

# September 2017 ESWA Newsletter (Copy 01)

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September 2017 news from the Eastern Shore Writers!

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# ESWA



EASTERN SHORE WRITERS ASSOCIATION

## WORDS BETWEEN BAYS NEWSLETTER

### DO THE WRITE THING!

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

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT





Dear ESWA Members:

**Welcome back! We have three exceptional speakers lined up for “Second Saturday” programs beginning this month. Please mark your calendars; the more attendance we get, the richer the conversation and networking. Good things happen at Second Saturday!**



**Sept 9, Talbot County Free Library, Easton, 11 am – 12 noon.** Award-winning author **Pat Valdata** will discuss how to choose writer’s retreats and residencies and how writers can make the best use of their time in those privileged settings if they are fortunate enough to attend one. Valdata, an **ESWA board member**, holds an MFA from Goddard College and is an adjunct professor in University of Maryland University College, the online division of the University of Maryland System. In 2013 she was awarded a grant from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation for a residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Amherst, VA. Thanks to this grant and residency, she

completed the manuscript for a book of poetry that was awarded the 2015 Donald Justice Prize. Her presentation is free and open to the public. Attendees are on their own for lunch afterward – but we encourage networking with old and new friends!

**Oct 14, Abbott's on Broad Creek, Laurel, Delaware, 12 noon – 1:30 pm.** **Mary Angela Baker, founding director of the Center for Extended and Lifelong Learning at Salisbury University,** will discuss the opportunities for lifelong learners, both students and teachers of writing, in SU's new Lighthouse Literary Guild. Baker served as director of continuing education at St. Catherine University in Minneapolis-St. Paul for twelve years before coming to Salisbury in 2016. Described as “a resource for aspiring and achieving writers,” the literary guild is offering a number of attractive-sounding short courses this fall in poetry, haiku and senryu, humor, blogging, grammar for grown-ups, and writing for publication. See <http://www.salisbury.edu/cell/lighthouseliterary.html> for more information. The program at Abbott's on Broad Creek will be free and open to the public. Attendees are responsible for their own lunch purchases.

**Nov 11, Brew River Restaurant & Bar, Salisbury, 12 noon – 1:30 pm.** **Hal Wilson** will share his observation and discoveries about the writing life on the Eastern Shore as he gives a presentation entitled “**Delmarva Today: Writer's Edition: 50 and Counting.**” Hal, a past president of ESWA, lives with his wife Marilyn on Kent Island. He is a writer and a radio host for Delmarva Public Radio. In addition to the recently published novel, *A Taste of Salt*, his writings include *The Night Blooming Cereus and Other Stories*, a novella and short stories. He hosts the monthly “Delmarva Today: Writer's Edition” for Delmarva Public Radio at WSDL 90.7 and hosts the quarterly “Delmarva Radio Theatre” which airs on Delmarva Public Radio's classical music station at WSCL 89.5. Both programs are streamed at [www.delmarvapublicradio.net](http://www.delmarvapublicradio.net) and program podcasts are found on the same website.

Sincerely,

**Ron Sauder**  
**President, ESWA**



## 2018 Bay to Ocean Conference update

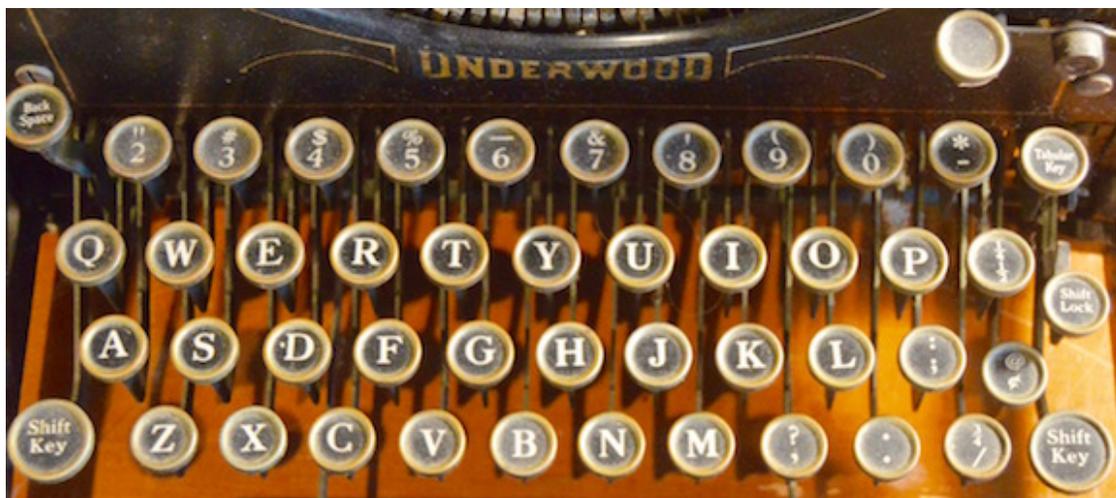
Save the date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Bay to Ocean is what every writer in the region—maybe in the country—needs! The conference focuses on craft, with a healthy dose of what every writer needs to know about reaching his or her audience. Somehow, the experts manage to make writing and marketing both a whole lot less scary. You may come to BTO as a first-timer, but by lunchtime you'll feel part of the tribe, thanks to the fantastic all-volunteer staff; servant leader instructors; and fellow attendees eager to get to know you. BTO helps you say out loud with confidence that magical sentence: "I am a WRITER!"

