

GLVWG



Welcome to the monthly
Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter
Mostly May 2022/into June 2022

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



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

The workshop presenter will be :

Morning Workshop 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada):

Bart Palamaro, The Hero's Journey: Why do I need it. How do I use it?
(rescheduled from April)

So what is The Hero's Journey(**THJ**)? It *is* everywhere.

Novel, movie or Flash Fiction, The Hero's Journey is the structure of all storytelling. You may use it, or parts of it, without knowing it.

After a brief intro to **THJ**, we will use a graphic 'skeleton' to understand and apply the structure of **THJ**. i.e: Who inhabits the story line, what happens when (and why), and how to use it to better write (*and* understand) your own stories.

This skeleton will give you a structure and a timeline to build your story on. Understand this and you will also know how to write the **Dreaded Outline**, and avoid the **Muddle in the Middle**.

Last, we will dissect an unlikely example from pop culture.

THJ is the *bones*. The flesh is up to you.

With Q&A, valuable insights and a touch of humor.

Yup, all in one hour.

Afternoon Workshop 1:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada):

Bart Palamaro, The Hero's Journey- Does Your Story Fit? For this workshop bring a story, finished or not, or a story idea you would like to write, but don't quite know how to make it work.

A story, at it's most basic, is a person with a goal who meets obstacles, opposition and 'help' in achieving the goal.

In this session we will use a graphic of **THJ** do a quick recap of a well known, popular story as the 'hero' travels through the stages from ordinary life, through enticements and fears, goals and challenges, setbacks and obstacles, meeting enemies and allies, triumph and defeat, rising from the ashes, the ultimate victory and new life.

In the workshop part you will get the chance to apply **THJ** to your work. A WIP, a story where you're stuck, or a finished novel.

With Q&A, valuable insights and a touch of humor.

Yup, all in one and-a-half hours.

You Must Register to Attend the Afternoon Workshop

Member: Free

Non-member: \$15

Click [here](#) to find the registration page for the afternoon workshop.
Zoom meeting link and password will be sent when you register.

To join morning Zoom Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82220466852?pwd=aDdQaUt3TWIkNGRJUFhkZHluWU10UT09>

Meeting ID: 822 2046 6852

Passcode: 659536



GLVWG 2023 ANTHOLOGY – MAY UPDATE

Theme: Writing Across America

We already have 23 members interested in submitting possibly 42 different entries for our upcoming publication. Won't you join us and start working on your own entry (or entries) for the GLVWG 2023 Anthology? Start by checking out the summary of the

process and timeline, below. You still have plenty of time and the Anthology Team will be there to assist along the way.

Want to learn more? Then visit GLVWG 2023 Anthology [webpage](#), for details on all four phases of the process – Creation, Engagement, Refinement and Publication. This site also provides several writing aids to help you complete your deliverables, including guidelines that our team will use in evaluating submissions and tips on how to write a bio.

Also added in a recent update to the webpage, you can find a series of quotes that might inspire to write an entry to anyone of the three categories covered – Short Fiction, Essays, and Poetry. These quotes were selected from authors who know about writing these types of literature. They include Neil Gaiman on short stories, who likely needs no introduction, and Jaqueline Suskin, on poetry, an amazing street poet and, as you may recall, our GLVWG February speaker.

As you consider your options, some important information to bear in mind concerns the submission fees and deadlines. The submission fee is \$10, but can be waived, if you do a critique session prior to submission. This critique can be done at one of our regularly scheduled GLVWG Writers' Café events or other options. Submissions will be accepted from 1 through 30 September 2022. Note that submission closing will be strictly observed, ending at exactly midnight on 30 September 2022. The Anthology will be published in time for our Write Stuff conference in March 2023.

If you already know that you are interested, please click the **Sign-Up** link below. This action is not a commitment, but for planning purposes, we would like to know how many authors are interested.

Once you make up your mind to get involved, put the following dates on your calendar, as placeholders for Anthology-focused workshops. Reading your works at these sessions would satisfy the critique requirement to waive your submission fee. These sessions will be facilitated by experienced GLVWG authors / editors and are scheduled around our monthly meeting times:

- Sat., 25 June, from 1:30-3:30pm
- Sat., 23 July, from 10am-12noon
- Sat., 27 August, from 10am-12noon

If you need more inspiration, consider reading our past anthologies. See the end of this article after the Sign-up button to order past copies. Thank you!

Any questions? Feel free to contact me directly.

2023 Anthology Chair: Anygne Smith
glvwg.anthology@gmail.com

Summary of GLVWG Anthology Process and Timeline



[Sign-Up](#)

Announcing Past GLVWG Anthologies on Sale

If you are not sure whether you want to contribute to the GLVWG 2023 Anthology, take a look at our past publications. Just go to the [Events section](#) of the GLVWG website, scroll down to the Anthologies on Sale section, and click on any of the links to the Amazon pages for our past anthologies, including:

[2021 – Writes of Passage](#)

[2019 – Rewriting the Past](#)

[2017 – The Write Connections](#)

[2016 – Write Here, Write Now](#)

[Anthologies on Sale](#)



Notices of Contests.

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

[The Black River Chapbook Competition](#)

Spring 2022 contest now open to entries!

The Black River Chapbook Competition is a semi-annual prize from Black Lawrence Press for a chapbook of poems or prose (including fiction, creative non-fiction, lyric essay, and prose hybrid manuscripts). Entries should be between 16 and 36 pages in length. The winner will receive \$500 and publication.

Entry fee: \$17

Deadline: May 31, 2022

[Masters Review Flash Fiction Contest](#)

They are proud to offer a contest dedicated solely to flash. The winning writer will be awarded \$3000 and publication in The Masters Review. Second and third place will be awarded \$300 and \$200, respectively, as well as publication in The Masters Review. So here it is: a home for your very best small fiction.

