



Bay Writers News

www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org

Volume XXIV • Issue 5 Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club

November 2017

President's Message

Getting a Start on the New Year

Fall is the time of year I take stock of what I've done and what I want to do in the months ahead. This year, making the transition from CBW President to Immediate Past President is a part of my review.

The board members decided to compile a Board Manual to record the process for each major task of our officers and directors so that anyone can pick up the instructions and complete a task. Ellen Dugan has been collecting and organizing the job descriptions and instructions, and we hope to have the Manual ready for the February election.

Reviewing my section of the CBW Board Manual is at the top of my autumn list. Our new website and reservation system are easy to use, once you know the quirks of each and where to find details! So, I will review and update the areas I've covered to make it easy for new volunteers to take over these tasks. Our other Board members and volunteers have done a great job in preparing their sections of the Manual.

November also brings NaNoWriMo, National Novel Writing Month. While I may not complete a novel in November, the exercise does give me an incentive to work on my fiction. This year, I'll be working on another novel using the same setting as *Chestnut Springs*, the novel I published in September. CBW will have a table at the James City County Library NaNoWriMo kick-off on Saturday, November 4. Check out the flyer in this newsletter or on our website for details.

I hope to see many of you at the All Stars Gala on November 15! Reservation and contest sign-up forms are online at www.chesapeakebaywriters.org.

Wishing you all a productive season of writing!

Carol J. Bova

Don't Wait for the End of the Year! Renew Today!

When you renew now, the Board of Directors has better information for planning next year's programs. This is especially important for 2018 because the transition to a new website and reservation system cut into the cash reserves CBW had carried in prior years. The Board is excited about a new year of growth in membership and programs in 2018! Renew now and invite a friend to join us. We welcome aspiring and experienced writers!

Did You Know?

The CBW Members Bookstore has 77 books posted from 34 authors! Want to add yours? Send a jpg of the front cover, a description, the category and sales or contact links to CBWreply@gmail.com



Save the Dates

Nov 4, 6, 13, 20, 27

NaNoWriMo - See page 2 & 6

Nov 15

CBW All Stars Gala Luncheon
Two Rivers Country Club
Williamsburg

Nov 18

Poetry Society of Virginia
Eastern Regional Meeting
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Williamsburg Regional
Library, 7770 Croaker Rd.
See page 9



National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)

National Novel Writing Month is a nonprofit organization that challenges participants to write a novel from start to finish during the month of November. On **Saturday, November 4th at the James City County Library**, Blue Dragon Publishing, LLC, in conjunction with the James City County Library, is hosting a kick-off event featuring seminars with professional authors. Sign up for sessions in advance at the library to reserve your seat today! Attendance is FREE!

At the James City County Library, 7700 Croaker Rd, Williamsburg.

10:00- SEMINAR I: Grow an Idea into a Novel (Hosted by Greg Lilly)

10:45 One of the first steps in beginning a novel is to test an idea to see if it has the potential to sustain the writer for 300 pages. This workshop uses worksheets and methods to help alleviate unproductive or underdeveloped story ideas, while discovering the idea that can grow into a full novel.

11:00- SEMINAR II: Writing for Children (Hosted by Dawn Brotherton)

11:45 How does writing books for children differ from young adult? What are the considerations when starting on this venture? A lot more than people initially think.

11:45- Visit the Author Tables (Spread throughout the library)

3:00 Greg Lilly (Non-fiction on writing, mysteries)
 Mary Montague Sikes (Children's books/Illustrator)
 SK Long (Historical romance)
 Dawn Brotherton (Mystery, romance, middle grade sports)
 Carol Bova (Fiction, non-fiction, magazine)
 Chesapeake Bay Writers

11:45- Lunch and a Chance to Mingle with the Authors

12:30 **Bring a lunch~**

12:30- SEMINAR III: Inconvenient Love (Hosted by SK Long)

1:15 Explore the art of creating characters, tension, and drama to turn out a great novel.