## Volunteers needed for this year's BTO

### **MANY HANDS MAKE THE WORK GROW LIGHTER**

Hard to believe, but next **March 10, 2018**, the Bay to Ocean Conference will enter its third successful decade. Next year's sessions will be held again at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. A committee has been hard at work for several months, **but many volunteers are still needed to pull off this upcoming one-day extravaganza as seamlessly as its 20 predecessors.** We especially need cunning wizards in social media and PR to help with marketing. If you have any of those skills and would like to be part of the team that brings this important event to Delmarva every year, please email me at [eswapresident17@gmail.com](mailto:eswapresident17@gmail.com). Thank you!



## Spotlight on ESWA Board Member Fran Severn-Levy

Reading and writing have always been my escapes. Growing up, I was dismal in math and science, and this was the era of Science Fairs and the New Math. Writing was the one thing I could do very well. Making up stories about other people, other places. Putting myself elsewhere. Nourishing my sense of adventure.

Wanting to actually eat while writing, I turned to news – working as a reporter, anchor, and producer in radio and TV. I moved to England with my Air Force husband and started travel writing which I continued when I came back to the US. Did a stint as the PR Director for Maryland tourism – best job in the world! Dumbest thing I ever did was leave that (to work in health care relations. Ugh!)



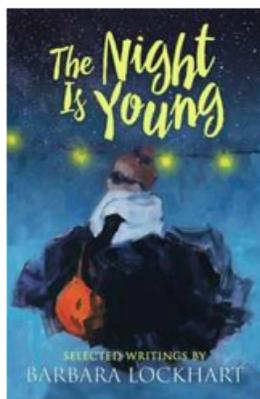
Currently, I have over 200 published articles about everything from the international Scrabble competition to an analysis of a dam collapse in England. Fiction has taken a back seat, but NANOWRIMO beckons.

I joined ESWA hoping for more contacts and assignment leads. My goal as Fearless Leader is to develop a strong group of active members. Since the group is so spread out geographically, it's up to the members to make things happen. The members have to suggest, organize, and participate in activities; lead meet-ups; suggest meeting topics and venues; and any other idea that might appeal to the group.

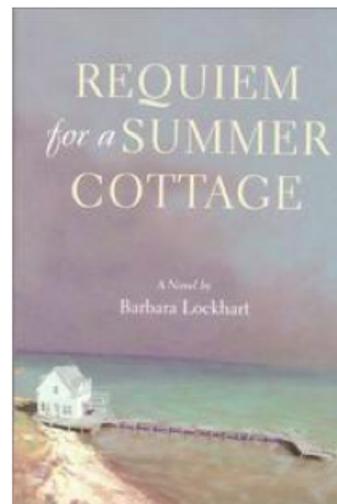
Mindie and Ron have done an incredible job of creating a foundation for a very strong, active, and vital organization for the writers on the Eastern Shore. With the help of the members, this will continue.

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## Our talented members and what they do!



**BARBARA LOCKHART**



Some may have read this last spring before we took our vacation, but Barbara is such a warm and creative writer, I thought a reprint would be good to do. If you haven't read her books, you should curl up and involve yourself in one of her stories. You will be richly rewarded.

