



The Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club



Bay Writers News

Volume XXVII • Issue 4

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

Chesapeake Bay Writers Golden Nib Contest Winners



Sharon Canfield Dorsey

Fiction

First Place - Sarah Collins Honenberger
"Dark Side of the Moon"

Second Place - Ann Eichenmuller
"Worth a Thousand Words"

Third Place - Andrew Ball
"In the Beginning"

Nonfiction

First Place - Sharon Canfield Dorsey
"Closet Closure"

Second Place - Cindy L. Freeman
"The Fire"

Poetry

First Place - Sarah Collins Honenberger
"Let Her Go."

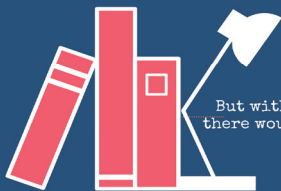
Second Place - Ellen Dugan
"Country Homecoming"

Third Place - Sharon Canfield Dorsey
"Lest We Forget"



Sarah Collins Honenberger

Reading is food
for the soul



But without writers,
there would be no books.

Join the CBW
Writer's Information Exchange

See Page 3

for more information about
this exciting new program!

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.

We're Still Here and We're Moving Forward!

The CBW Board of Directors and I congratulate the winners of the Golden Nib CBW-level Contest. We look forward to the VWC statewide contest winners at the beginning of November. Thank you to all who participated!

At our last meeting, the Board explored ways to maintain and add membership benefits for members of the Chesapeake Bay Writers. While in-person meetings are still subject to state-wide restrictions that can change overnight, we're going to rely on the internet for our contacts. CBW Meetings will resume on Zoom.

The first Zoom program will be our annual All Stars Gala and Contest on Wednesday, November 18, at 2:00 p.m. We'll have the usual readings and contest for cash prizes. Contest sign up will be on the website, and we'll have a ballot there too so you can vote for the winners. Watch for details in your email and on the website on how to participate.

To add a new interactive dimension, we're creating The Writers Information Exchange. In this email only group, CBW members can discuss topics related to writing, ask questions, and share answers based on their experience. This group will allow you to participate on your own schedule without a fixed time online. Messages will be shared with everyone who signs up through Groups.io. Each week, we'll raise a topic for comments on "Writing Wednesday." Full details will be in your invitation to join.

Critique groups are flourishing on Zoom, and you're invited to contact the facilitators for information on participating. Contact information is on the CBW website.

Our CBW Second Monday Radio Show on 99.1 FM with Neal Steele features an interview on your recently published print book. Find details here in the newsletter or on the website to listen to the interviews or to book one.

Our Members Bookstore highlights books published by CBW members. The 101st book was posted last week! It's a great place to explore for Christmas gifts.

Bay Writers News keeps us informed and connected thanks to the efforts of our talented Newsletter Editor, Jeanne Johansen.

Chesapeake Style magazine publishes articles on writing by CBW members to promote CBW and share your writing in 10,000 copies seven times a year and 15,000 in the winter.

Let us know what you'd like to see in next year's programs. The CBW Board is always interested in your ideas and opinions. Wishing you good health and good writing!

Carol J. Bova, President,
Chesapeake Bay Writers

Chesapeake Bay Writers Board of Directors 2019-2020

President, Carol J. Bova
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Director - Publicity, Peter Stipe
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Director at Large, Janet Fast

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Dear Chesapeake Bay Writer Member,

No matter where you are in your writing career, sometimes talking with another writer is exactly what you need to renew your writing energy. And sometimes sharing new information can be incredibly helpful.

With these thoughts in mind we are expanding the benefits of your current CBW membership to include an opportunity to join a newly organized Writer's Information Exchange. This is basically a writer's growth and learning group, an educational forum.

Its purpose is to promote writing skills and enhance your writing experience. How? By enabling all members to send and receive

information about writing topics and events of interest. This is not a social media group. It is a professional writer's information exchange. Messages sent will go to all registered members as will all replies. If you have a question about a any writing topic, such as: the proper formatting of a manuscript, grammar and usage, getting published, contracts, finding an agent, marketing a new release, bookstores, social media, blogs, newsletters, and any other topic or issue you may be struggling with, this could be the place to ask your question.

