



The Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club



# Bay Writers News

Issue 2, Vol 30

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## The Heroes of the Titanic (And One Villain)



**Check Out  
Our Meta (Facebook)  
Page for Updates**

**Address**

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/  
ChesBayWriters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesBayWriters)



Join author and historian Bradley Harper on April 13, 2024, one day short of the 112th anniversary of the day the Titanic ended its trans-Atlantic journey to sink into legend.

Brad will speak of the heroes and villains of that fateful night and, at the end, discuss the premise for his historical novel, pitting a gang of female thieves against the son of the real-life inspiration of Professor Moriarty as they do a battle of wits over a life-sized painting of a nude Circassian woman by the French artist Blondel, which was aboard the ship.

The Unsinkable Molly Brown, John Jacob Astor, and Second Officer Lightoller are among the many notables he'll discuss, and how the second officer earned a footnote in history in WW II.

The game's afoot, or rather, at sea.

Life belts are optional.

<https://www.wrl.org/event/the-heroes-of-the-titanic-and-one-villain/>



Founded in 1991, Chesapeake Bay Writers is a chapter of the Virginia Writers Club. We serve writers from the Middle Peninsula, Northern Neck and Williamsburg area.



## A Message from our President Richard Easton

In college, I took a seminar on “Writing to Learn”. The premise was that the process of researching and writing an article was one of the best ways to learn about a subject. I have taken many tours with the late Ed Berris. Ed emphasized the importance of walking the ground of a battlefield before writing about it. You cannot understand the issues the commanders and soldiers faced without understanding the terrain.

I’ve always been fascinated by spy stories. Last October, my wife and I attended the International Spy Museum’s “Intelligence 101” with Eric O’Neill. Eric played a major role in catching Robert Hanssen one of the worst spies in American history. We played the part of “spooks” following an unsub (unknown suspect) and seeing if he would pass documents to another unsub. In an hour I got a brief taste of what an important aspect of tailing a spy was like.

Whether you’re writing fiction or nonfiction, getting inside the people you’re writing about is an important aspect of communicating with your audience. Helping your reader understand specialized terms is important. My book on the history of GPS had a list of abbreviations. One of Eric’s critical tasks was getting Hanssen’s Palm Pilot copied. Eric mentioned that fewer people over time know what a Palm Pilot is. Thus, telling his story today requires additional information which was not necessary when it occurred in 2000-1.

Are you telling the reader what they need to know to follow your story?

<b>President:</b>	Richard Easton	<b>Director at Large:</b>	Patti Procopi
<b>Vice President:</b>	Sonja McGiboney	<b>Membership Director/Neal Steele Show</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Bradley Harper	<b>Director at Large:</b>	Mary Shipko
<b>Secretary :</b>	Diana Farrar Caron	<b>Director at Large:</b>	Open
		<b>Past President:</b>	Sonja McGiboney

## Articles by CBW Members

The Bay Writers News welcomes short articles written by CBW members. I invite you to share projects, stories, information about the craft of writing, and any other musings with us.

If you post things on blog pages and have an article you wish to share, send it to us. Not only will I put your contribution in the newsletter, I'll add a link to your blog or website.

**RULES:** Please limit your submissions to 500 words.

Remember, this is a forum for promoting the art of writing and publishing. It's a positive place to share your writing needs and goals.

## Newsletter and “Members on the Move” Submissions:

### What can you send?

**Please send all items to  
Sonja McGiboney at  
either  
smcgphoto@gmail.com  
or  
CBWreply@gmail.com**

- Accolades
- New Book Announcements
- Articles on writing
- New Publication Announcements (In a newspaper, online forum, or magazine)
- Notices of upcoming events that might interest other authors
- Notices of your upcoming event as an author (book signing, presentation, library visit, etc.)
- Marketing ideas
- Share websites or places that are accepting submissions
- Share your knowledge of upcoming conferences or workshops outside the CBW  
Photos of you in action as an author

