose work centers healing, forgiveness, and remembrance. Her artistic practice blends history, spirituality, and lived experience, bringing forward voices that have shaped American culture while inviting audiences into reflection and restoration.

Through literature, theater, and community engagement, she creates spaces where truth can be spoken, stories can be reclaimed, and the human spirit can be honored with grace and courage.

She is the creator of this acclaimed one-woman performance and the author of *When Zora Spoke – I Remembered My Name*. She wrote the book while writing the play.



Join us for April National Poetry Month:

Poetry Play: The Journey of Finding Surprise, by Aliesa Zoecklein

April 12, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm



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

Come join us on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. when Aliesa Zoecklein will talk about poetry.

Zoecklein's poems have been published in *New Feathers Anthology*, *Bacopa Literary Review*, *Thimble Literary Magazine*, *River Heron Review*, and other journals. Her chapbook *At Each Moment, Air* won the Peter Meinke Poetry Prize and was published by YellowJacket Press.

"The thrill of writing poems is in the discovery," Zoecklein says, "so I love to talk about how we can journey ourselves toward that surprise.

I'll share some practices I use when first searching for my poems and then drafting."

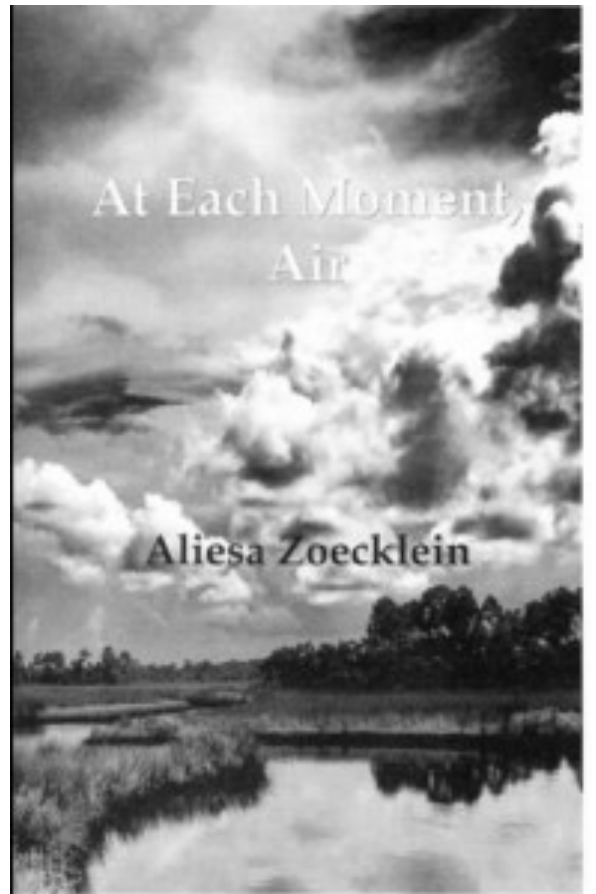
She will offer ideas about how to keep our initial attempts playful and wide-ranging. And how, if we're lucky, these practices can dispel resistance or boredom. She'll also discuss how shaping the poem—deciding on line breaks, for example—can help open the poem in a generative way.

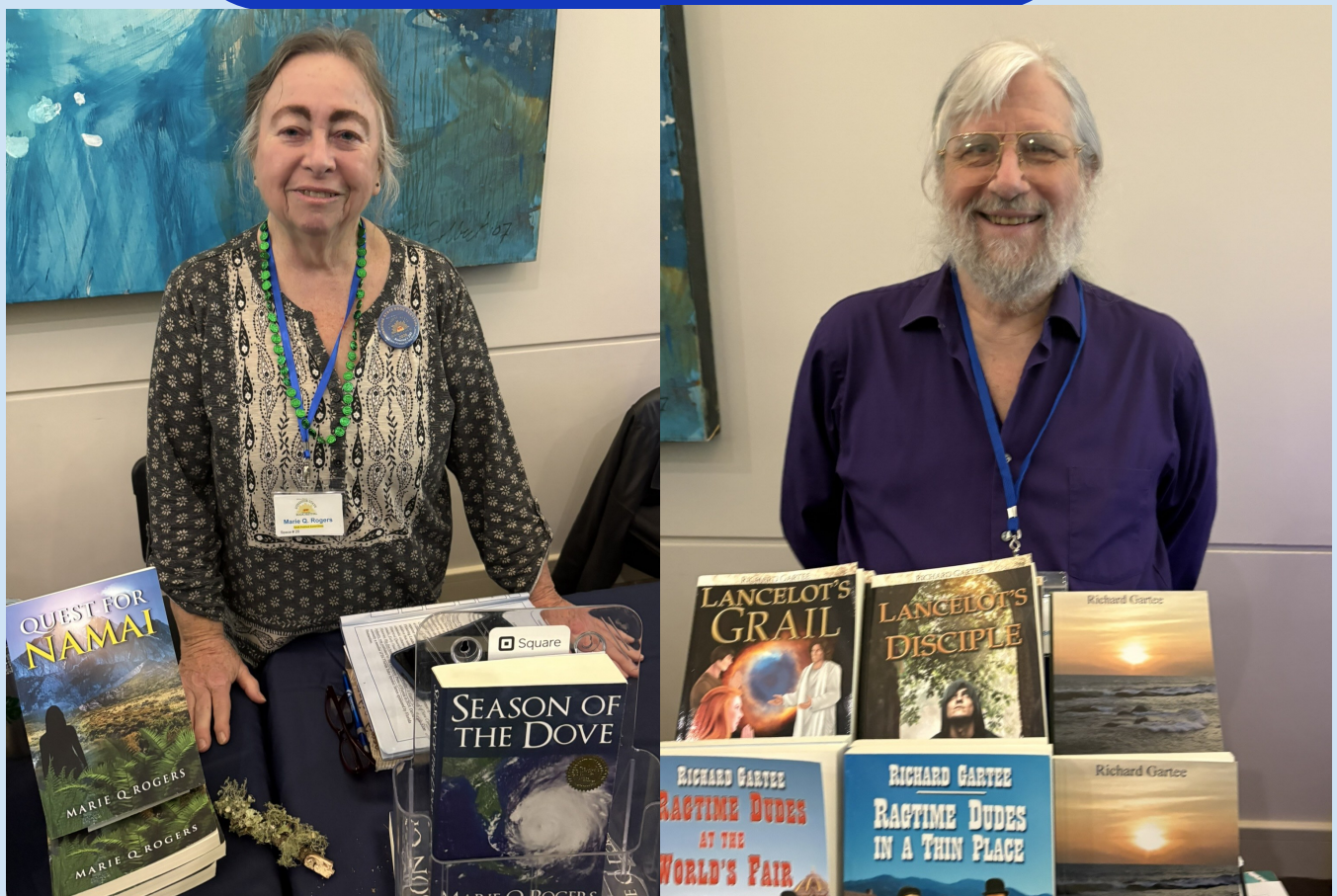
"I am always learning anew how to trust language to lift me toward what I don't already know. I look forward to exchanging ideas and taking the group through one or two fun exercises.