3:00- Open Writing Time in McGaw Room

5:00 Get started on your 50,000 words!

(For more information, email BlueDragonPub@cox.net) Schedule for Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 on page 6



Welcome Aboard New Members!

Dr. V. Ann Cooper

"I have written short stories, but I haven't published any of them. I did publish a dissertation, but that was a while ago and on Education. I plan to submit at least one piece for publication before too long." (Ann learned of us through a Williamsburg critique group. Her current focus is children's literature, and having been in the same group, I can say her story is delightful! C.J. Bova)

Bradley Harper, MD

"Retired Army pathologist, I began writing a little over three years ago. Have had one short story win Honorable mention in a writing contest, and sold one poem. Recently signed a two book deal with Seventh Street Books. First novel, *A Knife in the Fog*, comes out in Oct 2018." (Brad's interests span short fiction, novels, genre fiction and poetry. Enjoyed meeting him at the Williamsburg Book Fair. C.J. Bova)



CBW Annual All Stars Gala Luncheon *November 15*

Chesapeake Bay Writers will hold its annual All-Stars Gala Luncheon at the Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg on Wednesday, November 15. Members will read their original work, and those attending will vote for their top three choices and for the Rick Bailey Humor Award. Cash prizes will be awarded. Only CBW members can compete, but all are welcome to attend the luncheon. Social hour begins at 11:00 am with a cash bar for wine, beer and soda. Lunch will be served at noon with the program to follow. **Advance reservations at chesapeakebaywriters.org are required by November 10.** Full details are on the website.

For more information, contact CBWreply@gmail.com or 804-725-6163.



MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES

Cindy L. Freeman will be busy this month promoting her latest novel, *The Dark Room*. She can be found at:

Queens Lake Community Center (Arts & Crafts Show), Nov. 4, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.;

Williamsburg Landing Vendor Show, Nov.10, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.;

Queens Lake Middle School Bazaar, Nov. 11, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.;

Blue Dragon Author Series, Kings Creek Plantation, Nov. 20 & Dec. 4, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sharon Canfield Dorsey's newest children's book, *Revolt of the Teacups*, published by High Tide Publications, will be available at their online bookstore, as well as from Amazon and Barnes & Noble in early November. It is a fun fantasy about a group of teacups that come to life each night as the clock chimes twelve midnight. The story evolved from teacup drawings by Sharon's granddaughters, Adaline, 9 and Emma, 6."

Jeffrey K. Walker has had a terrific month. His novel *None of Us the Same* received three awards in October: It was chosen as a finalist in the 2017 best historical fiction category by The Independent Author Network; it was awarded a Discovering Diamonds review which recognizes notable historical fiction; and it received a B.R.A.G. Medallion for overall excellence.

Jeff participated in the Williamsburg Book Festival, attended the James River Writers Conference, and will be teaching a class "Writing Law and Lawyers" at The Muse Writers Center in Norfolk on November 4th.

The second novel in his *Sweet Wine of Youth* trilogy, *Truly Are the Free*, will be coming out November 30th.

Gail Wilson Kenna reminds CBW members about the November 30th deadline for the Soul Keats literary competition in San Francisco. It is the 26th year for this unusual contest, which has twelve categories. Visit the soulkeats web page for specific instructions. You will be able to read about each category, see a photo of the judge, and read her bio. Hard copies and only \$5.00 per category, multiple entries allowed. Gail is the judge/sponsor for Creative Nonfiction. Her latest book is on Amazon, as of September: *The Contumacious Cat*. Read the reviews and "In the Author's Own Words" on the Amazon web page. All proceeds go to various organizations: NNPP (to build an animal shelter in Lancaster County), the Boys and Girls Club, USC's program in L.A. with inner city schools, and military programs that provide free books to children. <http://soulmakingcontest.us/>





September CBW Meeting Program

Frank Milligan conducted an exercise to help writers determine what role writing should play in their normal daily lives and in their long-range plans. He suggested that because individual writers have varying goals, only the individual writer for herself can define what success as a writer means for her. But he also suggested that without a plan writers can be setting themselves up for failure. He recommended reading *How to Get Control of Your Time and Your Life* by Alan Lakein as a simple and easy methodology to use in developing life plans to steer you in the right direction to accomplish your goals.

