



Serving the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Williamsburg areas since 1991



Chesapeake Bay Writers

Bay Writers News

April 2022 - Volume 28*Issue 2

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April is National Poetry Month

If you've never written a poem, give it a try. It can be as complex as a Shakespearean Sonnet or as silly as a limerick by Sonja. It doesn't matter how you write it. What matters is that you try.

Luncheon Meeting

Make your reservation now
for
Wednesday, April 20, 2022
11:30 am
at Rocco's Smokehouse
in Williamsburg.

Join the CBW for wonderful
food, friendship and learning at
our second luncheon meeting of
2022.

Nathan M. Richardson will help us
celebrate National Poetry Month
by presenting:

The Oral Tradition of Poetry.

Everyone is welcome to attend but
advance reservations are required.

Please use the
registration form on the
website. \$15-20 for members,
\$18-23 for guests. Menu choices
are on the registration form at:

www.chesapeakebaywriters.org

Hope to see you there.



Nathan M. Richardson

Nathan is a published
author, performance poet
and Frederick Douglass
Historian.

His poetry collections
include *Likeness of Being*,
Twenty-one Imaginary T-shirts and *The 7
Last Poems of an Unarmed Citizen*.

His work has been widely republished in
anthologies, magazines and newspapers
such as the *Channel Marker*, *The Cupola*,
Coastal Virginia Magazine and the *Wash-
ington Post*. Nathan teaches a variety of
workshops for emerging writers.



April Picture Story Challenge

Write a story about this picture and I'll
publish it in the next newsletter.
(500 words or less.)

Chesapeake Bay Writers is a Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesBayWriters/>

Questions or comments can be sent to Sonja McGiboney: smcgphoto@gmail.com



From the President

Once upon a time...

Does anyone ever start a story that way? When my two children were little, they delighted in hearing me tell a story on the fly. I could never predict which way the plot would go since they randomly chose the roads to travel or what weapons the fairies (or monsters) would yield. But every story began with, "Once upon a time..."

The phrase wasn't just the start of the story, it was the start of something magical. If they were playing loudly in their rooms and I needed them to settle, I walked in and announced, "Once upon a time..." They would wrap themselves in a blanket and snuggle in for the adventure. More often than not, they were bouncing on my bed with their daddy bouncing with them. It was the only way to get them all to stop.

Through many different variations, the words have lasted over 700 years. Stories began with sentences like, "Once there was..." or "One day, a long time ago..." or "This occurred in those ancient times..." or "Long before your time..."

It is such a simple way to open a story. It immediately puts you in the past. It sets the stage for a storyteller. There are many times I wish its use wasn't so "frowned" upon by editors, agents and publishers. They think it boring and cliché.

Sometimes I feel those words, "Once upon a time..." are a key. Without the key, you cannot start the story. Does anyone else miss "Once upon a time...?"

Writing Tip

Understand your characters' motivation

National Poetry Month

April is National Poetry Month. Even if you aren't a poet, the task of trying to write poetry is good for any writer. It forces you to look for new words, to constrain that prolific use of reallys, verys, thoughts, actuallys, and all those other words that tend to clog up our plots.

No matter if you do or don't write it, this is the month to celebrate poetry. Throughout the newsletter will be a few poems to enjoy. The first is a limerick.

Limericks are funny (if not rude) poems with a set rhyme scheme of AABBA, with lines one, two and five all being longer in length than lines three and four. The last line is often the punchline. Their sound is very distinctive.

There once was a nice volunteer
Who worked every day with great cheer
But along came the years
And slowed down the gears
Which left us without them this year

Now there are roles to surrender
My sanity's in a big blender
From welcoming hearts
To newsletter parts
I have way too much to render

So before I take up the flask
And keep wearing the multi-face mask
I plead with the living
To think about giving
A little time's all that I ask

by Sonja McGiboney

Please consider volunteering with the CBW
Positions available are:

Membership Director
Golden Nib Coordinator
Keating Award committee member
Webmaster

Messages from the board

A Few Announcements From the Virginia Writers Club

VWC Journal

Just a reminder the VWC Journal is accepting submissions through May 15. If you submitted to the journal before February 2022, please resubmit. Submit your entries as follows:

Poetry to:

Sofia Starnes, smstarnes@cox.net

Fiction to:

James Reynolds, james.reynolds1093@gmail.com

Nonfiction to:

Paula Weiss, maliajenness@gmail.com

Please read the submission guidelines before sending in your entry. <https://viriniawritersclub.org/VWC-Journal-Guidelines>

If you have questions about the journal in general, please contact Warren Groeger at wwaynegroeger@gmail.com

Note: This is not the same as the Golden Nib. The Golden Nib is its own contest.

Teen Nib

Teen Nib submissions are being accepted until April 29th. This contest is for Virginia High Schoolers, so if you know a teen writer or an organization that works with teen writers, please share the Teen Nib information found here. There is a Teen Nib flyer to post if you work at or frequent a place where teen writers would see it. Let me know if you'd like to have it and I'll forward to you.

VWC Scholarship

A high school senior or college freshman somewhere in Virginia needs your help. We are ready to begin processing applications for the annual \$2,000 scholarship the Virginia Writers Club awards to a graduating high school senior or current college freshman for the 2022-23 school year who plans to study an area related to writing (journalism, creative writing, etc.)

The information on how to apply is posted on the VWC Website.

<https://www.viriniawritersclub.org/2022-Scholarship>

It's simple and not that involved, with step-by-step details on what must be submitted.

The deadline for applications is June 30. We are hoping you will help us get the word out. Costs are rising daily, and I'm sure most college students can use the assistance.

If you have questions, please contact Charles Tabb, the Scholarship Committee chair, at ctabb919@gmail.com.

Thank you for your assistance as we do our best to give away two-thousand dollars!

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Thursday, APRIL 28, 2022, 5:30 - 7:50 p.m.

Gloucester Library Community Room

Come join in the fun. Bring a bit of writing under ten minutes to read. It can be a short story, a poem, flash fiction, or part of a larger work.

Sign up to reserve your spot using the link on <https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/>

Spotlight News

Sarah Collins Honenberger Wins Soul Keats Literary Award.

Soul Keats Literary Competition is an outreach of the National League of American Pen Women, a juried group of creative women in art, letters and music. It's an annual national contest with \$5 entry fee in five to six categories which are open to the public.

My fourth novel *Minding Henry Lewis* won in the novel excerpt category. I had an honorable mention for a short story in 2021. Historically the winners have read live at the March awards ceremony in San Francisco, but alas, with Covid, awards and readings are performed virtually on YouTube or Zoom. You can hear earlier winners there.

Minding Henry Lewis explores the friendship between Celie, an older Caucasian cancer survivor, and Meeka, a black teenager in a small town who witness the drowning death of Tomeeka's little brother. Neither are able to save him.

It was a finalist in the Best Unpublished Novel Contest several years ago, and won first place award from the VA Press Women, second at the national level.

It is available on Amazon with my other 3 novels.

