

EASTERN SHORE WRITERS ASSOCIATION

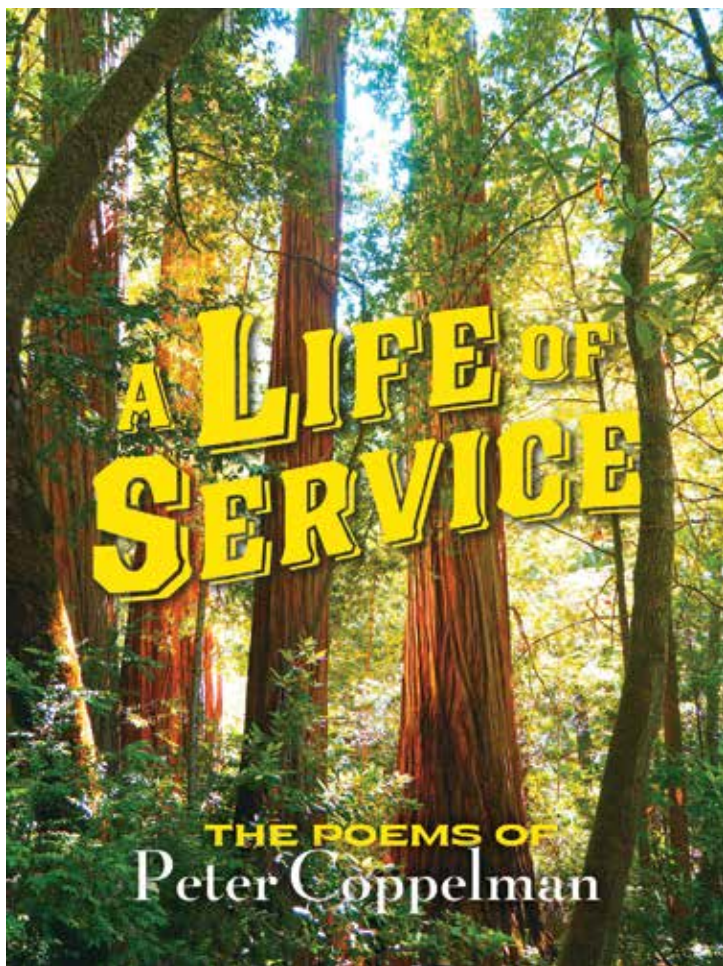


Bay to Ocean

WRITERS CONFERENCE

MARCH 4, 2023

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE | WYE MILLS, MD



A LIFE OF SERVICE: POEMS OF PETER COPPELMAN
 “Peter has been an environmental hero. He helped conserve some of the most endangered public spaces in America. His book is his story in verse. It deserves a wide read because it has much to say to people as they evaluate their own lives and contributions.”

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2023 Sessions Schedule



8:00 – 9:00am | **REGISTRATION:** Lobby, outside of Cadby Auditorium (Kent Humanities Building)
12:00 – 1:00pm | **LUNCH:** Caroline Building Cafeteria
1:00 – 1:30pm | **AWARD PRESENTATIONS:** with Kenton Kilgore & Tara A. Elliott | Cafeteria

	9:00 – 9:50	10:00 – 10:50	11:00 – 11:50	1:30 – 2:20	2:30-3:20
Fiction Cadby Auditorium	Writing Your Debut Novel in Two Simple Steps <i>Heather Davis</i>	Finding Empathy for Fiction Characters (Even When You Don't Like Them) <i>Lynne Streeter Childress</i>	Understanding Unreliable Narrators in Fiction <i>Andrea J. Johnson</i>	Authentic Fiction: Write What You Know <i>Amy Schisler</i>	Good to Be Bad: Crafting Great Villains and Antagonists <i>Dylan Roche</i>
Poetry Room: H-113	Linear Thinking–The Line, The Break, and the Craft of the Poem <i>Gerry LaFemina</i>	Generating New Work via the Proustian Path to Conjuring Memories or What the Nose Knows <i>Nancy Mitchell</i>	Swamp Monsters and Snotflowers: Poetry and the Non-Human <i>Catherine Carter</i>	Titles Like Blackbirds: Exploring Different Ways <i>G. H. Mosson</i>	Beyond the Haiku: Writing Syllabic Poems <i>Kim E. Roberts</i>
Craft Room: H-114	Assessing Your Intuition for Maximum Creativity <i>Dennis Lawson, MHT.</i>	Where to Begin? Openings, Stakes, Theme, and Deeper Meaning in Your Book <i>Kristina Gaddy</i>	On Co-Writing <i>Elizabeth Kasper & Emily Johnson</i>	Generating Poems Through Research <i>Lynne Schmidt</i>	The Freedom of an Unreliable Narrator in Poetry <i>David P. Kozinski</i>
Editing, Publishing, Marketing Room: H-112	Podcasting as Promotion <i>Paul Comfort</i>	Buffing and Polishing: The Art of the Rewrite <i>John DeDakis</i>	Handselling Books <i>Kenton Kilgore</i>	How to Give a Book Away: Using Free Books as a Marketing Tool <i>Ariele Sieling</i>	Scrivener for Writers & Poets <i>Meg Eden Kuyatt</i>
Specialty Room: H-111	Tidewater: Writing (and Drawing) Centered in Place; A Poetry and Short Prose Generative Workshop <i>Lara Payne</i>	Exploring the Unexpected: Writing with a Magical Twist <i>Kris Faatz</i>	Writing Identity Through Art <i>Tara Campbell</i>	Diversity in Writing <i>K. McCoy</i>	The Practice of Translation <i>Nathan D. Horowitz</i>
Non-Fiction Room: H-109	Listing Your Way to a (Lyric) Essay <i>Randon Billings Noble</i>	Keys to Successful Nonfiction Publishing: How I Did It and How You Can Too <i>Jean Burgess, Ph.D.</i>	Your Story Matters: The Art and Craft of Personal Essay and Memoir <i>Rus VanWestervelt</i>	Know 10 Times More Than You Tell: Research, Responsibility, Resources & Rabbit Holes <i>Brent Lewis</i>	How to Write Micro Memoir <i>Laura J. Oliver</i>

Tech Tips for Authors

from Nate Hoffelder, The Author Website Guy

I like sharing tech tips with my friends just as much as I like solving problems. Here are a few tricks I've learned over the years. - *Nate*

Screen Sizes Matter

Never evaluate a design or proofread text on a smartphone. It doesn't matter whether you are checking a new logo, a print layout, or an illustration, a smartphone's screen is simply too small to properly evaluate the content.

Contact Forms

I know you have a contact form on your site, but does your site also log the messages sent through the form? A recent discussion in my FB group The Help Desk reminded me that emails sometimes go astray. This is why I make sure that the sites I build use a contact form that logs all submissions.

Backups

Backups are the foundation of all website security and maintenance. If your website is backed up regularly, you can use it to undo whatever accident just caused your site to crash. And if your site gets hacked, there's a good chance you will have a backup from before the hack, saving you some of the time and energy required to de-hack the site.

eBook Formatting

This breaks with print formatting rules, but when you use an ellipsis or m-dash in your ebook, you *really* need to add a space both before and after. Some reading apps will treat...this as one long word. Trust me, this can do terrible things to the ebook's formatting.

