



The Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club



# Bay Writers News

Issue 1, Vol 30

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It's time to renew your membership. Scan the QR code to go directly to the renewal form. Or, sign on to our website at <https://chesapeakebaywriters.wufoo.com/forms/xv77u6d1i63wx6/>.



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.

## Dear Wonderful Writers,

This is my last missive as President of the Chesapeake Bay Writers and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank my support team and say, "Happy resignation," to three board members.

Carol Bova, you have been my rock. So many of my emails and calls started with "Help!" But you answered all of them. You patiently explained things to me once, and then again. While those Wufoo forms and Rogers Rules of order still befuddle me, I have learned how to be a better leader because of you. We will miss having you on the board. Thank you.

Ann Skelton, you have been my light. Your calm voice, kind heart, and willingness to help with the secretary job again, and again, made me want to keep working in this job. You have a solid sense of what is right and the best way to do things. Enjoy your new digs. We will miss you. Thank you.

Denise, You have been such a beacon of strength. Your willingness to show up at events, including CBW members in your own endeavors at your home, and writing all the press releases have been supportive. Your presence will be missed. Thank you.

I couldn't have done it all without the rest of the board and I am thankful they are staying on to help the new president.

Thank you, Richard Easton, Patti Procopi, and Mary Shipko for your continued knowledge and support of the CBW.

Thank you, Jeanne Johansen, for the behind the scenes help and your continued support.

Joining us on the board will be Bradley Harper. Thank you, Bradley, for volunteering to be our treasurer. I will officially welcome you on February 7, when we vote for the positions.

Please join us on February 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM EST. I'd love to see you all!

*Yours,  
Sonja McGiboney*



### Chesapeake Bay Writers Board of Directors

- Slate of Officers -

Voting February 7, 2024

7:00 PM - Virtual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87176097005?pwd=a0JJUXpaQ2M4Z0tJUFJpRldYRVI4QT09>

Meeting ID: 871 7609 7005

Passcode: 151960

<b>President:</b>	Richard Easton	<b>Director at Large:</b>	Patti Procopi
<b>Vice President:</b>	Sonja McGiboney	<b>Membership Director/Neal Steele Show</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bradley Harper	<b>Director at Large:</b>	Mary Shipko
<b>Secretary :</b>	Open	<b>Director at Large:</b>	Open
		<b>Past President:</b>	Sonja McGiboney

*February 2024*

# Nominate your favorite Young Adult Virginia Author for the 2025 YAVA Award!



Richmond Public Library is accepting nominations now through February 29, 2024.

## Criteria for consideration

- the author must reside in Virginia at the time of the book's publication
- the book must have been released during 2023
- the book must have been written for readers in middle or high school
- the main character must be between 13-19 years of age
- the book may be fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or graphic novel
- the book must be available in print format

The winning author will be recognized and receive a cash prize at the 2025 YAVA Award Celebration at Richmond Public Library on April 19, 2025

Visit [rvalibrary.org/events/YAVA](https://rvalibrary.org/events/YAVA)  
to nominate an author or apply to be a judge!



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## Williamsburg Book Festival

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# 2024 Book Festival - Save the Date!

## February 24, 2024 from 10 - 4 pm!

### About the Festival

The Williamsburg Book Festival is a free event celebrating creativity for readers and writers:

#### Book Fair:

The festival features over 40 nationally and regionally renowned authors from various genres, including children's books, sports, romance, self-help, poetry, and historical and contemporary novels.

#### Workshops & Presentations:

Throughout the day, there will be workshops, panels, and presentations held in Stryker Center Room 127, focused on both readers and writers. These sessions will provide insights into library resources for book clubs, the craft of writing, the music of poetry, and the mechanics of the book industry.

#### Poets Laureate of Virginia:

The Poetry Society of Virginia will present a special program.

#### Publishers' Alley:

Virginia publishing companies will display their books and host their authors and editors. If you are an aspiring author, you can find submission guidelines for each publishing house.

### Speaker Schedule:

**11:00 – 11:45 Laura Elliott, Young Adult author;**

Sponsored by: Pale Horse Publishing and The Williamsburg Library "Finding Story in Virginia: Hidden-history, unexpected heroes & some jaw-dropping twists".