Zoecklein taught writing for twenty-five years at Santa Fe College. Happily retired, she lives with her wife in Gainesville, Florida, where she writes, gardens, and studies Spanish.



This program is free and open to the public.





Thank you to all the people who helped make the 2026 Sunshine State Book Festival such a great event. We particularly wish to acknowledge the hard work of Pat Caren and Richard Garte. Authors came from all over the southeast to attend. The Friday night reception was well-attended and the performers were amazing. The Teen Lit Contest, coordinated by Jennie Dearing, was a rousing success; the Saturday speakers were excellent; and the volunteers went above and beyond. We are very grateful to all those who participated and to all those who worked so hard to make this event so popular. See you next year!

WAG BRAGS

On January 24, ***Come Back Maya!*** swam into the world! This beautifully illustrated children's picture book is a creative collaboration between WAG members [Alycin Hayes](#) (author) and [Jenny Dearing](#) (illustrator). Over the past year both Alycin and Jenny received feedback and encouragement from their WAG POD members as the book evolved.

Inspired by real-life adventures in the wild, Alycin followed spawning salmon for miles along British Columbia's Adams River and studied wild beavers around their ponds and dams in Ontario, Canada. Through her research she discovered that beavers and salmon have shared a mutually beneficial relationship for millions of years. Beaver dams create safe nursery ponds for young salmon, and returning spawning salmon bring nutrients that sustain the forest ecosystem they both depend on.



This remarkable connection sparked her story of Bea the beaver and Maya the salmon whose adventures introduce young readers to the wonders of nature and animal life cycles. Alycin's hope is that her story will inspire children to fall in love with beavers and wild salmon, so they will grow up wanting to protect them in their natural habitats.

Come Back Maya! Is now available on [Amazon](#) and Alycin's website [AlycinHayes.com](#)
<https://www.amazon.com/Come-Back-Maya-Alycin-Hayes/dp/0973032065/>

*W*R*I*T*E*

Congratulations to WAG Member Felicia Lee who wrote:

"So this happened--my short story "Chichilo" made it onto the preliminary ballot for the Horror Writers Association's Bram Stoker Awards! Excited and honored to be there--keep your fingers crossed for me!"