Sarah Collins
<http://www.catchercaught.wordpress.com/>

Info on the National League of American Pen Women can be found on their website.
<https://www.nlapw.org/>

Rhyme

If I have to define it then don't bother reading.

I say this all the time.
I love to write in rhyme.
This basic wordy art
Is nearest to my heart
by Sonja McGiboney

Ginny Brock Visits Pawleys Island (The inspiration for her story.)

The Writer's Cottage is the sequel to *When the South Wind Blows*, a book I was inspired to write while visiting the seaside village of Pawleys Island SC.

I was intrigued by an old legend I heard as I wandered aimlessly through art galleries and hammock shops. It stayed with me, and try as I might, I couldn't find its origin or who the phantom protagonist in the legend was. So I pulled out my imagination, shook it out, went to find him, and four years of research later, I wrote his story.

Because it was set on Pawleys Island, I went looking for, and was lucky enough to find a local author.

The reviews came back from readers saying, "I hated to put it down!" And would I write a sequel. So, Voila!

Here's *The Writer's Cottage*. The sequel.

Last week, I was the featured author at a luncheon hosted by *A Moveable Feast*, a function put on every week for readers, especially book clubs, writers, publishers and book worms from all over. I had presented the first book 18 months prior, at the same function, and both books last week.

We had a full house and the best compliment - hold on to your seat - came from a South Carolina editor who likened my writing style to Pat Conroy's.

I'm still peeling myself off the ceiling.

They were fun books to write and worth the effort.

Ginny Brock
<https://www.facebook.com/authorginnybrock>

Spotlight News cont.

Dawn Brotherton Tours the West (And shares insights to organizing a tour.)

Sightseeing in all fifty states is on my bucket list as is doing a book tour. I decided to combine both events into one two-month trip.

I started the planning in early 2021, researching festivals and craft markets where I might be a fit. I used <https://festivalnet.com/> but there are many sites that gather festival information, or you can do your own search through the internet. I picked three or four of the biggest shows I wanted to attend and applied as soon as the window opened up.

After I locked in the anchor dates, I planned my path and filled in with smaller venues along the way by reaching out to indie bookstores and, because I'm retired Air Force, military bases.

My first book, *The Obsession*, was based on a stalker experience I had when stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, so I had to go back there! I'll be doing two signings at the Base Exchange and another one at Readers' World Bookstore in nearby Sedalia.

I have fourteen books in print, so my next challenge was to see how many books I can fit into a CRV, along

with everything I need to set up for events—table, chair, tablecloths, decorations, book stands, banners, etc. It's going to be tight, but I've practiced different ways of packing to maximize space. I used past sales events to estimate how many of each book I'll need per event, but there's no telling how things will go once I get out there. My husband is standing by in case I get into the happy situation where I'm running out of books and I need him to send me more.

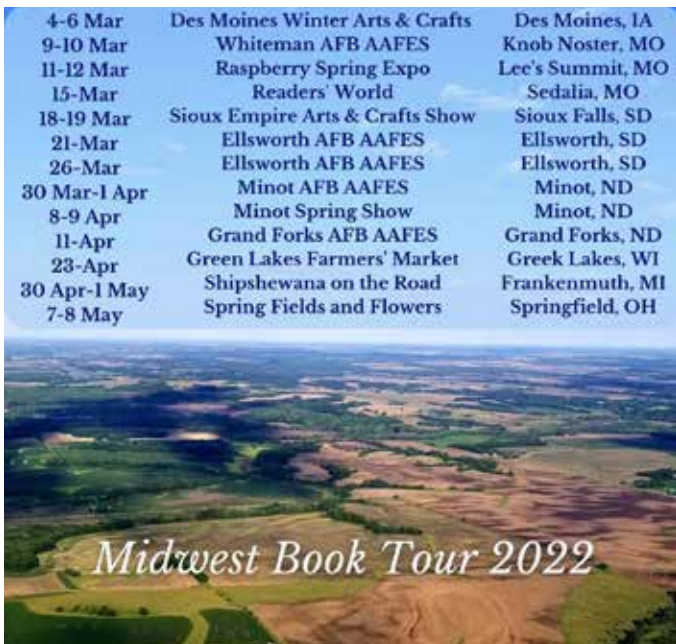
For anyone wanting to do a book tour, I have a few suggestions.

1. Make it somewhere you want to go, so even if sales aren't as good as you hoped, you'll still be glad you went.
2. Have the finances saved up because you'll need to pay for most everything in advance.
3. Keep good financial records for your taxes.
4. Schedule some down time. You don't want to get worn out on the road.
5. Celebrate this beautiful country and your ability to do a book tour!

If you want to follow me on tour, my FB and Instagram handles are both DawnBrothertonAuthor. Wish me luck!!

Dawn Brotherton

<https://DawnBrothertonAuthor.com>



Acrostic Poetry

Acrostic Poetry spells out a name, word, phrase or message with the first letter of each line of the poem. It can rhyme or not, and typically the word that is spelled out, lays down the theme of the poem.

Another day without any words
Under the time crunch
The evening is long
Hold steadfast by your keyboard
Open your mind
Reach inside and find the words
by Sonja McGiboney

Spotlight News cont.

Jeff Schnader Tours the Air Waves

Jeff Schnader has taken to the air waves. We all know that marketing is one of the hardest things to do after writing our books. With his new historical novel, *The Serpent Papers*, Jeff has embarked on a radio tour across the country (all virtual encounters via Zoom, Google Meet, Skype, telephone), including the following appearances:

Most interviews will be taped to be played back on air after editing; however, some will be live.



Set on the tumultuous 1972 Columbia University campus during the time of nationwide demonstrations against the Vietnam War, *The Serpent Papers* is the first book of any kind written about the protests and is based on the real-life experiences of a participant and witness to the events of the era.

For the Vietnam War generation, the war is still the defining event of their lives and rivets their interest; it created a generational rift between those who fought and those who protested, a rift which this novel aims to heal. The book also features three murders along with a vividly accurate portrayal of 1970s counterculture.

The Serpent Papers is the story of J-Bee, raised in the violent world of the 1960s, who chooses to matriculate at Columbia in 1971 rather than join the military. A Southern boy who comes from a conservative Catholic military family, J-Bee exemplifies the struggles of his generation and the challenges they faced balancing patriotism with a rejection of the war.

During his media appearances, Jeff discusses the storyline of his book, what motivated him to write the book, the politics of the Vietnam era in which his book takes place, the importance of this era and the book to the Baby Boomer (Vietnam era) generation, and the politics surrounding the protests, marches, demonstrations and riots which occurred at Columbia University in 1972 which serves as the backdrop to his book.