**12:00 – 12:45 Student Writing Contest awards** (sponsored through the Williamsburg Community Foundation)

**1:00 – 2:00 Keynote: Mollie Cox Bryan**

**2:15 – 3:30 Poets Panel: Moderator: Ed Lull,**

Poets: Sofia Starnes, Ron Smith, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Henry Hart, Luisa Igloria.

**Laura Elliott school visit schedule: "Finding Amazing Story and Characters in Virginia's Hidden-history: Research is FUN!"**

**Thursday, 2/22/2024:**

8:20 – 9:05 Hornsby Middle School

12:50 -1:35 Berkley Middle School

**Friday, 2/23/2024:**

8:30 – 9:15 James Blair Middle School

12:50 – 1:35 Toano Middle School



**Stryker Center**

**412 N. Boundary St, Williamsburg, VA**

**Williamsburg Community Center**

**401 N Boundary St, Williamsburg, VA**

## 2024 Williamsburg Book Festival Participating Authors

Paul Awad  
Lorelei Brush  
Tom Burns  
Ellen Butler  
Pamela Cappetta  
Heather Cole  
SK Ehra  
Serena Fusek  
Juanita Graham  
Terry Gunnels  
Ted Hale  
Michael Hebert  
Tim Holland  
William Hudson  
Teresa Inge  
Jacqueline Johnson  
Kathy Kasunich  
Kristin Kisska  
Michael Krentz  
Doug Lutz  
Kimberly Matthews  
Anna Maylett

Heather Mihok  
John Molino  
Sarah Newland  
Cat Novelliere  
Vyoma Nupur  
Thomas O'Connor  
Kathryn O'Sullivan  
Mark Ogle  
Nicole Ordway  
Joyana Peters  
Mark Piggott  
Vesna Pope  
Patti Procopi  
Rochelle Ransom  
Peyton Roberts  
Margaret Rodenberg  
Ron Shafer  
Mary Shipko  
Peter Stipe  
Erwin Thomas  
Grace Topping  
Dylan West

### Sponsors:

Printwell  
Turn the Page Book Store  
Armistead House  
Chesapeake Bay Writers  
Hampton Roads Writers  
Divine Lunches  
Williamsburg Financial Group  
Chesapeake Bank  
Williamsburg Area Arts Council  
Yorktown Arts Council  
Williamsburg Community Foundation  
Jamestown High School Key Club

**Visit our website for updates and  
additional information about the  
Williamsburg Book Festival.**

[www.Williamsburgbookfestival.org](http://www.Williamsburgbookfestival.org)

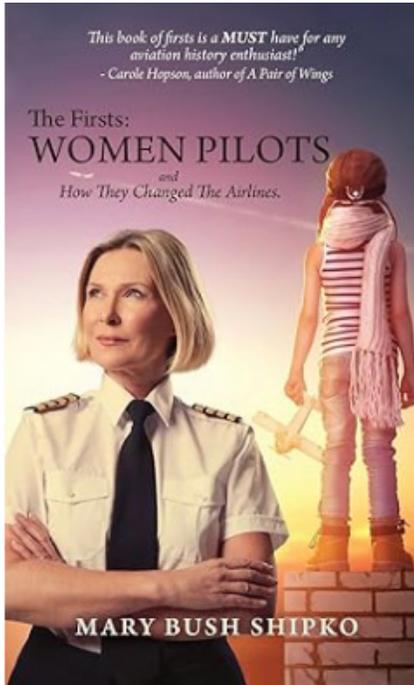


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## From our Members

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### Listen for FREE to Mary Shipko's new audio book, *The Firsts Women Pilots And How They Changed The Airlines.*



In exchange for reviews, Mary is offering a complementary code to listen to her book.

Mary tells the history of women in the airline cockpit, but also about the women of the 70's. She believes it's important to know the beginnings, the struggles that many women faced, and how it's different today. She does not want the women's stories to be lost, because knowing history, explains the present.

Bonnie Tiburzi, author of *Takeoff!* Describes Mary's book. "This is the story by an insider of what several of the early women pilots for commercial airlines faced – the good and the bad, the irritating and the fun, Mary Shipko tells a seldom told story of an important chapter in the history of aviation and the history of women in the workplace."

