

Bay Writers News

August, 2023- Volume 29*Issue 4

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Annual All Stars Gala

Start writing now. The Gala comes quickly. At the Gala we eat a lovely lunch and chat with other authors. Then we read our submissions. Those who are present vote on the entries they like best.

Traditionally, this event is held on a Wednesday afternoon. Your input matters. If you would like us to change the day to a weekend or weekday evening, let us know before we lock in the date. Email your opinion to:

CBWreply@gmail.com



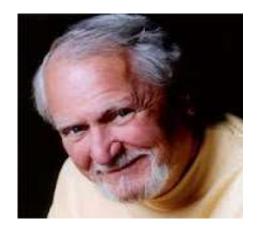
Dr. Roger Connor Technical Writing

In September, Dr. Roger Connor will speak about technical writing.

Dr. Connor curates the National Air and Space museum's vertical flight collection. He manages many aspects of the exhibits like the aviation and modern military components of the exhibit, *Time and Navigation: The Untold Story of Getting from Here to There*.

You can read some of his articles here:

https://www.smithsonianmag.co m/author/roger-connor/



Dr. Malcom Massey Writing the Killer Plot

In November, **Dr.** Malcom Massey, **a** Novelist, Independent Publishing Coach, Writing Instructor and former Teacher at The Muse Writer's Center, will present, *Writing the Killer Plot*.

He is the Author of 1982: A Prequel to Orwell's 1984. In addition, he wrote 8 actionadventure novels in The Martin Culver Series and other nonfiction works.

Read his blog:

https://www.malcommassey.com

Chesapeake Bay Writers is a Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club https://www.chesapeakebaywriters.org/

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

Questions or comments can be sent to Sonja McGiboney: smcgphoto@gmail.com

President's Message By Sonja McGiboney

After sixty years on this earth, I still prefer to be in the background. Although I am the president of the CBW and often speak in front of members or guests, I get nervous. Will I say the right thing? What if they get mad at me? Or worse yet, what if they don't like me?

I'd rather be behind the scenes. Being out front pushes my comfort zone. So why did I volunteer for the position of President of the CBW? What did I get out of pushing my limits?

Teamwork, knowledge, respect, ambition and friendship.

I am a do it myself kind of person. I often tell people what I think when I shouldn't. But, as the old quote says, there is no "I" in "Teamwork." I learned to trust others to do what they say they will. I learned to let go of some of the jobs necessary for the group to work. I learned to say, "Let's try your idea."

As the leader of an organization you make connections. Personal knowledge of the industry grows as you interact with people and events.

By carefully selecting presenters, keeping track of meetings, and routinely sending out current information, your team and your members learn to respect your word.

Leadership, encouraging others, spurs you on to finish your own writing. You are a more effective leader if you show other's that you, too, have ambition and a desire to write.

Friendships grow. You find people that will give you honest feedback and sit next to you at events.

I share this to ask you, "Will you go out of your comfort zone and become part of the leadership team?



Editing

Do you ever go to a conference and learn a new technique then go back to your work and slash it using this new editing idea?

For this reason, several of my writing projects go unfinished. I edit over and over using these new techniques and ideas. Sometimes, I alter a story to the extent that I cannot remember how it started.

However, one editing technique shines above all. This one works. Don't get me wrong, this doesn't mean I write with this in mind from the first words inking the page. Oh no, these nasty little words delight in overexposing my first drafts.

But one can salvage the mess. Imagine colors as helping verbs (is, had, have been, was, etc.) and you use too many of them. Your photo (manuscript) is overexposed and looks awful. But remove the colors, tone down the highlights, (especially is + gerund) and your work, using less words, will say more.

Comparison Photos on page 12

"It's a sure sign of summer if the chair gets up when you do."

Walter Winchell

New Books

The Adventures of Chuka: The Indian Boy Who Lived in the Foothills of Arizona's Huachuca Mountains

By Paul Martin March 29, 2023



Beautiful Blue & You

By Michael Richardson and Dr. Melinda Lincoln-Richardson January 1, 2023



Ten-year-old Chuka loves the Huachuca Mountains of Southern Arizona. Though they're home to dangers like rattlesnakes, rockslides, and black bears, they're also a place of great beauty. With his half-wolf dog Winatuk, he leaves his home on the Ahsencharo Indian Reservation as often as he can to roam the foothills in search of adventure.

