

VWC E-NUNCIATOR

Newsletter of the Virginia Writers Club, Inc.

Volume 3, Issue 3 June, 2011

Message from the President



June F. Forte (703) 497-0523
home1270@msn.com

I returned from my vacation to discover the Writing Event Committee — headed up by Austin Camacho and comprised of VWC’s most dedicated doers: Linda Layne, Joanne Liggan and Becky Mushko

— had designed a extraordinary August 6 event for us: *Navigating Your Writing Life – A Symposium for Writers of All Ages and Stages*. Thank you! The quality of speakers and the variety of workshops are mind-blowing.

The success of this Symposium will determine future VWC-sponsored events. And I have a feeling this event will sell out early. So save the date, mark your calendar, invite your friends and send in your registration by July 15.


I also missed Matt Iden’s demonstration of the future VWC website at the May BOG meeting in Richmond. From what I’ve heard, it’s a winner and then some. Matt pointed out the advantages of a Content Management Site (CMS) and walked the BOG through areas such as member pages, directories, search capability and password protection. Matt and your BOG representatives are giving a lot of thought to the design of this 21st Century website and their focus is on what information and tools you need and want.

Now I’d like to share you with you something that shouldn’t have surprised me while I was traveling last month, but did. The Irish, English, Welsh and Scots have an elevated sense of pride and enthusiasm for their writers. You can hear it in their voices and you can see it in their culture. They not only love their writers, they honor them in ways we don’t. Every major city I visited, every small turn in the road, pointed out its connection to literature.

Yes, we have Poe’s grave in Baltimore, Mark Twain’s Hannibal Missouri and Hemmingway’s house in Key West. But there’s something heroic about writers in Ireland and the UK. If statues in major parks and squares indicate greatness, then writers are right up there with kings and conquerors. I was as likely to hear that Jane Austin walked the streets of Bath as I was to hear that that the Georgian royals gathered at its spas. Country estates that were the settings for novels, bridges that were mentioned in someone’s book – all pointed to with pride and with a firm belief that everyone knew of the author and had read every one of their books. Even pubs bore authors names. Now that’s a tribute!


Continued on Page 7

VIRGINIAWRITERSCLUB.ORG

Navigating
Your 
Writing Life

*A Symposium for Writers
of All Ages & All Stages*

Saturday,
August 6

Keynote Speaker
Jeffery Deaver 

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

DETAILS on Page 3



2011 VWC Board of Governors

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GET WELL SOON!

Norma Redfern

We wish you a speedy recovery from your surgery!

The VIRGINIA WRITERS CLUB presents

Navigating Your Writing Life



A Symposium for Writers of All Ages & All Stages

SCHEDULE

- 8:30 AM - Sign-in for name tag and Symposium Goodie Bag
 8:30 - 9:15 Coffee, Tea & Danishes and Free Books Dropoff
 9:30 Opening Remarks
- 10:00 - 10:45 SESSION ONE – Choice of One**
- “eBooks & Paper Books—Kissing Cousins” – Presented by GREG LILLY
 - “Speed Kills—Why You Should Write a Book in Three Months and How To Do It” – Presented by BRAD PARKS
 - “Whose Story are you Telling?” (Character development, dialog and plot) – Presented by JOHN GILSTRAP
- 11:00 - 11:45 SESSION TWO – Choice of One**
- “Author Events & Etiquette” – Presented by JOANNE LIGGAN
 - “Writing the Successful Nonfiction Book Proposal” – Presented by KAREN JONES
 - “How to Hook an Editor (or Agent): The First Five Pages” – Presented by SARAH HONENBERGER
- 12:00 - 12:45 PM Lunch & Free Book Giveaway
- 1:00 - 1:45 SESSION THREE – Choice of One**
- “The Future of Book Marketing” – Panel Discussion with AUSTIN CAMACHO, BECKY MUSHKO, and ANDY STRAKA
 - “10 Steps to Bulletproof Your Memoir against the Critical ‘Who Cares’ Question” – Presented by FRANK MILLIGAN
 - “Myth, Magic and Metaphor—A Journey into the Heart of Creativity” – Presented by PATRICIA DALY-LIPE
- 2:00 - 3:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKER- JEFFERY DEAVER
 Followed by Closing Remarks
- 3:00 - 4:00 Bookstore & Signings by Presenters

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Austin Camacho – VWC Vice President, Programs
 (703) 455-9062; ascamacho@hotmail.com

www.virginiawritersclub.org

Saturday, August 6, 2011

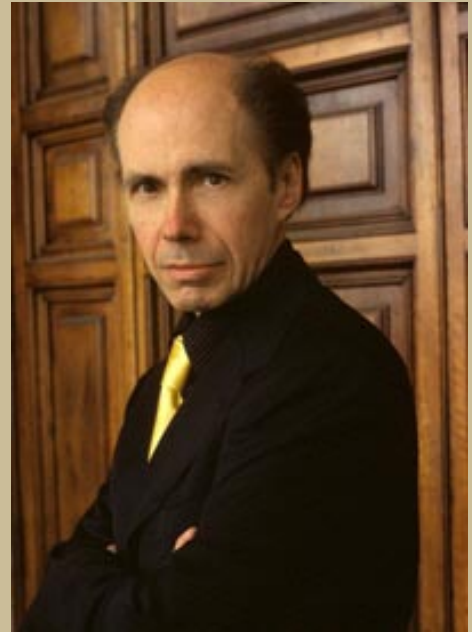
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

*The Dickinson Fine and
 Performing Arts Center*

Piedmont Virginia Community College

501 College Drive

Charlottesville, Virginia



Featuring

BESTSELLING AUTHOR

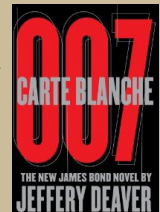
Jeffery Deaver

Author of the

NEW

James Bond

Novel



COST \$85

(\$75 VWC Members & Teens)

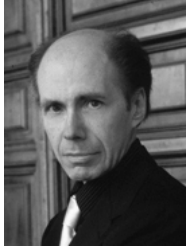
VWC Chapter members need to be members
 of the statewide VWC for discount.

