

GLVWG



Welcome to the monthly
Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter
Mostly April 2024 into May 2024

The intent of this newsletter is to give information and tips to our authors.



For the month of April, there is a general membership meeting on April 27, at 10:00 am, but no morning or afternoon workshops.

To Join the meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86767819121?pwd=RGpFU1FUR1I0SysyV3d5czhYYmVHQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 6781 9121

Passcode: 764876



This month's **Member Spotlight : Marissa Koons**

Marissa Koons is the author of The Cool Kids series, beginning with The Birthday Party. She enjoys writing children's books geared toward self-esteem and believes the only opinion of you that matters is your own.

An accountant by day, book lover by night, she received her Bachelor of Science degree from Cedar Crest College.

Growing up, she dreamed of writing a children's book, and this interest led her to take classes at the Institute of Children's Literature. While life went in a different direction, the path led to the same place, and eventually, in a global pandemic, her dream became a reality. Her journey began in 2020 with self-publishing, and in 2024, she became a published author with Austin Macauley Publishers LLC.

Trick or Treat: A Cool Kids Halloween is the second book in The Cool Kids series, set to debut September 13th of this year. Her inspiration comes from her children, friends, and personal growth experiences.

When not writing, you can find her painting with her kids or swimming laps. Marissa lives with her husband and three daughters in Pennsylvania.



Write Stuff Writers Conference 2024. A smash hit!

First up, my many thanks to all the committee members and volunteers who make this conference possible (in no particular order): Donna Brennan, Bart Palamalro, Sara Karnish, Dianna Sinovic, Laurel Wenson, Angel Ackerman, Chris Ochs, Kelly Bender, Judy England McCarthy, Tom Lubben, Bernette Sukley, Dawn Sooy, and Ginny Shephard. Now there is a team.

More thanks go to the horrifying Jonathan Maberry, who's superior workshop, presentations, and keynote speech were certainly the highlights of the conference. His generosity I found particularly inspiring.

Notably useful too were the Amy Deardon and Melissa Koberlein presentations on marketing, podcasting, and writing. There was much material here that I would not have guessed at.

Our agents, Mark Gottlieb, Maria Lamba, and Donna Talarico were also invaluable, making themselves available for our pitches.

Rounding up the presentation were our own Laurel Wenson, Jordan Sonnenblick and Weldon Burge covering the topics of NaNoWriMo, Memoir, and Writing for Anthologies.

If you missed it, you can still access (for a limited time) the videos of the conference for \$40 for Thursday, \$40 for Friday (Maberry), \$80 for Saturday, or \$199 for the entire conference. Non-member prices are a little higher.

I will call this year a smash hit. Our attendance was back to pre-pandemic levels.

Ah, but next year! Stay tuned.



Our Notices of Contests

GLVWG does not endorse any of these following events—they are supplied to our members solely for informational purposes.

[Book of the Year Awards](#)

The Independent Author Network presents the 10th Annual IAN Book of the Year Awards, an international contest open to all authors with 55 fiction and non-fiction categories. Winners are eligible to receive a share of cash prizes of \$6,000 USD. Open to all English language print and eBooks available for sale, including small presses, mid-size independent publishers, university presses, and self-published authors.

Genres: Fantasy, Fiction, Horror, Humor, Memoir, Mystery, Non-fiction, Novel, Novella, Poetry, Romance, Science Fiction, Science Writing, Thriller, Young Adult, Crime, and Short Story.

Top prize: \$2,500

Entry fee: \$49

Deadline: August 16, 2024

Flash Fiction Competition 2024

Write the World

“There was more room to think,” wrote novelist David Gaffney on becoming a flash fiction convert, “more space for the original idea to resonate, fewer unnecessary words to wade through.” This month, gather your briefest bits of story, your flashes in a pan, your poetic impulses, and give us a story in 100 words or fewer.

Genres: Flash Fiction

Top prize: \$100

Runner up: \$50, Best Peer Review: \$50

Entry fee: Free

Deadline: August 26, 2024



This month's **Featured Publishers**

Envelopebooks

EnvelopeBooks is a new independent publishing house founded in the summer of 2020. An offshoot of Booklaunch, a quarterly books and publishing freesheet that makes its way to 50,000 homes per issue, the EnvelopeBooks imprint is dedicated to working with authors to produce high-quality books.

Genres: Fiction and Non-fiction
Accepts unagented submissions
Small press

WTAW Press

Provides several opportunities to submit manuscripts for publication during open reading periods. To stay current with their open reading periods and other news, sign up for their newsletter.

They welcome submissions from writers of all backgrounds and especially encourage submissions by women, BIPOC, LGBTQ+ or nonbinary gender people, persons with disabilities, and all traditionally underrepresented groups. They welcome submissions from new, emerging, and established voices.