## From our Members

### Tiffany Rebar, author of *Welcome Home Melanie Mae*, participated in career day at Tabb Elementary School.

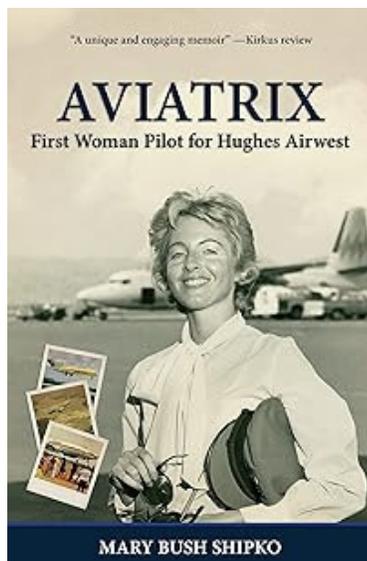
She explained the process of building a fictional character and developing a children's book to approximately 150 students. With the use of enlarged printed copies of her initial storyboard, Tiffany demonstrated the beginning steps of the publishing and illustrating process. Then, she described several new concepts to the students regarding the elements of the book and the roles of people who are involved in getting a book to print - editor, illustrator, publisher, etc. Tiffany discussed the common qualities of a successful author (patience, self-discipline, and perseverance) and reviewed the importance of effective communication within the book-building team.

Tiffany introduced her book to the students with a 4' cutout of her character, a giraffe named Melanie Mae. The children were delighted. Her book "Welcome Home Melanie Mae" is a sweet story about the fun-loving imagination of two girls who happily welcome a giraffe into their home. The narrative promotes learning and language concepts with its repetitive nature and is ideal for children aged 2-8. While the focus of the book is an adventure through the days of the week, there are many additional talking points for children along the way. During the school visit, Tiffany read the story and encouraged student participation by allowing the children to answer with the next day of the week. She offered examples of both paperback and hardcover books for the children to review and to find the hidden objects pictured at the end of the story. Tiffany demonstrated the book building process, discussed her experience as an author, and kept the children engaged and excited by encouraging their participation.

Overall, it was a well-received activity for the children and staff. Tiffany returned the following week to read her book to an additional 40+ students to help Tabb Elementary School kick off March's National Reading Month. She believes that an author's visit to a school encourages a love for reading, inspires children to embrace their own creativity, and empowers them to follow their dreams.



## *Dare to Fly With Aviation Pioneer and Author Mary Bush Shipko.*



While in a mall in Honolulu, Mary Shipko met Carmen and Sophia Micsa, mother-daughter hosts of a podcast called Seeds of Sunshine. Although she was interested in Mary's aviation experience and what advice Mary would give to others, she included Mary's work as an author in her interview. Mary spoke of how her father's success in learning how to walk after being crippled by polio helped her learn determination. He also taught her to fly. She discussed her own career as the first female pilot of Hughes Air West in 1976. Though petrified of being interviewed, she asked the interviewer for questions prior to the interview so she would be prepared. The questions challenged her to think. She liked focusing on lessons learned and what advice to give to others. She felt that was more interesting to the listener. Mary said that writing her memoir helped her articulate her experiences. She hopes to inspire others through her writing and speaking.

You can listen to the interview here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/dare-to-fly-with-aviation-pioneer-and-author-mary/id1638271758?i=1000648443360>

## Chesapeake Bay Writers at the 2024 Williamsburg Book Festival



**ML Brei**

The Chesapeake Bay Writers were well-represented at the Williamsburg Book Festival on Saturday, February 24th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival took place in two locations this year, the Stryker Building and the Williamsburg Community Building.

The 40 authors and 4 publishers who were present included CBW authors Peter Stipe, Ted Hale, Patti Procopi, Mary Shipko, Tim Holland, Michael Hebert, Cat Novelliere, Kathy Kasunich, ML Brei, Sally Stiles, James Tobin, and others.

**Peter Stipe**

The Williamsburg Book Festival was held on Saturday, February 24. It's hard to get accurate attendance figures for visitors to the Book Festival, but we distributed 500 brochures and bags to our visitors and we ran out shortly after noon. Headcounts at the doors indicate 650+ book lovers who came and bought books. 300 was a great day in past years. And we had 40 or so in attendance at each of the four speaker sessions. The room was packed for the student contest winners.

We had 45 of 47 accepted authors in attendance and 4 publishers. Feedback was positive regarding everything, the readers who came, sales, even the lunch we provided.

Our wish is for every author to have a good sales day, a positive energizing experience with no hassles, and for the reading public to feel that same energy and be thrilled by meeting so many good authors. We think that happened. Thank you to CBW for supporting this experience.

