

GLVWG



Welcome to the monthly
Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter
Mostly February 2021/into March 2021

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



For the month of February there are the **General Membership Meeting and Workshops** on Saturday, Feb. 27, starting at 10:00 am. The meeting will be over Zoom. The workshops will be Zoomed as well. Check our website for the morning Zoom link and sign up for the afternoon Zoom session.

The workshop presenter will be Dan Walsh.

The morning topic at 11:00 am:
Getting Rid of the Parts Readers Skip

Dan's all time favorite writing quote comes from the late NYT bestselling author, Elmore Leonard: "In your writing, try to leave out the parts readers skip." Leonard was a master at self-editing, a critical skill for writers hoping to get published or grow an audience today. Dan decided early on to make this a priority in his books. No blah-blah-blah parts. He credits the cultivation of this skill for much of his writing success. Dan's 23 novels have received over 12,000 Amazon Reviews (avg. 4.7 Stars) That's an average of 550 reviews per novel (some have over 1,200).

Afternoon topic at 12:55 pm:
How to Create a Successful Fiction Series

Without a doubt, readers prefer books that come in a series (vs a stand-alone). The reason is obvious: if they loved the story and the characters in your first book, they want to spend more time with them. Of Dan's 23 published novels, 17 are part of a series (his 6 stand-alones were at the request of his publisher). In this session, Dan shares all the essentials he's learned to write the kind of novel series that force readers to keep reading one book after the other (then move on to another series when they're through).

You Must Register to Attend the Afternoon Workshop

Time: 12:55 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Member: Free

Non-member: \$15

Zoom meeting link and password will be sent when you register.

[Click here to go to our website.](#)



[Write Stuff Writers Conference 2021](#)

The conference is almost upon us. We are looking for **volunteers** to act as monitors (hosts really) to introduce the presenters and be of general help. There will be some Zoom training to help you along. Please contact glvvg.writestuffchair@gmail.com if you can help out.

AND you can help us advertise! Here is our [brochure](#) and a [flyer](#) in PDF format. They can be printed out, but better yet, attach it to an email and send to everyone you think will be interested. This is called 'word of mouth' and there is no better advertising. Thanks.

Also, we are looking for a **co-chair** for the 2022 conference, which should be LIVE. This is a great opportunity to get on the 'inside' of the publishing business. You will be conferring with authors, agents, editor, and marketers. They will get to know your name.

The **2021 conference** 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.

Before looking at the schedule below, go to our new YouTube channel and listen to our interviews with [Tim Esaias](#), [Harrison Demchick](#), and [JD Barker](#).

Here is the schedule:

March 25 to March 28. (Recordings will be available to conference attendees.)

Thursday, March 25: 8:30 am to 12:00 noon and 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Tim Esaias All-day workshop.

Friday, March 26: 8:30 am to 12:00 noon and 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. J.D. Barker's All-day workshop.

Saturday, March 27: Six fifty-minute sessions.

8:30 am to 9:20 am. It's the End of the World as We Know It and I Feel Fine. Harrison Demchick.

9:45 am to 10:35 am. Getting Combat on the Page. Tim Esaias.

11:00 am to 11:50 am. Bad Math: How the Right and Left Brains Work Together. Harrison Demchick.

12:00 noon to 1:25 pm. Lunch break.

1:30 pm to 2:20 pm. Don't be a Bobble-Head. Tim Esaias.

2:45 pm to 3:35 pm. The Blueprint, or Building the Perfect Draft. Harrison Demchick.

4:00 pm to 4:50 pm. Those first Few Lines. Tim Esaias.

Sunday, March 28: (Palm Sunday, nothing in the morning, just the afternoon.)

1:30 pm to 2:20 pm. From Indie to Traditional and Crossing Genres. J. D. Barker.

2:45 pm to 3:45 pm. Interview with J.D. Barker.

Prices are: .

Members – Full conference is \$75, \$30 for each of the workshops, and \$40 for the weekend.

Non-members – Full conference is \$95, \$40 for each of the workshops, and \$50 for the weekend

You can register on-line [HERE](#).



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.

The 2021 Hudson Prize

The Hudson Prize is now open for submissions!

Each year Black Lawrence Press will award The Hudson Prize for an unpublished collection of poems or short stories. The prize is open to new, emerging, and established writers. The winner of this contest will receive book publication, a \$1,000 cash award, and ten copies of the book. Prizes are awarded on publication.