Spam

Spammers are going to flood your site with their trash, trust me on that. Luckily, you can use the **Cleantalk** Wordpress plugin to automatically keep spam comments from ever being seen by legitimate visitors. *It even kblocks spam in your contact forms!*

Internet Archive

If you've ever discovered a post or page was mysteriously deleted from your site, and wanted to get that one post back without restoring your entire site from a backup, I may have a solution. The Internet Archive regularly scans and backs up most websites, and if you are lucky it will have a copy of your missing page or post.

Let me know if you found these tips useful!

■ Nate@NateHoffelder.com

■ www.NateHoffelder.com



Bay to Ocean Volunteers

Please help us thank the following people who have devoted both time and energy into coordination and hosting of today's events...

Registration:

Janiyah Brickhouse, Nina Craig,
Marie Leonard, Tina Raye Dayton

Bay to Ocean Journal Managing

Editor & Sales: Emily Rich

Session Hosts:

Fiction: Amber Collins

Poetry: Cherrie Woods

Edit/Pub/Mkt: Katie Aiken Ritter

Craft: Jackie Oldham

Specialty: Matthew Hohner

Non-Fiction: Molly Regan Hill

Interested in Assisting

All ESWA members are welcome to join our planning committee. We're seeking session hosts, proofreaders, social media assistance, advertising coordinators, on-site assistance, scholarship facilitators, and more for our next annual Bay to Ocean Conference.

Come be part of an extraordinary team of those seeking to give back to the writing community, enjoy the day and a one-year membership to ESWA free-of-charge.

Scholarships

Thanks for the kind and generous patronage of several ESWA members, we were able to fully fund three student scholarships, and three adult scholarships this year.

Thank you so much for your donations. If you'd like to fund a scholarship to help fund student guests & writers in need for the next annual BTO conference, please contact baytoceanwritersconference@gmail.com

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Please Note

Your attendance at this conference grants us permission to use your image for all future advertising.

Cover Artwork

"Chloras Point" (*Choptank River*)

by Eastern Shore artist David Leonard
davidleonardpaintings.com

Welcome to the 26th Bay to Ocean Writers Conference!

Dear Bay to Ocean Participants,

With the availability and ease of apps like Zoom and Microsoft Teams, you can virtually attend writer workshops and seminars held almost anywhere in the world, all from the comfort of your couch. Yet, you've chosen to show up in person, early on a Saturday morning, to our small-but-mighty conference in semi-rural Queen Anne's County—and we're very grateful to you. Whether this is your first time at Bay to Ocean, or your 26th, thank you very much for joining us. What all of us volunteers and speakers want is for you to get the most out of today.

BTO 2023 has 30 sessions for you to choose from. Each is 50 minutes long, and all of them are held in the Kent Humanities Building. For convenience, sessions are arranged in six tracks, by subject: fiction; poetry; the craft of writing; editing, publishing, and marketing; specialty writing; and non-fiction.

You can follow an entire track from start to finish, or attend a mix of sessions. Brief descriptions of the session topics and the biographies of each of the presenters appear in this program, alphabetically by presenter's last name. You'll also find a grid listing all the offerings, and a map showing in which room they'll be held.

Lunch is in the Caroline Building Cafeteria, a short walk from Kent. We have a variety of boxed lunches available, and we have not forgotten those of you with special dietary needs. After lunch, we'll recognize our keynote speaker, Mariah Burton Nelson, as well as some others who have made invaluable contributions to literature and writing here on the Eastern Shore.

During the day, get to know and speak with other writers, and visit the bookstore in Room H-107 of Kent to check out works by our presenters. Don't forget to pick up a copy of the Bay To Ocean Journal 2022, our annual anthology of the best from the Eastern Shore Writers Association: you can find the Journal for sale in front of Cadby Auditorium.

We hope that BTO gives you something you can't get anywhere else: that is, unique, substantive, in-depth seminars given by some of the most knowledgeable and skilled presenters, all in the heart of this beautiful area we all love. Thank you again, and have a great day! Please let us know if you need anything.

Sincerely, on behalf of all our volunteers and speakers,
Tara A. Elliott and Kenton Kilgore, BTO Co-Chairs





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MELANIE FIGG

CREATIVITY COACHING

STAY MOTIVATED

and finally finish, or start, that writing project

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Melanie Figg (MFA, PCC, CPCC) is an inspiring writing mentor and certified professional coach. She has helped guide hundreds of writers (from beginners to published authors) to improve and submit their work, finish their manuscripts, rein in their inner critics, create sustainable writing routines, and most of all—express themselves and enjoy their writing lives.

UPON ARRIVAL

8:00 – 9:00 am

Check-In / Registration

Location: Lobby, outside of Cadby Auditorium (Kent Humanities Building)

9:00 am

Learning Sessions Begin

Please report directly to your first session. All sessions are located in the Kent Humanities Building.



In time-honored Bay to Ocean tradition, we dedicate this year's conference to Gilbert Byron, "Thoreau of the Chesapeake".

2023 Conference Info

Time Slots: For each of the five time slots, you may choose one of six sessions. All sessions take place in the Kent Humanities Building (where you checked in). Please note that no seats are reserved. Due to fire regulations, each classroom has its own capacity and will be closed once filled, therefore seats will be filled on a "first-come, first served" basis. The Cadby Auditorium seats 100 and most Humanities classrooms seat 35-45.

Breaks/Snacks/Bathrooms: The scheduled 10-minute breaks between sessions should give you ample time for refreshments (located in the lobby of Kent Humanities), meeting other writers, and walking to your next session. You can also visit the BTO bookstore in the Kent Humanities building in H-107. The bookstore will remain open all day. There are bathrooms located in the building, as well as the Caroline building which houses the cafeteria.

Lunch (noon-1:00): A variety of boxed lunches will be available in the Caroline Center, a short walk across the courtyard. We hope you'll enjoy your lunch, visit the bookstore, and take time to network with other writers and speakers.

After Lunch (1:00-1:30): Please join us for a short program in the Caroline Center where BTO Conference Chairs, Tara A. Elliott and Kenton Kilgore will present ESWA's first Legacy Award to long standing Eastern Shore literary supporter, Jamie Brown, and to Keynote Speaker, Mariah Burton Nelson.

Evaluation Forms: Evaluations will be done entirely online this year. Links to this year's surveys will be displayed on the Eastern Shore Writers Association's website during the day. Just click and type! Don't have your device with you? Links to the surveys will be emailed to you the following day!

CONTENTS

**2023 Sessions
Schedule Grid** Page 1

Welcome Page 3

**2023 Conference
Information** Page 5

2023 Session Descriptions
(Alphabetically
by Author) Pages 6-18

**Bay to Ocean Journal 2023
Call for Submissions** Page 17

**Chesapeake College
Map & Building
Floor Plans** Back Cover

Eastern Shore Writers Association

Since 1985, ESWA has been a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization supporting member writers, other writers groups, and the literary arts in general throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. Whether you write fiction, nonfiction, poems, plays, or memoir, whether you write professionally or as a hobby – or even if you don't write, but just love literature and reading – there's a place for you in ESWA.

**ESWA | P.O. Box 461
Stevensville, MD 21666**

www.easternshorewriters.org



Sessions Descriptions by Speaker Alphabetically

10:00–10:50

JEAN BURGESS

NON-FICTION | H-109



Keys to Successful Nonfiction Publishing: How I Did It and How You Can Too

Introduction: In addition to having a smashing nonfiction manuscript idea, there are several key principles you can embrace to succeed in getting your book published. Discerning the several types of research and analysis required by the process, understanding each aspect of the publisher's proposal request, being willing to work collaboratively, and maintaining faith in your project—these are essential to your success.

