



Bay Writers News

Volume XXII • Issue 4

Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club

September 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carol J. Bova

One of the unexpected benefits of belonging to CBW has been getting to know myself better as a writer. Most of my life, writing was simply a necessary form of communication, with no joy, no sense of accomplishment. I learned in kindergarten writing has rules.

Sixty-odd years later, I remember the smell and the feel of the poster paint moving from brush to newsprint on an easel. I remember how it felt to choose just the right color for each letter and how satisfied I was when I finished. I remember too, how disappointed I was to learn my name was not to be written on a diagonal from right to left, even if it looked more interesting that way.

As time went on, I learned more rules, spelling, grammar, punctuation. I was a good technician and brought home essay prizes from time to time. Deep in middle age though, extreme sorrow broke the mold of my life. Writing became a means of survival, but it provided something more. A whisper of the four-year-old's satisfaction.

I break rules on purpose now if the words do what I want them to. I learned from CBW programs that I'm what's known as a *pantser*, writing without a formal outline before I begin. Even seat-of-the-pants writing has its own logic based on experience and intuition, but there's something more. There's a sense of freedom in the writing, letting the words tumble out, rearranging them in more pleasant or stronger combinations, sometimes scrapping them and starting again. At the end, there's the sense of accomplishment, and once in a while, the joy of writing on a literary diagonal, from right to left, in bright colors.

In meeting other writers, hearing them read and participating in critique groups, I learn more each time about myself, how similar we are, how different we are. Thinking along those lines, I've been in touch with the leadership of the Hampton Roads Writers. We are going to share each other's program announcements with our respective members. We are very different organizations, and will remain so, but we are all writers

2015 CALENDAR

Luncheons

September 16

Pilot House Inn, Topping

November 18

All-Stars Gala Two

Rivers Country Club

and can learn from each other. Lauren Strait, president of HRW, has graciously offered HRW rates for CBW members at their conference starting the evening of September 16 through the 18th. Check out the enclosed flyer. Time is short to register, so if you're planning to attend the Hampton Roads Conference, sign up today.

There's still time to sign up for two hours (or more) at the CBW table at the Williamsburg Book Festival on October 3 at the Bruton Parish's Lewis Hall. You'll meet and greet writers and readers and share information about CBW. You'll have the option to offer your own work for sale, but you must sign up in advance at CBWreply@gmail.com.

Hope to see you at the September 16 luncheon. Neal Steele is speaking, and he's a pleasure to listen to and will have invaluable information about making the most of a radio interview.

Wishing for you what you wish for yourself,



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!

Lindy van Burik, from Gloucester, says, "I have many books in my mind and I know that you-all will inspire me and spur me on to finally get them on paper."

Imelda Cummins-DeMelkon, from Williamsburg, says, "I write because I love it...I frequently publish essays, on a variety of subjects, in the *Virginia Gazette* and other publications. I am married for 24 years and my husband and I both share the responsibilities of running our local Williamsburg business. We have one son, at college. I am originally from Ireland and my background is in education. I have lived in this area since 1994."

Shari Faina, from Farnham, says, "I am a 62 year old mother of four; grandmother of three. Animals and music have always played important roles in my life. I have a degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland College Park which I pursued as a tool

to benefit working for my passions, conservation and animal rights. Everything was on hold while raising my children. No more excuses. Time to just do it!"

Steve Fletcher, from Williamsburg, says, "I have recently completed a serious novel in the genre of literary fiction: *The Disciple of Beauty: A Philosopher's Tale of Love, Tragedy, and Transcendence* which I self-published through CreateSpace. I hold degrees in both English literature (doctoral) and philosophy, and have taught literature, writing, and film in the college classroom. I have also written scholarly articles on various subjects, including TED, foreign film, and music in literature. I am also a member of the Williamsburg Writers' Workshop, facilitated by Dr. Roger Gosden.

Cynthia Hastings, from Ware Neck, says, I have an Undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature, taught High School English, worked for a New York newspaper.

BOASTS, BLUSTERS AND GLOATS

Vanessa Barger's Middle Grade novel, *Super Freak*, will release October 2015. She will give a talk at GMU's Fall for the Book on October 1, will have a book signing at the William & Mary Bookstore on October 10, will be at the West Virginia Book Festival in October, and will be giving several workshops at the Hampton Roads Writers Conference in September.

