

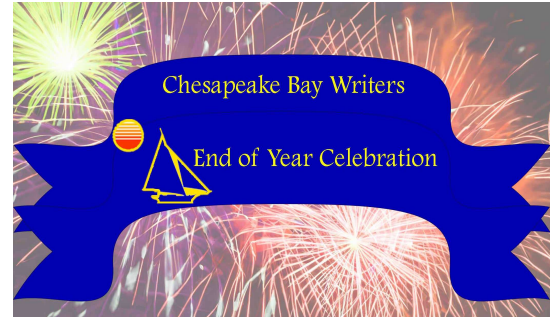


Bay Writers News

Issue 6, Vol. 30

In This Issue

From the President	2-3
Christmas at the Bay Anthology	4
New Books	5-6
Announcements From Members	7-8
Upcoming Events	9
Other Events & Publishing Ops	10-11
Neal Steele Radio Show	11



Good food and good conversation were enjoyed at the CBW End of Year Gathering at Anna's Brick Oven Pizza Restaurant in Williamsburg on Wednesday, November 13th.

Board members Diana Caron and Patti Procopi co-hosted the event, starting with a wrap up of 2024 and then giving a brief glimpse into events already planned for 2025.

After enjoying dinner, nine members read short pieces and poems for everyone's enjoyment. While votes were tallied, Diana mentioned all the winners of the Golden Nib at the CBW level and handed out checks and certificates to the members in attendance including Chris Green, 2nd place in poetry, to herself, for third place in poetry and to Patti for 2nd place in non-fiction.

Thank you to everyone who came. Hope to see more members in 2025.

Congrats to all the winners.

Golden Nib Winners

In fiction

- 1st: Andrew Zhou - *A Warm Welcome*
- 2nd: Bradley Harper- *Ghost Writer*
- 3rd: Amy Voltaire- *The Japanese Maple*

In Poetry

- 1st: Denise DeVries - *Metroplex of Counterpane*
- 2nd: Chris Green- *Unrest*
- 3rd: Diana Caron - *Looking Back*

In Non-Fiction

- 1st: Denise DeVries - *Water and Lith – reflections on "Cabrini"*
- 2nd: Patti Procopi – *Atlantis*

End of Year Celebration Open Mic Winners.

- 1st:** Chris Green for his poem - [Shovel](#)
- 2nd:** Jennie Kelly for her story - *Tell Me a Story*
- 3rd:** Makayla Brindle - *Peace*.

Founded in 1991, Chesapeake Bay Writers is a chapter of the Virginia Writers Club. We serve writers from the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Williamsburg area.

From the President

Richard Easton

December 2024



Writing a book can result in interesting adventures. Four years ago, on Twitter/X, I met Nigel Hetherington who started past Preservers to pair up academics with people making documentaries. In 2023, I read that they were providing speakers to cruise lines and applied. That summer, I was offered a speaking position on a 20-night cruise from Liverpool to the Adriatic. I have been on Nile and Mississippi river cruises but this was the first time I ventured out to the ocean. I gave six talks of 30-40 minutes about the history of navigation:

- 1: Maritime Navigation Prior to the Space Age
- 2: Sputnik: The Shock of the Century
- 3: Space Age Sea Navigation Leads to GPS
- 4: GPS Revolutionizes Gulf War 1 in 1991
- 5: The Economic Impact of GPS
- 6: GPS Today: Challenges and the Future

Normally, in my single 30-60-minute talk about the history of GPS, I'm deciding which material to delete. For these talks, I did a lot of additional research to expand the material covered. The cruise line was *Fred.Olsen* which is Norwegian owned but sails three midsize ships out of the United Kingdom. I was on the Bolette which has a capacity of 1,380 passengers and 650 crew.

I had a great time and my wife, in spite of her trepidations about a three-week cruise, also enjoyed herself. I had about sixty people attend my talks; after the first lecture, five people approached me and asked for the schedule of my remaining talks. Highlights of the cruise were visiting Split, where Diocletian built his retirement palace, Dubrovnik, and Cartagena. If you're interested in speaking on a cruise, check out the website, www.pastpreservers.com. They have a new database listing available cruises.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kssegknpQnXnRupOzWSsJDRzhJKHFjKx2FvBGd_ZhDQ/edit?gid=1257424032#gid=1257424032 They represent Crystal, Fred Olsen, Saga and Viking.

