

**"Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere."**

© Sandra Almonte

A couple writers submitted pieces for last newsletter's writing prompt. Check them out. They might inspire you to submit for the next issue.

And don't forget - we do NOT have a meeting this month. Enjoy the holidays.

See ya next year!

"Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere." – *Anne Lamott*

Write on!  
Sandra Almonte  
Newsletter Chair  
Email: [glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com)



December, 2018



Donna Brennan, Anthology Chair

Email Questions to [glvwg.anthology@gmail.com](mailto:glvwg.anthology@gmail.com)



Dawn M. Sooy, Conference Chair

Registration is open to members.

If you've let your membership lapse, there's no need to worry. All you have to do is renew your membership and you'll be able to register at the discounted member rate.

For more info and to register, [click here](#).

See ya at the conference!



## From the Desk of our Vice President

Christopher D. Ochs

### The Dreaded Necessary Evil

This column's title is in fact my browser bookmark for Facebook. It is my daily reminder that social media is a tool. It is not my friend. It cautions me that social media is like swallowing foul-tasting medicine in hopes it will eventually improve my situation. Though I much prefer to talk, phone, email, and write letters (on paper!) to my friends, social media is an absolute requirement in my vocation as an author.

Everyone along the publishing chain -- from agent, to editor, to publisher, to reader -- expect it. They eye you with dire suspicion as though you were dressed in caveman bearskins if you have no online presence. The harsh reality of our electronic world is that one cannot hope to be successful in the writing biz without an online presence.

On the flip side, social media is a narcotic, and the bane of the actual task of writing. The moment I touch that browser tab labeled "The Dreaded Necessary Evil," I am sucked into the world of cat videos, terrible jokes, political rants, news real and fake. Lo and behold, hours that should have been spent writing are sucked into the ether, never to be reclaimed.

So, my bit of advice -- and I freely admit I struggle to follow my own advice! -- is save your facebook/twitter/instagram/etc time, for AFTER you have done your writing for the day.



## **2018-2019 GLVWG General Meetings**

December (no meeting), January 26, February 23

10:00AM - 12noon

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

For more information, go [here](#). If you want to see information about past presenters, just scroll down to the "Past Events" section.

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### **Writers Café**

#### **Craft Discussion with Read & Critique**

*Usually every **second Thursday** of the month*

Held at the **Palmer Library** from 7PM - 9PM

### **Writers Café West**

#### **Craft discussion with Read & Critique**

*Usually every **third Sunday** of the month*

Held at **Wanamakers General Store** from 1PM - 3PM

**8888 Kings Hwy, Kempton, PA**

*Both are open to the public and free.*

Get more details about the *Writers Café* and *Writers Café West* [here](#).



### **Writing Prompt**

The board members decided to add something fun to the newsletter. A writing prompt. There will be one in every newsletter. It could be a title, a sentence, 3-4 words, 3-4 pictures, a mix of words and pictures, etc. Here are the rules:

- For members only.
- Submissions are due on the 15th of February, May, August, and November.
- Submissions are to be no more than 1000 words.
- No inappropriate language or descriptions that would not be suitable for a young reader.
- We reserve the right to exclude any writing submissions that are not appropriate for any reason.

Depending on how many submissions we get, we will publish 1-2 in the newsletter. As a bonus, we will also publish your writing on our blog.

*Submissions can be emailed to [glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:glvwg.newsletter@gmail.com)*

**Prompt for this issue:**

***Before and After***

Pick an everyday item. Describe what your life is like without the item (before) and then describe what your life is like with the item (after). Show us how useful (or useless) the item is.

Have fun!



***Writings that were submitted are below. (Great job guys!)***

***First submission:***

**The Confidence Cake**

by Larry Scurman

I have a friend named Barbara Jean, who is quite a baker. I tease her and call her Barbara Jean, the baking machine. She can make pies that you will cherish. Her crust is light and flaky and yes, it will melt in your mouth. Cream puffs and eclairs that will seduce your taste buds. But the one thing that really makes her culinary skills stand out is her Confidence Cake. It is so good that it doesn't need any icing. That's why she calls it her Confidence Cake. It is light and moist with a taste that is filled with buttery vanilla, cinnamon and whatever type of nuts you like. Barbara has made it with pecans, walnuts, almonds and even pistachios. She'll make it with whatever type of nut you request, and it always turns out delicious.

