



E-NUNCIATOR

Spring Edition

March 2016

The official newsletter of The Virginia Writers Club, Inc

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Don't see your chapter represented in the E-Nunciator?

Volunteer to be your chapter's Newsletter Correspondent and give your chapter a voice.

President's Message by Betsy Ashton



Hello, Fellow Virginia Writers Club Members,

I'm excited to say that planning is well under way for the Sixth Annual Navigating Your Writing Life Symposium on Saturday, August 6th, at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville.

We are so lucky to have Diane Fanning as our

keynote speaker. You may know her true crime books, but did you also know she writes historical mysteries?

Well, she does. We are in for a treat, because she is going to teach a workshop on the importance of research, whether writing fiction or nonfiction.

Check the website often

to see what panels will be offered and what the workshop topics are. You don't want to miss this symposium.

A gentle reminder: We need volunteers for the symposium and to help with the planning for the centennial in 2018. Some of the tasks are simple and can be completed in an hour or two. Others take longer.

Please let Maggie Duncan know if you are willing to help with the Symposium. She has a list of tasks...

Until next time, write on, right now,

Betsy

E-NUNCIATOR

Editor: Linda Ensign

Deadline for next Edition: June 10, 2016

Submissions accepted only from VWC website form.

The editor reserves the right to edit articles for clarity and space. All rights revert to the authors.

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NEWS & EVENTS

- May 1 - College Scholarship Competition deadline
- May 7 - Board of Governors meeting
- June 30 – Summer Shorts Writing Contest deadline
- August 6 - 2016 Symposium, Navigating Your Write Life – Make This Your Year
- September 1 – State Level Golden Nib Writing Contest deadline*
- September 10 - Board of Governors meeting
- November 5 - 2016 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

For more details, please check the VWC [website](#).

* Please check with your chapter for its' deadline.

2016 Board of Governors

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT	Betsy Ashton
1 ST VICE PRESIDENT	Phyllis "Maggie" Duncan
2 ND VICE PRESIDENT	Chuck Lumpkin
SECRETARY	Fred Fanning
TREASURER	Linda M. Layne
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Jack Ferguson
	Kimberly Dalferes
	JoAnn Meaker
	Linda Ensign
	Michele O'Hearn
	George Cole Scott

Chapter Representatives

APPALACHIAN AUTHORS GUILD	Linda Hoagland
BLUE RIDGE	(open)
CHESAPEAKE BAY WRITERS	Dave Carr
HANOVER WRITERS	Harvey Tate
HAMPTON ROADS	Dennis Bounds
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	Dianne Hennessy King
RIVERSIDE	Dan Walker, John Wills
VALLEY	Richard Raymond, Mike Hill
WRITE BY THE RAILS	June Forte, Dennis Fargo

Plus the chapters' presidents

Virginia Writers Club Chapters

Appalachian Authors Guild

Victoria Fletcher, vfletcher56@gmail.com

Blue Ridge

Linda M. Layne, wvcmail@aol.com

Chesapeake Bay Writers

Carol Bova, cjbova@mindspring.com

Hampton Roads

Dennis Bounds, jdb@jdennisbounds.com

Hanover Writers

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Valley

Susan Elliott, larry.susan.elliott@gmail.com

Write By the Rails

Stacia Kelly, staciakelly@gmail.com

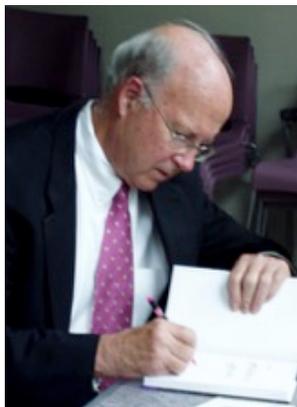
Down Pens

PASSING OF FORMER VWC PRESIDENT, JIM DOHERTY

James L. "Jim" Doherty died on December 8, 2015, at his home in Richmond. Jim was a long-time member and promoter of the Virginia Writers Club and was elected the club's president for three terms in the 1990s. After serving as president, Jim continued to serve as an active member. For several years, he arranged for the VWC to hold its annual meetings in Richmond at the Commonwealth Club, of which he was a member.

