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Subject: More and More - GLVWG March 2017 newsletter

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Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group (GLVWG) Newsletter: March, 2017



March, 2017

More and More - The Write Stuff Conference

Charles Kiernan

You already know about Michael Hauge coming as our keynote speaker (a feather in our cap), as well as our fine presenters and range of topics. Please DON'T overlook the other opportunities available during the conference.

Friday night is the popular Page Cut. You can sign-up ahead of time, and bring with you four copies of the first page of a longer work (fiction, creative nonfiction, or memoir) and a 100-word overview of the entire work. The moderator will read the submissions aloud, but the authors (you) will remain anonymous. A three person panel of agents, editors, or authors will provide off-the-cuff critiques.

Following Page Cut is the Social Gathering where you get to rub elbows with fellow authors, presenters, and agents. It is called networking. A good part of an author's success is achieved by showing up. If you can do this with a drink in your hand, all the better. Rumor has it Samuel Clemens might say a word or two.

Saturday there is a chance for participants to have a ten minute one-on-one with an agent or editor to pitch a project or ask questions. This too needs to be pre-arranged. Similarly, there are fifteen minute one-on-one consultation sessions where you can find expert assistance for promoting yourself and your book.

And don't forget the keynote speech by Michael Hauge, the Flash Writing Contest, and the Book Fair — where you can sell your book.

We'll see you at the conference.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Peggy Adamszyk

The Power of Community

The African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," describes how many GLVWG members work to create the annual anthology. The personal commitment of these members has created three distinct anthologies for the organization. The culmination of three years of understanding what works and what doesn't work will usher in changes to the submission process, acceptations procedure, and editing process for 2018.

The growth of anthology wouldn't be possible without the hard work of Bernadette Sukley and this year's committee. While working full time, Bernadette guided the anthology to fruition. The members, board, and I want to thank Bernadette for her time and the fantastic anthology she created. Also, I want to thank all the GLVWG members who volunteered to work on the 2017 anthology.

The path to publishing in the 2018 anthology will start January 2017 by asking members to sign-up for the formats they intend to submit a work under. The sign-up sheets is not a commitment to participation, but rather a way to give the chair and board an estimate participators in order to plan for the financial cost,

committee members, and resources for the anthology.

Returning to a foundation idea introduced by Becky Bartlett, members will be encouraged to join in writing retreats and meet-ups groups. Whether we realize it or not, each of us possesses certain strengths to our writing. Mentoring each other brings confidence in writing.

In order to help refine the editing process, participants will be encouraged to join pre-submission critique session. (And yes, attending Writer's Café counts.) Learning to critique helps train you to view writing through new lenses. The board realizes that not all members are local or have the time to critique. You can opt-out of pre-submission critiquing by choosing to pay a \$10 one-time, cost-sharing content editing fee during the submission process.

Part of the initial submission process will be signing your contract. The contract enters you into a formal publishing agreement with GLVWG. The contract will be updated to address denial of submission issues.

Notification of receipt of submissions will be sent within three business days. Notification of content acceptance or denial will be sent by October 15.

The editing process will change to one round, affording each editor more time for client back-and-forth corrections.

The board hopes that these changes make the project more accessible to everyone, clarifies the process, encourages networking between individual members, and increase the educational value of the anthology. But none of these changes could've come about without those members who helped refined the process over the last three years.

As President, I want to thank all the GLVWG members who have worked on the anthology for their patience during the upcoming year of transition as we expand the process of this developing project.

Happy Writing

From the Desk of our Vice President

Keith Keffer

The Quest for Perfection

It's that time of year when the karate students are getting ready to test for their black belts. Many of them have been training for three or more years, working toward this single goal. They've committed hundreds of hours and made countless sacrifices for their art.

You would expect that all of them would be eager to take their black belt test. Many are.

Some aren't.