Jeff Schnader

<http://jschnaderauthor.com>

A Reading from his Book

“Abruptly, something deep inside me—a ragged hairy beast locked away, chained for a lifetime to dungeon walls—was roaring, his sound percolating from the depths of my subconscious into my waking state. I felt him shake off his chains, stretch his arms and legs and burst forth from his shadowy cell. Stupefied, I felt life renewed. As cars and people danced down the street, I sat spellbound at the spectacular parade, consumed by love. I had magic within me, and though the people I saw were grotesque—striped, angular, dogfaced—they were magnificent, and I was the gifted witness. Enraptured, I feasted on beauty, grateful to be alive in such a vibrant, colorful painting. So abject yet so privileged amongst all living things, I sobbed to be gifted such sensual wonder.”

Spotlight News cont.

Winning Entries

Sharon Canfield Dorsey's non-fiction piece, *What Happens Next*, was recently published on the National League of American Pen Women new blog site. You can access it at www.nlapw.org/2022/03/01.

The Journal, a publication of the Writer's Guild of Virginia, has accepted two articles for the summer issue. Three of her poems will be published in the anthology that will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Poetry Society of Virginia, to be published this year. Sharon is currently serving as a judge for the Poetry Society Annual Contest.

Christian Pascale will have three poems included in the PSV Centennial publication. *Gypsum Dunes* won second place in the Golden Nib awards. *Ghosts at the Table* is from his recently published book *Poetry of Wonder* and *Her Room Upstairs* will be included in his second book of poetry *Songs in the Night* to be published later this year.

Christian is also the author of *Memories are the Stories We tell Ourselves* and *Windows of Heaven*, a book of short stories and a novel.

Ballad

A ballad typically tells a dramatic or emotional story. From Middle ages in Europe and initially passed down from one generation to another, often with music. Ballads do have a set form; they are typically four lines (quatrain) and have a rhyme scheme of ABAB or ABCB. However, this form is looser than others.

CBW Welcomes

Random Words Bookstore to Gloucester

Kevin and Myra Moore have opened **Random Words Bookstore** in the White Marsh Shopping Center at 4910 George Washington Memorial Hwy on March 19. They will be selling new and used books in all genres, so there will be something for everyone. The store is bright and welcoming and features a dedicated children's section. Kevin said in the local paper that he hopes the bookstore becomes a gathering place where they can start book clubs for individuals of all reading levels.

Carol J. Bova will be signing copies of her newest book, *Breaking the Eighth*, on April 2 nd at Random Words. She said, "It's a great addition to our Middle Peninsula communities."

The Ballad of Alfred the Ant

The ants were moving to and fro
Across the sandy dunes.
But Alfred didn't want to go
He wanted to sing some tunes.

"Work, you must. You cannot sing!"
His mother scolded often.
"If you don't then come next spring
"You'll be lying in a coffin."

Alas, poor Alfred ignored her words
Becoming hungrier each day.
So when he spied the scary bird
He was too weak to run away.

Down he went into its tummy
Onto worms and bugs and a berry.
And there he lived eating all that was yummy
And singing all that was merry.

By Sonja McGiboney

So, You Want to Go Social

by Caterina Novelliere

The trick to being successful on any social media channel is being consistent and offering your audience authentic content. Authentic means a blend of posts, videos, pictures, tweets, or whatever that reflect who you are as a person and your writing. You want to build a connection with your fans and followers, not just be posting please purchase my latest novel. Take a few minutes to periodically respond to those who comment on your posts. Successful writers build relationships with their customers online over time just as they do face-to-face.

From a consistency perspective, you don't have to post every day for an algorithm to surface you to your audience, but 2-3 times a week on most channels will ensure you regularly pop in your followers' feeds.

Take a few minutes to create a social media calendar. This will help you keep your social media campaigns on track. Or even better, pick a day a week, or a month, and create some content then schedule it to release automatically. You can always post an impromptu post between scheduled ones if some exciting news comes up, or you just feel like talking to folks online.

Facebook has a built-in scheduler and analytics center for Instagram and Facebook called the Meta Business Suite. They also have a post template gallery that you can utilize for free from your author page. Twitter allows you to schedule tweets if you access twitter from a desktop or laptop. Tweets cannot be scheduled directly from the mobile app at this time.

If you are on multiple social media platforms, you may want to check out programs that allow you to schedule across several social media platforms at once like Hootsuite. Some schedulers offer free accounts while others charge. Social media schedulers also consolidate analytics for each of your social media platforms in one place. This makes it easy for you to monitor how your social media marketing is performing.

You want to be routinely reviewing and documenting your follower count and engagement data. That will help you with determining what kind of content to post

Words to Ponder

by Charles W. Sutherland

Literary Devices: Metaphor

A metaphor is a rhetorical figure of speech, which creates a comparison, in which an unrelated image is used to embellish or enhance what is being said. The term comes from Greek 'metaphora' meaning 'transfer', from 'meta', meaning 'across', and 'pherein', meaning 'to carry'. It 'carries' or 'transfers' an image of something to another idea.

The most cited metaphor is, understandably, from Shakespeare. In his play 'As You Like It', he says, "... all the world's a stage." That conveys the impression that all humans are merely actors on a 'stage of life'. Another is 'sea of doubts', to convey the idea that one is drowning in an ocean of questions. Another is 'flooded with tears', to show being overcome with emotion.

The comparisons are not quantitatively empirical, but qualitatively meaningful.

Literary Devices: Simile

The word 'simile' comes from the Latin word 'simile', meaning 'a like thing, or 'of the same kind'. Although a comparison like the metaphor, a simile differs, because it highlights the similarities between two things, not a dramatic difference. Also, a metaphor exhibits a distinct separation, while a simile generally uses the words 'like' or 'as', which show a closeness.

Typical similes are 'as cute as a kitten', or 'as tough as nails', or 'as good-hearted as an angel', or 'cool as a cucumber'.

So, You Want to Go Social (cont.)

and how frequently you should schedule things. Facebook and Instagram help with scheduling by showing you when your audience is online and suggesting peak posting times. Social media scheduling programs like Hootsuite also recommend peak posting times based on the reporting data they receive from your social media accounts.

We'll get into tools that allow you to make content and analyzing how your social media efforts are going in future articles.

New Books

I'm still playing catch-up so there are a few more from 2021 included.



The Serpent Papers

By Jeff Schnader
February 28, 2022

J-Bee, son of a military officer, is raised in a violent milieu during the 1960s. After his little brother is persecuted by bullies, J-Bee commits a retaliatory act of brutality, the nature of which scars him. When his best friend, Gilly, volunteers to fight in Vietnam, J-Bee

— repulsed by his own violence — refuses to follow either his father or Gilly into the military. Instead, he matriculates at Columbia in 1971, an era of counterculture, drugs, sex, and rock 'n roll, in order to seek his redemption. While there, he is introduced to the mysterious Serpent who recites in the campus café, and to the politically active Margo who schools him in anti-war politics and the virtues of peace. Although he feels loyalty to his best friend fighting overseas, J-Bee increasingly sympathizes with Margo's rationale against the war.