Mary had her book produced by ACX. <https://www.acx.com/> She auditioned several people and loves the choice she made.

To receive a complementary code for *The Firsts Women Pilots And How They Changed The Airlines*, please text Mary Shipko at 757-570-2478.

## About the Book

An insiders view of when the airlines started to hire women pilots. Originally banned from the airline cockpit. In 1973, the first woman pilot was finally hired; others followed. In this entertaining and informative story of determination, courage, and heartbreak. We learn about the first permanent woman airline pilot, as well as others, including the first African American woman airline pilot. We learn about the laws and events that moved their quest forward. Read about women pilots from all over the world who were first in their airline's cockpit, perhaps someone from your home country. There is a special chapter about the first African-American, and International women airline pilots. There is an airplane legend for readers, not familiar with the planes flown. The final chapter tells how the industry has changed. Told by one of the women who was there. From research, interviews, personal knowledge, and memoirs, the author presents a simple yet powerful story.

*This book of firsts is a MUST have for any aviation history enthusiast!*

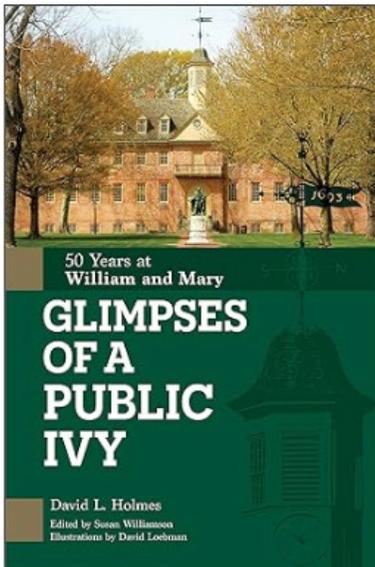
*Women with ordinary names like Emily and Bonnie, did the extraordinary!! They came FIRST and opened opportunities for other women!! Once their uniforms graced the flight deck, but as proof of their trailblazing, now hang in the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum for all to see. Their journeys were not easy, but led to an open door for others.*

*Shipko even talks about the challenges of African-American women pilots and tells us the story of how ISA +21, Zonta, International and Sisters of the Skies were born, out of necessity and have endured, thriving as models of sisterhood and support. Shipko not only tells the story of U.S. women, but she also takes us around the globe of FIRSTS from Norway, to Australia, India, Kenya, Nigeria, China and Japan. Carole Hopson*

*February 2024*

## Susan Williamson's book, *Glimpses of a Public Ivy: Fifty Years at William & Mary* is now available as an audiobook

For those of you who wish to dive into the world of audio books, Susan has shared her experience.



"The audiobook version of *Glimpses of a Public Ivy: Fifty Years at William & Mary* was narrated by Lee Riley, known as Voice of Riley. It was then uploaded to **Author's Republic** which can place audiobooks on multiple sales platforms. Currently it is listed on **Audibles**. Riley has a studio and was very aware of how to meet the quality requirements for **Author's Republic**. Nonetheless, a few of the vignettes had to be reworked to meet background noise and volume requirements. Audio book covers are square and must meet several standards. **Schiffer Publishing**, the publisher of the book, provided and modified the cover. Once Lee Riley had recorded and mastered the vignettes, Williamson uploaded them one at a time to the **Author's Republic** platform, along with the modified cover. There was no charge to upload to **Author's Republic**. Williamson and Carolyn Holmes, the author's widow, negotiated a deal for the narration with **Voice of Riley**."

[https://www.audible.com/pd/Glimpses-of-a-Public-Ivy-Audiobook/B0CS73K82W?actioncode=ASSGB149080119000H&share\\_location=pdf](https://www.audible.com/pd/Glimpses-of-a-Public-Ivy-Audiobook/B0CS73K82W?actioncode=ASSGB149080119000H&share_location=pdf)

