



Bay Writers News

Volume XX • Issue 2

Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club

April 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! Enough already with the rain and wind. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for spring and summer. Nevertheless this winter seems to keep holding on. Fortunately, writing is an indoor as well as an outdoor activity.

As we begin the spring season, as usual we've got lots going on here at Chesapeake Bay Writers. For example, on April 9th we're about to begin the second round of classes in our joint venture with the Christopher Wren Association. Six additional authors will be discussing their work in a special class for Christopher Wren students. We now have twelve CBW authors that have been exposed to entirely new audiences.

On a different project, a hearty thank you to the many of you who submitted original material for CBW's 20th Anniversary Anthology. Our editors Greg Lilly and Narielle Living assure me that they've received more than enough quality material to make the anthology a go. Publication date is set for September. Definitely something to look forward to.

Speaking of Greg Lilly, be sure not to miss his presentation at our April 17th dinner meeting. In

addition to being a top-notch writer, editor, and publisher, Greg is also a great speaker and a terrific writing instructor. More about his presentation in the article below.

We're also gearing up for our big celebration luncheon in June featuring NY Times bestselling author John Gilstrap. More about that in our next edition. In addition to John's presentation we'll also have a few surprises for you and a special CBW inscribed keepsake for you to take home. As they say in TV land, stay tuned, there's lots more to come.

2013 CALENDAR

April 17

Dinner

June 19

Luncheon

**20th Anniversary
with John Gilstrap**

September 18

Luncheon

November 13

All Stars Luncheon

Frank Milligan, President

WHAT'S NEXT? CBW DINNER MEETING - APRIL 17

Greg Lilly will present *The Novel Idea - Before & After*. 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. "Countless writers, including me, have started a novel only to have it fizzle out after 20 pages," Greg says. "That's frustrating and discouraging." He's created worksheets and methods to help alleviate unproductive or underdeveloped story ideas.

Once the fun work is done—writing, revising and polishing a manuscript and getting it accepted for publication—the end-work of making the manuscript a book and presenting it to the public begins. Greg offers frank and practical advice from his time on both sides of the finished book (author and publisher) about

publishing contract negotiations, working with editors and cover artists, and the hardest part, marketing a book. "I think a lot of people in CBW have self-published or have been published by small/medium-sized publishers who can't offer a lot of marketing, so that falls to the author. The "Before" part of testing an idea is good to help writers know if their idea will work—using a couple of worksheets. The "After" is a list of things that new authors have asked me or that I unraveled over the course of my four novels and the eleven that Cherokee McGhee has produced. Contracts, editors, cover art and marketing are the business side that not many writers know or want to know, but need to know!"

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.



WELCOME ABOARD!

Vanessa E Barger from Port Haywood, says “ I have one or more books published or self-published, but in this rapidly evolving world of publishing, marketing and media, need to learn of strategies and venues that will help ensure continued success. I am a middle grade and young adult author, represented by Jennifer Mishler of Literary Counsel. I teach high school technology education in rural Virginia and am the slave to one cat, Molly. I spend all my free time writing. I’m a member of the SCBWI (Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators). When not writing, I’m reading, and an avid movie fan. I also love long walks on the beach discussing Shakespeare while sipping large fruity drinks with little umbrellas.”

June E. Harding, from Williamsburg, says, “I have always loved to write, but have had little time until now to seriously pursue the craft of writing. Writing letters has always been a wonderful thing to do and that’s how I got started. When I pursued classes, I decided to write memoirs for my children. This led to writing short stories with my photographs for my grandchildren.”

CONGRATS!

Emeline Bailey’s essay *Love That S&H* was published in the *Virginia Gazette* on March 13, 2013.

Rick Bailey had his essay about how *Not* to save money building a birdhouse published under the title *I’ll build my own birdhouse* in the *Virginia Gazette* on March 23, 2013.

John Bray: My fourth novel with the working title *Broken Force* has been accepted for publication by my publisher Endeavour Press of London, England. It is the sequel to my second novel, now entitled *Blue Heat* (formerly *The Confidential*). My other two books now entitled *Flags Of Our Sons*, (formerly *The Ballad Of Johnny Madigan*) and *Home Front* (formerly *Code Name: Caleb*) are also available on Kindle, Nook, Smashwords, Apple i-Store, Sony e-Reader and other electronic media.

Mary Ann Carr recently taught an eight hour, four week course on “Mindfulness” at the Bay Center for Spiritual Development in Kilmarnock. She plans to use her research and the original materials developed for that course to spin off a two-hour workshop specifically designed to help writers.