Jim graduated from Deerfield Academy, Bowdoin College, and Columbia Business School, and he served in the U.S. Army, with a period in Korea. He worked in real estate in Richmond and was active in promoting community affairs and charitable fund raising. He loved distance running and was honored on one occasion in 1996 to carry the Olympic torch.

Jim authored five books--*Race and Education in Richmond*, *Faith is Alive in You*, *Foundations for the*



Former VWC President Jim Doherty was a guest speaker in May 2006, as part of our VWC Board meeting and afternoon event. He spoke about his new book, In Praise of Givers, which features 71 profiles of people who have donated time and money to charitable organizations in Richmond, VA and why donors older than 45 choose to give at that stage in their lives. Photo is of Jim autographing his book.

Millennium Ahead, In Praise of Givers and Finish Up Strong.

Jim is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Lou Doherty, three sons and their spouses, and eleven grandchildren.

~ James W. Morrison, Former VWC President

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of our founding Chapter members, James "Jim" Doherty, in December. Besides being a VWC Board member for many years and also

serving as VWC President (1994-96; 1998-99), he contributed tremendously in raising the bar of professionalism in leadership. After retiring from service to the Club to focus on his writing, he continued to attend Richmond Chapter meetings when he could. He especially liked the meetings where our topic for discussion was the marketing. Former VWC Executive Director, Charlie Finley, founder of the Richmond Chapter, shared these comments about Jim:

"Jim was a man for all seasons, a marathon runner even after age 89. a prolific writer and his last book was a compilation of interviews with folks over 75 years old with their answers to the question "How do you finish up strong in life"? He was a good friend of mine, and we served on many boards together, The James River Catfish Club, Friends of the Richmond Public Library, the Richmond First Club, the VA Writers Club and the Community Foundation. His memorial service Dec 13 was quite touching, and with much humor offered by his two sons." ~ Charlie

~ Linda Layne, President, Richmond Chapter

2016 College Scholarship Competition



In keeping with the Club's vision to foster the art, craft, business and advocacy of the literary arts, the Virginia Writers Club (VWC) awards no less than one college scholarship each academic year. Since scholarship fundraising is an ongoing VWC activity, the Board of Governors (BOG) determines the number and amount of annual scholarships based on available funds at their February BOG meeting.

For 2016, there will be a single \$1,000 College Scholarship Award to be presented by August 1, payable to the college in the awardee's name.

The following Virginia residents are eligible to compete for the

VWC College Scholarship(s):

High School Students - Applicant must currently be a high school or a home-schooled senior who will be enrolled at an accredited college or university during the next academic year. Must have a GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.

College Students - Applicant must be a college/university freshman who has a writing-related major (i.e., English, Journalism, etc.) Freshmen who are former VWC High School Scholarship awardees are also eligible. Must have a GPA of 2.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Included in the scholarship requirements is an assigned essay topic.

The 2016 essay topic is:

"Looking at the current trends, how do you foresee the future as it relates to written works, and how will this affect you as a writer?"

For information on formatting requirements for the essay and additional information needed for

the application process, visit the [website](#).

The scholarship application deadline is May 1. For more information contact Fred Fanning, Chairperson of the VWC Scholarship Committee by phone: (540) 424-9190 or by email: fanningf@verizon.net

The 2015 scholarship went to Neil Hailey of Manassas, VA. His academic record and essay entitled *Into the Light* made him the clear winner.

SUMMER SHORTS

MAY is "Short Story Month" and the Virginia Writers Club is now accepting fiction, non-fiction, and poetry submissions for the annual SUMMER SHORTS WRITING CONTEST.

DEADLINE: June 30th

Check the VWC [website](#) for more details.

