

GLVWG



Welcome to the monthly
Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter
Mostly January 2023/into February 2023

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



For the month of January, there is a general membership meeting and workshops on Saturday, January 28, starting at 10:00 am. The meeting will be hybrid, that is to say over Zoom and at the Palmer Library. The workshop will be live and zoomed. Check our website for the morning Zoom link or see below.

11:00 - 12:00 Morning Program: Donna Brennan, Putting off Procrastination

Donna Brennan: Putting off Procrastination What's keeping you from writing? Kids? Stress? Your favorite TV show? Do you let other things take priority over your writing? In this session we'll discuss ways to help manage your time so you can get to some of those things you keep putting off—like writing, research, marketing. etc. Printable tools will be provided to help you achieve your organization and writing goals.

1:30 - 3:00 Afternoon Workshop: Donna Brennan, Even Better Time Management for Writers

Beyond to-do lists and time blocking. In this session we'll cover strategies for setting and maintaining your long-term writing goals, including factors to consider when creating those goals. We will also briefly discuss some authoring tools and tips that help save time.

Donna Brennan was a technical writer for over ten years. She has had several short stories and articles published and is planning to publish the first book of her first series later this month. Donna has taught at local writers conferences and conducted many print and video interviews over the years. She is currently fixing her website and planning out her email list and newsletter strategies. It's all part of her larger publishing plan.

You must register to attend this afternoon workshop.

[Register HERE](#) - Zoom meeting link and password will be sent when you register.

Members Free.

Non-members, \$15 via Paypal.

To join the morning Zoom Meeting

[Click HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 891 3980 7943

Passcode: 248880



Member Spotlight

Hello Fellow GLVWG Members!

My name is Kelly Bender, and I have been a member of the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group for about 7 years. Although raising 2 kids and an activity centered life can try to detour my physical writing time, most of my novel ideas have been bouncing around my imagination for many years! I feel I am best suited for fiction and creative writing. I have always considered my works to be in the more recently coined suspense-romance genre. I love the human condition and have always been fascinated with the “why”s that have led up to the result. I want my writing to entice the reader to fall in love with the character, even if they don't like them! It's fun to let the reader have some up front knowledge, so they can enjoy watching the characters catch up to them. I believe one job as a writer is to make the reader feel something, anything, as they journey through our stories. Whether love or hate, anger or surprise, may the emotions evoked from our tales be deep, and may the love of the story live on! Keep writing friends :)



Notices of Contests

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

[The Masters Review's Short Story Award](#)

The Masters Review's Short Story Award for New Writers is a bi-annual contest that recognizes the best fiction from today's emerging writers. Judging 2022-2023's winter contest is Morgan Talty, author the story collection Night of the Living Rez. Winners and honorable mentions receive agency review from five agencies as well as publication. The winning story earns \$3000, while the second and third place runners up receive \$300 and \$200, respectively.

Fee: \$20

Deadline: January 31, 2023

7 Day Story Writing Challenge

Globe Soup

Register now for our next 7-day story writing challenge. A secret theme, a randomly assigned genre and just 7 days to write a story of no more than 2,000 words. Our 7 day story writing challenges take place throughout the year. The challenges are free and you can even get feedback on your story. Take part in one challenge or take part in all of them!

Top prize £500

Fee: \$0

Deadline: February 20, 2023



This month's **Featured Publishers**

Enchanted Lion Books

Publisher of: Fiction and Nonfiction

This Brooklyn-based outfit specializes in children's books, as gorgeously illustrated as they're richly imagined. But their catalogue goes far beyond the big red dogs and very hungry caterpillars you probably remember from your own childhood. That's not to say that you won't find any woodland critters cavorting in Enchanted Lion's titles. But this indie publisher puts a premium on the "power of cultural exchange." Enchanted Lion excels at putting out picture books set all over the world, many of them translated from languages like French and Japanese.

Forest Avenue Press

Publisher of: Fiction and Nonfiction

Forest Avenue Press focuses on literary fiction, occasionally dipping their toes into memoir as well. Regardless of genre, they aim to publish work animated by joy: not necessarily stories with happy endings, but work that shows off the author's capacity for humor and freewheeling imagination. As a result, their catalogue abounds with oddball books, each with a broad palette of literary influences. An author-focused press with a relatively small stable of talent, Forest Avenue lavishes more time and money on marketing each title than your typical indie publisher.