She also has the wonderful knack of giving you a pep talk without you even knowing it. You can sit at her kitchen table sipping coffee and having a piece of her confidence cake, while you tell her all about your week or vacation or any situation in life that you're going through. Sometimes it may be about your troubles and disappointments or tough decisions and simple problems. You may be confused, frustrated, happy or so sad that it brings tears. Just like she uses her skills in baking, she is sure to put a smile on your face because laughter is one of her main ingredients. She sits patiently and listens to every word you say. She then takes the recipe of your story and sums it up in such a way that you get a new perspective on the situation. Sometimes you get a new perspective on life itself.

She says, "Take your problems to the cemetery, they're dead. And remember not to dig them up. Be like this confidence cake and be able to stand alone."

**Second submission:**

**Sponge Cake**

by Dawn M. Sooy

I parked the red Escape and leaned back in my seat, collecting myself. It seems time stands still here. Recalling the details of that day were ingrained stronger than any holiday or birthday.

I gingerly stepped along the grass apologizing to the person listed on each headstone. In a place such as this, walking where people were buried seemed intrusive.

The spot where Mom rested peacefully came into view, and I leaned down to gently lay the flowers against the stone. My brother and I didn't go with the drab gray color but instead chose a beautiful shade of rose, knowing Mom would be pleased with our choice.

I sat, legs bent, with my arms wrapped around them, my chin on my knees. Sniffles set in as they were part of my visit.

"Hi, Mom. It's been a long time since I was here last. What's that? Oh, the Escape is a different color? Yeah, another accident that totaled my last SUV...again. There was a traffic jam, and no one could move forward or backward. The next thing I hear is this blast of an air horn, and one of those big ambulances struck me from behind. They had been driving up the shoulder of the road not paying attention to the traffic because they were looking at the tractor-trailer crash on the other side of the highway.

"Mom, it's okay, *please* don't be upset. I wasn't hurt like the first time—just frightened and crying. For a time, getting in a car caused distress and the inability to drive. Even with Bob behind the wheel, dread had my stomach locked up tight. And having depression... What's that?

"Yes, that monster still lingers. I'll have it the rest of my life. Bob learned how to help me cope, so please don't worry. Mom...MOM! Stop crying, please. Now is the time for peace in your life. You deserve it.

I waited patiently until her sobs stopped the same as she did when I was a child. The only difference, I couldn't hold her and stroke her hair.

"Are you okay now Mom? Don't apologize for crying. That's what mothers do. Here's something that will make you feel better. I found the strength to drive because I really wanted to see you, Mom. You gave me the courage to get behind the wheel again. It was you.

"Why the red? That should be an easy one for you since you are always into omens. I figured since both of the SUVs were gray and I had an accident in each of them, I should stay away from that color.

"Uh-Uh. I told Bob I still wanted an SUV, but it couldn't be gray, and it couldn't be white. Why white? Sometimes you're too silly, Mom. That color is just not appealing.

"Yes, you're right. I am excited about something. You always seem to hone in when I have good news. Remember the 'The Cake Corner' bakery? It seems Mr. Belfield wants to retire and sell his business. So I baked him your special sponge cake, went to see him and proposed to apprentice under him. This is when I cut him a piece and asked him to sample my work. He told me it was very good, but I had known that already because his eyes just about rolled back in his head when he tasted his first bite. As he was eating his second piece, he nodded and said I could start the next day.

"Very funny, Mom. Getting up at 5 AM – time to make the donuts. But it's worth it.

"Uh-uh. Bob's really happy for me because he knows this is my dream job. The only thing I wish you were here to help me out. We used to have so much fun together baking.

"Now I have to get going. I love you too, mom. I'll be back soon."







## From Our Members

### Brave New World

by Bob Frey

Why should

Old Robert be out in the woods

taking a nighttime ride?

Did he have a girlfriend on the side?

Famous men do that, I hear...

or maybe he is just out to have a beer.

Since making rhymes

takes lots of time.

