

Journey Writers, Inc.

Annual Report

2022



Our Mission: To provide a safe, open, and supportive environment for writers to share their work and receive constructive feedback and encouragement.

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A Note from the President



This has been a year of tremendous growth for Journey Writers. As we approach our tenth anniversary in 2023, we have increased our membership and our grant revenue, and we have surpassed expectations for the number and quality of the presentations and programs we've been able to offer.

Our fiscal year ends in December, and some grants, including a large grant from CT Humanities were made after the beginning of the year, so our financial statement doesn't reflect their full extent. However, Journey

Writers is tremendously appreciative of each grant and contribution. Our organization operates entirely through volunteer efforts. The funds we receive enable us to extend our reach in our community; to continue to serve writers and those who would like to become writers; and to make our, performances, activities, and services available to a wider audience. The programs and activities listed in this report demonstrate the incredible dedication and level of effort our members have made to service our community with high-quality, informative, and innovative programs. In June, we held our first CT Writers Forum, during which three writers who have ties to Hartford read from their works and answered questions from viewers. In September, for Hartford Pride Month, Journey Writers presented three programs in three weeks, addressing issues that affect our LGBTQ community. In January, we began broadcasting Word of the Month, a program that examines the words we use and how their meanings have evolved over time. In February, our annual production of "Queer Black History" was done as a play, instead of a series of monologues. The innovative script featured several LGBTQ icons of Black history comparing elements of their lives and careers. That same month, we supported the Hartford Urban League with a pre-recorded piece for their virtual celebration. When the hARTford Love Project solicited artists to display their work in the Albany Avenue and Clay Hill neighborhoods, Journey Writers asked if we could be a part of the project and display our poetry. We were excited to learn we were among a select group of artists whose work will soon be displayed on bus shelters and utility boxes.

Throughout all these activities, members continued to find time to volunteer in the community, to work on and publish their writing, to participate in our bi-weekly workshops and attend classes, including a "Word-shop" series we recently started.

This report includes excerpts from some of the pieces our members have written this year. We hope you will enjoy reading them. More of our original pieces will be available in the Journey Writers Anthology. Work is well underway as submissions have been made, the final pieces for the book have been selected, and the contracts have been drawn up. There's lots more to be done but we're well on our way and we've already received the first grant to support publication.

There's a saying that if you want something done, you should ask a busy person. Our members are among the busiest people I know and it's clear they are getting things done!

Carla Dean

President, Journey Writers, Inc.

Board of Directors



Carla Dean
President



Liston Filyaw
Vice President



Beth Gibbs
Secretary



Larry Roeming
Treasurer



Andre Keitt
Artistic Director



Regina Dyton
Grant Writer



Denise Best
Director



Therelza Ellington
Director



Earl W. Gardner
Director

Programs and Activities

Journey Writers Tell the Whole Story: Queer Black History – I Put a Spell on You

In February 2022, Journey Writers produced their fifth annual edition of “Journey Writers Tell the Whole Story: Queer Black History.” This production, which each year represents Black icons of history as their whole selves, was titled, “I Put a Spell on You.” Written by Liston Filyaw and Regina Dyton, instead of featuring a series of monologues representing LGBTQ individuals from Black history, as we have done in the past, the program was presented as a dramatic reading in a play format, featuring an imagined conversation between Lorraine Hansberry, Nina Simone, James Baldwin and Langston Hughes as two high school students look on. Once again, the production was done virtually and remains available on YouTube. To see the program, go to the Journey Writers website, journeywriters.org, and click on the link. Journey Writers is grateful to the Employee Resource Groups of Stanley Black & Decker for the grant they provided to help make this program possible.



James Baldwin and Langston Hughes as two high school



Connecticut Authors Forum

In June 2021, Journey Writers held our first CT Writers Forum. Three writers who have ties to the Hartford area were invited to read from their works, to participate in a discussion of the writing process and to respond to questions posed by the audience.



The panel included Beth Gibbs, Journey Writers member and author of “Enlighten Up!”, Nancy Slonim Aronie, author of “Writing from the Heart”, and Jonathan Gillman, author of “My Father Humming.” The panel was moderated by Journey Writers Board Member, Denise Best.

You can access the program on the Journey Writers website: journeywriters.org.