Each week we will initiate a discussion under the heading of Writing Wednesday. It will raise a topic for the week for comment such as: How detailed an outline should you have for your writing project be it fiction or non-fiction? Do you stick with it? When doing a book signing should you stand or sit? What sort of marketing material should you have at your table?

Within Chesapeake Bay Writers, we have an enormous amount of talent. Here's a chance to draw upon our resources learn from one another what has worked and what hasn't.

The invitation will be coming your way in a week or so.

Watch for it.

And above all...Keep writing,

Chesapeake Bay Writers,
Board of Directors

Write a Novel in a Month?

By Carol J. Bova

The idea of writing a novel seems impossible to many people, but doing it in a month seems incredible. Yet every November, people take up the challenge of National Novel Writing Month in November. A non-profit organization uses the first letters as its name: NaNoWriMo. They say, "Writing a novel alone can be difficult, even for seasoned writers. NaNoWriMo helps you track your progress, set milestones, connect with other writers in a vast community, and participate in events that are designed to make sure you finish your novel. Oh, and best of all, it's free!"

NaNoWriMo started in 1999 with the challenge to write 50,000 words of a novel in 30 days. In 2019, 455,080 writers participated in NaNoWriMo. Their website says, "Each year on November 1, hundreds of thousands of people around the world begin to write, determined to end the month with 50,000 words of a brand new novel. They enter the month as elementary school teachers, mechanics, or stay-at-home parents. They leave novelists."

When you sign up, you choose a username and decide if you want to share your project with the public, with writing buddies or only with yourself. You select the word count you want as your goal, starting November 1 and ending November 30. You then select the genre from a list of nineteen categories.

And that's it! You're ready to explore the NaNoWriMo website.

NaNo Prep 101 is a series of weekly preparation exercises. You can look back at the earlier exercises from September, or pick up with the two remaining in October. They offer a free handbook you can download to do the prep at your own pace.

NaNoWriMo Pep Talks are inspirational letters written by well-known authors during November to encourage you with inspiration and motivation. An archive of previous Pep Talks is available too.

When the project opens in November, you do your writing on the site. They track your words per day, how many are needed to reach your goal, and how many days in a row you've written.

Their website offers a social network, and you can tell the other writers about yourself and find writing buddies to share the experience with. There are forums and regional groups you can join for more support or conversation. The forum list is extensive already, and everyone should find something that's of interest. By the way, NaNoWriMo also has a Young Writers Program to support writers under 18 and offers smaller writing challenges year-round.

If you complete the month of writing, you will still need to edit and polish your work, but it's a great way to get started on your first, or your next, project.

For more information, go to <https://nanowrimo.org/>. (Reprinted Courtesy of Chesapeake Style)



Many of the critique groups have migrated to on-line meetings due to the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please contact the critique group organizations for more information.

Rappatomac Writers Critique Group

*Zoom Meeting - Thursday at 12:30 with
a flexible target stop time of 2:00.*

*The group meets weekly
since there's no commute, bringing copies, etc.
Stan Parsons - stanparsons@gmail.com*

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

*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

All are welcome. Contact: Lou Hamilton louhamwrites@gmail.com.



- (757) 818-9880
- <https://the-muse.org>.