They have this vision of the perfect martial artist in their head, and they are worried they don't

measure up in comparison. They begin to focus on their flaws. Before you know it they talk themselves into not testing, to wait another year. Someday they'll test, but not now, not when they are so far from perfection.

Often someday never comes.

In many ways, authors are like martial artists. We work for long hours, making personal sacrifices to create a story that we love. Something happens when it comes time to share it with others or time to submit it for publishing. We hesitate.

Maybe it's not good enough. Maybe we aren't good enough. Doubts begin to overwhelm us. Instead of sharing our stories with people across the globe, they get put in a drawer until we have time to perfect them.

Perfection ain't what it's cracked up to be.

One instructor I know is fond of saying "done is better than perfect." I love that saying, almost as much as I hate the saying "don't settle for good enough." Everyone who has ever finished a project has settled for good enough. The people who are waiting for perfection are still waiting.

Stop waiting. Know when your work is done.

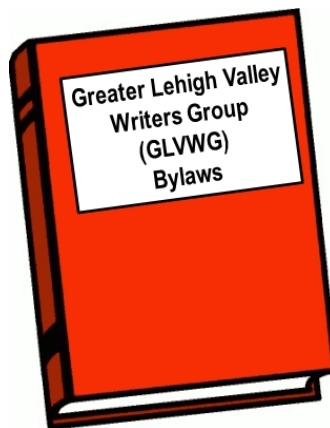
In a karate school, there are instructors and fellow students to help the nervous student to earn a black belt.

At GLVWG we have experienced authors, novice authors and authors that fall somewhere in between. We have all of the ingredients for a wonderful support system to help guide you through your current story.

No one at GLVWG needs to go it alone.

If you are looking for a helping hand, let us know.

Helping authors is our goal.



As mentioned in the general meeting, attached are the GLVWG by-laws with updates that have been made. Click on the link below to download the PDF.

[Bylaws_Update_Feb24_2017.pdf](#)



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

March 23 -25, 2017

The Write Stuff Writers Conference is happening.

Click [here](#) to register. But hurry. Registration closes March 8.



2017 GLVWG General Meetings

April 22, May 27

10:00AM - 12noon

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

April 22: Juilene Osborne-McKnight (11:00AM - 12noon)

Juilene will speak to you on "Creative Non-Fiction: Life Closely Observed".

Creative Non-fiction, Narrative Non-fiction, Lyric Essays, The New Journalism. Whatever you call it, it is the hottest genre in publishing, responsible for an explosion of journal and book opportunities. Yet, there is a fine balancing act to writing in this genre. This session will look at the types, tools and techniques for writing well in this genre, as well as at the proliferation of publishing opportunities.

Juilene Osborne-McKnight's most recent book *The Story We Carry in Our Bones: Irish History for Americans* is a nonfiction history of Ireland, peppered with narrative nonfiction, fiction, photos and artwork by her illustrator daughter Mara McKnight. Her four novels from MacMillan are *I am of Irelaunde*, *Daughter of Ireland*, *Bright Sword of Ireland* and *Song of Ireland*. She is also the photographer and travel writer for the Greater Philadelphia Newspaper syndicate. Osborne-McKnight is Chair of Humanities at DeSales University where she teaches journalism, creative writing and Irish studies. Her website is: <http://www.juileneosbornemcknight.com>

May 27: TBA (11:00AM - 12noon)



GLVWG Afternoon Speakers

After the GLVWG General Meetings (1:30PM)

Held at the Palmer Library

(The afternoon workshops are free for GLVWG members, and \$15 for non-members. Registration is easy, simply go to glvwg.org. And if you're paying via check, please bring it with you to the event.)

April 22: Juilene Osborne-McKnight

Osborne-McKnight will guide you through exercises in creative non-fiction writing. Osborne-McKnight describes the genre as "...*the hottest genre in publishing, responsible for an explosion of journal and book opportunities*". This session will go from 1:30 to 3 p.m. To register for the afternoon and for more information, go to: <http://www.glvwg.org/>

May 27: TBA



Writers Café – Craft Discussion with Read & Critique

Every Second Thursday of the month

March 9, April 13, May 11

7PM - 9PM

Held at the Palmer Library

Open to the public and free.

