

VWC E-NUNCIATOR

Newsletter of the Virginia Writers Club, Inc.



Volume 3, Issue 5 November-December 2011

NEXT MEETING – Saturday, February 4, 2012 Hosted by the Blue Ridge Writers Chapter
Board Business Meeting 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon followed by boxed lunch
Afternoon Program 1:30 - 3:00 PM (Open to the public) - Poetry & Prose Readings by Blue Ridge Writers
Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Conference Room • Rt. 250 West at Boars Head • Charlottesville, VA
Lunch orders and payment will be required in advance. Details to be announced in next newsletter.

2011 FALL FOR THE BOOK

The Virginia Writer's Club was an active participant in George Mason University's "Fall for the Book" festival this year on September 18-23. Many thanks go to VWC Board member **Dianne Hennessy King** for coordinating our presence and making it possible for five of our published authors to be featured panelists.



Austin Camacho, Clifford Garstang, Sofia Starnes & Jack Trammell

Sarah Collins Honenberger (not pictured) was part of a Youth/Young Adult panel on Sunday, September 18 discussing her novel *Catcher, Caught*. On Wednesday, September 21, four more members were in the spotlight (pictured above) reading from their recently published works: **Sofia M. Starnes** (*The Soul's Landscape*); **Clifford Garstang**, (*Uncharted Country*); **John (Jack) Trammell** (*Down on the Chickahominy*); and, **Austin S. Camacho** (the Hannibal Jones mystery series).



National Book Festival – September 24-25, 2011

Book festival wastes taxpayer money? Not!

By Marsha Mercer

Washington, DC - About 200,000 people thronged the National Mall in September — not for war protests or to demonstrate against Congress or the president. They came to celebrate books.

In this time of dwindling bookstores, surging e-book sales and ever more virtual commerce and remote companionship, the 11th annual National Book Festival brought together more than a hundred authors, swarms of readers and stacks of old-fashioned books in print.

The festival, started by Laura Bush as first lady, is free, and generations of families showed up for readings, book signings and children's programs. Among the preeminent writers on several stages — Nobel laureate Toni Morrison, historian David McCullough, biographer Edmund Morris, humorist Garrison Keillor, poet Rita Dove, children's author Katherine Paterson, and memoirist Dave Eggers.

I listened to a few authors talk about their work, wandered through a tent where state libraries gave out flyers on intriguing state and regional book festivals and state maps. I browsed the book tent and bought two and then stood in a

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Message from the President

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

PLEASE complete & mail our
SURVEY with your
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL!
(See back of newsletter.)

Like most writers, I have a keen sense of imagination. I picture every one of you but me living in a quiet place and having nothing more pressing to do than to spend the day absorbed in your writing, looking up occasionally to take in the spectacular Virginia scenery. And I am envious.

“Balderdash,” you say? Well, the pragmatist in me agrees. Reality paints quite a different picture, doesn't it? Today, no matter what fills your window – shore, woods, mountains', rolling hills or cityscapes — that demanding digital world finds you.

Chances are your inboxes are as full as mine, and your distractions are as unending. In fact, a University of California (San Diego) study reported that the average American get so much information thrown at them daily it could fill 34 truck beds and that was back in the good old days — 2008.

It seems to be a constant struggle for me to stay focused on my writing. I often decide to first tackle just three or four priority tasks on that never-ending chore list — thinking that then I will get back to “my” writing. And just as frequently I never quite make it all the way back. If that seems familiar to you, then you know how fast your creative energy is drained both by others and by other responsibilities.

However, there is hope. One of the surest ways I find to regain writing health is by attending one or more of the great writing events offered across Virginia throughout the year. While the cost of a conference surely exceeds my annual writing income, I can't think of a better investment.

Symposium, Conference, Workshop. No matter the venue. It's there — immersed in our culture — we find our writer tribe. Body, mind and spirit come together, and we become one for an hour, a day or a week. Engaging people who speak our language, who feel our pain, and who really understand why a handwritten and signed rejection letter is a good thing.

At the VWC symposium in August, hearing the struggles and the success stories of authors on the cusp was like a shot of oxygen. If Jeffery Deaver can outline a book for eight months and produce a best-selling novel every year, well by golly so can we. By the end of our event, so many of us regained our vigor and became once more, in bold block letters, **WRITERS**.

Good news. The Virginia Writers Club is holding another such revival next summer — the “2nd Annual Navigating Your Life Symposium.” Plans are afoot to surpass last year's event. **Mark August 4 on your calendar now.** You won't want to miss it.

2011 VWC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

June F. Forte, Pres. 12702 Valleywood Dr., Woodbridge, VA 22192; 703-497-0523; home1270@msn.com

Austin Camacho, 1st VP 7707 Shadowcreek Terr., Springfield, VA 22153; 703-455-9062; ascamacho@hotmail.com

Betsy Ashton, 2nd VP 202 Minton Circle, Moneta, VA 24121; 540-297-5495; betsy_ashton2005@yahoo.com

Becky Mushko, Rec. Sec. 8 Listening Hill Rd., Penhook, VA 24137; 540-576-3339; mushko@embarqmail.com

Sarah C. “Sally” Honenberger, Corr. Sec. 300 N. Ridge Rd. #6, Richmond, VA 23229; honenberger@gmail.com

Norma Redfern, Treas. 2124 Warrenton Rd., Fredericksburg, VA 22406; 540-752-2395; reddove43@aol.com

James Gaines, Past Pres. 17 North Pointe Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22405; 540-370-1723; jimgaines3@earthlink.net

Linda M. Layne, Exec. Dir. P. O. Box 115, Bremo Bluff, VA 23022; 434-842-6203; VWCMail@aol.com

Board Members at Large: (2009-2011) Dennis Bounds, Linda Layne, Becky Mushko; (2010-2012) Larry Buttram, Edgar E. DeLong, Joanne Liggan; (2011-2013) Rod Vanderhoof, Paul Fleisher

Chapter Representatives: (Appalachia) Darrell Fleming; (Blue Ridge) Lynn Young, Linda Levokove; (Chesapeake Bay) Jack Bray; (Hampton Roads) Ed DeLong, Dennis Bounds; (Hanover) Phillip Schaeffer, John Ferguson; (Northern VA) June Forte, Dianne Hennessy King; (Richmond) Linda Layne, Barry Brown; (Riverside) Stephanie Fellingner, Christine Valenti; (Valley) Richard Raymond, III, Jim Morrison

The Virginia Writers Club, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of writers and poets, screenwriters and playwrights, journalists and essayists, and other publishing professionals whose purpose is to support and stimulate the art, craft and business of writing, as well as advocate the literary arts in the broader Virginia community. (Federal ID# 54-1370703) VWC, P. O. Box 115, Bremo Bluff, VA 23022; www.virginiawritersclub.org

2011 VWC ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS BANQUET

Saturday, November 4 • Richmond, Virginia



ELECTION RESULTS – 2012 Board of Governors

President—June Forte 1st Vice President—Austin Camacho 2nd Vice President—Betsy Ashton
 Recording Secretary—Becky Mushko Corresponding Secretary—Sarah Collins Honenberger
 Treasurer—Norma Redfern 2012-2014 At-Large Members—Christopher Evans, Gary D. Kessler
 2011-2013 At-Large Member—(to fill vacancy) Dianne Hennessy King

