

# GLVWG



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

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



For the month of March there are **NO** General Membership Meeting or Workshops. See you during the Write Stuff Conference.



## [Write Stuff Writers Conference 2021](#)

The conference is almost upon us.

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.

12:00 noon to 1:25 pm. Lunch break and networking sessions by genre. (You guys get to talk to each other!)

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.

12:00 noon to 1:25 pm. Lunch break and networking sessions by genre. (You guys get to talk to each other!)

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 and networking sessions by genre. (You guys get to talk to each other!)

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.

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Networking sessions by genre. (You guys get to talk to each other!)

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.

## **2021 CRAFT Short Fiction Prize**

Judged by Kirstin Valdez Quade. Open March 1 to May 2.

Some of their guidelines are:

5,000 word count maximum.

Previously unpublished work only-we do NOT review reprints for contests (previously published includes blogs, personal websites, social media, etc.)

We allow multiple submissions-please submit each piece as a separate submission accompanied by an entry fee.

\$20 entry fee per submission.

The prizes are:

Winner: \$2,000 award and a subscription to Journal of the Month.

Runners-up: \$500 award and \$300 award respectively for the second and third place finalists.

Publication of the top three stories in CRAFT, each with an introduction by the guest judge.

[Click here for more information.](#)



This month's **Featured Publishers.**

### **MetaStellar**

This magazine was launched in 2020, and they want flash fiction submissions of fantasy, horror, and science fiction. They also accept reviews and essays, though they do not pay for these.

Deadline: 31 March 2021

Length: Up to 1,000 words for fiction

Pay: \$0.08/word for fiction

[Details here.](#)

## [The Threepenny Review](#)

This respected quarterly journal is open for submissions. They accept fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and submissions for their 'Table Talk' column. They have a shorter reading period this year.

Deadline: 30 April 2021

Length: Up to 4,000 words for stories or memoirs, 1,200-2,500 for critical articles, up to 1,000 words for Table Talk, up to 100 lines for poems

Pay: \$400 per story or article, \$200 per poem or Table Talk piece

[Details here.](#)



The Author's **Resource Well.**

## [Hello Books](#)

This is from Mark Dawson who, along with co-host James Blatch, does The podcast The Self-Publishing Show. As always, this is not an endorsement, but maybe an idea to be looked into.

They say:

We've been working on Hello Books for over a year and, after a lot of late nights and early mornings, we are delighted to let you know that we are now live and accepting submissions.

Our goal is to provide authors with another valuable promotional tool, enabling them to reach readers all around the world looking for great new books in the genres that they love.

Hello Books has been built and developed by the Self Publishing Formula team and backed by two very well-known indie veterans who have invested as founding shareholders; we'll have them both on the Self Publishing Show soon when we'll chat about our ambitions for the business.

For now, though, the message is simple: the site is open and you can now start to submit your books.

WHAT IS IT?

We are building large email lists of readers who have told us that they are interested in books in certain genres. We will email those readers every Friday (to begin with) to tell them about special offers on books that match their tastes.

Authors will apply to have their books included in these emails and the Facebook advertising campaigns that we will run. Our aim is to make as many readers as possible aware of each week's promoted books.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Our **CaféZoom!** sessions continue. The Café is 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 Café. There is a waitlist for those who can't register in case someone doesn't show up.

<https://greaterlehighvalleywritersgroup.wildapricot.org>

**NEW!** 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 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: Banished Words 2021**

By Pattie Giordani

We all have a list of words and phrases we don't want to use again. And, we don't want anyone else to use them either.

In 1976, Lake Superior State University (LSSU) Public Relations Director Bill Rabe released the first "List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness." Over the years, the list has included such entries as *détente*, *user friendly*, *wrap my head around*, and *bromance*.

Rabe began the list as a promotion for the little-known Michigan university, but it grew in popularity and now receives nominations from all over the world. The 2020 list included such gems as jelly (as in jealous); literally (cue Rob Lowe in Parks and Rec); OK, Boomer; and totes (as in totally).

Since everyone wants to banish covid-19 in all forms, it's not surprising that seven of the 10 words and terms on the 2021 list relate to the virus.

### **1. COVID-19 (covid, coronavirus, Rona).**

I don't see these terms leaving the lexicon anytime soon. However, as the LSSU committee wrote, "Coincidentally, this list arrives as does a vaccine—the committee hopes this proves a type of double whammy."

### **2. Social distancing.**

We know staying 6 feet apart can help prevent the spread of infection. But yes, most of us do wish we didn't have to use that term.

### **3. We're all in this together.**

True, but countries, states, municipalities and people are dealing with the virus in different ways. Maybe this phrase should be on the way out.

### **4. In an abundance of caution (various phrasings).**

What *exactly* does that mean? As the committee asked, "What is the standard measurement for caution, metric or U.S. standard?"

### **5. In these uncertain times (various phrasings).**

IMHO, *all* times are uncertain, we just don't realize it. Or don't want to realize it!

### **6. Pivot.**

Yes, we must adapt to *these uncertain times*, but this makes me think of Ross moving the couch in Friends.

### **7. Unprecedented.**

This word already hit the Banished Words List in 2002. Said the committee, "Given that it was nominated many times this year for misuse in describing events that do have precedent, inclusion again seems warranted."

Now the three banished words and terms *not* about Covid-19:

### **8. Karen.**

According to the committee, this term began as an anti-racist critique of white women in response to Black and Brown people, but it "has become a misogynist umbrella term for

critiquing the perceived overemotional behavior of women.” Either way, it’s offensive to all “normal people named Karen.”

### **9. Sus.**

This is a shortened version for “suspicious” in the video game *Among Us*. I had no idea where this originated and apparently, many committee members didn’t either. However, some members have children who play the game. They said that the multiplayer online social game is designed around identifying “sus” imposters so they can be “thrown into the lava.” As it happens, it has gained enough in use outside of the game to merit nomination by annoyed nonplayers.

### **10. I know, right?**

I’m guilty of using this frequently, especially the abbreviation IKR? to which I usually add an exclamation point. Not sure if I can—or want to—banish it from my texts. LOL

**Note:** Do you have a grammar, usage or style question? Send it to [pattiegiordani@gmail.com](mailto:pattiegiordani@gmail.com) and I’ll answer—or find the answer! I might even use it in a future column.

*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*