Vic Brown, sometimes referred to as Vampire Vic, was invited to be the guest speaker for the July monthly North Carolina High Country Writers Association meeting. He described the process of graduating from being a writer to being a published author. Vic is under contract with *High Tide Publications, Inc.* and they released his first book, *Vampire Resurrection*, in March. The audience of thirty writers/authors/editors seemed keenly interested and asked many pertinent questions. Vic participated in the Tabb Library Local Authors' Garden in August in Yorktown. He will also take part in the Williamsburg Book Festival in October. He is half way through writing the sequel to *Vampire Resurrection* and hopes to have it shovel ready by the end of this year. Don't forget, vampires make a wonderful birthday or Christmas gift.

Urbanna author and *Sentinel* columnist **Mary Wakefield Buxton** is guest speaker on September 10 at the Breakfast and Book Club meeting in Gloucester meeting at a private home in Hayes. She will discuss her new novel *The Private War of William Styron* which is based on her personal relationship with the

famous Pulitzer Prize winning novelist who was a native of Newport News. She is also keynote speaker for the district meeting of the Lettice Lee chapter of the Colonial Dames November 21 at the Middlesex Woman's Club in Urbanna. She will speak on the age old artist's struggle to find his or her voice in society.

Imelda Cummins-DeMelkon first became published by sending essays to the *Virginia Gazette*, writing about a variety of topics including family, education, faith and other subjects of general interest. For Christmas 2014 the Irish newspaper *The Irish Times* published a book of a collection of essays by emigrants and her essay *Generation Emigration* was included in the volume. Over the years she traveled many times across the Atlantic...she has twelve siblings so there is never a shortage of stories! In 2012 she published her first book *The Modern Voice of an Irish Immigrant* and in 2014, *Modern Irish Essays and Reflections*.

Kathleen Toomey Jabs will be featured in the September issue of the *Arts and Entertainment Williamsburg Neighbor* magazine. The issue is previewing the October 3 Williamsburg Book Fair in which she will participate. She moved to Williamsburg this summer.

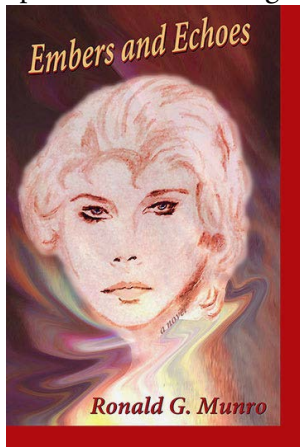
Gail Wilson Kenna returned in late August from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, which was celebrating its 90th year. If anyone is interested in knowing about this prestigious conference in Vermont, feel free to contact gailkenna@aol.com. Gail will be teaching *From Scene to Story* at RCC's Kilmarnock



Center on Thursday afternoons in October.

Pamela K. Kinney's nonfiction ghost book, *Paranormal Petersburg, Virginia*, and the Tri-Cities Area releases September 28, at stores and online dealers. She will have a table and sell and sign her books. The free one-day mini horror convention will be from 10 am to 4:30 p.m. at the Chesapeake Central Library. Her short horror story, *Crimson Tide*, was accepted for State of Horror: California anthology.

Kathleen Mix's new romantic suspense, *Sins of Her Father*, will be released in September by Entangled Select Suspense. She will be signing copies at the Williamsburg Book Festival in October.



Ronald G. Munro's fourth novel, *Embers and Echoes*, picks up the story begun in the murder/mystery novel *Lingering Missives*. The new work examines how Catlyn Stacey's overcomes the trauma inflicted on her by the homicide of the man she loved, the murder of her

closest friend, and the terror of her own kidnapping. *Lingering Missives* has been the subject of two wonderful reviews, in the *Daily Press* and *Talk of the Colony*.

Author/artist **Mary Montague Sikes** has created an art exhibition for Farrah Ferand, the artist heroine of her latest novel, *Evening of the Dragonfly*. The one-person invitational exhibition of these paintings starts on September 15 and continues until October 13 at the W.T. Robinson/Sture G. Olsson Civic Auditorium and Fine Arts Center adjacent to West Point High School. On September 19, an opening reception and book signing will begin at 6 p.m. followed by the 7 p.m. performance starring Ethan Bortnick. A portion of sales from the book, *Evening of the Dragonfly*, will go to Arts Alive.

Fran Ward has published *Travels with Ellyn*. It is an adventure novel for young adults on one level. On the adult level, each episode is an example of a Metaphysical Law of the Universe (such as the Law of Cause and Effect). Fran writes a monthly arts column in *Tidewater Women Magazine*. Her interviews with arts personalities are in each month's hard copies and online at: tidewaterwomen.com, Click on blogs, then Art Beat.

PROMOTE YOUR BOOK!

CBW now offers another opportunity to promote your book(s)! We will print your sales brochure as part of the CBW newsletter.

You need to submit copy—**edited, correct spelling, no abbreviations (i.e. Nov.)**.