### Begin Somewhere:

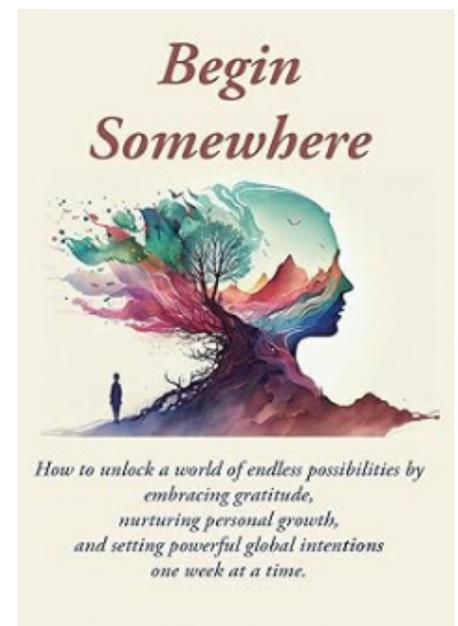
The remarkable journal that allows you the freedom to start your journey when you decide it's a New Year.

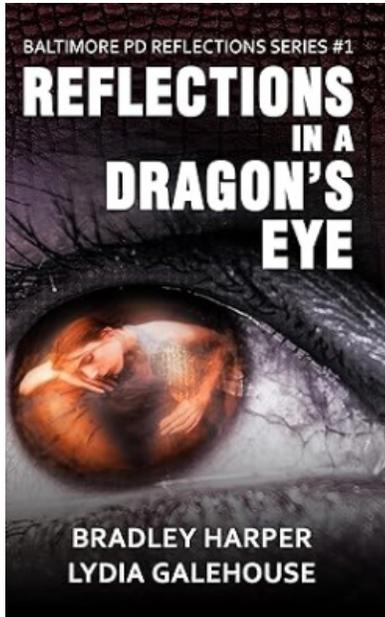
MY YEAR'S TRIP AROUND THE SUN

How many times have you made New Year's resolutions and kept those promises faithfully – for, maybe, a month, only to fall back into old patterns? We all have good intentions but life (jobs, family, health, procrastination) seems to get in the way. After whining to each other about this for much too long, my friend, Jeanne, and I decided to create a fun way to be accountable to ourselves and make our next year's trip around the sun more fun and more fulfilling.

We made a list of all the things we'd like to accomplish, as well as all the ways we'd like to nurture ourselves, improve our lives and the lives around us. Then we made another list of the obstacles to achieving all of this wonderfulness. At the top of the list was TIME! There was never enough. We decided a day-at-a-time approach was the only way to go. We designed our journal with a positive affirmation for each week plus a space to list daily gratitudes, challenges, and anything we did to make our world a better place. We decided even tiny things like recycling today's newspaper would count.

We think our journal will help you feel more confident about managing your life, while living in an attitude of gratitude, as you embark on your next journey around the sun. Remember, you can begin anywhere, January – December. The important thing is to BEGIN SOMEWHERE!





## *Reflections in a Dragon's Eye*

A killer story with a moral core

Baltimore PD Reflections Series #1

One life will be saved; one life will not... Who is to choose?

Would you give up your soul to the dragon to stop the next murder...?

KO Bannon thinks he saw something bad, very bad that New Year's Eve on the shimmering waters of the Baltimore Harbor. Homeless, adrift, and cold, KO is paralyzed with fear, certain that if he tells, the dragon he saw will surely catch him and end him.

Women are dying in Baltimore. A particular kind of young, blonde, innocent victim. And Detectives Mankiller and Ruiz's only lead is a washed-up, drunk ex-boxer who once went toe-to-toe with Sugar Ray Leonard. A man now talking about a dragon. How can they probe and interpret the memories of a drunkard? How far can they—should they—push the old man to find out what he thinks he saw while in the cocoon of a bottle?

Marty Hightower knows what they say about keeping your enemies close. Afraid of what the street bum might have seen that night under the firework-lit sky, he recruits him into his company's new rehabilitation program. KO Bannon might have been clever in the ring back in the day, but he will surely be susceptible and let slip what Marty needs to know to control him. Like the estranged daughter and grandson, who will provide the perfect safety net to stop Bannon from helping the police.