President: Richard Easton

Vice President: Sonja McGiboney

Treasurer: Bradley Harper

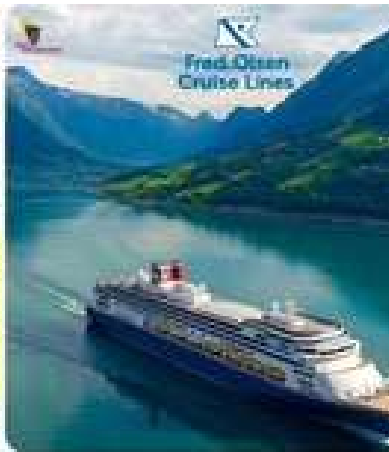
Secretary: Diana Farrar Caron

Past President: Sonja McGiboney

Membership: Patti Procopi

Neal Steele Show: Patti Procopi

Director at Large: Mary Shipko



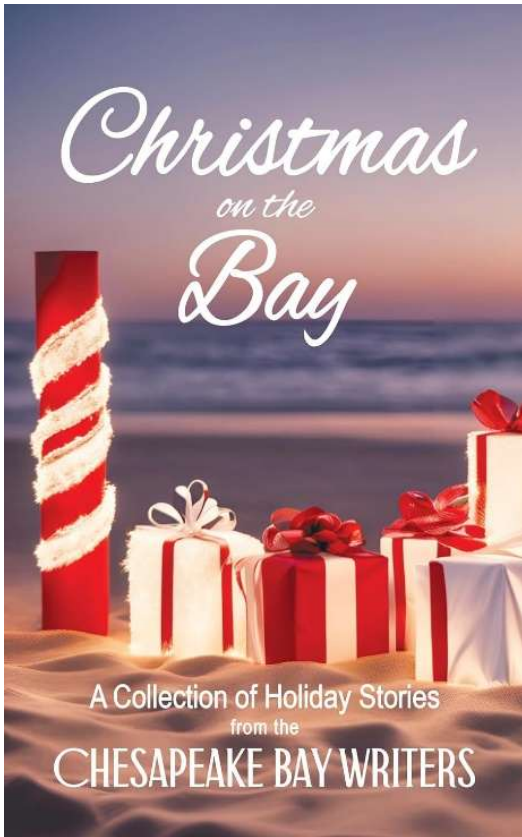
Split



Sunset on the Bolette



Gibraltar



CBW authors in this anthology are: Narielle Living, Patti Gaustad Procopi, Kristen Overman, ML Brei, Kathy Kusinich, Bradley Harper, Susan Williamson, Jan Marry, Denise Devries

The holiday season generates so many emotions, from trepidation about facing the holidays alone to sheer delight at rediscovering the love of family. Join the Chesapeake Bay Writers as they bring you a collection of short stories that all take place in and around the Tidewater region of Virginia, including:

A Corduroy Christmas: Will a new boyfriend unite the family or destroy the relationship between sisters?

Christmas Eve Deer: When life becomes difficult, the embrace of home is always welcome.

Christmas Mermaid: A misnamed bookstore and a Christmas to remember.

The Curious Case of the Christmas K9: A search & rescue tale with two dogs.

Dancing on Dog Street: Was it too much to ask for a partner who would dance with her?

Holiday Haircuts: This holiday haircut was for a very special customer.

Safe at Home: For Angela, being in law enforcement meant more than a job, it meant taking care of people.

Snowflakes: One small kindness at Christmas stays with Katie for a lifetime.

The Greatest Gift: Santa's job really is the best job.

The Homecoming: Can these siblings find their way back to being a family?

The Stocking: What was the true message that her grandmother wanted her to know?

Will and Trussy: A holiday season shared with a very special visitor.

Order now to have it arrive by Christmas.

Proceeds go to the CBW to help pay for presenters and other events.


CBW Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesBayWriters>
For updates and community



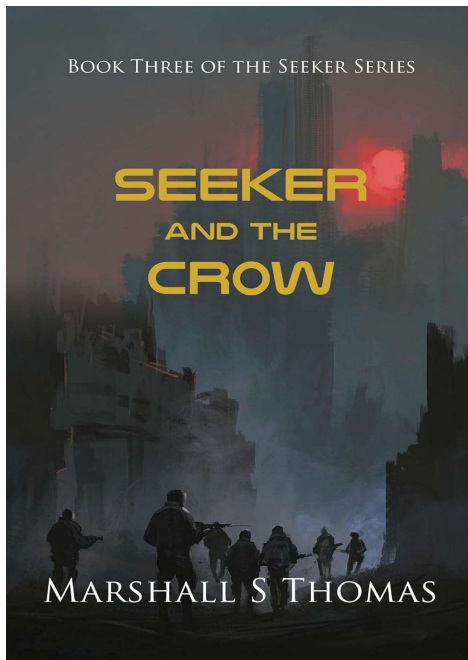
CBW Website
<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/>



Critiques
<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/groups>
Got a question? Ask it here.



