

November 2017 ESWA Newsletter

[Campaign Preview](#)

[HTML Source](#)

[Plain-Text Email](#)

[Details](#)

November 2017 news from the Eastern Shore Writers!

[View this email in your browser](#)



WORDS BETWEEN BAYS NEWSLETTER

DO THE WRITE THING!

Connect with other writers and support writing across the Delmarva Peninsula!

[JOIN ESWA](#)

ESWA ELSEWHERE

 FOLLOW on FACEBOOK



Register for the Bay to Ocean Conference!

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018

March 10, 2018 is the date for the 21st annual BTO conference at Chesapeake College, in Wye Mills, Maryland. As one of the region's premier educational seminars, the Bay to Ocean Writers Conference attracts participants from six states as well as the District of Columbia. Registration is now open. Alert your writing colleagues by sharing links from www.facebook.com/BaytoOcean.

Library events for readers and writers

Talbot County, MD



Contact Person: Bill Peak, telephone: 410-822-1626, e-mail: mcpeak@tcfl.org

Note: All library programming is free and open to the public.

Easton

Native American Culture Celebration

Thursday, November 9, 2:00 p.m. JoAnn Brown of Justamere Trading Post will share Native American artifacts, trivia, storytelling, and the opportunity to participate in crafts. Pre-Registration required. For all ages (children 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult).





Knights of the Sky: the **WWI Aviation Art of Robert T. Horvath**

Thursday, November 9, 6:00 p.m. Robert T. Horvath, whose paintings have hung in the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum among others, will discuss his art and the exploits of men who flew planes that were little better than kites with motors and machine guns attached. This will be an artistic and unique talk on a subject rarely explored. Five of Horvath's pictures will be on display.



Marriage, Metaphor and Mortality: The Poetry of Jane Kenyon

Monday, November 13, 6:00 p.m. Local, Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet **Sue Ellen Thompson** will discuss the relationship between Jane Kenyon's tragically short life and her poetry. Thompson's lectures are always well-thought-out, well-delivered, and immensely popular. This program is supported with funds from the Talbot County Arts Council and the Maryland State Arts Council.



The Long Walk Home

Thursday, November 16, 6:30 p.m. Local attorney **Robert Messick** talks about his 2,190 mile hike along the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine as a fundraiser for Easton's Talbot Interfaith Shelter. Using a multi-media presentation, Messick will share the hardships and joys encountered while trekking across 14 states over rising and falling elevations that amounted to 16 ascents and descents of Mt. Everest.

Book Discussion: *Dancing on My Grave* by Gelsey Kirkland

Monday, November 20, 6:30 p.m.

St. Michaels

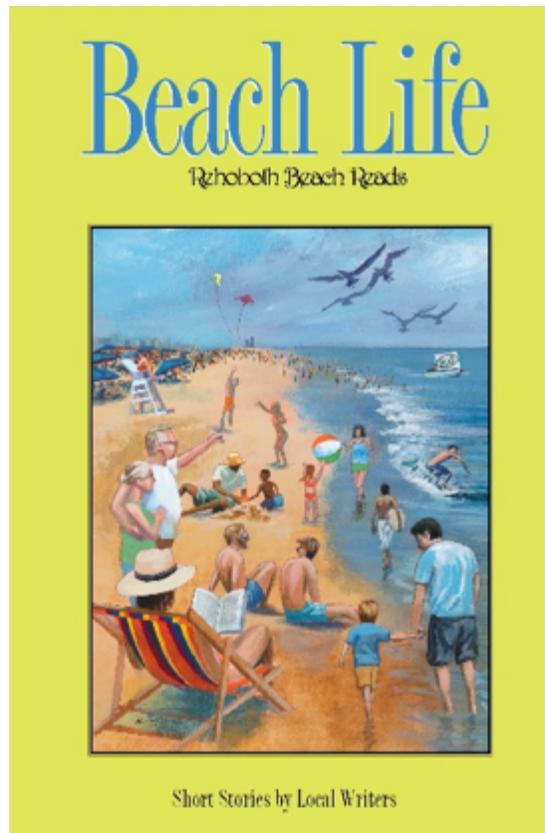
Memoir Writers

Thursday, November 9, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Record and share your memories of life and family with a group of friendly, like-minded people.