AWARDS – 2011 Golden Nib Contest Winners

FICTION

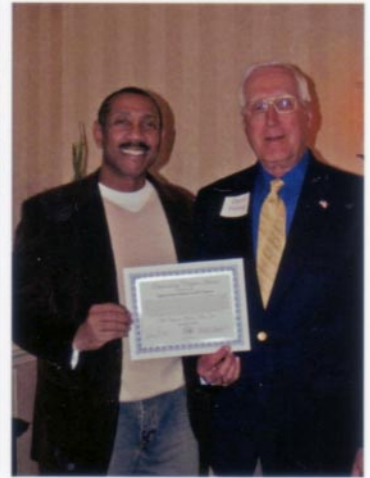
1. “Far Away” by Jody Hobbs Hesler – Charlottesville, VA (*Blue Ridge Chapter*)
2. “A Mighty Fortress” by Julie Leverenz – Williamsburg, VA (*Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter*)
3. “Yuri’s Story” by Isaiah Brown III – Glen Allen, VA (*Richmond Chapter*)

NONFICTION

1. “Lifetime Warranty: A Memoir” by Julie Leverenz – Williamsburg, VA (*Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter*)
2. “176-Year-Old Breadcrumbs” by Judy Witt – Glen Allen, VA (*Richmond Chapter*)
3. “Bubba and Goliath” by Donna Knox – Roanoke, VA (*Valley Writers Chapter*)

POETRY

1. “Shhh...” by Rebeca Chapa – Fairfax, VA (*Northern VA Writers Chapter*)
2. “Matters of Gravity” by Anne Heard Flythe – Spotsylvania, VA (*Riverside Writers Chapter*)
3. “Tolls” by Judy Witt – Glen Allen, VA (*Richmond Chapter*)



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Austin Camacho • Dianne Hennessy King • Linda Layne • Joanne Liggan • Becky Mushko

SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARD Lauvonda Lynn Meade Young

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AWARD Appalachian Authors Guild Chapter

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD Jeffery Deaver (*presented at our Symposium in August*)





MANY THANKS TO:

Jim Doherty - for arranging use of the Commonwealth Club for our event
VWC Members who donated books in advance for our raffle to benefit the VWC Educational Fund:
Karen Jones, Linda Dini Jenkins, Gwen Keane, Cedar Creek Publishing,
Lauvonda Lynn Meade Young, Sarah Collins Honenberger, Darrell Fleming



Special Thanks to our Speaker
Joanna Catherine Scott
 joannacatherinescott.com

Want to know who's who in our Annual Meeting photos? Visit our Facebook page and view the photo gallery!

About our 2011 Golden Nib Contest Judges (Adult Contest)

Launched in 2010, **Apropos Literary Journal** is an online publication that aims to dispel the commonly held notion that an online journal is less “literary” than its print counterpart. Edited by four graduates of the University of Mary Washington, the journal recognizes the merit of the printed page while encouraging adaptation to digital culture. Claudia Emerson, Pulitzer-Prize winning poet and Arrington Distinguished Chair of Poetry and Professor of English at UMW, serves as the journal’s advisor. Visit the journal online at <http://www.aproposthearts.com>.

Julie Dymon, Amy Maddox, Amelia Toms and Megan Eichenberg serve as editors of Apropos.

Julie Dymon is a poet, editor and creative nonfiction writer. Her poetry, book reviews and news articles have appeared in several publications, including Equivocal Journal, Pendulum, Aubade, Slant, Ethershop and The Bullet. She holds a Bachelor of Liberal Studies in English with a concentration in Creative Writing from the University of Mary Washington. She was awarded the Alumni Association Bachelor of Liberal Studies Distinguished Graduate Award for academic excellence and citizenship and the Carlton R. Lutterbie, Jr. Award for the Outstanding English Major from the university in May 2011. In keeping with her passion for elevating the arts, Dymon completed an internship with the Metrorail Public Art Project. The program aimed to integrate poems from Virginia Poets Laureate, established poets and emerging poets into three phase-one Dulles Corridor Metrorail Public Art sculptures. Julie enjoyed working on the venture, which will bring poetry to the masses in 2012.

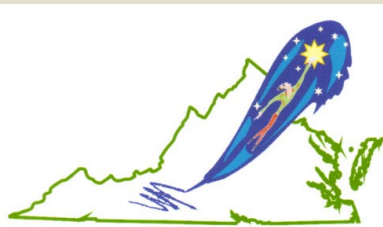
Amy Maddox holds a Bachelor of Liberal Studies in English from the University of Mary Washington. She is also an active member of Lambda Iota Tau Honor Society. She is passionate about reading and writing poetry and creative non-fiction and has published articles on several online magazine and news sites. Maddox enjoys editing Apropos Literary Journal in her spare time and hopes to pursue a full-time career in editing and attend graduate school in the near future.

Amelia Toms is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington where she studied English and Computer Science. Currently, she serves as the editor of three newsletters at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Virginia and as editor of Apropos Literary Journal.

Megan Eichenberg received a degree in journalism from the University of Mary Washington, where she developed an interest in creative writing through coursework and internships. Currently, she is a master’s candidate at Georgetown University in the Sports Industry Management program, studying strategic marketing, communications and new media.

MANY THANKS to Christine Rose Valenti, our 2011 Golden Nib Contest Coordinator

Note – Christine has agreed to serve as our Contest Coordinator next year!



Young Virginia Writers Club

**Many thanks to our
2011 Teen Contest Judges
(VWC Members)
FICTION: Isaiah Brown, III
POETRY: Sara Robinson**

*Note: There were not enough entries for
a nonfiction contest.*

*Help spread the word about our
Teen Contest for 2012!*

2011 Teen Golden Nib Contest Winners

FICTION: Middle School

- 1st “Garden of Weeds” by Elizabeth J. Hu – Herndon, VA
2nd “The Room” by Kayleigh McCoy – Charlottesville, VA

High School

- 1st “The Final Message” by Sarah Ann Morgenstern – Spotsylvania, VA
2nd “Just a Normal Kid” by Jessica Y. Hu – Herndon, VA
3rd “Lost” by Rachel Harrison – Chesterfield, VA

POETRY: Middle School

- 1st “Our Friendship” by Elizabeth J. Hu – Herndon, VA
2nd “Tinfoil Symphonies” by Kayleigh McCoy – Charlottesville, VA

High School

- 1st “Left” by Jessica Y. Hu – Herndon, VA
2nd “The Well” by Sherry Ann Morgenstern – Spotsylvania, VA
3rd “Blue, Red, and Yellow” by Greer Sanders – Chesterfield, VA

2011 VWC College Scholarship Winner

KELSEY TRIPP – Roanoke, VA

Kelsey is the daughter of Mike and Karen Tripp. She was a senior at William Byrd High School when she applied for the VWC Scholarship in May. She now attends Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Following is her winning scholarship essay:

The Future of Written Works

Amid the introduction of e-book readers such as Kindle and Nook, iconic Apple CEO, Steve Jobs, predicted the quick demise of these devices. He brashly asserted, “The fact is that people don’t read anymore.” This statement generated impassioned dialogue among editorialists, educators and bloggers regarding a perceived decline in the public’s reading habits. A rousing discussion on this topic ensued in my advanced placement English course. The consensus expressed in this suburban high school classroom concurred that today’s students did not read as many books as their parents had at the same age; however, my peers strongly believed that they were responsible for learning significantly greater amounts of knowledge than what was required of their predecessors. Competing with the leisure time to read a substantial novel are abundant enrichment activities that were not available to previous generations. Written works continue to be vital in people’s lives but the mode, setting or approach to these words exist in a state of flux. Technological advances have altered the delivery routes of our culture’s written works, but the dour predictions that people will cease to indulge in reading will not transpire. Humans crave communication; a faster paced world cannot squelch this passion. It may even increase the demand for artistic and imaginative written works as increasingly harried or nostalgic-minded individuals seek simpler, less hectic lifestyles.