**Barbara Lockhart**

**Barbara Lockhart**

After the publication of two novels, *Requiem for a Summer Cottage*, and *Elizabeth's Field*, plus a collection of selected writings, *The Night is Young*, recently published by Secant Press, I can say that writing for me has been a very deep pleasure and at times, an all-consuming obsession. I carry my sentences and people around for a while in my head before I ever approach the blank page.

Having begun writing seriously later in life, (which only means I've been gathering material and have done research for eons) I have two quotes that I'd like to share. One was given to me by one of my mentors in the MFA program at Vermont College. The quote is, "In my doubt I go on believing." The doubt has spurred me on to reach a place where self-criticism has been my best ally. The believing part gives me the nebulous reason to write.

The other quote is from Frank Kafka and I have tried to follow its purpose as much as I can. "A book must be the axe for the frozen sea within us." To illicit empathy for our fellow humans and to bring understanding for situations and people outside of our comfort zone, has always been my goal.

The last quote in my historical novel, *Elizabeth's Field*, is "Everthin' went away....What's left is the story. Pass it along with yours. The tellin' keeps us understandin' things."





## Birds of a Feather: A Facebook group

by Gail Priest

There was a time when authors could use their author Facebook pages to reach their leaders. Eventually, and shortly after I ventured onto Facebook with an author page, Facebook became wise to this and realized they were losing out on income. So they began limited an author's reach with certain posts, especially if the post had links to purchase books. Facebook then offered to "boost" the post if the author paid. Authors were not happy about this, but there wasn't a thing they could do. Or was there?

I began to notice authors I admired starting Facebook Groups for their readers. They are closed groups, and Facebook can't limit or control or boost anything from these group pages. That's when I decided to start Gail's Birds of a Feather. Like many of us, I've read marketing books and articles and blogs. I've listened to podcasts and conference calls on how to boost sales. I've attended workshops and meetings. One thing that stood out to me from *Write. Publish. Repeat* by Platt and Truant was the concept that once you have one thousand super fans, you're going to sell books. I was hoping Birds of a Feather would garner those super fans. It has, but there aren't a thousand, not yet, anyway.

I created the group and invited everyone to join. I utilized some on-line author giveaways to encourage people to join my group. Right now there are a little over two hundred Birds, and I'd say that between ten and twenty of them are very active. Between three and eight of them will consistently share posts from

my author page that promote my books and other authors' books. It's a way to get around Facebook's power to limit the reach of such posts and charging money to boost them. The idea is to have members of the Facebook group share the author posts to their friends. It's a new way to reach people.

This summer I noticed several authors offering prizes to their Facebook Group members. Everyone who shares a post has a chance to win signed books and other cool stuff. So I began trying this. The result has been limited, but I'm encouraged. One of the most brilliant marketing techniques I've seen along these lines is a number of authors became a group and then started an elite Facebook page for the readers of all these authors. This way the authors share the time and cost of interacting with the readers and offering prizes. Brilliant! I'd also like to say that it's important to me to make the Birds feel special. They get the inside scoop first. I post my book cover reveals there first. I let them know about releases first. Any special news I have, I put it there first. It's another reason why I do giveaways that are exclusive to Birds of a Feather. I want to thank them for their support. They are my super fans! A Facebook group of readers is also a great place for the author to cultivate Beta readers, offer Advanced Reader Copies, and get reviews up on Amazon, Goodreads, and other sites. It's nice to thank them for all their support.

Like anything, this marketing journey has a steep learning curve. If you are curious about what Gail's Birds of a Feather looks like, you can join at the link below. I'd love to have you get involved with the group. Happy writing and marketing! <http://tiny.cc/uhyecy>

**Gail Priest is the author of the Annie Crow Knoll trilogy. Annie Crow Knoll: Sunrise debuted in 2013. Annie Crow Knoll: Sunset was released in 2014. Gail was honored to have a selection from Sunset published in Fifty Women Over Fifty, an anthology published by PS Books (a division of Philadelphia Stories). Annie Crow Knoll: Moonrise was released on August 9, 2016.**

**A native of Collingswood, NJ, Gail now lives in Haddon Heights, NJ. For seventeen years ashen ad her husband rented a vacation cottage in Chesapeake country, which led to the inspiration of the Annie Knoll novels.**

**Gail was honored to be named Writer of the Year (2016) by the South Jersey Writers' Group. She is also a member of Eastern Shore**