Chuka's family has taught him how to survive any threats he might encounter, and he always brings the bow and arrows and knife that his grandfather gave him. But as Chuka discovers, keeping himself alive is the easy part. The greater challenge is helping others in need—even when doing so might get him into trouble.

Set in a time before cell phones and video games, The Adventures of Chuka will appeal to any kid (and adult) who's faced a simple choice: Do what I should do, or do what I must do?

Available on Amazon.com and all major online sites.

"The month of August had turned into a griddle where the days just lay there and sizzled."

Sue Monk Kid

Appreciating the beauty of a Blue Heron is a gift to treasure. Sensing magical moments by a waterfall, standing on the rocks, or holding tight to a tree limb, the resilience of this majestic creature is impressive. These are special moments to appreciate the many lessons reflecting life through nature's lens.

In this gallery of extraordinary photos, you will feel a sense of excitement and contentment within the aura of "Beautiful Blue". The strength, stability, and the need to survive provides a roadmap for the reader to enjoy the unique experience of each virtual photo. Just being alive is a tell-tale sign of fulfillment and following your lifetime journey.

After all, the beauty of being surrounds us daily and reflects the foundation we all need to live and to prosper. May we empower you with beauty and thought as you live each day through the eyes of endless wonder. Apply the lessons in life, through the narrations, to better your choices and find contentment along the way.

Available on Amazon.com and all major online sites.

New Books

Beautiful Blue & You..Too

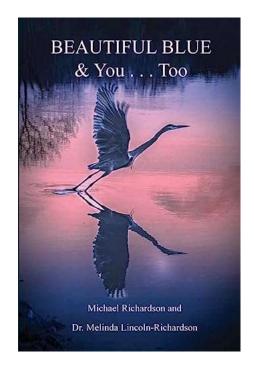
By Michael Richardson and Dr. Melinda Lincoln-Richardson. July 1, 2023

"Separate, but never apart, we become one with nature. "Beautiful Blue", our resident Williamsburg Great Blue Heron, reminds the reader that life confers upon us responsibilities, promises, and dreams. Together, we learn to face daily challenges empowered by our own values and beliefs.

The extraordinary photos capture rare instances of solitude, determination, exploration, and inspiration. With each narration, shadowing every photo, "Beautiful Blue" becomes personified with a profound voice. He speaks directly to you, the reader, sharing his thoughts, ideas, and concerns, as he traverses life. Navigating best personal decisions to thrive, "Beautiful Blue" reminds the reader that life empowers us through hopes and fears. Look for Blue's strength and resilience and apply these assets to your own existence, surrounded daily by beautiful gifts of nature.

Find the right path and make the best life choices to succeed. Fulfilling one's life goals is a gift leading to a treasured existence. We hope you enjoy BEAUTIFUL BLUE & YOU . . . TOO, and find an enhanced you at the end of this beautiful journey."

Both books are available on Amazon.com and all major online sites.



My humblest apologies to Michael and Melinda. They sent me the info for both their books, but I erred and only printed one, and mixed up the info as well. So I have fixed my error and will send out the corrected version post haste.

They have two books:

Beautiful Blue and You

&

Beautiful Blue and You...Too.

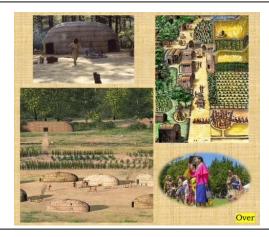
Yours,

Sonja McGiboney CBW President

A Note from Mary Shipko

Thanks to all the people who attended the July Open Mic at the Yorktown Library. Everyone enjoyed hearing the selections.

The next Open Mic is October 7, 2023. This is a change from the original date so mark your calendars. Light refreshments will be available. I hope to see you at the next one. Bring a friend or family member along.



