

THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

Cindy L. Freeman, Publisher/Editor



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FREE Opportunities for Writers

Chesapeake Bay Writers announcement: Open Mic at Williamsburg Library’s Stryker Center on Saturday, March 9, 1:30-3:30 pm. **“Anyone can come and read. Anyone can come and listen.”**

Writers Guild of Virginia presents Patti Gaustad Procopi on Zoom, Saturday, March 23, 3:00 pm. Patti believes everyone has a story to tell, and she will offer practical ways you can tell yours. Members will receive an email message with the link. Invite a friend.

Writer’s Digest offers numerous free downloads for writers. Go to <https://www.writersdigest.com/resources/free-downloads-for-writers> AND an annual writing competition with cash prizes. Deadline for submission: 5/6/24. Go to <https://www.writersdigest.com/wd-competitions>

WGV Board of Directors

If *you* could serve on the WGV Board or volunteer on a committee, please contact a current board member:

David Cariens
dcariens@gmail.com

Ann Eichenmuller
aceichenm@gmail.com

Cindy L. Freeman
cindy@cindylfreeman.com

Martha Hall
mhall0816@gmail.com

Jeanne Johansen, Chair
j.johansen@hightidepublications.com

Gwen Keane
keanegwen@gmail.com

Lacroy (Atlas) Nixon
lacroy45@gmail.com

WGV Members in the News

Send your author news to: cindy@cindylfreeman.com by the 15th of each month.

- ⇒ **DM Frech** announces an upcoming book signing: Sat, April 11, 2024, from 12 – 4 pm at [Turn the Page Bookshop](#) 5707 Richmond Road Suite 40, Williamsburg, VA.
- ⇒ Congratulations to **Sharon Canfield Dorsey** who has had four of her poems published in the online nature journal, *The Avocet*.
- ⇒ Congratulations to **Lacroy (Atlas) Nixon**, a member of the Verb Benders Slam Poetry Team of Hampton Roads, VA, who earned the title, Grand Slam Champion, for the second year in a row.
- ⇒ **Bradley Harper** has signed a contract with a German publisher to publish a translation of his book, *A Knife in the Fog*.

Advice from the Experts

Whether you are writing fiction or nonfiction, writing coaches agree on these basic techniques:

- ⇒ Protect your writing time and space from distractions and interruptions. Show up every day and write.
- ⇒ The best writers are voracious readers.
- ⇒ Use strong verbs* that limit adjectives and make adverbs unnecessary.
- ⇒ Set up tension and conflict that engage the reader in wanting your protagonist to reach his/her goal.
- ⇒ Let the setting and backstory evolve gradually rather than spending the first chapter describing it.
- ⇒ Write natural-sounding dialogue. Read it aloud to check for authenticity.
- ⇒ Avoid using clichés. Strive to be original.
- ⇒ Avoid preaching (unless you're a preacher).
- ⇒ Cut, cut, cut—eliminate needless words like really, actually, up, down. Ex. *She sat across from him* rather than *She sat down in the chair across from him*.
- ⇒ Show, don't tell. *His voice rising, he slammed a fist on the table* rather than *He was angry*.
- ⇒ Maintain one point of view per scene. Head-hopping confuses the reader.

Examples of Strong Verbs*

Absorb	Dangle	Grapple	Launch	Plop	Toddle
Amend	Deviate	Gush	Lurch	Pinpoint	Transform
Amplify	Dismantle	Hail	Magnify	Retreat	Trudge
Bash	Engage	Hover	Mimic	Reveal	Unearth
Blab	Engulf	Ignite	Mystify	Reverberate	Unveil
Bolt	Ensnare	Illuminate	Notice	Saunter	Vacate
Clasp	Fling	Jostle	Nullify	Scamper	Weave
Clutch	Frown	Jut	Obtain	Scrawl	Wrench
Cower	Gape	Lash	Oppress	Stumble	Yank
			Perceive	Struggle	Zap

Board Updates

Although the February board meeting had to be postponed, board members have been busy behind the scenes planning events and lining up venues for our members.

A huge thank you goes to **David Cariens** for working with the staff of Objects Art Gallery in Irvington, VA to secure a venue for WGV book signings. On February 17, they welcomed author, Cindy L. Freeman. With the help of **Jeanne Johansen**, David publicized the inaugural event in print media and radio, while Jeanne promoted it on social media. Any Writers Guild author interested in holding a book signing at Objects, should contact David to set it up: dcariens@gmail.com.



Cindy L. Freeman's book signing at Objects Art Gallery

Sneak Peek: **Ralph Tedeschi** of Turn the Page Bookshop in Williamsburg, VA has already shown his support for local authors in many ways. Now Jeanne Johansen is working with Ralph to offer a unique opportunity for literary late bloomers. Watch the newsletter and website for an official reveal coming soon.

Calendar of Events

- ⇒ **Fri, Mar. 1, 7:00 pm:** Slam Connection (slam poetry performances) at [Column 15 coffee shop](#), 701-R Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185. Performers should arrive by 6:00 to sign up. Everyone is welcome to come and listen.
- ⇒ **Sat, Mar. 9, 1:30-3:30 pm:** Chesapeake Bay Writers' Open Mic at Williamsburg Library's Stryker Center, 412 N Boundary St, Williamsburg, VA 23185
- ⇒ **Sat, Mar. 23, 3:00-4:00 pm (EST):** Patti Procopi's presentation on Zoom, "Writing Your Story." The link will be sent soon. Feel free to share it. Everyone is welcome!
- ⇒ **Fri, Apr. 5, 7:00 pm:** Slam Connection (slam poetry performances) at [Column 15 coffee shop](#), 701-R Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185. Performers should arrive by 6:00 to sign up. Everyone is welcome to come and listen.

Check Us Out:

Writers Guild Website: <https://www.writersguildva.com/>

Writers Guild Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069653723114>

Writers Guild YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@hightidepublications3649>