**South Jersey writers Group. She is also a member of Eastern Shore Writers' Association, Chesapeake Bay Writers, and Artist Network Conference.**

**Her play Eva's Piano was produced at the Dayton Playhouse in their New Play Festival. The Church Hill Theatre in Church Hill, Maryland staged a reading of her play A Thing with Feathers.**

**Gail's career in performing arts and education has allowed her to play various roles: teacher, college professor, guidance counselor, actor, director, and writer. She is currently working on a new novel set in Philadelphia and Rehoboth, Delaware and a collection of short stories.**



## Where are they now and what are they doing?

### Laura Ambler and Mala Burt

Aside from being close friends of mine, they were continuously at the forefront of everything ESWA. Laura took an earlier exit from ESWA duties for her work, both creative and family business. Mala followed last year when she retired from ESWA and returned to her passion of writing and concentrating on her own craft. I thought many of you would like to know what they're up to. To be sure we will be hearing big news from them very soon.

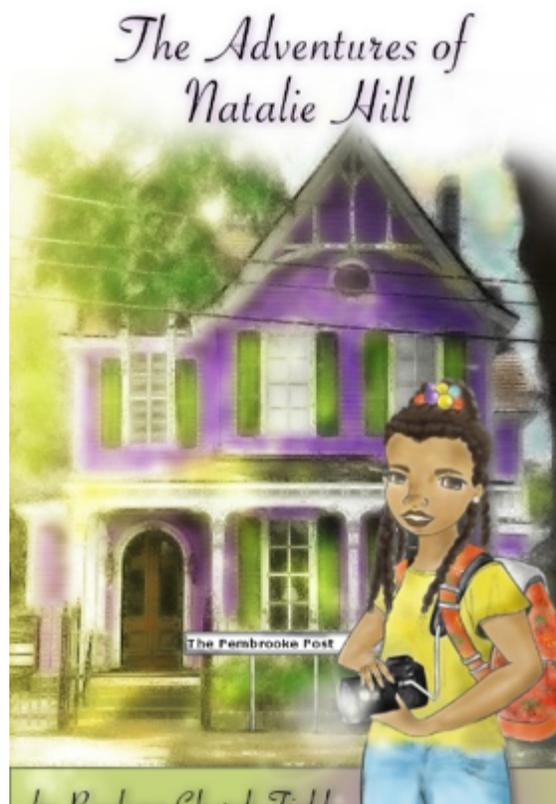
Laura Ambler and Mala Burt are long time ESWA members. Both have been involved in leadership roles in the organization and with BTO. This year they have stepped away from major involvement to make more time for writing.

“Organizations thrive on change,” Mala said, “it was time for me to step back and let new people with fresh ideas take the lead.”

Mala is finishing the third novel in her Caribbean series and Laura is working on a screen adaptation of a best seller. Together they are working on a Christmas movie script and a sequel to their award-winning novel, *Big Skye Ranch*.

Recently the writing duo went to Los Angeles for a two-day workshop sponsored by the Dramatist Guild. While most of the workshop sessions focused on playwriting, Laura noted that the information on structure was also useful for screenwriting and fiction. For Mala the highlight of the conference happened the first day. She sat next to a woman from California and they exchanged business cards. The woman looked at Mala’s card and declared, “I read your blog.” Mala said she’s thrilled to know that somebody reads it, but she thought the odds that she would sit next to one of only 50 people at a writer’s conference in California and that person would read her blog were one in a gazillion. [www.doesthisfontmakemelookfat.com](http://www.doesthisfontmakemelookfat.com).

More about Laura and Mala on their website: [AmblerBurt.com](http://AmblerBurt.com).



by Raylena Church Fields

***Natalie Hill is a clever young girl on a big mission. She is out to prove young people can help right wrongs. She launches her own investigation and convinces her closest allies and a respected newspaper editor to follow her lead. Natalie goes after a menace that everyone else in the town of Pembroke complains about.***

**The Author:**



Raylena Church Fields spent decades as a journalist working for the Baltimore Morning Sun, a range of local television news stations, ABC News and CBS News, where she interviewed Henry Kissinger and advanced to 60 Minutes.

The author has traveled widely but returned to her Maryland roots to manage the onset of Parkinson's disease. She works to spread awareness of the disease and instill hope in those who share her challenge.