In the life planning exercise Frank asked participants to take exactly two minutes to identify and list their lifetime goals. He suggested they staying very general and abstract and taking account of personal, family, social, career, financial, community, and spiritual goals. Participants were then given another two minutes to make any necessary changes.

In the next phase of the exercise he asked participants to take exactly two minutes to list how they would like to spend the next three years, to help participants pinpoint their goals better than generalities like health, wealth, happiness which they may have listed in answer to the first question. Participants were then given another two minutes to make any necessary changes.

In the third part of the exercise he asked for participants to take exactly two minutes to list how they would like to live if they knew they would be struck dead by lightning six months from today. They were to assume everything relating to their death had been attended to, so their answer should only concern itself with how they would live those last six months. Participants were then given another two minutes to make any necessary changes.

Participants were then asked to rank their responses in each segment of the exercise in priority order. The top three responses from each segment of the exercise were then listed, giving each participant nine goals or less (if some lists overlapped). Participants were then told to prioritize those nine goals. The top three of those final nine goals were recognized as their current lifetime goals.

Depending on whether writing was one of the participant's three current lifetime goals or whether it fit somewhere else in their hierarchy of goals, Frank suggested various alternative approaches to how resolutely to pursue and enjoy their writing.

He suggested that if writing was determined to hold an important place in participants' lives, that they conduct a self-assessment of their writing abilities and make a list of those things they're good at and those they're not so good at or have trouble with, and then conduct research to identify books, classes, and so on that can help rectify problem areas. He stressed the importance for nonfiction writers to determine if they require any special experience, training, or certifications to make them credible as an author in their area of interest, and to develop specific plans with milestones to acquire that training or certification.

Frank stated that in order for long-term plans to come to fruition, short-term goals and strategies must be developed. He suggested using a similar process to identify and set short term goals and accomplishments necessary to achieve long term goals.

Plans should be reviewed periodically and changes made as necessary because sometimes plans go awry or desires or goals change. A marriage, a death, a job change, or other significant life event can have a profound impact on plans.

He said that as suggested by Lakein, one of the best things you can do to stay on track and achieve your goals is to ask yourself this question throughout the day: *Is what I'm doing at this moment the best use of my time, right now?*





National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)

Monday Evenings, November 6, 13, 20 and 27 at the James City County Library,
Features more NaNoWriMo events. Attendance is FREE, 7700 Croaker Rd, Williamsburg.

Monday, 6 Nov McGaw Room

5-5:30 **Author SK Long, *Is There a Book in Your DNA?***

Discuss the following topics: Emotional attachment vs. research; Living resources; and Documented resources

5:30-9pm **Open writing (light refreshments served)**

Monday, 13 Nov McGaw Room

5-5:30 **TJ O'Connor, *Agents, Publishers—Who Needs them?***

Discuss the following topics: Agents, Publishers, Query letters, Synopsis, What do you need to get noticed?

5:30-9pm **Open writing (light refreshments served)**

Monday, 20 Nov McGaw Room

5-5:30 **Dawn Brotherton, *The Road to Publishing***

Discuss the following topics: The difference between traditional, self-publishing, and indie publishing; pros and cons of each

5:30-9 **Open writing (light refreshments served)**

Monday, 27 Nov McGaw Room

5-9pm **Open writing (serve coffee, water, cookies)**

7-9pm in Kitzinger Auditorium

Open mic night to share what you've written



CRITIQUE GROUPS AND NETWORKING

The groups listed are all inclusive and meant for writers at every stage in their career. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the contact person listed. Come join our community of talent!