The presenter will dive into these four key principles using her own stories of both failure and success to highlight important touch points.

Time reserved at the end of the presentation will allow for a facilitated discussion, encouraging attendees to share their own success stories, additional tips for success, and experiences for what to avoid as well.

■ **Jean Burgess, Ph.D.** is a writer, a playwright, an editor, and a former theatre educator. Her nonfiction, *Collaborative Stage Directing: A Guide to Creating and Managing a Positive Theatre Environment*, was published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis in 2019. She is currently writing a women's historical fiction about a young woman touring with a swing band in the late 1970s. She holds an MA in Theatre from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in Educational Theatre from NYU.

11:00–11:50

TARA CAMPBELL

SPECIALTY | H-111



Writing Identity Through Art In this ekphrastic writing workshop, we'll explore ways of creating characters inspired by visual art. Together we'll examine two very different types of portraits, one by famed photographer Gordon Parks and another by Puerto Rican sculptor Daniel Lind-Ramos, and discuss aspects of internal and external character development. Participants will create two different characters, with time to write and share their creations.

■ **Tara Campbell** is a writer, teacher, Kimbilio Fellow, fiction co-editor at Barrelhouse, and graduate of American University's MFA in Creative Writing. Her publication credits include *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Masters Review*, *Wigleaf*, *Strange Horizons*, *CRAFT Literary* and *The Commuter at Electric Lit*. She's the author of a novel and four multi-genre collections including her newest, *Cabinet of Wrath: A Doll Collection*. She teaches creative writing with American University, Johns Hopkins University, The Writer's Center, Politics and Prose, Catapult, Clarion West, and the National Gallery of Art. (www.taracampbell.com) Connect with her on Twitter: @TaraCampbellCom.

CONGRATULATIONS JAMIE BROWN

Awarded ESWA's First Legacy Award



11:00–11:50

CATHERINE CARTER

POETRY | H-113



Swamp Monsters and Snotflowers: Poetry and the Non-Human

Maybe because we're bilaterally symmetrical, human people tend to think in binaries and dichotomies. We love to divide things up, especially into multiples of two, and then privilege one of them—like the deep divide that's so often assumed between human and nonhuman life. This interactive presentation dips into a scattering of poems focused on the specific, the nonhuman, and the places where human and nonhuman intersect—a loose taxonomy of the approaches that get lumped together as “nature poetry”, from meditations to elegies, histories, celebrations, and wild leaps of imagination—to name just a few. This will provide a springboard for participants to work on their own such poems during the session, and, if they wish, to share some. Handouts provided.

- **Catherine Carter's** poetry collections include *Larvae of the Nearest Stars*, *The Swamp Monster at home*, *The Memory of Gills*, and *Marks of the Witch*. Her work has also appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Orion*, *Poetry*, *Ecotone*, and *North American Review*, among others. Catherine was raised in Greensboro, Maryland, where her parents still live. Now she lives in Cullowhee, North Carolina, and is a professor of English at Western Carolina University.

10:00–10:50

LYNNE STREETER CHILDRESS

FICTION | CADBY AUDITORIUM



Finding Empathy for Fiction Characters (Even When You Don't Like Them)

The session will focus on the importance of seeing the characters that you create as fully human, and propose that writing them through empathetic eyes will make them realer to you, thereby making them fully-breathed folk to your readers (even your villains!). Participants will discuss characters from other work that they felt empathetic towards, those that they didn't, and talk about possible reasons why. We will also use writing prompts to guide us towards writing with an empathetic eye.

- **Lynne Streeter Childress** is a playwright, actor, teaching artist, director, and founder and artistic director of *Building Better People Productions*, a professional theater company based in Annapolis, MD, that does shows for young audiences based in themes of kindness and respect. This is her 28th year in professional theater, with much of that experience in theater for young audiences. She has penned commissioned work, as well as pieces for her own theater. Lynne had the honor of speaking at BTO in 2021 and 2022. Lynne lives in Annapolis, MD with her husband and son.

Keynote Address by Mariah Burton Nelson was held live on Thursday, March 2nd on Zoom. If you missed it, a link to the recording will be sent via email along with a link to the Conference Survey on Sunday, March 5th.

- **Mariah Burton Nelson** A former Stanford and professional basketball player who has written primarily about the empowerment of women through sports, Mariah Burton Nelson has written creative nonfiction books for *Random House*, *Harcourt Brace*, *Harper San Francisco*, and *William Morrow* — as well as stories for *Bay to Ocean Journal 2021*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Newsday*, *Working Woman*, *Ms.*, *Glamour*, *USA Today*, and other publications. She wrote columns for *The Washington Post* and the *Washington Business Journal* and has won numerous writing awards.



9:00–9:50

PAUL COMFORT

EDITING/PUBLISHING/MARKETING | H-112



Podcasting as Promotion Podcasting is a great way to build your audience, visibility, credibility as a thought leader, make connections and promote your books and causes plus get speaking gigs.

Paul Comfort has done just that with his industry leading podcast and television show *Transit Unplugged* (heard in 100 countries). In this session he'll show you how in detail and answer your questions.

■ **Paul Comfort** is host of the industry leading podcast, *Transit Unplugged* and the new YouTube sensation, *Transit Unplugged TV* show. Paul has authored two Amazon #1 best-selling books. He also serves as SVP of the world's largest transit technology company and Executive Director of the North American Transit Alliance.

Mr. Comfort is an attorney, musician, popular keynote speaker and the former CEO of one of America's largest transit systems, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) in Baltimore. He has also served as an elected County Commissioner on the Eastern Shore.

9:00–9:50

HEATHER DAVIS

FICTION | CADBY AUDITORIUM



Writing (or Revising) Your Debut Novel in Two Simple Steps

Writing a novel that will capture the attention of readers (and agents) is incredibly hard for many aspiring authors, but there is a 'secret story sauce' that can help you navigate the dark (often unmarked) highways and byways of the writing and editing process. In this workshop, I will teach you the two key steps necessary to create a novel that will turn casual readers into super-fans!

Step 1: Develop a solid arc of change for your protagonist. Deep dive into the 10 important story-specific questions that will help you hone in on your protagonist's arc of change.

Step 2: Create a robust and flexible blueprint for your novel. Discuss and implement a blueprinting technique that embracing structure and creativity.

■ **Dr. Heather Davis** is an Author Accelerator certified book coach, developmental editor, author platform expert, and the founder of *The Kreative Authorpreneur*. She helps aspiring authors create emotionally complex novels that readers rave about and agents request. Heather has studied under story experts Lisa Cron and Jennie Nash. She is a frequent contributor to Jane Friedman's popular writing blog and has been featured on podcasts such as *Editing Writing*, *Turning Readers into Writers*, and *Write About Now*. In the fall of 2022, Heather is slated as guest speaker inside the wildly popular *Women In Publishing (WIP) School*.

10:00–10:50

JOHN DeDAKIS

EDITING/PUBLISHING/MARKETING | H-112



Buffing and Polishing: The Art of the Rewrite You've finally finished your manuscript and now you're ready to tell Oprah all about it. Not so fast. The best writing is REwriting. In this session, you'll learn practical ways to put your writing on a flab-burning diet so that your copy is tight, trim and hot—and all without even having to step onto a treadmill. There will be several writing (and rewriting) exercises.