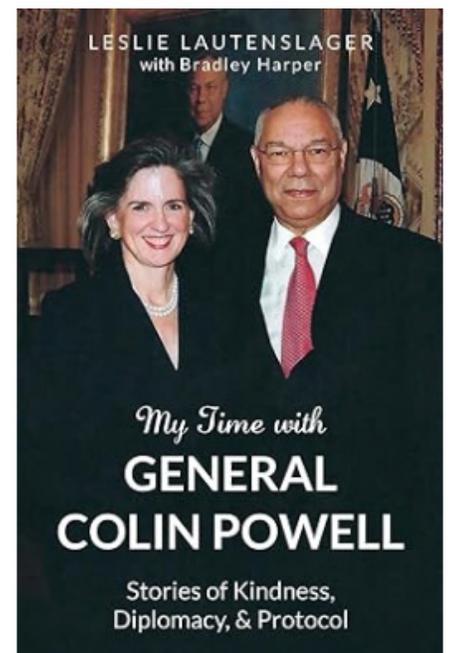
Marty will stay hidden, safe in the shadows, before he lures the next woman to him and experiences the ultimate high of watching the light of life leave her eyes... The paths of the witness, the cops, and the murderer will inevitably collide if what is right stands in the way of saving the next life. Set in the streets and around the waters of Baltimore and perfect for fans of James Patterson, Stuart MacBride, and Michael Connelly, this atmospheric police procedural thriller posits how far the ends should justify the means.

## *My Time with General Colin Powell*

*Stories of Kindness, Diplomacy, & Protocol*

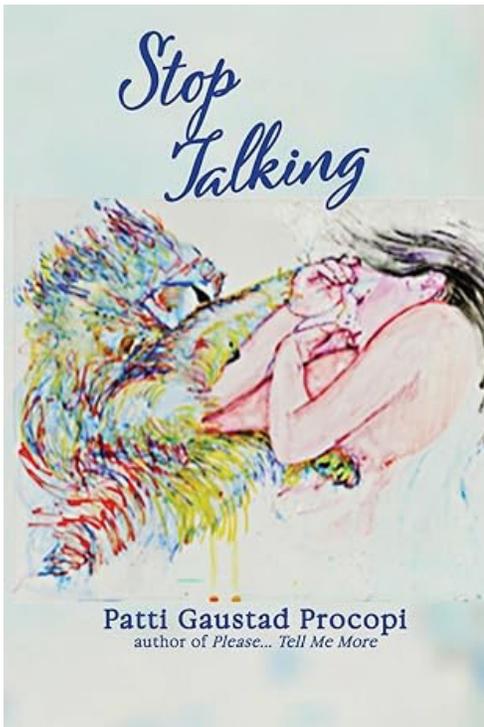
Do you enjoy peeking “behind the curtain” when the great and powerful reveal their true human nature? In *My Time with General Colin Powell*, you will learn about his tenure as Secretary of State, his professional speaking career, see his humorous side, and what a beloved humanitarian he was.

General Powell was well respected and loved by people on both sides of the political divide. He was the youngest and the nation's first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest position in the US Military. He was also the first African American appointed Secretary of State, the world's leading diplomat. The world saw him as a military leader, a diplomat, a senior statesman, and an advocate for young people. To friends and family, he was so much more -funny, charming, self-deprecating, practical, generous, gracious and kind. He was also a song and dance man, a car aficionado, a handyman, a lover of comfort food, a standup comedian, and a storyteller.



*February 2024*

## Stop Talking



*From the author of Please... Tell Me More comes the highly anticipated sequel!*

Finally, Rose has found her soulmate, Jack, and is ready to live her best happily-ever-after life. But tragedy strikes in Alaska, where Rose's brother and family live, and soon her world is turned upside down... again. Rose and Jack do the only thing they can: they take their niece, Fern, who has suffered a tremendous loss, home to Virginia.

Fern is adrift, grieving in a strange place with only her wolf-dog for a companion. Her mother is dead and her father is missing. Nothing will ever be the same again, but Rose is doing the best she can for young Fern, even as the temptation of addiction lingers at the edge of her world. Can Fern find her way in this new environment, moving from the wilds of Alaska to the wilds of suburban middle school? And will Rose and Jack survive too, or will they be casualties of an upheaval neither expected?

A deeply moving novel that speaks of the strength of family and the cycle of life, Patti Gaustad Procopi has managed to weave heartfelt emotion into a sweeping family saga that reminds us all of how much we yearn for home.