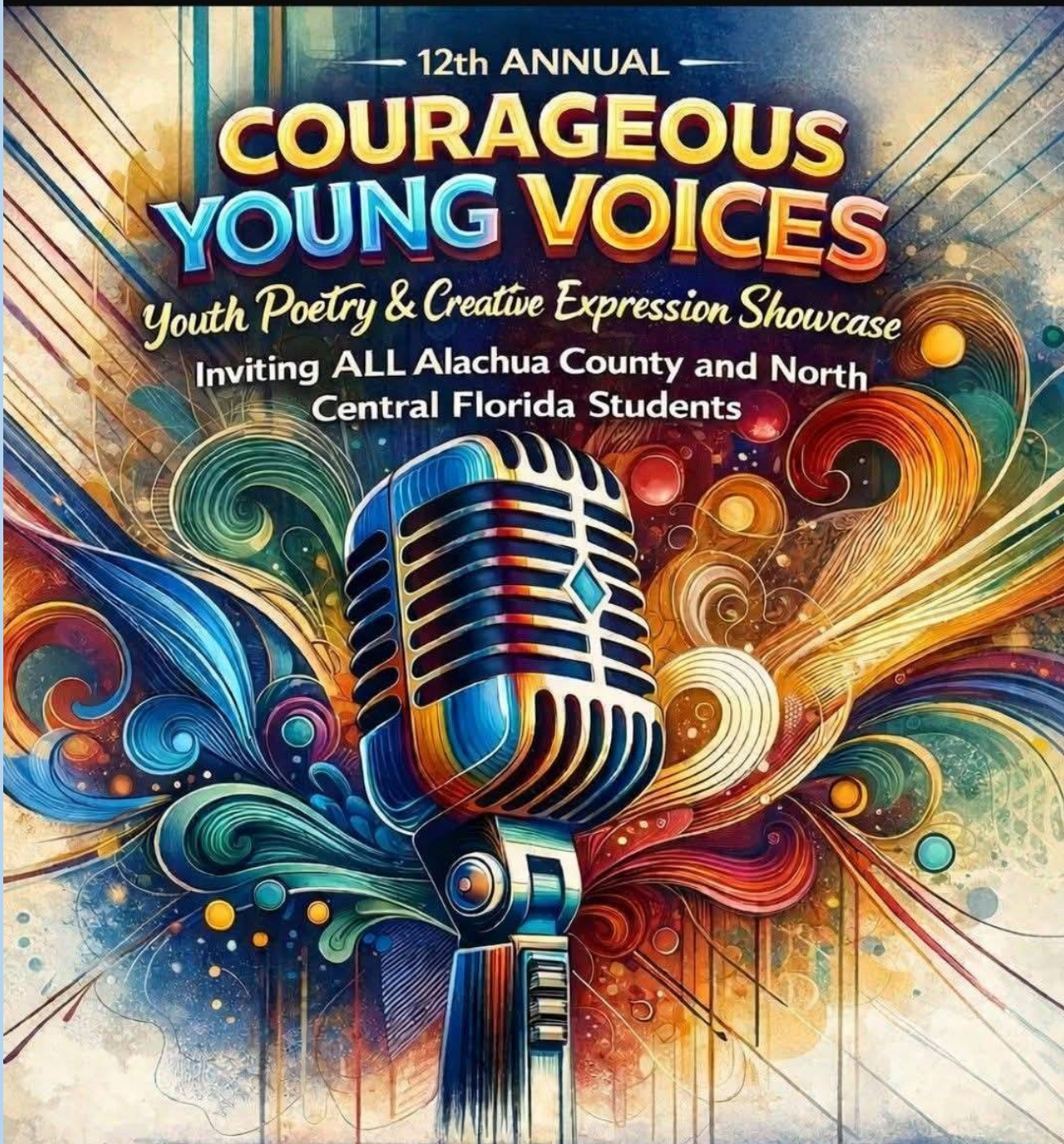
(Superior Achievement in Short Fiction)



We're wishing you a win, Felicia! Congratulations!



WAG BRAGS



— 12th ANNUAL —

COURAGEOUS YOUNG VOICES

Youth Poetry & Creative Expression Showcase

Inviting ALL Alachua County and North
Central Florida Students

4:00pm | Sunday, March 8th
The Historic Thomas Center
302 NE 6th Ave. Gainesville, FL.

This Event is Free and Open to the Public

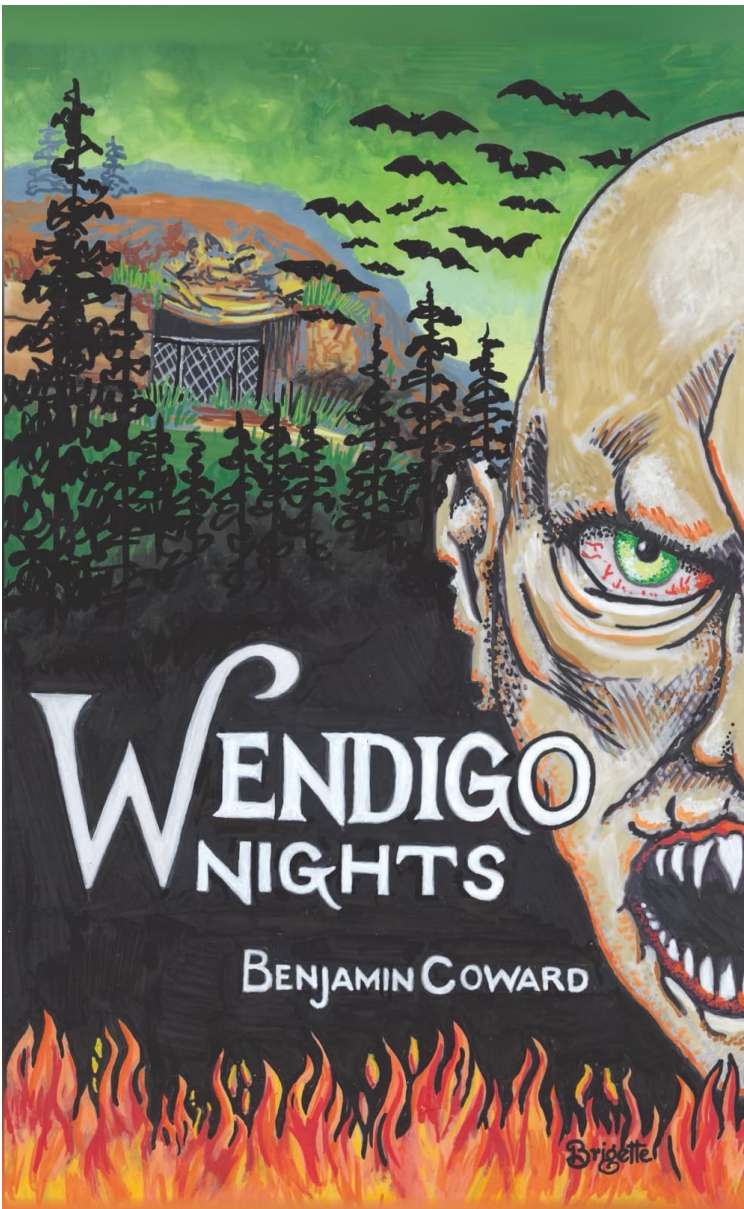
Produced by ARTSPEAKSgny, Inc.
co-sponsored by city of Gainesville, Dept. of Deaf Parks,
Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