History relates the innate human desire to express thoughts and information to others. Early cave drawings point to man’s need to communicate. Ancient stories that explain the mysteries of nature or chronicle significant events have been handed down through countless generations of tribesmen. Methods to transcribe these ideas evolved and eventually societal advances spread printed communication among the masses. My earliest recollections include snuggling against my mother as she read to me while pointing to the individual words. Now, as a seventeen year old, I marvel at the astounding developments that have occurred in my recent memories. Our family purchased our first home computer at the end of my second grade in school. I spent many entertaining hours entranced with educational software that sharpened my skills in reading, writing and keyboarding. Today, a short ten years later, I am amazed at the innovations in how we share ideas with others. With the advent of wireless, portable tools such as laptops, e-reader devices and smartphones we have incredible access to information literally at our fingertips. This instantaneous gateway to communication enhances our lives. With all developing trends, wise individuals will determine how to use this technology to an advantage in their lives and not a flittering distraction.

As a writer, technological innovations have positively improved my authoring skills. Whether writing a scientific report for a chemistry class, a historical research paper for a government class or a creative writing piece to submit to a contest, advances allow me to be a more organized, precise and efficient writer. Nestled on a bookshelf in the family den are my mother’s worn Webster’s dictionary, Roget’s thesaurus and a Kate Turabian writing guide from her college days. I cannot envision juggling those cumbersome books while writing as my parent did three decades earlier. These necessary resources exist a few swift keyboard clicks away as I compose my endeavors. If I am uncertain of a fact, I do not have to trek to a library to confirm the accuracy of my information; I simply check a reliable internet source. My most powerful ally to creating a well written work lies in refining my product—edit, reedit, and edit again. Using computer tools streamlines this laborious but essential method for the serious writer. I cringe whenever my father describes his student day attempts to improve his papers. Repeated erasing, piles of crumpled paper and applying “white-out” impose a stifling inconvenience to the creative process; my literary attempts would wither under those conditions. I am a more proficient and prolific writer due to the streamlining tools afforded by recent developments.

Steve Jobs’ provocative proclamation, “people don’t read anymore,” initiated many discussions about declining public recreational reading habits. Admittedly, among my peers, there is a decrease in the number of classic novels read; contemporary teens convey difficulty relating to archaic writing styles and outdated vocabulary. I have found numerous

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The Future of Written Works by Kelsey Tripp – Continued from Page 7

older writings enjoyable when I combined reading them with supplemental explanations from online sources. Since SAT scores continue to climb each year, students are gaining analytical reading skills from alternate sources. Recent wildly successful works, that young people find intriguing, have inundated the consciousness of society. J. K. Rowling's magical Harry Potter series and Stephenie Meyer's intriguing Twilight books have captivated millions of fans. Their translations to the movie screen have motivated otherwise reluctant readers to indulge in discovering the joys that the written word can provide. Newly introduced e-readers are highly coveted devices among my technology savvy friends. The ability to carry a library of interesting titles on these gadgets creates an excitement to read. Critics often point to the decline in daily print newspapers as a sign that reading is entering obscurity. In actuality, technological advancements promote a better informed public; at any time of the day a variety of news formats can be viewed. This material can be rapidly enhanced by videos, maps and archives to be customized by the consumer. Writing is the fundamental system to disseminate thoughts. Approaches may change but inspiration will always drive individuals to seek written material in whatever forms are available.

There is a French proverb, *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* that translates to "the more things change, the more they stay the same." This applies aptly to current trends related to written works. Technology will continue to ease the process of writing and the ability to access those represented ideas. Borderless social and informational systems will continue to propel ideas, in every form, to an increasingly larger audience. Whatever changes ensue, the public will always demand well-written works — quality will always rise to the top, no matter how it is packaged or delivered.

CHAPTER REPORTS



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

Hosting the VWC Board of Governors meeting September 10 was a highlight for the Appalachian Authors Guild. All 11 members of the AAG Board of Directors were present and felt privileged to sit in on the BOG session and to enjoy a buffet luncheon together at the Heartwood Artisan Center in Abingdon. The luncheon was followed by a meeting of the AAG membership and a special program, "Appalachian Culture – On the Page and On the Stage" at nearby Virginia Highlands Community College. Speakers were Richard Rose of Barter Theatre, and Todd Christensen of Heartwood.

After becoming a chapter of the Virginia Writers Club in late 2010, the AAG board began working to revise its by-laws, making changes over several meetings, tweaking and refining until a final version was sent out to the membership for approval. The new by-laws were officially adopted after a final vote at the September 10 meeting. A slate of officers for 2012 was also presented by the nominating committee.

The slate was elected by acclamation at a second membership meeting October 11, also held at Heartwood Artisan Center. Darrell Fleming was re-elected president; Claudia Ware, vice president; Patty Nichols, secretary; and Jack Rose, treasurer. Sign-up sheets were handed out for four standing committees: program, membership, website/communication, and festivals. Chairmen of the four committees, along with the officers, will make up the new Board of Directors.

Dr. Ted Olsen, professor of Appalachian Studies/English at East Tennessee State University, was the guest speaker at the October meeting. Author of four books of poetry as well as other published works, Dr. Olsen spoke on the topic, "Writing About Place and Region."

The September and October sessions kicked off a series of educational programs planned by the AAG Chapter to further serve its membership and to attract more writers to join the organization. For more information contact: Darrell Fleming (423) 279-0530, dfleming429@charter.net. Submitted by Rachel Riggsby.

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

Things are a changing with the Blue Ridge Writers Chapter, Virginia Writers Club, Inc. The new officers are busy organizing and planning.

Joy Hensley, of Buena Vista, Virginia, was the guest speaker at the Blue Ridge monthly meeting on November 16th. Joy's presentation was informative and interesting, and she was an exciting and energetic speaker. While Joy is qualified to talk about many aspects of writing, and a writer's life, she focused on securing an agent; writing query letters; layering scenes; and fitting the mold in a chosen genre. She received many questions from the audience.

The **Annual Holiday Celebration** of the Blue Ridge Chapter will take place December 14, 2011. We always are grateful that chapter member, **Roulhac Toledano**, shares her marvelous Charlottesville condo for this special event. We will again enjoy an outstanding Pot Luck Dinner, where all the members attending will share their favorite recipes. Following the Pot Luck Dinner, members read their poetry and prose.

SWAG Writers (Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta Group) will gather at the Darjeeling Café (103 W. Beverley Street, Staunton, Virginia) on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, for its monthly WriterDay and OpenMic Reading. **Cliff Garstang** continues to do a wonderful job with SWAG activities, and he deserves our kudos.

We are pleased **Gary Kessler** was elected as an At-Large Member of the Virginia Writers Club, Inc., for the 2011-2013 term. **Lauvonda Lynn (Meade) Young** received the Superior Service Award at the November 5th, Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet of the VWC. **Jody Hobbs Hesler** received first place for fiction, for her work, "Far Away," in the 2011 Golden Nib contest, sponsored by the VWC. Congratulations to all! Jody deserves extra congratulations because she also placed first last year in fiction in the BRWC Annual Writing Contest and the VWC Golden Nib contest.

