



Serving the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Williamsburg areas since 1991



Chesapeake Bay Writers

# Bay Writers News

February, 2023- Volume 29\*Issue 1

## In This Issue

President's Note	2
Downed Pens	3-4
Bylines: <i>Words to Ponder</i>	5
New Books	5
Social Media Tips	6
Picture Story Challenge	6
Marketing Opportunities	8-9
Chesapeake Style	
Writers in Style	
Neal Steele Radio	
Writing Things to Do	10
CBW Schedule	11

## Story Challenge

Write a story about this picture for the April newsletter. (500 words or less.)



## Scott Ellis at the February Luncheon



*Scott Ellis is an award-winning audiobook narrator and producer. He's narrated over 60 audiobooks and coached several authors through the production or narration of their first audiobook.*

*Scott Ellis Reads, his audiobook production company, started in 2019 and has a team of 15 people that work in narrating, editing, marketing, and managing the business.*

## Downed Pens



Our sincere sympathy goes out to the families of Tracy Lanum and Joy Brenda Burch



## HELP

If you have enjoyed being a part of the CBW, please consider giving back by helping with the leadership team. There comes a time when every group transitions from the "Old Guard" to the newer, brighter, younger leaders. We need young minds. We need energetic people. We need creative ideas. Come help us!

**Chesapeake Bay Writers is a Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club**

<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesBayWriters/>

Questions or comments can be sent to Sonja McGiboney: [smcgphoto@gmail.com](mailto:smcgphoto@gmail.com)

Edited by Carol J. Bova



**President's message  
by Sonja McGiboney**

Self-doubt kills authors. Yep, there is nothing worse than telling yourself that you suck. If you can't believe in yourself, then nobody else will either.

Like it or not, it all starts with you. You have to be your best fan, otherwise, what's the point?

Even on the worst days, the kind where you don't want to get out of bed and you wonder what the hell you are doing, you still have to be your best fan.

If you can't be excited about your words, nobody else will.

That's where being part of a group is the biggest help. When you are feeling low about your writing or book marketing or whatever, you can reach out to someone else and get help. They'll do one of two things. On one hand, they will provide assurances that your written word is the best they've ever seen. On the other hand, they will tell you what you've written is total crap which will hurt, but ultimately, make your writing better.

Cavorting with other authors provides a table on which you can throw your worst and best recipes. Who says trying out recipes on guests is a bad thing?

Another opportunity, during these massive gatherings of authors that are trying to become famous, is the chance to empathize. We've all been there. We have all, at some point, wanted to quit. Even the most celebrated of authors have had moments of doubt. It's nice to know we aren't drowning alone and there is hope of rescue.

I have not written anything noteworthy in many months. I have felt disconnected from anything authorish. But, in writing this note, I realize that by reaching out to you, and sharing these thoughts, my spirits have brightened.

So if you are feeling self-doubt, reach out! Someone will listen.



*The Virginia Writers Club, Inc.*

[www.virginiawritersclub.org](http://www.virginiawritersclub.org)

Founded in 1918, the VWC is a nonprofit organization of writers and poets, screenwriters and playwrights, journalists and essayists, and other publishing professionals whose purpose is to support and stimulate the art, craft and business of writing, as well as advocate the literary arts in the broader Virginia community.

***Good day, fellow Virginia Writers!***

***This brief email is mostly to let you know that the 2023 Journal Guidelines are now up and available for use. As stated in the Guidelines, the deadline for submissions to be considered for the next Journal is March 31.***

***Here is a link to the page on the site:***

***<https://www.virginiawritersclub.org/VWC-Journal-Guidelines>***

***We hope you are doing well. Expect an email about the upcoming Board of Governors meeting in February and other information important to the membership in the next few days.***

***Keep the Muses working!***

***Chuck***

**Join the Virginia Writers Club**

Chesapeake Bay Writers is a chapter of the Virginia Writers Club. The VWC has additional statewide contests and events. Membership is separate from CBW.

Please visit the VWC website for more information.

<https://www.virginiawritersclub.org>

***"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."***

**Winston Churchill**

# A Downed Pen



## Tracy Lanum

March 22, 1942 - November 14, 2022

Tracy Graham Lanum age 80 of Gloucester, died on Monday November 14, 2022. She elected to write her own “self-obituary” prior to her death, as she wanted her friends and family to know her on a more personal level.