Member News



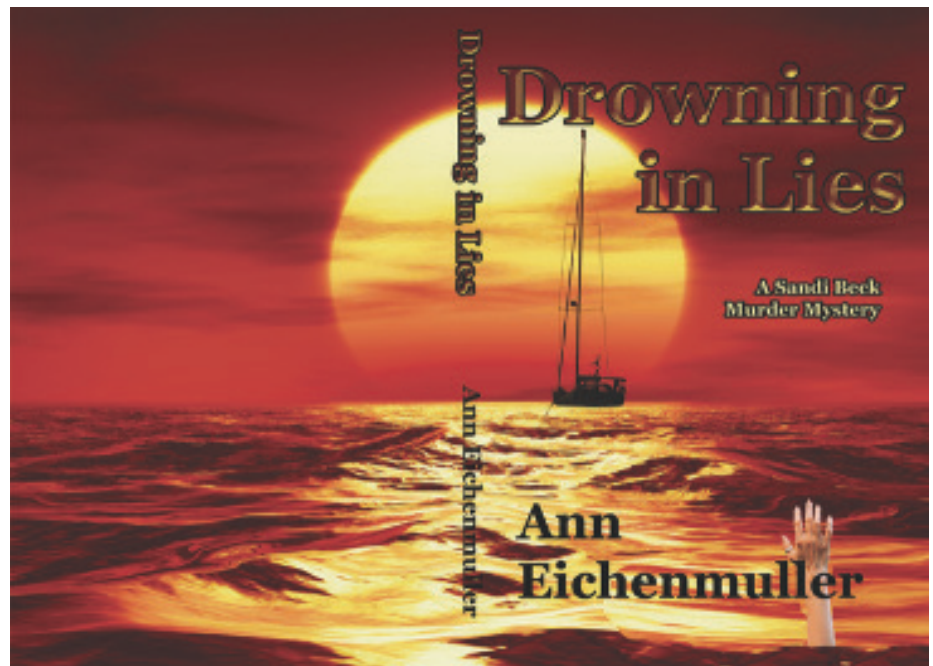
Bradley Harper taught a five-part class on the creative process for the CNU life-long learners' program that began on October 21st.

Bradley said, "My second novel, *Queen's Gambit*, won the 2020 Silver Falchion Award at Killer Nashville, both as Best Suspense novel of the year and as Book of the Year. In my story, my female protagonist, Margaret Harkness, is all that stands between an anarchist assassin and Queen Victoria."

He has been accepted into an MFA program at Seton Hill starting next summer. Part of it will involve living for one year in Edinburgh as an exchange student at Napier University.

Bradley is the keynote speaker at The Writers Guild of Virginia December conference and book festival.

Ann Eichenmueller, author of the Sandi Beck Murder Mysteries, has announced the upcoming publication of her fourth book, *Drowning in Lies*, set to release in November 2020 by High Tide Publications, Inc. The novel follows her unique heroine, a liveaboard sailor and amateur sleuth as she sets out to solve a case of arson that took one life and nearly killed her fiancé. Sandi soon finds herself caught in an explosive conflict that reaches from the elite country clubs of Palm Beach to her little home port in tidewater Virginia. In addition to being a novelist, Ann is a marine, travel, and recreation journalist and regular contributor to Chesapeake Bay Magazine, Chesapeake Style, and MotorHome Magazine. She is the winner of three Boating Writers International awards.





Susan Williamson's latest novel, *Dead in the Loft*, was released this month by Blue Fortune Enterprises. The cozy mystery is a sequel to *Dead on the Trail*.

Williamson has also recently become a contributor to the Australian magazine, "Horses and People."

Janice (Jan) Hoffman announces that the Indiana Arts Commission selected three of her poems—"Pan's Shadow," "Night Cravings," and "Unbound"—for its inaugural poetry archive, INVerse, which was released this month.

Also, her poem "Morning Tea" was part of Mike Maggio's COVID-19 project.

Andrew Ball wrote: Encouraged by the warm response from CBW members at last year's Gala lunch, I submitted "The Problem" to the [King Lear Prizes](#) contest, and was delighted to receive a Highly Commended last month.



And as a testament to the teaching skills of CBW member **Sally Honenberger**, "Equal Rights" -- a short story I wrote for the Creative Writing class she taught last September -- won first prize in the [Secret Attic](#) contest in May. In fact, *Secret Attic* has now accepted five of my short stories, as well as four 50-word micro-stories I wrote last month.

Finally, a poem I wrote while trying to write something else was published by [Mocking Heat Review](#).

Altogether, it has been an amazing year.

Patti Procopi's debut novel *Please ... Tell Me More* will be published this November by Blue Fortune Enterprises.

This is the story of two sisters who could not be more dissimilar, but are forever bonded by the tragic death of their little sister. The lingering effects from this tragedy eventually lead to the complete collapse of the family. While quite sad and heartbreaking, *Please... Tell Me More* is also often very funny, much like life.