Topic every month is "Open." Followed by Read & Critique session.

Read and Critique: Bring about 500 words to read to the group and get instant feedback about your work. Any genre, fiction or non-fiction, poetry, screenplays or memoirs are all welcome.

500 words is two pages TNR 12 point font, double spaced, 1" margins all around.

Schmooze with fellow writers and meet some GLVWG members.

Peggy Adamczyk will be speaking on December 30 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM at the Party Con at Lehigh Valley conference center “Learn Structure from the Super Heroes.”

Larry Schandt – Promoted an October Retreat.

Judith Mehl – The book, *Fountain of Death*, featuring a new herbal detective series, was released January 15.

Pastor Bob Mitchell – The book, *Sodium Balls*, will be released this week. (I just received word from Dorrance Publisher that they are blitzing the local and not-so local news and TV outlets as we speak. They sent me the list.

I stopped singing opera in November, 1991, after singing for 30 years. (My wife and I had entered seminary that September, and since I was still working full-time at Scholastic, Inc., something had to give, and sadly, it was singing opera. I had sung over leading tenor 40 opera roles, mostly Verdi, Puccini and other romantic roles.)

Unlicensed Love, my first novel, is complete. Just yesterday I finished sending 276 queries to agents. No takers --- YET. Let's be optimistic!

Mary Shafer – *QuickStart Guide to Metal Detecting for Beginners* book:



**Member Mary Shafer's
QuickStart Guide to Metal Detecting for Beginners
Gets Picked Up By Major Manufacturer**

GLVWG member Mary Shafer of Riegelsville, Pa. is pleased to announce that her book, *Metal Detecting for Beginners: 101 Things I Wish I'd Known When I Started*, has been licensed in an exclusive custom edition by White's Electronics, Inc. out of Sweet Home, Ore. The book was published in April, 2016 and first licensed by White's last September. The company has extended its license for a reprint, for a total of 2,000 copies.

“I'm flattered my work has been picked up by such a venerable and well-loved company,” says Shafer. “White's Electronics has been a positive force in the metal detecting hobby for years because they always insist on quality, and I'm truly honored they feel my book lives up to their standards.”

Shafer has been an avid metal detectorist for more than a dozen years, but remembers how hard it was to find reliable, accurate information for beginning “diggers” when she began. Last year, she realized there were still no books devoted solely to getting started. “They say to write the book you wish you could read. I no longer need to read this book, but with the hobby exploding in popularity, there are plenty of folks who do.”

The 108-page softcover contains a glossary, overview of the hobby, and information about equipment, hunting safety and etiquette, how and where to find hunting spots, and photographing, preserving and displaying finds. A special bonus section contains helpful resources about the hobby, and the book has nine black & white photographs and illustrations.

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Greetings New Members / Guests

Dawn M. Sooy

Below are GLVWG's new members, as well as people who visited us, in December and January:

New members/Visitors:

Dann and Elizabeth Hall – They reside in Coopersburg and have heard a lot about this group. Dann is writing a difficult book. He has written technical books in the past. Came to the group to learn more about the production of a book and the steps of the publishing process.

Sara McInerney – Just started writing a play.

Wallace Eldrige – Used to belong to this group a few years ago. He has written two books and is seeking information on how to publish.

Rose Mavis – Artist, does illustrations.

Susan Goldne – Has books that have been published.

Mike Albright – Working on a thriller.

Lista Popylycki – Has eight months go until she retires.

Stuart Roth – Visitor.

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 glvvg.newsletter@gmail.com.

NOTE: The GLVWG newsletter goes out four times a year - the 1st of March, June, September, and December. Submissions are due 15 days before publication or it will be included in the next issue.



From time to time there will be human errors. Below are corrections, if any.

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