DEADLINE JULY 15

Additional \$10 after July 15

Price includes morning refreshments,
 boxed lunch and symposium goodie bag

SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JEFFERY DEAVER was selected by Ian Fleming Publications to write the new James Bond thriller, *Carte Blanche*, released on June 14. The plot of the new novel features a contemporary setting and brings Fleming's legendary 007 character firmly into the modern age.

Jeffery Deaver is the international number-one bestselling author of *Roadside Crosses*, *The Bodies Left Behind*, *The Broken Window*, *The Sleeping Doll*, *The Bone Collector* and twenty-one other suspense novels. His books have been translated into twenty-five languages. He has been nominated for six Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America and is a three-time recipient of the Ellery Queen Reader's Award for Best Short Story of the Year. His novel *The Bone Collector* was made into a feature release from Universal Pictures, starring Denzel Washington. Deaver was born in Chicago, attended the University of Missouri and received his law degree from Fordham University in New York. In 1990, he quit practicing law to write full-time. Readers can visit his website at www.jefferydeaver.com.



AUSTIN S. CAMACHO is the author of five novels in the Hannibal Jones Mystery Series (including *Blood and Bone*, *The Troubleshooter*, *Collateral Damage*, *Damaged Goods* and *Russian Roulette*) and two in the Stark and O'Brien adventure series. His short stories have appeared in 2010's *Bad Cop... No Donut* and several other anthologies including *Dying in a Winter Wonderland* – an Independent Mystery Booksellers Association Top Ten Bestseller for 2008. He is featured in the Edgar nominated *African American Mystery Writers: A Historical and Thematic Study* by Frankie Y. Bailey.

Camacho is also a public affairs specialist for the Defense Department. For more than a decade his radio and television news reports were transmitted daily on the American Forces Network. He was born in New York City but grew up in Saratoga Springs, New York. He majored in psychology at Union College in Schenectady, New York. Afterward he enlisted in the Army as a broadcast journalist.

After leaving the Army he continued to write military news and handle media relations for the Defense Department as a civilian. He also teaches writing classes at Anne Arundel Community College, and is the current vice president of the Virginia Writers Club.

www.ascamacho.com



JOHN GILSTRAP is the *New York Times* bestselling author of, *Nathan's Run*, *At All Costs*, *Even Steven*, *Scott Free*, and *Six Minutes to Freedom*, plus *No Mercy* and *Hostage Zero* (the first two books in the series featuring Jonathan Grave – a freelance hostage rescue specialist). The third in the series, *Threat Warning*, is due for release June 28.

In addition, John has written four screenplays for Hollywood, adapting the works of Nelson DeMille, Norman McLean and Thomas Harris. John has also signed two movie deals for his books. He will write and co-produce the film adaptation of his book, *Six Minutes to Freedom*, and executive produce the film adaptation of *Scott Free*.

A frequent speaker at literary events, John also teaches seminars on suspense writing techniques at a wide variety of venues, from local libraries to The Smithsonian Institution. Outside of his writing life, John is a renowned safety expert with extensive knowledge of explosives, hazardous materials, and fire behavior. He currently works as the director of safety for a large trade association in Washington, DC. John lives in Fairfax, VA. www.johngilstrap.com



SARAH COLLINS HONENBERGER'S novel *Catcher, Caught* was # 1 on Amazon.com for six weeks after its December 2010 and remains in the top ten for E-books for young adults under *Death & Dying* after it was chosen as one of 250 semi-finalists out of 6500 entries in the 2009 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Contest. An excerpt from the

novel won third place in the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Competition. She will speak at *Fall for the Book* in Fairfax, VA on September 18. Her first novel *White Lies: A Tale of Babies, Vaccines, and Deception* was nominated for the 2006 Library of Virginia Fiction Award. Her second novel, *Waltzing Cowboys* (2009), was an Editor's Pick on Bookviews.com. Copley News Service writes: "Honenberger is a gifted storyteller, a master of nuance who knows how to move you deeply; how to lift your heart; how to grab your attention and hold it." With numerous awards for her short stories and a fellowship from the Virginia Creative Arts Center, she writes from her home on the Rappahannock River. www.readhonenberger.com



Author, educator and broadcast journalist, **KAREN JONES** holds degrees in English and Education from the University of Virginia. Her current book, *Death for Beginners: Your No-Nonsense, Money-Saving Guide to Planning for the Inevitable*, Quill Driver Books, 2010, is a practical and humorous guide to arranging a graceful exit written for baby boomers. Her previous two books include *Up the Bestseller Lists*, Adams Media, 2001, a nonfiction how-to guide offering guerilla marketing advice for authors and the romance novel *Kingdom of Hearts*, CWP, 1987.

Karen has taught writing workshops and seminars at LSU, Austin Peay University, Old Dominion University, the University of Richmond and Christopher Newport University. Jones also has fifteen years experience in television news as an on-air anchor, feature reporter and long-form series producer. Her AP award winning work includes "The Haunting of Virginia" and the BBC's "Pocahontas."

Karen directed the VWC Conference and is a member of the National League of American Pen Women and The Authors Guild. She currently lives in Virginia Beach where she spends her time surfing and working on her next book, a 1951 southern coming-of-age story. www.jonesbrehony.com; www.deathforbeginners.com



JOANNE LIGGAN is a novelist, public speaker, instructor, and founder of the Hanover Writers Club and the Hanover Book Festival. She is also a writer of award-winning short fiction and magazine articles and has been an active member of the Board of Governors for the Virginia Writers Club for over 12 years. Her novels, *Heir of Deception* and *Air of Truth*, are the first two of a three-part family saga mystery-suspense series. The third in the series, *Err at Sea*, is now being edited for publication. To learn more about Liggan and her books, visit www.liggan.net.