In 2019, Patti was awarded second place in the Keating Prize and first place at the chapter level for the Golden Nib for excerpts from her novel. Most recently, the on-line journal Literally Stories published "Canned Ravioli," a chapter from *Please*.



Member News

AVIATRIX,

First Woman Pilot for Hughes Airwest

by Wilford Kale,

Kale On Books,

August 5, 2020—Virginia Gazette (Review)

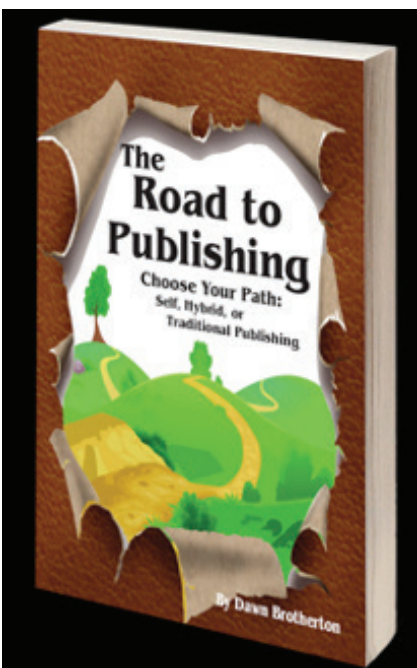
Mary Bush Shipko grew up in South Florida around airplanes and pilots. Actually, flying was in her blood; her father was a pilot and later operated a small airport. "Aviatrix: First Woman Pilot for Hughes Airwest" outlines the trials and sufferings in her journey to become an accepted professional pilot.

A professional pilot she became but accepted "NO" in capital letters. The male pilot corps at Hughes Airwest began sexual-harassment immediately upon her selection as the airlines first woman pilot. Her life soon became a horror. Eventually the harassment, which would never be tolerated today, forced her out of the cockpit.

Bush's youth and desire to fly is a marvelous story in itself. By the end of 1972, at the age of 23, she had earned her multi engine pilots license, by June in 1973 she had a commercial license and her instrument ratings were achieved by September 1973. Her keen effort demonstrated that hard work, persistence and learning can overcome all kinds of obstacles, except sexual-harassment.

Although working with the airlines was her goal, Bush was desperate for flying experience and money and put in hours and months hauling cargo. These pilots were called "freight dogs," working for fly-by-night operators in all types of short haul missions. She also lost opportunity with other carriers because she was a woman.

Mary Bush Shipko, who lives at Gloucester Point, has written a difficult story-her story, and it's well worth the read.



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Altogether, it has been an amazing year.



Dawn Brotherton won a bronze award from the Military Writers Society of America in the category of How-to/Business/Self-Help for her book, *The Road to Publishing*.

The Surprise

Peggy Newcomb

This story certainly could be about Halloween but it isn't! It's just about a day in the life of me as a teenager. In the house where I grew up there was an attic style second floor. But this was not a true attic because my dad had finished off the area with sheet rock so my brother could have a bedroom up there. My friends and I would play in the rest of the finished off space especially in the winter.

The stairs going up were concealed by a door. All of us took advantage of this out of sight space. Some times we would stash things there on the steps out of sight until we could think of where their proper place might be. Or if we were too lazy to take things upstairs, we would stack the items on the steps and plan to take them up later to the storage area.

One winter morning my mother asked me to retrieve an item from the stairs. No problem! I headed over and opened the door. As I reached for the item I saw something move. I instinctively let out a blood curdling scream! Slammed the door! Shaken to my bones!

Everyone came running to see what happened! "What's wrong?" they asked? "Are you all right??"

"Something moved! I don't know what it was!" As we crowded together I slowly opened the door again and there on the steps right at my eye level sat the largest black cat I'd ever seen.

"Why was this so shocking?" you may be wondering. Well, we didn't own a cat...of any color!

Someone picked up the cat (not me!) and took it outside. My parents surmised that the cat must have come down the chimney and into the attic space through the hole in the side of the chimney (I'd like to report the chimney had not been in use for many years).

We never saw that cat again. I guess I wasn't the only one surprised! Maybe it was cold that night and the cat was looking for a warm place to sleep. Too bad it wasn't Halloween!!