WAG BRAGS

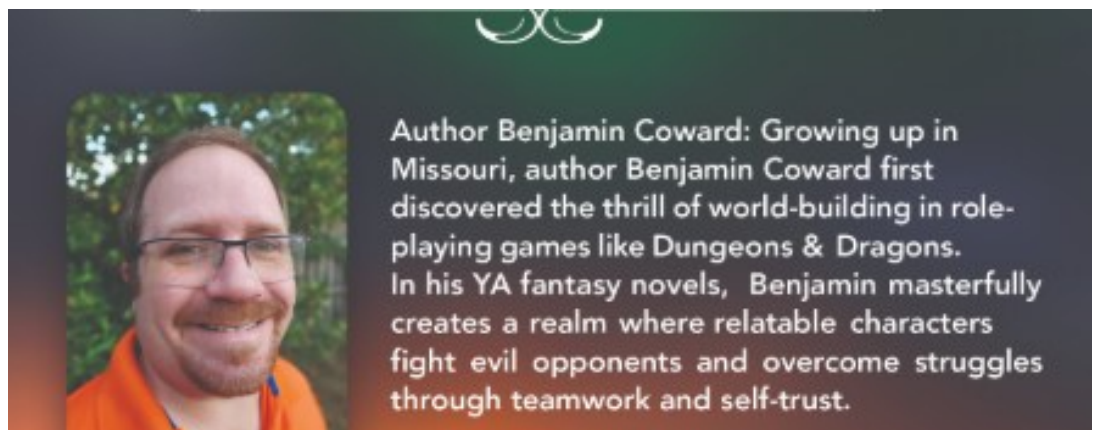
Congratulations to Ben Coward, WAG's Critique Pod coordinator, on the release of his exciting new book: *Wendigo Nights*. Here's the description of the book:

Something inhuman has awakened in the caves—and it's hungry. When two teens are found brutally murdered in a local nature preserve, Jonathan Campbell, a self-proclaimed nerd and cryptid enthusiast, is convinced the killer isn't human. With his loyal friends, Jonathan launches a chilling investigation, determined to prove that one of the legendary monsters they obsess over is real—and deadly. But before they can hunt the creature, Jonathan's father reveals a family secret rooted in their Native American heritage, forcing Jonathan to question everything he thought he knew about himself and the dangers lurking in the shadows.

Suddenly, Jonathan must embrace a mysterious legacy, trust his instincts, and summon courage he never knew he had. As more people disappear and law enforcement struggles to find answers, Jonathan faces impossible choices. Should he be putting his friends in harm's way? Will he be able to help his parents before more lives are claimed? Or will the darkness consume them all? Perfect for fans of *Stranger Things* and *Supernatural*, *Wendigo Nights* is a pulse-pounding YA thriller that explores the bonds of friendship, the strength of family, and the monsters we fear—both real and imagined.



Ben's book is available on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/Wendigo-Nights-Benjamin-Alan-Coward/dp/B0G8V4W72T/>) and Barnes and Noble (<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/wendigo-nights-benjamin-coward/1148988002?ean=9798218890995>). Congratulations, Ben!



WAG BRAGS

Former WAG President and award winning author Kimberley Mullins is producing another playwrighting event—the 10-Minute Play Contest. The deadline for submission is February 28, and there is a \$10 registration fee. You can find more information here: <https://www.kmullins.shop/>

WAG BRAGS



10-Minute Play Contest

Stories of Our Time:
Recognizing Women of Color

We are seeking original 10-minute plays by Florida-based playwrights who recognize themselves as women.

Selected plays will be performed live as part of a special evening celebrating Women of Color and contemporary storytelling.

\$10 Registration fee

Event Details

- Playwrights must recognize themselves as women
- Must be a Florida resident
- Plays must be performable with minimal sets
- Playwrights must provide their own actors and set pieces

Submission Deadline
Midnight EST, February 28

Event Details

📍 High Springs Women's Club
📅 Saturday, March 28
🕒 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Submit Your Play

If interested, please submit your 10-minute play using the link below:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAIPQLSeAG0yNQDEd799FnshDdhpFwKOH161fslsIELOMZ68C55LQ/viewform?usp=header>

Share your voice. Tell today's stories. Celebrate Women of Color.