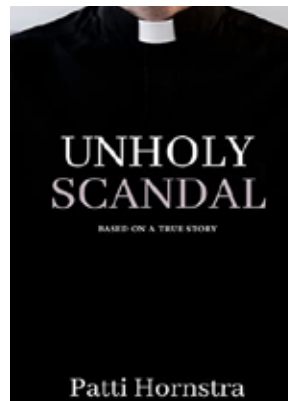
Torn between supporting the war or protesting against it, J-Bee's paradoxical feelings are ignited when his friend Gilly, on furlough from Vietnam, visits him at Columbia. With ratcheting tensions and bullhorns leading students in protest, pro-war and anti-war factions collide in campus riots, and J-Bee makes the choice that defines his life.

Epigram

An epigram is a short and sweet, usually witty, poem that is nothing more than a couplet or quatrain.

"Little strokes fell great oaks."
Benjamin Franklin

"Live simply, so that others may simply live."
Mother Teresa



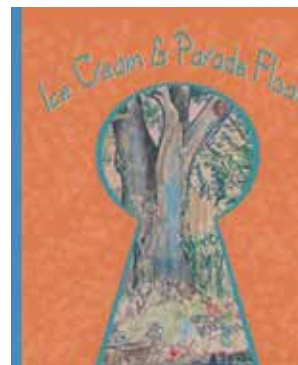
Unholy Scandal

By Patti Hornstra
February 24, 2022

Father Paul Freemont was the beloved pastor of a thriving Catholic Church in a suburban Virginia community-until he was accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

Based on a true story, *Unholy Scandal* is the fictional account of a Catholic priest's quest to prove his innocence of the accusations, which were alleged to have occurred decades prior during his tenure as principal at an all-boys Catholic high school.

His years-long struggle was intensified-and his life changed forever-as the number of accusations grew and the circle of those he could trust got smaller.



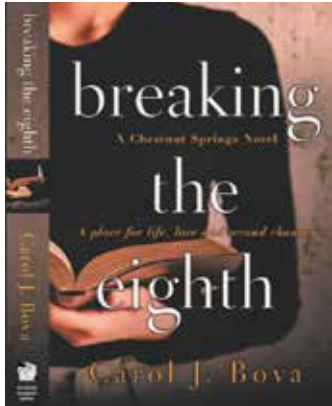
Ice Cream and Parade Floats

by Denise DeVries
February, 2022

Cousins Jake and Aiden can't agree about how to use the key that Aunt Lila gave them at the beginning of their visit. Aiden's sister Olivia just wants them to stop arguing, and

Ginger is set on enjoying her last summer before middle school. They all agree to attend the Hull Crossing Independence Day parade, but it's not as easy to get there as it seems.

New Books



Breaking the Eighth
A Chestnut Springs Novel
By Carol J Bova
February 10, 2022

Sheriff Jim Holt's involvement with Brenda is heating up, but romance has to wait. An audit at the Church of Chestnut Springs reveals years of embezzlement by a trusted former employee, and the close-knit

town reels in shock. Jim confronts the media swarming the site of the arrest, and they retaliate with lurid front-page headlines targeting him and Brenda.

The Mayor is furious about the negative publicity, but Jim pushes back. The mayor's up for reelection; if he wants Jim's support, he'd better stand up for the sheriff and his deputies.

Events escalate when the case reaches court, and the embezzler reveals a shameful secret and an old wrong with no solution.

Amidst all the turmoil, can Chestnut Springs uphold its reputation as a place for life, love and second chances?

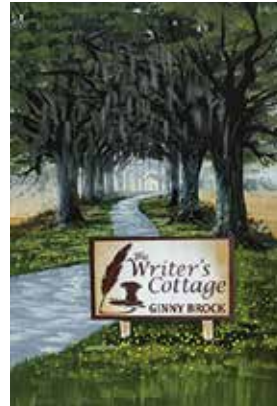
Available at Random Words Bookstore in Gloucester and online retailers. For more information see: CarolJBova.com

Haiku

The haiku (or hokku) A haiku is a three-line poetic form originating in Japan. The first and third lines have five syllables. The second has seven. Haikus don't have to rhyme and are usually written to create a particular mood or instance.

stories and stories
imgagination soaring
never stop writing

by Sonja McGiboney



The Writer's Cottage
By Ginny Brock
February 7, 2022

A helicopter crashes in a raging storm at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. For journalist Claire Kincaid, who races through the rain into the forbidden zone surrounding the crash site, it's the photo op of a lifetime. She arrives

just in time to snap the sole survivor being dragged from the burning fuselage. But in the instant that she raises her camera, her eyes meet his in a flash of recognition that strikes her with the force of lightning. Little does Claire know that one click of her camera has captured the moment that will change her life forever, sending her down the dark corridors of old family scandals and reigniting a love story that spans generations and dimensions. A love so strong, it refuses to die, threatening to spill into a cauldron of black magic and a miasma of unreality where nothing is as it seems. Clinging to the vestiges of her sanity, Claire hunts for her identity, inexorably entwined, it seems, with that of the unknown man in her photograph.

The Writer's Cottage is the sequel to *When the South Wind Blows*, a highly rated piece of historical fiction set in South Carolina in the mid-1800s. *The Writer's Cottage* takes place in the same setting in 2019, nearly one hundred and fifty years later. It is a story of discovery, suggestive of reincarnation, offering ancient mystery that manifests itself in its finely drawn characters, who never fail to keep the reader guessing. The plot unfolds with the new and ancient mysteries coming together and unfolding, with a touch of black magic and a love story that will not die.

New Books



Windows of Heaven

By Christian Pascale
February 4, 2022

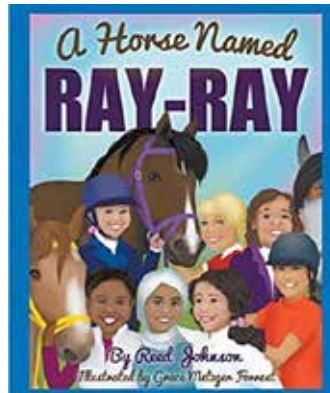
The year is 2050, and earth does not look the same. Surge Saturday, the day the tsunami hit, devastated thousands of cities. Governments were toppled and lives were lost.

For siblings Tom and He-

lene, everything changed. They didn't have the luxury of staying in their family home and learning to navigate this strange new world. A vile group has taken hold of the government, and people are being forced into intellectual subservience. Anyone who disagrees with the new leadership is sent to their death.

Tom and Helene know they have to run, but where can they go? There aren't many safe places left, and even those are at risk.

They decide to find their way to Blacksburg, Virginia, and are soon befriended by others who are on a mission to make things right within the world again. But can this ragtag group of philosophers and healers and everyday people actually save the world, or will the newly formed dark forces triumph?



A Horse Named Ray-ray

by Reed Johnson
February 1, 2022

Encouraging girls from all backgrounds to learn to ride will help girls become the best they can be. Experience the trail riding competition these girls faced. This book tells a story of sportsmanship, history, teamwork, morals,

courage, and good work habits. I wrote this book to teach girls to achieve greatness in life through time-honored lessons.

