



The Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club



Bay Writers News

Volume XXVII • Issue 2

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Chesapeake Style Book Reviews
 Writers In Style
 Neal Steele Radio Opportunity

Keep up with the latest news
 by visiting our website at
www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org
 or
 our Facebook page



**Next CBW Luncheon
 Meeting
 April 15, 2020
 in Williamsburg
 at
 Le Yaca French
 Restaurant**

**Social Hour 12:30
 Lunch 1:15 p.m.**

Writing the Killer Plot - Malcom Massey

Does your plot provide the structure your work needs & deserves? Will your plot line grab the attention of readers, reviewers, agents? With this seminar, your story becomes more powerful, your characters reach their full potential. Writing the Killer Plot (WKP) works for fiction or non-fiction, providing unique perspective and concise diagramming tools. From early concept to your work in progress, WKP is for writers of all levels.

Join us at the CBW meeting on Wednesday, April 15 to hear this program at Le Yaca French Restaurant. Social Hour with cash bar will be on the patio and in the bar at 12:30, but you're welcome to arrive a little earlier. The meal will be at 1:15, with the program to follow.

Please visit our website at www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org to make your reservation by April 12th. For any questions, email CBWreply@gmail.com or call (804) 725-6163.

Malcom Massey is a local author from Norfolk and has published seven novels. He writes "The Martin Culver Series" action thrillers based on his experiences living in Central and South America, as well as his interests in history, archaeology and travel. The main character of the series, Martin Culver, is an author-turned-adventurer who gets unavoidably drawn into one dangerous exploit after another.

**Visit Our
 Website
 and Complete
 the Member
 Interest Survey**

Founded in 1991, Chesapeake Bay Writers is a chapter of the Virginia Writers Club. We serve writers from the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Williamsburg area.



Looking Forward

Ten years ago, I had a manuscript for a novel I'd worked on for several years. It still wasn't ready for publication. I joined CBW, and nothing magical happened to make that draft marketable, and it's still on the shelf. But I met other writers and learned skills from CBW programs and workshops that led to publication of my non-fiction book, *Drowning a County*, in 2014. When I started a new novel, I participated in two CBW critique groups, one led by Roger Gosden and the Rappatomic Writers with Janet Fast. In 2017, I published *Chestnut Springs*. Now, I'm doing the final edits of a second *Chestnut Springs* novel.

Those edits involve the left brain activities of logic, order and analytical thinking, as I learned from Peter Stipe's program at the February CBW meeting. But my right brain is impatient in its demands for creative expression, so I'm recording notes with ideas for my third

book, a creative non-fiction story of one family as Virginia moved from colony to commonwealth. Right now, that right brain is being very "Me first!" while my left brain is saying, "You have to finish this message first."

So to restore my peace of mind, the thought I need to share with you is that CBW will not make you a writer, but it will offer resources you can use to help you on your writing path. Take advantage of them, and tell the CBW Board what topics you'd like to see in future programs.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to be the new President of the Chesapeake Bay Writers. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and hearing from you by email or phone. I wish for each of you the community, knowledge, growth, and satisfaction I have found as a member of the Chesapeake Bay Writers.

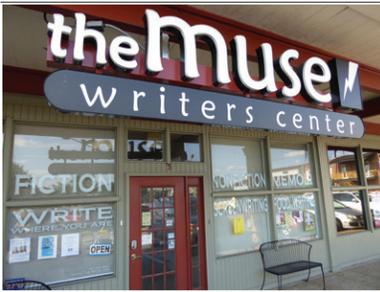
Carol J. Bova

CBW is carefully monitoring the coronavirus (Covid-19) reports and local situations. We will follow official guidance in deciding if the April program will be held. If we need to cancel, we will reschedule when it is safe to do so.

We hope you all keep safe and well and that your writing and reading help you cope with these difficult times.

Please visit the Virginia Department of Health at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/> or the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/> for updates on the Coronavirus pandemic.

Visit chesapeakebaywriters.org for updates as they develop and stay in touch with each other on our Chesapeake Bay Writers (CBW) Facebook group.



Join The Writers Reservoir on Facebook

Visit and connect with other writers and share articles, essays and personal experiences about being a writer in the world today as well as information about places to submit, contests, conferences, and more. The Writers Reservoir is more than a writers' resource, it is a writers' community! It is a place where writers can share, learn, connect and find that often elusive creative spark. The Writers Reservoir is an open Facebook group. All writers are welcome to join and send invitations to join.