Hartford Pride Month

In September, the City of Hartford celebrated Pride Month. Among other activities, they held an event in Hartford's Bushnell Park, inviting organizations to come together and share information about their programs and



activities in support of the LGBTQ community. Journey Writers was pleased to be a part of this event and sponsored a booth showcasing our workshops, presentations, and events.



In addition to participating in the exhibit, Journey Writers presented three original programs: "Raising the Cliff," "One Hot Night" and "Cathy's Secret." All three presentations are available on the Journey Writers website.

Raising the Cliff

This original monologue, written by Journey Writer Regina Dyton and performed by Journey Writer Frances Sharp, tells the story of Caribbean-American author and activist Michelle Cliff. It explores a young Michelle's first love story, which was complicated by homophobic family judgement. It then goes on to discuss her battle with injustice in the professional sphere.



One Hot Night

Who would have thought that the revolution against bigotry, police brutality and anti-LGBTQ rights would have begun on that hot summer night at the Stonewall Inn? Journey Writer,



Regina Dyton felt strongly about telling the story and wrote, "One Hot Night," a staged reading, highlighting the courage of unlikely heroes, including Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who were victims of intolerance themselves. Heroines are born when victims find the resilience to rise up, like these ladies of the revolution!

Kathy's Secret

Some secrets die with the dead. Others haunt the loved ones that are left behind. In the Journey Writers' staged reading of "Kathy's Secret," written by Journey



Writer Mel Thomas, those who are left behind, examine the inner despair, resilience, and loves of Kathy...after she's gone.



BIRDIE: Can you tell us about our mother?

TRUDY: Yes, I'm very close to her; we've been through a lot together. Her name is Marjorie, but she calls herself Marge because she loved watching the Simpson. She was a sweet, quiet kid in the earlier part of her youth. She had very strict parents. Her father was a preacher, very proper and very well known in the community. Her mother was a missionary and always worried about what other people thought about the family. Marge and I grew up together. With her being the quiet one and with me being the total opposite, I had to always look out for her. No one was going to hurt her as long as I was around.

BIRDIE: Do you know where she is now?

TRUDY: Yes

ALBERTA: Does she know she gave birth to us?

TRUDY: Yes, but at times she pushes it out of her mind. Thinking about it causes her to withdraw into her own world.

BIRDIE: Why did she give us up?

TRUDY: She had no say in the matter. Her parents didn't want anyone to know she was pregnant, so they sent her away until she gave birth, then you two were put up for adoption.

ALBERTA: Why?

TRUDY: Because she was only sixteen when she had you twins. Her parents were under a lot of pressure and cared more about their image and what the church would say.

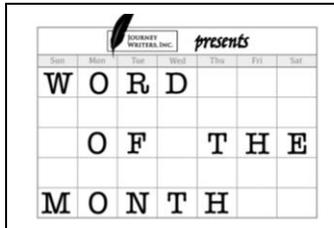
BIRDIE: Why didn't she try to find us?

TRUDY: She didn't want to go against her father's will, who she was afraid of. Her parents were prominent figures in the community as well as the church. There were powerful political people attending their church who threatened to destroy them if they didn't uphold a certain standard and do what they were told to do.

Liston Filyaw

Excerpt from "The Audition: A Family Affair"

Word of the Month



In January, Journey Writers began a series of monthly programs examining words we use today and how their meanings have changed over time. Using original poetry, short stories, essays and commentary, each month members of Journey Writers select one word and explore how we use the word today, compared to how it was

used in the past. Some of the words examined include “zoom,” “woke,” “shade,” and “queer.” These original works are read by the authors and broadcast each week on Saturday afternoon on



WQTQ radio 89.9 FM and

can be heard by thousands of listeners throughout the Greater Hartford area. Word of the Month is made possible by a generous grant from the Betty Knox Foundation.

*I'm in love with a zaftig gal
Always zesty, zippy and zooty
She can be zanily zappy.
Like to drive zig zag with zeal.
Top-down shouting zowie
As we zoom, zing
Not to a zugzwang
But zestily zero in on our zenith
Zounds!*

*Earl W. Gardner
"Zoom"*

Word-shops

This spring, Journey Writers held our first formal “Word-shop.” In the past, we’ve held informal sessions to look at the use of cliches and to try our hand at writing haikus or six-word stories. However, this was the first time we’ve held a formal session to look at a specific area of writing. Because many of our members write poetry, the word-

shop focused on “Poetry: Rhyme, Rhythm and Meter.” Participants went through a series of exercises, wrote a piece of poetry with a specific rhyme scheme and meter, and analyzed the poetry of several professional writers. Journey Writers looks forward to offering Word-shops for members on other subjects two or three times throughout the year.