He is going to miss his supper,

as he studies his horse's crupper<sup>1</sup>

While he makes poetic words,

his horse makes odoriferous turds.

He rides behind his faithful pooper

and falls into poetic stupor.

Something startles him awake.

"Oh, which road to take?"

He lets the reins go slack.

The horse knows the way back.

But, who knows if his poems are historical

or really allegorical?

<sup>1</sup>Crupper – strap under a horse's tail that keeps the harness from sliding forward when going downhill; also holds the other straps in position.



Want to be in the  
**SPOTLIGHT?**

Charles Kiernan

We are looking for members to give very short presentations at the end of the general business meeting and before our main presentation, which we call The Spotlight. Use it to introduce your new work, talk about a past achievement, or a current experience. All our members would like to get to know each other a little better. Here is the way.

If you are interested please contact Charles Kiernan at [cjkiernan01@gmail.com](mailto:cjkiernan01@gmail.com).



Dawn M. Sooy

At every GLVWG meeting, people are encouraged to share their recent successes and/or failures. From the October meeting.

**Successes:**

Bethlehem Writer's Group Anthology *Untethered* has short stories by these GLVWG members:

- Chris Ochs
- D. T. Krippene
- Ralph Hieb
- Carol Wright
- Jerry McFadden
- Dianna Sinovic

**Gail Brittenburg** – Has short story accepted in an anthology.

**Larry “Rock ‘n’ Roll” Schardt** – Genre – NonFiction, Fantasy

- Has had a successful retreat #10.
- Has short story accepted for Chicken Soup for the Soul #3.

**Phil Guinta** – Speculative Fiction

- New ghost story, "Bottom of the Hour" was published in the paranormal fiction anthology, *A Plague of Shadows*, by Smart Rhino Publications. The book is now available on Amazon.
- Paranormal mystery novella, *Like Mother, Like Daughters*, will be published in mid-November by Firebringer Press. Phil's story will be paired with a vampire tale called *Freedom's Blood* by Steven H. Wilson. The book will be branded *Firebringer Take Two* and will be formatted like the classic ACE Doubles (read one story, flip the book over to read the other).
- Speculative fiction stories, "The Celestials" and "Tapestry" have been accepted by Cat & Mouse Press for their spring 2019 anthology, *Beach Pulp*. The collection gathers stories

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akin to the classic pulp magazines (retro science fiction, weird tales, monsters,paranormal, mystery, romance, etc) all of which are set along the Delmarva coast.

**Mitzi Reinbold Aka Mitzi Flyte** – Genres – Nonfiction, Personal Essay, Horror, Paranormal

- Writes for Medium(dot)com – has 300 posts in nonfiction and essay.

**Ralph Hieb** – Genres – Paranormal

- Has two stories that will be in the anthology *Untethered*. The release is scheduled for October 2018.

**Rose Mavis** – Genre – Human Interest

- Finished writing and submitted a piece to a general magazine. The topic is “My Hearing Journey as a Deaf Child to a Hearing Adult.”

**Judy England-McCarthy** – Children’s Halloween picture book will be finished by the end of the year, in both e-book and hardcopy.

**Robert L Martin** – Genre – Poetry

- Terror House Magazine from Budapest, Hungary accepted three poems and posted them online.
- Voices project accepted.
- One poem to be posted online in January 2019.

**Donna Brennan** - Received a request from an editor at Pelican for one of her novels.

### **Failure Stories:**

No failure stories.



### **Greetings New Members, Visitors, and Guests**

Dawn M. Sooy

### **Visitors:**

From the October meeting:

**Constance Garcia-Barrio** – Genre – Magazine, Newspaper Articles, Fiction.

### **New Members:**

No new members.

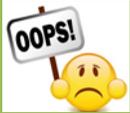
## Want to submit a writing piece to be included in a GLVWG newsletter? You can!

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.

You can submit your writing piece at any time. If accepted, it will go into the upcoming issue.

Submissions can be emailed to [glvwg\\_newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:glvwg_newsletter@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** The GLVWG newsletter goes out four times a year - March, June, September, and December. Submissions are due 15 days before the month the publication is going out or it will be included in the next issue.



From time to time there will be human errors. Below are corrections, if any.  
WOOHOO! No errors to report in this issue.

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