



Bay Writers News

Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club

September 2010

President's Message

"The art of writing is the art of discovering what you believe."

Gustav Flaubert,
1821—1880

When I discovered this quotation I strained for a long time to parse its meaning. Flaubert, author of one of the great 19th century novels, *Madame Bovary*, would be someone whose pearls of wisdom I would not easily ignore. Reflect for a moment on the poems, essays, pieces of fiction you have written. What we believe about human nature and about ourselves will be reflected in what we set to paper (or computer screen).

We may not start with the deliberate objective of "discovering what you believe", but when we finish the work insofar as we are satisfied we find we have set down something of ourselves there.

If we believe that our unconscious speaks to us when we engage in the serious act of writing for other's consumption, we discover that something of our deep-seated intuitions about life have been poured forth in our art. Thus, I would venture, that when the "blocking bug" strikes, writing what might be termed "stream of consciousness" may reveal a res-

ervoir of hidden depths we scarcely knew existed. We could then return, strike out the dross, and keep the nuggets of merit.

Flaubert also said, "Writing is a dog's life". Here, I agree. There is no greater psychological agony than to trawl through the flotsam and jetsam of memories, feelings, disappointments and triumphs to find the appropriate word or the pithy phrase that just fits what we seek to communicate. That's when the unconscious mind can register the one thought that turns an otherwise drab succession of words into deathless prose or poetry.

The artist wears her life

Calendar 2010:

September 11th
VWC/CBW Joint Luncheon

November 7th
Rappahannock Writers Critique Workshop

November 10th
Annual All Stars Gala

on her sleeve, to repeat a dog-eared cliché. It means, in the end, when we display our art we become vulnerable to scorn and criticism. The reward, however, is the acclamation of the world when our work is praised and accepted.

Jack Bray,
President



What's Next?

On September 11 the Chesapeake Bay Writers will host a joint meeting with the Virginia Writers Club at Williamsburg Landing, located at 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive, Williamsburg, VA. The topic for dis-

cussion will be "Publishing: Fiction vs. Nonfiction", with Brad Parks and Karen Jones as speakers. The luncheon will begin at 11:30am with a cash bar social hour, and lunch will be served from 12:30 – 1:30pm.

Choices for lunch are shrimp and scallop napoleon or chicken marsala. The cost is \$23, and reservations must be received by September 3rd.

To make reservations, fill out the back portion

of this form and mail to: Jack Bray, 261 Zelkova Road, Williamsburg, VA, or register online at: chesapeakebaywriters.org

See page two for more information about our speakers.

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.

Workshop Speakers

Speakers Brad Parks and Karen Jones will speak at our upcoming September 11th luncheon.

Brad Parks, author of *Faces of the Gone*, a Carter Ross mystery, has landed on several prominent critics' lists as being among the top mystery debuts of 2009 and has been short-listed for a Nero Award. The Dartmouth College graduate spent a dozen years as a reporter for *The Washington Post* and *The Newark Star-Ledger* and is now a full-time novelist.

Karen Jones is the author of *Death for Beginners: Your No-Nonsense, Money-Saving Guide to Planning for the Inevitable*, a nonfiction book. Author Karen Jones hasn't died yet...

but this hasn't stopped her from exploring every aspect of one of today's most taboo subjects.

From body disposal to funeral planning to wills, *Death for Beginners* shows readers how to plan ahead with practicality, frugality and efficiency.

Jones holds degrees in English and Education from the University of Virginia. She currently works on-air with WVEC-TV 13 News and teaches week-long writing camps on Ocracoke Island, NC.



Northern Neck Activities

Critique Workshop

Fiction writers, arise!

You have nothing to lose but your shackles, the burden of shallow critiques that dwell on trivia; critiques that leave you with little more than a reminder you need to work on punctuation or spelling . . . critiques that fail to penetrate the heart of narrative, saying nothing about characterization, point of view, and which aspects of story are underdeveloped.

An October workshop will address the issues of critiquing fiction.

The focus is to provide a template, a method to explore those devils that can ruin a story in spite of perfect grammar, spelling, punctuation, and factual information

The workshop, sponsored by CBW and the Rappatomac Writers, will be held on Thursday, October 7th, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Essex County Library, near Tappahannock.

The library is located on Route 17, two blocks north of the Route 360 intersection.

The goals are to outline a rigorous, uniform approach to critique and explore the problems of ongoing groups, with an alternative critique group model described.

