

GLVWG



Welcome to the monthly

Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter

Mostly December 2023 into January 2024

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



For the month of December, there is **no general membership meeting** or workshops. See you again in January.



This month's **Member Spotlight :Dianna Sinovic**

. Dianna Sinovic is an author of speculative fiction and horror, as well as a certified book coach and editor. Her short stories have been published in several anthologies, most recently in *Hard-Boiled and Loaded with Sin* and *That Darkened Doorstep*, as well as several GLVWG anthologies. One of her short stories, in audio format, was featured on WPRB's *25-Hour Holiday Radio Show* in December. She's the chair for the 2025 GLVWG anthology, *Writing a Wrong*.

Dianna can't remember a time when she wasn't writing—or editing. She's worked as a print journalist, a part-time library director, and an editorial director for a marketing company. She now runs her own coaching and editing business, Diasin Books.

She loves writing short stories because of the challenge of the form, and her short fiction (aka flash) appears monthly on the blog site [A Slice of Orange](#). But she also writes long form: She's currently shopping an urban fantasy novel, and during the latest NaNoWriMo worked on a spec fiction novel about an android.

In addition to GLVWG, she's a member of the Horror Writers Association, Sisters in Crime, and the Bethlehem Writers Group. You can connect with her via her website, www.dianna-sinovic.com, or on Instagram, @dsinovic94.



Write Stuff Writers Conference News

On Thursday morning of the conference, Amy Deardon will be conducting a workshop entitled *Marketing Morning: Selling Your Work*.

Amy is an experienced self-publisher who loves to guide authors in how to happily self-publish and market their books while avoiding pitfalls. She also loves all things story (structure, technique, how to get words down).

She says, “I am an award-winning novelist, non-fiction book author, and company founder with a unique business model that allows authors to self-publish.

“EBook Listing Services: I established this company about eight years ago after hearing one too many sad stories from a subsidy-published author who had spent thousands of dollars for abasement full of books. My business model allows the author to self-publish with an ISBN that is registered to them, not me. I do work-for-hire to complete file preparation, book cover, and book listing for the author. I show him or her how to manage the account and do some marketing. As additional services I can register the book for the author in the Library of Congress (thus making them eligible for public library sales) and do SEO and keyword research to remarkably increase their sales without a platform.”

You can find Amy at www.ebooklistingservices.com.



Next month, I will tell you more as things develop.
Charles Kiernan – WS Chair



Bloggers Wanted!

GLVWG's blog continues to move forward with new content posted regularly. Recent posts have included Q&As with GLVWG board members and tips for accepting feedback graciously, with more great stuff to come!

A blog is only as useful as the content that's posted, and without a regular supply of fresh material, it can quickly become stale. I am always happy to accept blog post submissions from our members—it's a great way to share what you know about your particular genre, stories from your writing journey, and more! Interested but not sure what to write? Feel free to contact me at glvwg.publicity@gmail.com--I am happy to help you brainstorm and/or put a post together. Special thanks to Dianna Sinovic for her assistance with this project.

Sara Karnish

GLVWG Publicity Chair



Our Notices of Contests

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

[Fiction Factory Flash Fiction](#)

This is an international competition - they welcome entries from around the world. Maximum Word count: 1000. Stories may be on any theme. Entries must be previously unpublished. The deadline is 31st January, 2024 and results will be announced by April 2024. Discounts for multiple entries - see website for details. Minimum age: 16 years. Children's and YA cannot be accepted sadly Each entry will receive acknowledgement and all contestants will be informed of results.

Top prize: £500

Entry Fee: \$7

Deadline: January 31, 2024

Genres: Fiction, Flash Fiction, Crime, Horror, Humor, Mystery, Science Fiction, Thriller

[True Love on Tapas](#)

Get ready to ignite your passion for storytelling! Tapas is thrilled to announce our first novel contest for romance writers: The True Love Webnovel Contest. Up for grabs: \$150,000 in minimum guarantees for 15 winners!

Top prize: \$10,000

Entry Fee: FREE

Deadline: December 31, 2023

Genres: Fiction, Romance, Young Adult



This month's **Featured Publishers**

[Quirk](#)

DIY, Cookbook, History, Horror, Humor, Mystery & Crime, Politics, Sports & Outdoors, Fantasy, Science Fiction, Young Adult, Middle Grade, True Crime, Comics & Graphic Novels, Diverse Literature, LGBTQ+, BIPOC, Fiction, Children's, Nonfiction, Poetry, Novella/

Currently closed to unsolicited manuscripts but check them out anyway. These are the guys who published *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* and *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*.