Roger Gosden: writing projects 2013 Revealing this eclectic list of publications and projects is embarrassing!

The following are in press: 1) second edition of a co-edited book about egg development and stem cells (*Cambridge University Press*), 2) a review of a similar

Elise Gedicke, from Hayes, says, “I have completed a draft of my first novel and seek help, advice and critique both to improve the work and to navigate successfully the best path to publication.”

Kathleen A. Kasley from Williamsburg, says, “I have always loved to write, but have had little time, until now, to seriously pursue the craft of writing. Born in Chicago, I have lived all over the country. I love writing romance, but feel I’m still learning my craft. Since retiring in 2004 and moving to Williamsburg, I’ve also become a Certified Music Practitioner and play therapeutic harp at the patient bedside, for hospitals & hospice.”

Len D. Shartzter, from Williamsburg, says, “I have had some success in writing, but now wish to pursue publication. I know what I want to write about, but need support, advice, critique and guidance from more experienced writers. I retired in April 2012, and want to explore my interest in writing. I’ve written throughout my careers in the military and civil service, but most enjoyed researching and writing academic papers in military schools.”

subject arising from a conference celebrating my mentor’s Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine (*Reproductive BioMedicine Online*, 3) an annotated history of the ovary from a lost gem in scientific literature (1930) with a biography of the author (*Biology of Reproduction*).

The smorgasbord of projects to be completed in 2013 include: (a) a review of ovarian physiology (*Seminars in Reproductive Medicine*), (b) an annotated and illustrated republication of a classic autobiography of a surgeon (1935), (c) a book illustrating old homes in Appalachia (hopefully with contributions from a WV poet), (d) a new edition of my monograph about the biology of aging, *Cheating Time*, (e) blogging weekly about nature and science (rogergosden.com), and (f) and tottering towards the conclusion of my first novel, *Entitlement*, a story about wangling an inheritance through a fertility fraud.

John Hornung has compiled four of his titles into an autobiography *Entering the Race to the Moon*. The book can be reviewed on the website www.jackbenimble.us and can be purchased from Barnes&Noble Nook Books.

Jeanne Johansen and **Narielle Living** have released their book, *Chesapeake Bay Karma: The Amulet*. This book chronicles the three lifetimes of one woman’s soul as she faces unimaginable devastation at the hands of powerful men and a dominating political



system. *Chesapeake Bay Karma* is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and High Tide Publications.

Past Unfinished by **Narielle Living** was released March 5. This is the sequel to her first book, *Signs of the South*, and tells the story of Katie Hollister. Katie has a secret, and it has nothing to do with the fact that she lives with the ghost of her great-great-grandmother. As revelations about Katie come to light, she is faced with enemies so powerful they could destroy her—body and soul. *Past Unfinished* is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Barbara McLennan's new historical novel, *The Wealth of Jamestown*, will be published by Koehler Books (a branded imprint of Morgan James Publishing) later this year.

Jeff Toalson's book signings: Apr 8, Hampton Roads Postcard Club (*Boots*): Apr 13, Appomattox NHP (*Mama*): Apr 18, U-Gillette SCV Camp – Courtland, (*Mama*): Apr 20-21, Bennett Place Historic Site – Durham



(*Boots*). Photo: At a talk about *Mama, I Am Yet Still Alive*, I am holding a Confederate battle flag used by regiments in Polk's Corp of the Army of Tennessee.

Paul Tsompanas' book, *Juan Patron: A Fallen Star in the Days of Billy the Kid*, will compete in two book award programs this summer. The highly praised biography has been nominated for Best Book on Wild West History in 2012 in the Wild West Historical Association's annual awards. It also will compete for two awards sponsored annually by the New Mexico Book Cooperative, one for Best Biography of a New Mexico Subject and the other for Best Cover Design. Both programs will announce their awards this summer.

The *Patron* biography also has received regional attention. A review by **Ellen Dugan** gave the book high marks in the Spring issue of *Chesapeake Style Magazine*, and Tsompanas' writing career is profiled in the current issue of *Pleasant Living Magazine*.

VWC 2013 GOLDEN NIB WRITING CONTEST

For the 2013 Contest Submission Rules, go to the CBW or VWC Websites. *Note: For VWC and CBW Members submitting entries through CBW:*

(1) To enter the contest, you must be a dues-paying member of CBW, (2) You must mail two copies as instructed by the VWC Contest rules. Also, CBW requires submission of each entry electronically by

email. Deadline is **June 19th** (receipt Date).