Coronavirus Closing: March 15-April 2

The Muse Writers Center will be **closed to the public beginning Sunday, March 15 until Thursday, April 2**. We will be in touch with students about the rescheduling of their classes in the coming days.

Visit www.the-muse.org/notices for all updates.

After carefully continuing to monitor the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation here in Hampton Roads and the nation as a whole, and following guidelines given by local officials, we believe the health and safety of our Muse family is our utmost concern.

- All classes meeting March 15-April 2 will be rescheduled. Please give us some time to accomplish this. If you are unable to attend on the new dates, we will be happy to offer a refund or a credit to use in the future.
- The Muse's Open Hours are suspended until after April 2. The center will not be open to the public from March 15-April 2.
- All events scheduled from March 15-April 2 will not occur. We will endeavor to reschedule as many as we can.
- Please visit the [CDC website for updates on the Coronavirus pandemic](#):
- In addition, the [Norfolk city webpage](#) will contain valuable updates.
- We also understand that at times like these it can be comforting to find strength in community and creativity. Please use our Facebook group, [The Writers Reservoir](#) as a way to stay connected with each other.
- Let's think of this as The Muse's first ever spring break! We hope everyone will use this time to write and read.

We appreciate your patience and support during these challenging times and hope you keep safe and well. As the situation changes, we will update on this page: www.the-muse.org/notices.

Open Mic Opportunities

Important:

**Please contact
critique group
leaders to verify
when next sessions
will be held.**

Rappatamac Writers Critique Group 1st and 3rd Thursdays

**1st Thursday, Noon to 3 p.m.
Ms. Phyllis Kitchen – Fish, Chicken & Chops
459 North Main Street, KILMARNOCK, Chesapeake Commons Mall**

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

Aspiring writers want to know: Should we be meeting like this? And the answer from Rappatamac Writers Critique Group is a resounding Yes – if you want to spend a couple of hours with other writers, enjoying lunch and sharing your work.

Our organization is dedicated to supporting and encouraging writers by focusing on attentive listening and gentle critique. Meetings may include stories about real life experiences, historical novels, mysteries, military encounters during war, poetry, family relationships, acerbic humor, crime solving, and whatever else your imagination can conjure. All writers are encouraged to participate, and there is no charge to join. For more information or to attend, please contact Janet Fast at chestyle2@hughes.net.

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

The group meets at the Williamsburg library, Toano location at 1:00 on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. 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 Peter Stipe by email at pstiper@cox.net.

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.

Gloucester-Mathews Critique Group

Gloucester-Mathews writers - or anyone else - the new Gloucester Critique Group is up and running. Meetings will be at Abingdon Church Parish Hall, the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month. Join us! For more information, email CBWreply@gmail.com or call 894-694-6737.

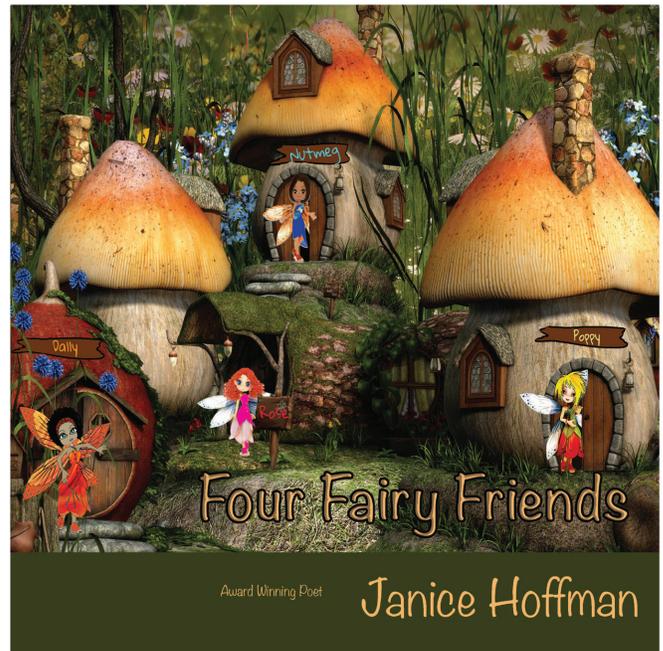
March - April 2020

Janice (Jan) Hoffman

Jan shared her children's book, *Four Fairy Friends*, at the Iris Art Studio in Poquoson on Sat., Feb. 29 from 1-3:00 (501 Wythe Creek Rd Suite 100).

