



# Bay Writers News

www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org

Volume XXIII • Issue 2 Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club

April 2016

## Downed Pen - John Newcomb



**Heartfelt condolences to his wife Peggy and family.**  
See Article on page 3

## *Save the Dates!*

**April 23: CBW Breakfast Workshop**  
(page 2)

**May 14: Workshop Yorktown**  
Library (page 8)

**May 18: CBW Lunch Meeting,**  
Williamsburg

**June 15: CBW Dinner Meeting,**  
Gloucester

## President's Message Carol J. Bova

As writers, our collective responsibility is to write. In support of this goal, as president of the Chesapeake Bay Writers, I am asking your support of your Board of Directors during the coming year to join with us to:

**W***elcome our new members and guests*

**R***each out and renew relationships within our CBW community*

**I***nform our members either in person, online, or in meetings*

**T***ailor our programs to meet your needs and expectations*

**E***nergize, engage, and empower you to exceed your potential*

To accomplish everything we need to do this year, we pledge to:

- *Listen, as well as talk*
- *Learn from mistakes and successes*
- *Delegate to best utilize everyone's talents*
- *Review and evaluate our programs*
- *Remain optimistic and enthusiastic*
- *Stay open and accessible*
- *Plan ahead*
- *Think of new ideas*
- *Maintain our focus*
- *Encourage participation*
- *Enjoy ourselves and have fun!*

Share your thoughts with us at [CBWreply@gmail.com](mailto:CBWreply@gmail.com).



## *Making Your Way Through The Publishing Process*

Saturday Breakfast Workshop  
April 23, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. \$12

CBW will have a breakfast workshop in Topping on April 23.

Dawn Brotherton, author and publisher, will share her experiences and lessons learned as she made her way through the publishing process. What is the difference between self-publishing, vanity press, indie publishing, and traditional publishing? What are some of the pros and cons of each? Which one is right for you? What types of questions should you ask when looking for a publisher? What should you be wary of? This workshop will allow for open discussion, questions, and idea exchange.



Dawn Brotherton set up Blue Dragon Publishing as a small publishing office to help writers get a jump start on their careers and realize their dreams. She is an Air Force colonel, a wife, a mother of two, a Girl Scout leader, and the author of five books. Dawn started out writing *The Obsession*, a mystery that was based on true events that happened during her days as a young lieutenant in the Air Force. She embellished the story, adding murders to beef up the plot. After that, her writers encouraged her to write a sequel in the Jackie Austin Mysteries, *Wind the Clock*. She is currently working on the third and final for Jackie. Dawn is excited to turn to youth fiction with the Lady Tigers' Series. *Trish's Team* is her first youth fiction story.

Before the program, enjoy a breakfast buffet with juices, scrambled eggs, pancakes, French toast, salt herring, bacon, sausage links, grits, toast, biscuits, gravy, fried apples, and donut holes.

Advance reservations and payment required by April 20th at

<http://chesapeakebaywriters.org/>

Click on the scrolling red banner. Send checks to arrive by April 20th or use PayPal options after entering the reservation. The public is welcome, so invite a friend to come!



## *Hell of a Lucky Man*

*By Jeanne Johansen*

I first met John Newcomb and his wife Peggy in April of 2014 at the Open Mic in Mathews, Virginia. We were all early, so we sat outside and waited for Mary Ann Carr to open the Bay School for the group. John mentioned he was writing a book about his experiences with NASA at Langley. I gave him my card, and I never heard from him.

I met him again in the summer at a conference we sponsored in Williamsburg. He pitched a couple of publishers. He told me later they weren't interested.

He called me in the fall and asked if we could get together and discuss his book. I said sure, figuring he was a man who didn't know what he wanted.

But he wasn't. Over the next eighteen months, we worked together on his memoir – *A Bunch of Plumbers*. It was a labor of love on both parts. We would delve into some aspect of his life, and he'd tell me a story, always ending with "I am a hell of a lucky man."

He was. He knew at the age of twelve exactly what he wanted to do – work at NASA. He was one of the engineers who were the unsung heroes of the space missions. He didn't have a computer, calculator, or any of the other tools we take for granted today. Instead, he had a secret weapon – a brilliant mind that worked through problems like a knife slicing butter. He used butcher paper, a slide rule and a pencil to solve calculations no one else had attempted. He was the "go to" guy when there were problems to be solved.

As *A Bunch of Plumbers* took form, he talked about meeting his wife, Peggy, on a blind date. "I knew I was going to marry her," he said. "I was a hell of a lucky man."

He designed their home in Gloucester Point. He wanted something that looked like it had been there forever. He attended to every detail. Just like his book.