Mail two hard copies of each entry to: John Bray, 261 Zelkova Road, Williamsburg, Va 23185. Email one electronic copy of each entry in text or word format by **June 13th** to John Bray at JBray6@cox.net .

If this requirement poses technical problems, Contact John at 757-345-0405.

2012—2013 Officers & Board

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Jack Bray, Past President, Golden
Nib Contest Coordinator



DOWNED PEN: JEAN KEATING...

In the early hours the morning of February 12, 2013 Jean C. Keating was greeted by her proud, playful, pack of Papillons at the Rainbow Bridge. They crossed the Bridge and are running and playing pain free.

By Ellen Dugan

I did not know Jean Keating nearly as well or as long as I would have liked. She was a bright light that should still be shining, a one-of-a-kind shooting star that flamed out much too soon. Left behind is her memory, alive and vivid in its uniqueness.

During Jean's later years through our association as writers, I was lucky enough to have fallen within her orbit—or should I say whirlwind, for her energy was legend and she lived her life to the max.

As writers we shared the joys and agonies of the blank page and the endless search for words to satisfy the filling of it. Our job was to lure the best ones from their hiding places and capture them as quickly as possible. We tried to make sense of them as best we could and strived to place our words in some kind of reasonable order.

Once this was accomplished, we could begin the process of polishing and re-arranging those that had survived the cut according to the dictates of our imagination and the perceived requirements of our readers. Often this was done under threat of a looming deadline and a growing tendency to be distracted by anything, including frequent coffee breaks, trips to the refrigerator or pauses to pet an animal. All valid reasons for delay. Jean would swear to it if she were still alive and sitting at her computer today.

By Rick Bailey

When I attended the memorial service for Jean Keating on March 3rd 2013, her 75th birthday, I could not help but think about the time I met her some 20 years ago when she joined the CBW and started attending the Mathews Critique Group, which became the

In Jean's case much of her writing was inspired by her deep love of animals, her ability to empathize with her readers, and a writing style that was much like her personality, direct and informed, yet playful, a difficult achievement for sure.

In *Monumental Courage*, the opening story about twelve gallant police dogs in her final book, *Animal Heroes and Friends*, there is a wonderful quote that illustrates how much Jean loved and respected the creatures she wrote about. Selected from a keynote address that had been delivered by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia at a service that honored the slain canine heroes, Jean tells us: "When the public is in trouble, they call the police. When the police need help, they call S.W.A.T. And when S.W.A.T. needs help, they call the K-9's."

Sadly, there were no canines—no Baron, Bandit, Lobo, Zak, Sgt. Boris, Bodi,

Iron, Colt, Faro, Ingo, Gunner or Carsens—who could rescue Jean when she needed help escaping the deadly pronouncements of cancer. Had they been able to, I am certain all twelve of them would have scaled fences and jumped through hoops to get to her.

Like our unfinished friendship, my memory of Jean, now voiced and visible in the medium we shared, is an inner work in progress. I will surely think of something more to add, something I had forgotten and should have mentioned earlier, like our discussions of fact-checking Civil War lore or my astonishment at learning of her rocket-scientist past. Then I will smile inwardly and perhaps take her small lavender book from the shelf and visit with her once more in a place where she is still very much alive and well.

Carol Chapman photo.



Williamsburg Critique Group when we moved. Jean was always very passionate and enthusiastic *in her* writing about the Papillon pooches she loved and raised, and very objective, thoughtful and considerate when offering her critique about the writing of others in our group. Jean also had a wonderful, almost infectious, sense of humor and laughter that made it fun just to be in the same room with her. In retirement Jean



OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION: Mathews High School (MHS) Book Festival

devoted much of her time to writing eight books about her animal friends and frequently dressed Puff, her favorite Papillon pooch, in a Sherlock Bones costume, to attend many of her book signings.

There was also a side of Jean that I knew nothing about until after I had known her for several years. Namely, that she was awarded a Presidential Citation by President Nixon for developing the algorithms used to track objects that were launched into orbit and deep-space by NASA and it is my understanding that she accomplished this just a short time after she earned her Masters of Science degree in physics and started working for NASA. Jean never mentioned this accomplishment to me but I learned of it though a mutual friend.