Genres: Fiction and Non-fiction
Accepts unagented submissions
Small press



The Author's **Resource Well**

The Pub Crawl: My Journey to Traditional Publication

By Dr. Meryl Broughton

The long-haul experience of one non-fiction author to get published.

How to Publish a Book For Free: The 7 Best Sites

If you've written the last word of your book or are just about to be done, you might be wondering how to get your book out into the world... without breaking the bank. Also, how to get your book formatted for free.



Our **CaféZoom!** sessions continue. The Café is every Wednesday via Zoom. Details will be on the website on the previous Friday. You must register to read and/or attend. However, they fill up pretty fast, so pay attention to the event listings on our website and signup for the next one.

Here is the link for more information and to register for The Writers Café. There is a waitlist for those who can't register in case someone doesn't show up.

<https://greaterlehighvalleywritersgroup.wildapricot.org>

We are now allowing up to 20 participants to be readers. The Writers Café format has two parallel sessions (breakout rooms) with 10 readers in each. You can still join the meeting, but only the first 20 to register will be able to read their work. There will be a waitlist for readers, so have something available to read in case someone doesn't show up.

Total registration will be limited to 25 people, any more would be unmanageable.

We will be using Zoom, and those who have registered will get an invitation via email and be notified again on the day of the Café. The meeting will start at 6:55 pm, with no particular end time. If you have signed up, be prompt!



Here is our **Occasional Column**

(This is a reprint from February 2021)



Crimes Against Grammar: Verbing Nouns

By Pattie Giordani

Years ago, a writer friend told me one of her grammar gripes was “when a noun is used incorrectly as a verb.” While such usage isn’t incorrect per se, it can be annoying.

Her two examples (in one sentence) were, “I partner with clients to identify performance issues and architect innovative, business-oriented performance solutions.”

She also told me that the dictionary lists **partner** as a noun and a verb but describes **architect** only as a noun. Then she asked, “Is there a word for the practice of using a noun as a verb?”

Yes, there is—and it’s not a new practice. Verbing, or denominalization, is the act of converting a noun to a verb. I have also seen the term verbify used. That sounds vaguely Foghorn Leghorn to me. “I say, son, I say, we’re gonna verbify that noun to pieces.”

In their 1979 study, “Why Nouns Surface as Verbs,” Eve V. Clark and Herbert H. Clark wrote, “The more concrete and unambiguous the noun’s meaning, the more easily it’s accepted as a verb.” Others have said verbing is a “vivid linguistic shortcut,” which makes perfect sense, however odd the result.

Anyway, the practice sometimes grates on my nerves too. Before I had ever heard of verbing, it came up in a business meeting where I used to work. “We’re going to **dialogue** about our goals and objectives.” Just say, “We’re going to **talk about** our goals and objectives.” Or, if the speaker is absolutely stuck on using the word dialogue: “We’re going to **have a dialogue** about our goals and objectives.”

As Chi Luu wrote in “Do you even dialogue, Bro? Understanding Why Nouns Become Verbs” in *JSTOR Daily* in 2016, “Take examples like **dialoguing**, auctioning, efforting or transiting. (No really, please take them away.)”

I’m not the only one who cringes at **dialoguing**. The first sentence in Grammarly’s “The Basics of Verbing Nouns” is “Let’s join the nearest imaginary business meeting where a group of people is **dialoguing**.” The resulting conversation uses seven other nouns used as verbs, including table, calendar and task.

Many verbified nouns have become acceptable—meaning less annoying—to use, such as **book** a hotel, **foot** the bill, **chair** the committee, **divorce** a wayward spouse and **host** a party.

As Grammarly says, it is difficult to imagine some of these words only as nouns. “For example, the earliest known usage of **‘to medal’** appeared in a newspaper in 1966, but ‘medal’ was first recorded as a noun in 1578.”

The article also discusses some of the newest nouns being verbified, even though some of them still seem awkward to me. In this group: Instead of “renting a home on Airbnb, some say “I **Airbnbed** the house.” We don’t “sell it on eBay,” we “**eBay** it.” And we don’t “meet for coffee,” but “we **coffee**.” That still really sounds odd.

Some of the other examples Grammarly cites don't annoy me, perhaps because they've been used widely, like "**beer** me" and "she **friend**ed me." And perhaps the most famous: "**Google** it!"

***Pattie Giordani** is a writer and editor who was a staff editor for a national nonprofit association and for a daily newspaper. Her freelance articles have appeared in various newspapers and magazines. She copyedits and proofreads books and other publications, and she frequently presents at writers group meetings and conferences.*



We hope to be helpful!