■ **John DeDakis** Award-winning novelist, writing coach, and manuscript editor John DeDakis is a former editor on CNN's *"The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer."* DeDakis is the author of five mystery-suspense novels. In his most recent novel, *Fake*, protagonist Lark Chadwick is a White House correspondent dealing with "fake news" in the era of #MeToo. DeDakis regularly leads writing workshops at literary centers, writers' conferences, and bookstores. He is also the host of the video podcast "One-to-One with John DeDakis" on YouTube. Website: www.johndedakis.com

10:00–10:50

KRIS FAATZ

SPECIALTY | H-111



Exploring the Unexpected: Writing with a Magical Twist

A session both for writers who work in fantasy and magic, and writers new to those areas. We'll explore how "breaking real-world rules" can be freeing, and how trying the unexpected—and making it work—can hone craft skills in ways that cross genre boundaries, and can get us out of ruts of overthinking and perfectionism.

The session will include discussion of a flash-fiction story and how the writer "sells" us on the magic: what craft elements they use, and how those elements apply to other kinds of writing. We'll also do two or more in-session exercises in which we explore rule-breaking, seeing where ideas lead, and how to make unexpected twists work in story.

- **Kris Faatz** (*rhymes with skates*) is a pianist, writer, and teacher. Her short fiction has appeared in journals including *Los Angeles Review*, *Typehouse Magazine*, and *Streetlight Magazine*, and most recently received *NELLE* journal's 2022 Three Sisters Award. Her first novel, *To Love A Stranger* (Blue Moon Publishers, 2017), was a finalist for the Schaffner Press Music in Literature Award. Her second novel, literary fantasy *Fourteen Stones*, was published in October 2022 by The Patchwork Raven (Wellington, NZ). Kris teaches classes on creative writing, music, and both together. Visit her online at krisfaat.com.

10:00–10:50

KRISTINA GADDY

CRAFT | H-114



Where to Begin? Openings, Stakes, Theme, and Deeper

Meaning in Your Book This session will explore what makes a good opening for narrative works (novels, short stories, narrative nonfiction, essays, memoir, reported pieces). I begin with a short exercise to read an opening and explore what makes it "good" (with guided questions about stakes, theme, and meaning). Then, we go deeper into that piece (not reading it, but with an outline) of how the stakes are set in the opening and what the writer does to fulfill the promise to the reader. Then, participants will reflect on a work-in-progress with an exercise (slightly adapted) from *Craft in the Real World: Rethinking Fiction Writing and Workshopping* by Matthew Salesses. By answering foundational questions about their writing piece, they'll be able to see whether their opening presents the stakes, theme, and deeper meaning of their whole piece.

- **Kristina R. Gaddy**, author of *Well of Souls: Uncovering the Banjo's Hidden History* and *Flowers in the Gutter: The True Story of the Edelweiss Pirates, Teenagers Who Resisted the Nazis* (Dutton 2020), is a Baltimore-based writer and fiddler. She has received the Parsons Award from the Library of Congress, Logan Nonfiction Fellowship and a Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Rubys artist award. She holds an MFA in Nonfiction Writing from Goucher College and her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Baltimore Magazine*, *Washington City Paper*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Bitch Magazine*, *Narratively*, *Proximity*, *Atlas Obscura*, *OZY*, *Shore Monthly* and other smaller history and music publications.



Generative writing workshops, craft sessions, readings and more! Join us every Thursday night from 7:30-9 PM on Zoom. Free & open to all!

2:30–3:20

NATHAN D. HOROWITZ

SPECIALTY | H-111



The Practice of Translation The boundaries of our linguistic worlds have expanded with the wide availability of translation engines. What are the potentials and limitations of these technologies? How can we use them for literary and non-literary purposes? In this workshop, we'll look at digital tools for translation including Google Translate, DeepL, and Linguee. We'll address possibilities and limitations of each, and we'll try our hands at translating a poem or two from a language we don't know into English. It will help to bring a laptop, though a cell phone will work in a pinch. "To translate is to have the honesty to cling to an allusive imperfection." —Pierre Leyris.

- **Nathan D. Horowitz** was born and raised in Michigan. Writer, teacher, translator and proofreader, he has a BA in English and an MA in Applied Linguistics. After four years in Latin America and fifteen in Austria, he lives with his wife and daughter in Baltimore, Maryland. He is the author of two volumes of creative nonfiction about Ecuadorian ayahuasca shamanism and the translator of three volumes of Ecuadorian fiction, one volume of Venezuelan poetry, and the autobiography of the last shaman-chief of the Siekopai people of the Amazon Rainforest.

11:00–11:50

ANDREA J. JOHNSON

FICTION | CADBY AUDITORIUM



Understanding Unreliable Narrators in Fiction We love unreliable narrators like Amy Dunne from Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*, but we rarely talk about how such narrators are written and what makes those characters so memorable. Luckily, this is a technique that can be traced back to the earliest forms of Greek literature such as Homer's epic poem "The Odyssey" and can be utilized regardless of genre. So this session will answer the other big questions about this approach to viewpoint: What's the best way to incorporate an unreliable narrator? What are the benefits/pitfalls of the technique? How do we make our unreliable narrator empathetic enough that readers stay until the end? And most importantly, how can writers reveal their unreliable narrator without angering the audience?

- **Andrea J. Johnson** is the author of the *Victoria Justice* mystery series about a trial stenographer turned amateur sleuth (think *Murder, She Wrote* meets *The Pelican Brief*). She's also written several guidebooks for writer productivity, including *How to Craft a Killer Cozy Mystery* and *Mastering the Art of Suspense*. She holds a B.A. in English from Swarthmore College, an M.F.A. in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University, and a copyediting certification from UC San Diego. She currently teaches Creative Writing and African American literature at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and her craft essays have appeared on several websites such as *CrimeReads*, *Litreactor*, *DIY MFA*, *Submittable*, and *Funds for Writers*. She also contributes to the women's lifestyle websites *Popsugar* and *The List Daily*. Visit [Andrea's blog at *ajthenovelist.com*](http://AndreasBlog.com) to learn more.

ANNY WILLIAMS

The official Bay to Ocean Greeter, can't be with us in person this year, but she wishes you an outstanding conference! She hopes to see you in 2024.



11:00–11:50

ELIZABETH KASPER & EMILY JOHNSON

CRAFT | H-114



On Co-Writing We will share a PowerPoint and discuss different systems for writing with others, the benefits of coauthoring as opposed to writing individually, the business aspects of cowriting, and experience and advice we feel could benefit the writing community.

■ **Elizabeth Kasper & Emily Johnson** are both lifelong readers and writers. They have been co-writing novels for three years and have learned much about fiction and publishing along the way. Elizabeth is a freelance writer and editor working on an MA in Communications and an MFA in Writing and Publishing, and Emily is working on degrees in both Photography and Marketing while sharpening her craft of fiction and selling antiques.

11:00–11:50

KENTON KILGORE

EDITING/PUBLISHING/MARKETING | H-112



Handselling Books Whether you write fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or something else, you can make money and win lifelong, hardcore fans by selling your books in person. There's a lot to gain, but it's more—much more—than just signing copies. So, how best to do it?