The Author's **Resource Well**

Approachable Online Journals

Article by Emily Harstone

If you are just starting to submit your work to literary journals, or perhaps you just want to avoid rejection, this list is for you.

All of the literary journals in this list accept between 20 and 50% of what is submitted to them, and a few have a higher acceptance rate. So the odds of your work being accepted just went up.

No Sweat Marketing

Article by Michael Barrington

A surprising way to market your book. (That actually works.)



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 signup 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 **Monthly Column** by **Pattie Giordani**



Crimes Against Grammar: Comma Again?

By Pattie Giordani

Recently I realized I only ask writers what grammar topics they would like covered in this column. If no one sends any questions or suggestions, I pick the topic. So, I decided to ask some family members who are not writers, but who *are readers*, to tell me some of their grammar pet peeves.

One common complaint is the misuse of commas. *Note:* I won't be discussing the Oxford comma here because I have already written about it. If you don't remember or didn't read it, check out *Crimes Against Grammar: The Great Oxford Comma Debate* in the June-July 2022 issue of the *Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter*. I also won't be covering commas in dates, addresses, and numbers.

Many of you know this famous example of a necessary direct address comma: *Let's eat, grandma*. NOT *Let's eat grandma*. (Commas save lives.) You may have seen more—see if they reflect any of these guidelines.

Use commas to separate main clauses within sentences, which are joined by coordinating conjunctions.

- Mary tutors students, and she volunteers at the local hospital.
- The bank lowered its interest rates, so we decided to refinance our mortgage.

Do not use commas before conjunctions that link phrases.

- Two inches of snow and a glazing of ice covered the streets.

Use commas to separate elements that introduce and modify sentences.

- After looking at several cars, Mike decided on a red convertible.
- When I was a baby, banana trees lined this road. (Compare that with *When I was a baby banana trees lined this road*. LOL)

Use commas with quotations to separate the quoted words from the sources.

- John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."
- "Don't speak to me," she sighed. "Your words are meaningless."

Use commas with parenthetical words and phrases.

- John's new car, in my opinion, is a lemon.

Use commas with nouns of direct address. This is also called the vocative comma.

- Adam, do you want to plant the bushes today?

Use commas with interjections.

- Shoot, another hole in my favorite shirt. NOT Shoot another hole in my favorite shirt.

Use commas with coordinate adjectives that modify nouns separately. Coordinate adjectives can be joined with *and*, and their positions can be changed without altering the meaning of the sentence. If you do not use commas, the adjectives start modifying each other.

- We felt the salty, humid air at the beach. We felt the humid, salty air at the beach.

Do not use commas with cumulative adjectives. Rearranging them would break the general order of adjective progression, as in the second example. That order is determiner (a), observation (mysterious), physical description (ancient), origin (Greek), material (ceramic), and qualifier (funeral).

- Adam bought two tall palms. NOT Adam bought tall two palms.
- I found a shard from a mysterious ancient Greek ceramic funeral urn.

Use commas with nonrestrictive elements. Nonrestrictive elements can be omitted without affecting meaning.

- Frank's new aquarium, a marine tank, hosts brilliant coral and brightly colored fish.
- Frank's new aquarium hosts brilliant coral and brightly colored fish.

Do not use commas with restrictive elements. Restrictive elements are essential for meaning.

- The first house on the left is for sale. (*On the left* is needed to show which house is for sale.)

Use commas with parallel words, phrases, and lists or series.

- The men's store offered a suit, a shirt, and a tie of one low price.
- The kitten stalked the ball of yarn behind the curtain, over the television, and under the table.

Use commas to prevent misreading and to indicate omissions.

- To Susan, Jason's choice of costume was unacceptable. (The comma clarifies that there are two people: Susan and Jason.)
- As soon as we left, Marilyn closed the store. (The comma indicates the omission of *the store*.)

Writers: Do you have a grammar, usage, or style question? Send it to me at pattiegiordani@gmail.com.

***Pattie Giordani** is a writer and editor. She was an editor for a national nonprofit association and for a daily newspaper. Her freelance articles have appeared in various newspapers and magazines, and she taught noncredit grammar and writing courses at Northampton Community College. She frequently presents at writers group meetings and conferences.*



We hope to be helpful!

Charles B. Kiernan