## Faith Unseen

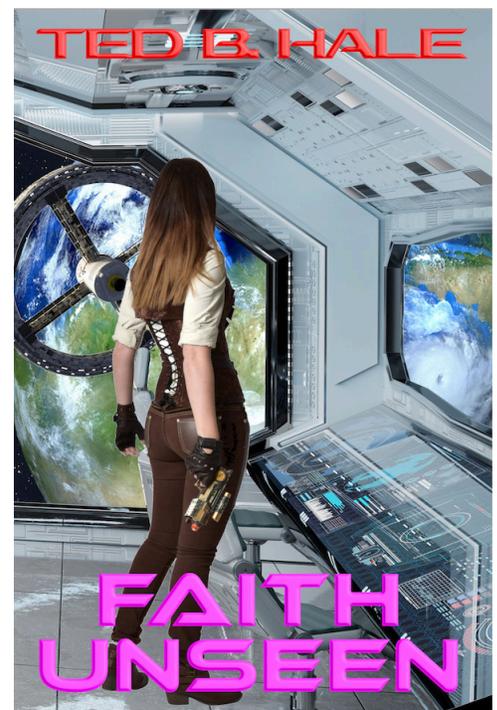
She grew up fast when her father was murdered. How much more will this teen be forced to grow?

At seventeen, Faith is uncertain of herself and her future, and she longs for more than university can offer. When a stranger gives her the opportunity to join a secret organization, she is skeptical, until the man she trusts most explains it is what she was destined for.

Follow Faith as she is recruited into the shadowy world of the King's Unseen, the elite intelligence agency of the planet Carronia. The training is tough and the missions are deadly, as she fights class warfare, industrial espionage, and terrorism.

Certain that she's always working on the side of right, her only question is, what will it take to keep a girlfriend?

Ted Hale is the science fiction author of four books in the Carronia series. He has completed a fifth book, *Faith Unseen*, which is book one in a new series.



## Upcoming Events

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### Making the Nib Truly Golden Meeting Invite

February 7, 2024, 7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

Have you wanted to enter the Golden Nib contest but wasn't sure if you work was good enough? Do you have questions about it? VWC President Chuck Tabb and 1st VP Harry Heckel will present information that will help you in future Golden Nib Contests.

### 2024 Williamsburg Book Festival

from 10 am - 4 pm in the Stryker Center and Williamsburg Community Building  
See Page 4-5 for additional information.

The Williamsburg Book Festival's mission is to promote and support the art of literary composition in the Williamsburg area and expose writers to the reading public. Our free event includes authors from various genres, speakers, illustrators, and publishers from Virginia and beyond.

### Interpretive Writing of historical and Technical Content for General Audiences.

February 28, 7:00 PM, 2024

Roger Connor, the curator of the Aeronautics Department of the National Air and Space Museum, will discuss technical writing with us.

This will be a Zoom Presentation. CBW Members will receive the Zoom invite prior to the date.

## Keep up-to-date with what's happening at Chesapeake Bay Writers

### Our Meta (Facebook) Page Address

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



### Our Website Address

<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org>





## 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**

Check out Neal on Facebook on Meta (Facebook) at <https://www.facebook.com/nealnwmrkt>  
or on the radio's website at <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.

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 or website.

**RULES:** Please limit your submissions to 500 words.

Remember, this is a forum for promoting the art of writing and publishing. It's a positive place to share your writing needs and goals.

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.



**Patti Procopi**

All bookings must be made through CBW's coordinator, **Patti Procopi**. [patti.pro@cox.net](mailto:patti.pro@cox.net)