### **Jeanne du Nord Presented Who's Who Lifetime Achievement Award**

Jeanne du Nord has been honored with the Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award for her career in writing and art. Requirements for the award are: listing in the Who's Who publication for 20 or more consecutive years, accrued more than 20 years in a particular career field or industry, cited in at least two articles highlighting writer's expertise, exhibited one or more creative works, received at least one award outside of Marquis Who's Who.

In 1999, du Nord was awarded a Governor's Citation by Parris N. Glendenning, Governor of Maryland – "On behalf of the citizens of Maryland and in recognition of the impressive commitment you have demonstrated as an artist and your continued excellence in writing, we are pleased to confer on you this Governor's Citation."

In 2010, she was declared a member of the Somerset Arts Council Hall of Fame.

The play, *Tides of Time* won the 1993 Artscape Literary Arts Award. Tazewell Thompson, Artistic Director and Drama Critic, Syracuse Stage, Syracuse, NY lauded the play for 'fully developing characters, a feeling of time and place, and a compelling story line into a unique form of theatrical presentation.'

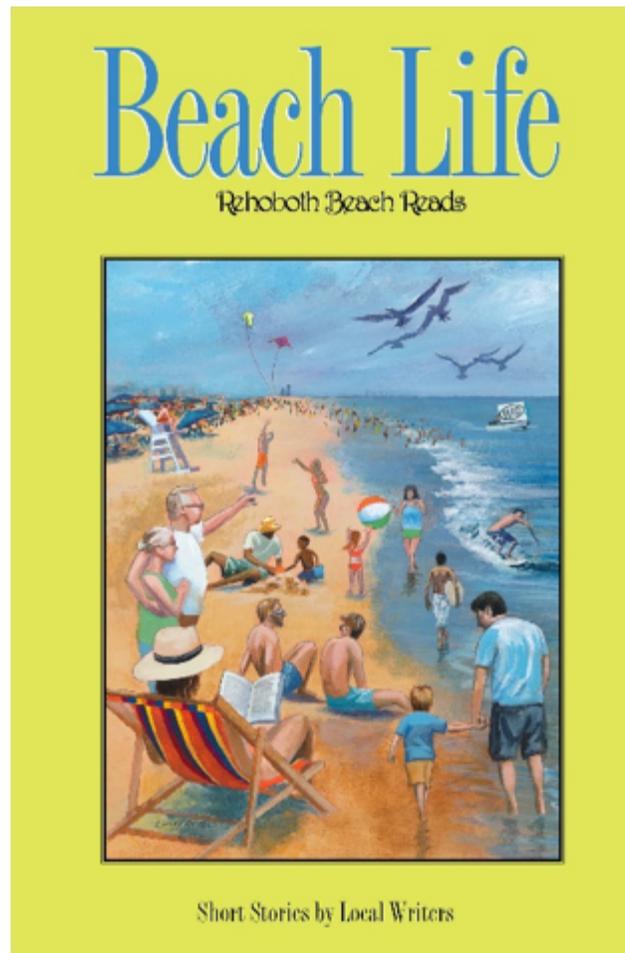
*The Green Rocking Chairs* received the Artscape Prize for Best Play of 1998. Theatre Critic, Jim Striby wrote, "The *Green Rocking Chairs* is a *must see*. Beautiful, wonderful! Take it on the road...take it all over!"

Of the eleven books published by du Nord, five of them are set on the Eastern Shore. The subjects of the eleven books range from history to fantasy, to a murder mystery - *Best of Spirits*.

*Makepeace*, set in Somerset County, Md. in the 1660's, details the trials and triumphs of the early settlers. Critic Susan Washburn, American Literature, Seattle, Washington wrote, "With her theatrical background, Jeanne du Nord brings the tales and characters of history to life."

Reviewer Thomas Howell wrote of *Best of Spirits*, "What's not to like? This new novel will keep you in the best of spirits from beginning to end. Highly recommended."

Jeanne du Nord, who does all of the artwork for the books, is currently at work turning *Marshall Muskrat and the Chesapeake Pirates* into a musical.