Zoom is technology and like all technology, it initially scared me to death. I'm not afraid of snakes, rats, mice or bugs but I'm so scared of every app, software, hardware, hell-machines!! I was afraid of and hated the typewriter in high school! So imagine me putting a snake on your desk and telling you to relax and do your work...yeah.

Zoom held me against the wall and put his hand over my neck, threatening me. You can't do anything without me!! I'm dominant in this pandemic. You like your little social justice causes, your writing group and yes, even your family. You will have to deal with me. And so I began the slow and painful journey of how to snuggle up to a snake/rat/bat like robot zombie creature. My fingers froze over the keys, I clicked in panic, waiting for the computer, maybe even my world to blow up, exploding and imploding all at once. Slowly, like everything else new, I learned, and my fear lessened. Now I'm zooming with ease, scheduling meetings, sharing screens and everything.

*Regina Dyton
Excerpt from "Zoom"*

hARTford Love Project

The City of Hartford invited local artists to apply for an opportunity to have their artwork displayed on bus shelters and utility boxes along Albany Avenue to highlight and express pride in the Albany Avenue and Clay Arsenal neighborhoods. Unlike the other artists, Journey Writers suggested pieces of poetry. We are pleased to have been selected to participate. Three poems, written by Journey Writers members will be installed on utility boxes in Hartford's Upper Albany neighborhood. The poems include, "My Walk," written by Larry Roeming, "The Urban Battle of Notes", written by Denise Best and "Life in the City," written by Earl Gardner.

*We bow to the sounds
Playgrounds, sirens and stoop talk
Life in the city.*

*Earl W. Gardner
"Life in the City"*

*And then the ice cream truck came
And rudely interrupted my peace
Just intruded into my H.E.R.
Friday evening groove
That incessant jingle
You know which one I'm talking about
On and on and on
Over and over and over
by Denise Best
"The Urban Battle of Notes"*



*I see a father patiently trying to comb out the knots in his son's hair
Long past the haircut the young man needed a month ago
Here's an older man carefully painting the scrollwork hinges on a dilapidated church
Sprucing up a building in desperate need of much more expensive repairs
I smell before I see, a lawn nearly overtaken by clover
The sweet spicy aroma spinning around me on the breeze
In a parking lot, a woman negotiates with her toddler
Explaining that they will get home faster if she's willing to ride her trike
Ten thousand tiny white trumpets
Bloom atop so-called weeds along a quarter mile of iron fence
A young man in full graduation regalia
Poses for a photo at the grand main entrance of a local insurance company
Another man is sweeping trash from the street in front of his home
Making the neighborhood a little bit better with this simple task*

*Larry Roeming
Excerpt from "My Walk"
Hartford, CT /May 2020*

Urban League of Greater Hartford

Journey Writers continued their support of the Urban League of Greater Hartford by participating in their Black History Month Celebration. This virtual event was streamed digitally on YouTube and Facebook and



showcased the achievements and contributions of African American, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Latino cultures in the Capital Region. The Urban League's programs and operations impact more than 3,000 individuals and their families every year.

Writers Workshops

Journey Writers workshops are held twice each month. Writers bring their work and read the pieces to the group. Members note details and ideas they liked and offer suggestions for areas they think could be improved. These readings and discussions are the heart of each workshop. In addition to encouraging members to share their original works, before each workshop, we provide a writing prompt to get their creative juices flowing. Sometimes the prompt is a word. Other times it's a sentence or a situation. We sometimes use a picture. Whatever the prompt, we are sure to get lots of different approaches. We'd like to share with you a few of the pieces that members have presented from prompts and their own individual work over the past year.