A World Turned Inside Out

Sarah Collins Honenberger

If someone had told us six weeks ago that kids and parents would be home together all day every day, that school would not be face to face but on a computer screen, that American grocery shelves would stretch empty of everyday items, that you couldn't use a tank of gas in a month, that Amazon would be discouraging customers from filling their virtual shopping carts, or that Grandmas couldn't hug their grands, we would have laughed and said that someone had an incredible imagination.

While a vivid imagination is a valuable trait and sparks creativity, in April 2020, this new upside-down world generates more fear than creative inspiration. How to cope has become the universal theme of talk shows, podcasts, newspaper articles, and conversations, six feet apart. All these new statistics, warnings, and threads of advice can be overwhelming. In a time of 'serious uncertainties,' an apt phrase offered by one of my writing colleagues, we are being forced to adapt whether we like it or not.

Writers and artists have a head start. In their explorations they are already committed to turning the world inside out. An artist sets out to pursue and discover innate and often hidden facets of the subject of his composition. A writer examines a character's motivation with sensory details, revealing dialogue, and inner reflections. A sculptor chips away at the stone to reveal hidden grains that reflect the figure's movement.

As a fiction writer, I often start with a question. What if a young mother had an elderly neighbor at risk who needed help weathering a pandemic? How would that mother find the courage and the balance to keep her children safe, yet not fail the old gentleman who had no one else?

Some of my stories are serious, some disturbing, some funny. Every story takes me somewhere I didn't expect to go. Like a painter before a blank canvas with her array of colors spread out before her, I use words to fill the page. I turn that young mother's world upside down and inside out, trying to understand her; her fear of the contagion, her own loneliness with the burden of the children, her guilt that the old man is lonely or hungry, her anger that the world is demanding action from her that she may not be able to give.

Artists, by nature, follow uncertainties in search of universal truths, to connect with their viewers. Similarly, writers search to connect with their readers. A world turned inside out is one more opportunity. While we are sheltering in one place, the extra time gives each of us a chance to look from a different perspective at the world, to follow the what ifs, the uncertainties, to new connections with our neighbors, close and far, real or imagined.

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>

September - October 2020

Neal Steele XTRA 99.1 Radio Interviews:

Neal Steele interviews a CBW author for his XTRA 99.1 FM CBW Second Monday Radio Show at about 8:05 a.m. All bookings must be made through CBW's coordinator, Tracy G. Lanum.

CBW Members have priority for upcoming shows, but published VWC members statewide, past speakers at CBW meetings, and non-member authors living within CBW's Service area are also eligible.

Generally, Authors should book their interview three months in advance of the broadcast, but CBW members are encouraged strongly to reserve dates more than three months ahead to ensure that they have priority for available dates.

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.

1. Email Tracy Lanum to express interest in booking an interview. Provide your name, email, phone number, book title, and first choice for interview month.
2. Send Tracy a blurb about your book, a one-page bio, a high-resolution photo, and an image of the book cover for the website spotlight.
3. Provide Neal with a physical copy of your book two weeks in advance. (After the interview, the book will be donated to a library.) Do not send too early, but allow time for first mail delivery to:
4. WXGM, ATTN: NEAL STEELE, P. O. Box 634, Gloucester, VA 23061 Or you may hand deliver it to the station.
5. When you send the book, Include: a one-page bio describing your experience and what got you into writing; any reviews or endorsements of your book. This material will give Neal talking points and help make it a great interview.
6. If you live within one hour's commute of Gloucester, your interview will be in person at the station.
7. If you live further away, or have a job situation or physical impairment that prevents an in-person interview, special arrangements will be made for a remote telephone interview
8. Arrive at the station by 7:50 a.m. for your interview.
9. Your interview will begin about 8:05 a.m. right after the weather and stock market report. It will last from 10-25 minutes.
10. Relax! Neal is a skilled interviewer and easy to talk to.
11. Don't use one-word answers. Elaborate when answering a question.
12. Be prepared to give simple instructions where listeners can buy a copy of your book, website, bookstore, or other store.
13. Schedule book signings in the area if possible following the date of the interview Let Neal know before the interview, and follow his instructions on whether to mention them or not. (Because of the station's contractual arrangements with its advertisers, certain bookstore venues may, on occasion, be barred from mention!)
14. If you want a CD of the interview, request it before the interview begins. CBW will normally record the on-air interview and place a podcast of it on the CBW website.
15. Any questions: contact Tracy Lanum.
16. Get in touch with Tracy Lanum asap at (804) 815-9954 OR email Tracy Lanum <tracygl@cox.net>

The Fairy Garden



The Fairy Garden is a whimsical story about facing our deepest fears and greatest loves, and what we all must do to grow into the life we were meant to experience.

