

Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group (GLVWG) Newsletter: September, 2016



September, 2016

## Write Stuff is Good Stuff

By Charles Kiernan

Some of you will remember Vicky Selvaggio, one of the agents at last year's conference. She will be back for the 2017 Write Stuff, but this time as a presenter. This is our chance to get an agent's view of the industry and of us as writers. We are looking forward to her presentation, *Agent 101: An Inside View of Acquiring Clients*.

She also says: "In addition to these presentations, I can present on character development, elements of plot, anything related to writing.... I also offer critiques (both face to face and written-only), which I'm quite thorough on--participants receive both a 2-3 page report on strengths/weaknesses of their sample pages (first 10 pages, but I've done 15 pages too) while also getting comments on the manuscript."

Another one of our presenters will be Deborah Riley-Magnus, with a four-hour workshop on Friday. *Down the Author Marketing Rabbit Hole*. Deb says, "At the bottom of the rabbit hole, you'll learn the difference between selling and allowing people to buy."

On Saturday she will have two hour long presentations, *10 tools for Author Marketing Success*, and *The Care and Feeding of Your Marketing Muse*.

Deborah Riley-Magnus is an author and an Author Success Coach. Her nonfiction—*Finding Author Success*, and *Write Brain/Left Brain*—focuses on helping authors by teaching them how to bridge the gap between the creative writer and the marketing author.

Mark your calendar for March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> and help us get the word out.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Peggy Adamsczyk

The days are growing shorter. Cooler weather is upon us. You posted your family vacation pictures on Facebook for everyone to admire and finished all your kids school shopping. Your grandma and grandpa duties have started to lessen, not that you really minded them in the first place.

As the summer fades so too does all the reasons we invented to keep us away from our keyboards. It is time to start writing again, to heed those "inner voices" whispering to reignite our imaginations.

Welcome everyone to the 2016- 2017 GLVWG New Year. February 2017 marks our 24<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, a fantastic achievement for an organization that started from a simple newspaper article placed by two enterprising women.

Brenda Havens has a remarkable list of speakers lined up for the start of the year, including our own, Past President, Conference Chair, Program Chair and, now, Author, Kathryn Craft. Please check meeting dates and schedule for all speakers.

As a reminder, GLVWG will no longer supply permanent nametags and the sign-in table will be located outside the meeting room. Please use a sticky nametag, if you do not have another GLVWG nametag to wear. If you prefer not using a sticky nametag, grab a pin-on-tag holder to take home and design a nametag for future meetings. The pin-on-tag holders are clip lanyard friendly.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 24th.

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## Anthology: Connections

By Bernadette Sukley

This year's GLVWG Anthology theme is Connections. This is a wide open topic and can be construed however you wish. Connections with people, animals, places, the Divine, the diabolic -- anything that ties one thing to another. We're asking for original material only. No explicit sex or gore. We ask you to use your best judgement on strong language. We're only accepting submissions through email and in New Times Roman, 12pt, double-spaced format.

We're asking for members' understanding and patience. The Anthology is not a vanity publication but an opportunity to learn about the process of self publishing. The 2017 Anthology team in place is impressive -- not Simon & Schuster CEOs, but people who love the written word and are willing to learn more every day about the world of publishing.

### Due dates:

**9/02/2016:** Submissions start

**9/30/2016:** Deadline for final Submission

**10/07/2016:** The acceptance/denial by panel, suggestions for improvements: first edit

**10/28/2016:** Final first edit due

Email submissions to [glwgspproject@gmail.com](mailto:glwgspproject@gmail.com).

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## From the Desk of our Vice President

### How Words Shape our Actions

By Keith Keffer

This summer I should have been writing every day. I should have stuck to my plan, and I should have been meeting my deadlines. I should have done all that, but I didn't.

I had developed a case of the "should haves."

Everything about my writing schedule had become something I should do. I should write for an hour tomorrow. I should write 2,000 words this week. I should finish four new chapters this month.

Should is a bad word when it comes to meeting our goals. It's wishy-washy. When we say we should do something we aren't committing to it. What we are really saying is, "Yeah, that would be nice to do, but if I can't do it that's OK too."