Special thanks to chapter member, **Linda Layne**, for another superior performance in planning, executing, and hosting the Annual Meeting & Banquet of the VWC. The Blue Ridge Chapter is proud to call you a member, and we appreciate all the hard work you do for the VWC, our chapter, and other chapters.

Upcoming guest speakers for the Blue Ridge Chapter are:

January 25, 2012 – Austin Camacho: Camacho is the author of four detective novels in the Hannibal Jones series – *Blood and Bone*, *Collateral Damage*, *The Troubleshooter*, and *Damaged Goods*; plus two additional novels, *The Payback Assignment* and *The Orion Assignment*. He also has written *Marketing Your Novel* (April 2008). He is the 1st Vice President of the Virginia Writers Club, Inc., and he teaches writing at Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland.

February 22, 2012 – Andrew Kaufman: Kaufman is a professor and lecturer, Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies, School of Professional and Continuing Studies, and Visiting Scholar, Department of Slavic Languages and Literature, at the University of Virginia. He is the author of "Saving Tolstoy."

We also look forward to hosting the next meeting of the VWC Board of Governors on **Saturday, February 4**. After the Board's morning business meeting, we will have a special afternoon program of Blue Ridge writers reading poetry and prose. More details will be in the next VWC E-Nunciator.

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 Lauvonda Lynn Meade Young (434) 589-1899; beaches01@sprynet.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.*

Our All-Stars competition and luncheon was held November 16. The Chesapeake Bay Writers All-Star contest winners were: Dorothy Holmes, First Place, Sally Honenberger, Second Place, Martha Anne King, Third Place and Mary Ann Carr, Special Humor award Jack 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.*

Our regular attendance has reached 22 and has been averaging this for about two months. A number of our members participated in the Hampton Roads Writers 3rd Annual Conference held September 22-24. This conference featured bestselling thriller author Michael Palmer as the guest speaker. Both Linda Cobb and chapter president Dennis Bounds helped with the preparation and organization of the conference.

Also, on Saturday October 22, member Linda Cobb gave a workshop on reading your work aloud, to “wow” your audience.

The Hampton Roads Chapter meets every Tuesday from 10 AM to Noon at the Higher Education Center of Virginia Beach. We’ve restructured our meetings to begin with about a 10 to 15 minute presentation on the craft of writing, issues in marketing, and other such items of interest to our members. Then we have a half-hour critique session. Any member may submit up to 5 pages for detailed critique the week before and for the first half-hour we discuss the good, the not so good, and suggestions for improvement. Then each writer gets their work returned with markings from each participating member. The rest of our meeting is basically an “open mic” session: we allow each writer 10 minutes to read a maximum of 5 pages of material (fiction, poetry, memoir, screen- or stage-play, etc.) for instant critique from the group. Each reader brings two copies of their work—one to read and the other to project on our overhead projector. We try to get through as many writers’ material as possible. Those that are unable to read, go to the first of the list the next week.

For more information, contact: Dennis Bounds (757) 482-2493 jdb@jdennisbounds.com or Ed DeLong at (757) 481-0121 eddelong@aol.com.

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

November’s meeting was held at The Mechanicsville Library on November 15. Our guest speaker was Joanne Liggan. Our members are always encouraged to bring something they are working on for discussion. We also have purchased a series of lectures on writing which will be available to our members one lecture at a time, starting with the lecture that encourages you to write complex and long sentences.

For information, contact: Chapter president Harvey Tate, President (804) 730-1610; htaterbug@aol.com or visit www.hanoverwriters.org. Chapter officers are: Jack Ferguson, Vice President; Joanne Liggan, Treasurer; Barbara Tulli, Recording Secretary.

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

We were very excited to host a session at the 2011 Fall For The Book Festival at George Mason University on September 21, 2011. VWC President June Forte emceed a panel of writers who delivered oral excerpts from their favorite writings. Poet Sofia Starnes, fiction writer Clifford Garstang, historian Jack Trammell, and mystery writer Austin Camacho filled out the slate of entertainers who held us spellbound for over an hour.

On October 29, Art Taylor, a GMU facilitator for the “Fall”, and a prolific mystery writer in his own right, was our guest speaker and he lectured on the art and business of reviewing books.

The final gathering for NOVAWC for 2011 will be a retreat at the Haymarket home of “Literary Lady” Dr. Patricia Daly-Lipe on December 10 where food will be shared, honors will be bestowed, and members will settle in for round-robin readings of their favorite passages. Discussions will begin about a new slate of leaders for 2012.

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

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



On November 19, author and photographer Will Daniel was our guest speaker. He talked about his book, *James River Reflections*, and gave a presentation on “Publishing and Marketing Coffee Table Books.” See www.willdaniel.com for information about his book and to read his blog. In December we take a break from meetings, but we’ll be back on January 21 for a “Project Feedback” event.

For information, visit www.richmondwriters.org, or contact facilitators: Linda Layne (434) 842-6203; VWCMail@aol.com.

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

October saw the group gather for our first Parade of Prozed held on Saturday, October 8th. It was a day long event with pannel in the morning including Sherry Morris author od *Hundred Dollar Bill*, Michelle O’Hern author of music CDs and *Peace and Quiet*, Diane Parkinson author of *Elysium* and *The False Light*, Don Rowe author of three novels including *Golden Gate*, James Murphy a member of our Young Writers. Many writers shared some of their prose. After lunch, Joanne Liggan, novelist and founder of the Hanover, conducted a workshop on Character Development. Larry Turner, and Maxine Clark organized the event. We hope to make this an annual affair.

November’s meeting will feature Cancice Ransom on November 12. Our December meeting will be our annual holiday get together.

For more information please visit the Riverside Writers web site or contact Madalin Bickel, President 540-785-5727 madalin60@comcast.net.

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

In September, Valley Writers welcomed its first subgroup, Lake Writers from Smith Mountain Lake, a group of over 45 writers, 15 of whom generally attend semi-monthly meetings. Valley Writers has been in existence for 29 years, with Lake Writers serving the lake community since 2000. Several members attend both meetings. Lake Writers meets on second and fourth Fridays at 10 am. It alternates between the Moneta/Smith Mountain Lake and Westlake libraries. Lake Writers is the literary arm of Smith Mountain Arts Council (SMAC) and is closely affiliated with both library programs. Several writers read at a Comedy Cafe at Barnes & Noble at Tanglewood Mall on Friday, Oct. 14, as part of a fund-raiser for the Westlake Library Capital Campaign. The Comedy Cafe followed a reading and book signing by Sharyn McCrumb, who discussed her latest ballad novel, *The Ballad of Tom Dooley*.

Published writers from both groups participated in what we hope will be the first “annual” Mountain Spirits Arts Festival in Rocky Mount on Saturday, Oct. 1. Each group had its own table where books and promotional materials for ebooks were displayed. The weather worked against the festival by delivering a clear, cold, blustery day. The wind dumped books, book marks and posters on the ground several times. In spite of weather-related challenges, writers felt the festival was a good place to showcase not only individual works but the breadth of literary creativity in the area. The festival also provided excellent opportunities to network with each other. One Valley Writer said he got four tips on marketing his new ebook.

Valley Writers has selected two publishers to speak at its Nov. 3rd meeting. “Getting Published” is the theme. Judy Geary of Ingalls Publishing is an educator, author, and editor, She teaches creative writing at University of North Carolina, Asheville campus. Judy is the author of the Getorix series of historical novels for young adults. Formed in 2001, Ingalls began by catering to regional writers. Since its founding, the traditional, small publishing house has broadened its reach. Judy is one of the founders and functions as a editor for the publishing company. She will be speaking about “Paths to Publication,” weaving themes of getting an agent, with finding a publisher, to debating between ebook and traditional publishing (or both).