WAG BRAGS

Poetry Benefit Show! Support



Sister Faye Williams

Porters Quarters Community Organizer

Poetry from:

Marvin	Chance B
Purple Kloud	JN Fishhawk
Edward Cowles	Vincent Hamilton
Naud La	David Maas
Eddie Suggs	Chris Fillie

Sliding scale
donations of
\$10-100 to
support Faye
encouraged

Sunday,
February 15th
5-8pm
The Bull

18 SW 1st Ave,
Gainesville, FL 32601

No One Turned Away
for Lack of Funds!

Venmo: @pq0101

PayPal: sisterspace1515@yahoo.com

More info: 352-226-2623

WAG BRAGS

Congratulations to Michael Conlon on publication of his new book: *The Next Hundred Years*.

Here's a brief description:

The next hundred years will bring many changes, some of which we see today--artificial intelligence, slowing growth in human population, and advances in food, health, and material science.

What will the future be like? What threats will we face? What opportunities will we seize?

These hopeful stories of the future are about people of all ages, from all walks of life, from all corners of the earth, solving problems of hunger, our physical world, AI, and our ability to live with each other.



You can find the book on Amazon (Kindle and print), Apple Books, and Kobo.

And here's an Amazon link:

<https://www.amazon.com/Next-Hundred-Years-Michael-Conlon/dp/B0GD2MYMWR>



Dr. Michael Conlon

is a retired professor of biostatistics at the University of Florida. He was involved in health research, information technology, and leadership for over forty years. He is the author of seven technical books and hundreds of research articles and presentations.

Price: U.S. \$16.99 • CAN \$22.00

WAG BRAGS

Want to learn how to write haikus for Valentine's day? Join the Sound Awake Collective in Newberry Florida for an opportunity to create personalized Valentine's cards with WAG Member Debi Vance Skaff. Details and signup information are below:



The Heartful Haiku
Valentines Day
Edition
creating Love Cards

We will use the
poetic form of haiku
to explore LOVE
and create
personalized
Valentine's cards
- with -
Debi Vance Skaff

Craft supplies provided
Or bring your own!

Sun Feb 8TH
2 TO 4:30
\$35
The Sound Awake Collective
Newberry, FL

SoundAwakeCollective.as.me/heartfulhaiku

Details: Event by [Debi Vance Skaff](#) / [Sound Awake Collective](#)

Duration: 2 hr 30 min / Public

Anyone on or off Facebook

We will explore the many forms of love through haiku, then during the last half of class we will incorporate our poetry into custom cards for our loved ones. Craft supplies provided and you are welcome to bring your own. Space is limited so please register early.

Register here: <https://SoundAwakeCollective.as.me/heartfulhaiku>

WAG Brags

Marketing Coalition 2026 Calendar

Meeting Time: Third Monday of each month at 10:00 AM via Zoom

Format: 20-minute PowerPoint presentation + Q&A session.

All materials (PDFs, worksheets) available upon request.

This is a preliminary Calendar of Events for the group. Any suggestions for changes and volunteers who wish to take on a topic please Contact me at:

Jolene.macfadden@SouthernDragonPublishing.com

February 16, 2026

Finding Your Readers: Where They Actually Hang Out Online

Description:

Stop posting into the void! This session helps you identify WHERE your ideal readers spend their time online and how to show up authentically in those spaces without overwhelming yourself.

March 16, 2026

Website 101: Do You Really Need One? (And Budget-Friendly Alternatives)

Description:

The honest truth about author websites: when you absolutely need one, when you can skip it, and low-cost/free alternatives that work just as well for emerging authors.

April 20, 2026

Email Marketing Without the Overwhelm: Starting & Maintaining Your Newsletter

Description:

Build on 2025's newsletter session with practical, sustainable strategies for authors who feel they "should" have a newsletter but don't know where to start or how to keep it going.

Continued on Next Page

WAG Brags

Marketing Coalition 2026 Calendar— Continued

Meeting Time: Third Monday of each month at 10:00 AM via Zoom

Format: 20-minute PowerPoint presentation + Q&A session.

All materials (PDFs, worksheets) available upon request.

This is a preliminary Calendar of Events for the group. Any suggestions for changes and volunteers who wish to take on a topic please Contact me at:

jolene.macfadden@SouthernDragonPublishing.com

May 18, 2026

Social Media Content Planning: The 15-Minute-a-Day System

Description:

Practical content batching and scheduling strategies for authors who don't want social media to consume their writing time.

June 15, 2026

Amazon Ads Deep Dive: Beyond the Basics

Description:

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

July 20, 2026

Direct Sales & Author Storefronts: Keeping More of Your Money

** Guest Speaker Opportunity **

Description:

Explore selling books directly to readers through platforms like Shopify, Payhip, and BookFunnel, keeping more royalties while building direct customer relationships.

More Information will be available in the March/April WAG Digest and on the WAG Website—www.writersalliance.org.

Know Before You Query: What to Ignore When Contacting Literary Agents

From The Writers College:

<https://www.thewriterscollege.com/know-before-you-query-what-to-ignore-when-contacting-literary-agents/>

Querying a literary agent? Don't fall for bad advice. Learn the six biggest myths – and what really matters when it comes to getting noticed.

By SARAH KELLEHER

Congratulations! You've finished your book. As you scroll through page after page of what you've achieved, your mind fills with images of your manuscript on the desk of a major publishing house, skyscrapers outside the window.

Because publishers in New York and London don't accept submissions directly from authors, you'll need representation. That's right. It's time to jump on the rollercoaster of nerves and hope that is querying literary agents.