Participants are invited to bring their lunch. Pre-Registration required.

Book Arts for Teens & Adults

Monday, November 27, 3:30 p.m. Japanese Stab Binding Book



***Beach Life* anthology now available**

Cat & Mouse Press has published *Beach Life*, the fifth book in the award-winning Rehoboth Beach Reads Series. The books, which have won state and national awards, are published annually and contain stories selected by a panel of judges from entries in each year's short story contest. *Beach Life* features 25 stories set in Rehoboth and surrounding areas. *Beach Life* and the other books in the series are available at Browseabout Books, the contest sponsor and primary sales point for the book.

“We were astonished by both the quality of the writing and the variety of the

stories,” says Nancy Sakaduski, owner of Cat & Mouse Press. “I think readers will be delighted by the collection, which includes romance, historical fiction, humor, and mystery.” As evidence of the book’s wide-ranging content, she adds that making appearances in this year’s book are a dolphin “whisperer,” a mime, a mermaid, a Hemingway impersonator, a well-traveled hermit crab, a Rolling Stones album, and Ralphie from *A Christmas Story*.

The Rehoboth Beach Reads books have proven to be extremely popular with residents and visitors alike. Readers enjoy recognizing locations in the stories and reading about familiar activities such as playing miniature golf, walking the boardwalk, and enjoying Rehoboth’s night life. For this reason, the books make great gifts, books for rental properties, and even fireside winter reading material.

“They are among our most popular books,” says Susan Kehoe, General Manager of Browseabout Books. “Once people read one of these anthologies, they come back for the others.” The other books in the series are *The Beach House*, *The Boardwalk*, *Beach Days*, and *Beach Nights*.

Beach Life is available in paperback for \$15.95. A launch party for the book is being hosted by Browseabout Books on November 12, 2-4pm. Most of the authors will be on hand to sign their stories and answer questions about their inspirations. The event is free and open to the public. During the event, anyone who purchases three or more Cat & Mouse Press books will receive a free Browseabout Books tote bag.

Cat & Mouse Press was established to produce books and other materials that are fun, entertaining, and of particular interest to residents and visitors to the Delmarva region. The company publishes a free weekly newspaper for writers, *Writing is a Shore Thing* (www.writingisashorething.com). For more information, visit the company’s website at www.catandmousepress.com or its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/catandmousepress.