Kurt Rheinheimer, editor-in-chief of Leisure Publishing Co., will be talking about freelance writing for magazines. As supervising editor-in-chief for all Leisure titles, including *The Roanoker* and *Blue Ridge Country*, he receives query letters for articles all the time. He will provide guidance on how to structure your presentation so that it will be accepted by an editor. As a writer, Kurt has published novels, short stories in anthologies, and countless magazine and journal articles. Like Judy, Kurt is an adjunct faculty member with two local Roanoke colleges and an annual participant in the Roanoke Regional Writers Contest.

Don’t forget we changed our web site. The new site is www.roanokevalleywriters.org.

For more information about the Valley Writers, contact: Betsy Ashton, Chapter President (540)297-3585; betsy_ashton2005@yahoo.com.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE **JANUARY 6, 2012**

EMAIL news to VWCMail@aol.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS (August 30 - December 1, 2011)

WILL DANIEL (joined Sept. 2011)

4619 Dunkirk Drive, Chester, VA 23831 (804) 520-2555; will@willdaniel.com; www.willdaniel.com
Author, Photographer, Adjunct Instructor; Member of the Richmond Chapter
 (Writing interests: Essays, Local & Regional History, Travel, Journalism, Nonfiction Books)

VICTORIA ANN FLETCHER (Joined Dec. 2011)

549 Bowlin St., P. O. Box 222; Damascus, VA 24236; (276) 475-3875; vfletcher56@gmail.com
Secretary/Ministry Assistant at First Baptist Church in Damascus, VA (Writing interest: Religion)

JAMES E. HARRIS, JR. (Joined Oct. 2011)

5219 Verlinda Dr., Richmond, VA 23237 (Writing interest: Military History)

JANNA ICENHOUR (Joined Sept. 2011)

1155 Bullock Hollow Rd., Bristol, TN 37620; (423) 878-6903; danandjan2@charter.net
Medical Technologist; Member of the Appalachian Authors Guild Chapter
 (Writing interests: Juvenile Fiction, Sci-Fi, Historical Fiction, Natural Sciences, Technical Writing)

LISA LIPKIND LEIBOW (Joined Sept. 2011)

8410 Black Stallion Place, Vienna, VA 22182; (703) 821-3953; Lisa@LLLeibow.com; www.LLLeibow.com
Author; Member of the Northern VA Chapter; Facilitator of Writing Retreat in Maine
 (Writing interests: Novels, Short Stories, Juvenile Fiction, Historical Fiction, Magazine contributor/columnist)

LINDA LEVOKOVE (Joined Oct. 2011)

530 Summerford Lane, Crozet, VA 22932; (434) 823-1642; DesignLady88@aol.com; *Poet & Artist—Interior Designer*
 (Writing interests: Romance and Poetry)

CHUCK LUMPKIN (Joined Oct. 2011)

681 Ellis Rd., Hardy, VA 24101; (540) 537-8970; chucklumpkin@dishmail.net; *Retired, Member of the Valley Writers*
 (Writing interests: Essays, Novels, Short Stories, Sci-Fi)

KATHRYN PANKO (Joined Oct. 2011)

236 Field Stone Ln. #202, Newport News, VA 23602; (262) 719-2457; tominame@yahoo.com; *Paralegal*
 (Writing interests: Novels, Short Stories, Mystery & Suspense, Romance, Adventure, Historical Fiction, Classicists & Foreign Language Scholar, Translation, Theater & Motion Picture Reviews)

HAYLEIGH PHILLIPS (Joined Sept. 2011)

238 Rock Spring Rd., Buchanan, VA 24066; (540) 525-7842; hayleighphillips@gmail.com; *Intern—Leisure Publishing*
 (Writing interests: Essays, Short Stories, Mystery & Suspense, Sci-Fi, Journalism, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry)

MAUREEN SHELLY (Joined Oct. 2011)

P. O. Box 134, Capron, VA 23829; (434) 658-3050; maureendabbagh@aol.com; *Author; VA Supreme Court Mediator*
 (Writing interests: Academic/Scholarly Law, Sociology)

STEVE A. SPANGLER (Joined Aug. 2011)

202 City View Dr., Tazewell, VA 24651; (276) 385-0325; theworkshopatshiloh@yahoo.com; www.workshopatshiloh.net
Owner of The Workshop at Shiloh; Member of the Appalachian Authors Guild Chapter
 (Writing interests: Autobiography/Memoir, Business, Handicrafts, Essays, Historical Fiction, Local & Regional History, Genealogy, Creative Nonfiction, Poetry, Religion)

ANDY STRAKA (Joined Nov. 2011)

360 Forest Ridge Rd., Earlysville, VA 22936; (434) 973-1866; andy@andystraka.com; www.andystraka.com
Author; Founder of the VA Festival of the Book's Crime Wave Festival; Member of the Blue Ridge Chapter
 (Writing interest: Novels, Novellas, Mystery & Suspense)

MICHAEL TOLOSA (Joined Sept. 2011)

43173 Center St., South Riding, VA 20152; (703) 626-7337; michaeltolosa@yahoo.com; www.michaeltolosa.com
Online Content Manager, Filmmaker, Member of the Northern VA Chapter
 (Writing interests: Autobiography/Memoir, Novels, Short Stories, Plays & Scripts, Adventure, Sci-Fi, Journalism, Creative Nonfiction, Public Relations/Marketing, Religion, Screenplay)

DR. WENDY WELCH (Joined Nov. 2011)

404 Clinton Ave. E, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219; (276) 523-5097; wow6n@uvawise.edu; www.scottishsongandstory.co.uk
Professor, Owner of Lonesome Pine Used Books & Cafe
 (Writing interests: Autobiography/Memoir, Business, Needlework, Essays, Education, Fiction, Genealogy, Journalism, Music, Playwright, Public Relations/Marketing, Sociology & Anthropology)

JUDITH W. WITT (Joined Sept. 2011)

9825 Wares Wharf Cir., Glen Allen, VA 23060; (804) 658-5145; dunmovin5@verizon.net
Writer; Member of the Richmond Chapter
 (Writing interests: Virginia & U.S. History, World History, Genealogy, Travel, Memoir, Poetry)

JOHN B. WREN (Joined Nov. 2011)

10515 Arrowood St., Fairfax, VA 22032; (703) 503-7955; jbwren44@aol.com; *Member of the Northern VA Chapter*

Members Exchanging Tips

At our VWC meeting in September, Board member **Larry Buttram** had three or four members ask about his experience with eBooks. We asked if he'd be willing to share those tips with the rest of you in this newsletter and he agreed. *Thank you, Larry!*

My Experience with Ebooks

by Larry Buttram

For years I ignored converting my books to Ebooks, telling myself that it was just a fad (in reality I thought the process would be too confusing or time consuming), then, in April a member of our local chapter, Karen Cantwell, convinced me that it was the way of the future and that the process was not nearly as cumbersome as I thought. So, I bit the bullet and converted my five books to Ebooks and put them on Amazon Kindle and B&N Nook.

There are probably dozens of providers of Books—many of whom I'm not familiar with—but the largest and most successful are Kindle, Nook, Smashwords, and Google. Each has their own formatting issues/requirements. I chose only Kindle and Nook because I found the other two to be difficult to work with and very restrictive with their payment schedule and allowing changes. And I sell about ten times more books on Kindle as I do on Nook, however I think this will change with Nook's new color reader.