## New Book by Tiffany Rebar (A New Member Of CBW)

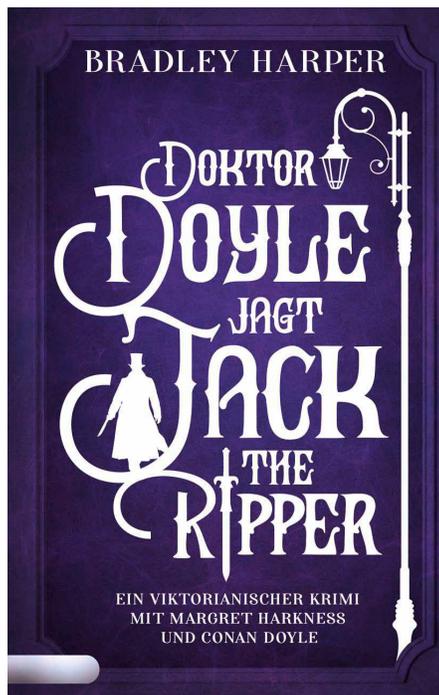
### *Welcome Home Melanie Mae*

Christian Faith Publishing (January 2, 2024)



Melanie Mae's beautiful smile and loving character will delight children as they read about her adventures in a new home. Melanie Mae encourages learning as she goes through the days of the week with her new family. With the amazing imagination of two girls, who happily welcomed her into their family, Melanie Mae can do anything. Their days are filled with fun and excitement as they do photo shoots, dance, dress-up, go on a safari, and much more. Melanie Mae is happy to find a place where she can be the unique, silly giraffe that she truly is. She finally found a place where she belongs.

Tiffany, the author, hopes you fall in love with the giraffe's fun-loving character in the same way her family has enjoyed going on these adventures in their home with Melanie Mae, a large stuffed giraffe. The rhyming and repetitive nature of this book will promote learning and language concepts while encouraging imaginative play in the younger child. This warmhearted and fun book will provide entertainment and enhance imaginations for years to come.



## Brad Harper's Novel Picked Up By German Publisher

Brad Harper proudly shares the news that his debut novel, *A Knife in the Fog*, a 2019 Silver Falchion award winner and Edgars Finalist, has recently been picked up by a German publisher, Bedey-Thomas, <https://bedey-thoms.de/pages/dryas-verlag> The German title translates to *Doctor Conan Doyle Hunts Jack the Ripper*. Directly to the point, as you'd expect from the Germans.

Brad became friends with a German tour guide and author, Phillipp Röttgers, who, with the help of his mother, wrote a chronology of the Jack the Ripper murders in German. Brad suggested Phil become Brad's agent in Germany and Phil agreed. Phil's mother, Dorothee, is a retired professor of English studies and did the translation in exchange for a percentage of the royalties.

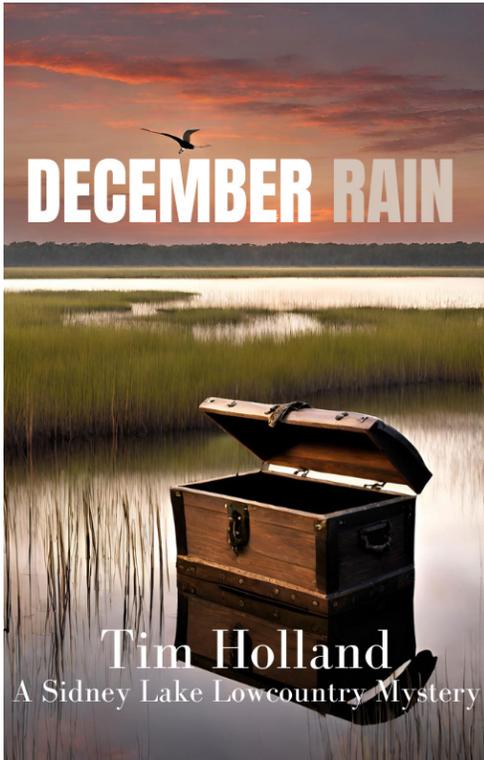
The book will shortly be announced at the Leipzig Book Fair, March 21-24, and released during the Frankfurt Book Fair this fall. Once it's been released Brad will approach the publisher with the sequel in hopes they will want to continue the series.

*April 2024*

## Spring is here and so is the new Sidney Lake novel.

*December Rain – A Sidney Lake Lowcountry Mystery* was released on February 15, 2024. For readers who like a bit of history with their mystery, this one has it all.