We fought over that a lot. I told him he had EBS (Engineer Brain Syndrome). So after struggles, rewrites and new formats, we finally came out with a book that told the story of his life at Langley.

When I gave him a proof copy to mark up, he had tears in his eyes. "So many people sacrificed so much," he said. "This is for them."

He went out on the road, giving lectures and talking about his experiences at Langley. He was one of the unsung heroes – not the man in the spacesuit, but one of the guys that made it all possible. "I was a hell of a lucky man," he told me.

He was the kind of writer we all have the chance to be. He had a story he wanted to tell. If he hadn't, we wouldn't know about Derwood, or Is, or Jim or Bull. We wouldn't know about the struggles and the triumphs. Like every writer I talk with, I asked him the question, "What do you want to achieve by writing this?" He said, "I don't want the story to die with me."

John loved to play tennis. He reserved Thursday for that pursuit, and would rarely schedule time with me on that day of the week. "I used to postpone meetings at Langley so I could play," he told me once. So, when Peggy Newcomb called me on the way home from the hospital to tell me he had died while playing tennis, I thought it was fitting. "I just went to the hospital and held his hand," she said. "I knew he was gone, but I also knew it was what I wanted to do."

John Newcomb, like you and me who write, had a story to tell. It was about a boy who grew up in Gloucester, Virginia and worked with pride and valor in the US Space program. His story will be around long after we are gone. Maybe years from now someone will pick up his book – someone who doesn't believe all things are possible – and read John's story and find the courage from his words to do the implausible. I believe it is his legacy.

I will miss him terribly. He was my friend, and my hero. And all of us who knew him were one hell of a bunch of lucky people.



# Welcome Aboard New Members!



## Joslyn A Robinson

6138 East River Road, Mobjack, 23056 - 804-832-8753 - joslynrobinson@gmail.com

**Joslyn** has been writing since 1992 and is a graduate of Goddard College (2014) where she earned her MFAW in Creative Writing. She also holds a BA in Writing and Transpersonal Studies from Burlington College (2011). Her specific academic studies in transpersonal psychology form a basis of analysis for modern and classic literature, while informing her own creative writing projects, which include, short and long fiction, non-fiction, creative non-fiction, and dramatic writing. Currently, she is an instructor at the Christopher Wren Association of Lifelong Learning through the College of William and Mary where she teaches courses on the writing craft, as well as on a transpersonal approach to writing and working with myths and fairy tales. Joslyn, a recent transplant from Vermont, resides in Mathews, Virginia with her boyfriend (and fellow Goddardian), Rob and her son, Oliver.

## Regina G Baylor

Retired from education; enjoys painting and writing. Very social with cognitive peers and community

**Eric W. Shoemaker**, from Pomfret, says, "Growing up in a blue collar family I loved stories of far off places with exotic themes. I grew to love old maps and those who lived and struggled during the time the maps were drawn. I enlisted in the Army as a private and during a rich combination of active duty in combat in the Dominican Republic and later in Vietnam, and foreign deployment service in the Reserves retired as a field grade intelligence officer.

Concurrently while in the reserves I entered police service, working in Virginia and south Florida. Beginning as a patrol officer, then a detective, a training academy director, and finally as a police chief. After leaving law enforcement I returned to government service with USSOUTHCOM in Miami and worked as an operator in the war on drugs in its area of operation. After 9/11 I came to Washington, DC to work at a 3 letter DoD intelligence agency. All my work - civilian, military and intelligence related, outdoor activities and scuba diving Atlantic and Caribbean waters have prepared me to develop the plots, content and characters that live in my stories."



## BOASTS, BLUSTERS AND GLOATS

**Pamela K. Kinney** has received a letter from the Library of Virginia notifying her that her nonfiction ghost book, *Paranormal Petersburg, Virginia, and the Tri-Cities Area* has been nominated for consideration in the nonfiction category for the 19th Annual Library of Virginia Awards. Finalists will be announced in August 2016.

Pamela K. Kinney will be a writer guest at Ravencon April 29-May 1st in Williamsburg, Virginia, at the Doubletree Hotel at Hilton Williamsburg. <http://www.ravencon.com/>.

