

THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

Cindy L. Freeman, Publisher/Editor



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2nd Saturday Socials a Resounding Success!

Writers Guild of Virginia (WGV) and Rappahannock Arts League (RAL) began a collaboration in June that has been enthusiastically embraced by both organizations. Each event, held at RAL’s beautiful arts center, 19 N. Main St. Kilmarnock, VA, includes light refreshments, wine, speakers, and live music. For each event, WGV authors are encouraged to register for a vendor table: j.johansen@hightidepublications.com. See more 2nd Saturday highlights on page 3.

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

WGV Members in the News

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

- ⇒ Writers Guild of Virginia cordially welcomes our newest members: **Carol Amorosi, Andrew Cariens, Jigany Carsi, Scott Clawson, Sage Cohen, Grid Michal**, and returning member, **Kathy Kasunich**.
- ⇒ Two of **Sharon Canfield Dorsey’s** poems “Turtle Dreams” and “Victory in Numbers” were selected for the summer nature journal, *The Avocet*.

Sharon also announces that her twelfth published book *The Move, How to Get Rid of all that Stuff and Downsize* has been released on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com). Congratulations, Sharon, and thanks for keeping us motivated to write that next poem or book!



Advice from the Experts

Zachary Petit is a freelance writer and former managing editor of *Writer's Digest* magazine. In the October 26, 2020 issue, he shared a list of things a writer should never do, including, “Don’t assume there is a single path to follow.” He encourages writers to trust the voices in their heads because there is so much contradictory information out there. In other words, “You have to do what works best for you.”

Item 2 on Petit’s list is “Don’t try to write like your idols.” Instead of pretending to write like someone you admire, get to know your genre. Study your literary idols, but then find your own voice and style because originality is one key to success.

Regarding the path to publishing, Petit cautions writers not to be dishonest or hostile, especially about rejections since word spreads quickly in the publishing world about which authors are easy to work with and those who are difficult. He also says to pitch to numerous publishers while continuing to work on your next project. “It keeps your creative side in gear while focusing on the business of promoting your work.”

“Don’t hate someone for negative feedback.” Rather, use the information of critique groups, beta readers, editors, and agents to improve your manuscript. At the same time, “Don’t be susceptible to the barbs of online trolls who post sociopathic comments for the sake of posting sociopathic comments. Ignore them heartily,” says Petit.

He also reminds writers not to underestimate the importance of the basics. Incorrect spelling, poor grammar, and punctuation issues “will quickly land your manuscript in the acquisitions editor’s recycle bin.”

“Don’t be spiteful of another writer’s success.” It’s hard to watch someone else reach a goal that you have been aspiring to, but Petit reminds writers to “be the one who celebrates other authors’ successes because their success does not infringe on yours.”

Petit encourages writers to “Write the story that gives you insomnia” rather than trying to satisfy market trends. Trends (like teenage vampire books) are fleeting, and chances are by the time you finish writing your book, the trend will have passed.



Zachary Petit’s book, *The Essential Guide to Freelance Writing*, is available on [Amazon](#).

Don't Miss the Second Saturday Socials at Rappahannock Arts Center

The Second Saturday kickoff on June 15 featured poet Reyn Kinzey (right), photographer Rebecca Day, and book sales by WGV Board members. July's event showcased bestselling children's book author and illustrator, Maurine Frank and included a panel discussion moderated by Ann Eichenmuller. WGV authors, David Cariens, Ann Eichenmuller, Maurine Frank, Gwen Keane, Peggy Newcomb, and Monti Sikes displayed and sold their books.



“We're already looking forward to Saturday, August 10, 5—7 pm,” says Jeanne Johansen, WGV President, “when Cindy L. Freeman will be our speaker. We have asked Cindy to talk about the experience of writing her childhood memoir, *Farm Girl*, published by High Tide Publications in 2023.”

Cindy is convinced that it's important preserve the stories of our lives for future generations. “I hope to convince other writers to turn their memories into stories, and I will offer some helpful hints about how to get started.”



At each monthly event, visitors can enjoy refreshments, meet the authors, and view RAL's latest art exhibitions. The WGV Board encourages its members to exhibit and sell their books on August 10 and September 14 at the RAL Gallery, 19 Main St. Kilmarnock, VA by contacting Jeanne Johansen: j.johansen@hightidepublications.com. Only two tables remain available for August 10.

Saturday, August 10, 5 - 7 pm “The Art of the Memoir.”

Speaker: Cindy L. Freeman, Author of *Farm Girl*

Saturday, September 14, 10 am - 4 pm: WGV Book Festival.

Authors are encouraged to register early! [WGV Website](#)

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/watch?v=JZU7VZKke0Y>