[Small Beer Press](#)

This is another odd, small press, not really accepting much at the moment, but worth checkout if only to scratch your head and wonder, "Where are these people coming from?"



The Author's **Resource Well**

[Case Study: The Road Uphill to a Publishing Contract](#)

By Sam Muller

This is part of an ongoing series on how authors published their first book. You can read other stories in this series from links provided.

[Yet Another Reason Why You Should Plan Before You Write](#)

By Jennifer Blanchard

When it comes to writing a novel, there are always two options available to you—you can come up with a story idea, sit down and start writing. Or you can take the time to plan and develop your story, in full, before you write a single word.



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 sign up 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 **Bi-Monthly Column** (as in every other) by **Patti Giordani**



Crimes Against Grammar: Ciao Bella, 2023 Edition

Finalmente! We finally made it to Italy in October 2023, after cancellations due to the pandemic, heart issues, and a bum hip. This year my heart issues are under control, so my husband and I (and my shiny new hip) left on our long-awaited journey to the home of our ancestors.

I have casually been studying Italian off and on since 2006. I took noncredit classes at Northampton Community College and I use the Duolingo app.

Definitely not fluent, I'm good at pronunciation, and I understand a lot, especially if the person is not speaking at breakneck speed.

I'm not so great at Italian grammar. In the textbook we used in my first noncredit class, we learned "the indefinite article (a, an) has the masculine forms un, uno, and the feminine forms una, un', depending on the first letter of the noun the article precedes."

"The definite article (the) agrees with the noun it precedes in gender (masculine or feminine) and in number (singular or plural). The masculine forms are il, l', lo, gli, and the feminine forms are la, l', le, according to the initial letter, and the number of the word the definite article precedes."

I am still confused by that!

Sono ancora confuso da questo!

And conjugating Italian verbs? Molto complicato!

An important tense is passato prossimo—present perfect. This indicates an action completed in the recent past. However, many Italians also use this tense informally to indicate an action or event that occurred in the not-so-recent past. Mamma mia!

But in Italy I was able to understand a lot. And like in other European countries, many people speak English. If you attempt to speak the language, they will usually speak English to you.

The longer I was there the more I could put together sentences in Italian. I was able to ask for cortisone cream in a drugstore in Florence for the two pesky mosquito bites I got in Venice. And I successfully asked for directions to another store.

Since I got Italian Covid two days before we left, I was unable to visit a few places in Rome, so I'm already planning a return trip!

Happy writing! Buon scritto!



We hope to be helpful!

Charles B. Kiernan

P.S.

Thinking of Self-Publishing?

Join me in January for spring semester!



COURSE: PUBL 102 – Self-Publishing

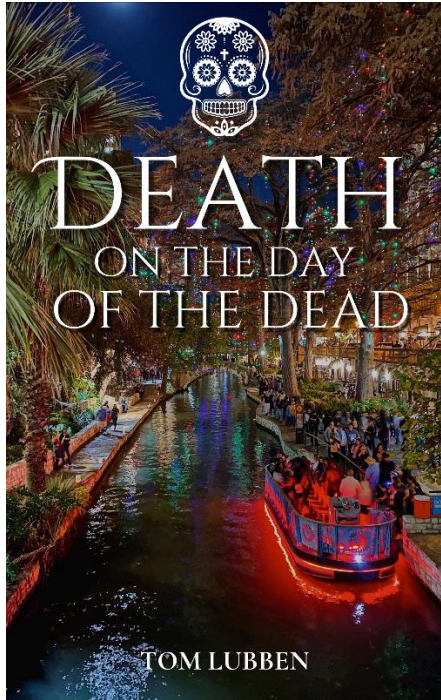
This is a blended online class; we will meet via Zoom on Wednesdays from 2-3:15; the Monday coursework can be completed independently at home.

Instructor: Laurel Wenson, GLVWG member

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores self-publication. Topics include the editing process, including beta readers, interior layouts, cover design, popular publishing platforms such as Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing, marketing, and social media presence with a strong emphasis on planning and implementing goals for successful publication. A completed manuscript or publishable work is helpful, but not required.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me at laurelwenson@gmail.com



Tom Lubben's 4th novel in the BJ Gleeson Mystery Series was published in November. "Death on the Day of the Dead" takes place in San Antonio, Texas. Learn more [Here](#).

(To have your book or event mentioned in the "P.S." send your information to cjkiernan01@gmail.com.)