We will **not** edit your submission.

Limit your copy to 500 words. Submit a high

resolution copy of the cover, in .jpg format. File must be separate from the copy; i.e. **Not** embedded in the copy.

We will add a separate page to the newsletter, for your book promotion. Be sure to include locations where the book can be purchased.

Send your information to cbwnews@gmail.com

Include CBW in the subject line, please!

GOLDEN NIB CONTEST

Chesapeake Bay Writers Tier 2015 Golden Nib Winners

Congratulations to our club level winners! First place entries have been entered into the statewide Virginia Writers Club tier of the contest. Good luck to Ann, Ellen and Gail!

We extend a special thank you to our judges, celebrated poet Sofia Starnes, Virginia's Poet Laureate from 2012-2014, Frank Milligan, CBW Past President, popular instructor and award-winning author, and Frances Hubbard, Gloucester-Mathews reporter and Middle Peninsula blogger for *The Daily Press*.

Fiction

First Place - **Ann M. Skelton**

Second Place - **John A. Bray**

Third Place - **Jerry Peill**

Poetry

First Place - **Ellen Dugan**

Second Place - **Sharon Dorsey**

Third Place - **John A. Bray**

Nonfiction

First Place - **Gail Wilson Kenna**

Second Place - **Mary Wakefield Buxton**

Third Place - **Gwen Keane**





CBW WORKSHOP NOV. 7, SNAGGING A PUBLISHER

Wondering how to hook an agent or publisher for your novel? This

workshop will explore the publishing industry's tools for submitting your novel to agents and publishers. Discussion and worksheets will lead you through the development of the all-important selling tools of a "pitch," synopsis, and query letter.

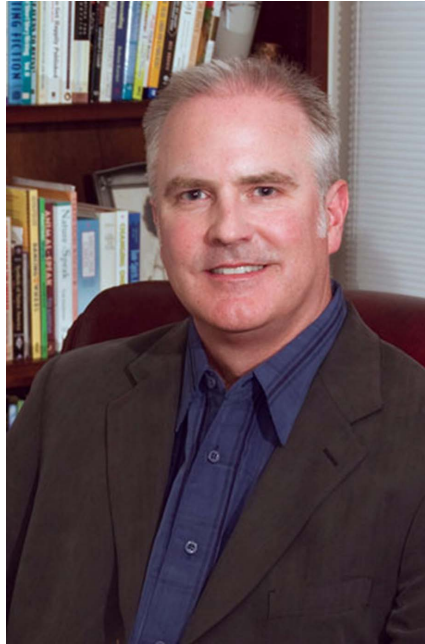
Audience: Writers who have completed or about to complete their novel

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2015 Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon

Cost: Free

What to bring: Paper and pen

Location: Yorktown Library location just south of the Colonial Parkway, at 8500 George Washington Memorial Hwy (Route 17).



Presenter Bio:

Greg Lilly is a novelist, workshop presenter, magazine editor, and publishing house representative. Greg's latest book is *Sunsets & Semicolons – a Field Guide to the Writer's Life*. In the book, he shares his experiences and techniques – things that worked, not in academia or in New York City, but in the real world of freelancing and query letters and book signings.

He has presented workshops and served on panels at the College of William & Mary's Christopher Wren Association, the Virginia Festival of the Book, the Virginia Writers Club, the World Bank in Washington D.C. and the Sedona Arts Center in Sedona, Arizona.

The kernel of the book came from requests for his workshop handouts and notes.

Annual Membership Vote on Dues September 16

The Chesapeake Bay Writers Bylaws call for the Board to recommend the amount of dues for the coming year and for the membership to approve the amount at a September or October meeting. The Bylaws also state

annual dues shall be paid by January 1 of that year.

The Board will recommend on September 16 that the 2016 dues be set at \$25, with a discounted rate of \$22 for early renewals received by the Treasurer by December 31, 2015.

2015 WILLIAMSBURG BOOK FESTIVAL

Williamsburg
**BOOK
FESTIVAL**

This year's Williamsburg Book Festival will be held on **Saturday, October 3, 2015**.

The location is Bruton Parish's Lewis Hall, 331 W. Duke of Gloucester St., Williamsburg. That's the same location as last year. The hours are from 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 3rd is the same weekend as *An Occasion for the Arts* – Williamsburg's premier arts show that runs all weekend and encompasses Merchant's Square, Duke of Gloucester Street and North Boundary Street. *An Occasion for the Arts* includes fine arts and

crafts, children's art, music, performing arts, food, wine and beer. The Book Festival will benefit from the thousands of people who attend these events. We're bringing the literary arts to *An Occasion for the Arts*!