Author Kenton Kilgore walks you through every step of how to successfully hand-sell books, with lots of do's and don'ts that he learned from extensive experience. Among the aspects that Kenton discusses are: picking the right venue and setting up the display; pricing to make you the most money; how COVID changed book selling; selling at mega-venues; and, his "One-Spoonful-At-A-Time" sales technique that you and your customers will be comfortable with.

Think you're too shy to meet people and convince them to buy your books? Kenton shows you how to overcome that so you can easily engage with potential readers.

In addition, each attendee will receive a free PDF copy of Kenton's recently-released publication, *Selling Books In Person: An Author's Guide to Winning Fans & Making Money*, which has even more advice and tips.

■ **Kenton Kilgore** is the author of *Selling Books In Person: An Author's Guide To Winning Fans & Making Money*. He has published four young adult sci-fi/fantasy novels--*This Wasted Land*, *Lost Dogs*, *Stray Cats*, and *Dragontamer's Daughters*-- as well as the children's picture books *Our Wild Place*, *Pimmi Makes a Friend*, and *How the Kangal Got Her Mask*. Kenton and his family live on Kent Island, Maryland. Website: www.kentonkilgore.com

2:30–3:20

DAVID P. KOZINSKI

CRAFT | H-114



The Freedom of an Unreliable Narrator in Poetry Never let the facts get in the way of a good story, or of writing the best poem. Sticking to facts is essential to writing a news story or autobiography, but in poetry is, very often, counterproductive. There is always a gap between the poet and the poem's narrator or speaker: it might be narrow as eye of a needle or a broad chasm. Using a narrator whose veracity the reader has reason to doubt lends the poet the freedom to cultivate fields that might otherwise remain fallow. We'll talk about various types of unreliable narrators and read examples that illustrate them. Workshop attendees will write in class using voices that differ from their own and have the chance to read their work aloud.

■ **David P. Kozinski** has two full-length books of poems: the original manuscript of *I Hear It the Way I Want It to Be* (2022) was a finalist for the Inlandia (California) Institute's Hillary Gravendyke Prize and *Tripping Over Memorial Day* was published in 2017 (both Kelsay Books). His chapbook, *Loopholes* (Broadkill Press), won the Dogfish Head Poetry Prize. Kozinski is the Resident Poet at Rockwood Park and Museum in New Castle County, Delaware. He was the 2018 Delaware Division of the Arts Established Professional Poetry Fellow. He is Art Editor of *Schuylkill Valley Journal* and a board member of *Philadelphia Stories*

2:30–3:20

MEG EDEN KUYATT

EDITING/PUBLISHING/MARKETING | H-112



Scrivener for Writers & Poets Learn about the basics of using the program Scrivener to best organize your ideas, as well as outline and draft efficiently. We'll cover the basic features of the program, as well as ideas and strategies for best using this tool as a poet or fiction writer.

- **Meg Eden Kuyatt** is a 2020 Pitch Wars mentee, and teaches creative writing at colleges and writing centers. She is the author of the 2021 Towson Prize for Literature winning poetry collection "Drowning in the Floating World" (Press 53, 2020) and children's novels, most recently "Good Different" (Scholastic, 2023). Find her online at www.megedenbooks.com or on Twitter at @ConfusedNarwhal and Instagram at @meden_author.

9:00–9:50

GERRY LaFEMINA

POETRY | H-113



Linear Thinking—The Line, The Break, and the Craft of

the Poem The line is the one thing that differentiates poetry from prose and yet so many poets don't consider the line as a thing unto itself; much is made about line breaks but the break doesn't only determine where one line ends, but also defines where the next one begins, and as such is the very essence of poetic craft.

- **Gerry LaFemina's** most recent books are *The Pursuit: a Meditation on Happiness* (CNF, 2022) and *Baby Steps in Doomsday Prepping* (prose poems, 2020) both from Madville Publishing. A new book of poems, *After the War for Independence*, will be released in 2023 from Stephen F Austin University Press. A Fulbright Specialist in Writing and American Culture, LaFemina teaches at Frostburg State University and in the MFA program at Carlow University. He is also the principal songwriter and frontman for *The Downstrokes*.

9:00–9:50

DENNIS LAWSON

CRAFT | H-114



Assessing Your Intuition for Maximum Creativity What if your body, mind, and spirit could work together more effectively? Can you access your intuition easily? Do you often battle procrastination and unwanted thoughts?

In this highly interactive workshop, Dennis will introduce a number of physical, mental, and intuitive exercises you can easily apply to your writing discipline. He will reveal some Master Keys that will allow you to unlock better mindfulness, intuitive awareness, and spiritual fitness to augment your skills. These lessons offer tools that will add to your creativity and renew your joy in writing.

Finally, you will be guided to your "inner wisdom" enhancing your ability to overcome fears and procrastination, boosting your ability to fulfill your dreams.

- **Dennis Lawson, MHT.** has an academic background in psychology and decades of experience as a Martial Arts competitor, teacher, and coach allow him to offer a comprehensive mind, body, and spirit centered approach to hypnosis and coaching. Dennis published *Talking Kenpo—Best Practices in Martial Arts Training* in 2012. The book is available on Amazon.com. Mr. Lawson is a certified NLP practitioner and holds diverse coaching certifications including *Maximum Productivity* (Time Management) from Brian Tracy International and *Life (Spiritual) Coaching* from Edgar Cayce's Association for Research and Enlightenment (A.R.E.). Dennis assists his clients to discover their hidden patterns, allowing them to fulfill their dreams.

1:30–2:20

BRENT LEWIS

NON-FICTION | H-109



Know 10 Times More Than You Tell: Research, Responsibility, Resources & Rabbit Holes Whether immersed in archival material or through everyday observations and interactions, all writers conduct research. For fiction and nonfiction authors alike, this session explores the benefits of strengthening the writer's practical skills as a researcher, as well as the tools and techniques one can utilize to improve their writing with the insight and credibility that only well-executed, ethical research provides. Through helpful handouts, interactive exercises, and constructive conversation, attendees will be encouraged to regard research as an enjoyable part of the writing process that not only yields story-strengthening factual information but can also open creative doors and inspire the imagination. The session is intended to help students discover that conducting better research can lead to achieving their goals and experiencing more success as an author.

- **Brent Lewis** is the author of the recently published *Stardust By The Bushel: Hollywood On The Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore*, which spotlights filmmaking on Delmarva, as well as two nonfiction books about Kent Island and the indie novel, *Bloody Point 1976*. A fan of history and pop culture, Brent is a native Eastern Shoreman with deep regional roots and has written for magazines, newspapers, and newsletters. A documentarian and a playwright member of the Dramatists Guild of America, Brent's blog, easternshorebrent.com, is a popular destination for readers interested in Chesapeake Bay storytelling, history, and memoir.

1:30–2:20

K. McCOY

SPECIALTY | H-111



Diversity in Writing Storytelling has the power to shape perspectives and unite people from all walks of life. And with that kind of power comes great responsibility. Learn how to manage telling your stories authentically yet with attention to inclusivity in this Diversity in Writing class.

After this 60 minute class, filled with upbeat yet real world examples and group exercises, you will not only be able to write diverse characters more effectively, but have a deeper understanding of why embracing all intersections of the characters included within your story is essential.