When setting goals, we must eliminate the word **should** from our vocabulary. It's not hard. Just replace it with the word **must**. That's probably what we all do when a deadline sneaks up on us. I know it is true for me. This article was something I should do until I realized I was almost out of time to finish it. As soon as it became something I must do, I put my butt in my chair and got to work.

Must is a powerful word. There is nothing wishy-washy about it. Use it.

If you aren't sure where to start, try this. Write one action that you can do to achieve your goal and hang it above your desk where you can easily see it. Read it out loud every day.

My sign says, "I must write today."

It's time to stop thinking about the things we should do and start planning the things that we must do.



*You must be 18 years of age or older to attend any GLVWG event.*

## 2016 GLVWG General Meetings

September 24, October 22, November 26

10:00AM - 12noon

Held at the Palmer Library (1 Weller Place, Easton, PA 18045)

# GLVWG Afternoon Speakers

After the GLVWG General Meetings

Held at the Palmer Library

(The afternoon workshops are free for GLVWG members, and \$15 for non-members.

Register at [glvwg.org](http://glvwg.org))

## September 24: Chris Redding

Chris Redding will present a morning session on "How to Make Money Before You Hit It Big". Ghostwriting is just one of the ways that you can make money while building a career. Chris Redding will take you through the various types of writing that will make you short-term money, and to websites where you can find those jobs. Included in the session will be tips on obtaining and retaining clients for a steady income.

In the afternoon, Redding will lead a 90-minute workshop on "Layering: Not Just for Cakes". In this class, you'll start with two pages of dialogue, and transform it into a fully functioning scene. By adding each element of what needs to go into a story individually, you will see how it all makes the whole, and will be able to add all the elements seamlessly, including description and character emotions. Instead of deconstructing a scene, you will construct a scene from the ground up.

Bio - Chris Redding lives in New Jersey juggling her family, a part time job, and her writing. She has seven books, a short story and a collection of short stories published. Website: <http://chrisreddingauthor.blogspot.com/>

## October 22: Alissa Grosso

Riegelsville author Alissa Grosso will speak at the morning session on "10 Lessons for Writers from a Former Indie Book Reviewer". Learn dos and don'ts of writing and publishing your book, how not to annoy reviewers and inside secrets of the paid review industry. Alissa shares insight from her experiences working as a freelance indie book reviewer.

In the afternoon, Grosso will lead a 90-minute workshop titled "From First Draft to Published Novel (a talk on revisions and edits)". It will be an in-depth look at the steps to take to turn your first draft into a real, live book. This session will cover self-revision and rewriting, working with different publishing professionals and finalizing a manuscript for publication. Suitable for both authors hoping to sell their book to a traditional publisher and those considering self publishing.

Bio - Alissa Grosso is a young adult novelist whose books have been published in four continents. She's the author of the novels **Popular** (Flux, 2011), **Ferocity Summer** (Flux, 2012) and **Shallow Pond** (Flux, 2013). She frequently speaks about the world of books and publishing, and the ups and downs of being a writer on her YouTube channel **Awkward Author**. Her writing has appeared in a number of newspapers, magazines and websites, and she is a monthly contributor to **YA Outside the Lines**. Alissa is represented by Jim McCarthy at *Dystel & Goderich Literary Management*. Her website is [alissagrosso.com](http://alissagrosso.com).

## November 26: Kathryn Craft

Pennsylvania author Kathryn Craft will present a session titled "Developing a Confident Voice" in the morning. Readers respond to the confidence in an author's tone. It's that "mysterious something" that elevates prose beyond the ordinary. It inspires trust. The reader may not be able to analyze it, but he knows it when he sees it, and responds by continuing to read. Writers despair that author confidence is an intangible, bestowed by sensibility or absorbed by osmosis. Both may be true, but there's a third element: craft. In this presentation, you will



GLVWG has a new online face, at <https://glvwgwritestuffblog.wordpress.com/>. Our group Wild Apricot site continues to manage membership activities and benefits, but the updated Wordpress blog site gives us a needed public face amenable to browser search engines, easy to read formatting, and ability to add graphic media. We enhanced publicity with an older version of our blog site for the 2016 WriteStuff™ Conference, and discovered it to be a powerful draw to people searching for places to learn. We plan to accelerate our conference campaign for 2017 WriteStuff™, scheduled March 23-25, by posting months in advance, program highlights and presenter bios, featuring [Michael Hauge as our Keynote Speaker](#). In addition, we will post upcoming events for membership meetings.

