

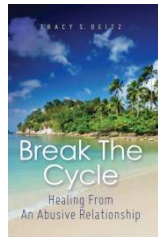
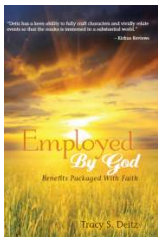
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Bill Blume, “Why We Chose E-Book Publishing,” is a fantasy writer whose short stories have appeared in various anthologies and online magazines. He is also the creator of the online photo comic “The Wildcat’s Lair.” Bill works as a 911 dispatcher for Henrico County in Richmond, Virginia, and is a former television news producer. He previously served as a board member of James River Writers, and in 2007 he chaired JRW’s annual writers conference. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of South Carolina. His latest short story, “The Big Sneeze,” was released earlier this year as an e-book.

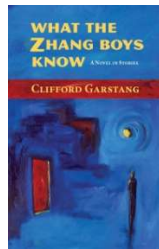
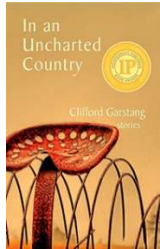


Tracy S. Deitz, “Publication’s First Heartbeat: Critique Groups,” applies graduate-level theory through training with the Northern Virginia Writing Project to community roundtables. She has a master’s degree in education, with a postgraduate license to teach English. Her first non-fiction title, *Employed by God: Benefits Packaged with Faith*, won the religious non-fiction category in the national 2012 Next Generation Indie Book contest. Her second book, *Break the Cycle: Healing From an Abusive Relationship*, is a book-length case study on survivors of domestic abuse. It is based on her advocacy work at EmpowerHOUSE, an agency accredited with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Both books were developed with extensive support—and honest critiques—from local writing groups, including the Riverside Writers chapter in Fredericksburg, VA.

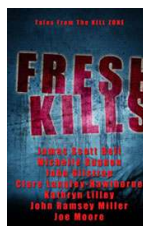
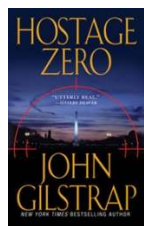
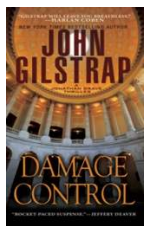


Clifford Garstang, “Show AND Tell,” is the author of the award-winning linked story collection, *In an Uncharted Country*, published by Press 53 in 2009. His novel in stories, *What the Zhang Boys Know*, is forthcoming from Press 53 in September 2012. Recent stories have appeared in *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Blackbird*, *Valparaiso Fiction Review*, *Tampa Review* and elsewhere. He has

received fellowships from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Sewanee Writers Conference. He is the editor of *Prime Number Magazine* and teaches creative writing through Writers.com. A former Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea, he practiced international law in Singapore, Los Angeles and Chicago with one of the largest law firms in the United States and with the World Bank in Washington, D.C., where his work concentrated on China, Indonesia and Vietnam. He currently lives in the Shenandoah Valley.



John Gilstrap, “From Page to Screen: Turning Your Book into a Movie,” is the New York Times bestselling author of *Damage Control*, *Threat Warning*, *Hostage Zero*, *Fresh Kills*, *The Copper Bracelet*, *No Mercy* and *Nathan’s Run*, among others. He graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1979, was the managing editor of a trade journal for the construction industry and was a volunteer fireman. He later earned a Master of Science from University of Southern California in safety engineering, where he became an expert in explosives safety and hazardous waste. He owned his own consulting business and was director of safety for a trade association in Washington, D.C. He sold movie rights for his first published novel, *Nathan’s Run*, to Warner Bros. two days after his book deal was signed. He also sold book and movie rights to his next novel, *At All Costs*.



Jody Hobbs Hesler, “A Way with Words: Prose and Poetry: Hook Your Reader with the First 100 Words,” is a writer and at-home mother living in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Charlottesville, Virginia. Her feature articles appear frequently in Charlottesville Family Magazine and one of her essays will soon be featured in “A Short Ride: Barry Hannah, In Memoriam,” a tribute anthology from VOX Press. Her short stories have appeared in *Potato Eyes Journal*, *Leaf Garden Press*, *Pearl*, *Prime Number Magazine* and contest-winning collections *The Blue Ridge Anthology* and *Writer’s Eye Anthology*. She conducts writing workshops for local public and private school and has served on panels about the writing process at Writer House and the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club. She has attended Sewanee Writers Conference and

Juniper Summer Writing Institute and has studied with John Casey in a graduate-level fiction workshop at the University of Virginia.