After spending many hours with my sister, who suffered a brain aneurysm, I wrote this book to tell her story. My time was spent with my sister talking about her horse, Sting Ray. Our conversations helped her recover her memory and taught me how a girl's bond with her horse is a special bond of love. Taking care of family is what we do. Jennifer is now living with our mom and is doing well. Proceeds from this book will go to care for Jennifer.

Competitive trail riding is open to all ages 10+ and all equine breeds. Please encourage your children to try this new experience. You will not regret it.

"Poetry is emotion, passion, love, grief—everything that is human. It is not for zombies by zombies."

F. Sionil Jose

As you can see, I've filled the leftover spaces of the newsletter with poems. They are little poems for tiny spaces. I challenge you to write your own. You can do more than the short poems. There are many other styles of poetry: the Villanelle, Ode, Elegy, Sonnet, Free verse and Epic Poem. You can write a narrative, pastoral or lyrical theme. Try to keep it under 500 words.

New Books



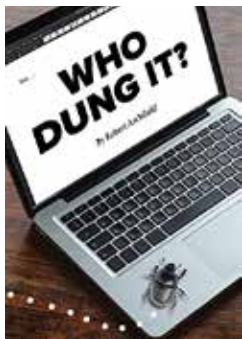
Catena Poetica *An International Collaboration*

By Flor Aguilera, Joyce Brinkman, Gabriele Glang, and Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda
January 28, 2022

"In *Catena Poetica*, four voices unite in a shared vision of form, theme, and

music. Readers encounter folk artifacts from Andean charangos to guqins, or artists and composers ranging from Mondrian to Couperin, but the poetry's essence is firmly rooted in nature - a tribute to the poetic tradition that brought forth this original form. Traces of distinctive imaginations, geographies, and cultures course throughout, and yet the aggregate reflects one aesthetic light "in its irresistible wholeness." This compendium reminds us why collaboration is so essential in our multifaceted world."

Jessica Reed, Author of *World Composed*



Who Dung It?

By Robert Archibald
September 15, 2021

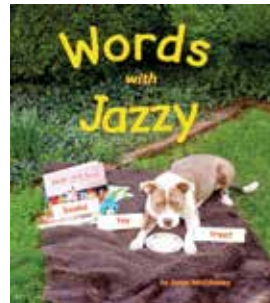
George isn't certain how he became a dung beetle—or scarab, as he prefers to be called. All he knows is that after he was murdered, this is his new incarnation. And since dung beetles don't

have opposable thumbs, he enlists the help of Judy, a travel writer working on a piece in Africa to help him track his killer. Her luggage tag address says she is from Cleveland, his hometown, so he grabs the opportunity to go home and fix things. Soon, George and Judy figure out a way to communicate and she agrees to help him find his murderer.

But this is no simple homicide. When George was alive as a man, he worked for a detective agency. What had he uncovered that would cause someone to kill him? And will Judy and her friends have the same fate?

More Jazzy Books

by Sonja McGiboney
March 2022



It seems like I'm super productive, but in reality, these two books have been on a back burner for a while. I've just recently been able to finish them.

Words with Jazzy: The book is a collection of words commonly used by children. Set up like flashcards, each page contains a fun picture of Jazzy with the word. The words were supplied by kindergarten and first-grade students from a Smithfield, Virginia elementary school.

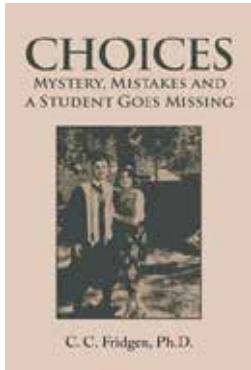
Young children will delight in looking at the pictures and reading the words. The images are from photographs taken by Sonja McGiboney during her many years of writing Jazzy books.

Jazzy's Whole World: Jazzy's got the whole world in her fangs! Join Jazzy in reading or singing your way through this traditional song. Jazzy, because she's a dog with no hands, has her own words for the song. Her words are based on all the stuffed animals she likes to play with.

The illustrations are created from photos taken by Sonja McGiboney. Jazzy is a Boxer-Labrador-Pit-bull mix breed dog. All she ever wants to do is sit in Sonja's lap, pull the stuffing out of her toys, or work for treats. She loves being the star.

Based on the traditional spiritual, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

New Books



Choices

by C. C. Fridgen Ph.D.
June 17, 2021

Kathy Ann Portney, a senior at Grainger College, is found at the bottom of a stairwell in the woman's sorority dormitory and presumed dead. The school's beloved head janitor of many years finds her. When he takes the president of the college to see the body, it's

gone.

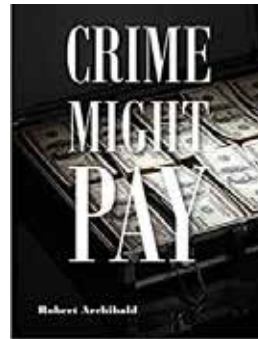
Kathy Ann is the only child of the wealthiest and most influential family in the small town of Cotton Creek. Dr. Crosley, the president of Grainger College, makes the unfortunate decision to keep what he suspects has happened to Kathy Ann, a secret, while he tries to solve the mystery himself.

In the meantime the police chief of Cotton Creek also disappears, but a body is not found to help explain what might have happened to him. Chief Roger Meese is a very important member of the security team for Cotton Creek and the college falls within his jurisdiction.

As the story unfolds, the significant characters come together leaving the college in turmoil and the town searching for two prominent citizens.

The choices selected by students and administrators can be destructive to the reputation of a college and therefore to funding and enrollment for years to come.

It is always best to make choices carefully and wisely.



Crime Might Pay

By Robert Archibald
March 25, 2021

Contrary to popular belief, it turns out that crime might pay, and it might pay well.

Four friends had become vigilantes to combat the offenses they saw committed against

the innocent. But a promise to the FBI means they can no longer break the law to seek justice for victims. A family crisis changes everything, and now they have no choice. They are driven to take some sort of action, even if it means skirting the law. Again.

Beth's mother and father are wrongfully sued and lose all their life's savings, and Beth is devastated. How will her parents cope with this financial disaster? Ralph is suspicious, however, and does not believe true justice was served in the courtroom.

When Ralph begins to dig, he uncovers some surprising secrets... including fraud, extortion, and money laundering. Something must be done to right this wrong. But what will happen when this group of friends pit themselves against a powerful judge and a corrupt group of lawyers?

In this next installment after *Roundabout Revenge* and *Guilty Until Proven Innocent*, the four friends once again set out to right the wrongs perpetrated by criminals who have the power to destroy people's lives. As the stakes escalate, only one question remains: Will they succeed this time or is this the end of a friendship... and maybe a life?

"In writing and politicking, it's best not to think about it, just do it."

Gore Vidal

Adding Tension

by Narielle Living

As an editor, the biggest issue I frequently find in a manuscript is lack of tension. This does not mean that characters need to blow things up all the time or dead bodies need to be found on each page. Simply put: **Change equals tension**. Without tension, the story becomes stagnant.

