

# THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

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## Update on Virtual Masterclasses

**Lacroy Nixon's** outstanding masterclass series on "Written and Spoken Word" will wrap up Tuesday, October 10. Thanks, Lacroy, for sharing your expertise!

Unfortunately, **Janice Hoffman's** masterclass scheduled for October 17 has been canceled. We wish her well as she deals with health issues.

The WGV Board continues to seek master teachers who can help us all become better writers. We hope to resume the masterclasses in November.

### WGV Board of Directors

If you are interested in serving on the WGV Board, please contact a current board member:

- David Cariens  
dcariens@gmail.com
- Ann Eichenmuller  
aceichenm@gmail.com
- Cindy L. Freeman  
cindy@cindyfreeman.com
- Martha Hall  
mhall0816@gmail.com
- Jeanne Johansen, President  
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@cindyfreeman.com](mailto:cindy@cindyfreeman.com))

- ⇒ **Attention, Board Members:** The WGV Board will meet Thursday, Oct. 19, 12:00 pm at Jeanne Johansen's house, 1000 Bland Point Rd. Deltaville, VA. Please bring a favorite salad to share for lunch.
- ⇒ WGV is pleased to welcome two new members: **Edward Haile** of Champlain, VA and **Brenda Heckert** from Williamsburg, VA.
- ⇒ Sat. Oct. 21, 11 am - **David Reid Brown** book signing at Books, Beads & More, 8106 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, VA.
- ⇒ Sat. Oct. 21, 2-4 pm - Writers Series at Belle Isle State Park hosts author **Lonnie H. Lee:**

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/event?id=2023-09-18-08-51-42-057561-90b>

## Let's Celebrate our Fellow Authors!



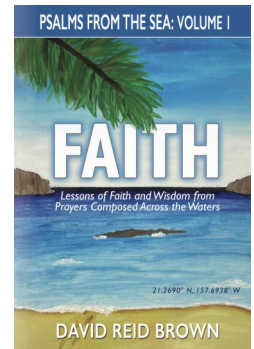
Be sure to attend our next virtual book launch on Sunday, October 22, 3:00—4:00 pm when **David Reid Brown** will present his new release, *Psalms from the Sea*. Log on to Zoom.com, click on “Join,” and enter

Meeting ID: 816 1204 4447

Passcode: 159733

David is an artist, pastor, and retired Navy Chaplain. His first books, *Spirit Soundings: A Chaplain's Journal of Life at Sea* and *Lost Summer*, were born out of his global experiences in the chaplaincy, spanning twenty-one years. He teaches high school government, history, and art at Grace Christian School in Mechanicsville, VA.

David earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia State University, a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, and a Master of Elementary Education degree from Hawaii Pacific University.



## Avoiding Writers' Pitfalls

Writers are always looking for the most effective way of expressing thoughts, which means a thesaurus can be a usual tool. Here are twenty basic words that you might consider replacing with more expressive synonyms:

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Beautiful - Captivating; Alluring  | 11. Important - Vital            |
| 2. Begin - Commence                   | 12. Lazy - Sluggish              |
| 3. Better - Superior                  | 13. Picturesque - Idyllic        |
| 4. Calm - Tranquil; Serene            | 14. Priority - Precedence        |
| 5. Closeness - Propinquity; Proximity | 15. Scared - Frightened; Fearful |
| 6. Delicious - Scrumptious            | 16. Silent - Soundless           |
| 7. Excess - Plethora                  | 17. Style - Elegance             |
| 8. Get - Acquire                      | 18. Temporary - Ephemeral        |
| 9. Happy - Euphoric                   | 19. Unspeakable - Ineffable      |
| 10. Heavenly - Ethereal               | 20. Wrong - Erroneous            |



## The Journal



Not only are issues of *The Journal* available for purchase on Amazon, but now WGV members can read them for free. That's right! *The Journals* are posted on the WGV website: <https://www.writersguildva.com/>

Be sure to check out your WGV colleagues' literary gems.



**Remember:** All Writers Guild members are eligible to contribute to *The Journal* by submitting your best prose, poetry, or photography to: [cindy@cindyfreeman.com](mailto:cindy@cindyfreeman.com).

What an easy way to earn publication credits on Amazon!



## Advice from the Experts

How can you become a published author? According to the career development website indeed.com, there are important steps to take before submitting a manuscript:

- **Determine the genre** (category) of your work, such as Fantasy, Romance, Mystery, Memoir, or Thriller. This will help you identify popular writers in your field, who your ideal reader is, and which publishers might be interested in your work.
- **Ask for feedback** by joining a critique group or engaging beta readers. Use their free-of-cost feedback to hone your manuscript. Beta readers typically accept the manuscript as a thank you rather than charging a fee, but you might also want to hire a freelance editor to increase your chances of getting published.
- **Look for an agent** who works with other writers in your genre, is currently accepting submissions, and has excellent reviews. Some independent presses accept submissions directly from writers, but most traditional publishers require you to work with a literary agent.
- **Prepare your submission.** Make sure you read each agent's/publisher's submission guidelines carefully to ensure you include everything required and use their required formatting. Prepare a strong one-page query letter that includes a short synopsis of your manuscript to accompany your submission. Google "How to Write a Query Letter." You will find excellent tips and examples online.
- **Work with your agent to find a publisher.** Trends in the industry are constantly changing, so follow your agent's advice about updating your manuscript and query letter to make it more marketable. Your agent should handle contract negotiations, book advances, subsidiary rights, and royalties with potential publishers. Meet regularly and make sure you understand any contracts before signing them.
- **Marketing is your responsibility.** Once a publisher accepts your manuscript, you will work with an in-house editor who may require reformatting and even rewriting or cutting portions of your manuscript. You may work with graphic designers to develop the cover design, and public relations specialists to develop a marketing campaign. Be prepared to generate interest in your book and increase sales through book signings, social media posts, and speaking engagements.

## WGV Events Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 7-8:30pm - "Spoken Word Poetry" masterclass w/ Lacroy Nixon on Zoom	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 7-8:30pm - Lacroy Nixon's final virtual masterclass on Zoom	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 Canceled - "Writing Through Grief" masterclass w/Jan Hoffman	18	19 Noon - Board meeting @1000 Bland Pt. Rd. Deltaville, VA	20	11am—David Reid Brown at Books Beads & More  2-4pm— Writers' Series @Belle Isle State Park
22 3pm - David Reid Brown's virtual book launch	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

## New and Improved Website

Be sure to check out the new and improved WGV website, where you can access resources for members only: <https://www.writersguildva.com/>

- ⇒ **Members' Page** with headshots and biographies. If yours is not there, contact Jeanne Johansen: [wgvirginiainmail@gmail.com](mailto:wgvirginiainmail@gmail.com). Please help Jeanne keep the website current by updating your author information for the members' page. She can connect it to your website and Facebook author page to enhance your marketing reach.
- ⇒ **Members' Bookstore** which continues to be updated with your publications, issues of *The Journal* that members can read for free, past issues of the monthly **Newsletter**, and access to YouTube videos of interviews, workshops, conferences, and book launches that you might have missed.

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