- **K. McCoy** wants to live in a world where people don't try to compensate artists with only exposure and every public restroom plays lo-fi music. Women take the lead (as well as center stage) and always come first in their inspiring yet heartfelt stories. K. McCoy's goals are to travel and to see as much of the world as possible and to continue writing amazing stories for their growing audience. You can find out how to connect with K. McCoy by visiting them on all social media sites under [authorkmccoy](https://twitter.com/authorkmccoy).

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10:00–10:50

NANCY MITCHELL

POETRY | H-113



Generating New Work via the Proustian Path to Conjuring

Memories or What the Nose Knows In this writing workshop, we'll use sensory stimuli to summon what the French novelist Marcel Proust called "involuntary memories" which may be the start of fresh, new writing. In my long career leading creative writing workshops with students in grade school, universities, and senior citizen centers, I have used this exercise with great success; perhaps because the ever-judgmental mind is disabled and the limbic system is engaged, the writing produced is always authentic, vibrant, and powerfully palpable.

- **Nancy Mitchell** is the author of *The Near Surround*, *Grief Hut*, and *The Out-of-Body Shop*, and co-editor of *Plume Interviews I*. A recipient of a Pushcart Prize, her poems have appeared in such journals as *Agni*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *Washington Square Review*. She has taught in the English and Environmental Studies Departments at Salisbury University, Maryland, and is an Associate Editor for *Plume Poetry Journal*. She hosts the Zoom Reading Series Poets on the Plaza and serves as the Poet Laureate of the City of Salisbury, Maryland.

1:30–2:20

G.H. MOSSON

POETRY | H-113



Titles Like Blackbirds: Exploring Different Ways

In this workshop, we will explore several approaches to title a poem, or story, including the approaches of location, character, preview, theme, and/or slant, with examples from poets Chen Chen, Jericho Brown, Maggie Smith, and other leading lights to get our juices jazzed. After discussion, there will be a generative portion, so please bring a draft poem with which to play. Though focusing on poems, this can work for stories and nonfiction too.

- **G.H. Mosson** is the author of two books and three chapbooks of poetry, including: *Family Snapshot as a Poem in Time* (Finishing Line Press 2019) and co-author of the collaborative *Simultaneous Revolutions* (PM Press 2021). His poetry has appeared in the *Little Patuxent Review*, *The Potomac Review*, *Loch Raven Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Smartish Pace*, and *The Hollins Critic*, among other places. For more, seek www.ghmosson.com

9:00–9:50

RANDON BILLINGS NOBLE

NON-FICTION | H-109



Listing Your Way to a (Lyric) Essay Join essayist Randon Billings Noble in exploring different ways in which the humble list can be transformed into a creative—perhaps lyric—essay. In this session we'll start by talking about the ways list-making can spur your creative practice. We'll then look at some examples of list-based essays—from Sei Shonagon's 11th-century classic "Hateful Things" to more contemporary work by cartoonist Lynda Barry. Then we'll do some generative writing exercises that will lead you to a list-based essay of your own. Participants will leave with a new understanding of the essay (lyric and otherwise) as well as new work. This session welcomes writers of all genres, interests, and levels.

- **Randon Billings Noble** is an essayist. Her collection *Be with Me Always* was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2019 and her anthology of lyric essays, *A Harp in the Stars*, was published by Nebraska in 2021. Other work has appeared in the *Modern Love* column of *The New York Times*, *The Rumpus*, *Brevity*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. Currently she is the founding editor of the online literary magazine *After the Art* and teaches in West Virginia Wesleyan's Low-Residency MFA Program and Goucher's MFA in Nonfiction Program. You can read more at her website, www.randonbillingsnoble.com.

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2:30–3:20

LAURA J. OLIVER

NON-FICTION | H-109



How to Write Micro Memoir

Write your life story as you lived it, one moment at a time, each under 850 words. This interactive workshop teaches writers to distill a moment of change, conflict, contradiction, or mystery to its essence, so that the impact on the writer resonates profoundly with the reader. We will examine inspiring published examples to learn exactly how the writer moved and entertained us. Using the same tools with which we craft fiction, this workshop is an excellent learning environment for both genres. We'll conclude with a review of where to publish.

- **Laura J. Oliver** is the author of *The Story Within* (Penguin Random House), endorsed by Pulitzer Prize winner, Jon Franklin. A developmental story editor and individual writing mentor, Oliver has won a Maryland State Arts Council Award and an Annie Award among others. Her stories appear in national newspapers, magazines, and top-tier literary reviews. Oliver has taught at the University of Maryland and at St. John's College and currently writes a popular weekly column for *Spy Media* newspapers. www.thestorywithin.com

9:00–9:50

LARA PAYNE

SPECIALTY | H-111



Tidewater: Writing (and Drawing) Centered in Place; A Poetry and Short Prose Generative Workshop We will read and write short poems and prose (non-fiction or fiction) and have time for small group feedback. Some of the writing will be from local authors, some will be chosen because it fits the theme: knowing our place. Authors such as Lucille Clifton, Denise Levertov, Barbara Kingsolver, and others. We will briefly look at combining simple line drawings with writing, with no pressure to draw.

- **Lara Payne** lives in Maryland. Once an archeologist, she now teaches writing at the college level, to veterans, and to small children. She has been a resident of the VCCA and a semi-finalist for the Nation/Discovery Award. Her poem “Corn Stand, 10 ears for two dollars” was a winner in the Moving Words Competition, and was placed on buses in Arlington, VA over the Summer of 2018. Recent poems have appeared in *SWWIM*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly* and the *Mom Egg Review*. Her poems explore the environment, motherhood, mental illness, and the hidden work of women.

2:30–3:20

KIM E. ROBERTS

POETRY | H-113



Beyond the Haiku: Writing Syllabic Poems In this generative workshop, participants will look at model poems, then have time to write their own syllabic verse. There are two types of syllabics: normative—in which all lines in the poem have the same number of syllables, and quantitative—in which each line of a stanza contains the same number of syllables as its corresponding line in subsequent stanzas. Syllabic prosody is the foundation of most poetry written in Japanese, and is found also in Romance languages, but it is relatively rare in English. We’ll look at examples by Marianne Moore, Sonia Sanchez, Harryette Mullen, N. Scott Momaday and others for inspiration.

- **Kim Roberts** is the editor of the anthology *By Broad Potomac’s Shore: Great Poems from the Early Days of our Nation’s Capital* (University of Virginia Press, 2020), selected by the East Coast Centers for the Book for the 2021 Route 1 Reads program as the book that “best illuminates important aspects” of the culture of Washington, DC. She is the author of *A Literary Guide to Washington, DC: Walking in the Footsteps of American Writers from Francis Scott Key to Zora Neale Hurston* (University of Virginia Press, 2018), and five books of poems, most recently *The Scientific Method* (WordTech Editions, 2017). Her chapbook, *Corona/Crown*, a cross-disciplinary collaboration with photographer Robert Revere, is forthcoming from WordTech Editions in 2023.

2:30–3:20

DYLAN ROCHE

TRACK | H-113



Good to Be Bad: Crafting Great Villains and Antagonists Whoever (or whatever) your antagonist is, they should never be boring—your antagonist is what drives the story! Explore some of your favorite villains in storytelling—from the love-to-hate-ems to the morally gray ones—and see what makes them such interesting characters, so you can create your own who can stand in your hero’s way.