Your novel must have tension on every page. Every. Page. Once the reader is bored, they will stop reading. And if the reader is an editor or agent, that would not bode well for the future of your novel.

Prior to sending your work to an editor, be certain you have amped up the tension. Take the boring parts out. (Editor's Hint: every writer believes every word is important. Think of your words as a painting with broad brush strokes to get past that thought.)

Checking For Tension

Make a list, chapter by chapter, of all the action points in the story.

- Chapter 1 contains main character Ella jumping out of an airplane despite her fear of heights, and her parachute malfunctions.
- Chapter 2 contains a military installation going into lockdown because of an unknown threat.
- Chapter 5 contains Ella escaping from the hospital.

Make a list, chapter by chapter, of all the non-action points in the story.

- Chapter 4 contains Ella trying a new flavor of Jell-O.
- Chapter 6 contains Ella sitting in a garden looking at the flowers.
- Chapter 7 contains Brad sitting at his desk wondering if he should get a new job.

Sometimes the non-action points can be turned into a tension-filled scene. Let's use the example above from Chapter 4, where Ella tries a new flavor of Jell-O.

Despite the bright sun and the warmth that filled Ella's room, she was filled with despair at being stuck in the hospital. The nurse had brought lunch, which she poked at with her spork. Some kind of grayish-looking meat, soggy vegetables, and lime Jell-O.

She'd never tried the lime flavor before. *What the heck*, she thought. *Not like there's anything else going on here*. She took a tentative taste, deciding it wasn't so bad. For Jello-O, that is.

The above scene can be re-worked to add tension. Note the tension arises from the character's feelings in addition to her internal shift:

Hospitals sucked. The crappy food was almost as bad as the gag-inducing smell of disinfectant. And on this sunny spring day, Ella was stuck on the seventh floor with all the other sick people.

Her supposed lunch—gray meat, soggy vegetables, green Jello-O—sat lumped on her tray. Grabbing the white utensil wrapped in plastic, she wanted to, at the very least, stab the meat.

She looked down in surprise. Her utensil was a spork. *Who can stab anything with a spork?* A memory of her mama flitted into her head, her mother laughing and saying a spork was the best of all because it could be whatever you needed, and people would do well to try to be more like a spork, shifting and pivoting when life threw all those unexpected calamities at us.

Ella smiled. Maybe green Jell-O wouldn't be as bad as it looked.

Always add tension, and happy writing!

Picture Story Challenge

January-February



By Jeff Price

I do not recall my journey to your door; in fact, absent were all memories until I arrived here. Now, from the darkness of my mind, I clearly see our moments in time. Your shelves offer flour and buttermilk for Mama's biscuits. Mama tells us kids to pick out a piece of candy each from your jar as a reward for completing our weekly chores and schoolwork. Your pump fills Dad's gas cans in preparation for the farm work that awaits him and us kids. After Sunday service, in our early adolescent years, my sister and I buy cold drinks on a hot, muggy summer day to enjoy under a shade tree by the river while we wait for the catfish to bite. The chilly blast of cold air from your ice box cools our red faces until the old lady yells for us to shut the door. My teenaged friends and I bring the old fella all the Mason jars we can find for the shine from his still. He pays us with a skosh of corn liquor, sneaking it to us when the old lady's attention is elsewhere. After graduation, I enjoy a cold drink in the shade that your canopy provides while waiting for the bus to take me off to boot camp. I return from service in the Navy with enough money to buy you from the old couple. I, along with the love of my life, tend to all of your business until her death during childbirth. I sell the house, and then move into the bedroom above your store to live out my days with you.

Many years will come and go after the death of my wife and child. The world will pass you and I by with each day. Customers will dwindle as will my memories. Your boards will rot as my skin wrinkles. I will not recall the day I leave you, who takes me, or where I go. I will have no memories at all until you call on me the day before you are to be torn down. I will overcome a broken mind and weakened body to return to you. Only after our reunion will I recall these thoughts of us. Together we will remember our existence which will be forgotten by this world. I know this to be our story as Mama holds me in her arms while she stands at your door. I look forward to the trials and tribulations in life that I have yet to share with you. I look forward to the life that I will only remember through you.

In memory of James G. Price (Grandpa) who ran a store just like this one to supplement the farm in winters. He passed away after years of mental and physical deterioration caused by Alzheimer's Disease. He entered this world as he left it—with no memories of his journey.

Picture Story Challenge

January-February



I can't believe I said it.

By Sonja McGiboney

As we drove the cracked roads, you know, with the grass and dandelions growin' inside, up to Mama's Granny's house, we passed that old white clapboard filling station. The one rusty white pump still stood watch under an old tin-roofed porch. Someone had put up a newish-looking mailbox next to the pump as if to keep it company. The siding sure needed a whitewash, but probably it would fall apart if the dirt were taken away. Though the sun was high in the sky, the windows in the station were dark, as if the ghosts couldn't be bothered with a little light.

Growin' up we passed this relic a million times with my Mama. Even before it closed, it had that "Nobody lives here!" look to it. Great-Granny's husband, who everyone called Old Joe, used to run the station. They were gone now, but Granny still lived in the house up on the hill behind the station. Mama used to drop us off before she went to work. I think I was ten when the station finally fell to rest. I had to listen to stories for years after it closed.

It's been a while now. The last time I drove by, my girls were wee little babes. Now they are eight and ten and I can't believe I said it. Just like my mama always said it: "I remember when..."

"I remember when your Aunt Susie and I'd wash people's windows when they pulled up to fill their tank. We'd just go right up to their car and throw that dirty wet rag on their windshield. I'm not sure any of them ever got cleaned, but we got a little of the dust off.

"Then, when we were done slopping on the window, we gave them no choice but to pay us. If they didn't, then we'd get all teary-eyed and sad. Aunt Susie sure could pull a tear out of nowhere. Gosh, but people hated to see us tow-headed little girls cry. We were only a year apart so it was doubly powerful.

"Old Joe never minded us doing it. Once we got paid we went into the station and bought candy or soda pop. Nope, Old Joe even volunteered us our bucket and water, but we had to get the water from the hose. I think he was afraid we'd drop that bucket in the store."

I thought for sure that my girls would ask me questions about the station, about Old Joe and whatnot, but all they said was, "Are we there yet?"

Picture Story Challenge

January-February



If Buildings Could Talk

By Cindy L. Freeman

I have always been captivated by old buildings. The more run down they are, the more interesting they seem to me. There was a time I took photographs of old buildings and nothing else. My new husband and I had just bought our first Ricoh camera (a luxury we couldn't afford), and I would snap photos through the car window as he drove.

"Why are you always wasting film on those dilapidated structures?" my husband would ask. Yes, film! I couldn't explain my obsession with ancient edifices in a way that justified the expense to him, but it made perfect sense to me.

Long ago—by American standards, not European standards—someone in another lifetime employed the expense, effort and expertise to erect a structure, whether a house, barn, store, shed, church, or service station. Today, that structure is filled with history representing lives lived. If it could talk, just imagine the stories it would tell, stories of birth, death, and everything in between.

