

THE GUILD GAZETTE

Writers Guild of Virginia Online Newsletter

Cindy L. Freeman, Editor



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Virtual Masterclasses – FREE for Writers Guild Members

- ◆ Tuesdays, Sep. 12 through Oct. 10, 7:00 pm - **Lacroy Nixon** will offer a five-part series on Zoom using traditional and nontraditional methods to help people find 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...and you can join from the comfort of your recliner.

To participate, log in to Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85728526239?pwd=UUxiU2orRWVFZEo2VzlwcnJXSHMwQT09> then enter the ID and Passcode.

Meeting ID: 857 2852 6239

Passcode: 802691

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

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WGV Members in the News

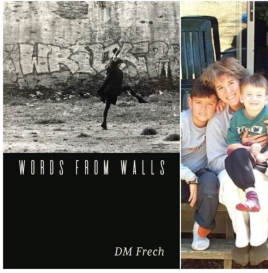
(Send your author news to: cindy@cindyfreeman.com)

- ⇒ **DM Frech's** new poetry chapbook, *Quiet Tree*, is in advance sales and will release in September with Finishing Line Press. To learn more or pre-order, click [here](#). Her hybrid (live and virtual) launch will be Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023 at the Muse Writers Center/Muse website: <https://the-muse.org/>



- ⇒ **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 present his talk "The Virginia Beach Mass Shooting—Inevitable?" Click [here](#) to learn more about the Institute for Learning in Retirement in Virginia Beach.

Please Come!



Let's all help our fellow WGV authors celebrate their new publications! It requires only one hour of your time, and you don't need to travel anywhere. That's right! Writer's Guild of Virginia provides a virtual book launch for any member, including free advertising on social media.

The next launch will be Sunday, August 20, 3:00 pm for **DM Frech's** poetry chapbook, *Words from Walls*, published by Finishing Line Press. Click [here](#) to order.

To attend the launch, log in to Zoom, <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84422346271?pwd=NWVoSHJ1c2dzOTFsc0tYcDZnbkNDQT09> and enter the meeting ID and Passcode.

Meeting ID: 844 2234 6271

Passcode: 363787

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

Advice from the Experts—Avoiding Writers' Pitfalls

With spell-check features built into computers, our writing should be flawless, but misspelling remains one of the most problematic issues in writing of all kinds. Here are some commonly misspelled words that can make your writing look less than polished:

1. Accommodate - Remember the two sets of double letters "cc and "mm."
2. Acknowledgment - Adding an "e" after the "g" is the British spelling; without the "e" is American.
3. Acquire - Writers often omit the "c."
4. Conscientious - A common misspelling is consciencious. Remember 2 "cs" & 1 "t."
5. Fulfill - The British spelling is "fulfil," but in the U.S. the third "l" is more acceptable.
6. Indispensable - A common misspelling is indispensable. Since the rules about "ible" vs. "able" endings are inconsistent, it's best to memorize them. The same is true for "ance" vs. "ence" endings. Ex. assistance (not assistence), guidance (not guidence), occurrence (not occurance), perseverance (not perseverence), reference (not referance).
7. Occurred - Always two "r" letters. Otherwise it is pronounced "oh-cured" which is not a word.
8. Pastime - A common misspelling is pasttime. Unlike the compound word "underrated," the shared letter is not repeated.

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

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



The Journal



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, artwork by Peggy Newcomb, and photography by Rebecca Day.

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

Submission deadline for the fall issue: July 31.

Literary Devices

Writers have numerous literary devices available that, when used judiciously, can make our fiction writing stand out from the crowd. Here are a few to consider:

1. **Allegory** is a narrative used to depict abstract ideas. In an allegorical story, the plot and characters represent more than they seem to on the surface. Many children's fables, such as *Chicken Little (Henny Penny)*, are simple allegories about morality — but allegories can also be dark, complex, and controversial.
2. **Alliteration** is a series of words using the same starting sound, such as “Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.” Alliteration is often used in poetry. Ex. Emily Dickenson’s poem, “The Soul selects her own Society - Then - shuts the Door.”
3. **Epigraph** is a short quotation or saying at the beginning of a book, chapter, or poem, intended to suggest its theme. Ex. “Lawyers, I suppose, were children once.” –Charles Lamb (used by Harper Lee at the beginning of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Epigraphs honor the authors who have informed our writing but should be used sparingly.
4. **Flashback** is when the narrator jumps back in time to provide context to a character or plot. The movie “Forrest Gump” consists of a series of flashbacks.
5. **Foreshadowing** lays a foundation for what’s coming in the story. Effective foreshadowing creates suspense, making readers eager to turn the page. It involves dropping subtle hints along the way, such as planting red herrings in a murder mystery.
6. **Metaphor** is a figure of speech that compares two different things, highlighting their similarities. Metaphors can be useful in showing/not telling your reader something. Ex. “But soft, what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun.” As Juliet stands on her balcony, lovestruck Romeo compares her to the rising sun.
7. **Onomatopoeia** is a word that imitates or suggests the sound it’s describing. Common onomatopoeias include “gurgle,” “hiss,” “boom,” “plop,” “whir,” and “whizz.” In storytelling and poetry, onomatopoeia is an effective way to draw your reader into the environment. Ex. “The boom of thunder awakened us around midnight.”
8. **Simile** is a figure of speech that compares two different things, but it uses the words “like” or “as.” Ex. “He stayed as cool as a cucumber.” or Forrest Gump’s famous line, “Life is like a box of chocolates.”