The annual deadline is March 31. It looks like there is a \$27 submission fee.



This month's **Featured Publishers**.

Mills & Boon: Romance

Mills & Boon is a romance imprint of British publisher Harlequin UK, and like Harlequin in the US, it is now an imprint of HarperCollins.

The Mills & Boon imprint has a different focus and feel than the US division of Harlequin, but they do use the same Submittable account. Like Harlequin as a whole, part of their strategy is to publish many books per month. They have three separate acquiring offices so it is important your work goes to the right place.

[More here.](#)

[Flypaper Lit:](#) poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction

Born as a subculture hip-hop zine in the 90's, Flypaper Lit publishes poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction alongside articles about music, fashion, sports, and culture. You can get a sense of what they publish by reading the journal online. A selection of Flypaper's online content is also collected in a yearly anthology, released each December.

[More here.](#)



The Author's **Resource Well.**

The Truth About Copyright and Creative Writing

Written by Emily Harstone

I am not a copyright lawyer. I would never claim to be. But I am a writer, a writer whose work has been published widely, so I have figured out a thing or two about how copyright does and does not work. This article focuses mainly on copyright in terms of literary journals, but it covers novels as well.

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[Click here for the full article.](#)



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 signup 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 10 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: Verbing Nouns

By Pattie Giordani

Years ago, a writer friend told me one of her grammar gripes was “when a noun is used incorrectly as a verb.” While such usage isn’t incorrect per se, it can be annoying.

Her two examples (in one sentence) were, “I partner with clients to identify performance issues and architect innovative, business-oriented performance solutions.”

She also told me that the dictionary lists **partner** as a noun and a verb, but describes **architect** only as a noun. Then she asked, “Is there a word for the practice of using a noun as a verb?”

Yes, there is—and it’s not a new practice. Verbing, or denominalization, is the act of converting a noun to a verb. I have also seen the term verbify used. That sounds vaguely Foghorn Leghorn to me. “I say, son, I say, we’re gonna verbify that noun to pieces.”

In their 1979 study, “Why Nouns Surface as Verbs,” Eve V. Clark and Herbert H. Clark wrote, “The more concrete and unambiguous the noun’s meaning, the more easily it’s accepted as a verb.” Others have said verbing is a “vivid linguistic shortcut,” which makes perfect sense, however odd the result.

Anyway, the practice sometimes grates on my nerves too. Before I had ever heard of verbing, it came up in a business meeting where I used to work. “We’re going to **dialogue** about our goals and objectives.” Just say, “We’re going to **talk about** our goals and objectives.” Or, if the speaker is absolutely stuck on using the word dialogue: “We’re going to **have a dialogue** about our goals and objectives.”

As Chi Luu wrote in “Do you even dialogue, Bro? Understanding Why Nouns Become Verbs” in *JSTOR Daily* in 2016, “Take examples like **dialoguing**, auctioning, efforting or transiting. (No really, please take them away.)”

I’m not the only one who cringes at **dialoguing**. The first sentence in Grammarly’s “The Basics of Verbing Nouns” is “Let’s join the nearest imaginary business meeting where a group of people is **dialoguing**.” The resulting conversation uses seven other nouns used as verbs, including table, calendar and task.

Many verbified nouns have become acceptable—meaning less annoying—to use, such as **book** a hotel, **foot** the bill, **chair** the committee, **divorce** a wayward spouse and **host** a party.

As Grammarly says, it is difficult to imagine some of these words only as nouns. “For example, the earliest known usage of **‘to medal’** appeared in a newspaper in 1966, but ‘medal’ was first recorded as a noun in 1578.”

The article also discusses some of the newest nouns being verbified, even though some of them still seem awkward to me. In this group: Instead of “renting a home on Airbnb, some say “I **Airbnbed** the house.” We don’t “sell it on eBay,” we “**eBay** it.” And, we don’t “meet for coffee,” but “we **coffee**.” That still really sounds odd.

Some of the other examples Grammarly cites don’t annoy me, perhaps because they’ve been used widely, like “**beer** me” and “she **friended** me.” And perhaps the most famous: “**Google** it!”

***Pattie Giordani** is a writer and editor who was a staff editor for a national nonprofit association and for a daily newspaper. Her freelance articles have appeared in various newspapers and magazines. She copyedits and proofreads books and other publications, and she frequently presents at writers group meetings and conferences.*



We hope to be helpful!

Charles B. Kiernan