Inside the world of Robert Whitehill as the *Blackshaw* series turns 5

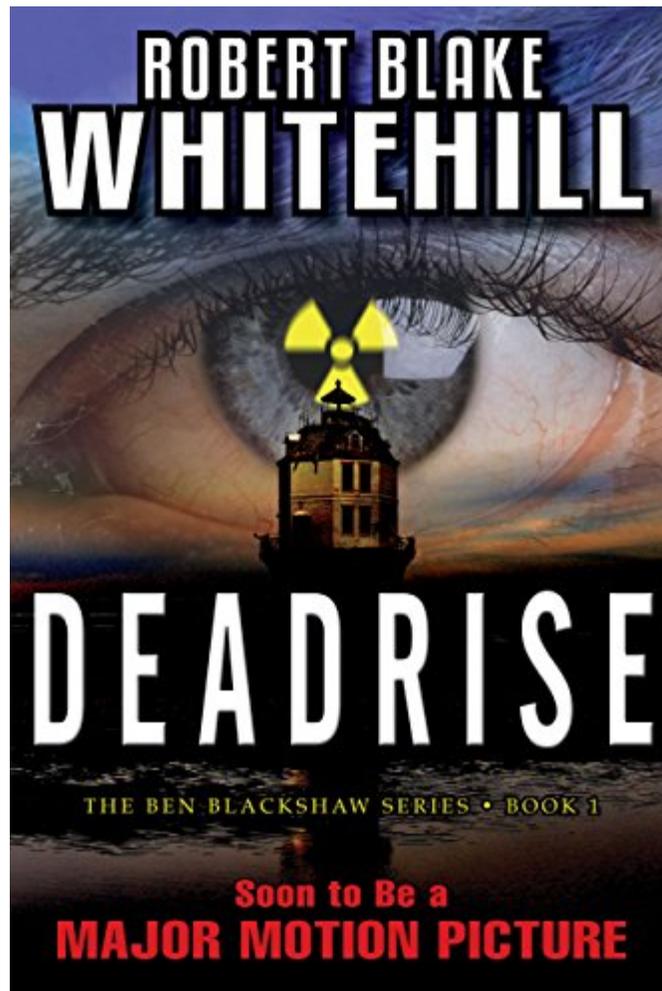
By Robert Blake Whitehill

Your first book is published. People like it. Then you tell them it's the first book in a series. That is received with looks that say, *yeah right*, and *sure it's a series*. To dash the incredulous looks off the faces of journalists and friends alike, you blurt out, *no really, it's going to be a series with at least ten titles!* And now you've done it. Big words from someone who's written some scripts, yes, but only one novel. You're committed. Now you have to deliver.

That's what I went through bringing out *Deadrise*, the first Ben Blackshaw thriller in the fall of 2012. There followed a few hectic months of interviews, signings, readings, guest blogs, and newsletters, but deep into the holidays that year, it struck me. I was going to have to do the heavy writing bit again to keep my word. At the first of 2013, I began writing *Nitro Express*. I needed a structure to the process. I decided to write five pages a day, five days a week. In a few months, I would have a rough draft I could edit. Granted, it was wonderful working with Ben Blackshaw and the other returning characters again. I knew them already. Readers knew them as well. I could use this new book to deepen the characters' conflicts and reveal more about the qualities of their relationships.

Along the way, I've had Gail Priest's terrific example of how someone with a love for the Eastern Shore and the Chesapeake could mine these precious locales for more than one book. I heartily recommend her *Annie Crow Knoll* trilogy. And Thomas Hollyday was also launching title after title in his Eastern Shore-based *River Sunday Romance Mysteries*. I took heart from their creative and industrious examples of series writing.

Things were going so well. A persistent, acute pain in my lower right abdomen told me I was not doing as well as one could wish. The surgeon who removed an inflamed appendix the size of a Buick agreed things were pretty bad, but could have been much worse. Even so, I was consigned to bed rest. My wife closed up my rented office space and moved all my stuff back home. By next week, I was in front of the computer as my recuperation allowed, grinding out *Nitro Express*. By the fall, I was able to keep my promise. I'd managed to write two books to good acclaim. One by one, maybe I could do it again.



There are now four Blackshaw books in print, and a fifth nearing publication. The Eastern Shore Writers Association is my vital link to the place of my birth and the poets and authors who see it, know it, and love it as I do, no matter how much time passes between my visits. The newsletter has faithfully reported the legacy sale (advances and royalties) of the entire series' German language rights to Lucifer-VERLAG, which has released the first three titles already. I'm told there is Blackshaw fan fiction. There is also a free Blackshaw app available for Android and iOS phones for travelers to use to plan visits to Smith Island. And the feature film adaptations of the Blackshaw series are marching steadily from bookshelf to silver screen. The interest and support of other ESWA members helps keep me at it.

Of course, readings and signings are all about meeting new Blackshaw readers. In teaching classes, I must apologize to those who have said I'm too promotional. For this native introvert, promotion is a taxing requirement born of turning down legacy publishing opportunities, and choosing the independent route to reach readers. Also, I lack formal schooling in writing education, that is, how to help others develop their own voices as writers. Perhaps I'm only qualified to discuss how my books came into being, and found an audience, in the hopes that some approach I've used, or some writer's (or marketer's) discipline will be of value to students and their success. Beyond being a hardworking exemplar with hard-won advice to relate, I find I am often most helpful reading and commenting one-on-one with other authors as my crazy schedule permits. To the larger audience, I crave indulgence, forgiveness, and hope I can be of true empowering assistance on the path from idea to market that we're all walking together.