GREG LILLY writes the Derek Mason Mystery series. The newest release *Scalping the Red Rocks* (Cherokee McGhee, July 2010) was nominated for the Lambda Literary Award. He is also the author of the novel *Devil's Bridge* and the historical novel *Under a Copper Moon*. When not writing novels, Greg is a workshop presenter, freelance writer, magazine editor, and publishing house representative. He writes and lives in Williamsburg, Virginia. www.GregLilly.com



PATRICIA DALY-LIPE was born in California, but spent an equal amount of time living on the other coast in Washington, D.C., the home of several generations of her mother's family. When she was 18, her mother died of cancer. She returned to Vassar College (with a year at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium) earning a B.A. degree in Philosophy. Later, as a single parent of three children, she and her young family raised and raced thoroughbred horses (winning at Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, Golden Gate Fields and Del Mar racetracks) and showed in the hunter and jumper divisions at horse shows on both sides of the country. After her children were grown, she completed a Masters degree followed by a Doctor of Philosophy in Humanities, specializing in Creative Arts and Communication. For several years, Dr. Daly taught English and writing to University students and adults, wrote for the Evening Star Newspaper in Washington, D.C., had stories published in several magazines, and most recently, had a weekly column with Beach and Bay Press Newspaper Group in San Diego, California.

Patricia now lives in Virginia with her husband (and first beau) Steele Lipe, M.D., three dogs, two horses and two cats and near her three children and six grandchildren. She is the author of five books, each a different genre, past President of the National League of American Pen Women, La Jolla Branch and later as President of the DC Branch, past Historian for the DCDAC (Daughters of American Colonists), a 2002 winner of the San Diego Book Awards Association for her book on La Jolla, recipient of the 2004 Woman of Achievement Award from the NLAPW, Best Books Award Finalist, and 1st runner up trophy winner of JADA Award Winning Novel Contest. In 2010, Patricia was recognized by Cambridge Who's Who as an expert in the field of Creative Writing. Currently, she is an instructor at OLLI (Osher Lifetime Learning Institute, George Mason University) teaching a course on Creativity. She is also working on another book. This time the biography of her great uncle, Msgr. William A. Hemmick, the only American Canon of St. Peter's in Rome and, following WWI, the "Patriot Priest of Picardy." www.literarylady.com



FRANK MILLIGAN retired from his first career as a counterintelligence agent, federal criminal investigator, and law enforcement senior executive to pursue his second-career dream of becoming a writer. He has published both fiction and non-fiction and is author of the writing reference book, *Time to Write: Discovering the Writer Within After 50*, which was recognized with a 2009 Silver Award at the 18th Annual National Mature Media Awards. He is 2010 statewide winner of the Virginia Writers Club Golden Nib short story competition, and 2010 recipient of the Chesapeake Bay Writers, Richard V. Bailey Award For Humor.

Frank holds a bachelor's in psychology; a master's in business and public administration; and a master of arts in writing (fiction) from the Johns Hopkins University. He teaches creative writing in the continuing education program at Northern Virginia Community College, the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, the Christopher Wren Association of the College of William and Mary, and other venues.

He is currently vice president of the Chesapeake Bay Writers organization and is at work on a thriller/suspense novel WritingAfter50.com; WriteWayCommunications.com



BECKY MUSHKO has self-published a novel (*Patches on the Same Quilt*) vanity-published four collections of previously published work (*Peevish Advice*, *More Peevish Advice*, *The Girl Who Raced Mules & Other Stories*, and *Where There's a Will*), and small press-published two books for children (*Ferradiddledumday*, an Appalachian version of *Rumpelstiltskin*, and *Stuck*, a middle grade novel). Her work appears in *A Cup of Comfort for Writers*, *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night*, and *Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Vols. II & III*. For ten years, she wrote a humor column, "Peevish Advice," first for Blue Ridge Traditions and later for The Smith Mountain Eagle. She won the Lonesome Pine Short Story Contest (five times) and the Sherwood Anderson Short Story Contest (three times), was nominated for a 1997 Pushcart Prize by the editor of *THEMA*, and won two categories of the infamous Bulwer-Lytton Bad Fiction Contest—"Worst Western" (1998) and "Vile Pun" (2008). After retiring from Roanoke City Schools, she taught English at Ferrum College and was 2006-07 writer-in-residence for Roanoke County Schools. Mushko currently serves as recording secretary for the VWC and twice-president of both Lake Writers and the Franklin County Library Board of Trustees. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the League of American Pen Women, and the VWC's Valley Writers Chapter. She lives in rural Franklin County with her husband, horses, dogs, and cats. Her website is <http://www.beckymushko.com>; her blog is <http://peevishpen.blogspot.com>.



BRAD PARKS' debut novel, *FACES OF THE GONE*, became the first book in history to win both the Shamus and Nero Awards, two of crime fiction's most prestigious prizes. His latest effort, *EYES OF THE INNOCENT*, was called "as good if not better (than) his award-winning debut" in a starred review from *Library Journal*. A former reporter with *The Washington Post* and *The Newark Star-Ledger*, Brad now lives in Middlesex County, Virginia, where he works as a full-time author. Website: www.BradParksBooks.com



ANDY STRAKA is a licensed falconer and co-founder of the Crime Wave at the annual Virginia Festival of the Book. He is the award winning author of five novels—four belonging to the Frank Pavlicek Mystery Series: *A Witness Above* (Anthony, Agatha, and Shamus Award finalist), *A Killing Sky* (Anthony Award Finalist), *Cold Quarry* (Shamus Award Winner), and the most recent *Kitty Hitter*. A father of six, Andy lives with his family in Virginia. www.andystraka.com

VIRGINIA WRITERS CLUB, INC.

2011 Navigating Your Writing Life Symposium

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

REGISTRATION DEADLINE **JULY 15, 2011** (add \$10 after July 15)

Confirmations with lunch choices and additional information will be e-mailed or mailed (if no e-mail address).

