

GLVWG



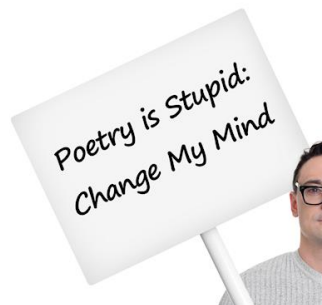
Welcome to the monthly
Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter
Mostly **May 2023**/into **June 2023**

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 20**, 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: Darrell Parry - Poetry Is Stupid: Change My Mind



1:30 - 3:00 Afternoon Workshop: Darrell Parry - Poetry: Writing From Your Lizard Brain

This generative workshop will get you writing poems before you even realize you're doing it with some simple tricks of the trade. Topics will include writing from your "lizard brain," discovering various found poetry techniques, deep exploration of sensory imagery, turning metaphor on its butt, and writing from unexpected perspectives. Many of these tricks will give you a new way to look at language that may help even with your non-poetic projects. Time will be given to share work on a voluntary basis.

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: 895 5023 6099
Passcode: 648580

REMINDER! Due to Memorial Day, our MAY meeting has been moved back a week. It will now be held at the Palmer Library (and on zoom) on **Saturday, May 20th!!** Mark your calendars so you don't forget!



This month's **Member Spotlight : Patti Giordani**

Pattie Giordani has been writing since she could hold a crayon. As a grade-schooler, she wrote, edited, and published a newsletter for neighbors on her street, and later was a reporter on her high school newspaper.

After years of marriage, raising children, divorce, and a big move, her love of writing resurfaced. She went back to college—funded by her employer, so she earned a management degree from Moravian University. While there, she took as many writing classes as she could. One of her first published articles started as a class assignment.

Eventually she landed an assistant features editor position at The Express-Times newspaper, followed by a job as an editor at a national nonprofit association. All along she wrote articles for local and national publications. She currently writes a grammar column for the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group (GLVWG) newsletter and she continues to freelance write and edit. Pattie has also served as publicity chair for GLVWG and the SouthSide Film Festival.

She lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with her husband and two crazy cats, and spends her free time with her family, including watching her grandsons run track and play baseball and flag football.



Board Elections will take place in June – Please consider joining us!!

I know how valuable our monthly meetings, workshops, and the wonderful Write Stuff Writing Conference are to all of our members. It would be a true loss if this group fell

apart down the road. But have you noticed that most of the board members and committee chairs are the same people year after year? While we recognize the wisdom and knowledge they have between them, we also desperately need some of the younger members to get involved and take on board positions so that the information can be passed down for future years.

This coming June there are several positions being vacated, and GLVWG needs them filled in order to continue. The positions of president and treasurer are both open, and other committee chairpersons would love to start training their replacements. If you've found GLVWG to be a resource that has helped your writing, and provided a camaraderie of support along the way, please consider committing to having your name in consideration for a board position. If you have any questions, email anyone on the board for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Wenson (one of the "younger" board members!)



Our **Notices of Contests**

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

[Black River Chapbook Competition](#)

There is still time!! Twice each year Black Lawrence Press runs the Black River Chapbook Competition for an unpublished chapbook of **poems or prose** between 16-36 pages in length. The contest is open to new, emerging, and established writers. The winner will receive book publication, a \$500 cash award, and ten copies of the book. Prizes are awarded on publication.

Fee: \$18.00

Deadline: May 31

[Rigel 2023](#)

Sunspot Literary Journal

There is still time!! Sunspot Lit seeks one short story, CNF, artwork, poem, graphic novel, script, or excerpt that outshines the rest. Literary and genre works accepted. Feedback available for additional fee. See guidelines for details. Enter through Sunspot's Submittable or through Duotrope. Top prize \$500. Additional prizes – Publication. (They have other themed contest.)

Fee: \$10.00

Deadline: May 31



This month's **Featured Publishers**

Copper Canyon Press

Publishes extraordinary **poetry** from around the world to engage the imaginations and intellects of readers.

