



ESWA News

ESWA - May 12, 2012

Canvasback Restaurant, 420 Race Street, Cambridge, MD (410-221-7888), 11 a.m.
Guests are invited. An optional lunch follows the program.

Guest Speaker: Author Kate Blackwell:

"Revision in Fiction: Paring Down and Raising the Stakes"

Kate will describe her strategies for revising the first draft of a story or novel. First, she sees what she can get rid of. The result almost always reveals the real story she wants to tell. She questions everything: backstory – is it necessary? Can it be woven into present action? Characters – are some expendable? Scenes – she eliminates those in which little or nothing happens, or collapses several scenes into one, or uses negative space to move through time. After paring down, she combs the narrative to see what might be added, especially where passages of exposition or interior monologue can be converted into a dramatic scene. Finally, she asks, Does anything that really matters happen here? If not, she tries upping the stakes a lot, to see what happens. There will be time for questions and answers. Writers can bring a specific writing problem to the meeting for brainstorming a solution.



Kate Blackwell is the author of a story collection *YOU WON'T REMEMBER THIS* (SMU Press, 2007). Her published work includes short stories, travel articles, and book reviews. She currently reviews short fiction online for the Washington Independent Review of Books. For the past ten years she has lived part-time in Neavitt, MD and is working on a book of linked stories set in Delmarva. Kate has been a popular speaker on fiction craft. Her work has appeared in *The Delmarva Review*.

****Jody Panzenhagen will share her work as our literary speaker****

MONTHLY MEETINGS

ESWA monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Please feel free to bring guests. An RSVP is not required, but always appreciated, to:
jreveal@verizon.net.

Some meetings offer an optional networking lunch for a nominal fee. For more information about upcoming meetings or if you have a suggestion about a topic or speaker, please contact Hal Wilson at halandmarilyn@gmail.com or Judy Reveal at jreveal@verizon.net.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The June meeting will be our last official meeting for the 2011-2012 period. We will meet at Scossa's Restaurant in Easton Maryland at 11:00 a.m. for our special "Open Mic" event. If you have any works you would like to read, please contact Hal Wilson to get on the schedule.

OFFICERS & BOARD 2010- 2011

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Rena Cherry Brown of Easton, MD, took home the Helen Hayes Award for lead actress in the Bay Theatre Company's 2011 production of "Wit." The award is Washington's biggest theater award and is akin to Broadway's Tony Award. She won for her performance as Vivian Bearing, a university professor diagnosed with terminal cancer. This is the second time Brown has won a Hayes Award. In 1999 she won for best supporting actress.



Rena Cherry Brown

Rena Cherry Brown also advises us that her new book is *OTTER-LEE, BRAVE* and it's about an orphaned sea otter. It is her second children's book and is being published by Schiffer Publishing. Although she does not have a final publication date yet, she is working up the marketing now and the book is finished. She expects that it should be available in the fall.

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Pat Valdata shares a review of *Inherent Vice* at: <http://writingwithcelia.blogspot.com/2012/04/couplets-blog-tour-pat-valdatas.html> and a new guest blog post at the same site: <http://writingwithcelia.blogspot.com/2012/04/couplets-blog-tour-why-getting-small.html>

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Judy Reveal and Diane Marquette attended an "Authors Event" at the Dover Library on Saturday, April 28, 2012. There were about 30 other authors on hand to talk about their writing and network.

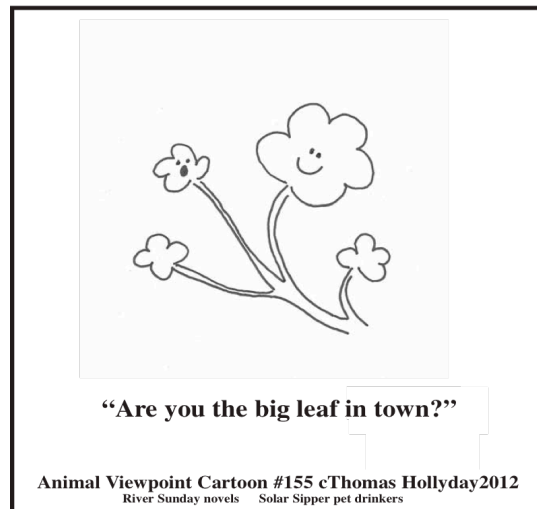


Diane Marquette displays her mysteries and standalone books at Dover Library.



Judy Reveal shares her mysteries and pictorial on Greensboro with other writers.

Judy, Diane, Jody Panzenhagen and Jerry Sweeney will be participating in the Third Annual Caroline County Paddlefest on May 19 where they will be signing their books.



Thanks to Tom Hollyday, our resident humorist!

Roads Scholars to learn about the life of a waterman's wife

Janice Marshall, author team up to give a female perspective to visitors
For the Crisfield-Somerset County Times

CRISFIELD — As the spring and summer tourist season approaches, Crisfield comes alive with visitors. Again this year the Crisfield Heritage Foundation, under the directorship of Chris Tyler and her assistant Tim Howard, will host its "Roads Scholar" program (formerly Elderhostel). Hundreds of out-of-town guests will arrive and be treated to a week of informative lessons about this area.