Please PRINT or TYPE

Name (First) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

FOR TEEN WRITERS ONLY: Age ____ Grade ____ Public School Private School Homeschool Other

Name of School (if applicable) _____ City _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ E-mail _____

Parent/Guardian Authorization: I authorize my teen to attend the *Virginia Writers Club's Navigating Your Writing Life Symposium* on Saturday, August 6, 2011 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. By signing below, I declare that I am the legal guardian of the teen named above and possess the legal right to make this authorization.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS (Choose one topic per session)

SESSION ONE – Choice of One

- 1-1 “eBooks & Paper Books—Kissing Cousins”
- 1-2 “Speed Kills—Why You Should Write a Book in Three Months and How To Do It”
- 1-3 “Whose Story are you Telling?” (Character development, dialog and plot)

SESSION TWO – Choice of One

- 2-1 “Author Events & Etiquette”
- 2-2 “Writing the Successful Nonfiction Book Proposal”
- 2-3 “How to Hook an Editor (or Agent): The First Five Pages”

SESSION THREE – Choice of One

- 3-1 “The Future of Book Marketing” – Panel Discussion
- 3-2 “10 Steps to Bulletproof Your Memoir against the Critical ‘Who Cares’ Question”
- 3-3 “Myth, Magic and Metaphor—A Journey into the Heart of Creativity”

PAYMENT (Make check payable to VIRGINIA WRITERS CLUB)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Non-Member (before July 15) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 Non-Member (AFTER July 15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Statewide VWC Member (before July 15) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Statewide VWC Member (AFTER July 15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Teen Writer (before July 15) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85 Teen Writer (AFTER July 15) |

MAIL REGISTRATION & PAYMENT TO

Joanne Liggan, VWC Registrar • 8201 N. Shall Dr. • Mechanicsville, VA 23111

For information, contact: Austin Camacho—VWC Vice President, Programs (703) 455-9062; ascamacho@hotmail.com



President's Letter

Continued from Page 1

To me it seems that our nation is rushing down a super highway to the future, each of its four lanes labeled for the exclusive use of science, technology, engineering and math. Creative folks have been routed off onto the country lane. Now don't get me wrong. I'd rather walk a country lane and gather in all the sensory information that entails, and I have a great respect for math and science. I love technology. I can hardly wait until my car drives itself, and the android gardener weeds the flower beds and my computer not only restocks my pantry but restores my aging body.

But even before President Obama's focus of concern stated in his January State of the Union Address that, "The quality of our math and science education lags behind many other nations," countless articles, broadcasts and internet discussions place science and math at the pinnacle of national and personal success. Economists and business professionals are in agreement, predicting that only math and science majors have a shot at working in their chosen field of study.

And this focus from Virginia — the state abounding in great writers: Virginia's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Initiatives are "designed to expand options for the general student population to acquire ... STEM literacy and other critical skills, knowledge and credentials that will prepare them for high-demand, high-wage and high-skill careers in Virginia."

I'm not arguing against a boost in math and science skills. However, lagging behind is not exclusive to math and science. Almost 50 percent of students entering Community Colleges in Virginia and across the country need remedial course, not just in math and science but in English and composition as well. What disturbs me most is the underlying messages being sent to students whose hearts are drawn toward creative expression. They are being directly and indirectly pressured to give up their dreams and jump on board the technology express.

So can the VWC help to turn this around? We will have to find ways to be more visible, more vocal and more hands-on in supporting the arts in our schools and communities. In a small way, each of us can contribute to that goal by including a message in our conversations when we are out speaking, giving workshops and/or interviews — a message that speaks of the enrichment writers bring to society and the clarity writers bring to the human experience.

And, in the Club and Chapters we can be more encouraging and supportive of each other. I am certain we are on the right road with the launch of our Symposium: "Navigating Your Writing Life." For now all roads lead to Charlottesville. I will see you there August 6.

Golden Nib Contest Update



Rod Vanderhoof had to step down as the statewide Golden Nib contest coordinator due to family needs. We appreciate the work Rod performed to get the contest back in motion for 2011 and wish him the best in the months ahead.

Many thanks to **Christine Valenti** for volunteering to coordinate the contest.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS should forward their first-place chapter contest entries by **SEPTEMBER 3** to:

Christine Valenti, VWC Contest

10103 New Scotland Dr.

Fredericksburg, VA 22408

For more information, contact

ChristineRoseValenti@hotmail.com

or call: 540-645-0549

RULE #1 Clarification: (*Manuscripts must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant, and must not have won a prize at any level in any other competition.*)

UNPUBLISHED - The work has not been previously circulated, distributed or printed in such a manner that it is made known to the public at large, including material published on personal websites or blogs.



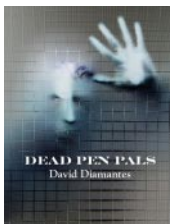
The **Appalachian Authors Guild Chapter** will host the September 10 meeting of the VWC Board of Governors in **Abingdon, Virginia**, followed by a special afternoon program open to the public. More details will be available in July. In the meantime, consider making it a weekend trip to enjoy the fall foliage and area attractions.

VWC MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

MARY ANN ARTRIP - Mary Ann was named 3rd Place Winner in the 2011 Lonesome Pine Short Story Contest, part of the John Fox Festival at Mountain Empire Community College, Big Stone Gap, VA. Mary Ann's entry is titled, "Perspective."

PATSY BICKERSTAFF: Presented the Second Annual Ellen Anderson Reading, Martha Washington Library, Alexandria, and received the Ellen Anderson Award, March 2011. Recipient of First and Second Prizes and three Honorable Mentions, The Poetry Society of Virginia Awards, April 16, 2011. Poems in *Light*, Winter 2010; *Rockhurst Review*, 2010; and *The Kerf*, Fall 2010. Completing four years presidency of the Poetry Society of Virginia, Ms. Bickerstaff is currently serving as an executive director.

DENNIS BOUNDS: Presented essay, "Hey Mr. Wilson: The Neighbor as Narrative Device in Dennis the Menace, Home Improvement, House M.D., and Cast Away," at the Popular Culture Association of the South Regional Conference, Savannah, Georgia, October 2010. Presented writing workshop at the Hampton Roads Writers "Traveling Pen" Series, "Everything You Need to Write a Screenplay," March 26, 2011.