Here's a brief overview:



Three hundred years later some books belonging to the planter Joshua Bailey are stolen from the rare book room of a subscription library in Morgan, South Carolina. One of the suspected thieves is attacked and found near death in the marsh on the edge of an exclusive neighborhood in Morgan. Upon the death of the first man another murder occurs, as the investigation begins to focus on something that occurred 300 years earlier.

The story of *December Rain* is told in alternating chapters between the current day investigation and the life history of the Nichols family (the youngest of the two seamen making the delivery to Joshua Bailey).

Weaving through centuries of historic data from King Georges War through the Civil War, Sidney Lake is asked to help research the connections between the Bailey family and current day, while Tillie James explores oral histories in the Gullah community that date back to Joshua Bailey's slave holdings. Thus begins a wild ride through history that uncovers a genealogical line no one anticipated.

For those of you familiar with the part of South Carolina that extends from Charleston to Savannah along the Atlantic Ocean (the lowcountry) and from Somerville to Charleston (along the Ashley River), I'm sure you'll be fascinated with the history that will envelope you.

In each of the historic chapters you will follow the Nichols family from the Golden Age of Piracy to King Georges War, to the French and Indian War to, The War for American Independence, to The War of 1812 up through the Civil War and beyond. As I've tried to be as historically accurate as possible and in the acknowledgement section I have listed my most used sources. And no, I have not used any material from the internet. Sidney Lake would not have approved.

The test for the reader will be to uncover the solution to the crimes that occurred in 2018, 300 years after the first chapter. The historic sections will present the motives for those crimes but over 300 years names have changed, people have moved away. Can genealogy uncover the connection? Can DNA trace the lineage over such a long period? Can historic family documents reveal clues that made no sense before? Can oral histories from the Gullah community tie up the loose ends?

I must admit I had a great deal of fun doing the research for *December Rain* and putting the story together. Sidney Lake and Tillie James lead the charge as usual and Mickey, Sidney's Labrador retriever always plays a critical part, but you'll also get to meet quite a few new characters along the way. *December Rain*, as are all my books, can be purchased at Amazon and Barnes & Noble as well as at Cactus Mystery Press. Naturally, they can be ordered from any bookstore in the United States.

If you're looking for a speaker for a literary event or book club meeting, please contact Narielle Living at Blue Fortune Enterprises. [narielle@bluefortuneenterprises.com](mailto:narielle@bluefortuneenterprises.com)

If you have any questions or comments, you can reach me at [Tim@tim-holland.com](mailto:Tim@tim-holland.com) or at [www.tim-holland.com](http://www.tim-holland.com)

## Upcoming Events

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**Leslie Eva Tayloe, *What I Learned from Marketing My Books.***

**June 5, 2024, Luncheon**

**11:30 social, 12:00 food, 12:30 presentation**

**Rocco's, 207 Bypass Rd. Williamsburg, VA 23185**



Leslie Eva Tayloe is a children's picture book author. She's the author of *I'm Fishing with Pop-Pop Today* (Austin Macauley Publishers, 2022), *Save the Trees* (Brandylane Publishers, Releasing April 11, 2024) Illustrator, *Lintang Panda Pratiwi*, and *Eduardo's Attic Door* (Doodle and Peck Publishing, Winter 2024), and an article titled, *Marketing Group Helps Writers* (Children's Book Insider, April 2023). Leslie is a former analyst with the federal government, and a substitute teacher for elementary school-aged children. Leslie lives with her partner, Michael, in Virginia. When Leslie isn't writing, she loves to read, craft anything, and take long walks with her dog, Frankie.

Leslie earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from the University of Maryland. She is a member of SCBWI, CBI/WriteForKids, Inked Voices, and the 12X12 Picture Book Community. Also, Leslie was instrumental in forming Kidlit At Heart Marketing Group. <https://youtu.be/jM8HewbcCGQ>

You can subscribe at [kidlitatheart.com](http://kidlitatheart.com).