October 23, Monday, 7 pm, Smithfield Center, 220 N. Church St. Dr. Helen C. Rountree, "Why Would the Indian People Build Their Town There?" WHY were year-round TOWNS built at the locations Smith saw? Reconstructed answers give a majority of reasons related to WOMEN'S work, not the men's. Dr. Rountree is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at ODU and widely regarded as a leading researcher and writer on Virginia's Native American people. \$20.00 admission. Email Carolyn Keen for more info: vahistorichouses@aol.com

CBW Authors Featured at the VWC Symposium

The Virginia Writers Club Symposium - *Living Your Writing Life: Sharing the Dream*, was held on Saturday, August 5th in Ashland, Virginia. This event presented many opportunities to meet and mingle with fellow writers and attend great sessions.

The following CBW members gave presentations.

Patti Gaustad Procopi - Writing Your Story
Susan Williamson - Writing Family Stories
Kathy Kasunich - Writing Historical Fiction
Kristen Overman - How to Write Satisfying Endings
James Tobin - The Awesome Antagonist

Out of sixteen total speakers, five were CBW members! Pretty impressive!

If you missed it, look for it again next year. https://www.virginiawritersclub.org/

TURN THE PAGE BOOKSHOP COMING TO WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

Turn the Page Bookshop owned by Ralph Tedeschi and located at Premium Outlets in a space between Nautica and Banana Republic, will feature new titles as well as used books. It opens on September 1, 2023

"More murders are committed at ninety-two degrees Fahrenheit than any other temperature. Over one hundred — it's too hot to move. Under ninety, cool enough to survive. But right at ninety-two degrees lies the apex of irritability, everything is itches and hair and sweat and cooked pork. The brain becomes a rat rushing around a red-hot maze. The least thing — a word, a look, a sound, the drop of a hair and — irritable murder. Irritable murder, there's a pretty and terrifying phrase for you."

Ray Bradbury, *Touched With Fire* (from *The October Country*)

CBW Member News

Read what members do to promote their books and educate the community. Congratulate them on their accolades.

Richard Eason

Richard follows a Twitter group called *Past Preservers.* It was in a Tweet that he learned about this offer, "Past Preservers has teamed up with Fred Olsen Cruise Lines to offer our experts a once in a lifetime opportunity!" After getting professional help with his CV, and a recommendation from the Colonel, he was accepted on an Adriatic cruise with all expenses paid for him and his wife.

Six speakers will each be giving six talks. Here are Richard's lecture titles:

- Maritime Navigation Prior to the Space Age
- Sputnik: The Shock of the Century
- Space Age Sea Navigation Leads to GPS
- GPS Revolutionizes Gulf War 1 in 1991
- The Economic Impact of GPS
- GPS Today: Challenges and the Future

Cindy L. Freeman

On July 1, Cindy L. Freeman gave a PowerPoint presentation addressing the topic, "Writing as a Second Career." The event took place at the Williamsburg Regional Library and was attended by around twenty-five people of various ages and experiences. Cindy's premise, that it's never too late to become a writer, was punctuated with helpful information about how to get started and ways of improving the writing craft at any level.

"Live in the sunshine. Swim in the sea. Drink in the wild air."

Patti Procopi

In June, Patti participated in the *Arts in the Middle in Urbana* sales and reading. She presented *Telling Your Story* at the June meeting at Midtown towers, and she participated in the Potomac River Festival with Blue Fortune Publishers and also in the Landsdowne Woods Book Festival.

In August, she presented at the VWC Symposium in Ashland and participated in the Williamsburg Second Sunday street fair vent.

She is scheduled to speak at the Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO) on October 27, will be at Second Sunday again on November 12, and is presenting *Everyone Has a Story to Tell* at the Yorktown Library on November 18.

Feather Foster

Feather Foster signed a contract with Pen & Sword Book (a UK outfit), to write a new book about The Colonial First Ladies (Martha/Abigail and Dolley). We expect to have it ready for production about a year from now, but I am sure I'll have additional news from time to time.

P&S has been around for a long time, first as a local newspaper, and then, for the last thirty or so years, as a book publisher. They have been developing a fine and growing US market, but they publish mostly in the UK, and Canada/Australia/NZ/India and similar English speaking (and reading) countries.

