

THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

Cindy L. Freeman, Publisher/Editor



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Williamsburg Book Festival

February 24, 2024, 10 am - 4 pm
Stryker Center and
Community Building, Williamsburg, VA

Writers Guild of Virginia

Board Meeting on Zoom
Sunday, January 14, 2—3:30 pm
(log on code coming soon)

WGV Board of Directors

If you would be willing to 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

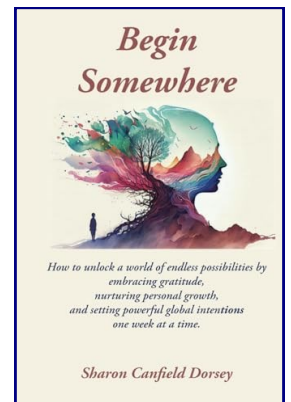
⇒ **Patti Gaustad Procopi** will be signing copies of her new book, *Stop Talking*, Sunday, January 28, 12:00 - 4:00 pm at [Turn the Page Bookshop](#).

On February 12 at 8:00 am, Patti will be interviewed by Neal Steele on WXGM 99.1 FM radio.

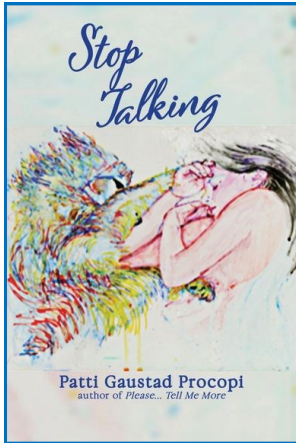
⇒ **DM Frech** announces upcoming book signings:
 Sat, Jan 20, 2024, 12 – 4 pm she will be at the [Book Exchange](#), 2720 N Mall Dr. #200, Lynnhaven, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Sat, Feb 3, 2024, 12 – 4 pm you can find her at the [Book Exchange](#) 116 E. Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA 23505

⇒ **Sharon Canfield Dorsey** has a beautiful new gratitude journal. [Begin Somewhere](#), published by High Tide Publications and illustrated by Firebellied Frog, is now available on Amazon.



Book Launch on Zoom—Please Come!



Don't miss our first virtual book launch of 2024!

In December, Blue Fortune Enterprises released
***Stop Talking* by Patti Gaustad Procopi**

Writers' Guild of Virginia is ready to shout it from the rooftop—or rather, on Zoom, Sunday, January 21, 3:00—4:00 pm

Here's how you can support your fellow WGV author:
Log into Zoom.com and click on the JOIN option.

Enter the Meeting ID 880 3077 7282. Then enter the Passcode 412696



Resources for Writers

If you renewed your WGV membership for another year. Congratulations! That means you want to grow as a writer, improve your craft, get your work published, and market your publications. If it slipped your mind, contact Jeanne Johansen at wgvirginiamail@gmail.com. In addition to WGV's many benefits, check out these helpful resources:

- ◆ The “Best Online Writing Workshops for Emerging and Established Authors” sponsored by writingworkshops.com: <https://writingworkshops.com/collections/the-best-online-creative-writing-workshop>. The cost of these workshops ranges from \$0 to \$2,400.
- ◆ The Authors Publish online *Magazine for Creative Writers* includes access to the Writer's Workshop FREE lecture series: <https://authorspublish.com/>
- ◆ The Master's Review is an online and in-print publication celebrating new and emerging writers: <https://themastersreview.submittable.com/>
- ◆ For an excellent book on the writing craft, try *Writer's Resources: From Paragraph to Essay* by Julie Robitaille and Robert Connelly: <https://www.amazon.com/Writers-Resources-Paragraph-Julie-Robitaille/dp/1413021026>

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>

Language Matters

These quotes are taken from actual church bulletins:

1. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
2. The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the basement Friday afternoon.
3. Last Sunday, Ms. Charlene Mason sang "I Will not Pass this Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
4. Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to help cripple children.
5. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to call on people who are not afflicted with any church.
6. The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.
7. The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Please use the back door.
8. Ushers will eat latecomers.
9. The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth into Joy."
10. During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Advice from the Experts

Whether you are a plotter or a pantsler, you might find that working from a simple outline can propel your writing forward and keep you from getting stuck. Scott McCormick, a regular contributor to BookBaby's newsletter, offers ideas to benefit both types of writers. While he confesses to being a pantsler, he says that stopping to write a quick outline can keep his novels from "going off the rails." So, how is such an outline different from the detailed outline used by plotters?

McCormick suggests starting with your **hook**. The hook is "what got you excited and held your attention long enough to decide 'Oh wait, there's a story here.' It's the thing you're going to say when someone asks you what your new book is about."

Next comes the **logline** that answers four questions:

1. Who is your protagonist (main character)?
2. What is s/he trying to do?
3. What's preventing her/him?
4. What will happen if s/he fails?

He gives an example of this kind of logline for the

movie *Back to the Future*: "When a teenage boy is transported to the past, he must unite his parents before he and his future cease to exist." This step will help you later when you write your query letter.

While your character *is* your story, **structure** is important, too. "Every novel has a different plot, but most novels have similar structure. For example, almost every novel has some sort of 'inciting incident.'" McCormick suggests going online to find a structure template that best fits your story arc. "Your job is to create vivid and original worlds, characters, and plots to hang on to that structure so your story feels fresh."

This process of creating a loose outline is not the same as fleshing out every chapter, but it can act as a starting place for plotters to create the more detailed outlines they prefer. For pantslers, it serves as a strategy to prevent their novels from taking unproductive side trips and risking bouts of writer's block.

McCormick ends his article with this advice:

"Most important of all, keep your protagonists' *wants and needs* at the forefront of your story."