CBW member Marshall Thomas has just published his fifteenth science fiction adventure, *Seeker and the Crow*. This book is volume three of the Seeker series. Earlier series include the six-book Soldier series and the six-book Prophet series.



SEEKER and the CROW (The Seeker Series Book 3)

A giant rogue star burns a fiery path to the Crista Cluster, relentless and final. Is it a terrifying natural event or a genocidal attack on humanity? The ConFree Legion drops Strat Recon into Galactica vac to discover the truth. Commander Seeker leads his squad into action knowing that 85 percent of Strat Recon troopers are killed in action. Is he insane? Yes, but so is the rest of the ConFree Legion.

Galactica is a rapidly expanding secret empire of militant psychotic alien arthropod exosegs, determined to exterminate all humans who oppose their holy mission. They have seized Arran, a human world. Seeker contacts the Angelic Liberation Front, a doomed human resistance group led by the Crow, a fanatic hungry for alien blood.

Victory or death! Life and death on Arran: the exoseg aliens attack in massive waves, firing bioblaster, gunning down men, women and children. Strat Recon responds with opstars and advances into a full-scale galactic war. A captured exoseg officer wants only to die for his race. So does Seeker. His comrades are dying and finally he has nothing left but vengeance. The Legion offers immortality and death, and Seeker will die defending the women and children of ConFree.

Don't miss Strat Recon's suicidal foray into enemy vac.

“I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.”

Maya Angelou

The Writer's Path (2022-2024)

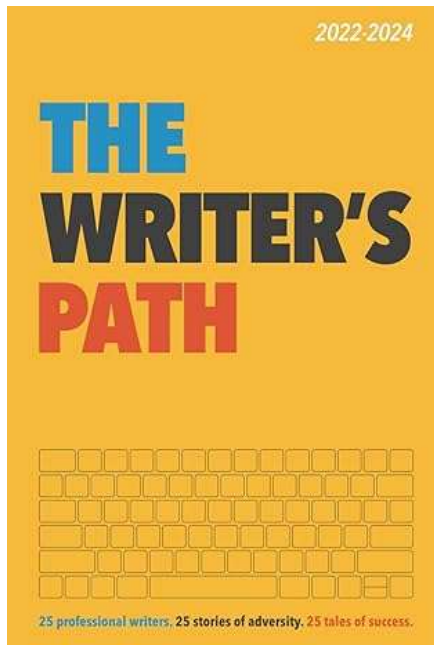
October 2, 2024

Bradley Harper-et.al.

In *The Writer's Path*, 25 alumni of Full Sail University's writing programs share their paths from graduation to success in their own words, without skipping over the adversity that stood in the way of their goals. In these pages you'll read firsthand accounts of what it takes to break into myriad writing industries from award-winning screenwriters, novelists, game writers, comic book writers, content writers, editors, copywriters, journalists, and more.

Packed with inspiration and motivation, *The Writer's Path* proves that everyone's journey to success is different ... and seldom easy.

With essays by Justin Anderson, Brian Angeles, Katie Crawford, Mark Fenton, Kristen Fulco-Schmutz, Keren Green, **Bradley Harper**, Josh Huffine, Khadijah Iman, Charles M. Kline, Adam Kuta, Wes Locher, Keldrick T. Mobley, Logan Nye, Zach Perilstein, Meg Prevost, Gonzalo Ravelo, Marelize Roets, Francisco Ruesta, Joseph "Jax" Sheldon, Nolan P. Smith, Garin Turner, Merethe Walther, A.E. Williams, and Dominic Zullo, with introductions by educators Christopher Ramsey, Dr. Tom Lucas, and Tate Oquendo.



Caption This, Jazzy! What is Jazzy Thinking?

November 2024

Sonja McGiboney

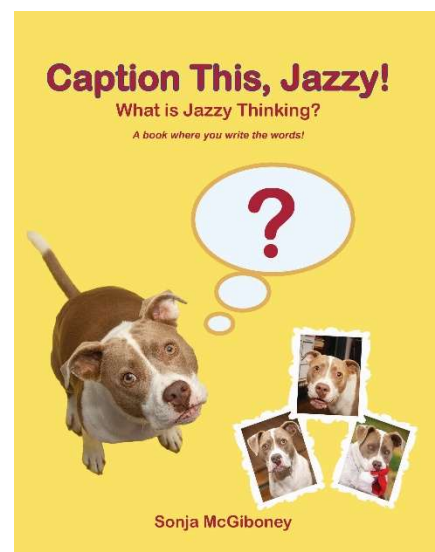
A book where you write the words!