**Dr. Barbara McClennan's** historical fiction *The Wealth of Virginia: A Novel of Colonial Virginia* has been nominated for consideration in the fiction category for the 19th annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards. It was published by Koehlerbooks, is distributed by Ingram and may be purchased at [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Joslyn A Robinson** has had three articles published on the on-line genre based literary magazine, The Artifice entitled: *The Formidable Fairy Tale: A Writer's Guide*, *Exploring The Hero's Journey: A Writer's Guide*, and *Working with the Shadow: A Writer's Guide*. Joslyn's short story, *The Fatman Happens* was published September of 2015 under the name of RJ Wolfe in *Geek Force Five*, a small print literary magazine. She has two short stories in submission for publication: *The Fishmonger's Daughter*, and *The Red Scarf*. Current projects include a series of epic magical realism novels and a non-fiction book entitled, *A Writer's Guide to Working with Myths and Fairy Tales*. For her master's thesis, Joslyn wrote a full-length play entitled *Persephone in Peru*.

**Ronda Parsons**, author of *Creating Joy & Meaning for the Dementia Patient*, was among the authors selected to participate in The Virginia Festival of the Book. On March 16<sup>th</sup> she participated in panel discussion titled *Caring for the Caregivers* in downtown Charlottesville. She also joined other festival authors at the festival's Book Fair held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the festival she was interviewed on WINA radio in Charlotte discussing her book and her upcoming festival event.

On Sunday April 3rd, **Gail Kenna** will attend the Soul-Keats Literary Awards in San Francisco's Civic Center Library and read from one of her three award winning submissions to the 2015 contest. In May, in both Kilmarnock and Gloucester, Gail will teach a RILL (Rappahannock Institute for Lifelong Learning) course on Marilyn Robinson's trilogy: *Gilead*, *Home*, and *Lila*. "Robinson's such an important writer for our times...a writer who has so much to teach us about the craft of living and writing." For further information, contact Gail at 436-8615, or [gailkenna@aol.com](mailto:gailkenna@aol.com).

**Ann Eichenmuller, Gwen Keane, Ronda Parsons, Terry Dutcher, Charlene Talcott, Jennifer Britt, Joy Brenda Burch, and Carol J. Bova** had work published in the spring issue of *Chesapeake Style* magazine.





## BOASTS, BLUSTERS AND GLOATS (cont'd)

**Elizabeth Goesel** has recently been honored to become a Guest Blogger with MyCanvas by Alexander's, an online purveyor of Family History Books that import Ancestry.com records and photos that collaborates with your family group sheets, pedigree charts, and timelines. MyCanvas Guest Blog series invites bloggers to share inspirational stories relating to families, genealogy, and preserving memories. My blog will appear on April 26, 2016 titled, "Creating Your Family Museum."

<https://www.mycanvas.com/>

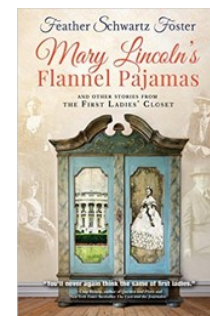
**Kathleen Mix's** eighth romantic suspense novel, *Impossible Ransom*, was released March 7th by Entangled Select Suspense. This is an adventure/romance about a kidnapping on the high seas and an escape to a deserted island in the cactus tropics. The book is available in both print and digital formats.

Kathleen's short story The Tangled Web is also included in Virginia is for Mysteries Vol. II, an anthology of mystery stories written by the authors of the Virginia Chapters of Sisters in Crime. More information about either book can be found on her website:

<http://www.kathleenmix.com>.



**Feather Schwartz Foster's** latest book has just been published: "*Mary Lincoln's Flannel Pajamas and other Stories from the First Ladies' Closet*" - a nifty, nifty read about the "old gals" - Martha Washington thru Mamie Eisenhower – via a gown or a hat, or shoes or jewelry. Real stories about real people. Flesh-and-blood history through the window, not the keyhole! Available April 1. <http://goo.gl/KHhZ88>



## Local Author Garden Application



Would you like to participate in our 2016 Local Author Garden from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, at the Tabb Library in Yorktown? A limited number of spaces are available. Preference will be given to authors who have not previously participated. The deadline for application submission is Friday, April 29, 2016. Authors will be notified of their inclusion in the event by Friday, May 6, 2016.

The [application form is available online](https://www.yorkcounty.gov/Portals/0/library/Pdfs/Programs/2016LocalAuthorGardenApplication.pdf?ver=2016-02-26-155456-790) as a fillable PDF. <https://www.yorkcounty.gov/Portals/0/library/Pdfs/Programs/2016LocalAuthorGardenApplication.pdf?ver=2016-02-26-155456-790>.



## *Two CBW Authors Receive Nominations for 2016 Library of Virginia Literary Awards*

Congratulations to **Pamela Kinney** and **Dr. Barbara McLennan** whose books received nominations for the 19th annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards.

Pamela's nonfiction ghost book, *Paranormal Petersburg, Virginia, and the Tri-Cities Area*, has been nominated for consideration in the nonfiction category.