2016 Golden Nib Contest

The 2016 Golden Nib writing contest is officially open. The Golden Nib is the Virginia Writers Club annual writing competition in three categories: fiction, non-fiction, and poetry with cash prizes for first, second, and third place finishers. Contestants must be members in good-standing of a VWC chapter as well as a member of the state organization. Each chapter submits one representative in each category to the state finals, where first, second, and third place winners are announced at the annual meeting (usually held in November).

ABOUT THE CONTEST

In 2005, the Virginia Writers Club, Inc. created a two-tier writing contest. Entries would be submitted and judged at the VWC Chapter-level first, and then each Chapter would forward its first-place winning entries for judging at the (second tier) State VWC level. Entrants who live within the jurisdiction of a VWC Chapter must enter the first tier of the competition through that Chapter.

For those living in an area where no Chapter exists, they must submit their entries to the Chapter closest to them.

CONTEST RULES

Entries will be accepted on any subject the author or poet chooses in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction and Poetry.

Manuscripts must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant, and must not have won a prize at any level in any other competition. The VWC State competition will now allow entries published in your personal blogs. Writing published in blogs other than your own or on social network sites or in an online publication are ineligible and should not be submitted.

Entrants may submit only one entry per category of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Fiction and non-fiction entries must be not longer than 3,500 words. Poetry entries must be not longer than 50 lines.

Format:

- a. Detachable cover sheet including author's name, address, telephone number, email address (if available), category (fiction, non-fiction, poetry) and title.
- b. All other pages must show contest category, title and page number in the header. If the author's name appears on any page of the manuscript other than the cover sheet, the entry will be disqualified.
- c. Prose (fiction and non-fiction) manuscripts must be printed in a plain, legible font, such as Times New Roman in 12-to 13- pitch. Manuscripts must be printed on 8 ½ by 11-inch white paper, double-spaced, with one-inch margins top, bottom and left, and a ragged right margin.
- d. Poetry manuscripts must be printed in a plain, legible font, such as Times New Roman in 12- to 13-pitch. Manuscripts must be single-spaced and printed on 8 ½ by 11-inch white paper with one-inch margins top, bottom and left.

2016 Golden Nib Contest

Submissions shall be in both paper and e-mail formats. Submissions shall be mailed to the coordinator by regular mail to the address below. They shall also be submitted to the e-mail address below.

Submissions not in accord with format and other rules will be disqualified.

State winning entries in each category may be published in Portable Data File (*.pdf) format, on the VWC Web site. All other rights remain the property of the author.

Manuscripts for the second-tier contest will not be returned.

ATTENTION VWC CHAPTERS!

Winning Chapter entries need to be submitted by **SEPT. 1** to:

JUNE FORTE
12702 Valleywood Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192
home1270@msn.com

SUBMIT ENTRIES TO YOUR LOCAL VWC CHAPTER BY THEIR SPECIFIED DEADLINE

Each Chapter has its own guidelines, deadline and membership requirements for entering the Chapter-level contest. All Chapters must adhere to the state contest rules. Some Chapters require membership in their Chapter, some don't.

All entries in the second-tier State VWC contest must be a first-place Chapter-level entry and the entrant must be a State VWC member. If winner at the Chapter-level is not a member of the State VWC, a membership application and payment of dues must accompany the entry.

Contact your local VWC Chapter to find out what the deadline is for Chapter Contest Submissions!

NOTE: Entries sent by writers directly to VWC for State contest will not be accepted.

Each Chapter president is responsible for forwarding only the

first-place entries from the Chapter competition (in each of the three categories), written by a member of the VWC or a writer who completes and application to join the VWC and submits a check for annual dues of \$30 to accompany the entry.

STATE VWC AWARDS

There are ten VWC Chapters in the state. Only first-place winners from the Chapters will be eligible for the state contest. That means only 30 entries will be forwarded for the State competition -- ten entries total per category (fiction, nonfiction, poetry) -- by the State Deadline of Sept. 1.

Winners of State VWC Contest will be announced and awards presented at the State VWC Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in November.