2021 Financial Report

Income	Director Contributions	\$547.94
	Donations	264.12
	Merchandise Sales	90.00
	Membership Dues	<u>691.90</u>
	TOTAL INCOME	\$1,593.96
Expenses	Government Fees	\$ 40.00
	Production Expenses	173.40
	Technology	31.88
	Board Development	18.07
	Gifts	<u>246.90</u>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$510.25
	INCOME OVER EXPENSES	\$1,083.71

Woke for me has meant natural since the black power movement of the sixties and seventies. I started wearing an afro 1968 and continued until I “sold out” for a job from 1984-1989. After leaving, I locked up and have been nappy and happy ever since. Natural for me was not only a black pride value but a lesbian feminist value as well. My hair is more of a statement than a style.

Two cancers with chemotherapy contributed to my hair loss. After the first chemo, my dreads didn't come back like tree-trunks but like blades of grass. It became thinner and softer with the second chemo. After starting an injection for diabetes I'd find locks lying on the floor like dead grass that had been raked. I covered the empty patches with scarves. I was disappointed in myself for being vain. I wasn't one of “those” women. I was deep, political and passionate. I don't need to look good, just to be smart. When I was bald from chemo, I didn't wear a wig or a scarf. I wore my fat funny head in and held that head up high. What's happening to me?

I'm trying to keep the focus on me and my insecurity about losing my hair and aging. The phrase, “old and ugly” resonates and weaves itself into my consciousness lately. When did I become so shallow?

I am a failed feminist. I have come to believe that I am ugly and need to feed the beast of Capitalism and purchase preferred characteristics.

That ain't woke. I'm in a coma. I can't seem to move or speak but I hear the commercials, I see the magazines. I see my sisters buying beauty. I try to keep it real. I keep thinking I need to buy a wig-a nappy wig of course or perhaps have dread extensions made from my fallen locks? Would that be woke?

I spoke to my sister who wears a wig and my sister who would never. I can't get woke just talking to myself. Both told me I was beautiful. One referred me to natural hair stylists. I found one who is a cancer survivor and on her second set of locks. She is a spiritual sister told me that my hair had a soul, feelings, sensitivities, likes and dislikes. She prescribed rosewater and tea tree oil. I have an appointment for her to de-toxify my hair with herbs and natural oils. It's growing already. For today, I just know that taking care of my hair is a part of the developing intimate relationship my mind and soul are building with my body.

*My hair is coming to life with the rest of me, it's waking and so am I. Regina Dyton
“Woke!”*

*I won't disown my gay grandson
Or be part of a society that persecutes him
For choosing to love whom he has chosen
I refuse to hide behind my religious beliefs
To justify the hatred of others who don't agree
The day is here when love has no boundaries
For love is in the creator, the maker of all man
I see it in my grandson. I see it throughout the land.*

*Barbara Stephens
Excerpt from “Loving – Gay...A Grandmother's Love”*

Queer
The word hurled violently,
nearly spat on the pavement,
landing messily beside faggot
and fairy
and dyke
to form a dark pool
of hatred and fear

Queer
A term to
demean homosexuals —
in those times
when the word “homosexual”
was judged not to be
demeaning enough on its own

Queer
Used to dismiss
“You are unimportant,
unnecessary,
worthy only of contempt”

Queer
Sometimes said quietly,
to myself
“Am I this awful thing
they say I am?”

Queer
The word had a meaning
before it became a curse

Unusual
Out of place
Peculiar

*Perhaps negative in connotation,
but not an epithet*

*But then, slowly,
it began changing*

*Wrestled from the haters,
and claimed first
by those who couldn't hide,
or never bothered to hide
their true selves.
“I'm queer”*

*Later claimed by those
who grew tired of hiding,
saying to the world,
“You may think I'm like you
but I'm not;
I'm not ordinary;
No, I'm special”
“I'm queer”*

*More important,
It began to mark
a long-sought inclusivity,
breaking down past barriers
between the Ls, Gs, Bs and Ts
It welcomed even those
who simply didn't WANT
to be part of the mainstream
“I'm queer”*

*The word that was oppressive
in my youth
is now, instead, freeing
There is glory and beauty
in being different
“I'm queer”*

*I reject your rules
your norms
your labels
I claim the term as a badge of honor
This is who I am
“I'm queer”*

Larry Roeming
“Queer”

An interaction between a severely focus-challenged driver and her GPS system. This system has three levels of help, Mode One: Soft spoken friendly option for efficient directions to drivers with premiere attention spans. Mode two: Simplistic directions for easily distracted drivers. Mode three: "Fool Please" option for the severely directionally challenged drivers.