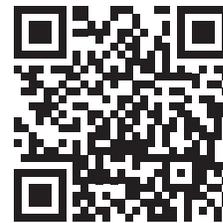
### **Our Meta (Facebook) Page Address**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesBayWriters>



### **Our Website Address**

<https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org>





## CBW Second Monday Radio Interviews with Neal Steele on XTRA 99.1 FM

**Neal Steele interviews an author for his XTRA 99.1 FM CBW Second Monday Radio Show**

Check out Neal on Facebook on Meta (Facebook) at <https://www.facebook.com/nealnwmrkt> or on the radio's website at <https://xtra99.com/on-air/neal-steele>



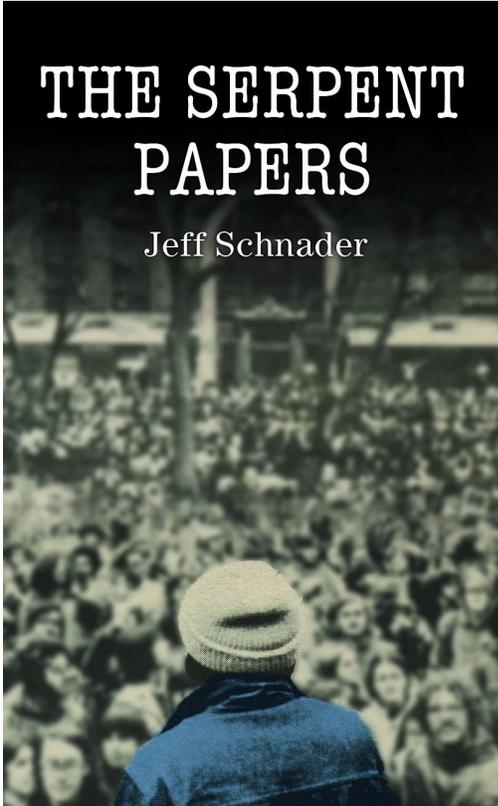
Tune in with Neal Steele who will interview author Charles W. Sutherland, at 8 a.m. on April 8, 2024 on WXGM (99.1 FM)

Charles Sutherland is an esteemed author and international businessman who studied at the University of Vienna and the London School of Economics. He has traveled widely, having visited over 67 countries, and has founded numerous corporations and philanthropic initiatives. His books include *Disciples of Destruction*, *The Religious Origins of War and Terrorism*, and *Character for Champions*.

In this special feature, Neal Steele and Sutherland will discuss Sutherland's latest book, *Professor Veracity's Politically Incorrect Dictionary*, a compelling critique of linguistic deception. Sutherland combines sarcasm, humor, and historical insights to challenge the social deceit perpetuated by politically correct language. This conversation promises enlightening discussions on the power of words in shaping societal perceptions.

Sutherland resides in the Washington, DC area and is an important contributor to the literary and business communities.

## Jeff Schnader Wins Awards



Jeff Schnader has received many accolades for his book *The Serpent Papers* by submitting his book to contests. Many authors see ads for this or that contest but, because of entrance fees, tend to overlook this type of opportunity. Jeff invested in a chance to win by entering *The Serpent Papers* into several contests with great results.

*The Serpent Papers* won second place in the 2023 “Grand Prize Fiction Book of the Year” category earning \$500. The contest is held annually by the Independent Authors Network (IAN). His book also won in the category of “Outstanding Historical Fiction” and was a finalist in the “First Novel” and “General Fiction” categories. The IAN 2024 contest is now open. The entry fee is \$49.00 for one book in one category and \$35.00 for each additional category. Members of IAN get a discount on entry fees. <https://www.independentauthornetwork.com/2023-botya-winners.html>

Jeff took the Bronze prize in the Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards, 2022 <https://www.forewordreviews.com/awards/finalists/2022/historical/>

In February, 2023, VFW Magazine chose *The Serpent Papers* as their Staff Pick for their “Book Corner.” This contest Features select books written by VFW members. The subject of the book must relate to the military or veterans.

Guidelines can be obtained at [magazone@vrw.org](mailto:magazone@vrw.org) or requested by mail at: VFW magazine, Book Corner, 406 W. 34th St. Suite 523, Kansas City, MO 34111

<http://digitaledition.qwinc.com/publication/?m=3914&i=773598&p=54&ver=html5>

Jeff’s book was also a finalist in the following contests:

- 2023 “Best Book” awards hosted annually by the American Book Fest as a finalist in the Fiction: Historical category. The entry fee for this contest is \$74 per book/per category <https://americanbookfest.com/2023bbafullresults.html>;
- 2023 Indie Excellence Awards. Fees: \$75.00 per entry/per Category <https://www.indieexcellence.com/17th-annual-finalists>;
- 2021 Blue Moon Novel Competition