Williamsburg Groups

Williamsburg Writers Critique Group - 2nd and 4th Thursdays 1 p.m.

The group meets at the home of Elizabeth Brown. Members email their work to all members around three or four days in advance to give others time to review it. The average length is six to ten pages. The other members review and critique the work and come prepared to give oral feedback to the writer. Some bring a hard copy to support their thoughts and others send emails with their remarks. Each writer has a turn getting feedback and critiquing all the others. The average time we meet is two and a half hours. If you don't have any work to submit that week, that is fine. We all have down times. All remarks are meant to be helpful and to support the writers in their quest to improve their art. If you have any questions or you would like to attend, please contact Elizabeth by email ecomptonlee@yahoo.com or phone 804-654-1117.

The Williamsburg Writers Gathering - 3rd Tuesday, 10-noon

This group of writers--published and working to be published-- offers encouragement, support, and shares information in our rapidly changing world of writing. WWG meets the third Tuesday of each month from 10 to noon at the Williamsburg Regional Library in Room B. There is no sign up, membership, or dues. We get together to discuss the Art and Business of writing and are never quite sure what direction our conversation will take us. All are welcome. Contact: Lou Hamilton. louhamwrites@gmail.com

Mathews Open Mic

Open Mic at the Mathews Memorial Library - 2nd Sunday 1-3 p.m. (251 Main Street, Mathews, VA 23109)

Do you enjoy books on tape? Or, love a great short story or an inspiring or humorous poem? If so, come to Open Mic at the Library and hear local writers read their original work. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. The events are free and open to the public. The Library invites all writers in the area to participate in the Open Mic. Arrive on time to sign up to be included on the program. Readers will be limited to one of the following: prose up to 2,500 words, five poems of no more than 50 lines each, or five haiku. No book chapters please, unless they stand alone as independent stories. Mark your calendars and plan to enjoy the works written by the many talented writers living in this community. (804) 725-5747.

Northern Neck

Rappatomac Writers Critique Group—Lancaster Courthouse - 1st Thursday, eat at 11 a.m., share until 2 p.m. (Lancaster Tavern, Route 3 in Lancaster Courthouse)

Tappahannock - 3rd Thursday, eat at noon, meet 1-3 p.m. (Java Jacks Cafe, Route 360/17 in Tappahannock)

Do you have stories to share? Would you like to write your memories for your children and grandchildren? Does a spectacular sunset move you to poetry? Come, join the Rappatomac Writers Critique group where you will find enthusiastic support and gentle critiques to help you on your way—along with fun and laughter to make your journey a pleasant one. If you like to write or listen, have a song in your heart or a poem in your soul, join us once or twice a month, at either or both locations.

The Rappatomac Writers—where the science of writing meets the art of persuasion—is part of the Chesapeake Bay Writers Club, a chapter of Virginia Writers Club. The meetings are free, priceless.

Contact: Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net



How to Join the Virginia Writers Club

VWC Membership is independent of CBW Chapter Membership and requires a separate application and dues payment. If you wish to join the Virginia Writers Club (VWC), go to:

<http://www.virginiawritersclub.org/page-946497>

You must be a member in good standing to be eligible to enter contests sponsored by the VWC.



Aromas Coffeehouse

and Word4Word Poets
present

Sign-up @ 6:30 pm Poetry@ 7:00 pm

Join us in this family friendly venue with work you'd like to share.

First Tuesday Open Mic Poetry

We love, support, and encourage First Time Readers.

Email for Challenge! Hosted by: Ann Shalaski / ashalaski@msn.com

Aromas Coffeehouse, 706 Town Center Dr, Newport News, VA 23606

Words of Wisdom from Famous Authors

F. Scott Fitzgerald. "Cut out all those exclamation marks. An exclamation mark is like laughing at your own joke."

Aristotle. Learn to analyze what you are being told. "It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

Margaret Mahy. Be persistent. This popular New Zealand author suggests that being persistent will pay off when facing adversity while writing or trying to get your writing published.