FORMATTING

For Kindle formatting requirements go to <https://kdp.amazon.com/self-publishing/help?topicId=A2RYO17TIRUIVI>
 For Nook formatting issues go to http://pubit.barnesandnoble.com/pubit_app/bn?a=mv&t=support

Continued on Page 14

My Experience with Ebooks by Larry Buttram – Continued from Page 13

One word of caution: After you've formatted your book, make sure you check every page before you approve it since spaces/tabs may be deleted or added during the process. I know it may take a couple of hours but it's worth it.

PRICING

There is a big debate on how to price Ebooks. The big name authors and publishers think that E books should be priced at about half the price of print books, while small and relatively unknown authors like myself must price their books very attractively to generate sales (Does Amanda Hocking sound familiar?). I have played around with the pricing on my books—between \$4.99 and \$.99, and I'm still not sure I have the answer. At \$.99 you get only about \$.35 royalty on each book, while at \$2.99 you get about \$2.00 on each book, so you have to sell about six times as many books at \$.99 to break even. If you have multiple books it might be a good idea to price the first one low and then have a higher price on the others. My best day I sold 17 books (125 for the month), while there are other days I've sold none.



PROMOTING

Promoting Ebooks is just as important as promoting print books, but obviously requires different skill sets. It's kinda hard to do a book signing for an Ebook, so most of the promoting must be done online. A great place to promote your Kindle Ebook is at Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/reqs.php?type=1&fcode=d4d160838&f=100002909111580#!/kindle>. Authors can post messages there for all the world to see. I usually post 3-4 times a week and always get a sale or two. Nook also has a facebook page, but they don't let authors post messages there.

There is also a Kindle bulletin board where you can post info about your books. Make sure you read the rules and regulations because if you violate them you will be thrown off the board. You can see it at <http://www.kindleboards.com/>. You can also register at the Nook bulletin board site at <http://www.nookboards.com/forum/index.php?action=login>

I would also recommend setting up an account at www.goodreads.com. I don't use them to sell Ebooks, but I do use them to promote my books. They have a giveaway program for authors where you can give away copies of your print books. I gave away copies of each of my five books, and had as many as 900 people sign up for one give away. It's great publicity for only a few dollars.

Finally, please visit Karen Cantwell's site for additional information regarding promoting your Ebooks. She has been very successful with her books and has a wealth of information on her site at <http://selfpublishingtipsandlinks.blogspot.com/>

If I can be of help, please email me at lab1949@verizon.net. I also have a monthly newsletter which I send out to readers which tracks my adventures as a writer. Please let me know if you would like to receive a copy.

LARRY BUTTRAM began work on his first novel, *False Witness* in 2003, and completed it in the summer of 2004. He completed the follow up to *False Witness—Honor Thy Sister*—in September, 2005, and released a book of short stories, *The Greatest Gift* in August, 2006. His third and final book in the *False Witness* series, *The Third Generation*, was released in August, 2007. In 2008 he completed his first historical fiction novel, *The Curtain Torn*, about Robert Carter III, who freed more slaves than anyone in American history.

Larry is a native of Oneida, Tennessee and currently lives in Manassas Park, Virginia. His favorite writing related quote: When Mark Twain was told, late in his career, that he was a very good writer, he replied, "Well, I started out to be, but then I ran out of paper." www.larrybuttram.com

Do YOU have a helpful article to share?

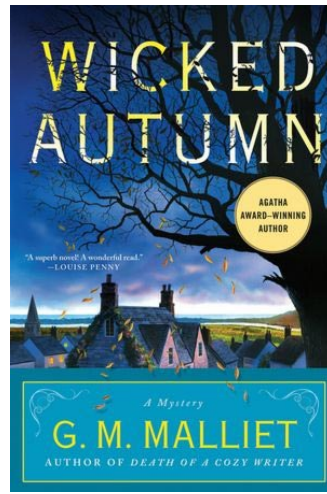
E-mail it by our next newsletter deadline of JANUARY 6 to VWCMail@aol.com.

VWC MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

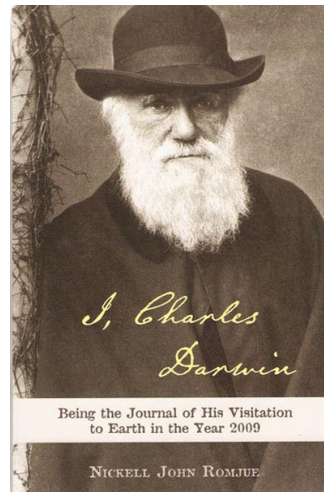
AUDIO BOOKS, E-BOOKS, PRINT BOOKS



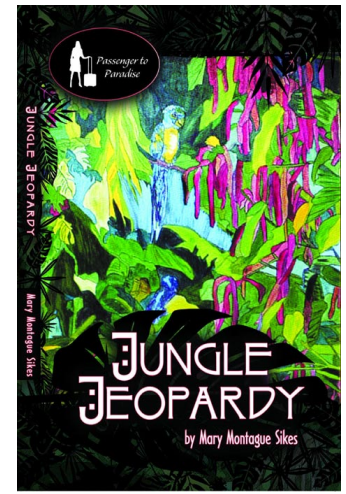
JAMES EDWARD HARRIS, JR.
Memoir, *Flight of a White Dinosaur* (Xlibris, Nov 2011)



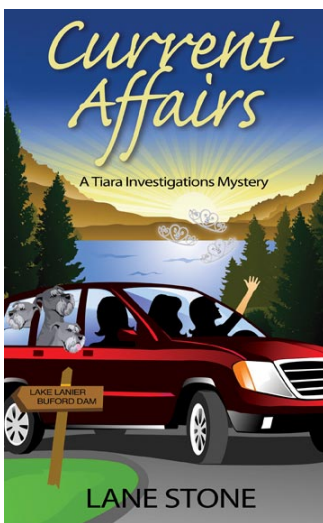
G.M. MALLIET
Book, *Wicked Autumn: A Mystery* (Minotaur Books, Sept 2011)



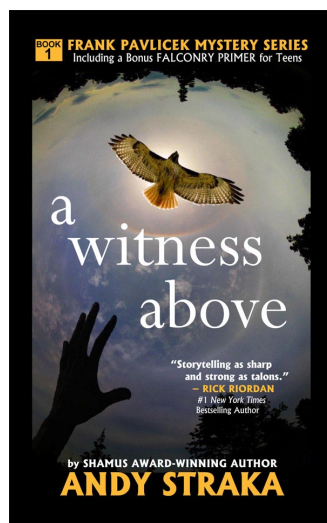
JOHN L. ROMJUE
Book, *I, Charles Darwin: Being the Journal of His Visitation to Earth in the Year 2009* (Wheatmark, Sept 2011)



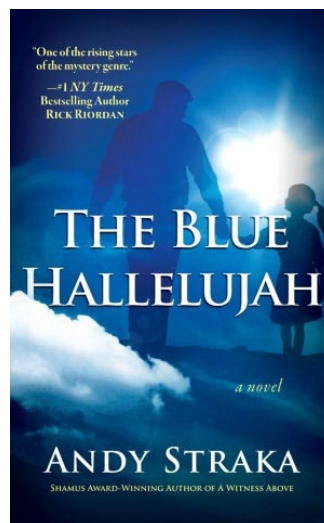
MARY MONTAGUE SIKES
Book, *Jungle Jeopardy* (Timeless Love, August 2011)



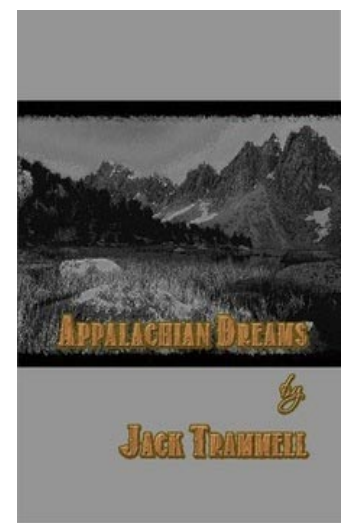
LANE STONE
Book, *Current Affairs: A Tiara Investigations Mystery* (Mainly Murder Press, Nov 2011)



ANDY STRAKA
Book, *A Witness Above: A Frank Pavlicek Mystery - Teen Edition* (Cedar Creek Publishing, Oct 2011).