Jazzy's expressions are happy, sad, mad, thoughtful, irritated, and more. In this book, you can decide what Jazzy is thinking or feeling. A photo might feel happy for one person, but feel joyous or peaceful to another. That's why the photographer, Sonja, gives you the opportunity to write what you think.

Parents and teachers can use this book with children to discuss emotions they are currently dealing with.

Children can empathize with Jazzy. "If Jazzy feels emotions, then then o can I."

So, pick up your markers and have fun writing captions for each photo



From our Members



Kathy Kasunich Receives Bronze Medal from Military Writers Society of America

Kathy Kasunich was honored with the bronze medal from the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) for her debut novel, *Always Remembering*, at a celebratory dinner in San Diego. MWSA, a nationwide organization of authors, poets, and artists—many of whom are veterans or active-duty military personnel—recognizes works that honor the sacrifices of those who serve.

Each year, MWSA awards medals across multiple genres, determined by the combined average scores from reviewers. Kasunich's novel, which won in the Romance category, is inspired not only by her father's service in the 42nd Rainbow Division during World War II but also by her parents' enduring love story during that period. Her work aligns with MWSA's core principle: a profound respect for the men and women who defend the nation, and a deep understanding of their dedication and sacrifices. Through *Always Remembering*, Kasunich helps preserve these vital stories for future generations.



The City of Williamsburg has opened applications for its inaugural Williamsburg Poet Laureate.

At its August meeting, the Williamsburg Public Art Council (WPAC) approved a program for appointing an official poet laureate. Through this program, the City seeks to celebrate and support a poet who can engage new audiences and create new opportunities for poetry to be shared and encouraged. This program is a means to spotlight the City of Williamsburg community through a poetic voice that will champion the arts as a whole.

The application process opened Oct. 14, 2024, closes Dec. 8, 2024. Final selection on March 2025. Winners recommended for appointment during City Council's meeting in April 2025 to align with National Poetry Month. The inaugural Poet Laureate's term will begin July 1, 2025

Apply online: <https://williamsburg.smapply.io/prog/williamsburg-poet/>

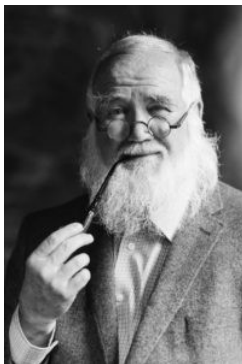
Article shared by Mary Shipko. Read the original article at:

<https://williamsburgva.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=1072>

From our Members



WordWise Media Services
<https://www.wordwisemediaservices.com/team>



Bradley Harper just received an offer from Artemesia Publishing for his Titanic heist novel, and has secured the services of Steven Hutson, a literary agent with Wordwise Media. Publication date set tentatively for November, 2025.

Gloucester Virginia Book Festival



Mark your calendars for the first Gloucester Virginia Book Festival on April 19, 2025 from 10 to 4PM, at the Fine arts Museum of Gloucester.

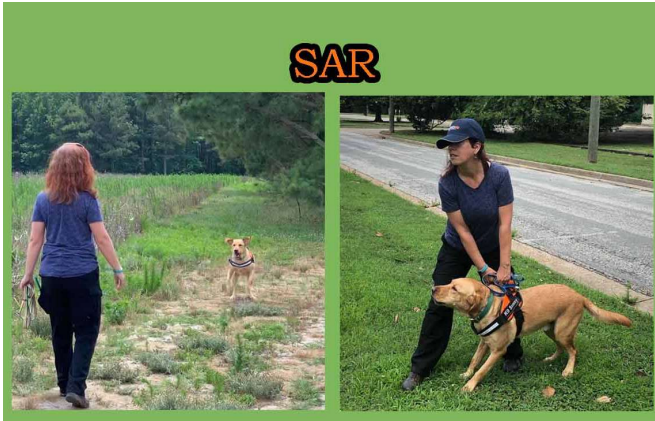
The event is a joint venture with the fine arts museum, the Cook Foundation, and the main street preservation trust.

The event will take place indoors and will be advertised. Please let Mary Shipko know you're interested in participating and she will send out more information as the coordinators finalize plans. shipkobush@gmail.com.