I rely on the Eastern Shore Writers Association for support in getting the work done, and encouragement about the results. I also need ESWA to help me learn how I can be a better member. Even the most solitary writer is part of a wider community. I'm honored to be part of ESWA.

This summer, I lost Walter Whitehill, a dear cousin, and invaluable touchstone for the character of Ben Blackshaw. Walter served in Vietnam in MACV-SOG, an elite outfit that confronted no end of pitched fighting. Walter's stories of his service, and how he faced the trials of life at home after the war, were instrumental in giving Blackshaw the truthful inner turmoil he has today. Thank you Walter. You are profoundly missed.

If you're interested, the Blackshaw series includes *Deadrise*, *Nitro Express*, *Tap Rack Bang*, *Geronimo Hotshot*, and the upcoming *Dog & Bitch Island*.

My website is www.robertblakewhitehill.com

The free Blackshaw app for travel to Smith Island is available for download:

iPhone: <http://ow.ly/yEJ3oetOnj>

and for Android: <http://ow.ly/rxOB3oetOrF>

For my 3 tips on *How Not to Stink at Writing*, check out:

<https://www.helpingwritersbecomeauthors.com/how-not-to-stink-at-writing/>

For my thoughts on how a story's setting can be like a character, read:

<http://www.mattydalrymple.com/blog/the-sense-of-place-part-2-the-setting-as-character-guest-post-by-robert-blake-whitehill>

IF YOU AREN'T A MEMBER- WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
JOIN TODAY AND YOU WILL MEET SOME OF THE BEST WRITERS ON THE
EASTERN SHORE...LIKE YOU!

2017-2018 Eastern Shore Writers Board

Mindie Burgoyne eswapresident@gmail.com, ex-officio

Richard Barton proparx@gmail.com,

G. Charlene Marcum gladus@me.com,

David Healey david@davidhealey.net

Judith Reveal jreveal@verizon.net,

Fran Severn fran@fransevern.com,

Jim Duffy duffywriter@gmail.com,

Susan Parker sparky2955@comcast.net,

Pat Valdata pvaldata@charter.net,

Emily Rich emilyjuanita.rich@verizon.net,

Ron Sauder eswapresident17@gmail.com

From the newsletter editor

My Turn



The leaves are changing and falling in preparation for winter, the quieter season of the year. I know we are all busy people all the time, but winter gives a chance to settle in and do some really good, quality writing. Winter is also the time of year ESWA presents its BTO (Bay to Ocean writer's conference.) It is a fantastic day of learning, networking and coming together with a shared interest and purpose. Register now if you haven't yet, and join in a wonderful program. You may learn all about it at: www.baytooceanocean.com.

Winter is also the time of year we greet a new board and thank our outgoing members for all their hard, volunteer work. A new board will be announced in January so stay tuned for that. New leaders bring new opportunities. They follow in the steps of some truly remarkable and dedicated people who have made ESWA the great organization it is. Many of our present board will be returning due to their dedication. New programs and changes are on the way for all our members. It will, no doubt, be another great year moving us ever forward.

I, personally, have enjoyed working with our president, Ron Sauder, and David Healey, my ever-faithful accomplice to this newsletter. We all hope you enjoy our monthly presentations. It is a labor of love from us to you.

If you have any comments, please contact me at:

eswaeditor@gmail.com

See you next month!

*Bonnie Feldstein (who writes as Anna Gill), editor, ESWA News
David Healey, newsletter design and ESWA board member*



Copyright © 2018 Eastern Shore Writers Association, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you asked to be informed about news related to the Eastern Shore Writers Association.

Our mailing address is:

Eastern Shore Writers Association

P.O. Box 1773

Easton, MD 20601

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