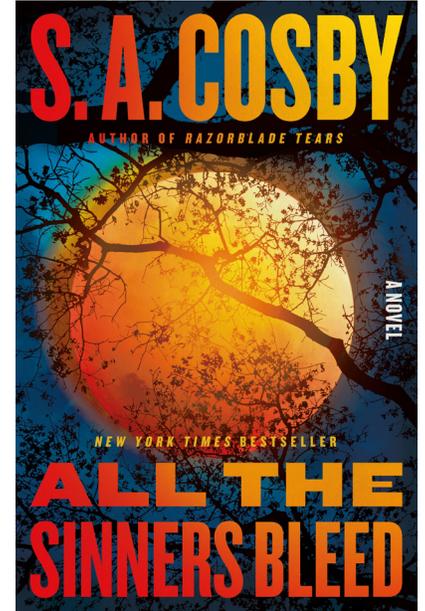
## Of Interest to our Membership

# New York Times Best Selling Author to Speak

Nationally acclaimed local mystery writer S.A. Cosby will be featured during an upcoming author talk in Tappahannock. The Essex Public Library is sponsoring the special event, scheduled for Saturday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Essex High School Auditorium 833 High School Circle, Tappahannock, Virginia. It will include a presentation by Cosby about his life and work, followed by a Q&A session and a book signing.

Cosby's works focus on the rural Southern experience, including themes of race, religion, heritage and masculinity. In a feature on the author, the New York Times' Dwight Garner wrote that Cosby's books are "about fathers and sons, and sex and race and class, and the stain of Southern history." His distinctive voice has been celebrated as part of a new and diverse wave of Southern noir crime fiction.

"All the Sinners Bleed," Cosby's latest murder mystery, follows the first Black sheriff of the fictional Charon County, Virginia as he investigates a complicated string of killings. Throughout the story, Cosby uses religious undertones to illustrate the effects of zealotry. "I wanted to talk about the way religion is used as a cudgel and a comfort in the South, how it divides and brings people together," he told Publisher's Weekly.



## About the Author

Cosby is also the author of the bestselling novels "Razorblade Tears" and "Blacktop Wasteland." "Blacktop Wasteland," an action-packed thriller about an ex-con antihero who gets drawn back into the criminal underground for one more job, became a surprise runaway hit in 2020, earning Cosby a mass of awards. Cosby's 2021 novel, "Razorblade Tears," is a story about two flawed fathers seeking vengeance for the murders of their gay sons. Both "Razorblade Tears" and "Blacktop Wasteland" are now being developed for film adaptations.

Cosby has also recently dipped into fiction for young people. He teamed up with musician Questlove to pen "The Rhythm of Time," a middle grade chapter book for young readers, which came out in early 2023.

A native of Mathews County, Cosby has remained in Eastern Virginia and now resides on the shores of the York River. His experiences as a small-town local and his passion for life in the South shine through his faithful storytelling. When not writing, he is an avid hiker and chess player.

## For More Information

The event will be free and open to the public. Copies of the books will be available for purchase at the book signing. For more information, contact Essex Public Library at (804) 443-4945 or visit [EPLVA.org](http://EPLVA.org).



## Volunteer Opportunities: Let us know if you are interested.

Thank you ML Brei and Mary Shipko for volunteering to help with publicity.

Volunteer Opportunities: Let us know if you are interested.

Secretary: The CBW secretary is our historian. The board meets virtually five times a year. Meetings are recorded so furious note taking is not necessary. The minutes need to be written and shared electronically with other board members at least one week before the next meeting for approval.

Writing Nametags: At our luncheons, we preorder meals so that we're not interrupted in our conversations by a waiter yelling, "Who's got the roast beef with blackened fish?" (Ugh, that wouldn't be me.) The nametags are paired with a placecard that has the person's meal choice. As guests come into the luncheon they find their name, menu choice tag, and then find a seat. It's a simple job that makes luncheons run smoothly.

Website Coordinator: After you learn how to maneuver around the site, then all you have to do is wait and someone will send you something to add. Mostly it's adding pictures and names for new members or adding their books to the bookstore.

Director at Large: If you want to have some input into how CBW is run and don't want to be an officer, then this is the position for you. You help add value to the board and assist in making decisions at meetings.

## Newsletter and "Members on the Move" Submissions:

### What can you send?

**Please send all items to  
Sonja McGiboney at  
either  
smcgphoto@gmail.com  
or  
CBWreply@gmail.com**

- Accolades
- New Book Announcements
- Articles on writing
- New Publication Announcements (In a newspaper, online forum, or magazine)
- Notices of upcoming events that might interest other authors
- Notices of your upcoming event as an author (book signing, presentation, library visit, etc.)
- Marketing ideas
- Share websites or places that are accepting submissions
- Share your knowledge of upcoming conferences or workshops outside the CBW Photos of you in action as an author