Quickly, you find yourself scratching your head. And Googling. How do you write a query letter that stands out? What's a synopsis? And how do you figure out who to query, anyway?

As you hunt through search results, you stumble across some great information. And some that will only waste your time or send you unnecessarily to the rejection pile. To help you tell the good from the bad, here are the top six misconceptions you can avoid before you start.

1. The first page has to be perfect.

The truth is, agents say the first page of a manuscript is often a bit stiff. They can practically see you sweating over those first paragraphs, your self-consciousness radiating from over-edited, over-thought prose.

Sure, it needs to hit certain points, such as a great hook, while avoiding pitfalls such as excessive exposition or repetitive sentence structure. That's why beta readers are worth their weight in gold. Just don't let stage fright tie your opener in knots. It has to be good, but not perfect.

2. The synopsis has to be riveting.

Ah, the submission requirement created to torture writers: the synopsis! If you aren't acquainted with this hellish device yet, it's a dramatic one- or two-page summary of your story, designed to intrigue as much as inform. Think of it as an extended version of the back-cover blurb, hitting the major beats and twists of the story and showing how your protagonist's problems get resolved (or not).

The good news? Many agents don't ask for one. Of those who do, many admit they don't even read it unless they're on the fence about a submission.

Your goal is to put that agent squarely on the 'yes' side of the fence with your query letter and sample pages. Sure, a great synopsis could make all the difference – but it probably won't.

3. Comp titles don't matter.

While the synopsis shouldn't keep you up at night, comp titles might. These are comparable books to yours that have already been published. Agents usually ask for two or three that reflect the flavour of your story and its audience, rounding out their impressions of your manuscript and proving it has a market.

Finding appropriate comp titles can be time-consuming, and that may be why many comments online tell you not to worry about them. Don't listen. In reality, many agents put so much weight on comps that they switch off the moment they see titles that are obscure, more than five years old, or clearly inappropriate.

So get down to the bookshop and read, read, read. Look for comp titles that share the feel of your story in some way or contain similar elements its fans might appreciate in your book. Can't find anything quite like your book? That's fine! Describe your story as 'X meets Y with the cut-throat intensity of Z.'

Just make sure at least two of your comps were published within the last three to five years. They should be neither obscure (read: unsaleable) nor household names like Stephen King or Jane Austen (which agents may see as delusions of grandeur).

4. You've got to stay on top of market trends.

Yes and no. Here's the problem: some writers dive into querying thinking they'll be the artistic brains of the operation while the agent handles all the boring stuff. You're the creative, staring off into the distance for inspiration, while the agent sweats over a pile of contracts, right?

Far from it. Like you, the agent is looking for a business partner. The last thing they want is a writer too busy chasing butterflies to reply to an urgent email. Or floating by deadlines because, in your talented wisdom, you felt like rewriting the opening chapter as a fifty-stanza poem.

A great way to demonstrate industry nous – or the next best thing, an interest in developing it – is to keep an eye on what's happening in your genre. Consider this another excuse to read, read, read!

While non-fiction titles tend to be rushed to the shelves to hit trends, this isn't actually true for fiction. If you spot an uptick in space pirate love stories, by the time you've written one (and waited a year or two for it to roll off the printing press) everyone will have moved on to elf romantasy.

5. Always personalise the query letter with a sentence or two.

Once you've created your query package – query letter, synopsis, sample pages, comp titles – you'll hit 'send' dozens of times, and researching agents will take most of your attention. Do they have a track record of getting titles published? Are they interested in what you write? And, most importantly, do they seem like the kind of person you'd want to work with?

If you can tell them why you're excited to query them, it helps you stand out. Agents especially love hearing why your book would slot perfectly into their list. But that sort of reading takes time. In those moments when you're cramming queries between the tug-of-war of life and responsibilities, [Kesia Lupo reassures us personalisation isn't essential and she's signed authors who sent copy-paste queries](https://kesialupo.substack.com/p/the-perfect-query-letter). (<https://kesialupo.substack.com/p/the-perfect-query-letter>)

Know Before You Query: Cont.

But there are two caveats. First, you can't be lazy: follow the agent's submission guidelines to the letter. Second, you must address the agent by name. And check the spelling ten times. And whatever you do, don't commit one of BookEnds agent Jessica Faust's pet hates: sending a female agent a query that begins with 'Dear Sir.'

6. Refine your approach with feedback.

Traditional advice is to query a dozen agents at a time. Once you've taken that heart-stopping step of clicking 'send' on your query package, releasing your precious words into the electric abyss to be – gulp – judged, your desperate hope is that the recipients will declare it 'good.' If they don't (a punch in the face we can all relate to), at least they'll tell you why, so you can do better in the next round.

Sadly, the NRMN policy – No Response Means No – is increasingly common. That's when the agent posts their response time in the submission guidelines. When that time passes, rather than receiving a gentle email letting you know they've passed on your manuscript, you get... silence.

If your query package is getting crickets, it may be time to consult a freelancer or enroll in a querying course. For a cost-free option, don't forget your beta readers. They might know as little about querying as you do, but they'll still help you iron out any stilted, confusing or overthought parts.

With a dash of luck, you may still get some priceless advice in your rejection letters. Should you jump to make changes? Maybe. Agent Alec Shane wants writers to remember the subjective nature of the industry. 'Nobody knows anything about anything,' he said at the San Diego Writing Day Workshops conference in 2025. 'There isn't a single person in the entire publishing industry that has a freaking clue what they're doing.'