Awards for each category:

First Place-\$100
Second Place-\$50
Third Place-\$25

Chapter News

APPALACHIAN AUTHORS GUILD

The new officers were approved at the February 19, 2016 board meeting. They are: President- Victoria Fletcher, Vice President- JC Schweingrouber, Secretary- Jami McDonald, and Treasurer- Jack Rose. Also on the board are Website/Tidings Newsletter- Sylvia Nickels, VWC Liaison and Golden NIB coordinator- Linda Dobkins, and former president- Linda Hoagland. We are looking forward to exciting changes this year.

~ Victoria Fletcher

BLUE RIDGE WRITERS

CRITIQUE SESSIONS:

In 2016, the Blue Ridge chapter's emphasis will be on supporting each other's work via monthly critique sessions. We will also tuck in a few special event dates featuring a workshop or guest speaker. Members who would like to participate in a critique session are asked to sign up BEFORE submission deadlines via the

CONTACT PAGE at BlueRidgeWriters.org to receive critique and submission guidelines.

A submission is not required for critiques-only, however, sign-up before the submission deadline IS required in order to receive copies of the submissions to be critiqued.

Facilitator: Linda M. Layne

Here are dates we have reserved, so far, along with deadlines for submissions:

Friday, March 25 (12:30 - 3:30pm)

- submission deadline March 11

Friday, April 15 (12:30 - 3:30pm) -

submission deadline April 1

Friday, May 20 (12:30 - 3:30pm) -

submission deadline May 6

Friday, June 24 - All-Day Retreat - details TBA

LOCATION: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Conference Room, 145 Ednam Place, Charlottesville, VA.

DIRECTIONS: Turn into the Boars Head complex off Route 250 and take the FIRST LEFT into the VFH parking lot. Access the downstairs Conference Room from the grassy area on the left, third

door on the right.

PAST EVENTS

The Blue Ridge Writers, along with the Colonnades Retirement Community, co-hosted a panel discussion for the **Virginia Festival of the Book** on Wednesday, March 16 from 7:00-8:30 pm entitled, **How We Use Poetry to Keep Us Alive** ([website](#)). Poets Joy Krystosek (*Wiping Memories from Room to Room*), Sara Robinson (*Sometimes the Little Town*), and Leonard Tuchyner (*A Journey to Elsewhere*) read from their work and discussed with educator Ann Womack how studying poetry and poets can energize, stimulate, and empower an aging population.

On Saturday, March 19; 2:00-3:30pm the VA Festival of the Book program, **How to Hook a Reader on the First Page** ([website](#)), featured Blue Ridge members Andy Straka and Deborah Prum along with Jennifer Elvgren, Meredith Cole of the Moseley Writers group.

~ Linda Layne

Chapter News

HAMPTON ROADS

Looking to find a critique partner or two? Here's your chance!

Vanessa Barger, YA author and VWC member from Newport News, is facilitating a "**Critique**

Partner Match-up" for fellow writers. Participants will provide a bit of information to Vanessa via e-mail and she will post it on a special webpage where the only ones who can see it are those with the link. Once a participant's information has been posted, the link will be shared for them to go online and read through the information. Contact anyone you think might be a good fit, and exchange a few chapters to see if you fit. If it doesn't work, you can always try someone else!

To participate, e-mail Vanessa at vebarger@gmail.com with "Critique Partner Match-up" in the subject line and provide the following information:

- Your name
- Your email (this will be posted on the page)

- The genres you write in
- What you are willing to critique
- A little about your current WIP
- Anything else you'd like potential critique partners to know.

Vanessa Barger is a middle grade and young adult author who teaches high school technology education in Hampton Roads, VA. She has published two books, *A Whispered Darkness* (Spring 2014, Month9Books) and *Superfreak* (Oct 2015, Tantrum Books). Her website is vanessabarger.com.

~ Vanessa Barger

Hampton Roads author, J. Dennis Bounds has a new book coming out in March that he co-authored with colleagues and his son. *Divine Film Comedies: Biblical Narratives, Film Sub-Genres, and the Comic Spirit* by Terry Lindvall, J. Dennis Bounds, Chris Lindvall. Routledge Press, 2016.