She was also interviewed on Neal Steele's radio program at 8:05 a.m. on Mon., March 9 (WXGM, Xtra 99.1 FM).

In January, she had the honor of serving as a judge for the Poetry Out Loud regional competition in Manassas sponsored by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Stan Parsons

Liz Hood brings a lot of energy and enthusiasm to her job as Library Media Specialist. She would like to do Lunch with Author programs on a Wednesday each month during the students' lunch. Northumberland Middle School is on Rte 360 near Heathsville. I had 30 minute sessions with 7th graders, then 6th & finally 8th.

There are about 15 kids/session and they ate while I talked. The format is largely up to the author. I spoke for 20 minutes then had 10 for questions. I took them through how to compose business or school correspondence, knowing they have a standardized test in March and a large part of it will call for them doing writing. They paid attention, and it went very well, but every question I got was about writing fiction.

The teachers select what students get invited. Most of them show aptitude for writing; some are picked because they need writing help. The attendees report back to the rest of their class.

Arthur Newman did the first one, David Cariens November, Ann Eichenmuller December, I did January, and Gwen Keane was lined up for February. Liz would like ten more authors to keep it up through 2020.

When I arrived, I was surprised to learn that Liz had downloaded and was reading one of my books. The day before, she had gone to each class telling them how much she was enjoying it and showed them my website. I was quite flattered.

You'll get a free lunch, but for me, and I'm sure for the other authors, working with some mighty fine kids and teachers was the real benefit, reward and joy. Liz Hood's email is lhood@nucps.net and her office phone is 804-580-5192, ext. 3007.

Stan Parsons
stanparsons@gmail.com

Member News



Dayna Hutson

Dayna is planning the first issue of a new online publication, “Bay River Pet,” with a target date of March/April for the first issue. Lead story is about a man who devoted his retirement to flying dogs out of high kill shelters to find their forever families.



Terry Cox-Joseph

Terry Cox-Joseph is pleased to announce two art acceptances: The Northern Virginia Review’s Editorial Board has selected “Hummingbird Fairy” and “Whangaparaoa” to include in their forthcoming edition to be published in April 2019.

“Morning Light Swan,” “White Egret Warwick River,” and “Journeys” will be published in Issue 14 of Split Rock Review.

Terry Joseph <tcoxjoseph@gmail.com>



Sharon Canfield Dorsey

Sharon was awarded Third Place in the National League of American Pen Women Annual Essay Contest from a field of over 300 submissions. She has been invited to participate in a special Winners Circle reading on April 25th at the Darcy Hotel in Washington, D. C.

Sharon's newest book, a travel memoir, ROAD TRIP, is now available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and High Tide Publications.

St. Patrick's Day is Fast Approaching



I have my green hat and lucky leprechaun to keep me company. I'm hoping some of that "luck of the Irish" will rub off on me this month. It's a big one for me.

Blue Dragon is expanding and I am stepping out of my comfort zone to try new things. While I have no trouble speaking in front of an audience, I get freakishly nervous in front of a camera. But I'm doing it!

Last month, we opened the Facebook Group BDP Author Academy. Every Wednesday at 8pm eastern, I am presenting a 10-15 minute FB live event within the group. I'm not sure which is worse—talking to myself on camera or trying to talk while monitoring comments and questions from viewers. Either way, I always feel self-conscious. But the intent of the group is to help other writers learn about

publishing. I have to keep reminding myself (and have others remind me) that perfect is the enemy of good. If I were having a conversation with someone, I wouldn't be worried if I tripped over a word. Why should I with FB Live? The idea is to be my true self and try to connect with the group.

I invite you to join me in the BDP Author Academy group, and if you are able, check in on Wednesday nights. If you can't make that time, the videos stay within the group and you can binge watch later.

I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone. What makes you nervous? What do you need to work on? Maybe we can work on it together.

**Where
Can
You
Find
Blue
Dragon
in March?**

Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am
Coffeehouse Reads at
Williamsburg Plantation
4870 Longhill Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188
Starting March 19, 2020

Wednesdays, 10-11 am
Coffeehouse Reads at
The Colonies at Williamsburg
5380 Olde Towne Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188
Starting March 18, 2020

Member News



Peter Stipe
February 20, 2020
Center Street Grill - Williamsburg

Peter Stipe spoke on “Writing With Both Sides of Your Brain” at the CBW February 20th meeting at the Center Street Grill in Williamsburg. Thirty-three people attended and enjoyed Peter’s informative, and at times, humorous presentation on how the left side of the brain contributes to logic, order, discipline and analytical thinking, and the right side inspires creativity, intuition, artistic and innovative writing.