Harry Potter was rejected by twelve publishers. Stephen King's debut novel *Carrie* only saw publication because his wife pulled it out of the rubbish bin. The *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series may have sold 500 million copies, but it racked up 144 rejections first.

As Shane puts it, 'Publishing is a casino.' That means you have to be in it to win. Do your research, keep trying, keep learning. And, most importantly, keep writing.

About the Author



Sarah Kelleher is a former copywriter for QuickFuse Studios and has been published in *MiNDFOOD* Magazine and online fiction journals. Her love of upmarket women's fiction pulled her into the querying trenches, where she gathered first-hand insights from agents through query feedback, pitch sessions and two [Writing Day Workshops](#) conferences.

She has taken classes with authors [Courtney Maum](#) (whose book, *Before and After the Book Deal*, she recommends), [Barbara Kyle](#), Brannavan Gnanalingam, and celebrated award-winner [Emily Perkins](#) (*Lioness*). As her wallet started aching, she took refuge in free resources from agents [Vicky Weber and Cathie Hedrick-Armstrong](#), [Kesia Lupo](#), and [BookEnds](#), plus editor/author [Gina Den-ny](#). She recommends the Bindery Agency's podcast, [On Publishing](#).

Her writing lifeline is Zooms with her international beta-reader group, for whom global daylight savings is a constant wildcard. She lives in Cambridge, New Zealand, where she is forever grateful for her tolerant family – immediate and extended – as well as the world's physical bookshops, coffee, and cats.

Classes and Conferences

Southeastern
Writers
Association
Conference

2026 SWA Conference
June 5 - 9, 2026
Epworth by the Sea on St.
Simons Island, GA

The 2026 Southeastern Writers Association Conference will take place on St. Simons Island, Georgia, from June 5 - 9, 2026.

This immersive 3-day conference joins aspiring and seasoned writers as they connect over their **love of literature**.
To register, click here (<https://www.southeasternwritersassociation.org/membership-and-conference-fees>).

<https://www.southeasternwritersassociation.org/>

W*R*I*T*E

<https://acfw.com/acfw-conference/>



American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW) Annual Conference
August 27-30, 2026
Memphis Tennessee
2026 Conference Rate: TBA

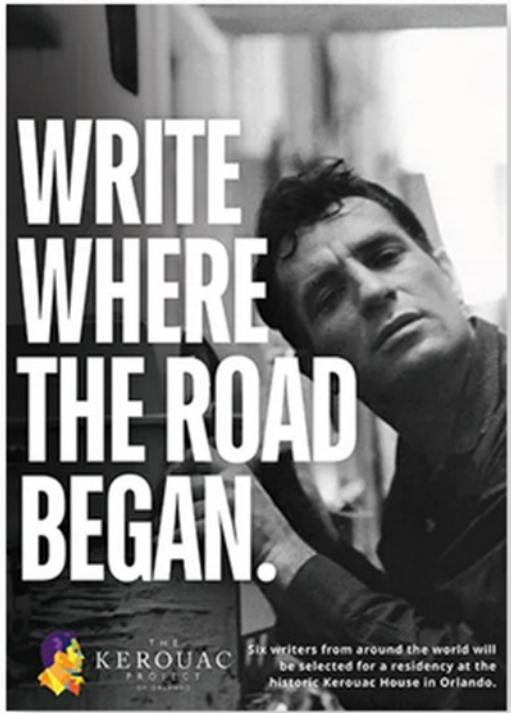
Writing and publishing conference with a Christian angle, strongly emphasizing craft topics and marketing. Learn more about the [ACFW 2026 Annual Conference](#).

CFW's 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE Thursday, August 27th - Sunday, August 30th, 2026

The Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee

If you write Christian fiction—or want to learn how—the ACFW conference is an investment worth making. We hope you'll join us on this exciting journey, taking a major step forward in your writing career.

Classes and Conferences



Write at Jack Kerouac's Residency in Orlando for Seven Weeks

Deadline: April 14, 2026

Write where Jack Kerouac wrote *The Dharma Bums*. The Kerouac Project residency of Orlando, FL offers the house to yourself, \$600 grocery stipend, utilities paid. Finish your project in seven weeks. Six time slots available per year. We accept: Fiction, Creative Non-fiction, Poetry, Plays, Screenplays. Fiction and Nonfiction can be in graphic narrative form if preferred. Spend seven inspired weeks in the Orlando home where Jack Kerouac lived when *On The Road* was published.

Open to poets, novelists, playwrights, screenwriters, memoirists, short story writers—new or seasoned. BIPOC and LGBTQ writers especially welcome. You'll get free housing + utilities, a \$600 grocery stipend, dedicated writing time, and enter a welcoming literary community. Participate in a farewell reading, two workshops, and optional literary events around central Florida.

Applications due April 14, 2026, but we've been known to extend it.

Website: www.kerouac-project.com.