Ways to "Get Out There" By Patti Procopi

When we are writing and dreaming about publishing a book, we don't think about marketing and promoting our book. We all "know" that as soon as it hits Amazon it will be a best seller and Oprah will book us on her next show.

But then nothing happens. It hits us! We're going to have to get our faces, and our books, "out there," on our own. If you're an introvert, it will be hard, but you're going to have to speak to people about your book. Develop a catch line about your plot so when you're at a book fair, and people wander up and look at your wares, you know what to say.

You need to smile. This can be hard. Whatever the reason you do not want to smile, you have to plaster one on your face. Fake it 'til you make it. Smile and greet people. If you're sitting down, immediately stand up when they approach your booth. If you're talking to your booth mate, or someone at the next table, say excuse me, and focus your attention on the person walking up.

After greeting them, give them a moment to respond. If they remain quiet, you might ask, "What kind of books do you like to read." Don't be devastated if they say something like, "Oh, I don't like to read." Don't scream or ask them why they came over. Keep smiling or laugh. A chuckle works too.

Next, you need a couple of short phrases, If they actually pick up your book and ask, "What's this about." Do not go into a long explanation. This is the age of Facebook. People have the attention span of a gnat. Think of a snappy engaging hook. "My book is a..." Mention the genre, mystery, sci-fi, romance, historical fiction, etc. Add a teaser. Is it funny, tragic, sexy, out of this world? Tell people about your good reviews. "People love my book." Print a review and let them read it.

Connect with them. If they have a dog, you could mention that your main character loves dogs. Only say this if it is true. Don't try to hook people with a falsehood. You want this person to buy your book and be happy with their purchase.

Never, ever, get angry or engage in snappy comebacks. If someone acts badly, keep smiling. Sometimes it's not easy. I've been at markets where I have stood for two hours and smiled at dozens of people who looked at me as if I had two heads before walking off without so much as word. But, often it turns around and people start coming back and talking and buying your book.

Before every book and market event, I am scared. I dread having to drag all my books, the table, and all the extra "bling" to some faraway place only to sit for five hours and sell nothing. But I do it. I smile and usually have a good time. I meet good people, I make connections, I learn from other authors, and I even sell a book or two. Try it. You'll like it.

Writing Things

Conferences, Festivals, and workshops. Not CBW sponsored. Please check details on the websites.

21st Annual James River Writers Conference

Early Bird registration for the 21st Annual James River Writers Conference is open now through July 31.

Fri, Oct 6 0 Sun, Oct 8: James River Writers is excited to offer both in-person and online elements for our conference this year. Join us for Master Classes online and in-person, on Friday, October 6. Then, join us at the Greater Richmond Convention Center (in Richmond, Virginia) for a full slate of programs focusing on the craft and business of writing. Look forward to lively panel discussions, live critique sessions with literary agents, fun and engaging plenary sessions, and agent one-on-one meetings (standard with your ticket). In addition, we've included opportunities for networking and socializing, because community is at the heart of everything we do. Since 2003, this multi-day event has been known for its inspiring, collegial atmosphere and hospitality. Whether you're just starting out on your writing journey, or a seasoned professional, there's something for everyone.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

More Information and registration on their website https://jamesriverwriters.org/

Heroines Anthology - Volume 5:

Call For Submissions: Heroines Anthology Volume 5 is a GLOBAL POETRY EDITION. Women poets are invited to submit poetry that reimagines women in myth, fairy tale, folklore or legend, or poems that tell women's lost histories, or untold stories from across the globe.

This will be the Heroines Anthology's fifth edition. Before submission, we strongly advise writers to read a previous volume of Heroines Anthology to get a feel for what the editors are looking for and to check what stories and myths have already been covered. Anthology copies can be ordered at a 10% discount with the code SUBMIT2023

here: https://www.theneoperennialpress.com/store/ e/heroines-anthology-volume-4

Submissions will close on the 28TH OCTOBER 2023. Find out more & submit your poetry

here: https://www.theneoperennialpress.com/hero inesanthologysubmissions

Dr Sarah Nicholson

Director

Heroines Festival

Submission fee per poem of \$ 15 (If you have financial issues & cannot pay this fee. Please contact CBW.)

"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken."