- **Dylan Roche** is a novelist, playwright, journalist, copywriter, blogger, editor, and creative writing coach with years of professional experience in a breadth of writing-related endeavors. Whether he’s writing magazine features about fitness and nutrition, farcical sitcoms for the stage, or ad copy for small businesses, he loves connecting with and resonating with readers. His first novel, *The Purple Bird*, a YA fantasy adventure, debuted in 2019. He lives in Annapolis with his dog, Tyrion the corgi, and when he’s not writing, he can usually be found going on long-distance runs. Visit him online at www.dylanrochewriter.com

1:30–2:20

AMY SCHISLER

FICTION | CADBY AUDITORIUM



Authentic Fiction: Write What You Know For a work of fiction to be worth reading, it must be real. It must ring true. It must be authentic. Even science fiction and fantasy need to contain elements of reality in the human condition and experience. How can you best incorporate these elements into your writing? By writing what you know. Research is a big part of writing, but knowledge and experience are crucial for your writing to have an enjoyable and memorable impact on readers. We'll discuss turning your own knowledge and experience into unforgettable stories people will be clamoring to get their hands on.

- **Amy Schisler**, author of inspirational fiction, has published numerous books, including the award-winning *Chincoteague Island Trilogy*. A former librarian, Amy enjoys a busy life on the Shore where she volunteers at her Church and runs a Girl Scout Camp every summer. Amy and husband, Ken, are enjoying their new role as grandparents.

The recipient of numerous national literary awards, including the Independent Publisher, Oklahoma RWA, Indies, and Golden Quill Awards, as well as honors from the Eric Hoffer Book Award, Amy's writing has been hailed "a verbal masterpiece of art" and "Everything you want in a book."

Eastern Shore Writers Association 6th Annual *Bay to Ocean Journal* Call for Submissions!

Warm Up Those Keyboards!

The submission period runs from March 1st through April 15th. As always, you must be an ESWA member in good standing and submit through the ESWA website: easternshorewriters.org

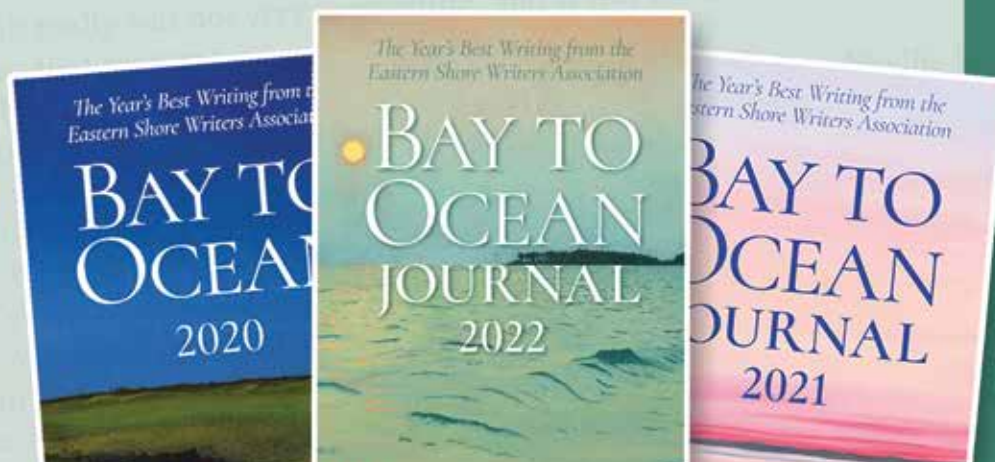


This year we are thrilled to have TOMMY DEAN as our Guest Executive Editor. Tommy Dean is the author of two flash fiction chapbooks

Special Like the People on TV (Redbird Chapbooks, 2014) and *Covenants* (ELJ Editions, 2021), and a full flash collection, *Hollows* (Alternating Current Press, 2022). He lives in Indiana, where he currently is the Editor at *Fractured Lit* and *Uncharted Magazine*. A recipient of the 2019 Lascaux Prize in Short

Fiction, his writing can be found in *Best Microfiction* 2019, 2020, 2023, *Best Small Fiction* 2019 and 2022, *Monkeybicycle*, and numerous other litmags.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Rich, BTO Journal's Managing Editor Emilyjuanita.rich@verizon.net



1:30–2:20

LYNNE SCHMIDT

CRAFT | H-114



Generating Poems Through Research This interactive presentation will explore generating poems from various media such as newspaper articles, news segments, and general research. It will dig into topics such as “finding the character” for each news piece, as well as guided instruction for how to create poems from photos. This presentation will encourage audience participation and there will be time reserved for participants to write, as well as a Q&A session at the conclusion.

■ **Lynne Schmidt** is the grandchild of a Holocaust survivor, and a mental health professional with a focus in trauma and healing. They are the winner of the 2021 *The Poetry Question Chapbook Award* for their chapbook, *Sexytime*, and the 2020 *New Women’s Voices Contest* for their chapbook, *Dead Dog Poems*. Other chapbooks include *Gravity*, which was listed as one of the 100 *Best Breakup Books of All Time* by *Book Authority*, and *On Becoming a Role Model*. When given the choice, Lynne prefers the company of her three dogs and one cat to humans.

1:30–2:20

ARIELE SIELING

EDITING/PUBLISHING/MARKETING | H-112



How to Give a Book Away: Using Free Books as a Marketing Tool Giving books away is a commonly utilized method for marketing. But there are smart ways to do—and not-so-smart ways.

In this workshop, join Arielle Sieling for a discussion on effective ways to use free books to market your work and build your audience. She will outline the pros and cons of free books, delve into the nitty gritty of “how” to make your books free on various retailers, as well as talk about the strategy behind giving books away. She will also explore some of the controversy surrounding free books.

This workshop will come with a hands-on guide for implementing a free-book strategy, and allow time for a Q&A about book marketing in general.

■ **Arielle Sieling** is a science fiction and fantasy writer who enjoys books, cats, and trees. She has over thirty books published and has numerous short stories published in a variety of anthologies and magazines. She is also the author of the book series for authors titled *Writers Reach*, which includes: *How To Build A Book Marketing Strategy*, *The Intersection of Setting and Story*, and *Building An Author Brand That Suits You*. She lives with her spouse, enormous Great Pyrenees dog, and two cats.

11:00–11:50

RUS VANWESTERVELT

NON-FICTION | H-109



Your Story Matters: The Art and Craft of Personal Essay and Memoir Your story matters. Whether you are sharing it in brief personal narratives or in a book-length memoir, the process of writing and the quest for publication can be overwhelming. This hands-on, writing-immersive workshop gives you the tools you need to write—and publish—your life stories. You will learn the elements of narrative (creative) nonfiction by exploring the stories of your life and the lives of loved ones. Be ready to write, laugh, and maybe even cry as you dig deep into your life stories that will leave a trace in the world for generations to come.

■ **Rus VanWestervelt** has been writing and teaching the power of creative nonfiction and fiction for over 35 years. He has lived on the shores of Chesapeake Bay and throughout central Maryland. He is the author of two novels, including *Fossil Five* set in Southern Maryland, and he is the founder of *Maryland Voices*, a creative nonfiction journal for high school writers throughout the state. He currently resides in Towson, where he is an adjunct writing professor at Towson University.