Barbara's historical fiction, *The Wealth of Virginia: A Novel of Colonial Virginia*, has been nominated for consideration in the fiction category.

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards are presented to outstanding Virginia authors in the categories of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. (The nonfiction category includes any author whose book is about a Virginia subject.) The awards are juried, with winners in each category receiving a cash prize and an engraved crystal award. The winners are announced at the Library's Annual Literary Awards Celebration coming up on October 15, 2016. There are also **People's Choice Awards** for fiction and nonfiction, as well as a **Literary Lifetime Achievement Award** to recognize outstanding and long-lasting contributions to literature by a Virginian. Two additional prestigious awards—the **Carole Weinstein Poetry Prize** and the **Art in Literature: The Mary Lynn Kotz Award**—are also recognized at the Library's annual Literary Awards Celebration. Finalists for the 2016 Literary Awards will be announced in August 2016.

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## *Coming Events*



### **Saturday Poetry Series**

The Saturday Poetry Series monthly program will be held at the Williamsburg Regional Library, 7770 Croaker Road, Norge at 11:00am. The one-hour program will feature readings by the following poets:

April 2: Featured poets - Joan Casey, Sharon Dorsey, Louise Sharer, Christy Lumm, Barbara Smith

May 7: Featured poets - Guy Terrell, Joan Mazza, Joyce Stedelbauer, Robert Scott, Derek Kannemeyer

June 4: Featured poets - Carolyn Foronda, Sofia Starnes, Henry Hart, Nathan Richardson, Ed Lull

All are welcome; admission is free. Questions? Ed Lull, [ewlull@verizon.net](mailto:ewlull@verizon.net).

### **Other Events**

April 23: Dawn Brotherton, CBW Breakfast Workshop on Publishing Options

May 14: Yorktown Library Workshop with Joslyn Robinson, Working with Fairy Tales

May 18: Lunch Meeting with Feather Foster at The Whaling Company, Williamsburg

## *In Search of Writers in Style*

In 2014, *Chesapeake Style* magazine launched a new column, Writers in Style, with 500-word articles contributed by board members and members of CBW and associated critique of the Chesapeake Bay Writers. The opportunity is being extended 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](http://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 14,000 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](mailto:chestyle@hughes.net)

Thank you,

Carol J. Bova, President  
Chesapeake Bay Writers  
[cjbova@mindspring.com](mailto:cjbova@mindspring.com)




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**Save the dates!**

## *WRITERS SERIES AT THE YORKTOWN LIBRARY*

CBW is sponsoring two free workshops open to the community with Joslyn Robinson as part of the Yorktown Library's Spring Writers' Series.

*Working with Fairy Tales—A Writer's Approach*

Saturday, May 14

*The Hero's Journey: An Exploration of Form vs Formula*

Saturday, June 4







## ***CBW Second Monday***

### ***TALK RADIO SHOW XTRA 99.1 FM, Gloucester***

8:05 A.M. monthly

If you'd like to be interviewed on air by Talk Radio Show host Neal Steele, there are openings for the second Mondays in July through December. Spots fill in quickly, so email Tracy Lanum at [tracygl@cox.net](mailto:tracygl@cox.net) today! (Please do not call the station; this is the only way you can arrange to be on the show.) Show guidelines are available at: [http://chesapeakebaywriters.org/Radio\\_Files/Radio%20Guidelines.pdf](http://chesapeakebaywriters.org/Radio_Files/Radio%20Guidelines.pdf)

Online at the CBW website now: Imelda Cummins-DeMelkon.

Upcoming: April 11 - Mary Wakefield Buxton

May 9 - David Cariens

June 13- Feather Foster



## **CHESAPEAKE** *Style* **MAGAZINE**

**W**ould 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](mailto:chestyle@hughes.net) or go to [www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/CSBookReviews.htm](http://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.

## Recurring Events, Monthly, Bi-Monthly

### « Rappahannock Critiques: Lancaster CH at Lancaster Tavern, Route 3

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

Contact Janet Fast, [chestyle@hughes.net](mailto: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](mailto:chestyle@hughes.net)

### « Williamsburg Critiques:

For information about the Second Thursday

or the Fourth Thursday meeting,

contact Elizabeth Brown at 804-654-1117 or

[ecomptonlee@yahoo.com](mailto:ecomptonlee@yahoo.com) or [akendall@atlanticbb.ne](mailto:akendall@atlanticbb.ne)

### « 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](mailto: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!

## 2016—2017 Officers & Board

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Frank Milligan—Past President

**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](http://www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org).**