Agatha Christie. Let your mind go while keeping your hands busy. "The best time for planning a book is when you're doing the dishes."

Feather Schwarz Foster

Book Signings/Presentations for Feather Schwartz Foster and her books *The First Ladies* and *Mary Lincoln's Flannel Pajamas*.

Friday, November 10 - 10 am. - 2 p.m. - William & Mary Bookstore, Merchants Sq., Williamsburg

Monday, Nov. 13 - 1 PM - "First Lady Who?????" - at Windsor Meade, Williamsburg

Tuesdays, Nov. 14 & 28, and Tuesday, Dec. 5 - "The First Ladies of World War I" - Christopher Wren Classes, William & Mary Hall, Williamsburg

Wednesday, Dec. 6 - 2 PM - *An Encore Presentation!!! An Illustrated Look at Mary Lincoln's Flannel Pajamas and Other Stories From the First Ladies' Closet* - Williamsburg Library (On Scotland street) Williamsburg. A Free Program

Friday, December 8 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - William & Mary Bookstore, Merchants Sq., Williamsburg

Saturday, December 9 - 1 - 3:30 .m. - York Hall - Main Street, Yorktown

The New Jersey Romance Writer's Conference Review

Do you know what a jug handle is? Of course you do. It's what you use to pick up a pitcher of water. So why am I talking about jug handles? Because when you are driving in New Jersey, you can't make a left hand turn at a traffic light. Not legally, anyway. What you can do is use a 'jug handle' on the right hand side to safely cross traffic across the intersection. This blew my friend Kristin's mind who has never been to New Jersey before. Me? I was born and raised there so I knew. Her? She was fuming that she couldn't make a left hand turn. Twice. Welcome to the Garden State.

The New Jersey Romance Writer's Conference was a blast! I enjoyed many of their panels and workshops. The keynote speakers were the hilarious Kristan Higgins and inspirational Nancy Herkness. I met so many new people, it will take me weeks to organize all the business cards in my bag. On Friday night, they had a Steampunk Kickoff Party (pictures are on my Facebook page: [Facebook.com/gracemdeleesie](https://www.facebook.com/gracemdeleesie)) and we danced 'til the cows came home. Two of my favorite authors were in attendance, Susan Meier and Caroline Linden. And when you get to meet your idols, that just makes your year!

The biggest lesson that I will walk away from the conference with is this: whether one person or one million people read your book, never stop writing. We are gods with pens in our hands. We give people hope. We create and we destroy but we are authors. Therefore, we are awesome.

Grace M. DeLeesie

www.gracemdeleesie.com

www.facebook.com/gracemdeleesie

www.goodreads.com/gracemdeleesie



POETRY SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA

EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING - NOV. 18, 2017 - 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Williamsburg Regional Library, 7770 Croaker Rd. 23188

10:00 - 10:30: Registration

10:30 - 11:30: Interactive Workshop...@Short Poems - Moments that Keep Us Moving@

Michael Khandelwal, Executive Director of The Muse Writers Center in Norfolk, will read and discuss various short poems by established poets. He will also show how writing in small creative bursts can help a writer move past various blocks to getting words onto the page.

Michael Khandelwal is an award-winning writer and teacher. He writes poetry and fiction as well as editorials, profiles, and feature articles. He attended USC as an undergraduate and graduate student (MPW with three theses: fiction, poetry, screenplay). He has studied under poets, James Ragan, William Matthews, and Yevgeny Yevtushenko and writers, Betty Friedan, Shelly Berman, Paul Gillette, John Rechy, Ben Masselink, Sy Gombert, Shana Alexander and Gay Talese.

11:30 - 12:00 An opportunity to hear some of the winning poems from the 2017 PSV Contest.

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch : **Please mark your choices below, clip and mail with check for \$15 to**

Sharon Dorsey, 124 Tanbark Lane, Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Make check payable to: Sharon Dorsey

DEADLINE: November 10, 2017

1:00 - 2:00 Publishers Panel Discussion of options available for publishing your work. Q&A.

