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JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE 38

# Joyce's Journal

A monthly dispatch from Joyce A. Miller, Writer

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## WORD OF THE YEAR 2024!

How do you choose your word of the year? Think about traits and qualities that are important to you. Ask yourself what you need in your life right now. Pay attention to any words or themes that pop up. Don't overthink it, as I often do, but let the word come to you. If there's a word you feel drawn to, even if it doesn't make sense right now, go with it.

I've been picking a word of the year for several years now. My word takes the place of a New Year's resolution. It embodies what I want to think/do/feel for the upcoming year. There is no failure or success as with a resolution, my word is a guiding light that can be applied in little ways throughout the year. I had trouble picking a word this year and kept going to some dark places. The word I settled on for this year is desire. Desire is life calling us forward. It's a strong feeling of wishing for something to happen. This year I'm going to tap into my desire for writing and art; and see what that does for me. My books and I are exactly what someone out there is looking for—what my reader desires!

A GLIMPSE OF  
WHAT'S INCLUDED:

**Free Sundays in  
January at Belmont!**

My word for last year was continue. What did I continue throughout the year? I continued to show up in a couple of podcasts—Starlight Pet Talk and Baseball, Books and Banter. I had two book signings. I attended two writing workshops and one conference. I finished writing **Corinne** and queried three agents about my book. I continued my love of dance by taking a tap class and performing in a group tap dance to the song “Steam Heat” at the school’s recital. Did you live your word from 2023?

For those of you who are interested in my novel **Corinne** and would like to see her real home, Gari Melchers Home and Studio will be having free tours in January every Sunday from 10 till 4. Step back in time and experience life at Belmont where Corinne lived. See the artwork that she painted. Belmont is located at 224 Washington Street, Falmouth, VA 22405, about an hour’s drive north of Richmond. There is a cute, little restaurant called Amy’s Café right around the corner for lunch. Maybe I’ll see you there!

I live in the Church Hill section of Richmond, VA with my husband and my retired racing greyhound. Before I started writing, I worked for 30 years at a nuclear physics research laboratory.

Do what you came here for!



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