

GLVWG



Welcome to the monthly
Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group Newsletter
Mostly **November/into December 2020**

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



For the month of November there are the **General Membership Meeting and Workshops** on Saturday, 28th starting at 10:00 am. The meeting will be, again, live-streamed over Zoom, **from the Palmer Library**, but only the board members will personally attend. The workshops will be Zoomed as well. Check our website and/or your emails to sign up for the Zoom sessions.

The workshop presenter will be our own Patti Giordani.

The morning topic at 11:00 am:
Freelance Writing 2020: It's Not For Sissies.

Let's face it: Pandemic or not, freelance writing has always been a tough business. Let Patti guide you through some of the pitfalls.

Pattie's Afternoon topic at 12:55 pm:

The Editor Said Yes. Now What.

In the afternoon workshop, you will learn how to find and interview sources and experts, and conduct research.

You Must Register to Attend the Afternoon Workshop

Date: Afternoon Program, Nov. 28, 2020

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.

Also, see Pattie's monthly newsletter column below.



Periodically, 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.

[2020 WaterSedge Poetry Chapbook Contest](#)

They say:

At Writer's Relief, we know how challenging it is for poets to get their poetry manuscripts published. So we're very happy to sponsor the 2020 Annual WaterSedge Poetry Chapbook Contest and support the work of a talented poet.

Contest Judge: Kim Stafford, Oregon's 9th Poet Laureate and director of the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis & Clark College

Winner will receive: \$500 cash prize; publication of the poetry chapbook in both print and e-book formats; Amazon distribution for Kindle and print; and 25 free print copies. Deadline: November 30, 2020. \$20 entry fee.

[Kaleidoscope WOJO – Writing Contest for Women Writers](#)

They say:

Our latest writing contest – *What is your happy place?* This could run the gamut of vacations, stary nights around a campfire, selling flowers at a farmer's markets, or walking a golf course. This could even be an event versus a place, like rocking a newborn to sleep, writing/painting a masterpiece, a wedding. The sky is the limit. Tell us about your happy place. Submission deadline: 11/27/2020

There is \$100 for the top winner. All winners - grand prize winner, runner up, and honorable mention are featured on the Winning Stories page of our website and our social media with their bio, picture and social media. Show us what you've got.

<https://www.kaleidoscopewojo.com/contests>

Women writers and their works can be featured by submitting to: What Are You Thankful For? What's Your Cure for Writer's Block or Why We Write.

<https://www.kaleidoscopewojo.com/submit-to-be-featured>

We never require a fee to submit!



This month's **Featured Publishers.**

[Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine](#)

This paying and competitive magazine publishes short stories and novellas in the mystery genre.

They say:

Finding new authors is a great pleasure for all of us here, and we look forward to reading the fiction you send us. Since we do read all submissions, there is no need to query first; please send the entire story. You don't need an agent.

Because this is a mystery magazine, the stories we buy must fall into that genre in some sense or another. We are interested in nearly every kind of mystery: stories of detection of the classic kind, police procedurals, private eye tales, suspense, courtroom dramas, stories of espionage, and so on. We ask only that the story be about a crime (or the threat or fear of one). We sometimes accept ghost stories or supernatural tales, but those also should involve a crime.

[Mystery Tribune](#)

This online magazine publishes original mysteries as well as interviews and articles about mysteries. It doesn't look like they pay much if at all. However, they accept short works.

They say:

We publish **daily online** non-fiction essays, stories, interviews, and reviews on the genre of mystery and suspense. We strongly suggest to all who submit that they read the Daily section of our website and mobile apps to acquaint themselves with our editorial voice and sensibility. Pitches or submissions are preferred to pieces written on spec; please keep submissions to under two thousand words. Unsolicited contributions to our Daily section, if accepted, are unpaid.

We publish **flash fiction** with dark underlying themes or crime, mystery, noir and suspense stories on our website and mobile apps. We strongly suggest to all who submit that they read the Fiction section of our website or apps to acquaint themselves with our editorial preference. Unsolicited flash fiction contributions, if accepted, are generally unpaid.

All submissions must be in English and previously unpublished. Simultaneous submissions are also acceptable, but please notify us immediately if the piece is accepted for publication elsewhere.

[Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine](#)

They say:

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine welcomes submissions from both new and established writers. We publish every kind of mystery short story: the psychological suspense tale, the deductive puzzle, the private eye case—the gamut of crime and detection from the realistic (including the policeman's lot and stories of police procedure) to the more imaginative (including "locked rooms" and "impossible crimes"). We need hard-boiled stories as well as "cozies," but we are not interested in explicit sex or violence. We do not want true detective or crime stories. With the exception of a regular book review column and a mystery crossword, EQMM publishes only fiction. We are especially happy to review first stories by authors who have never before published fiction professionally. First-story submissions should be addressed to EQMM's Department of First Stories.



The Author's **Resource Well.**

[LitRejections](#)

A fun and useful site. There is a whole blog-style section about literary rejections. There are numerous other articles about the publishing trade, as well as a list of literary agencies in the US and also foreign countries.



Our **CaféZoom!** sessions continue. 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 11 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: The Long and Short of Abbreviations **By Pattie Giordani**

In this column, I often mention that publishers use a stylebook. The two I have used most when editing are the Chicago Manual of Style and the Associated Press Stylebook. If you don't know which stylebook your targeted publisher uses or you don't have a copy of their in-house stylebook, pick a style and use it consistently.

This applies directly to abbreviations. For example, don't use "Mr." on one page and "Mister" three pages later. Before we get into the long and short of it, here are a few definitions from a good resource, *The Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*.

Abbreviation: A shortened version of a word or phrase, usually consisting of part of the original word or phrase and usually punctuated with a period. Examples: Rev., for Reverend, and Mr., for Mister.

Acronym: A single word created by joining the first letters of the words that make up the full name or description. Acronyms are pronounced as single words: NATO: North American Treaty Organization, and NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Initialism: A single word created by joining the first letters of the words that make up the full name or description. Unlike acronyms, initialisms are pronounced letter by letter: IRS: Internal Revenue Service, VIP: very important person, FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms make writing easier and quicker. However, you can't always use them, especially in more formal writing. In fiction, unless your publisher says otherwise, I see no reason not to use them, if you use them consistently!

Deciding how to punctuate abbreviations can be confusing. Is it F.B.I. or FBI? N.A.SA. or NASA?

Abbreviations of single words usually take periods, such as Mr., Jan., vol. Initialisms are commonly written without periods such as HBO and IRS. You can use periods, but—all together now—be consistent! Acronyms usually do not require periods, such as CARE and NATO. Acronyms that have become regular words never need periods. Examples of these are radar, sonar, laser and scuba.

There are also guidelines for capitalizing abbreviations, acronyms and initialisms. Capitalize abbreviations of words that would be capitalized if written out in full. Examples include St. Joan for Saint Joan, Mr. Smith for Mister Smith, GM for General

Motors and PSU for Pennsylvania State University. Similarly, don't capitalize abbreviations of words not capitalized on their own, such as pound: lb., minutes: mins. and miles per hour: mph.

Always capitalize B.C. and A.D. You can capitalize A.M. and P.M., but according to the AP Stylebook, they should be lower case: a.m. and p.m. Don't capitalize acronyms that have become ordinary words, such as sonar, radar and modem.

In addresses, use the standard postal abbreviations for states, without periods. For example, CA for California, MD for Maryland and PA for Pennsylvania. In most writing, according to the AP Stylebook, state names should be spelled out. In some instances, such as lists, you can use the regular abbreviations, Calif., Md. and Pa.



We hope to be helpful!

Charles B. Kiernan