Brooke McGlothlin, “Why We Chose E-Book Publishing,” received her B.S. in Psychology from Virginia Tech (1999) and her Masters in Counseling from Liberty University (2003). She has been writing her entire life. She’s the author of the best-selling e-books *Hope for the Weary Mom: Where God Meets You in Your Mess*, *Warrior Prayers: Praying the Word for Boys in the Areas They Need It Most* and the creator of *21 Days of Prayer for Sons* challenge. She is the co-founder of the well-loved online community for mothers of boys, the M.O.B Society. A successful self-published author, she loves to encourage other writers in the art of sharing their words, and publishing them, with excellence. She leads women in the pursuit of beauty at her personal blog, *Surprised by Life*.



Linda Levokove, “A Way with Words: Prose and Poetry: Hook Your Reader with the First 100 Words,” has degrees in Art, Interior Design, and Psychology. She is a residential Interior Designer and was Docent Educator at the University of Virginia Art Museum. She has taught classes in Interior Design and Poetry at Ollie at UVA Continuing Education. Her poetry has been published in the *Poets of the Palm Beaches*, *Mid-American Poetry Review*, *Poetry Express*, *Hudson*

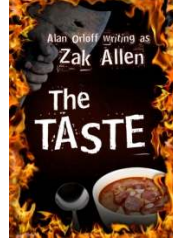
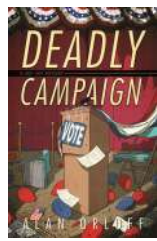


Review, *The Blue Ridge Anthology*, *Poet’s Domain*, and *Tonight: A World Love Anthology*. She has been awarded prizes by The Blue Ridge Writer’s Club (2007, 2009), and has recently received congratulations from the Poetry Society of Virginia for her poetry in their annual poetry contest. Her first book of Poetry, *Walk on the Heart Side*, was published in September 2010.

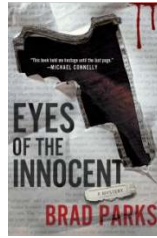
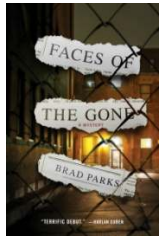


Alan Orloff, “Writing Mysteries,” stepped off the corporate merry-go-round after an eclectic (some might say disjointed) career. As an engineer, he worked on nuclear submarines, facilitated technology transfer from the Star Wars program and learned to stack washing machines three high in a warehouse with a forklift.

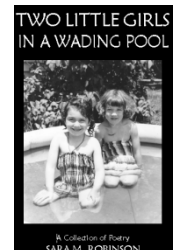
He even started his own recycling and waste reduction newsletter business. He earned a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland and an M.B.A. from MIT/Sloan. He belongs to Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, and The Writer’s Center in Bethesda, MD. His first mystery, *Diamonds for the Dead*, was a Best First Novel Agatha Award finalist. He writes the Last Laff mystery series for Midnight Ink: *Deadly Campaign* and *Killer Routine*. Writing as Zak Allen, he’s published two e-book originals, *The Taste* (horror/thriller) and *First Time Killer* (thriller).



Brad Parks, “Charming the Gatekeeper: How to land that perfect agent and why you still need to,” is the only author to have won the Shamus Award and Nero Award for the same novel. That book, *Faces of the Gone*, introduced Carter Ross, the sometimes-dashing investigative reporter, who has gone on to star in *Eyes of the Innocent* and *The Girl Next Door*. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and spent a dozen years as a reporter for *The Washington Post* and *The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger*. He is now a full-time novelist who lives in Virginia with his wife and two small children.



Sara Robinson, “Contemporary Women Poets,” has just released her current book, *Two Little Girls in a Wading Pool* (Cedar Creek Publishing, 2012). This collection of poetry tells of her life experiences from growing up in a small town to how she sees the world today in her later years. Two of her poems contained in the book won prizes from the Blue Ridge Writers Chapter and the Virginia Writers Club. She has also published in the journal of the Poetry Society of Virginia. Her inaugural work, *Love Always, Hobby and Jessie* (2009), is a memoir about her famous photographer father and his marriage to her enigmatic mother. Sara has appeared on Artist First Radio Network, the Hilda Ward show, *Artistic Expressions*, and at numerous book signing events. Born and raised in Elkton, VA, she makes her home near Charlottesville, VA and is a member of the Virginia Writers’ Club, The Blue Ridge Writers’ Chapter, The Poetry Society of Virginia, the Academy of American Poets, and the National League of American Pen Women.