One of the weekly programs is called "Best of the Bay." This year participants will take home something a little different than before: the women's side of the story. The program is called "Dishin' Up" and it promises to dish up some fun and education about the hard work and the roles the women play in their lives beside their husbands who are watermen.

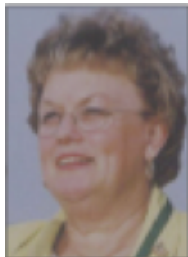
Anna Gill (author of *The Tale of Dickie Short*) and a devoted fan of the ways of life on the Eastern Shore and Janice Marshall have teamed up to present different sides of the story of what women do when their men go off on the water. Ms. Gill has wanted to do a sequel to her book about saving and preserving the culture of the watermen and through Janice's songs, stories, and poems she is now seeing that dream become a reality.

Designed to be told in repertoire, "Being Married to a Waterman, An Independent Woman, and Pickin' Time," the woman's life is revealed. The first program in Crisfield starts the week of April 22.

Ms. Gill noted that she is so proud of this effort and pleased that it will be the Crisfield Heritage Foundation that will present it and keep this program within its archives and studies. She said, "If you haven't heard Janice Marshall sing 'Til the Storm Passes By, you just don't understand the way of life down here."



Anna Gill



Janice Marshall

Opportunities

Maryland Writers' Association announces:

Novel Contest: Great Beginnings

You'll be judged on the first 7000 words of your novel.

Categories: Mainstream/Literary; Young Adult; Science Fiction/Fantasy; and Historical (Mystery/Suspense/Thriller and Romance will return in 2013). Novel entries accepted by email: May 15-June 30, 2012

Short Works Contest

Fiction: 3000 words; Non-Fiction: 3000 words; Poetry: Up to 50 lines in 1-5 poems. Short Works entries accepted by email: June 30-July 30, 2012. Check for details at www.marylandwriters.org, or www.marylandwritersconference.org, and on Facebook.

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### **Writer's Center Presents**

The Writer's Center is one of the premier independent, nonprofit writing centers in the country. It offers over 300 writing workshops annually, available to all writers. *Poets & Writers Magazine* named it as one of "eight places to go outside academia" for writing programs nationwide. [www.writer.org](http://www.writer.org)

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Delaware Beach Life is always looking for writers familiar with coastal Delaware who can write features and profiles that fit its mix. You can request writer's guidelines at info@delawarebeachlife.com.

Writers Conferences, Workshops, and Other Pieces of Information

The 32nd Annual **Pen/Faulkner Awards Ceremony** will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 5, at the Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 E. Capitol St., SE, in Washington, DC. The event will honor Russell Banks, Don DeLillo, Anita Desai, Steven Millhauser, and Julia Otsuka. For tickets and information, call: 202-544-7077

Shelburne Farms: Words Take Wing A Retreat for Poets & Writers

Friday–Sunday, JUNE 22–24 ADULT RESIDENTIAL FEE: \$300/person includes tuition and meals. Optional accommodations \$60/person/night plus tax (double occupancy)

REGISTRATION: 802-985-8686; INFORMATION: 802-985-0342

Do you write poetry? Or wish you could? Do you long for more time to write? At this retreat, Julie Cadwallader-Staub and Dotty Holcomb Doherty will help you find your own voice. Dotty Holcomb Doherty is a Maryland writer whose work has been featured in *The Delmarva Reviw*, *The Healing Muse* and other publications. Prompts, group and solo time allow you to delve into your writing and share with others. Retreat participants will have the opportunity for individual consultations.

Show and Tell Workshop: How to Make your Reader Experience a Story Open to the public at St. John's College, Saturday, June 9th, 9:30 to noon. \$50, includes breakfast. Contact writing instructor Laura Oliver, email:

lauraoliver2@yahoo.com, or call 410-626-2530 to register. Her website: www.thestorywithin.com.

Tinker Mountain Writers' Workshop - June 10 - 15, 2012, Hollins University. This program includes readings, in-class critiques, manuscript reviews, individual conferences and more. For more information visit www.hollins.edu/tmww.

Writing Literary Humor Workshop Laugh while getting serious about the craft of writing humor. This workshop is a rare opportunity to learn a *powerful* skill. We will meet one time only: Saturday morning June 23rd at St. John's College.

Includes breakfast. Fee \$50. Contact writing instructor Laura Oliver, call 410-626-2530. Open to public.

"Publish Now - From Manuscript to Book and eBook in the New World of Publishing" - on June 23, from 9 am to 5 pm, a one-day seminar on publishing options for your book, at The Writer's Center, in Bethesda, MD. For details, call Zachary at 301-654-8664. Website: www.writer.org.

Sewanee Writers Conference July 24 - August 5, 2012. Workshops in poetry, fiction, and playwriting. To learn more or apply, visit www.sewaneewriters.org.