Jean was wonderful and kind to all who knew her. She will be missed but never forgotten. Now that Jean has crossed over, I like to think of her as the good Samaritan that e. e. cummings (1923-1926) wrote about when Christ found him lying dead along the road:

*Brushing from whom the stiffened puke
i put him all into my arms
and staggered banged with terror through
a million billion trillion stars*



The MHS Book Festival will be held on Saturday, October 12, 2013 at Mathews High School. CBW is a sponsor of this event, which is being planned by CBW Member, Vanessa Barger.

The Festival's website is tinyurl.com/mhsbookfestival. Authors wishing to speak or lead workshops at this event have until April 21st to submit proposals. If you are interested in giving a workshop or talk, please contact Vanessa Barger, at vbarger@mathews.k12.va.us. Include or attach your proposal including a title and brief description of what you'd like to do. *I know it's early, but I'd like the Young Writers to vote on the workshops they most want at their last meeting at the beginning of May.*

The Festival was created to give students and community members the opportunity to meet with authors, learn more about the craft of writing, and get a chance to spend time with people who love the written word just as much as they do. The Young Writers Club at Mathews High School is hosting this event, as a way of expanding the club's mission to include their peers and the community as a whole. Part of the goal of the Young Writers Club is to promote literacy, reading, and writing of all kinds. The students spend the year working on writing projects of their own, participating in the National Novel Writing Month (NANOWRIMO) Young Writers Program, author and agent online chats, and at the end of the year, read their work at a reading for their peers, family, and friends.

The book festival will allow students the chance to talk with and learn from established authors and aspiring writers, and will permit them to learn more about the different types of writing. It will provide a chance to learn from different writers about a variety of topics. We hope that you will join us in making this event a success!

Mary Ann Carr presents CBW check to Vanessa Barger.

CHESAPEAKE *Style* MAGAZINE

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

About Book Reviews for *Chesapeake Style*:

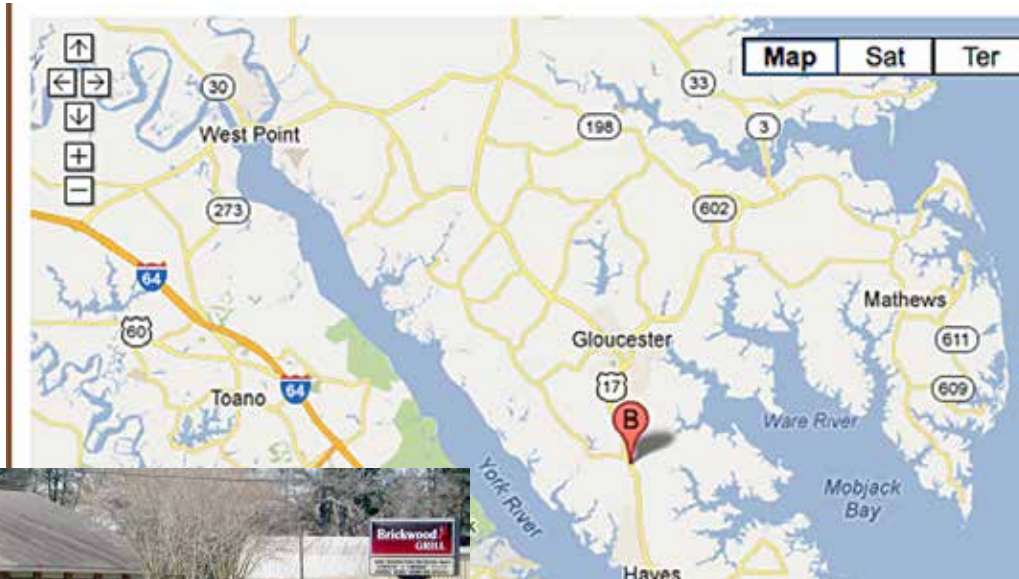
- You wrote a book. the book and submits
- You want it reviewed. it (and a graphic of the
- Ask someone to cover) to *Chesapeake*
- review your book. *Style* for publication,
- Send an email according to Guidelines.
- requesting Guidelines → Now it's your
- and Deadlines. turn to review a book
- The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

When your review is published, *Chesapeake Style* distributes 10,000 copies, eight months of the year, in the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and Williamsburg.