“God has been so compassionate to me. He has sent His Guardian Angels to watch over me all my life. He has blessed me in amazing ways and is caring for me now. I was born on March 22, 1942 in Chicago, Illinois and named Tracy-Ann Graham by my parents, Winifred and Walter Graham. I was raised in Warren, Ohio along with a brother and two sisters: Marc, Heather and Fair. I had a sweet and lovely childhood, even when diagnosed with diabetes at the tender age of seven. In December 2016 I wrote a memoir. It is called An Awakening Soul. I received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a major in psychology at Northwestern University in 1963. I was married in 1965 to Duncan Lanum. We lived in Chicago; Hebron, Illinois; Ambridge, Pennsylvania; Midwest, Wyoming and Woodlake, California. We adopted a baby daughter, Ashley Elizabeth (Lee) in 1969 and a son, Matthew DeWitt, in 1972. Matthew was killed in a tragic traffic accident in Wyoming in 1990. Our marriage did not survive that terrible ordeal and we were divorced in 1993. I moved to Cayucos, California then to Morro Bay a few miles away. I was a Real Estate Broker for a few years, a 16-year career as a social worker in Child Protective Service, as well as Adult Protective Service, and more recently a journalist for Glo-Quips and Chesapeake Style Magazine. My move to Gloucester occurred in 2004 as a result of visiting a Northwestern room-mate who had moved to Gloucester Point in 2000. I was enamored with Gloucester Courthouse and remained so. Much to the amazement of many I survived 80 years in remarkably good health.”

Tracy was the coordinator of the Neal Steele Radio Interviews for many years. She always wore a smile and never knew a stranger.



Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

Dr. Seuss

## A Downed Pen



Joy Joy Brenda Birch  
December 7, 2022



Joy Brenda Burch was a longtime member of CBW, a former CBW Newsletter Editor, Member of the Board of Directors, and participated in the All Stars Contests. In addition to being a former nurse and accomplished in needlecrafts, she was a staff

writer for Chesapeake Style magazine. Joy Brenda wrote her last article for the Winter 2022 issue about one of her favorite places, The Pilot House Restaurant, where we shared many staff lunch meetings and lively discussions. Photos of her beloved pet Athena appeared on Page 2 of Chesapeake Style in a different costume each month with a little story of how Athena loved to be dressed up and pose for her photos! I always enjoyed Brenda's writing and our conversations. She helped make CBW the vibrant group it is today. She will be missed, and her memory will be for a blessing.

By Carol Bova

Brenda was so fortunate to have a caring neighbor, Tim Chase, & a devoted friend, Dolly Vaughan, who were always there to help her during the hardest of her struggles. She was in the hospital for about a week when some decisions about long term care had to be made. As was Brenda's way, she made her own decisions & went to be with her Lord & Savior that same day. Brenda lived a full, interesting life & she did it her way. She will be missed by many.

By Janet Abbott Fast

Joy Brenda Burch was born in Virginia and is a graduate of the College of William and Mary. In her working life, Brenda Burch was a Registered Nurse and a school teacher. During that time, she worked both in Canada and the US, and also served in the U.S. Army. She was an active member of The American Sewing Guild, was editor of the Richmond/Central Virginia Chapter's newsletter, Sew Richmond. Retirement activities were writing and photography. She was a stringer for the Westmoreland News for a few years when she lived in Colonial Beach.

Besides newsletters, Brenda enjoyed using her computer and camera to design calendars and note cards with her German Shepherd, Athena, as the star in many of them.

From June, 2016, Bay News

"You were born a child of light's wonderful secret - you return to the beauty you have always been."

Aberjhani, *Visions of a Skylark Dressed in Black*

## Words to Ponder By Charles W. Sutherland

Oxymoron (n.) From Greek oxys (meaning 'sharp, pointed') and moros (meaning 'stupid'): A conjoining of two words which are contradictory

### EXAMPLES:

"A verbal contract isn't worth the paper that it's written on." – Samuel Goldwyn

"Include me out." – Samuel Goldwyn

"I can resist anything except temptation" – Oscar Wilde

"We have no choice except to believe in free will." – Isaac Singer

"Nobody goes to that restaurant anymore, because it's too crowded." – Yogi Berra

Professor Charles Explains

## Why We Say: February



Courtesy of Professor Charles  
Says ...Learn English!