The new look complements our social media activities on the [GLVWG Facebook Page](#). We hope to add Pinterest in the future as a way to share writer resources. Meanwhile, help us drive our online visibility and "**Follow GLVWG by Email**" by selecting the little button on the left labeled **Follow**, and filling in the information. Also, if you haven't done it yet, **Like** us on Facebook.

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## GLVWG Success Stories

By Dawn M. Sooy

At every membership meeting, people are encouraged to share their recent successes.

From the June 25th meeting:

**Phil Guinta** – Released an Anthology Book *Somewhere in the Middle of Eternity*. A second Anthology is coming out called *Elsewhere in the Middle of Eternity* to be released in early July.

**Phyllis Palamaro** – Read her second book to the children in the library. One inquisitive boy about nine years old wanted to know how her animals could talk. She said, "It's my book."

**Mitzi Flyte** – Wrote a book and edited it but did nothing with it for almost two weeks.

**Chris Ochs** - Tune into WDIY 88.1-FM or stream at [wdiy.org](http://wdiy.org), for an original fairy tale written and told by me. Chris will regale the airwaves with "The Balalaika and the Samovar," at 8 PM, during the July 20th edition of "In the Tradition" (7-9PM) with host Tom Druckenmiller, and guest GLVWG's own Charles Kiernan.



## Greetings New Members / Guests

By Dawn M. Sooy

**Jennifer Lader** – Writes non-fiction and is an editor and publicist looking to branch out to write short stories.

**Jeni Burns** – Writes Paranormal Romance, Fantasy, Woman's Fiction, and is a published author.

**Sheila Stevens** – Writes spiritual material.

**Bea Aries** – Writes articles for EXAMINER.COM (out of Denver).



## From Our Members

### **ANY EXCUSE WILL DO...**

*(or...it's hard to write with tongue-in-cheek)*

By David A. Miller, II

**Not published?**

**Having trouble getting published?**

**1. Write your name and story title down**

On a blank sheet of paper..

(Oh, you haven't done that?)

**2. Find a mirror, gaze at it.**

You're looking at the reason.

**3. Choose from this list and say to your reflection:**

- I'm scared
- People won't like it
- I don't know what to say
- It wouldn't be any good
- Getting published is so complicated
- Pick another excuse, write it here \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Still haven't done a thing but squirm?

Look at your reflection again

Or

#### 5. Come to a Writers Café meeting

Second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

In the Palmer Library meeting room.

It's free. You don't even have to be a GLVWG member.

We know that writing is NOT a solo flight.

Um...if you don't do any of this,

You might be the person who dies "with all his music in 'im."

Worse yet, your finished (but unpublished) manuscript will turn to dust.

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### First Impressions...

By Sheila K Stephen

Apprehensively I sauntered into my first meeting of GLVWG, wondering what possessed me to come in the first place. "You're not even a published writer except for a few poems," this Nervous Nelly scolded me. Nevertheless, I arrived early, slipping into an empty seat while a Board meeting was finishing up. They conducted the Group business with all of the formalities...but in a way that impressed upon me that they were all friends and colleagues.

By the time their meeting ended and the General Meeting began, I felt comfortable already. There were published writers, unpublished writers....poets and short story essayists....children's books scribes....sci-fi and spiritual dramatists. I felt right at home even though I was a bit lost in the cyberspace references. But more so than that, I felt excited about writing again.

This was a meeting of old souls getting together to discuss what they love to do more than anything in the world. These writers love their craft just like I do and respect one another for their common bond. When the meeting was over, friends gathered to talk. The unseasoned newcomers were welcomed graciously by members who clearly understood what it was like to be a newcomer at one time.

Thank God for the day I stumbled across GLVWG by Googling "Writers Groups". By doing so, I've found a new home and began new friendships for life – So glad I joined the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group!

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## Want to submit a writing piece to be included in a GLVWG newsletter? You can!

All submissions for the GLVWG newsletter are to be no more than 250 words. Please note that we reserve the right to exclude any writing submissions that are not appropriate for any reason.

Email submissions to [glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com).

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