DARLENE

Alright Chile, I'm leaving right now. You know I'm bad at directions, but I brought this newfangled GPS system for my car, to help me wit dat. Now the salesman said it pretty much runs itself after I turn it on and tell it where I wanna go. Gimme that address one more time girl.

VOICE OVER THE SPEAKER PHONE

236 Chestnut View Drive. It's in the sticks, but your GPS should get you there.

DARLENE

Ok I'll put it into the GPS and I hope this thang works the way the dealership promised. I paid enough for it. Now this is gonna be a nice relaxing drive in the country. What? You know that girl's just showing her you-know-what moving way out there to no man's land. I cain't wait to see what her place looks like. She's always bragging about how much her thangs cost.

GPS

Operating in mode 1 now. GPS mode 1 calculating address, please turn right in 100 feet.

DARLENE

Girl this is a beautiful day for a drive in the country. Ouu I see Na Na's new car in the driveway. I wonder what she had to do to afford that, ha ha!

GPS

You missed the turn. Please pay attention. We're recalibrating. Take the next right and drive to Waters Street, where you will take another right.

DARLENE

"Hold on girl, I know this new GPS is not getting testy with me. Lemme turn the volume down, the last thing I need is to have my nerves plucked today. So now where were we? Oh yeah Na Na's old man hit the number last week and it looks like she was able to squeeze a few coins outta Mr. Cheapskate. I guess that's how she got her new wheels. What you say, I wouldn't take that broke down fool if he was the last man on earth. I don't know how she can put up wit him after all the dirt he's done?"

GPS

Turn right in 300 feet onto Waters St.

DARLENE

Oops! I missed the turn, chile. Lemme pay attention to this darn GPS or I'm never gonna get to her house.

GPS

Recalibrating ... again, for the second time. Turn right on Turner St. we're going to try this again and if it doesn't work this time, we're switching to mode two. "

DARLENE

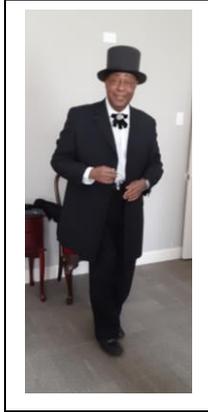
Who in the hell is this GPS talking to? It acts like it's got an attitude. Girl, they make these things so lifelike now, you don't know what to think."

Jacque Davis
Excerpt from "Sassy GPS"

Journey Writers in the Community

In addition to attending workshops and participating in programs and performances, members of Journey Writers are active in the community.

Andre Keitt consulted with the Farmington Historical Society to increase awareness of



Farmington's Freedom Trail, particularly the Amistad-related offerings.

Several Journey Writers interpreted roles on the revised tour, which provides visitors with a glimpse into the lives of the newly freed Mende people who lived in Farmington in the early 1840s.



Denise Best hosts a two-hour Sunday Serenade of smooth jazz on Primal Radio.

She also conducted a Zoom Workshop for "Journey 2 Free" (program in Jamaica).



Theresa Harris is the award-winning host of "Diversity in the Community," an interview program available on Windsor Community Television – WIN TV, a public, education and government (PEG) cable community access provider.

She also showcased her acting skills in two commercials for Hartford Hospital.

Frances McAlpine Sharp performed and conducted a virtual Black History Workshop at Simsbury High School.

Rozz Mitchell, Liston Filyaw, Leslie Bivans, and Theresa Harris, performed as an actors and tour guides for the Farmington Historical Society.

Larry Roeming worked as the sound technician for the Farmington Historical Society's Amistad project.



Regina Dyton is a regularly featured artist on “Primally Poetic,” an online radio program and was a guest on Gay Spirit Radio-Not Afraid to be Different: The Keith Brown Story at the 35th annual LGBTQ film festival.

Regina was also a featured artist at the Charter Oak Cultural Center’s V Day Program.

Jacque Davis, Liston Filyaw, Frances McAlpine Sharp and **Leslie Bivans** performed in “Day of Tears” throughout CT for the “Day of Tears Touring Co.”

Beth Gibbs was an award Winner in the BookFest Book Awards, category: Self-Help - Spirituality, New Age for her book, “Enlighten Up! Finding Clarity, Contentment and Resilience in a Complicated World.” “Enlighten Up!” was also a winner in the Firebird Book Awards in the category of personal growth.