## Nancy Sakaduski announces the winners of The Beach Read Contest

Please go to [catandmousepress.com](http://catandmousepress.com) to see all that the press offers to writers. Below are the winners of this year's contest in edited form. **Thanks Nancy for another great Beach Reads success!**

Some Girls, Michael Sprouse (Lewes, DE) (1<sup>st</sup> Place)

Not in My World, Kathleen Martens (Rehoboth Beach, DE) (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)

The Stranger and the Horseshoe, Alex Hannah (Washington DC) (3<sup>rd</sup> Place- tie)

The Bomber Jacket, Jackson Copley (Rehoboth Beach, DE, and Chevy Chase, MD) (3<sup>rd</sup> Place- tie)

Lefty and the Empty Bucket of Fries, Tony Houck (Fredericksburg, VA) (Judge's Award)

Rearrangements, Marie Lathers (Cleveland Heights, OH) (Judge's Award)

Ralphie to the Rescue, Carl Schiessl (Windsor Locks, CT) (Judge's Award)

The Bench, Jenny Scott (Greenwood, DE) (Judge's Award)

The Nereid's Wedding, Elizabeth Michaelson Monaghan (New York, NY) (Judge's Award)

The Swimsuit Issue, Chris Jacobsen (Rose Valley, PA) (Judge's Award)

A Day in the Life, David Strauss (Bel Air, MD)

A Beautifully Disturbing Day at the Beach, John Edmonds (Rehoboth Beach, DE)

And the Sea Hath Spoken, Darryl Forrest (Fairfax, VA)

Bottleneck at Hole 14, Renay REGARDIE (Key West, FL, and Washington, DC)

Hole in One, Amanda Linehan (Frederick, MD)

Life Starts on Tiptoes, Lonn Braender (Washington Crossing, PA)

Secrets, Amber Tamosaitis (Delmar, DE)

The Boy on the Bike, Susan Miller (Arlington, Va.)

The Fog, Linda Chambers (Baltimore, MD)

We Found Buried Pirate Treasure, Doug Harrell (Wilmington, DE)

The Mime's Niece, Emily Zasada (Fairfax, VA)

The Shot Shared Round the World, Joy Givens (Pittsburgh, PA)

The Sweet Truth, Jeanie P. Blair (Newark, DE)

The Understudy, Theresa Kuenzer (Pennsburg, PA)

Too Many Hemingways, Joe Crossen (Dover, DE)

Next year's Rehoboth Beach Reads Short Story Contest will open March 1, 2018. Contest information is posted on the Cat & Mouse Press website ([www.catandmousepress.com](http://www.catandmousepress.com)) and updates are provided.

## 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.**

Upcoming Programming at the Talbot County Free Library in September of 2017

### **Easton**

#### **Intelligence in Flux: From the Cold War to the Present**

**David P. Hunt, Senior Intelligence Officer, CIA (Retired)**

Thursday, September 7, 6:30 p.m. David Hunt will draw on 32 years of experience in CIA's Clandestine Service (including field tours in Vietnam and Somalia) to illustrate the type of cases that routinely occurred during the Cold War. He will also talk about the current world situation and how, despite the opportunities and vulnerabilities presented by new technologies, human source intelligence remains critical. Hunt is a recipient of the Donovan Award for Excellence and the Distinguished Intelligence Medal—the CIA's highest award.

#### **One Maryland One Book Discussion: *Purple Hibiscus***

Monday, September 11, 6:30 p.m. “**Library guy**” **Bill Peak** hosts a discussion of this year's One Maryland One Book, *Purple Hibiscus*. One Maryland One Book is a program of Maryland Humanities in which people all across the state read the same book at the same time.

#### **Adolescence & Substance Abuse: The Times They Are A-Changing**

Thursday, September 14, 6:30 p.m. Jayne Fitzgerald, director of the Talbot Partnership, talks about the fascinating world of adolescence, one of the most extraordinarily positive times in any person's life, and also one of the most risky. Once we better understand why teenagers do what they do, we will be better prepared to help them happily, safely and productively navigate those difficult, marvelous years.

#### **Amazing Grace: Slave Ships, Their Captains, Crew, and the People Who Survived Them**

**WHO SURVIVED THEM**

Monday, September 18, 6:00 p.m. Dr. John H. Miller explores the history and heroic stories of slave ships and the valiant people who, despite being taken aboard as “cargo,” rose above their circumstances to display amazing courage and grace. An exciting and engaging speaker, **Dr. Miller** has taught at Carnegie Mellon, Washington College, and American University.