Again this year, the Book Festival is a juried process to offer the festival attendees an assortment of subjects/genres, high-quality books, and authors who are serious about their craft – both experienced and emerging.

The popular Festival Booklet will be printed and distributed. The Festival Booklet promotes the exhibiting authors and sponsors to the public. The booklet will be printed early and stocked around the region a month before the Festival to reach more people and to help promote the event.

It's going to be a great Festival! Please mark your calendars to attend.

For more information:

www.WilliamsburgBookFestival.org

www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org



CALL FOR ENTRIES IN CBW's 2015 ALL STARS WRITING COMPETITION

CBW Members: Get ready to step up to the mike and read your favorite piece of poetry or prose at our annual All-Stars Luncheon. This year's gala will be held at the Two Rivers Country Club, in Williamsburg on Wednesday, November 18th at 11 a.m.

To make our All Stars event the best ever, we need great stars to read...and guess what?...That's you! So find that favorite poem, short story or essay that you have written, step up to the Mic and share it with Members and guests in attendance. Only members are eligible to read! Length should be no more than eight minutes reading time. Only one entry per member.

Your work does not have to be submitted in advance. Members may enter the competition online at:

<http://chesapeakebaywriters.org/allstarsreadersignup.htm>

All those in attendance will vote for First, Second, and Third prize winners who will receive cash prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively. Attendees will also vote for the most humorous entry, the winner of which will receive the annual Richard Bailey Humor Award and a \$25 prize.

Winning entries will be recognized in the February newsletter and posted on the website.

CBW Member Discount on Hampton Roads 7th Annual Writers' Conference!

Courtesy of Hampton Roads Writers, CBW members can register at the HRW

member rate until September 10.

For writers of all levels and genres.

Until September 10: \$235 HRW and CBW members.

See details on Page 8.

IN SEARCH OF WRITERS IN STYLE

Last year, *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 this year's upcoming issues.

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

Chesapeake Style is published eight times a year, and 10,000 copies are distributed in March, May,

June, July, August, September, and October, with 13,000 copies for the Winter issue in November at locations throughout the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck and at the Williamsburg General Store. Please email submissions with a subject of Writers in Style to: Janet A Fast chestyle@hughes.net

Thank you,

Carol J. Bova, President

Chesapeake Bay Writers

cjbova@mindspring.com

CHESAPEAKE
Style



MAGAZINE

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

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

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

You will be glad you did!

- You wrote a book.
- You want it reviewed.
- Ask someone to review your book.
- Send an email requesting

Guidelines and Deadlines.

→ The person reviews the book and submits it (and a graphic of the cover) to *Chesapeake Style* for publication, according to Guidelines.



Chesapeake Bay Writers Luncheon Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Pilot House Inn and Restaurant, Rte 3, Topping, VA

Make reservations now at www.chesapeakebaywriters.org

**Speaker: Neal Steele, XTRA
99.1 FM Radio
Host of CBW's Second
Monday Talk Radio show**

**Advance Reservations
Required by 9/10/2015:
\$12 for CBW Members; \$15
for Nonmembers & Guests.**



On September 16th, CBW members and guests will have the opportunity to mingle with other writers and welcome our speaker, Neal Steele, the radio host of 99.1 FM. Since 2008 Neal has provided a monthly opportunity for CBW authors with published books to be interviewed on the radio. This has been an effective way to introduce authors to the community via the airwaves. Neal will speak on how to prepare for the radio interview, and how to use the exposure on radio media outlets to promote an author's work.

A social hour at 11 a.m. will be followed by lunch at noon.

Entree Choices are:

1. Crab cake sandwich with chips
2. Reuben sandwich with chips
3. Fresh vegetable plate: green beans, squash with onions, greens and potatoes
4. Grilled chicken breast with chef's choice of two vegetables

Tea, coffee and cake for dessert.

Email CBWreply@gmail.com with questions or call (804) 725-6163.



PILOT HOUSE INN AND RESTAURANT, 2737 GREYS POINT ROAD, TOPPING, 23169



CBW LUNCHEON MEETING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Entree Choices are:

1. Crab cake sandwich with chips
2. Reuben sandwich with chips
3. Fresh vegetable plate: green beans, squash with onions, greens and potatoes
4. Grilled chicken breast with chef's choice of two vegetables

Tea, coffee and cake for dessert.

A social hour at 11 a.m. will be followed by lunch at noon. Program at 1 p.m. Advance reservations required by Friday, September 11. Refunds are only given when notice of cancellation is received at least two (2) business days in advance of the date of the meeting. Reservations can be made online at: www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/PressRoom.htm or by completing this form and mailing it.