Workshop hosts are Jerry Peill and Bernie Ghiselin, with a focus only on the critique of fiction. After the workshop, socializing and conversation will continue at Lowery's Seafood Restaurant.

2010—2011 Officers & Board

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Welcome Aboard

Louise (Lou) Hamilton is interested in fiction and learned of CBW through the Williamsburg critique group. She has completed her first full-length novel, *American Kin: Choices*. This researched historical fiction tells the story of two families in the years just prior to the Revolutionary War. Their lives become caught up in the growing move toward a split between the mother country and her collection of colonies across the ocean. Hamilton currently is looking for an affordable editor for advice, and not yet having found an agent, is also investigating the merits of self publication. She is a member of the Williamsburg Critique Group and finds their support and advice invaluable. "It's always a pleasure to be around other writers, and

I look forward to participating more with the CBW Group. I enjoy workshops, learning from those who have a variety of writing experience, and hope at some point to be in need of marketing assistance."

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@gmail.com

Gwen Keane is primarily interested in nonfiction, but enjoys fiction as well. She began writing a monthly column for the former Buyer's Guide Magazine seven years ago and for the last three years has been a regular contributor to a column called "One of Life's Moments" in Chesapeake Style.

She has completed a book

about her personal relationship/experiences with several mute swans over the last six years and is seeking a venue for its publication. Gwen comes to CBW to expand her knowledge of the writing craft and to learn of new opportunities for writers.

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

Pamela K. (Pam) Kinney comes to CBW for fellowship, networking and workshops. Under her own name, she writes horror, fantasy, science fiction, poetry and nonfiction. Under the pseudonym, Sapphire Phelan, she also writes erotic and sweet paranormal romance. She's currently working on two projects: a Sapphire Phelan sequel of an erotic urban fantasy,

Being Familiar With a Witch for Phaze Books, and edits of an urban fantasy. Kinney just finished her third nonfiction ghost book, tentatively titled, *Haunted Historic Triangle and Nearby Haunted Places*, for Schiffer Publishing (the others are *Haunted Richmond, Virginia* and *Haunted Virginia: Legends, Myths and True Tales*). Her latest book is a collection of short horror/dark fantasy fiction, *Spectre Nightmares and Visitations*, published as an eBook and now in print by Under the Moon press in paperback.

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Roster Changes

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rndearls@yahoo.com

Linda Underwood's new
Email address is:
linda.underwood48@gmail.com

New Publicity email:
cbwnews@gmail.com

Note: Members may download an up-to-date Membership Roster (PDF) at any time from http://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/member_web_pages.htm. The password for members was distributed by email and is shown in more recent acceptance letters. The password may also be requested by e-mail from Webmaster, Dave Carr.

Book Recommendations

"I just finished Gail Sheehy's *Passages for Caretakers*. I wish I had had it when my mother was in the nursing home.. it is full of resources and websites."
-- Dee Callahan

The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter — it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.

Mark Twain



Congrats

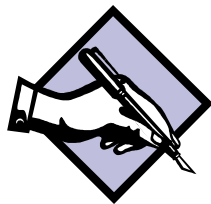
Greg Lilly published *Scalping the Red Rocks*, a Derek Mason mystery. The book, published on July 1, is available in paperback and Kindle formats and can be found at local independent bookstores, Barnes & Noble and Amazon. Other Greg Lilly books include *Under a Copper Moon*, *Devil's Bridge* and *Finger-ing the Family Jewels*. More information can be found at www.GregLilly.com.

Catherine Brooks will be signing *War Brought Trials and Anxiety at Home and Overseas* at Dilly Dally Emporium, Main Street, Mathews, on Saturday, November 7th from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. *Walk with Me* and *Didn't Know We Were Poor* will also be available.

Jean Keating's article *Monumental Courage* was published in the August, 2010 issue of the AKC Gazette. It was one of four feature articles showcased on the inside front cover and was also featured on the internet announcement of the magazine.

Emeline Bailey had her essay about diddling with the thermostat published in the Virginia Gazette in August.

Sherri Gill has newly published ebooks that can be found on Amazon.



Book Festival

The Hampton Roads Book Festival is currently seeking authors for the 2010 Hampton Book Festival.

The Book Festival is scheduled for November 13, 2010 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, noon to 6:00p.m. This is the third year that the festival is being held at the Convention Center.