DAVID DIAMANTES:
Novel, *Dead Pen Pals*,
Soltice Publishing,
May 18, 2011.

DARRELL FLEMING: Presentation at Union College, Barbourville, KY on his book *Family, Friends and War Heroes*, followed by booksigning at their Redbud Festival the next day. Spoke at ETSU class on "War and Appalachia" on his book *Family, Friends and War Heroes*. Also spoke to 5th-8th graders at Boones Creek Middle School, Johnson City on "Why I Became an Author." In addition, he presented his book to the Bristol Kiwanis Club, June 8, at the Bristol Public Library.

LINDA HUDSON HOAGLAND: novel, *Checking on the House*, Publish America, 2011; nonfiction, *Quilted*

Memories, Publish America, 2011. Won third place in Tennessee Mountain Writers 2011 Writing for Young People category for a short story entitled "I Dare You." Short story, "Now I Can Call the Cops," was published in the *2011 Bluestone Review*.

ROSE KLIX: *Prom Tryouts*, a one-act play, was one of the three finalists selected for Theatre Bristol's Playwright Festival in April. The audience votes combined with the judges' votes selected the overall winning play to be produced later.

MICHAEL KRANISH: Book, *Thomas Jefferson at War*, Oxford University Press, 2010. This book named one of the top ten nonfiction books of the year by *The Wilson Quarterly*, which noted it as "A brilliantly narrated account of the British invasion [of Virginia] and Jefferson's problematic response to it."

BOB MUSTIN: Novella, *The Blue Bicycle*, Amazon/Kindle Direct Publishing, March 27, 2010, and subject of review article in Weaverville, NC *Tribune*, March 2011; print version, CreateSpace, December 7, 2010. Book, *A Place for Belonging*, iUniverse, republication February 25, 2011. Poems published in the *Bluestone Review 2011*. Presentation, "Silvester II and European Unity in the Year 1000," National Graduate Liberal Studies Conference, April 8-9, 2011, University of North Carolina Asheville.

SYLVIA NICKELS: Mystery/crime story, "Reservoir of Death," in anthology, *Mystery of the Green Mist*, L.L. Dreamspell, February 2010. Sci-fi story, "Tezra's Daughters," in e-book anthology, *Dreamspell Sci/Fi*, L.L. Dreamspell, November 12, 2010.



DIANE PARKINSON
(pseud. DIANE SCOTT LEWIS):
Historical novel, *Elysium: Murder
and Desire on a Forsaken Island during
Napoleon's Exile*,
Eternal Press, April 7, 2011.

BARBARA DRUCKER SMITH: Subject of a Christopher Newport University journalism documentary, *Documenting Life Stories and How We Get By: Reminiscence, Life Review, Memories*, a film by Sarah Hayes, The Rising Press, 2011, featuring Barbara's poetry readings and piano performance from *A Poetic Journey*, and music CD "Barbarina."

CHARLES DAHNMON WHITT: *Books, Haunts and Spirits of the Past*, January 17, 2011; *Confederate American*, January 17, 2011; and *Legacy, The Days of David Crockett Whitt, 1836-1909, 2d edition*, March 24, 2011, all, Publisher - Dahnmon Whitt Family. Senate, Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Recognition for latter book, s/Robin L. Webb, 2011.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1, 2011

SEND YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO:

John Romjue at JOHNLROMJUE@cox.net

(E-mail is preferred for reducing errors!)

Or, mail to: 105 Lochmere Court
Yorktown, Virginia 23693

BOOK IMAGES (Optional):

E-mail book cover image JPGs to VWCMail@aol.com
after sending announcement to John Romjue.

GUIDELINES:

- Achievements are featured for permanent record in our e-newsletter, *The E-Nunciator*.
- Submit achievements by the e-newsletter deadline (see current issue for next deadline).
- No retrospectives, no phone-ins.
- Be complete: give title, publisher (or periodical), and publication date.
- **NEW!** *If you have just published a book, you may also send a cover image to be placed with your announcement.* (E-mail a .JPG of the book cover image to VWCMail@aol.com. You still need to e-mail John at his e-mail address with your announcement.)
- Send clipsheets for writeups. *Don't send anything you want returned!*
- No uncompleted or not yet published projects are included.
- Vocational positions occupied are not included unless it's a new appointment.
- We've included conference directing/presentations, if submitted.
- Ordinarily, non-writing related items cited by achievers are not included.

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE WEB

Member achievements will automatically be sent to our Webmaster and posted on the VWC web site after publication in *The E-Nunciator*.

INVITATION FROM A VWC MEMBER

Hi, Club Members – Each month I send out an e-newsletter to my 600 plus readers, and this month I began a new contest to share other writer's work. If selected 600 people will see your submission, and you win \$25.00 (hey, I'm a poor struggling writer). The entry may be a maximum of three or four pages, may be fiction, non-fiction, or poetry. The only other requirement is that it be clean and wholesome and rated no worse than PG. The winning entry is totally at my discretion. Your name is never sold nor shared. If interested send me an e-mail and I will send you a copy of my latest newsletter. Thank you.

LARRY BUTTRAM

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AUGUST 6, 2011

Navigating Your Writing Life
A Symposium for Writers of All Ages & All Stages
Charlottesville, VA www.viriniawritersclub.org

SEPTEMBER 18-23, 2011

Fall for the Book Festival
VA, DC, and MD www.fallforthebook.org

SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2011

Hampton Roads Writers Annual Writers' Conference
Virginia Beach, VA www.hamptonroadswriters.org

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2011

National Book Festival
National Mall, Washington, DC www.loc.gov/bookfest

OCTOBER 6-8, 2011

9th James River Writers Conference
Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA
www.jamesriverwriters.org • (804) 433-3790

2011 VWC Spring Shorts Writing Contest

WINNERS

Winning entries will be published in future issues of The E-Nunciator.