Elizabeth's secret began when she was five years old, a secret she held close her entire life.

As far as she knew, she was the only person who could see the fairies living in her grandfather's garden. They play with her and show her their world, and as she grows older, they guide her through the important moments of her life. The fairies, and especially Olivia, were her closest friends.

But where were they when everything fell apart? Why didn't they save her grandfather when he needed help, and why didn't they warn her about the struggles she had to endure? Surely the fairies, who seemed to have a prescience about the future, knew what Elizabeth would have to tolerate.

After the death of her grandfather, Elizabeth moves into his house to begin the process of healing. But when her daughter begins to see and play with the fairies, Elizabeth has a choice to make. Will she accept her daughter's new friends or will she find a way to banish them from her life forever?

Reviews for *The Fairy Garden*

Peter has done a great job of pulling together the real world of adults and the real world of children. His touch is a soft one with hope even in a life filled with uncertainty, sadness and anger. A good lesson for both children and adults. A very good job of storytelling that can be enjoyed in a multi-generational environment. – Tim Holland, author of *The Rising Tide* and *The Murder of Amos Dunn*

Richmond born, Elizabeth grew up as a proper southern girl, her parents working hard to give her the "right" school, the "right" clothes so that she could find the "perfect" husband. But it was her grandfather in Williamsburg and the fairy creatures in his garden who were truly there for her. When her grandfather dies and her marriage crashes, the fairies are there for her daughter, Olivia, as mother and daughter navigate their new normal. *The Fairy Garden* is a fun read, a story filled with magic, humor and hope. – Susan Williamson, author of *Dead on the Trail* and *Dead in the Loft*

The Fairy Garden is an entertaining coming of age story with a whimsical twist; life coaching delivered via fairies. Peter's descriptive writing beautifully blends a bit of magic with the realities of life making the narrative relatable, engaging, and at times, a bit self-reflective for the reader." - Caterina Novelliere, author of *Mark of the Night* and *When the Moon Bleeds*

The Fairy Garden is available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Blue Fortune Publications and from PeterGStipe.com



Walk with Me

The Poetry of Sharon Canfield Dorsey

ISBN: 9781945990779

Casa Laminata \$22.95

Available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and
IndieBound.com - November 2020