Calls for Submissions



Superpresent Spring Issue – Beginnings

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Superpresent is a magazine of the arts that places equal emphasis on the written word and visual arts. We are seeking submissions of all forms of poetry, short stories, essays, video, film, and visual arts on the theme Beginnings for our Spring 2026 issue.

www.superpresent.org

W*R*I*T*E



Jewish Fiction Call for Submissions

Deadline: Rolling

Jewish Fiction, a prestigious literary journal, invites submissions for its 2026 issues. *Jewish Fiction* (formerly *Jewish Fiction .net*) is the only English-language journal, either print or online, devoted exclusively to publishing Jewish fiction. We showcase the finest contemporary Jewish-themed writing (either written in, or translated into, English) from around the world, and in our first 40 issues, we have published 640 stories or novel excerpts, originally written in twenty-two languages. Our interactive website allows readers to search these 640 stories by theme, original language, and author, and we are proud to have published such eminent authors as Elie Wiesel, Savyon Liebrecht, and Aharon Appelfeld, alongside many excellent, lesser-known writers. We are a truly international journal, and we have readers in 140 countries.

For submission details, please visit our Submissions page at bit.ly/47MDwtV.



Calls for Submissions

Call for Poetry Chapbook Manuscripts

Deadline: March 21, 2026

Green Linden Press is delighted to welcome submissions of poetry chapbook manuscripts to be considered for publication. Poets are encouraged to read from our online journal, *Under a Warm Green Linden*, to become familiar with work that excites

us. Our mission is simple: to foster excellent poetry. Please send manuscripts of 12–40 pages. Simultaneous submissions, works in translation, and co-authored manuscripts are all accepted. There is a \$15 reading fee, which helps support our green mission, to give a portion of our proceeds to reforestation efforts. To see our previous chapbooks visit

www.greenlindenpress.com/chapbooks.

Spread the word!

W*R*I*T*E



THE FLORIDA REVIEW

Annual Editor's Prizes

<https://cah.ucf.edu/floridareview/submit/annual-editors-prizes/>

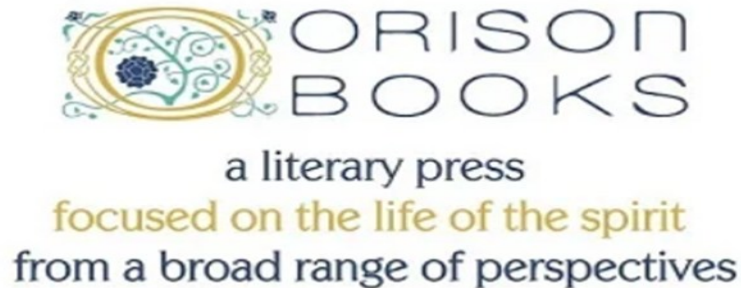
Each year, from **January 1 to April 15**, we accept submissions to our **Editor's Prizes in Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, and Poetry**. Visit our [main submissions page](#) between these dates for more information.

Each winner receives publication in *The Florida Review* and \$1,000 upon publication. We also frequently recognize and publish one or more finalists in each genre. Read our [general submission guidelines](#) and familiarize yourself with our magazine's needs.

- For prose, submit up to 30 pages (9,000 words) (double-spaced Word doc or PDF).
- For poetry, submit up to 5 poems (Word doc or PDF).
- Contest manuscripts should contain only the title(s) – not the writer's name or other identifying information. Submit a cover letter (in Submittable) or a cover sheet (if mailed) that includes the manuscript title(s) and writer's name, email address, phone number, and mailing address.
- Entry fee of \$25 includes a one-year subscription to *The Florida Review*.
- All submissions will be considered for publication.
- Simultaneous submissions are fine if withdrawn immediately upon acceptance elsewhere.

Please be sure to select the correct contest category in Submittable.

Contests



The 2026 Orison Prizes in Poetry & Fiction Deadline: April 1, 2026

The 2026 Orison Prizes in Poetry & Fiction offer \$1,500 and publication by Orison Books for a full-length manuscript in each genre. Judges: **Leila Chatti** (poetry) and **Margot Livesey** (fiction). Entry fee: \$25. Entry period: December 1, 2025–April 1, 2026. duotrope.com/duosuma/submit/orison-prizes-poetry-fiction-eyhfu

Each year from **December 1 - April 1** we accept submissions of full-length poetry (50-100 pp.) and fiction (30,000 word minimum) manuscripts for **The Orison Prizes in Poetry and Fiction**, judged by different prominent writers each year in an anonymous judging process. The winning entry in each genre will be awarded publication and a \$1,500 cash prize, in addition to a standard royalties contract. Finalists will be selected by the editorial staff at Orison Books, and the winners will be selected from among the finalist manuscripts by the judges. In the event that a judge in either genre does not select a winner from among the finalists, the Editor will select a winner. The editors also reserve the right to select no finalists, in which case all entry fees will be refunded to the entrants. All finalist manuscripts will be considered for publication under a standard royalties contract. We aim to announce contest results by October 15, 2026. Please do not query about results before this date.



Contests

January 6, 2026

2026 Prime Number Magazine Awards

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Two prizes of \$1,000 each and publication in *Prime Number Magazine* are given annually for a poem and a short story. Two runners-up in each category receive \$250 each and publication. Using only the online submission system, submit a poem of up to three pages or a short story of up to 5,300 words with a \$15 entry fee by March 31. Visit the website

W*R*I*T*E

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.





Writer's Alliance of Gainesville
A not-for-profit Florida corporation

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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.

**Writing about time
travel takes so much
creativity—you have
to think outside
the clocks.**



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