POETRY (Judge – Dick Raymond)

1. “Incriminating Little Paper” by Abby Kelly – Burke, VA

Abby is a freelance copywriter and editor of a nonprofit organization’s newsletter. She blogs and writes poetry and creative nonfiction prose as a hobby. She lives in Burke, VA with her soldier husband and dog, Brave.

2. “Patient Pets” by Larry Turner – Fredericksburg, VA

Larry moved to Fredericksburg after retiring from a career in college physics teaching and research in the U.S. and England. He recently completed a term as president of the Riverside Writers Chapter. Earlier he was president of the Illinois State Poetry Society and regional vice-president of the Poetry Society of Virginia.

3. “Senjaray, Afghanistan” by Sara Robinson – Charlottesville, VA

Sara is the author of a memoir entitled, *Love Always, Hobby and Jesse* (Pathbinder Publishing). In addition to membership in the Virginia Writers Club, Sara is a member of the Blue Ridge Chapter VWC and the National League of American Pen Women. She lives in Albemarle County and is working on a collection of poetry and short stories.

FICTION (Judge – Sarah Collins Honenberger)

1. “Smile a Mighty Jesus” by R. J. McCarthy – Henderson, NC

Bob is a retired Clinical Psychologist and has been writing for almost 40 years. He has been a member of the Virginia Writers Club for over 20 years, and has won or placed in several fiction writing contests. He’s currently in the process of self-publishing a novel, *Quarry Steps Up: A Tony Quarry/Carolina Mystery*.

2. “Cadillac Castle” by Judith Hill – Locust Grove, VA

Judith says she was born with the writing bug and has honed the skill during a long career of professional writing. Her skills have been enriched through extensive reading and travel, and during delightful interludes as crew for Signature Theater, a Tony Award-winning regional theater; as a docent for James Madison’s “Montpelier”; an editor and writer of a Fairfax County Virginia Park Service newsletter; and, participation in over 20 seasons of Arena Stage in Washington, DC. Her skills have been polished through memberships in The Writers Center (Bethesda, MD), Playwrights Forum (Washington, DC), the Virginia Writers Club, and the Riverside Writers Chapter VWC.

3. “Fifteen” by Melanie Rigney – Arlington, VA

Melanie is the co-author of *When They Come Home: Ways to Welcome Returning Catholics* (Twenty-third Publications). She has more than thirty years of writing and editing experience, including nearly five years as editor of *Writer’s Digest* magazine. “Fifteen” is the opening chapter of an unpublished novel.

NONFICTION (Judge – Becky Mushko)

1. “Picture Perfect” by Murray Edwards – Clyde, Texas

Murray is a Texas rancher. His collection of fiction, *Looking for Lucy Gilligan*, received a Silver Quill Award and was named one of the ten best books for 2009 by *Texas Writes*. His work has appeared in *Magnolia Quarterly*, *The Story Teller*, *Birmingham Arts Journal*, and *Arizona Literary Magazine*.

2. “Hello, Goodbye” by Matt Iden – Alexandria, VA

Matt loves writing, travel, and food, not necessarily in that order, and not in the same order all the time. Travel helps him live in the moment; writing enables him to step out of that moment and gives long-term definition to the things he’s experienced.

3. “The Wonder of a Sparrow” by Larry Turner – Fredericksburg, VA

Larry moved to Fredericksburg after retiring from a career in college physics teaching and research in the U.S. and England. He recently completed a term as president of the Riverside Writers Chapter. Earlier he was president of the Illinois State Poetry Society and regional vice-president of the Poetry Society of Virginia.

CHAPTER NEWS

APPALACHIAN AUTHORS GUILD CHAPTER -
Serving the City of Norton and Counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Washington & Wise, and north-east Tennessee.



The AAG Board of Directors is currently busy adapting to its role as a chapter of the VWC, revising its bylaws and membership application to reflect the new status. Board members are also working toward greater involvement of the membership, with plans to broaden educational opportunities through programs and other activities.

Planning is complete for the Appalachian Heritage Writers Symposium June 17-18 at Southwest Virginia Community College and pre-registration shows great promise for a successful event. This is the third year for the symposium, sponsored by the AAG in conjunction with the college and its arts center.

The next big event for the AAG is the Virginia Highlands Festival, two weeks of arts, crafts, antiques and special events held annually in Abingdon, scheduled this year July 23 through August 5. The Guild reserves space at the festival each year, providing authors with the opportunity for sales and book signings at a smaller fee than individual participation would require. The space allows for three authors per day throughout the two weeks. Plans are well underway for hosting the VWC Board of Governors for its September meeting. The event has been set for September 10, also in Abingdon, and AAG members look forward to welcoming the BOG to the area.

More information about AAG and its activities may be found at www.appalachianauthors.com and <http://appalachianauthors.blogspot.com>.

Contacts: Darrell Fleming, 423-279-0530, dfleming429@charter.net; Rachel Riggsby, 276-531-8596, rriggsby@roadrunner.com.

(Submitted by Rachel Riggsby, AAG Secretary)

BLUE RIDGE WRITERS CHAPTER –
Serving the City of Charlottesville and Counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Fluvanna, Greene, Madison, Nelson, and Orange.

Our Chapter enjoyed a “field trip” on May 23 with a guided tour of the University of Virginia Special Collections Library. Participants were given guidance on how to access and research their resources for writing projects. Since the library is a government documents library, it is open to the public. Among the 12.5 miles of

underground storage are the collected original works of Faulconer, Whitman, Poe, Ann Spencer, Thomas Jefferson and many others. Of special interest, in light of Jeffery Deaver’s upcoming appearance at the VWC Symposium, is a special collection of the letters and journals of Sir Fitzroy MacLean - said to be the model for Ian Fleming’s James Bond character.

Our next meeting is JUNE 22 – “Three Broads Talk Poetry” featuring Linda Levokove (*Walk on the Heart Side*), Elizabeth Solomon (*Steering Wheel Poems*), and Lynn Young (*Just A Woman*). JUNE 30 is the deadline for our Chapter’s Golden Nib Contest.