COOK FOUNDATION

Upcoming Events



Time & Location

Feb 08, 2025, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

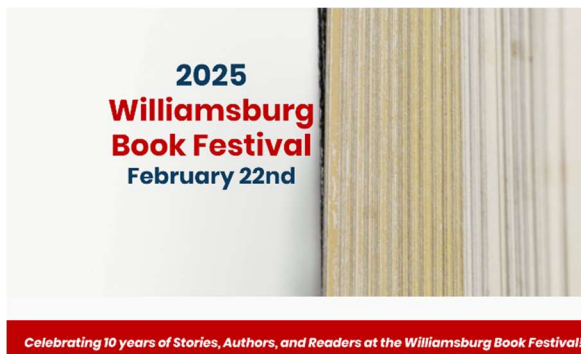
Stryker Center, Room 127, 412 N Boundary St,
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Can a toy poodle work in Search & Rescue? What is training like? How does SAR work? Wait, what is SAR?

Join us for a fun afternoon discussing dogs, search & rescue and writing about it all! Narielle Living will present information about the various types of search & rescue dogs, what to incorporate in your character and potential pitfalls when writing about this specialty.

Narielle Living is the president and founder of Blue Fortune Enterprises, a publishing company who believes that books have the power to change lives. She is also the managing editor for the Williamsburg, Virginia magazine *Next Door Neighbors* and has written hundreds of do-it-yourself articles for online magazines. She is the author of the mysteries *Signs of the South*, *Revenge of the Past*, *Christmas in Virginia*, *Madness in Brewster Square*, and *Birding in Brewster Square*, and she co-authored *Chesapeake Bay Karma—The Amulet*. In addition, her fiction appears in the Chesapeake Bay Writers' anthologies *Harboring Secrets* and *Christmas on the Bay*. She edits both fiction and nonfiction and loves helping other writers achieve their goals. Narielle is currently working on her next books, which include another mystery in the Brewster Square series and a memoir about adoption.

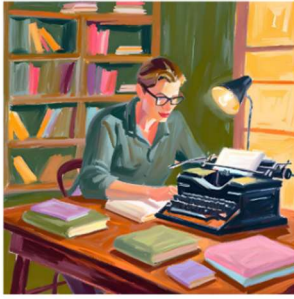
This event is a collaboration between the Chesapeake Bay Writers and the Williamsburg Regional Library



How many of you will be presenting your books or talk at the Festival. Let CBW know so we can share your accomplishments.

Check out more information on their website.

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



Short Short Story Writing Contest

100 words -
pick your topic:
envy, eyeglasses, nightmares, turtles
Cash Prizes + E-Publication
\$10 fee - deadline March 1, 2025

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Supporting Ethos Literacy
an education nonprofit
Changing Lives through Literacy



Ethos Literacy
www.ethosliteracy.org



ThrillerFest XX

June 17–June 21, 2025, NY New York

Killer Nashville

August 21–24, 2025

SWA 2025 Writers Conference

June 6-10, 2025, St. Simon's Island, GA

Roanoke Regional Writers Conference

January 17-18, 2025

Chesapeake Writing Workshop- Saturday,
March 22, 2025 at the Holiday Inn National
Airport/Crystal City in Arlington, VA

Chesapeake Writers' Conference will be
held on June 22-28, 2025, Maryland

Publishing Opportunities

Erica Verillo hosts a website called, *Publishing ...and Other Forms of Insanity*. On this site, she lists many publishers that are looking for material. Check it out, remember to read all the rules, and good luck. Let us know if any of your stuff gets accepted. <https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/>

On this site are blog posts with titles listed below.

98 Calls for Submissions in November, 2024 – Paying Markets

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2024/10/77-calls-for-submissions-in-november.html>

58 Writing Contests in November 2024 - No entry fees

<https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2024/10/77-calls-for-submissions-in-november.html>



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.

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

All bookings must be made through CBW's coordinator, Patti Procopi. patti.pro@cox.net



The next three authors to be interviewed are listed on the home page of the website.

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



Dear CBW Friends,

This is my last newsletter. After a year in Alabama, I feel it is time. I will step down as Vice President and offer minimal website support to the board.

I am organizing a writing group in Alabama which will take up the majority of my time.

If you have enjoyed the CBW and have attended presentations, perhaps you might want to give back and help out the board.

Thank you to all the people who supported me in my leadership role. Patti, Diana, Mary, Bradley, Richard, ML, Carol, Ellen, Jeanne, Denise, and Ann. Without a team, an organization is lost.