**Book Discussion: *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

Monday, September 18, 6:30 p.m. This discussion of the 2017 One Maryland One Book, a program of Maryland Humanities, will be facilitated by “the library guy,” Bill Peak.

**Read with Latte, a Certified Therapy Dog.**

Thursdays, September 19, October 17 and November 21, 4:00 p.m. Bring a book or choose a library book and read with Janet Dickey and her dog Latte.

**Frederick Douglass Day**

Saturday, September 23, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Speakers, a parade, food vendors, great music, and much, much more ... all in celebration of Talbot County’s most famous native son!

**Ask a Master Gardener!**

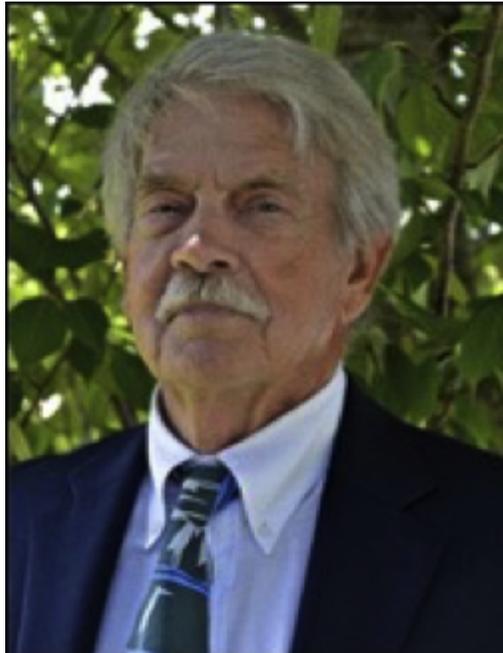
Thursday, September 28, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. A certified master gardener will be in the lobby of the Easton branch to answer your questions about fall gardening and seed saving. Don’t forget to bring pictures or samples of problems from your yard for examination!

**St. Michaels****Memoir Writers**

Thursdays, September 14 & 28, October 12 & 26, and November 9, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Record and share your memories of life and family. Participants are invited to bring their lunch.

**One Maryland One Book Discussion: *Purple Hibiscus***

Thursday, September 14, 2:30 p.m. “Library guy” Bill Peak hosts a discussion of this year’s One Maryland One Book, *Purple Hibiscus*. One Maryland One Book is a program of Maryland Humanities in which people all across the state read the same book at the same time.



## Hal's Radio Show: A Delmarva Gem

Hal Wilson's show airs the last Friday of the month at 9:00 on WSDL 90.7, Delmarva Public Radio. If you're outside the Delmarva Public Radio WSDL 90.7 listening area, you can hear the program streamed on the station's website at [www.delmarvapublicradio.net](http://www.delmarvapublicradio.net). In addition, the program will be podcast and available on the same website soon following the broadcast. A link to the broadcast and the podcast will be placed on Hal's website [www.haroldwilson.com](http://www.haroldwilson.com) in the next few days.

## 2017-2018 Eastern Shore Writers Board

Mindie Burgoyne [eswapresident@gmail.com](mailto:eswapresident@gmail.com), ex-officio  
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G. Charlene Marcum [gladus@me.com](mailto:gladus@me.com),  
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Ron Sauder [eswapresident17@gmail.com](mailto:eswapresident17@gmail.com)

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From the newsletter editor

## My Turn



### Change can be a good thing

We have heard those words a million times. I usually turn my head and sigh, but the truth of it is – it's a good thing, "if" it improves on what has already existed. I thought long and hard about changing things up here this year at the online news and have come up with a different approach that I believe will help us all grow and will improve relations between the membership and the leadership. In that light, I want you to send me YOUR story. Why you write, what you write, and what you want from ESWA. All that in a paragraph or two, at the most. Yes flash fiction is a good exercise. Be concise and it will happen. Add a .jpg of yourself and we are good to go. I can tell you that what you send me may not be seen right away, but I keep monthly files for future months' editions. I try to get everything in as soon as possible, but some months we are space challenged and need to put timely messages in for the membership.

I believe it's essential to know who you are, where on the shore you write, and what inspires you to write. How did you come to be a member of ESWA? We all know it's the best gift anywhere on the Eastern Shore for a writer. So, don't delay and send me your story today and if you have questions or

comments, let me know. Address to find me is: [eswaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:eswaeditor@gmail.com). Now, please send me your story! Thank you.

—Bonnie

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

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