ANDY STRAKA
E-book, *The Blue Hallelujah* (LLW Media, Oct 2011)



JACK TRAMMELL
Book of poetry, *Appalachian Dreams* (Lulu Press, November 2011)
ACHIEVEMENTS

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

If you would like to have YOUR recent book or writing-related achievement included in our Member Achievements, YOU need to get in touch with JOHN ROMJUE.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE - JANUARY 6, 2012

See Guidelines on next page.

VWC MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

APPEARANCES, AWARDS, PUBLICATION CREDITS, ETC.

BETTY MARCUM: Featured in the areas of artist, photographer, and author, Festival of the Arts NLIC Church NatureScape, Comcast ArtScape TV Debut Show, and Comcast ArtScape “Christmas Special,” 2010.

LARRY TURNER: Poem, “Garden Gifts,” appeared in Summer 2011 issue of *The Lyric*. Poem, “While I Wasn’t Paying Attention,” first place, miniature poem division, 2011 Poets & Patrons Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Poem, “The Romantic and the Realist,” third place, social conscience division, 2011 Poets & Patrons Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Poem, “On the Rocks,” second honorable mention, humorous poem division, 2011 Poets & Patrons Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Judge, 2011 Poets & Patrons Chicagoland Poetry Contest, Chicagoland residents-only division.

DEADLINE

FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 6, 2012

SEND YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS TO: **John Romjue** at JOHNLROMJUE@cox.net
(*E-mail is preferred for reducing errors!*) Or, mail to: 105 Lochmere Court, Yorktown, VA 23693
Book Images E-mail book cover image to VWCMail@aol.com after sending announcement to John.

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

2012 Membership Dues are Due



December 31 is the end of our 2011 membership year. It's time to renew your membership for 2012. Please use the renewal form at the back of this newsletter to update your membership information and writing interests.

VIRGINIA
FESTIVAL
OF THE
BOOK



vfh Virginia Foundation
for the Humanities
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

March 20-25, 2012
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA
www.vabook.org

*Visit the VWC table on
Saturday, March 24
at the Charlottesville Omni
on the Downtown Mall*



Spring Shorts Contest

Deadline: March 31, 2012

THREE CATEGORIES

FICTION: A short story not to exceed 1,200 words

NON-FICTION: A personal essay not to exceed 1,200 words

POETRY: Any form not to exceed 30 lines

GUIDELINES

- Only members of the statewide Virginia Writers Club who have paid their membership dues for 2012 may enter the contest. Chapter members who are not members of the statewide organization need to complete and mail a statewide membership application (see back of newsletter).
- Entries will be accepted from January 2 through March 31, 2012. Entries **WILL NOT** be accepted before January 2.
- A writer may submit only one entry per category.
- Entry must be the original unpublished work of the writer.
- Entries must be in Times New Roman 12 on white 8 x 11-inch paper. No handwritten entries will be accepted. Illustrations will not be accepted or considered.
- Prose must be double-spaced with a ragged right margin; poetry must be single-spaced with a flush left margin.
- Prose of more than one page should have title, category, and page number in a header on any pages after the first one.
- A detachable cover sheet must include the title of the piece and category, the author's name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. An author's biography of no more than 50 words should be included on the cover sheet.
- *The writer's name must not appear on any page of the submission, other than the cover sheet.*
- Manuscripts will not be returned. Winners will be notified in May, 2012.
- Entry constitutes permission to publish the winning essay in a future edition of a Virginia Writers Club publication or on the Virginia Writers Club website. Acceptance of the prize money constitutes waiver of any and all further compensation for first publication rights. Remaining rights are the property of the author. Authors retain all rights to non-winning entries.
- Two hard copies of the work (with one detachable cover sheet) per category must be mailed to:

Linda M. Layne, VWC Exec. Dir. • P. O. Box 115, Brems Bluff, VA 23022 • E-mail: VWCMail@aol.com

E-MAIL ENTRIES ALSO ACCEPTED FOR THE VWC SPRING SHORTS CONTEST

You must follow these additional guidelines:

- Microsoft Word or RTF file attachments only.
- Put cover sheet information in body of e-mail only, not in document file.
- Only one copy of manuscript needed.
- Be sure to include title on first page.
- Name your Word or RTF file: `yourfirstandlastname_category.doc` (i.e. `lisaross_poetry.doc`).
- *Separate e-mail required for each category entered.*
- In subject header put "Spring Shorts Contest Entry-(category)"

ATTENTION TEEN WRITERS!

Teens are welcome to enter the **TEEN SPRING SHORTS CONTEST**. All information above applies except:

1. Teen Entry Form (see back of newsletter) required with mailed entry or in advance of e-mailed entry.
2. We will have MIDDLE SCHOOL and HIGH SCHOOL divisions for each category.
3. For e-mailed entries, in subject header put "Teen Spring Shorts Contest Entry-(category)"

Book festival wastes taxpayer money? Not! *Continued from Page 1*

long line to get one signed. There's something you can't do with a Kindle, I gloated. (Later I watched a YouTube video on how an author could digitally "sign" an e-book. Complicated is an understatement.)

It was heartening to see so many people enjoying themselves with books, but something nagged at me. How much was this feel-good event costing taxpayers? Could it be perceived as, horrors, a waste of money? Would the long knives of congressional budget-cutters slice out its heart?

Stan Collender, who has worked for both the House and Senate budget committees and is the author of a book on the federal budget process, raised questions about the festival on his blog on the Capitol Gains and Games website.

"It might be possible to achieve better results at a lower cost if the government distributed vouchers all over the country and let people get books from local stores," Collender wrote after the festival a couple of years ago.

"Some might consider the program to be a waste because it directly benefits only a relatively small number of people and is held in only one city. Others might believe it's a waste because they don't think it's the federal government's job to promote reading over, say, movie watching. Some might think it is waste because they don't like the authors whose books are featured or because the language in their books offends them," he wrote.

Whoa. Don't tell the tea party.

Me, I'm a soft touch for books and reading. Not only do I think the festival is not a waste, I'm fully prepared to argue that it's money well spent. OK, it's not as important as National Institutes of Health researchers' searching for a cure for cancer or Alzheimer's, but it's definitely worthwhile. The government should encourage literacy. How else will we compete in a global economy?

I'd read about the festival's deep-pocketed corporate sponsors, including Target, Wells Fargo, AT&T and the Washington Post. In 2010, David M. Rubenstein, cofounder of the Carlyle Group, a global private equity fund, announced a \$5 million gift over five years. But was it enough?

I called Jennifer Gavin, acting director of communications for the Library of Congress and the project manager of the festival.

The festival is estimated cost \$2.2 million this year, she told me, and there's good news.