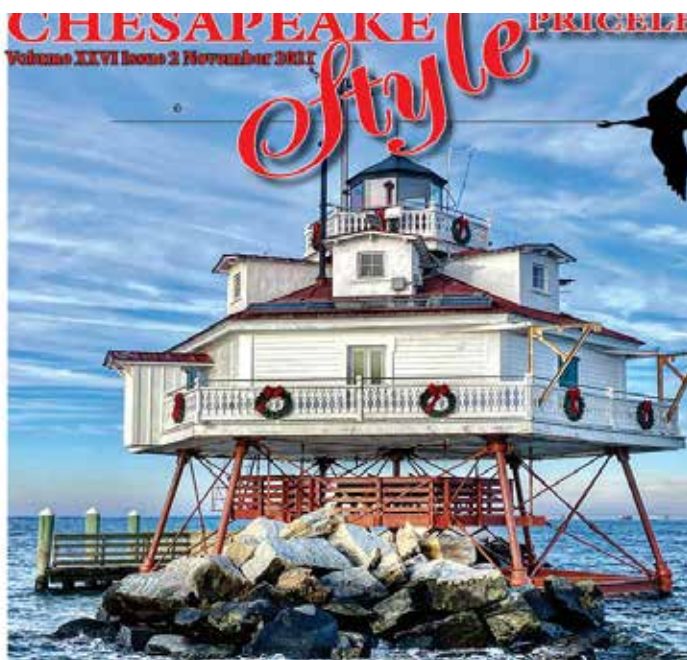
As I study my snapshots (now taken with a cell phone), I am intrigued by the tales that I can only imagine. I want to ponder the reason for the building's construction, who lived or worked there, and why it was eventually abandoned. Does its history include romance, friendship, and family? Was it once cared for with paint, regular maintenance, and necessary repairs? Did it provide ample shelter or livelihood for someone? Could it have housed more than one set of occupants or generations? Who were they? What did they look like? How did they dress? How did they speak, think, and act?

To me, buildings, particularly old buildings, possess character and personality. Much like elderly people, geriatric buildings are worth getting to know because they have stories worth telling. Sitting with them, or their images, is like reading a book set in another time and place. It opens new vistas and expands one's understanding of humanity.

When I spot an old abandoned building, my imagination soars as my mind's eye recreates possible plots, characters, scenarios, and even motivations associated with its history.

Why do I care? It must be the writer in me.

Marketing and Writing Opportunities



Book Reviews

Chesapeake Style is an award-winning, colorful classy magazine serving folks in the Chesapeake Bay Region. It began in 1998 and is still going strong. It is published online and magazines are distributed around the region.

Chesapeake Style offers Books in Style reviews for any Virginia author but preference is given to members of CBW and the critique groups.

All you have to do is have someone else read your book and write a 500-word review of it in accordance with the guidelines.

Email chestyle@hughes.net for Guidelines and Deadlines.

Copy of cover taken from the *Chesapeake Style* Web edition: <http://www.chesapeakestyle.com/>

Writing opportunities through *Chesapeake Style* Magazine *Writers in Style*

Writers in Style is an invitation to CBW members to write 500-word articles for 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 publishes and distributes 10,000 copies in the April/May, June/July, August/September issues and 15,000 copies in the October/November issue. They are found throughout the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and at the Williamsburg General Store.

CBW members who recently published articles, columns or poetry in *Chesapeake Style*: Carol J. Bova, Joy Brenda Burch, Denise Devries, Ellen Dugan, Ann Eichenmuller, Nan Harvey, Jeanne Johansen, Tracy Lanum, and Joe Phillips.

Please email submissions with a subject of Writers in Style to:
Janet A Fast chestyle@hughes.net

Chesapeake Style Spotlight interview assignments

Contact Janet Fast if you'd like to discuss becoming a writer for *Chesapeake Style* Spotlight interview assignments.
Email: Janet Fast <chesapeakestyle2@hughes.net>

Marketing and Writing Ops cont.

CBW Second Monday Radio Interviews with Neal Steele on XTRA 99.1 FM



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.

This is a wonderful time to spread the word about your book and also to practice talking about your book. How many of you have been asked, "What's your book about?" Then you have trouble saying it without stuttering and wondering how much to give away.

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



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

Check out Neal on Facebook and on the Radio's website
<https://www.facebook.com/nealnwmrkt>
<https://xtra99.com/on-air/neal-steele>

Articles by CBW members

The Bay Writers News welcomes short articles written by CBW members. I invite you to share projects, stories, information about the craft of writing, and any other musings with us. We learn by doing and what better way to make yourself write something.

If you post things on blog pages and have an article you wish to share, send it to us. Not only will I put your contribution in the newsletter, I'll add a link to your blog, website and any other contact info you want to spread around.

RULES: Please limit your submissions to 500 words.

***"Writing is like sex. First you do it for love, then you do it for your friends,
and then you do it for money."***

Virginia Woolf

Schedule

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Flash Fiction Zoom - prompt-write-share. Join Zoom Meeting by copying and pasting the URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82665706060?pwd=d0MyVUIVOXh6ODJ6UIErY0M0cUxtdz09>

CBW Second Monday Radio Show, April 11, 2022, 8:05 a.m. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on *Catena Poetica: An International Collaboration*

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 11:30 a.m. General Meeting & Luncheon Nathan Richardson “The Oral Tradition of Poetry.” Poetry Session - Part 1. Rocco’s Smokehouse Grill

Thursday, APRIL 28, 2022, 5:30 - 7:50 p.m. OPEN MIC NIGHT Gloucester Library Community Room. Come join in the fun. Sign up to reserve your spot. (Walk-ins welcome if there is time.) Any questions? Contact Mary Shipko 757-570-2478

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Flash Fiction Zoom - prompt-write-share. Use Zoom link above.

CBW Second Monday Radio Show, May 9, 2022, 8:05 a.m. Christian Pascale interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on *The Windows of Heaven*.

Saturday, May 14, 2022, Workshop 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Nathan Richardson, “Ekphrastic Writing” Poetry Session 2. James City County Library, Grace & Stanley Kitzinger Community Room, 7770 Croaker Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188

Saturday, June 4, 2022, 10:00 a.m. Flash Ekphrastic writing at the Muscarelle Museum of Art. The entry fee for the museum is \$10.00. We’ll gather in a gallery, secretly choose a piece of art to write about, write, then share our work.

Tuesday, June 3, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Flash Fiction Zoom - prompt-write-share. Use Zoom link above.

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 11:30 a.m. General Meeting & Luncheon Speaker TBD

Saturday, June 11, 2022, 11 - 2, Zoom Lunch and Learn: 3-hour Marketing Presentation by Adam Alexander Haviaras. Adam is the author of the #1 best-selling *Eagles and Dragons* historical fantasy series.

