

July 2023

# THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

Cindy L. Freeman, Editor



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## Free Events for Writers

**July 1, 2:00 pm.** Williamsburg Regional Library, Schell Room, 515 Scotland St.—Author/Editor **Cindy L. Freeman** will present “Writing as a Second Career.” Have you dreamed of being a writer but your career took a different path? You’ll learn that it’s never too late to start writing. No preregistration is required.

**Outstanding online resource**—The Writer’s Workshop at Authors Publish provides free lectures by world-class instructors covering a variety of subjects. Writers can access these informative lectures from home via webinar at their convenience:

<https://authorspublish.thinkific.com>

**See p. 4 for two exciting Zoom sessions coming in the fall.**

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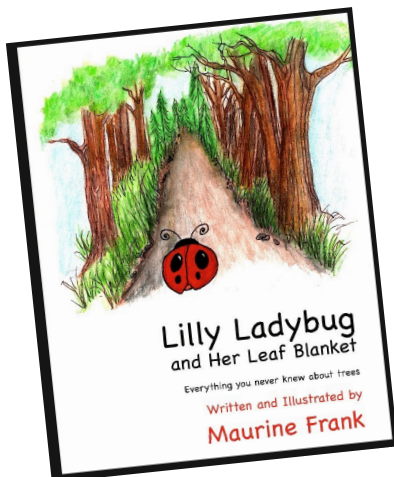
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## WGV Members in the News

(Send your author news to: [cindy@cindylfreeman.com](mailto:cindy@cindylfreeman.com))

- ◇ Mon, July 10, 8:00 am - **Cindy L. Freeman** will participate in a live radio interview with Neal Steele of Xtra 99.1 FM to talk about her latest book, *Farm Girl*.
- ◇ **Lacroy (Atlas) Nixon** hosts Slam Connection’s open mic session every first Friday (July 7), 6:30 pm at Column 15 Coffeehouse: 701 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg. Slam Connection welcomes experienced and fledgling poets, musicians, and comedians. Reserve a performance slot by emailing: [contact@column15.com](mailto:contact@column15.com) or go just to enjoy the coffee, camaraderie, and performances.
- ◇ During the last week in September, **Dave Cariens** will be in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada teaching a week-long course on analytic writing for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The course is built on his textbook, *Effective Intelligence Briefings*.

## You're Invited!



Let's all help our fellow WGV authors celebrate their new publications! Writer's Guild of Virginia provides virtual book launches for any member, which includes free advertising on social media.

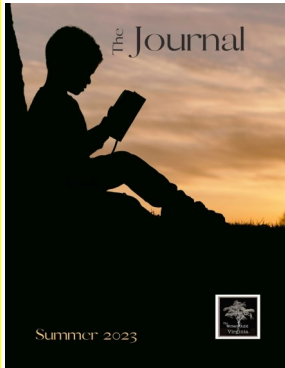
The next launch will be Sunday, July 23, 3:00 pm for **Maurine Frank's** delightful new children's book, *Lilly Ladybug and Her Leaf Blanket*. Save the date and watch for details!

Do you have an upcoming book release? Contact Jeanne Johansen to schedule *your* free virtual launch: [wgvirginiamail@gmail.com](mailto:wgvirginiamail@gmail.com)

## Advice from the Experts—Avoiding Writers' Pitfalls

- ◇ “First come, first served,” or “first come, first serve?” - The “d” at the end of “serve” is needed. Otherwise it sounds like the first person to arrive must serve the others. “Seating at the restaurant is first come, first served.”
- ◇ “Hone in” or “home in?” - “Hone” means sharpen (as with a knife or to hone a skill). “Home in” means to focus on a goal. “We are homing in on a solution to the problem.”
- ◇ “Overly simple” or “overly simplistic?” - “Simplistic” already means “overly simple.” So, saying “overly simplistic” is redundant. Either “simplistic” or “overly simple” is correct. “The doctor gave me a simplistic explanation of my diagnosis.”
- ◇ “Adverse” or “averse?” - Use adverse when referring to a situation; use averse when referring to a person. “She was averse to attending the party alone.” or “He didn’t deserve the adverse criticism of his suggestion.”
- ◇ “For all intensive purposes” or “for all intents and purposes?” - “For all intents and purposes” is correct, but still cliché. There are simpler ways to express the meaning, like “essentially.” “For all intents and purposes (Essentially), he is in charge of the department.”
- ◇ “In regards to” or “in regard to?” - Omit the “s” unless you are offering “best regards” to someone. “In regard to the move, I’ll need more boxes.” Better yet, use “regarding.” “Regarding my memoir, I must get permission to use my characters’ real names.”