Beth did a book reading at Sankofa Art Gallery – Summer 2021: *Enlighten Up! Finding Clarity, Contentment and Resilience in a Complicated World* and *Ogi Bogi, The Elephant Yogi, Stories about Yoga for Children*.



Liston Filyaw was recognized in “Who’s Who in America.” He conducted a Black History Workshop at Simsbury High School and Conducted Zoom Workshops for “Journey 2 Free” (program in Jamaica). Liston also conducts the “Unity Writers & Voices” workshops at Unity of Greater Hartford Church.

Grace is one of the most amazing people I know. We met in high school gym class, playing against each other in basketball. We could both dunk something fierce. I watched her dunk.

She watched me dunk. Our friendship started then and has lasted our whole lives. Now at age 76, Grace is dying. She has Stage four breast cancer. This devastates me but she’s taking it in stride. I don’t know how she does it. Like I said, she is one of the most amazing people I have ever known.

Now I know we all age but as many of the ladies in my book group say, “Aging is not for sissies.” Grace’s take is a bit more salacious, she says, “Aging is a bitch!” I agree with Grace. And as true, and funny, as her statement is, Grace, despite her illness is aging - - with grace in all of its shades.

Did you know there are shades of grace? Yes, there are, and Grace has painted her life in three of the most important shades.

*Beth Gibbs
Excerpt from “Amazing Grace”*

Therelza Ellington was inducted into the College of Health Professions through Western Governors University (WGU) chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS).

She also conducted Zoom workshops for “Journey 2 Free” (program in Jamaica).



*We got a penchant for words
A vibe for verbs
A cornucopia of linguistical nods.*

*We needed a haven
A klatch for conversation
A group come together to play with nouns.
Nobody here lives on writer’s block.*

*A polychromatic soul
Beating in time to new ideas,
Tap, tap, tapping staccato sounds of
Fricative phrases
Of nomenclature mazes,
Strung all over the land.*

*We write because we breathe,
Then come together to flush out the weeds,
Leaving beautiful stalks of prose to share.*

*Journey, write with us-
We’re like a drum circle of words
Beating in time to visions on a page
A lexicon coven of dreamers and dreams,*

*A linguistically hot oven-
Cooking deep meanings, visions and then
Sharing while we blend our collective seams.*

*Look up in the sky-
It’s a word, it’s a phrase!
It’s a group of earnest souls-
Unraveling words – blood on the page.*

*Leslie Bivans
“Drum Circle of Words”*

*You know yo,
You’re makin’ it hard
For me
Not to hate you Bro,
Cuz of how you make fun of me,
Even though you know my flow
Is not to be where I am,
Circumstances challenge my livin’
Family strife is just a givin’,
And while you style the latest look
Without care
For how I feel
When you throw shade
At my Goodwill deals
Rippin’ my heart without a glance
Not even givin’ me a chance
To walk in my style,
Rippin’ my heart without a glance
But you know what
I don’t want to use my words as swords
It’s okay,
I will love me anyway...*

*Earl W. Gardner
“I Will Love You Anyway”*

Journey Writers in Print

Journey Writers members have published books, articles essays and commentary. Here's a list of some of their publications.

Regina Dyton

- June 2022-Story, "Dear Ella", published in Lesbian Literary Journal, "Sinister Wisdom"
- June 2022-Article published in "Aislin Magazine"
- January 2022-Poems published in "Every Kinda Lady and Her Sisters' Pages Anthology;" also read on online debut of the anthology
- October 2021-Story, "Birdland" published in "CT Literary Anthology" and presented live reading of story at the CT Literary Festival
- June 2021-Short story, "Uncle Bubby" published in Chicken Soup for The Soul Anthology: "I'm Speaking Now!"
- July 2021-op-ed published in "IMPACT Magazine"
- March 2022-op-ed published in "IMPACT Magazine"

Melissa Marshall

- Book: "I Can't Swim but I Haven't Drowned Yet: Notes from a Disability Rights Activist," PYP Academy Press, May 23, 2020

Mel Thomas

- "Someone Else's Happiness," published in "Next Avenue," nextavenue.org, November 19, 2020

They were big black, ugly, and bold, wreaking havoc wherever they went.

I was so tired of them; I had had enough.

I had called and put in complaints about them, but no matter what actions were taken, they kept coming back.