## *Always Remembering*

By Kathy Kasunich

April 3, 2022



Helen has only one dream in her life: to marry Mike. What happens when World War II erupts and the new lovers are forced to separate and endure a new normal of uncertainty, loneliness, heartache, and misunderstandings? How do they contend with Helen's domineering mother who forces her to accept an engagement ring from another man and cancels wedding plans? How can they deal with meddling relatives who question Mike's intentions? What is the antidote for all the poisons infiltrating their world? Nostalgic memories and unceasing correspondence. They must learn to adapt and remember the person who stole their heart.

From Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to the trails of the 42nd Rainbow Division battlegrounds during World War II, the pangs of separation and the destruction of war resonate deeply. In a story told through both of their perspectives, Mike, an outgoing, confident medic, and Helen, a diffident, humble grocer, take you on their journey as they navigate situations beyond their control.

A genuine, heartfelt tale based on a true romance, *Always Remembering* depicts the emotional effects and unseen collateral damage of war seen through the eyes of two average individuals. This Capraesque love story is both inspiring and poignant as it portrays the resilience of the human spirit and the power of sentimental memories.



## Photo Prompt

Every newsletter, I add a photo as a prompt to spark creativity. It's like flash fiction but you get two months to work on it. While story submissions are low, I will not give up and I will always write my own. If I can do it, so can you! It can be a story or a poem. Just keep it at about 500 words.

Look on the front page of this newsletter at the photo for the April Edition. Put what you see into words. Maybe the photo spurs a memory. (Get the pun?) Have you been on a trail ride? Visited a dude ranch? Owned a horse? Tell us about it.



Jerry was a Gerbil  
His fur was black and brown  
Jerry was a lonely boy  
'Till Susie came to town

But Susie would not hear him  
Nor look his way at all  
Poor Jerry, he tried everything  
But Susie wouldn't fall

He gave her treats and candy  
And always fluffed her hay  
He gave up time on the roller wheel  
And all his toys for play

But not a thing was working  
Miss Susie drove him crazy  
Until that day with all the hearts  
When he found a wild, pink daisy

He slowly walked toward Susie  
His heart was beating fast  
"Susie will you marry me?"  
She said "Yes," at last.

By Sonja McGiboney

## Social Media Tips-What Not to Do!

I spent some time looking for information to add to this portion of the newsletter and discovered that there are many resources for the best "social" practices. But here are some things I found on what not to do. (Links at bottom to complete articles.)

1. Don't post incriminating photos
2. Don't be all about you. It is "Social" media.
3. Don't share links without researching them first.
4. Don't be negative - it's a social killer
5. Don't plagiarize
6. Don't forget you deal with real people
7. Don't post without editing
8. Don't be unforgiving. Allow people room to make mistakes and forgive them.
9. Don't polarize your audience by taking one side or another (unless that is your platform). Show that you are able to discuss and listen to all sides
10. Don't post memes or photos without knowing current trends

Find more on these websites:

<https://digitalmarketinginstitute.com/blog/9-things-not-to-do-on-social-media>

<https://webuildbuzz.com/strategy/eleven-things-not-to-do-on-social-media/>

<https://www.searchenginejournal.com/things-not-to-do-on-social-media/337883/#close>

If writers were good businessmen, they'd have too much sense to be writers.

-Irvin S. Cobb

# Writing Things

**Conferences and workshops. You must check out the details on their websites.**

**Saturday, May 6, 2023**

**Christopher Newport University's 41st Annual Writers Conference: Virginia is for Writers**

REGISTRATION OPENS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023!

Visit our website <https://cnu.edu/writers/>

or follow the event on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1217080292225831?ref=newsfeed>

**Map Your Book from Start to Finish** is the supportive, substantive opportunity that writers working on a novel, memoir, or nonfiction book have been looking for to finish, polish, and prepare their books for publication, get personalized coaching feedback, and meet other serious writers. Unlike many workshops, this isn't a one-and-done event. Our three-part format, led by three certified book coaches who are authors themselves, ensures that writers track real progress before, during, and after this program. Our hybrid format includes a full day of in-person instruction and networking in Annapolis, MD, on March 19, 2023. Every participating writer receives personal attention and feedback. This is the investment serious writers should consider making this year. Early Bird Registration (\$499) runs through Feb. 28. Partial scholarships are available on a limited case-by-case basis.