Writer's Wordhouse: writing workshops and private coaching by Lynn Auld Schwartz. For details contact Lynn at www.writerswordhouse.com or email: lynnaudlschwartz@gmail.com

Connections

If you have a specific interest and want to find other writers to share that interest, just let us know, and we will put your request in this section. Send your "Connection" request to: jreveal@verizon.net or write ESWA at the organization's address.

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Easton Savvy is a fresh online newspaper for Easton. In addition to behind-the-scenes stories about the people and places of our area, we also want to feature original writing (poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction) in our arts section, *The Studio*. The founding group began as a writers circle to help promote other area writers, writing events, and the *Delmarva Review*. For more information contact: Amanda Priestley, Editor-in-Chief at [www.eastonsavvy.com](http://www.eastonsavvy.com)

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Memoir Writers Group - meets every Thursday at the Easton Senior Center, 400 Brooklets Ave. No prior arrangements are necessary. Meetings are scheduled for 10:30AM - 12:30PM Thursdays. Contact Francis Mason at maharra@goeaston.net.

Book Clubs—

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A new book club at the St. Michaels Library meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For a list of selections or more information please call: Shauna Beulah: 410-745-5877

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First Saturday Writers of the Eastern Shore: Once a month, 12-15 writers from the Berlin-Ocean City area meet to share their writing efforts and successes at the Worcester County Berlin Library. Open to published and unpublished writers. Liz Pattera lizpat@mchsi.com

Events

Annapolis MWA

Local author Austin Camacho has agreed to speak at the Maryland Writers' Association – Annapolis Chapter meeting on Wednesday May 16, 2012. The speaker has published seven novels in the action/adventure and mystery genres, as well as many story stories and essays. He teaches writing at Anne Arundel Community College and is a popular lecturer at writing conferences. He will speak on his life and successes as a writer. For more information on the writer's work, see his website <http://www.ascamacho.com>.

The meeting is open to the public and free to MWA members and first-time guests. All others may pay \$5.00. Annual dues to MWA are \$40.00 and include other benefits on top of monthly attendance. MWA meetings meet the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm in room 205 at Maryland Hall. Maryland Hall is located at 801 Chase Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. For more information visit: www.marylandwriters.org.



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The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda, MD, invites you to a special one-day seminar on publishing your book or eBook in the new digital age. Whether still working on your manuscript or ready to publish, this program is designed to give you the information needed to take control of your publishing experience, today.

Publish Now!

Saturday, June 23; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Industry experts will cover the following topics:

- How to Publish Today – Your Choices
- How to Control Your Publishing Experience & Where to get Help
- Preparing Your Manuscript for Publication
- Legal and Business Issues for Authors
- Developing Your Marketing Plan

\$100 / \$85 for members / \$50 students

Includes lunch and a reception

For registration see www.writer.org or call The Writer's Center at: 301-654-8664

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SCBWI (Society Children's Writers and Illustrators) has a conference on July 13-14 in Western Maryland. Liz Patera of Berlin, MD, has been an active member of this group for many years and is planning to attend their July conference. Any children's writers (ESWA folks) interested in attending, should contact Liz for a possible car pool opportunity.

lizpat@mchsi.com

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Brown Bag Lecture Series presented by the Friends of the Talbot County Free Library, is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. **For more information call (410) 745-5877 or visit www.tcfll.org.**

Thursday May 17, 2012

Noon to 1:00 pm

Talbot County Free Library, Easton

Pete Lasher: "Chesapeake Ferries: Bridging a Watery Divide."



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For ESWA Members Only

Pre-registration required. Seating is limited to the first 30 registrants.

Saturday, June 23 - 9:30 – Noon

Third Haven Common House

405 S. Washington Street

Easton, MD 21601

There's Never Been a Better Time to Be an Author

Robert Bidinotto is an award-winning journalist, editor, author, and speaker, whose debut novel, *HUNTER: A Thriller*; became a *Wall Street Journal* "Top 10 Fiction Ebook" bestseller during the week of December 4, 2011. It simultaneously hit # 4 among all products and titles (fiction and nonfiction) on the Kindle Bestseller List, after being selected as the #1 Kindle "Editors' Pick" for the week. More than 50,000 copies of the book sold in just 35 days.

In this "how-to" presentation, Robert Bidinotto outlines and objectively compares the relative advantages and disadvantages of various publishing options now open to writers. He explains how the option he chose—ebook self-publishing—enabled his debut novel to become a national bestseller within months of completing the manuscript. And he'll explain the keys to successfully marketing your books in the brave new world of twenty-first-century publishing.

Cost: \$10

Make check payable to "Eastern Shore Writers Association" and send to: Mala Burt, 310 Cleveland Road, St. Michaels, MD 21663. Questions: Mala Burt annie@annierogers.com or 410-745-6950.

There are currently 3 spaces still available for this event. Once it is sold out, interested parties will be placed on a waiting list.



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MARYLAND WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The 2012 Maryland Writers Conference will be held October 20, 2012 at The University of Baltimore. The theme of this year's conference will be "Writing in Times of Change." Our keynote speaker, who will also present a workshop, is Marita Golden. More information about our conference will be posted soon at <http://www.marylandwritersconference.org>.