His explanations and examples showed for the most effective writing, we need to use both sides of the brain to be both creative and have the discipline necessary to organize our thoughts. It was an excellent program! That is Peter’s wife, Debra, passing out forms at the presentation.



Marketing Opportunities



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 any Virginia author. Preference is given to members of CBW and the critique groups.

Email chestyle@hughes.net for Guidelines and Deadlines if you wrote a book and want it reviewed.

Then, ask someone to write a 500-word review according to the guidelines. Send the review with a graphic of the cover to *Chesapeake Style* for publication.

You will be glad you did!

Radio Interview Opportunities

Neal Steele interviews a CBW author for his XTRA 99.1 FM CBW Second Monday Radio Show at about 8:05 a.m. Email Tracy (tracygl@cox.net) to express interest in booking an interview. Provide your name, email, phone number, book title, and first choice for interview month. For additional information, and to see the complete checklist, please visit the Chesapeake Bay Writers website at :

<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/cbw-radio-show-guide>



IN SEARCH OF WRITERS IN *Style*

Chesapeake Style magazine launched a new column, Writers in Style, with 500-word articles contributed by board members of the Chesapeake Bay Writers. The opportunity is being extended to members of CBW and associated critique groups to submit articles for 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 April, May, June, July, August, September, and October, with 15,000 copies in November

at locations throughout the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck and at the Williamsburg General Store.

CBW members who recently published articles, columns or poetry in *Chesapeake Style*: Carol J. Bova, Joy Brenda Burch, Ellen Dugan, Ann Eichenmuller, Tracy Lanum, and Joe Phillips. Please email submissions with a subject of Writers in Style to: Janet A Fast chestyle@hughes.net

Contact Janet Fast if you'd like to discuss becoming a writer for Chesapeake Style spotlight interview assignments. Email: Janet Fast <chesapeakestyle2@hughes.net>

March - April 2020

Neal Steele XTRA 99.1 Radio Interviews:

Marketing Opportunities

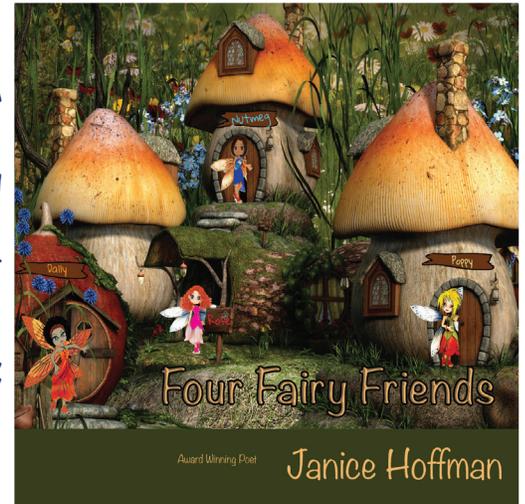
March 9 Janice Hoffman Four Fairy Friends

Neal Steele interviews a CBW author for his XTRA 99.1 FM CBW Second Monday Radio Show at about 8:05 a.m.

Email Tracy (tracygl@cox.net) to express interest in booking an interview.

Provide your name, email, phone number, book title, and first choice for interview month.

For additional information, and to see the complete checklist, please visit the Chesapeake Bay Writers website at :<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/cbw-radio-show-guide>



Anyone ready to schedule an April Radio interview with Neal Steele?

Get in touch with Tracy Lanum asap at (804) 815-9954 OR email Tracy Lanum <tracygl@cox.net>

Your new CBW Board members are:



Carol J. Bova, President
Tim Holland, Vice President
Ellen Dugan, Secretary
Peter Stipe, Publicity Director
Janet Fast, Director at Large
Ann Skelton, Director at Large
Jeanne Johansen, Newsletter Editor
Grace DeLeesie, Immediate Past President

Yes, there are a couple of slots unfilled at the moment!

Tim Holland needs a new director to work with him on Programs.

If you're interested in the position, please let us know!

We're also looking for someone to take over the Membership role.

Call Carol at 804-725-6163 if this is an area you might enjoy!