Amy L. Bernstein: <https://www.yourstoryfinder.com/mapyourbook>

**March 31 to April 2: Central Virginia Writing Conference**

<https://www.marshall.edu/cwvwp/2022-spring-writing-conference/>

**April through the Fall: Fairs, Festival, Bazaar's and other events. Orgnized by Nancy of 4 Event Planning-** Nancy runs the Buckroe Beach Festival. She has smaller bazaars and markets that you could attend for small fees. Go to the website to see what is happening and sign up if you want.

<http://4eventplanning.com/events.shtml>

**May 20th, 2023 - Smithfield Arts Festival** - <https://www.genuinesmithfieldva.com/events/detail/113/smithfield-arts-festival/88446> \$125.00 per table

Email Constance H. Chapman [cchapman@isleofwightus.net](mailto:cchapman@isleofwightus.net) for more information.

**Various Dates - Hedgebrook (for female writers)** We offer writing residencies, Radical Craft Retreats, and salons at our retreat on Whidbey Island, and public programs that connect writers with readers and audiences around the world.

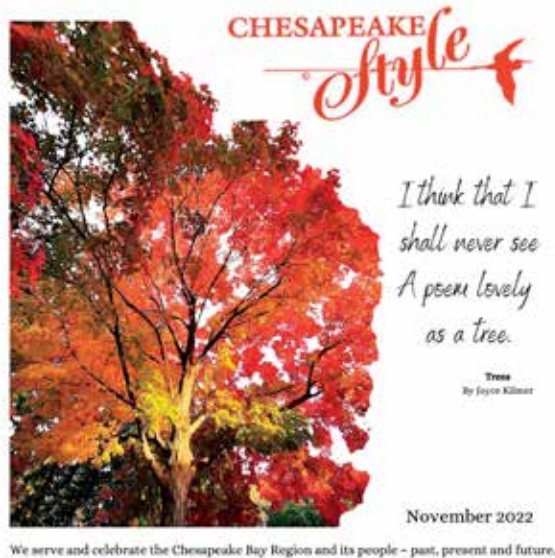
<https://www.hedgebrook.org/about-us-overview>

**Weekly Writing Contests:** [https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/?utm\\_source=mailparrot\\_newsletter&utm\\_campaign=marketplace\\_blog\\_prompted\\_launch&utm\\_medium=email](https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/?utm_source=mailparrot_newsletter&utm_campaign=marketplace_blog_prompted_launch&utm_medium=email)

*It's not too late to send in your membership renewal.  
The form is on the website at [chesapeakebaywriters.org](http://chesapeakebaywriters.org)*

# Marketing and Writing Opportunities

## Book Reviews



*Chesapeake Style* is an award-winning, colorful classy magazine serving folks in the Chesapeake Bay Region. It began in 1998 and is still going strong. It is published online and magazines are distributed around the region.

*Chesapeake Style* offers Books in Style reviews for any Virginia author but preference is given to members of CBW and the critique groups.

All you have to do is have someone else read your book and write a 500-word review of it in accordance with the guidelines.

Email Carol J. Bova at [cj980@mac.com](mailto:cj980@mac.com) for Guidelines and Deadlines.

Copy of cover taken from the *Chesapeake Style* Web edition: <https://www.chesapeakestyle.com>

Photo cover credit: Amanda Cooper Preto

## Writing opportunities through *Chesapeake Style* Magazine *Writers in Style*

Writers in Style is an invitation to CBW members to write 500-word 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](http://www.chesapeakestyle.com):

*Chesapeake Style* publishes and distributes 10,000 copies in the April/May, June/July, August/September issues and 15,000 copies in the October/November issue. They are found throughout the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and at the Williamsburg General Store.

Please email submissions with a subject of  
Writers in Style to:  
Carol J. Bova [caroljean981@mac.com](mailto:caroljean981@mac.com)

## *Chesapeake Style* Spotlight interview assignments

If you're interested in writing *Chesapeake Style* Spotlights, contact Carol J. Bova at [cj980@mac.com](mailto:cj980@mac.com) or call her at (804) 725-6163.

