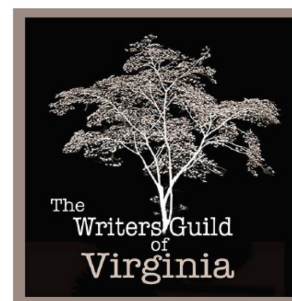


January 2023

# THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

Cindy L. Freeman, Editor



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## Williamsburg Book Festival

(rescheduled from 2022)

**When:** February 4, 2023, 10:00 am—4:00 pm

**Where:** Stryker Center and Community building

**What:** Free event that features authors from various genres, plus speakers, illustrators, and publishers in Virginia and beyond.

<https://williamsburgbookfestival.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/640232670855485>

## WGV Board of Directors:

David Cariens  
dcariens@gmail.com

Ann Eichenmuller  
aceichenm@gmail.com

Cindy L. Freeman  
cindy@cindylfreeman.com

Martha Hall  
mhall0816@gmail.com

Jeanne Johansen  
j.johansen@hightidepublications.com

Gwen Keane  
keanegwen@gmail.com

LaCroy (Atlas) Nixon  
lacroy45@gmail.com

## WBV Members

**This section is for you.**

*Tell us what you've been up to.*

*Share your success stories: new publications, awards, etc. or offer helpful hints to your fellow writers.*

**Contact Cindy L. Freeman:**  
[cindy@cindylfreeman.com](mailto:cindy@cindylfreeman.com)

## Slam Connection



In 2022, Lacroy Nixon (left) began an endeavor known as Slam Connection. Slam Connection focuses on using the medium of slam/spoken word poetry to provoke community action.

In summer 2022, Writers Guild of Virginia helped Slam Connection host two open mics at the former Book Warehouse in Williamsburg, VA. Over the course of both events, more than 75 people attended to hear some 20 performers, and they donated school supplies to Norge Elementary School.

After Book Warehouse closed, Slam Connection began to focus attention on the school system. With the help of Poetry Society of Virginia, Slam Connection has been holding after-school workshops for students at Warhill High School every Wednesday since September 2022. Two students have joined the Vanguard (the official poetry team for Slam Connection), and one of the students performed for the first time. Slam Connection has created an official curriculum that all workshops will follow.

Slam Connection is currently looking for a venue to house open mic nights and workshops. Before the end of 2023, Slam Connection will be an official nonprofit organization in Williamsburg, dedicated to using Slam Poetry as a means for community action and cultural change.

You can follow Slam Connection on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/slamconnection](https://www.instagram.com/slamconnection)

## Hope Booth

Imagine walking down the street and seeing a telephone booth repurposed to give messages of hope. Hope Booth is a 3-minute immersive experience that combines art and technology to produce a message of hope in a poetic format.



The idea, created by Gloria Umanah in 2021, is truly revolutionary. Umanah states, “I started Hope Booth because in 2020 I saw a problem. The average person living on the street goes 3 to 6 months without being looked in the eye.” This statistic led the Hope Booth team to adopt the tagline “where no one goes unseen” because even if not homeless, people still may be struggling emotionally.

Funded by a \$50,000 donation, in March 2022, Hope Booth went on a 30-day, 19-city tour across the United States in which more than 700 people participated. Since then, Hope Booth has traveled to numerous live events and was featured on *NBC News Now*. Writers Guild Board member, Lacroy “Atlas” Nixon (a pioneering member of the project) is a writer for Hope Booth.

Hope Booth is trying to fund permanent installations. Last year the team raised over \$150,000 toward the goal of \$865,000 and is currently seeking donations to support and expand the movement so that “no one goes unseen.”

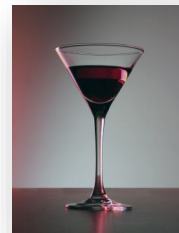
If you are interested in donating, please visit [www.hopebooth.com/partner](https://www.hopebooth.com/partner)

Hope Booth documentary: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=fXN2hVkrnhU&si=EnSikaIECMiOmarE>

## *It's Five O'clock Somewhere*

Thanks to Jeanne Johansen for leading our first Zoom meeting of *It's Five O'clock Somewhere* about All-Things-Marketing. Eight enthusiastic WGV authors participated in the first session to learn about:

- Creating your author brand;
- Building and nurturing a community of readers; and
- Using social media to effectively market your books.



The next session in this FREE series will be held on Zoom **Tuesday, January 24, 3:00—4:00 pm**, when new participants will be welcome. Contact Jeanne Johansen at [Wgvirginiamail@gmail.com](mailto:Wgvirginiamail@gmail.com) for an email invitation. After January 24, this course will be closed.

### **Future Courses:**

**Word/Slam—How to Write and Perform, led by Atlas Nixon**

**Navigating Self-Publishing, led by Kat DesOrmeaux**

**Brutal Self-Editing, led by Cindy L. Freeman**



WGV offers its members three opportunities annually to submit their best essays, short stories, or poetry to a polished literary publication. Look for an email message inviting submissions for the spring 2023 issue. Deadline: February 15.

If your article is accepted, you will receive a complimentary issue.

*The Journal* is available for purchase through [Amazon](#). Don't forget to post a review.

Send your amazing submissions to Cindy Freeman:  
[cindy@cindylfreeman.com](mailto:cindy@cindylfreeman.com)

Check out our website: <https://www.writersguildva.com/>

Like and join our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Writers-Guild-of-Virginia-1670380509952964>