If you want to advertise your book in *Chesapeake Style*, ask for rates. Buying an ad is ***Not a prerequisite for your book review to be published.*** Reviews will be printed on a first come, first serve basis. ***It is your responsibility to find a reviewer.*** For Guidelines & Deadlines, email chestyle@hughes.net or www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/CSBookReviews.htm



**BRICKWOOD GRILL, 5036 GEORGE WASHINGTON
MEMORIAL HWY, GLOUCESTER 804-693-5950**



5036 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Gloucester

Directions to Brickwood Grill

From Williamsburg:

Colonial Parkway to Yorktown
Turn right at sign for 17 North
Turn right at yield sign onto 17
North to cross Coleman Bridge
Go 8.4 miles, (just past Shell Station on the
right and White Marsh shopping center on left)
Carefully turn LEFT at 635 - Piney Swamp
Rd Sign into restaurant parking lot.

If you miss it, go to light at WaWa intersection
and carefully make a U-turn back.

From Kilmarnock

VA3 to VA 33 turn left 3.4 mi
Turn right onto VA3E/Twigg's Ferry Rd 4.6 mi
Turn right onto VA 198 (Buckley Hall
Rd) to VA3 E (Windsor Rd) 1.6 mi
Turn left on Main St 1.2 mi
Turn left on US 17/Geo Washington
Memorial Hwy 4.3 mi
Turn right into parking lot after red
& white Brickwood Grill sign.

From Tappahannock

17 South to restaurant

DINNER MEETING, APRIL 17, 2013, BRICKWOOD GRILL

Reservations can be made online at www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/reservcheck/reservations_view.php, or by completing this form and mailing it. **Online reservations preferred.** Reservations and payment must be **Postmarked by Wednesday, April 10th.** Make Check payable to "CBW", Mail to: CBW Treasurer, P.O. Box 385, Port Haywood, Va 23138. Members \$20 per person; Nonmember guests \$25 Cash Bar: 5:30, Dinner at 6, Program at 7

Menu Choices:

Pan-seared Chicken Breast with Savory Sauce;
Grilled Salmon with Dijon Cream;
Pasta Primavera (Vegetables)

Advance reservations required:

Total in Party X \$20 (Members) = \$. X \$25 (NonMembers) = \$.

Please be sure member's name(s) appears on the check. Refunds are only given when notice of cancellation is received at least two (2) business days in advance of the date of the meeting.

www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org



RECURRING EVENTS, MONTHLY, BI-MONTHLY



CBW Author Interview with Neal XTRA 99.1 FM,

Gloucester, Second Monday 8:05-8:30 a.m.

Contact Dave Carr 804-725-9843 or carr1600@netscape.net

Gloucester Evening Critique: Location TBD, Last Saturday of the month, 7 p.m.

Contact Gary Herring 804-694-5646 or docargent@cox.net

James York Critique: Tabb Library, Yorktown, Third

Saturday of the month, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Contact Narielle Living, narielleliving@gmail.com

Rappatomac Critiques: Lively at The Oaks, Route 3

First Thursday of the month, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Contact Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net

Tappahannock at Roma Ristorante Italiano-Tappahannock

Third Thursday of the month, Eat at noon, Meet noon-3 p.m.

Contact Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net

Williamsburg Critiques:

Bailey Residence, 6244 N. Mayfair Circle

Second Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m.

Contact Rick Bailey 757-564-7118 or rvbailey@verizon.net

Bray Residence, 261 Zelkova Road

Fourth Thursday of the month, 1-3 p.m.

Contact Jack Bray 757-345-0405 or jbray6@cox.net

Our critique groups listed above are all inclusive and meant for writers of every stage in their career. Whether you are just starting out and want to see what a critique group is like or you are a multi-published author, there is a critique home for you. If you have any questions please feel free to call the contact person listed. Come join our community of talent!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

RADIO SHOW OPENINGS: CALL FOR AUTHORS

There are several openings on the CBW Second Monday Radio show for the remainder of 2013.

There are openings for **July 8th**, **October 14th (Halloween)** and **December 9th**, the latter date being ideal for any member with a Christmas-oriented book. Interested members should contact Dave Carr to get on the schedule.

He can be reached at 804-725-9843 or carr1600@netscape.net.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Chesapeake Bay Writers can be found on Facebook and Twitter. Our Twitter address is @baywriters. Facebook and Twitter are easy to use, fun and informative, and a great way to meet your peers and others in the publishing industry.

If you have questions about these social media sites, contact Narielle Living at narielleliving@gmail.com.

The QR code can be scanned by a Smartphone to go to the CBW website.

Click on the Facebook logo and go to the CBW Facebook page.