"We aren't financing this with taxpayer dollars. It's financed through private donations." Gavin said.

None of the corporate sponsors get in the door for less than \$30,000. This year, Rubenstein offered to spring for another \$300,000 above his announced gift so that the festival could expand from one to two glorious days.

A few Library of Congress employees – about 20 — devote about 15 percent of their time overall to the festival, Gavin said. Other than that, it's paid for with donations. That's a relief.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington thanked the corporate sponsors, supporters and more than 1,100 volunteers at this year's festival. Because of them, he said, "We can look forward to this beloved celebration of reading and literacy for years to come."

See you there next year?

Reprinted with permission from the author.

MARSHA MERCER - A veteran Washington bureau chief and weekly columnist writing on national affairs and politics online, for newspapers and other print publications in Manassas, Lynchburg, Bristol, Danville, and elsewhere in the South. She's also daughter of longtime VWC member Jennie DeGenaro of Richmond. www.marshamercer.com

VWC BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| February 4, 2012 | Charlottesville, VA |
| May, 2012 | TBA |
| September, 2012 | TBA |
| February, 2013 | TBA |
| May, 2013 | TBA |
| September, 2013 | TBA |
| February, 2014 | TBA |
| May, 2014 | TBA |
| September, 2014 | TBA |

HOST CHAPTERS

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Blue Ridge Chapter |
| Hampton Roads Chapter |
| Valley Writers Chapter |
| Northern VA Chapter |
| Hanover Writers Chapter |
| Chesapeake Bay Writers Chapter |
| Riverside Writers Chapter |
| Richmond Chapter |
| Appalachian Authors Guild Chapter |

VIRGINIA WRITERS CLUB. INC.

Established in 1918 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization Membership Year: JAN 1 - DEC 31

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION *New* *Renewal*

Membership is open to all regardless of race, gender, national origin, age, religion or disability.

Membership in the VWC does not constitute or imply endorsement, by the Club or its members, of a writer's body of work.

(Circle one) Miss Ms. Mrs. Mr. Dr. (or specify) _____ DATE _____

Name _____ Pen Name _____

Company Name (If Applicable) _____

Address _____ County (to determine Chapter) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____ Website _____

BLOG _____ FACEBOOK _____ TWITTER _____ Other _____

Occupation _____

PRODUCTS OR SERVICES YOU PROVIDE WRITERS _____

MEMBER OF THE _____ CHAPTER OF THE VIRGINIA WRITERS CLUB, INC.

WRITING INTERESTS: Fiction Nonfiction Poetry (OTHER specific writing interests: _____)

INDICATE THE VWC ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising in the E-Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Distributing VWC information in your area <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers' Bureau <input type="checkbox"/> Conference & Symposium Planning and Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Attending Workshops (indicate specific area of need) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Conducting Writer's Workshops (indicate specialties) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Young Virginia Writers Club (middle & high school teens) _____ |
|---|---|

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Select One)

ACTIVE \$30 (\$15 New Member) \$100 Supporting Member \$500 Lifetime Member

Those who have a) written a book, play, movie, or other script which has been published, produced, or broadcast; b) edited a published anthology or other writings; or c) written and sold to a magazine, newspaper, book publisher, or other communications medium, two poems, one short story, or an article. Other writings may be considered on their merits at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

REQUIREMENT FOR NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS: A tear sheet, sample, resume, publicity flyer, or website address with documentation for verification should accompany application.

ASSOCIATE \$30 (\$15 New Member) \$100 Supporting Member \$500 Lifetime Member

Those who have not yet fulfilled the eligibility requirements for active membership.

CORPORATE \$30 (\$15 New Member) \$100 Supporting Member \$500 Corporate Sponsor

Businesses and philanthropic organizations that support the mission and objectives of the Club.

STUDENT (COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY) \$15 Full-time students or part-time students age 26 and under.

Name of College or University _____

Additional Tax-Deductible Contribution of \$ _____ enclosed for the VWC Educational Fund.

Mail completed application with appropriate dues contribution payable to:
The Virginia Writers Club • P.O. Box 115 • Bremo Bluff, VA 23022

2012 Teen Spring Shorts Contest

An annual writing contest for middle school and high school level students
by the Virginia Writers Club, Inc.– founded in 1918 – a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
www.virginiawritersclub.org

CONTEST ENTRY FORM - Deadline March 31, 2012

Students who enter Teen Contests sponsored by the Virginia Writers Club are automatically registered as a member of the Young Virginia Writers Club (YVWC) - a teen division of the Virginia Writers Club, Inc. Membership is FREE and open to all middle school and high school level students regardless of race, gender, national origin, religion or disability.

**Parent/Guardian permission required. Communications to students will be sent
in care of the designated parent/guardian mailing and/or e-mail address.
(We DO NOT sell/share our mailing list, ever!)**

2012 CONTEST ENTRY INFORMATION:

DIVISION (Check One) Middle School High School

CATEGORY - *Limit (1) entry per category in appropriate division*

POETRY Title: _____

FICTION Title: _____

NONFICTION Title: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Name (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____

Currently Attending: Public School Private School Homeschool Alternative School Other

Current Grade Level _____ AGE _____ BIRTHDATE ____/____/____ SEX Female Male

Name of School _____ Expected Year of Graduation _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Name of Parent/Guardian (First) _____ (Initial) _____ (Last) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

County _____ Closest Major City _____

Phone (_____) _____ Cell (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Local Newspapers (for award notices) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (REQUIRED) _____

MAIL TO: Linda Layne, YVWC Chairperson • P.O. Box 115 • Brems Bluff, Virginia 23022
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL (434) 842-6203 or e-mail VWCMail@aol.com

VWC Club End-of Year Member Survey 2011

On behalf of the VWC's currently serving officers, I want to thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given us over the course of this year. I feel we have made some significant gains in moving the Club forward. There is much more that can be done to make the VWC the premier writers club you deserve.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts on not only how we have performed but how we can improve our service.

1) How long have you been a VWC member?

- Less than 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6 or more years

2) What type of membership do you currently hold?

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="radio"/> Active | <input type="radio"/> Honorary | Emeritus |
| <input type="radio"/> Associate | <input type="radio"/> Corporate | |

3) What was your primary reason for joining the VWC?

4) What VWC Chapter are you a member of

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Appalachian Authors Guild | <input type="radio"/> Blue Ridge | <input type="radio"/> Chesapeake Bay Writers |
| <input type="radio"/> Hampton Roads | <input type="radio"/> Hanover Writers | <input type="radio"/> Northern Virginia |
| <input type="radio"/> Richmond | <input type="radio"/> Riverside Writers | <input type="radio"/> Valley Writers |

5) **Demographics:**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Male | <input type="radio"/> Female |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

6) **Age Range:**

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 20 and under | <input type="radio"/> 21-40 | <input type="radio"/> 41-60 |
| <input type="radio"/> 61-80 | <input type="radio"/> Eternally Young | |

7) **Which of the VWC events have you attended in the past two years?**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Annual Meeting | <input type="radio"/> Summer Symposium | <input type="radio"/> Board of Governors Meeting |
|---|---|---|

8) **What do you feel the VWC could do differently to better serve membership?**

9) **Overall, how satisfied are you with the direction the VWC is heading?**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Very Satisfied | <input type="radio"/> Somewhat Satisfied | <input type="radio"/> Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied | <input type="radio"/> Somewhat Dissatisfied | <input type="radio"/> Very Dissatisfied |
|---|---|---|--|--|

Additional Comments