Charles J. Shields, Keynote Speaker, is the New York Times best-selling author of *And So It Goes: Kurt Vonnegut: A Life* and *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee*, the highly acclaimed, bestselling biography of Harper Lee. His young adult version *I Am Scout: The Biography of Harper Lee* received awards from American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults, Bank Street Best Children’s Book of the

Year, and the Arizona Grand Canyon Young Readers Master List, among others. In 2009 with biographers Nigel Hamilton, James McGrath Morris and Debby Applegate, he co-founded *Biographers International Organization* (BIO), a non-profit organization, to promote the art and craft of biography. He is the associate director of the Great Lives Lecture Series at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, which brings prominent biographers and historians to campus. He grew up in the Midwest and taught in a rural school in central Illinois for several years. He has been a reporter for public radio, a journalist, and the author of nonfiction books for young people. He and his wife Guadalupe live near Charlottesville, Virginia.



Mary Montague Sikes, “eBook Marketing: Strategies and More: What Works Best,” is a writer, artist and photographer has a BA in psychology from University of Mary Washington and an MFA in painting from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has presented writing and art workshops at Virginia Festival of the Book and Christopher Newport University’s Writers Conference. Her feature articles and photographs have appeared in such newspapers and magazines as *Miami Herald*, *Buffalo News*, *Newport News Daily Press*, *Venture Inward* and *Caribbean Beat*. *Hotels to Remember* features her writing, photography and paintings. Her first novel, *Hearts Across Forever*, was a PRISM award finalist and won first place in the National Federation of Press Women 2002 Communications Contest. *A Rainbow for Christmas* won first place in the Virginia Press Women 2012 Communications Contest. Her latest book, *Jungle Jeopardy*, is available through Amazon and on Kindle. She is the author of the “Notes Along the Way” blog. She is a founding member of the Chesapeake Bays Writers Club, a former board member of Virginia Writers Club and a member of the National League of American Pen Women.



Elizabeth Doyle Solomon, “A Way with Words: Prose and Poetry: Hook Your Reader with the First 100 Words,” is a native of New Orleans, but adopted the mountains of central Virginia as her second home over forty years. She has been published widely in poetry journals, newspapers (two poetry columns), and anthologies. Her work has appeared most recently in *Westward Quarterly* (IL),

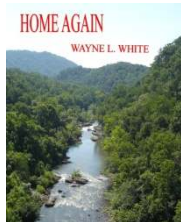


Mid-Atlantic Poetry Review (MO), *Pegasus* (NV), *Poesia* (CA), *Louisiana Review* (LA), *Red*

Owl (NH), *The Lyric* (VT), *Timber Creek Review* (NC), *Blue Ridge Anthology* (VA), and *Nomad's Choir* (NY). Her book of illustrated nature poems, *Seasons*, was published by Agape Press (Franklin, Louisiana). Her most recent awards have come from the Poetry Society of Virginia, and from the Virginia Writers Club (Blue Ridge Chapter) in 2010. *The Steering Wheel Poems*, Elizabeth's second book of poems, got its name from her lifelong habit of writing in the car. Her poems come quickly and prolifically at the rate of one or two a day. If she can jot the first two lines down on the steering wheel, then the rest of the poem will come on a farm lane or a parking lot.



Wayne L. White, “Why We Chose E-Book Publishing,” is a member of the Virginia Writers Club, Valley Writers Chapter (roanokevalleywriters.org) and is currently the club treasurer. He has written several winning entries for the Wytheville Chautauqua Writers Festival. Wayne earned a BSBA from the University of Central Florida and now lives in Roanoke, VA, with his wife Ruby. He recently self-published two e-books, *Kill Me Once Again* and *Home Again*, on the Kindle platform.



Lauvonda Lynn Young, “A Way with Words: Prose and Poetry: Hook Your Reader with the First 100 Words,” writes poetry and prose. Her first book of poetry, *Just a Woman*, was launched at the Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, 2011. She is published in various sources, including, *The Blue Ridge Anthology* (Blue Ridge Writers Chapter); *A Poem for Your Thoughts* (University Hospital, University of Virginia Health System); *Branches in my Hand* (Piedmont Virginia



Community College); and *National High School Anthology* (National High School Poetry Press, Los Angeles, California). Lynn is editor of two newsletters, *The Blue Ridge*, and *Friends Focus*. Current president of the Blue Ridge Writers Club, Virginia Writers Club, Inc., Lynn has extensive experience in participation in writing critique groups, and critiquing the work of others.