About the Book

Divine Film Comedies creates a meaningful dialogue between stories in the Hebrew Bible and

New Testament and comedies spanning the history of film. The text lies at the intersection of three disciplines: humor/comedy studies, film studies, and theology. Drawing on films from the silent era to the 21st century, the book highlights parallels between comedic sub-genres and sacred narratives, parables, and proverbs, illuminating a path to seeing and understanding both Scripture and film through a comic lens.

~ J. Dennis Bounds

HANOVER WRITERS

The Writers' Voice: A Benefit for Virginia Voice was planned for April 10, 2016 from 1:30-4:00 PM at the Richmond Times-Dispatch Community Room, 8460 Times-Dispatch Blvd., Mechanicsville, VA 23116. This event, sponsored by the Hanover Writers Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, was unfortunately cancelled due to lack of participation.

Chapter News

HANOVER WRITERS, cont.

Participating authors would have received display space for their books, a brief bio and a list of published works in the program, and would have kept 100% of the proceeds from the sale of their books. Tickets (for guests and authors) were \$25. Author space was limited. Space was limited to 8 participants. For more information, visit the following websites:

www.virginiawritersclub.org;

www.hanoverwriters.org;

www.virginiavoices.org.

~ Joanne Liggan

LAKE WRITERS

Lake Writers, a sub-chapter of the Valley Writers, has been busy, busy, busy with all things writing, presenting, and publishing! Here are some of our highlights:

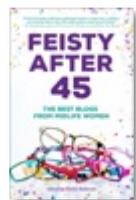
- Lynn Bechdolt is a featured writer in the most recent issue of the *Maine Review*. Her creative nonfiction essay *Some Things* can be found [here](#).

- On Saturday, March 19th, as part of the **2016 Virginia Festival of the Book** in Charlottesville, VA, two members of the Lake Writers, Betsy Ashton and Kimberly Dalferes, participated in the panel discussion: **Series Writing: For Women, By Women** ([website](#)) They were joined by Ellen Butler from the Write By The Rails chapter of VWC, as well as Tracy Livesay and Avery Flynn.
- Jim Morrison presented **World War II, D-Day, and the Experience of Bedford and Franklin Counties**, to the Smith Mountain Lake Lions Club at the Waterfront Country Club in Moneta, Virginia, on March 24th. The presentation was based on his book *Bedford Goes to War: The Heroic Story of a Small Virginia Community in World War II* ([available from Amazon](#)) and other research.
- Becky Mushko recently self-published *Them That Go*, an

Appalachian coming-of-age novel with paranormal overtones. Becky did a reading and signing at the Franklin County Library in Rocky Mount, VA on March 22. She will be at the Westlake Library in Moneta, VA on April 14th at 2 PM. The book is available from Amazon in both print and Kindle versions. See www.beckymushko.com for more information.



- Kimberly Dalferes is a featured author in the new anthology *Feisty After 45: The Best Blogs From Midlife Women* published February 2016 by Mill Park Publishing. Available now from [Amazon](#)



Chapter News

LAKE WRITERS, cont.

- Lake Writers has published an anthology to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Smith Mountain Lake. *Reflections on Smith Mountain Lake* contains essays, articles, and poems from over thirty individual authors, as well as a compilation of memories from members of the Newcomers Club and the residents at Runk & Pratt's Smith Mountain Lake Retirement Village. Copies of the anthology will be available at lake area gift stores and at contributor readings and presentations.
- Ten members of the Lake Writers: Betsy Ashton, Susan (Sue) Coryell, Kimberly (Kimba) J. Dalferes, Robert Steven Habermann, John Ketwig, Chuck Lumpkin, James (Jim) W. Morrison, Becky Mushko, Sally Roseveare, and Linda Kay Simmons, will participate in **An Evening With the Authors** on Friday, April 29, at the Water's Edge Country Club in

Penhook, VA.