After numerous delays with Amazon, the Spring 2023 issue of *The Journal* finally launched. Click [here](#) to purchase a copy for only \$11.00. Coming soon: Summer 2023, featuring the poetry of Sharon Canfield Dorsey, Marjory Gowdy, Reyn Kinzey, and Peggy Newcomb, an essay by Cindy L. Freeman, and photography by Peggy Newcomb and Rebecca Day.



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

Submission deadline for the fall issue: July 31.

### Show, Don't Tell—What Does it Mean?

Creative writers are often reminded to “show, don't tell,” but what does it actually mean? “Show, don't tell” is probably one of the most challenging techniques to master.

To understand “telling,” think of “on the nose” writing or information dumping. Here's an example: “The tall man looked angry.” Instead of “telling” the reader that the man is tall and angry, try “showing” it: “The man who towered over everyone in the room, wore an intimidating scowl.”

“Telling” is not only a lazy way of writing but risks losing the reader's interest in the story. Think of “showing” as painting a picture in the reader's mind. Now, your reader becomes invested in the story and its characters, rather than being an outside observer. It's not the authors' job to dictate how the reader perceives the picture, but simply to paint it.

Suppose you want to indicate that your character is “tired.” Rather than writing “Sarah was tired because she stayed up all night,” try something like “Sarah arrived at work with dark circles ringing her eyes.” or “Sarah couldn't stifle her yawns throughout the staff meeting.”

Another way of implementing the “show, don't tell” technique is to limit the use of adjectives and adverbs in favor of strong nouns and verbs. Instead of “Mark entered the room confidently, looking wealthy in his very expensive suit. “Mark's Armani suit enhanced the air of confidence with which he strolled into the room.”



## Announcing! Upcoming Online Courses

Everyone who took advantage of Jeanne Johansen's Free Zoom series on "All Things Marketing" found them to be enlightening and helpful. While classes are suspended for the summer, the Writers Guild is offering two exciting FREE Masterclasses, starting in September.

Up first is WGV board member, Lacroy Nixon, with a five-part series on spoken word, using his curriculum that has been certified by the Writers Guild of Virginia.



**LACROY (ATLAS) NIXON** was born in Charlotte, NC and raised in Williamsburg, VA. He earned a bachelor's degree in graphic design from Liberty University and has been writing/performing spoken-word poetry for eight years. He is a member of The Poetry Society of Virginia and author of *God and His Humor*. Lacroy is an artist with the Hope Booth movement, a world-changing initiative that debuted in London, March 2021 and toured nineteen US cities in 2022. To learn more about Hope Booth, refer to the [January 2023 newsletter](#). Lacroy also founded Slam Connection, a poetry-based organization in Williamsburg, VA to help people of all ages express themselves through performing slam poetry, while connecting them to the community. He recently became the 2023 Verb Benders grand slam champion as a member of the Verb Benders team, which is the number 3 slam poetry team in the US. For the past two years, Lacroy has been an educator, servant leader intern, and site coordinator for the Child Defense Fund Freedom School program.

Lacroy's series, starting Tuesday, September 12 on Zoom (time to be announced), is meant to encourage writers, poets—anyone who loves written and spoken word and seeks to write with inspiration and influence. Lacroy says, "While many poets prefer to leave their poetry on the page, spoken-word poetry is meant to be performed. But don't panic! There is no pressure to perform in this class if that's not your thing." The curriculum uses traditional and nontraditional methods to help people find their writing and performance style. Writers of any genre will benefit from this class.

To register, contact Jeanne Johansen by September 1: [wgviriniamail@gmail.com](mailto:wgviriniamail@gmail.com)

Then on October 17, Janice Hoffman will present a masterclass on "Writing through Trauma."

**JANICE HOFFMAN** holds degrees from Indiana University, teaches writing at the post-secondary level, and is published in the US and Canada. She is a member of several local and state writing groups, as well as the Poetry Society of Virginia for whom she edits *A Common Wealth of Poetry*. In 2020, the Indiana Arts Commission selected her work to include in its inaugural poetry archive. Her books of poetry include *Soul Cookies* (High Tide Publications, 2019) and *Azaleas in October* (2021). Her children's books are *Four Fairy Friends* (2019) *Cuatro Amigas Hadas* (2020) and *Four Fairy Friends Celebrate Christmas* (2021). Jan lives in Williamsburg, Virginia, and may be reached on Facebook at Janice Hoffman Poetry or via email at [janhoffpoetry@gmail.com](mailto:janhoffpoetry@gmail.com). Visit her website: [jan-hoffman.com](http://jan-hoffman.com).



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