Writers are assigned to interview a business owner and write a 750-word human interest story about the owner or their business. Interviews may be in-person or by telephone. There is a small payment for these assignments!



# Marketing and Writing Ops cont.

## CBW Second Monday Radio Interviews with Neal Steele on XTRA 99.1 FM



Neal Steele interviews an author for his XTRA 99.1 FM CBW Second Monday Radio Show. The interview takes place at the station in Gloucester (just past Short Lane Ice Cream) and starts at about 8:05 a.m. Neal is a champ at making people comfortable. He asks intelligent questions and his genuine interest in an author's work comes through during the interview.

If you cannot make it to Gloucester, he can do the interview over the phone.

All bookings must be made through CBW's coordinator, Patti Procopi. [patti.pro@cox.net](mailto:patti.pro@cox.net)

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.



Check out Neal on Facebook and on the Radio's website.

<https://www.facebook.com/nealnwmrkt>

<https://xtra99.com/on-air/neal-steele>

## Articles by CBW members

The Bay Writers News welcomes short articles written by CBW members. I invite you to share projects, stories, information about the craft of writing, and any other musings with us. We learn by doing and what better way to make yourself write something.

If you post things on blog pages and have an article you wish to share, send it to us. Not only will I put your contribution in the newsletter, I'll add a link to your blog or website.

RULES: Please limit your submissions to 500 words.

## Local Events for Selling Books

4 Event Planning coordinates new information and shows in Hampton Roads Area. Go to [4eventplanning.com](http://4eventplanning.com) for help in planning your event or becoming a vendor.

## Tidewater community Writing Center

<http://www.tidewatercommunitywritingcenter.org/events.html> -

Every first Monday of the month, Monthly Resume Workshop at Hampton Public Library

Second Sundays from 2pm - 4pm Tidewater Community Writing Center Book Club

More information about the events above can be found on the Tidewater community Writing Center Website.

# Schedule

February 4, 2023 Williamsburg Book Festival , Stryker Center and Williamsburg Community Building. Our free event includes authors from various genres, speakers, illustrators, and publishers from Virginia and beyond.  
<https://williamsburgbookfestival.org/>

February 11 and 25, 2023 Coffee Shop Conversations-With Charles W. Sutherland. Talk about your current work in progress at Column 15 coffee shop, 701 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Show up with a smile.

February 13, 2023 Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM Neal Steel interviews Patti Gaustad Procopi about her book *I'll Get By*.

March 11 and 25, 2023 Coffee Shop Conversations-With Charles W. Sutherland. Talk about your current work in progress at Column 15 coffee shop, 701 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Show up with a smile.

March 13, 2023, Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM Neal Steel interviews Drema Deòraich about her book *Entheóphage*.

March 19, 2023, Open Mic at the Williamsburg Library Stryker Center, 1:00 to 3:00

April 1, 2023, Kristen Overman will be talking about writing endings for novels and memoirs. Location TBE  
For more information about Kristen, check out her website: <https://www.goodstoryediting.com/kristen>

April 10, 2023, Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM Neal Steel interviews Caterina Novelliere about her book *House of Arcsceneux*.

April 30, 2023, "Newspaper Sparks" with Sally Honenberger.

3:00 p.m. Hidden arsonist tendencies when you're writing? Here's your chance to try something to fan the flames of creativity. I'll share newspaper scraps and give a few brief sparks of tinder-ready advice, then you can start your own conflagration of characters and challenges. We'll write and read and write some more. This is not show off but show down time. We'll read anonymously, poke the embers a bit with polite critique, and then try another newspaper spark. This will be intense fun, coals under your feet, but no pain. A chance to blaze away and send sparks across the galaxies. Location: Settlement at Powhatan Creek, Community Center, Williamsburg  
GPS: Coordinates get you close - use 4000 River Moor Road. However, after you turn off Monticello road, pass the pond, and get to the intersection of Saunders Bridge and River Moor, turn right at the traffic circle and turn right into the parking lot.

May 7, 2023, "How to Effectively Critique a Manuscript"—An Interactive Presentation for Readers and Writers  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A Joint Presentation with the Williamsburg, Library  
Presented by Sally Stiles  
Stryker Center  
412 N Boundary St, Williamsburg, VA 23185

November 13, 2023, Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM Neal Steel interviews Sarah Collins Honenberger about her book *The Mouse in the House*.