- In April 2016 Chuck Lumpkin will publish his next book *Winners Losers*. This new novel, based on a true story, tells the story of an Australian factory worker who wins \$4 million in the lottery. Look for Chuck's book on Amazon and other bookseller outlets.
- Linda Kay Simmons will discuss her book *Cahas Mountain* on Saturday, April 23 at 1 pm as part of the **Moonshine Festival** in Rocky Mount, VA. All festival proceeds support the United Way of Franklin County. For more information call 540-483-4949 or see the [website](#).

~ Kimba Dalferes

NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The following officers were approved at the February 27th general meeting:

- Linda Ensign – President
- Ayesha Shoulders – Vice President
- Ruta Sevo – Secretary
- AJ George – Treasurer

On January 30th, special guest Tracee Lydia Garner presented a workshop on marketing strategies and provided attendees with practical and low-costs marketing tips and a sample marketing plan.

On February 27, information and technology expert Linda Ensign presented an interactive workshop on using Twitter to reach one's publishing goals.

MEMBER NEWS

Dorothy A. Spruzen's new book, *The Blitz Business*, a historical novel set in WWII England, will be published by Koehler Books in June.

Linda Ensign's short story *The Storm in The Teacup* will appear in the latest installment of the Agatha- and Anthony-award-winning Chesapeake Crimes series *Chesapeake Crimes: Storm Warning*, available from Wildside Press ([website](#)) in late April.

~ Linda Ensign



Chapter News

RIVERSIDE WRITERS

The Riverside Writers of Fredericksburg and surrounding counties and an active Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club invites all Virginia Writers Club members to the **Larry Turner Annual**

Celebration of Poetry on Saturday April 9, 2016. 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Salem Church Library, Meeting Room A. The library is located at 2601 Salem Church Road, Fredericksburg VA 22407. The day will consist of open mic poetry readings, a poetry slam, and our guest speaker Dr. Stan Galloway.

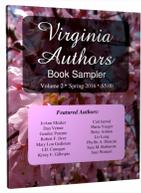
Dr. Stan Galloway will speak about the **Bridgewater biennial International Poetry Festival**. The poetry festival is held every two years in January and draws poets from around the world. The festival celebrates poetry, creativity and a global exchange of ideas. Dr. Galloway began the Bridgewater International Poetry Festival in 2013. He wanted to bring a global awareness through poetry to the Bridgewater College campus. The

next festival will be in 2017.

Dr. Stanley A. Galloway is a Professor of English at Bridgewater College. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Northwest Nazarene University. He went on to earn a Master of Arts from Kansas State University and a Doctor of Philosophy from University of Kansas. In addition to teaching English and the biennial poetry festival he hosts the annual Poetry Jam at the college.

For more information, please contact our Chapter President Jim F. Gaines
JimGaines3@earthlink.net.

WRITE BY THE RAILS



The Spring 2016 issue of the *Virginia Authors Book Sampler*, an initiative of WBtR member

Victor Rook of Rook Communications, is now available in print, Kindle, and as a free PDF download [here](#).

Included in this issue are the following 14 authors and excerpts

from their published books:

Nola's Gift (JoAnn Meaker), *On the Wings of Eagles* (Dan Verner), *Twist of Fate* (F. Sharon Swope and Genilee Parente), *Crime Scene: Fairfax County* (Robert F. Dorr), *Journeywoman* (Mary Lou Gediman), *Blood Ties* (J.D. Cunegan), *Even in Death* (Kristy F. Gillespie), *Divine* (Cait Jarrod), *Maria's Mixes* (Maria Yeager), *Uncharted Territory* (Betsy Ashton), *26 Basic Life Skills* (Liz Long), *The Yellow Scarf* (Phyllis A. Duncan), *Sometimes the Little Town* (Sara M. Robinson), and *Garage Sale Diamonds* (Suzi Weinert).

For more details visit the [website](#).

E-NUNCIATOR

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The E-Nunciator is published quarterly *on or after* the following dates:

- March 30th
- June 30th
- September 30th
- December 31st