

# THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

Cindy L. Freeman, Publisher/Editor



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## Don't Miss Lacroy Nixon's Virtual Masterclasses on Zoom!



They start **Tuesday, Sep. 12, 7:00—8:30 pm** and run every Tuesday through **Oct. 10**. Lacroy is offering a five-part series on using traditional and nontraditional methods to help people express their writing and performance styles. Lacroy, who started Slam Connection in Williamsburg, VA, specializes in spoken-word poetry, but his presentation is sure to inspire writers of all genres.

To participate, log in to Zoom then enter the ID and Passcode.

Meeting ID: 857 2852 6239

Passcode: 802691

Coming Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 pm - "Writing through Trauma" led by **Janice Hoffman**. Save the date and watch for details!

## 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

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## WGV Members in the News

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

- ⇒ **Dave Cariens** announces two speaking engagements: On October 4, Dave will give a talk to the Institute for Learning in Retirement in Virginia Beach. The subject will be "What to Expect from Intelligence" based on his books and career as an intelligence analyst. Then on October 18, he'll return to the institute to present "The Virginia Beach Mass Shooting—Inevitable?"
- ⇒ **David Brown** and **Patti Gaustad Procopi** have new releases coming this fall. David's book, to release September 25th, is *Psalms from the Sea: Volume I, Faith*. Patti's novel, *Stop Talking* is the sequel to *Please! Tell Me More*. Her release date is pending.
- ⇒ **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.

## Good News!

Ralph Tedeschi is back in Williamsburg with a new book store! **Turn the Page Bookshop** will open September 1 in the Premium Outlets: 5707 Richmond Rd., Suite 40 (near Nauticus).



Ralph plans to support local authors with book signings and other promotional activities, like a visible display for our books AND exclusive benefits for Writers Guild members:

1. WGV members may waive the fee that all other authors will pay for book signings.
2. WGV authors will keep 100% of their proceeds from sales, but must come to book signings equipped with a credit card reader.
3. Ralph is accepting two copies at a time of each title per author for display. WGV members who live outside the greater Williamsburg area may provide up to five books.

To contact Ralph: 757-808-6253 or [ttpbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:ttpbookshop@gmail.com)

## Avoiding Writers' Pitfalls

The English language is full of homonyms, which can easily trip up both EASL students and native speakers and writers. Homonyms are words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Here are some tricky homonyms and their definitions:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Accept—take in/Except—other than                               | 11. Discreet—tactful/Discrete—distinct         |
| 2. Aid—assist/Aide—one who assists                                | 12. Elicit—draw out/illicit—illegal            |
| 3. Allusion—indirect reference/Illusion—false                     | 13. Eminent—distinguished/Imminent—soon        |
| 4. Altar—table in church/Alter—to change                          | 14. Forth—onward/Fourth—number four            |
| 5. Capital—chief city/Capitol—legislature building                | 15. Foreword—book intro./Forward—advancing     |
| 6. Chord—grouped musical tones/Cord—rope                          | 16. Gorilla—big ape/Guerilla—warrior           |
| 7. Cite—quote/Site—location/Sight—view                            | 17. Lead—metal/Led—was the leader              |
| 8. Coarse—rough/Course—path, procedure                            | 18. Material—Matter/Materiel—military supplies |
| 9. Complement—go together/Compliment—praise                       | 19. Principal—most important/Principle—belief  |
| 10. Desert—abandon/desert—dry land/dessert—<br>after-dinner treat | 20. Weather—climate/Whether—if                 |

Website (to be new and improved by Sep. 10): <https://www.writersguildva.com/>

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



## The Journal



The Summer 2023 issue of *The Journal* is available on Amazon, and soon *The Journals* will be posted on the WGV website.

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!



## New and Improved Website Under Construction

Thanks to **Jeanne Johansen**, the WGV website is undergoing a complete overhaul. Not only will it be a work of art, but it will include videos of book launches, workshops, and interviews that you might have missed. Jeanne anticipates launching the new website by September 10th. Be sure to check it out once it goes live to make sure you are taking advantage of all your membership benefits:

<https://www.writersguildva.com/>

## Advice from the Experts

Author and Writing Coach, **Jerry Jenkins**, has written and published some 200 books, including 21 New York Times bestsellers, but he still works daily to improve his craft and is always willing to share his expertise. Here are some of Jerry's most important tips for writers:

1. **Don't aim to write a bestseller.** Instead write from your passions (the things you care about). What drives you? Write about that. It will keep you motivated when the writing gets tough.
2. **Always think reader-first.** Your sole job as a fiction writer is to tell a story so compelling that your readers get lost in it from the get-go. Write what you would want to read.
3. **Avoid throat-clearing.** That's any writing that stalls the story or chapter. Cut the setup, description, setting, philosophizing, and get on with the story.
4. **Show, don't tell.** *Telling* spoon feeds your readers rather than allowing them to deduce what's going on. *Showing* triggers the theater of the readers' mind. A writer's ability to trigger the theater of the reader's mind is what makes the book better than the movie.
5. **Avoid telling what's not happening.** If you don't say it happened, the reader won't assume it did.

"He didn't respond." "The room never got quiet." "She didn't move."

6. **Introduce your main character early, by name.** The biggest mistake new writers make is introducing their protagonist too late. As a rule, your main character should be the first person on stage.