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ELLIE ALTMAN

Poet & Author of Newly-Released *Within Walking Distance*



WORDS ON ALTMAN'S WORK

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—Meredith Davies Hadaway,
author of *At the Narrows*



available at amazon

In Altman's first poetry chapbook, *Within Walking Distance*, readers can experience the simple pleasures and quirks of small-town living from dual perspectives: that of someone who simultaneously belongs to the community while also considering themselves an outside observer.

This small collection of 12 poems is accessible to poetry lovers, dog lovers, and even those who are not drawn to poetry. Altman strives to entertain with what makes small-town living special.

For more information about the release and Altman, visit elliealtmanpoet.com.



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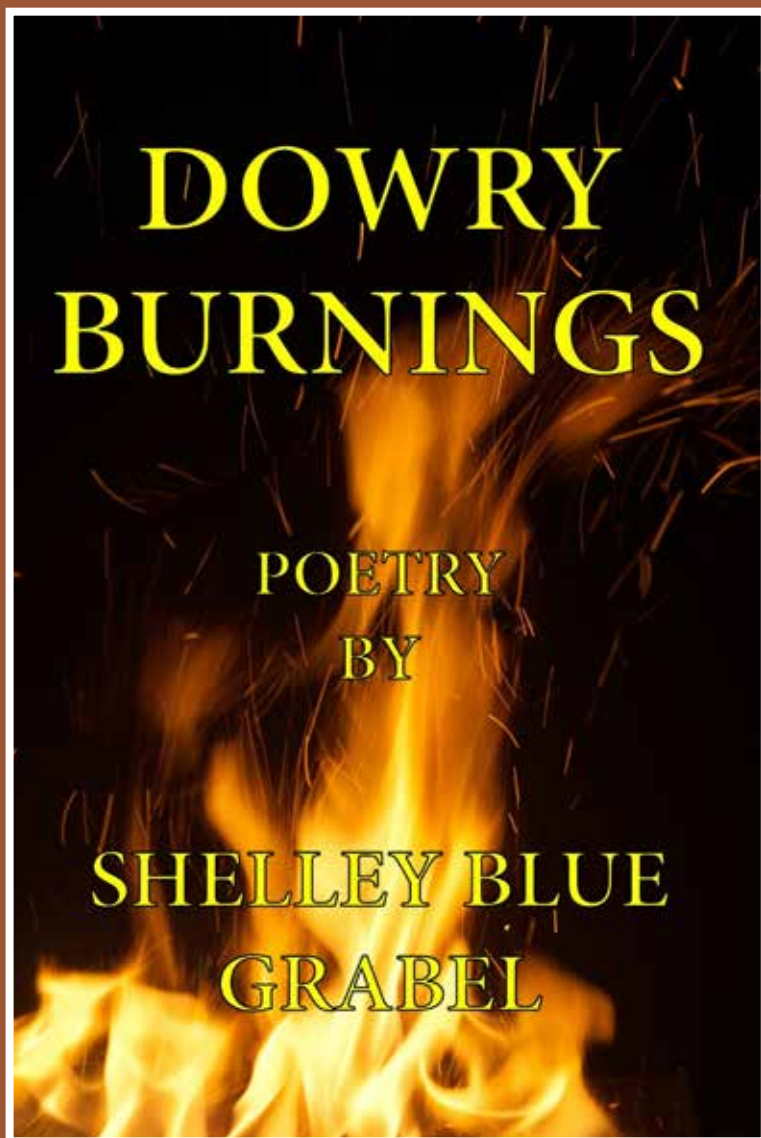
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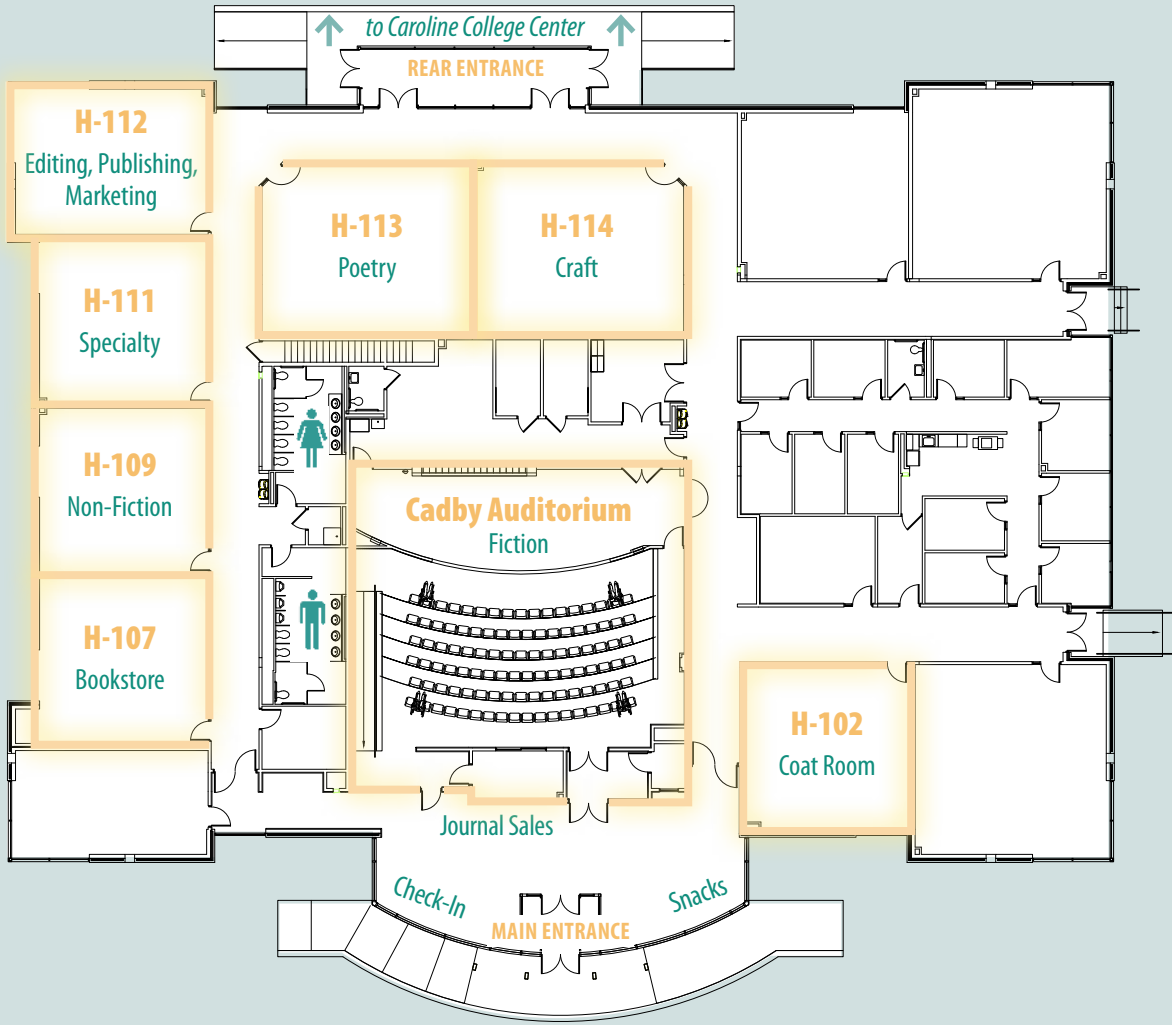
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