Veronica Davis, festival organizer, is offering a special rate for Early Bird Applications and returning authors. The Early Bird rate is \$40 for authors and \$50 after September 15. Returning authors have the same rate as previous festivals.

Since November is National Family Literacy Month, a large turn out

for the Festival is expected. Molly Ward, mayor of the city of Hampton, has also designated November as Family Literacy Month.

Applications can be found online at va.roots2002.web.officelive.com/AuthorsVendors.aspx

Please be timely in your response. Applications will not be accepted the week or day of the event.

"The future has yet to be written, go out and make some history."

V. Davis

Annual All Stars Gala: November 10

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 Riverwalk Restaurant in Yorktown on Wednesday, November 10th, 11am to 3:30pm. The cost will be \$20 including tax and tip.

To make this year's ALL STARS event the best ever, we need GREAT STARS to read... and

guess what?... that's you!! So find a favorite poem, short story or essay that you have written and share it with the Club. *Only CBW members are eligible to read!* Length should be no more than eight minutes reading time. One entry per member. Your work does not have to be submitted in advance.

If you would like to read, add your name to the list

at chesapeakebaywriters.org. Please include your best estimate of the time you will need to read your piece. If you have no computer access, call Dave Carr with this information at (804) 725-9843.

Those in attendance will vote for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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 supplemental prize. Winning entries will be published on the CBW website.

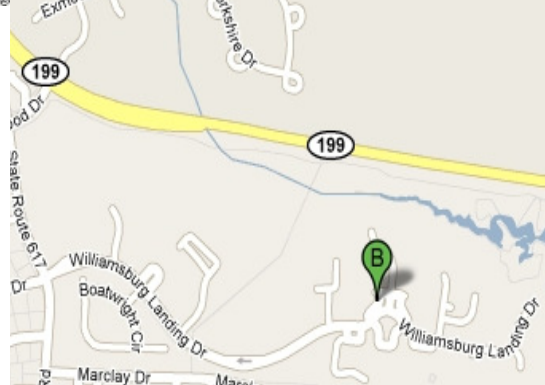
Please sign up as soon as possible. In past years, the number of members wishing to read have exceeded the number that time would permit.

Williamsburg Landing Senior Residence, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185



From Richmond:

64 East
 Take Exit 234, VA 199 E
 Merge onto VA 199 E
 Turn Right onto Brookwood Dr.
 Take first Left onto
 Lake Powell Rd
 Take first left onto Williamsburg
 Landing Dr.



From Norfolk:

64 West
 Take exit 242A, VA 199 W
 Turn Left onto Brookwood Dr.
 Take first Left onto
 Lake Powell Rd
 Take first Left onto
 Williamsburg Landing Dr.

September 11 Luncheon Reservation Form

Reservations can be made online at www.chesapeakebaywriters.org, or by completing this form and mailing it by September 3 with check payable to Chesapeake Bay Writers. Mail to:

Jack Bray
 261 Zelkova Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Member Name: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate your choice and number of entrees:

Shrimp and Scallops: _____

Chicken Marsala: _____

Total in party _____ x \$23.00 = \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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.

Chesapeake Bay Writers
A Chapter of the Virginia
Writers Club



Recurring Monthly & Bimonthly Activities

CBW Author Interview with Neal XTRA 99.1 FM, Gloucester
Second Monday 8:05—8:30 am
Contact Dave Carr (804) 725-9843 or carr1600@netscape.net

Gloucester Evening Critique: Location TBD
Last Saturday of the month, 7 pm
Contact Gary Herring (804) 694-5646 or docargent@cox.net

Rappatomac Critique: NetCruisers Café (Rt. 3 across from Lancaster HS)
First Thursday of the month, 11 am—1 pm
Contact Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net

Rappatomac Writers Novelist Critique: The Daily Restaurant (Rt. 360)
Second Thursday of the month, 1—4 pm
Contact Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net

Rappatomac Critique: Roadhouse Café (Main St. & Rt. 3 Bypass), Warsaw
Third Thursday of the month, 2—4 pm
Contact Janet Fast, chestyle@hughes.net

Williamsburg Critique: Bailey Residence, 6244 N. Mayfair Circle
Second & Fourth Thursday of the month, 1—3 pm
Contact Rick Bailey (757) 564-7118 or rvbailey@verizon.net



Bay Writers News
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

CHESAPEAKBAYWRITERS.ORG