Total in Party X \$12 (Members) = \$.X Or \$15 (NonMembers) = \$. Please be sure member's name(s) appears on the check. Online reservations preferred. Reservations and payment must be received by Friday, September 11. Make Check payable to CBW, Mail to: CBW Treasurer, P.O. Box 385, Port Haywood, Va 23138.



HRW Hampton Roads Writers Where Characters Connect

7th Annual Writers' Conference

Sept. 17 (night) - Sept. 18-19 (full days), 2015

The Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center
5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462



Keynoters DeWitt Henry and Ellen Meister

plus authors Michelle Garren Flye, Chris Kennedy, Vanessa Barger, Princess Perry, Kelly Sokol, Ellen Bryson and Lynn Yvonne Moon, poets Renee Olander, Charlotte Matthews and Tim Seibles, screenplay writers J. Darin Wales and Sean Gaffney, visual artist Tracey Arvidson and agents Mark Gottlieb, Heather Flaherty and Melissa Edwards.

Two best-selling keynoters, 50 workshops during 10 breakout sessions, free agent pitches, open mic, lunches & cocktail social with silent auction included. Regular & advanced-track workshops in fiction, nonfiction, memoir, poetry, marketing, screenwriting and the business of getting published.

Book shop, book signings, networking.

For writers of all levels and genres.

UNTIL SEPT. 10: \$235 HRW and CBW members

\$270 non-members, Sept. 11-17: \$280 for all.

Student & one-day rates, scholarships available.

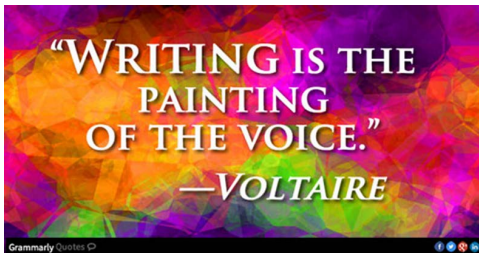
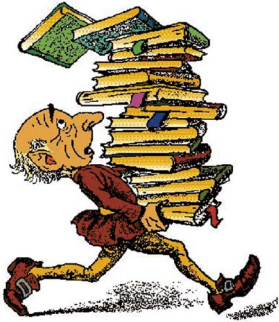
For registration information, see www.hamptonroadswriters.org

or call (757) 639-6146

www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org



RECURRING EVENTS, MONTHLY, BI-MONTHLY



CBW Author Interview with Neal Steele XTRA 99.1

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

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

The Greater Peninsula Writers Critique Group,

Third Saturday of every month at Tabb Library in York County
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Contact Carl Shirley at 757-947-8211.

Rappatamac Critiques: Lively at The Oaks, Route 3

First Thursday of the month, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Contact Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net

Tappahannock at Java Jacks Cafe, Rt 360/17, at Virginia St.

Third Thursday of the month, Eat at noon, Meet 1-3 p.m.

Contact Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net

Williamsburg Critiques:

For information about the *Second Thursday* or the *Fourth Thursday* meeting, contact Jack Bray at (757) 345-0405 or jbray6@cox.net

Open Mic at the Mathews Memorial Library

251 Main Street, Mathews, Second Sunday at 1 p.m.

The **Williamsburg Writers Gathering** is a group of published and working to be published writers offering encouragement, support, and a sharing of 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. WWG contact: Lou Hamilton, louhamwrites@gmail.com.

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!

2014—2015 Officers & Board

Carol Bova, President

PO Box 716, Mathews, Va 23109
804-725-6163, cjbova@mindspring.com

Barbara McLennan, Director, Publicity, Special Events

1620 Harbor Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185
757 345-0471, barb.mcl@cox.net

Gwen Keane, Vice President, Programs, Speakers

P.O. Box 1902, Kilmarnock, Va 22482
804-435-2618, isadorariver@verizon.net

Janet Abbott Fast, Director, Newsletter, NN Outreach

423 Rose Hill Dr. Warsaw, Va 22572
804-333-0628, cbwnews@gmail.com

Ann Skelton, Secretary

2821 Bennetts Pond Rd, Williamsburg, Va 23185
757-903-2896, ann.skelton39@gmail.com

Elizabeth Stokes, Director at Large

505 Captain's Way, Reedville Va 22539
(804) 453-3488 meatmumma2@yahoo.com

Mary Ann Carr, Treasurer

P.O. Box 385, Port Haywood, Va 23138
804-725-9843, macarr385@aim.com

David J. Carr, Director, Website, Membership

P.O. Box 385, Port Haywood, Va 23138
804-725-9843, carr1600@netscape.net

Frank Milligan, Past President