They saw me coming and saw what I had in my hands. I yelled "I am tired of y'all, and I got a little someum, someum for ya..."

They ran but there was nowhere for them to hide, they were cornered. I put my finger on the trigger and pumped three times and they all fell over dead.

Word must have gotten out about their demise because I have not seen any carpenter bees since. That Raid® Super Plus Plus Plus Plus is some good stuff.

*Theresa Freeman
"Nowhere to Hide"*

Beth Gibbs

- Short Story: 1-800-555-Mary – CT Anthology 2020
- Leveraging Gratitude - Authority Magazine (online)
- 5 Ways to Optimal Health - Authority + Thrive Global Mags (online)
- Short Story: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner -CT Lit 2021
- Enlighten Up! Finding Clarity, Contentment and Resilience in a Complicated World – January 2021 <https://www.bethgibbs.com>
- Interview for IndicaSoftPower, India's first magazine that documents soft power practices and engages with Indian and Non-Indian artists, academics, activists, cultural and creative entrepreneurs. the article is available here: <https://www.indicasoftpower.com/beth-gibbs-finds-clarity-in-a-complicated-world-with-yoga/>
- Article, "How to Live with Happiness and Joy Even When You Feel Like the Whole World is Pulling You Down." was accepted for Authority Magazine online. You can read it here: <https://medium.com/@authoritymag2/happiness-and-joy-during-turbulent-times-beth-gibbs-of-proyoga-therapeutics-on-how-to-live-with-ea407fe274a0>

When I was five years old, I questioned the passage of time. I convinced myself that things would always remain just as they were. I would never grow up. My parents would always take care of me, forever. It would be as if we were all living in a storybook. When you opened the pages, everyone would be the same. Nothing would change.

I had a favorite dress. When I wore that dress, I thought I was so big. Then, when I was six, that dress was too small for me. I had grown. Things had changed.

In that moment, I realized that time was elusive. I began to understand the things I had felt when I was small might not be true any longer. And that made me think the things I believed as I stood there, looking at that dress that was now too small, might not be true either. Life was not always going to be the same. I was growing. I realized I really was going to grow up. It was a life-changing moment for a six-year-old.

*by Carla Dean
Excerpt from "Time"*

About Journey Writers

Since its inception in 2013, Journey Writers, Inc. has provided a safe, open, and supportive environment for writers to share their work and receive constructive feedback and encouragement. We provide information and skill development opportunities to assist writers. We celebrate each person's unique contributions and assist individuals as they develop their skills and reach their full potential. The organization comprises over twenty-five writers from diverse backgrounds, including playwrights, poets, storytellers, songwriters, actors, directors and producers. Periodically, we offer performances and showcases designed to highlight the creative writing of our members. Many of the programs address social issues and encourage positive changes. Each performance is entertaining and thought-provoking. As a result, audience members have commented on the genuine impact Journey Writers programs have had on them.

Acknowledgements

Journey Writers is grateful to the many individuals and organizations that have offered their generous support for our programs and activities. Their contributions of time, skill, guidance, as well as financial contributions have helped to sustain and guide our programs, enabled us to serve the community and helped support the development of our writers. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

ProBono Partnership for supporting our legal needs

Pratt & Whitney Legal Department for assistance in the development of anthology contract

William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund for their support to publish an anthology of our members' work

Stanley Black & Decker for supporting "Journey Writers Tell the Whole Story: Queer Black History - I Put a Spell on You"

CT Humanities, the statewide, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a generous grant to support our growth and development

Betty Knox Foundation for sponsoring "Word of the Month" on WQTQ-FM radio

Hartford Pride Committee for supporting three online programs for Hartford Pride Month

Kamora's Cultural Corner for their contribution to support three online programs for Hartford Pride Month

Center for Leadership and Justice for allowing Journey Writers, Inc. to use their facilities as our home

Free Center of Hartford for allowing Journey Writers, Inc. to use their facilities for our programs

Friends, Families and Community members for continuing to attend programs and provide ongoing support

We Welcome Your Support

Journey Writers, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. We provide a safe, open and supportive environment for writers to share their work, receive constructive feedback and encouragement. Workshops are held twice each month. New writers are always invited to attend. We welcome your inquiries and your support. Please contact us if you would like to volunteer, become a member, attend a workshop, join our mailing list or make a contribution.

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