Since 1972, the Press has published poetry exclusively and has established an international reputation for its commitment to authors, editorial acumen, and dedication to the poetry audience.

Copper Canyon Press publishes new collections of poetry by both revered and emerging American poets, translations of classical and contemporary work from many of the world's cultures, re-issues of out-of-print poetry classics, anthologies, and prose books about poetry.

Sourcebooks

Sourcebooks' mission is to reach as many people as possible through books that will enlighten their lives.

We are an independent, women-led publisher bound together by the idea that Books. Change. Lives.

For us, this means a passion for stories and a dedication to helping authors reach readers. It means innovative publishing, where every book is personal and every author's voice has a place.

We are a group of passionate, energetic book lovers committed to creating a world of readers. Thank you for being part of our story.

Young Adult, Fantasy, Mystery & Crime, Thriller & Suspense, Diverse Literature, LGBTQ+, BIPOC, Children's, Fiction



The Author's **Resource Well**

45 Writers' "Rules for Writing"

Written by Emily Harstone

Most writers have their own special "rules for writing," even if they don't talk about them. I find other writers' rules fascinating, even when I don't agree with them. A lot can be learned by reading about other authors' approaches to writing.

Amazon Ad Videos

This is a link to Amazon's own videos on using Amazon ads. One of them is *Getting started with Amazon Ads for KDP Authors*.



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 **Bi-Monthly Column** (as in every other) by **Angel Ackerman**



Last month, I provided information on several storytelling podcasts to, hopefully, ease you into the idea of using your phone or your computer as a listening device to allow these modern radio programs (everything old is new again) into your lives. Many podcast players/ streaming services (like Spotify) offer free versions. So consider the possibility of podcasts being a mini-retreat or a reflection to help you in your creativity.

In this column, I, Angel R. Ackerman, publisher at Parisian Phoenix, will share with you the podcasts I believe will help you hone your talents. If you have a Spotify account, you can look for my profile— I'm the one in glasses, cuddling a cat. I curate longer lists of podcasts there. You can contact me at angel@parisianphoenix.com.

This list features my “greatest of all time” in the writing podcast world.

GOAT IMHO

NOVEL MARKETING PODCAST with Thomas Umstadd Jr. of Author Media. On Spotify, episodes of Novel Marketing Podcast go back eight years! Thomas used to work for a small press and tackles all the topics related to marketing. His web site offers blog posts of each episode, so if you can read about the topic instead of listen. His advice is about selling your book, not about craft. He asks good questions and finds better answers.

PEOPLE’S GUIDE TO PUBLISHING by Microcosm Publishing. Joe Biel, the founder of midlist independent publisher Microcosm, and his editorial and marketing director, Elly Blue, present tidbits about real life as a small publisher. The current episodes often feature a guest, and I must say, I’m not as keen about their skills as interviewers compared to their prowess with real-world experience.

HOW DO YOU WRITE? with Rachael Herron. Rachael usually keeps her podcasts around a half-hour long. She’s transparent about her career as a hybrid author, with traditional books published with Dutton and self-publishing her backlist and titles that don’t get placed by her agent. She offers inspiration, interviews and practical tips.

Runners up:

THE REBEL AUTHOR’S PODCAST with Sacha Black. Sacha is a self-published British author, who writes ridiculously fast and highlights stories of rebels on her podcast and occasionally swears. She recently launched a new pen name for sapphic fantasy romance fiction and has been chronicling her journey.

THE CREATIVE PENN with Joanna Penn. Joanna is another self-published British author, who, like Sacha, makes her living via her author career. She writes in several genres, including thriller and travel memoir. She is very tech savvy and keeps abreast of changes in AI, NFTs and other digital opportunities.

BOOK MARKETING TIPS AND AUTHOR SUCCESS with Penny Sensevieri and Amy Cornell. No frills, no excess, just around 20 minutes of advice on a topic— from book cover pet peeves to the difference between marketing and sales.

Next time: Tips from podcasters on building an email newsletter



We hope to be helpful!

Charles B. Kiernan