Entry fee: \$20

Deadline: May 31, 2022

[Literary Taxidermy Short Story Competition](#)

The Literary Taxidermy Writing Competition invites writers to create original stories and poems using the opening and closing lines of classic works of literature. In previous years, participants have tackled works by Lewis Carroll, Dorothy Parker, and Dashiell Hammett, crafting stories and poems in every genre, from science fiction to meta-fiction, and from sonnets to free verse. For its fifth year, in addition to monetary prizes and publication, the competition offers personal feedback for all honorable mentions. **The competition is also a fundraiser for Ukraine.**

Entry fee: \$10

Deadline: July 11, 2022



This month's **Featured Publishers.**

[Red Dog Press: Now Accepting Manuscript Queries](#)

Red Dog Press is a print and digital publisher based in Cheshire UK. All the books they publish are available in both formats. They are a small press that specializes in publishing thrillers, crime stories, and mysteries. They are also open to select Romance and Sci-Fi stories, but only if the story breaks traditional molds.

[Sourcebooks Horror](#)

They are actively seeking agented and unagented submissions of horror fiction between 80,000 and 100,000 words in length. They are looking for “strong writers of all ethnicities, races, sexualities, gender identities, abilities and ages, whose stories have something fresh to offer in the Horror genre.”



The Author's **Resource Well.**

[How To Read A Publishing Contract](#)

This is a fourteen part blog by “Stroppy Author.” The link above is to the first installment. You will need to look under the blog's archives to read all of them. The creation dates are April and May of 2010.

[Publishing Law](#)

The above title is what mystery writer Susan Spann calls one section of her blog. It's a little inaccurate. The blog entries are not so much about legalisms, but rather she touches on many issues dealing with publishers and contracts that we need to consider.



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>

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: Banished Words 2022

By Pattie Giordani

Every year in December, Lake Superior State University (LSSU) releases a “tongue-in-cheek” list of words that should be banished in the coming year. People from around the country and the world send their overused, overwrought, offensive, and useless word nominations. More than 1,000 of the 1,250-plus words and terms deemed banish-worthy were colloquial—words used every day in conversation.

The No. 1 offender: “Wait, what?” I have to admit this phrase gets on my last nerve. According to many nominators and the contest judges from the LSSU English department, the halting question is “disingenuous, divergent, defective, and other damning words that begin with the letter d.” If you’re saying this phrase because you’re truly surprised at what someone said, maybe it’s all right. But if you’re writing or saying it in an exaggerated way just to be cute—don’t.

Seven of the 10 words and terms banished last year pertained to covid-19. (See Crimes Against Grammar in the March/April 2021 GLVWG newsletter for the 2021 list.) This year, as the pandemic persists, the opposite occurred. Seven of the 10 are more conversational-based, with the other three applying to the coronavirus.

Wait, what?

Most frequently used in text or on social media, this question is a “failed response to a statement to express astonishment, misunderstanding, or disbelief,” explained one nominator. “The command-query is an inexact method to convey the speaker’s uncertainty or surprise,” another said. Misuse and overuse, said LSSU.

No worries

Nominated by writers nationwide for misuse and overuse, this phrase is incorrectly substituted for “You’re welcome” when someone said “Thank you.” It’s meaningless, say others.

At the end of the day

This phrase was originally banned in 1999, but the day still hasn’t ended for this misused, overused, and useless expression, according to LSSU. “Many times, things don’t end at the end of the day—or even the ramifications of whatever is happening,” said one nominator.

That being said

This phrase was deemed “verbal filler, redundant justification, and pompous posturing.” For example, “however” or “but—” or even “that said”—does a more concise job as a transition. As one entry stated, “Go ahead and say what you want already!”

Asking for a friend

This phrase is misused and overused through deception, but it isn’t fooling anyone. You’re asking for yourself, and everyone knows it! One nominator said, “Once used to avoid embarrassment, as in ‘Do you know a good proctologist? I’m asking for a friend.’ Sometimes an occasional sitcom joke, but now an overused tagline.”

Circle back

LSSU says, “[This phrase] treats discussion like an ice-skating rink, as if we must circle back to our previous location to return to a prior subject. Let’s circle back about why to banish this jargon. It’s a conversation, not the Winter Olympics.”

Deep dive

“The only time to dive into something is when entering a body of water, not going more in-depth into a particular subject or book,” said one petitioner. One nominator asked, “Do we need ‘deep’? Does anyone dive into the shallow end?”

2022 Banished Words and Terms Deriving from Covid-19 Issues:

New normal

This is an overused blanket term and was a banishment finalist last year for similar reasons. “Those clamoring for the days of old, circa 2019, use this to signal unintentionally that they haven’t come to terms with what ‘normal’ means,” a nominator said. “After a couple years, is any of this really ‘new’?” another asked. This term was also banished back in 2012 for “imprudent, defeatism, and apathy stemming from societal missteps.”

You’re on mute

Switching from in-person to virtual meetings to follow social distancing protocol sometimes resulted in deafening silence on both sides of the camera. The result is this overused and useless phrase due to incompetence. As one submitter said, “We’re two years into remote working and visiting. It’s time for everyone to figure out where the mute button is.”

Supply chain

LSSU said, “Word-watchers noticed the frequent, unfortunate appearance of this phrase toward the end of 2021 as the coronavirus persisted.” One analyst said, “It’s become automatically included in reporting of the consumer goods shortages or perceived shortages. In other words, a buzzword.” Another said, “Supply chain issues have become the scapegoat of everything that doesn’t happen or arrive on time and of every shortage.”

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 a staff 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 writing courses at Northampton Community College. She frequently presents at writers group meetings and conferences.



We hope to be helpful!

Charles B. Kiernan