Author
Sharon Canfield Dorsey

Artists

Kaye
Lavy

Vivian
Mann





In Memory of Catherine Brooks

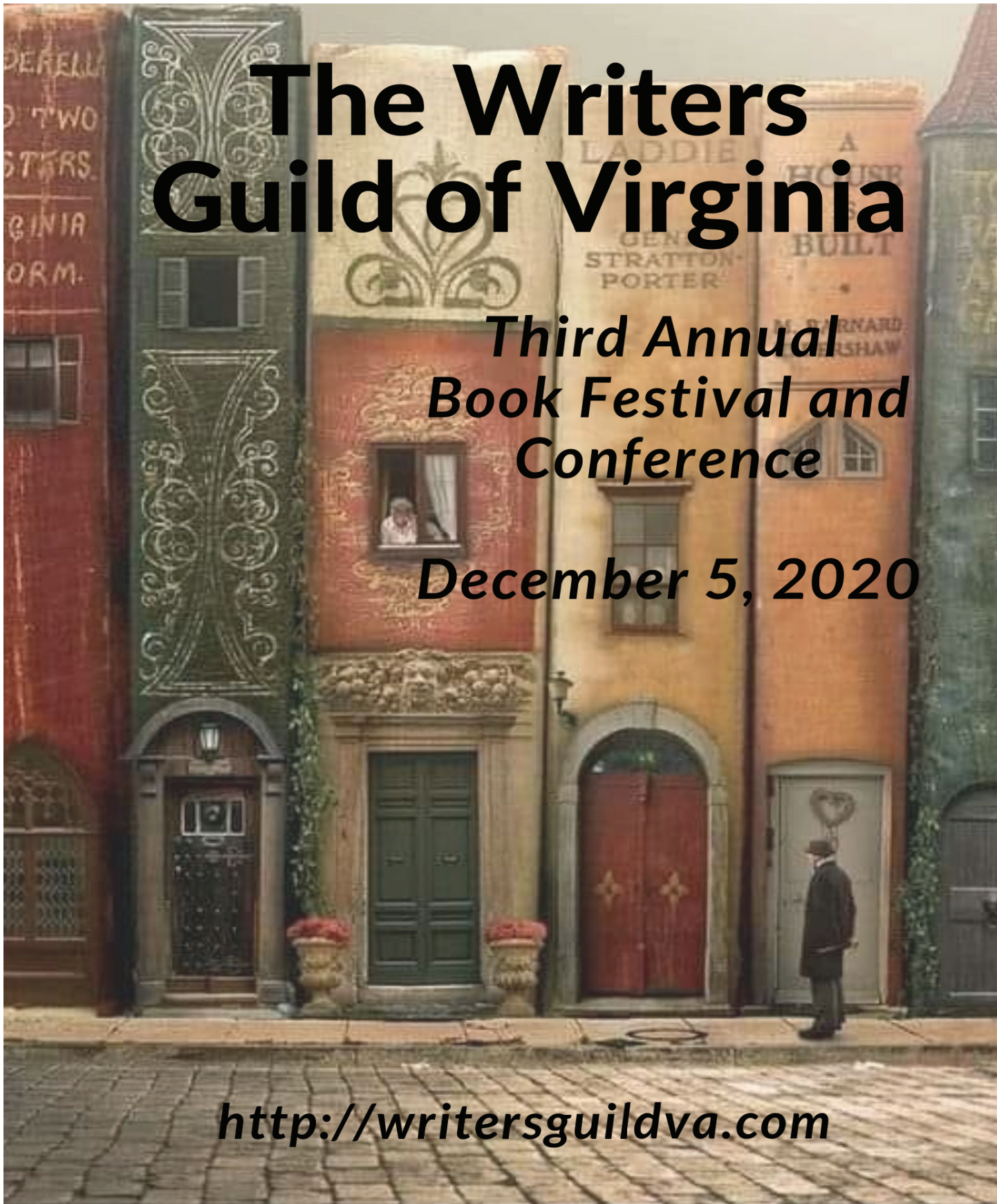
Catherine Callis Brooks, 94, of Mathews County, VA passed away Saturday, August 29, 2020.

She was born on July 15, 1926 at Fitchetts, Mathews County, VA to Maywood and Grace Callis. She was preceded by her husband, Elwood Kirby Brooks, Jr. and her son, Wade Kirkwood Brooks. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Brooks Adams and her husband, Edgar; daughter-in-law, Susan M. Brooks; grandsons, Robert “Bobby” Matthews and his wife, Angela, and John Matthews; and also a great-granddaughter, Katelyn Matthews.

Catherine was a member of Peniel Evangelical Friends Church, Onemo, VA. She was co-owner of The Craftsman Shop with her husband and became the sole owner after his death.

Catherine had wanted to be a writer from an early age and accomplished this after her retirement in 1998. She wrote five books on Mathews County Life and joined the Chesapeake Writers Group. She wrote many articles for the Chesapeake Style and an article about the Mathews Memorial Library for the National Library Magazine. She was among the first members of the Mathews Chamber of Commerce when it was formed in the 1960's where over the years she served as treasurer to president. When she retired the chamber made her a lifetime member. At The Craftsman Shop she gave many teens, both girls and boys, their first job and most haven't forgotten the lessons she taught them.

Mathews has lost a great lady and historian.



The Writers Guild of Virginia

*Third Annual
Book Festival and
Conference*

December 5, 2020

<http://writersguildva.com>