

# GLVWG



Welcome to the monthly  
Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter  
Mostly December 2020/into January 2021

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



For the month of December there will be **NO General Membership Meeting, Board Meeting, or Workshops.**



### **Special Announcement:**

The **Writer Stuff Writers Conference 2021** will be entirely virtual. It will **not** be held at the Best Western as it was in other years. We plan for the following year to be a live, in-person event, but not for 2021. There will be much more about that in coming newsletters and on our website.



Regularly, GLVWG receives email **Notices of Contests, Calls for Submission**, etc. GLVWG does not endorse any of these following events -- they are supplied to our members solely for informational purposes.

[2020 CRAFT Creative Nonfiction Award](#), November 1 to December 31, 2020

They say:

*Welcome to our inaugural award for unpublished creative nonfiction up to 6,000 words! Joy Castro will select three winning pieces for publication. Each will be awarded \$1,000 & a complete set of Graywolf Press's The Art Of series*

#### **GUIDELINES:**

*Open November 1 to December 31*

*CRAFT submissions are open to all writers*

*International submissions are allowed*

*Creative nonfiction only! (please no academic work or fiction)*

*Please submit work in English only*

6,000 word count maximum

We review literary nonfiction, but are open to a variety of genres and styles including memoir, lyric essays, personal essays, narrative nonfiction, and experimental prose—our only requirement is that you show excellence in your craft.

Previously unpublished work only—we do not review reprints, including self-published work, for contests.

We allow simultaneous submissions—writers please notify us and withdraw your entry if your work is accepted elsewhere.

\$20 reading fee per entry allows ONE creative nonfiction piece from 1,001 to 6,000 words OR up to TWO flash creative nonfiction pieces of 1,000 words or fewer each—if submitting two flash pieces (2,000 words maximum combined/1,000 words maximum each), please put them both in a SINGLE document

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There are more rules. Check out their site. They also run other contests during the year.

### [St. Martin's Minotaur/ Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition](#)

They say:

*This is an international contest for crime novel manuscripts, for writers who have never been the author of any published novel in any genre. The writing should be no less than 220 pages, or approximately 60,000 words. Minotaur is an imprint of St Martin's Press, which is part of Macmillan.*

*Value: \$10,000 advance against royalties*

*Deadline: 1 January 2021*

*Open for: Unpublished writers (see guidelines)*

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Check out their site if the shoe fits.



This month's **Featured Publishers.**

### [Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company](#)

They are an independent publisher of religious books and accept book proposals directly from authors. They have a large range, including academic books and reference works in theology, biblical studies, and religious history, as well as popular titles in spirituality, social and cultural criticism, and as literature. They also have an imprint for young readers. They are primarily a print publisher with excellent distribution.

### [Lyrical Press](#)

Lyrical Press is an electronic only imprint of Kensington, a large independent publisher, and are accepting submissions directly from authors.

They say:

*Kensington is actively looking for submissions for Lyrical Press!*

*We are looking for fresh stories in a variety of categories including all romance genres (specifically suspense and historicals with unique settings), compelling psychological suspense fiction, thrillers, women's fiction, new adult, and cozy mysteries. We're hoping to find edgy and daring voices that readers will love. We welcome novellas, serials, and full-length novels as long as they tell a satisfying and well-written story.*

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Worth a look.



The Author's **Resource Well.**

[9 Literary Magazines Seeking Volunteer Readers](#) & Why You'd Want To Participate.

They say:

*There is a variety of reasons you may want to volunteer as a reader for a literary magazine or journal. The majority of reading and other volunteer responsibilities will be conducted online, so you need not be in the same geographical area. Below are some of those reasons to consider, as well as a list of markets currently looking for volunteer readers and staff.*

*Gain Experience*

*By volunteering, you learn how the organization operates, learn how to use submission tools, and how their issues are crafted to support their mission. Volunteer work can help you boost your CV and resume for future paid positions.*

*Meet Writers*

*Expand your network by working with other writers who are passionate about the literary community.*

*Improve Your Own Writing*

*One of the tips I often see from writers/poets is to read what is being published today to help improve your own work. By volunteering as a reader, you'll be exposed to a wide variety of work and learn what you love and how to incorporate it into your own writing style and craft.*

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To read the full article, visit their site, which also lists the nine magazines referred to in the article's title.



Our **CaféZoom!** sessions continue. The Café is now every Wednesday via Zoom. Details will be on the web site 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 sign up for the next one.

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

<https://greaterlehighvalleywritersgroup.wildapricot.org>

We are limiting the participants to 10 readers. You can still join the meeting, but only the first 11 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 20 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 **Monthly Column** by **Pattie Giordani**.



### **Crimes Against Grammar: Don't Quote Me**

By Pattie Giordani

Fiction writers and nonfiction writers all use dialogue in their work, therefore they should know how and when to use quotation marks. Some time ago, I read a mystery in which the dialogue was set off by single quotation marks. It went a little like this:

*'My goodness Marjorie, there's a dead body in your living room!'*

Full disclosure: That was just for illustration—not actual dialogue in the novel. The book was well written and the story compelling—in fact, I read late into the night to finish it. First, I had to get past the weird punctuation. It was written by an American author and published by St. Martin's Paperbacks.

Quotation marks have other functions, but dialogue will be this column's focus. In fiction, quotation marks set off speech from the narrative, and one speaker's words from another's. Place quotation marks at the beginning and end of each character's comments, with other punctuation contained within the quotes. Remember to begin a new paragraph each time the speaker changes.

*The two women looked at each other. Marjorie turned slowly and stared at the young man sprawled on her antique—and quite expensive—Persian rug.*

*“Marjorie!” Gwendolyn cried. “Don’t you hear me? There’s a dead body in your living room!”*

*“For Pete’s sake, Gwennie.” Marjorie paced around the body. “Give me a moment to think.”*

*“Marjorie!” Gwendolyn’s voice climbed even higher. “What in heaven’s name is there to think about? Call the police!”*

Again, all dialogue and narrative is my own. ☺ Not the best dialogue and heavy on the exclamation points, but you get the point. If one speaker’s dialogue runs more than a paragraph, put opening quotation marks at the beginning of each paragraph and closing marks at the end of the last paragraph—because that is where that character stopped talking.

Of course, text that is not dialogue may appear in the same paragraph as the dialogue, as shown above.

Quotation marks are generally not used to set off works that a character is thinking silently, but you should make the status of those words clear so the reader doesn’t confuse them with narrative. From what I’ve heard and read, how you should set these thoughts off varies from publisher to publisher.

According to the *Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS)*, used by many traditional publishers, quotation marks “can be used to indicate thought, internal dialogue and other interior discourse.” So yes, some publishers might tell you to use quotation marks. But other publishers might want them italicized and some want them underlined.

Personally, I would italicize them to lessen the chance of confusing such unspoken discourse with actual dialogue. But whatever you do, be consistent! If you’re self-publishing, I suggest you use the *CMOS* or another generally accepted stylebook for your genre. And, in this case, and others where the rules aren’t definitive, set up your own stylebook. You can simply set up a Word file with your preferred styles.



We hope to be helpful!

*Charles B. Kiernan*