In July, we will have two events. On July 20 we will have our annual Member Poetry & Prose Readings. On July 27 our guest speaker will be Sarah Collins Honenberger, author of *Catcher, Caught*.

We will not meeting in August. We’ll get back together on September 28 with guest speaker, Jack Trammell, on “Vampire Novel Languishes.”

Our SWAG (Staunton, Waynesboro, & Augusta) writers, led by Clifford Garstang, continue to hold their WriterDay Happy Hour with open mic events or guest speakers at The Darjeeling Cafe on 103 W. Beverley St. in Staunton. To keep tabs on their upcoming events, check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=297619431655.

We have a committee formed to develop plans for future meetings and events. Blue Ridge members are encouraged to submit their ideas to committee chair, Linda Levokove at designlady88@aol.com

The Blue Ridge Chapter meets on the FOURTH Wednesday of each month unless announced otherwise.

For additional information, visit our website www.blueridgewriters.org, or contact Jack Trammell, President (804) 306-3785; jacktrammell@yahoo.com.

CHESAPEAKE BAY WRITERS CHAPTER –
Serving the City of Williamsburg and Counties of Charles City, Essex, Gloucester, James City, King & Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, New Kent, Northumberland, Richmond & Westmoreland.

The Chesapeake Bay Writers have the following events upcoming: June 15 – dinner meeting at Center Street Grill. Speaker is John Shulson, noted lecturer, journalist, author on the arts and consultant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff on technical innovations in the military and its impact on education and learning. On June 25 Greg Lilly will present a workshop at the Yorktown Library on writing a query letter, On July 23 Karen Jones will present a workshop at the Yorktown Library on non-fiction book proposals, On September 14 we will host a luncheon

meeting, (details TBA), on September 24 Brad Parks will present a workshop at the Yorktown Library on publishing innovations and marketing, and on November 16 we will have our annual All-Stars competition at a luncheon meeting. (details TBA) John Bray

For more information contact Jack Bray, jbray6@cox.net, 757-345-0405 or go to our website at www.chesapeakebaywriters.org.

HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER – *Serving the Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach.*

The Hampton Roads Chapter meets every Tuesday from 10 AM to Noon at the Higher Education Center of Virginia Beach. For more information, contact: Dennis Bounds, President (757) 482-2493; mort56@cox.net or Ed DeLong at (757) 481-0121; eddelong@aol.com.

HANOVER WRITERS CHAPTER - *Serving the Counties of Hanover, King William, and Henrico*

The Hanover chapter has awarded a \$500 scholarship for writing excellence, to Natalie Hahn, a senior from Mills Godwin High in Henrico County. The winner was selected by the membership from eighteen applicants. This year our theme was: Write an imaginative fan letter to your favorite author. Miss Hahn wrote to Lewis Carroll in verse. We believe Charles Lutwidge Dodgson would have replied.

Natalie, and a member of the Hanover chapter are tentatively scheduled to appear on Channel 6, Richmond's Virginia This Morning, some time in July. At that time we will have an opportunity to promote the VWC symposium in Charlottesville.

Summer and demanding schedules have the Hanover chapter experimenting with alternating dates for meetings. In May we met at Coffee Lane Cafe in Mechanicsville on the third Monday of the month, from 6 PM until 8. On June 18 we will meet at Liberty Christian School, our usual the third Saturday of the month, from 10 until noon. The July meeting will be on third Monday at Coffee Lane.

The 2011 HWC chapter representatives to VWC Board of Directors are Phillip Schaefer and Jack Ferguson. The chapter officers are; Jack Ferguson, VP. Joanne Liggan, treasurer, Barbara Tulli, recording secretary.

For information, contact: Chapter president Harvey Tate, President (804) 730-1610; htaterbug@aol.com or visit www.hanoverwriters.org

NORTHERN VIRGINIA WRITERS CHAPTER - *Serving Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon, and Prince William*

Fifteen excited writers filled Karen Cantwell's workshop May 15 at the Reston Regional Library to learn how to get their books published on Kindle and other electronic marketplaces. They also learned how to use Facebook and other platforms to advertise their books while observing the respective limitations on authors. Karen is the author of *Take the Monkeys and Run*, and developed tips and shortcuts in the process of marketing her book that she shared with the rest of the club members.

At the May 28 monthly meeting, an open-mike session was held with past president Larry Buttram reading from his novel, *The Third Generation*. Larry invited all his readers/writers to submit entries for his monthly newsletter short story competition. Karen Cantwell read from her short-story collection, *The Chronicles of Marr-nia*, in particular, an excerpt from *Taming the Hulk*. Vince O'Mahony read from his novel, *La Femme Fatale*. Novelist Lisa Leibow read the first chapter her novel *A Coiled Spring* (for which an agent is currently being sought). This chapter appeared as part of a short story in *Sanskrit*. Lisa's pitch for *A Coiled Spring* made her the winner of Pitchapalooza D.C. "It's a pre-revolutionary *Persepolis* with lyrical prose instead of pictures, the mystical qualities of *Lovely Bones*, and the thundering heartbeat of *Kite Runner*..." Vice President Dorothy Hassan, emcee for the meeting, read from *Lily Takes the Field*, a novel in its final draft stages, sequel to her *Not One of Us*.

On June 25, Patrick K. O'Donnell will speak to the club about his career as a combat historian. O'Donnell has written seven highly successful books about American troops in World War II, the Korean conflict and the situation in Iraq. They include: *Give Me Tomorrow*, the story of a legendary Marine unit in Korea; *They Dared Return*, the story of Jewish spies behind the lines in Nazi Germany; *The Brenner Assignment*, the untold story of the most daring spy missions of WWII; and *We Were One*, the chronicles of the 1st Platoon from its formation at Camp Pendleton in California to its near destruction at Fallujah.