2:00 - 3:00 Open Mike

No Fee for Meeting and Workshop but Need reservations So We Know How Many to Expect.

E-mail Sharon at shargypsy@aol.com or call 757-566-8666 by Nov. 10.

INVITATION...If you have published a book of poetry, please bring it. We'll have a Sales Table set up for you.

NAME: _____ E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

Choose One Lunch Box

___ Mediterranean Veggie: Sweet peppers, feta, cucumbers, red onions, cilantro-jalapeno hummus on thin-sliced Tomato Basil; chips, home-baked cookie.

___ Sierra Turkey: oven-roasted turkey breast raised without antibiotics, field greens, red onions, chipotle mayo on Asiago Cheese Focaccia; chips, home-baked cookie.

___ Ham & Swiss: Smoked, lean ham raised without antibiotics, Swiss, lettuce, vine-ripened tomatoes, red onions, mayo, spicy mustard, on Whole Grain; chips, home-baked cookie.

CHOOSE One:

___ Pepsi

___ Bottled Water

Chesapeake Style magazine “Serves and Celebrates the Chesapeake Bay Region and its People, Past, Present and Future” and provides a local venue for new and experienced writers. Chesapeake Bay Writers have long had a strong presence in the magazine.

These CBW members had articles in the magazine recently: Ellie Bavuso, Carol J. Bova, Ann Eichenmuller, Jackie Ingram, Tracy Lanum.

Carol J. Bova’s novel, *Chestnut Springs*, and Jeffrey K. Walker’s historical fiction, *None of Us the Same*, were reviewed in *Books in Style*.

These CBW Members have regularly appearing columns: Carol J. Bova, Joy Burch, Ellen Dugan, Ann Eichenmuller, and Charlene Talcott. (Look for Joy Brenda Burch's photo of Athena every issue on page two.)

CBW member Janet Abbott Fast is CBW’s Director of Membership and *Chesapeake Style*’s Editor, Publisher, Chief Cook & Bottle Washer

CHESAPEAKE *Style* — MAGAZINE

Would you like to see a review of *your book* printed and distributed in 10,000 copies, to 300 locations in the Chesapeake Bay Region?

Chesapeake Style offers *Books in Style* reviews for members of CBW. Reviews are books by authors who are members of CBW or of the critique groups.

Right now, Email chestyle@hughes.net or go to www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/CSBookReviews.htm and ask for Guidelines and Deadlines.

You will be glad you did!

- You wrote a book.
- You want it reviewed.
- Ask someone to review your book.
- Send an email requesting Guidelines and Deadlines.
- The person reviews the book and submits it (and a graphic of the cover) to *Chesapeake Style* for publication, according to Guidelines.



In Search of Writers in Style

In 2014, *Chesapeake Style* magazine launched a new column, Writers in Style, with 500-word articles contributed by board members and members of CBW and associated critique of the Chesapeake Bay Writers. The opportunity is being extended for 2018 upcoming issues.

The theme of the column is writing, and previous articles have been eclectic. They can be viewed in the *Chesapeake Style* archives at www.chesapeakestyle.com:

Chesapeake Style is published eight times a year, and 10,000 copies are distributed in March, May, June, July, August, September, and October, with 15,000 copies for the Winter issue in November at locations throughout the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck and at the Williamsburg General Store. Please email submissions with a subject of Writers in Style to: Janet A Fast chestyle@hughes.net

Thank you,



2016—2017 Officers & Board

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Frank Milligan—Past President

Chesapeake Bay Writers Bylaw Article II Objectives: To further the craft of writing. To provide members with opportunities for connecting and exchanging ideas with others who share similar interests; to assist and encourage members in their efforts to achieve their writing related goals; to offer educational and informative programs about writing and marketing finished works. **Visit our website at: www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org.**

Chesapeake Bay Writers, P.O. Box 324, North, VA 23128