CBW Second Monday Radio Show, June 13, 2022, 8:05 a.m. Roger Gosden interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on his children’s book, *The Boy Who Could Bee*.

July 2022 To be scheduled: Zoom Social with Bradley Harper: Reflections on his studies in Scotland.

CBW Second Monday Radio Show, July 11, 2022, 8:05 a.m. Jeff Schnader interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on *The Serpent Papers*.

CBW Second Monday Radio Show, August 8, 2022, 8:05 a.m. Ginny Brock interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on *The Writers Cottage*.

CBW Second Monday Radio Show, September 12, 2022, 8:05 a.m. Patti Procopi interview with Neal Steele on 99.1 FM on *I’ll Get By*.



Classes, Conferences, and Festivals

I scoured the web to find interesting places to learn.
It's up to you to research if something is for you or not.

April 16, 2022

African American Book Festival Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

<https://www.therichmondexperience.com/happenings/african-american-book-festival-event>

May 6-7, 2022

CNU's 40th Annual Writers Conference Check online for information. <https://cnu.edu/writers/>

May 7, 2022 YCPL Children's & Teen's Book Festival: Application Deadline of March 4th.

Interested local creators of children and teen books are invited to submit an application to participate in the festival, planned from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, May, 7, at Tabb Library. Have questions, call Tabb Library Youth Services at 757-890-5110

<https://www.yorkcounty.gov/FormCenter/Library-10/2022-YCPL-Childrens-Teens-Book-Festival--145>

Fri, Jun 3, 2022, 5:00 PM –

Sun, Jun 5, 2022, 11:00 AM EDT

The Write Away: A Books & Bottles Retreat - Norfolk Waterside Marriott

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-write-away-a-books-bottles-retreat-tickets-231327325257> (\$379)

Check out more online.

<https://thejohnfox.com/2020/02/30-writers-conferences/>

https://www.awpwriter.org/awp_conference/

If you are looking for local bazaars check out this website: <http://4eventplanning.com/events.shtml>



Thank you to all the authors who participated in the Book Parade. We have so much talent in this organization.

While we didn't get the customers we wanted, we did share a lot of information, made new friends and ate good food provided by Earth Fare.

While I keep my eyes and ears open regarding future sales opportunities, please do the same.

Thank you again!

All About Poetry

“Launched by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month reminds the public that poets have an integral role to play in our culture and that poetry matters. Over the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K–12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, families, and, of course, poets, marking poetry’s important place in our lives.” from **Poets.org** <https://poets.org/national-poetry-month>

Poetry 101: Learn About Poetry, Different Types of Poems, and Poetic Devices With Examples

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/poetry-101-learn-about-poetry-different-types-of-poems-and-poetic-devices-with-examples>

Read Poetry Online: <https://libwww.freelibrary.org/explore/topic/poetry>

Poetry Foundation: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

Poems for kids: <https://poetry4kids.com/>

Online Resources

Bookish Roadtrip: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bookish.road.trip/> recommended by Sonja McGiboney. I have been involved with the Bookish Roadtrip for about a month now and they do so many wonderful things. They love books. If you want an online social club, this is a good one.

Literary Devices: <https://literarydevices.net/>

Grammar checks: Grammarly does a good job on their free version. I don’t like commas before the “and” in a series but they do. Other than that, the free version does find things that my word document does not, or that I don’t see (can’t always see that red squiggly line.) <https://app.grammarly.com/>

Want to Submit? Read the Guidelines

Children’s:

<https://highlights.submittable.com/submit>

Reedsy Weekly Prompts: <https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/>

Solstice Magazine: Annual Literary Contest

Submissions April 1 – June 1, 2022 <https://solsticelitmag.org/contest/>

Books on the Craft of Writing By our CBW members

Time to Write: Discovering the Writer Within After 50 - November 1, 2007 - by Frank Milligan

Professor Charles Says... Learn English! - August 5, 2016 - by Charles W Sutherland

Published! Now Sell It! - October 1, 2005 - by Mary Montague Sikes

Other books on the craft.

The following is a list of books I have read (or tried to read) and my personal opinions on each. Next month I'd love to hear about your best boooks for learning the craft of writing. Please give me the title, bibliography info and why it is a good book.

Chuck Palahniuk -Consider This-Moments in my writing life after which everything was different. Chuck Palahniuk, Grand Central Publishing, NY, NY 2020 -While his genre is not my genre and some of the content is not for gentle ears, his words make so much sense and I can see a better picture of the work I'm writing. I know what to look for and have a different way of reading my words. Thanks, Chuck!

******The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing a Novel*** (second edition). Tom Montelone, Penguin Group, NY, NY 2010 - If you want a one-stop-shop for everything you need to know about writing a book, this is the book to get. It touches a little bit on just about every facet of writing the book from a look at the industry to the actual process of putting pen to paper (or typing on a computer).

Creating Characters: How to Build Story People. Dwight V. Swain, Writer's Digest Books, Cincinnati, OH 1990 Though written in 1990, the information holds true for any generation. This book shows how to give your character life through the authentic study of human character using descriptions of people and settings, actions of and to the characters, dialogue and introspective thoughts. There is a lot to this book and I'd recommend it to anyone who is trying to write anything longer than a children's book.

DIALOGUE: The Art of Verbal Action for Page, Stage, Screen. Robert McKee, Twelve, a div of Hachette Book Group, New York 2016 -The friend who recommended it said, "It's a good book in small doses." A scholarly (meaning they use big words) book with some useful advice.

******FROM IDEA TO NOVEL - Mastering the Process,*** Elizabeth George, Viking, a div of Penquin Random House. LLC. New York 2020. A wonderful look into the thought process of a writer. Elizabeth George takes you from the beginning to the end of her book "Careless in Red (A Lynley Novel)" a mystery-murder novel. Not only do you learn the journey she took to write the book, but you learn her process into character development, plot, and scene. Each chapter ends with Optional Exercises that encourage you to use her process to develop your own ideas. This would be a great book for a week-long retreat where participants can read a chapter, do an exercise and then discuss what they wrote.

How to Write A Children's Book & Get It Published. Barbara Seuling, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1984 A good book that will take you from the idea of writing a book to publishing and marketing the book. Many of the examples are dated, but the advice is still solid. Here is one list of many that are helpful. (Listings have been shortened.)

******Words Fail Me: What Everyone Who Writes Should Know About Writing.*** Patricia T. O'Conner, A Harvest Book, Harcourt, Inc 2000 I read the entire book. That's saying something. Most "How to" books bore me and I cannot read past the first chapter. Patricia offers insightful suggestions and "rules" of the trade using humor and some great examples.

Writing the BREAKOUT NOVEL Workbook. Donald Maass, Writers Digest Books, 2004 This is a workbook full of great advice in small snippets so as not to overwhelm. The exercises are thoughtful. It would be a great book for students who are wanting to learn how to write a novel or to use it in a classroom. I'd love to spend a weekend with someone else, just doing the exercises together. (Isn't writing such a lonely craft?)

****** means I really liked it.***