Later this summer, at a date still being negotiated, NOVA WC will host Art Taylor, fiction writer, book critic, and assistant professor of English at George Mason University. Dr. Taylor's short stories have appeared in national publications including *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and *North American Review*, online at *Fiction Weekly*, *Prick of the Spindle*, and *SmokeLong Quarterly*, and in various regional journals/newspapers based in his home state of North Carolina. "A Voice from the Past," originally published in *EQMM*, was listed among "Other Distinguished Mystery Stories of 2009" in the 2010 *Best American Mystery Stories* anthology. "Rearview Mirror,"

another *EQMM* story, received the 2011 Derringer Award for Best Novelette.

Dr. Taylor is Marketing Director for the *Fall for the Book Festival* September 18-23 at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. **Dianne Hennessey King** is representing the NOVA WC in working with Dr. Taylor to establish its role with the Festival.

Member news flash: Larry Buttram's first book, *False Witness*, is currently in the top 2% in sales for all Amazon Kindle Ebooks.

For more information about the NOVAWC, contact, Don Collier, President 703-281-7975; jdonaldcollier@verizon.net; northernviriniawriters.org.

RICHMOND CHAPTER – *Serving the City of Richmond and Counties of Chesterfield, Henrico, Goochland and Powhatan*

The Richmond Chapter is now meeting on the third Saturday of every month from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at various Henrico County libraries, unless otherwise noted. Following is a schedule of upcoming meetings:

JUNE 18 - "Project Feedback" - Members are invited to read up to 3 minutes of a current writing project for group feedback. Depending on the number of participants, additional time may be available. Members are encouraged to bring copies of what they will read to distribute to the group.

JULY 16 - "Publishing Industry Update & Report from New York's BEA" presented by Barry Brown, author of *A Journey to Balance* and Sarah Collins Honenberger, author of *Catcher, Caught*. (Note: This is also the DEADLINE for our Richmond Chapter Golden Nib Contest.)

AUGUST 20 - "Researching for Fiction or Nonfiction" presented by Elizabeth Rogers.

SEPTEMBER 17 - Richmond Chapter Golden Nib Award Presentations & Readings by Winners.

For information, visit www.richmondwriters.org, or contact facilitators: Linda Layne (434) 842-6203; VWCMail@aol.com or Barry Brown (804) 457-2308; books@supracitypublishing.com.

RIVERSIDE WRITERS CHAPTER – *Serving the City of Fredericksburg, Lake of the Woods, and the Counties of Caroline, King George, Louisa, Spotsylvania, and Stafford*

Many wonderful and exciting events have been occurring in the Riverside Chapter. In March we held our Celebration of Poetry. Local poets shared their poems along with our guest speaker Jack Trammel. Our fifth anthology, *Rappahannock Review* was released in March. It includes short stories and poems by our members and a

delightful introduction by Pulitzer Prize Winner Claudia Emerson. Copies may be obtained by contacting Judy Hill or Larry Turner. The cost is \$17.95.

Our May meeting was an open mike reading beginning with presentations by members who won in the recent poetry competition by the Poetry Society of Virginia. Winning members were: first place, Larry Turner and Ann Fythe, and third place, Madalin Bickel.

The guest speaker for our June meeting is Troy Howell, local author and illustrator of books for young readers. He will be speaking at 1 PM on June 11th to both the Riverside Writers group and our Young Writers organization. We are very excited about the formation of our Young Writers group organized by Stephanie Fellingner, Riverside member and teacher in the Spotsylvania Governor's School.

June 11th is the Riverside chapter's deadline for entries for the Golden Nib contest.

Future plans include a day long workshop titled the "Parade of Prose" to be held in the fall. More information will be available at a later date. For further information about Riverside Writers please visit our website or contact Madalin Bickel at madalin60@comcast.net. Our meetings are the second Saturday of the month. We meet at the Salem Church Library in Fredericksburg, VA.

VALLEY WRITERS CHAPTER - *Serving Roanoke, Bedford, Franklin, Pittsylvania and Campbell counties*

We have two big changes: new website url and new meeting location. Our new website is still under construction, but it is live. It may not be pretty, but the information is correct. Please change all references to www.roanokevalleywriters.org. We were unable to continue using our original url and are working to have it point to the new one.

The Valley Writers returned to our old meeting space at St. Thomas of Canterbury Anglican Church, 4910 Hubert St. NW, Roanoke. The facility meets our needs and has plenty of parking. We thank Dick Raymond for securing the space once again.

Nothing new on the publishing front. Becky Mushko has been working on the planning committee for the upcoming VWC Symposium, where she will be on a panel.

Contest submissions for the Golden Nib contest are winding down. Our chapter deadline is June 15. One of our newer members, Barbara Stout, volunteered to coordinate the contest and secure judges.

For more information about the Valley Writers, contact:

Betsy Ashton (540)297-3585
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www.roanokevalleywriters.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

(April 16, 2011 - June 15, 2011)

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 Newsletter Editor, Copy Editor, Medical & Natural
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**2011 VWC EDUCATIONAL FUND
 CONTRIBUTORS**

Virginia S. Bare \$50

Christopher Jos. Evans \$35

Dianne Hennessey King \$25

Elizabeth W. Rogers \$5

Philip J. Schwarz \$25

Bertrand Schweigaard-Olsen, Jr. \$1

Barbara F. Stout \$5

2011 VWC SUPPORTER MEMBERS (\$100)

David Diamantes – Berryville, VA

James L. Doherty – Richmond, VA

Elise M. Gedicke - Hayes, VA

James W. Morrison – Moneta, VA

VWC LIFETIME MEMBERS (\$500)

Sky Phillips Beaven – Alexandria, VA

James F. Gaines – Fredericksburg, VA

G.M. Malliet – Alexandria, VA

Betty LB Marcum – Fredericksburg, VA

Paul Schutte – Williamsburg, VA

Barbara D. Smith – Newport News, VA

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT VWC
 E-NUNCIATOR – AUGUST 1, 2011**

Chapter Leaders send Chapter News to
VWCMail@aol.com

VWC Members send writing-related achievements to
JohnLRomjue@cox.net

All other news and announcements to
VWCMail@aol.com