James Dent

Letter to CBW About Self-Publishing From Roger Gordon Gosden

Retiring from university meant losing the publishing platform that gave me a London agent and opened doors to commercial and academic presses. Afterward, pitching books in new genres never attracted their interest. When I began to publish independently, I gained something more precious than I lost: the freedom to own my work in every sense. "What do you think will satisfy the soul, except to walk free and own no superior?" (Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*)

This brief review is for readers pondering their own self-publishing journey. I am no expert, and every path is different, but I assure them it is neither complicated nor expensive.

I began by co-editing the autobiography of a famous New York doctor of an earlier era with his granddaughter. We digitized the book, designed a new cover, added more illustrations, and included endnotes. This modest start led to a short series of memoirs and anthologies that I either penned or edited for distinguished colleagues after their manuscripts were turned down by publishers for commercial reasons. Profit never entered my calculations, although it is nice when sales cover the costs!

My first book was formatted for Kindle and a print edition for POD by Damonza. (https://damonza.com/) The files smoothly uploaded at Amazon's KDP (then Create Space for print), but afterward, I managed all stages by myself on a desktop computer. I already had the basic tools (Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat, Photoshop Elements) and only needed to buy a bunch of ISBNs, one for each book format. Various apps and installed packages make formatting easier than when I started. For prime projects, I engaged a developmental and copy editor through Reedsy. (https://reedsy.com/) This London-based agency for self-publishers handpicks freelance professionals from across the world and provides free webinars, courses, and editing tools. Most of the illustrations I used came from my own files or were purchased for a small fee, and only once have I hired a professional artist for the cover and interior. At Fiverr, (https://www.fiverr.com/) I engaged talented people to format book covers, draw cartoons and update my website for fees far below commercial levels (though more than a fiver). They earned large tips for excellent service.

Since I planned to publish more than a couple of books, I created my own imprint, Jamestowne Bookworks. Opening an LLC in Virginia is easy-peasy, even for someone as naïve about business as me. A website built with WordPress presents book covers and blurbs with links to sales pages at Amazon (I also sell through Ingram Spark and Draft-2-Digital).

There's no magic in formatting books, only in writing. Don't let a polished manuscript languish in a drawer beside rejection slips. Go independent to liberate it.

Writing Things

Conferences, Festivals, and workshops. Not CBW sponsored. Please check details on the websites.

The Muse Writers Center https://the-muse.org/ 1-Day Creative Writing "Camp" for Adults (Fri. Aug. 18) (In person event)

Each hour in this fun, day-long, creative writing "camp" for adults, we'll explore different aspects of writing and the writing life. We'll write together, and we'll enjoy 2 camp-wide/keynote sessions and 12 breakout sessions/workshops led by noted teachers and authors to explore craft, professional development, and writerly fun. The day will conclude with a 5 p.m. Writers Happy Hour, where you can mingle with fellow writers as well as Muse students, teachers, and friends. Light snacks and supplies provided. Bag lunch or lunch on your own. Limited to 20 attendees.

Camp-wide addresses and workshops:

- AM: Morning Prompt Writing (Write Now), led by Alison Schoew
- PM: The Writing Life as Ultimate Ultramarathon, led by Kelly Sokol, novelist, memoirist and Pushcart nominee

Breakouts Sessions:

- Mastering the Scene: Sneaking in Late, Escaping Early, led by Kelly Sokol
- Documentary Poetry, led by Bridget Dolan
- Prose and Paint: Art and Writing About Your Life to Help Make Sense of it All, led by Lisa Cooper
- Writing Like Water: Adapting the Writing Process to Your Changing Life, led by Kelly Sokol
- Word Game Hour, led by Alison Schoew
- Metaphors Be With You, led by Eddie Dowe
- Finders Keepers: a Mini Found Poetry Session, led by Kindra McDonald
- Writing the Short Film, led by Matt Friedman
- Finding Your Voice in Fiction, led by Patrick Dacey
- How Norman French Reshaped Modern English, led by John M. Aguiar
- Sex Please: Writing Blue, led by Patrick Dacey
- Marketing for Writers, led by Sylvia Liu

"A lot of parents pack up their troubles and send them off to summer camp."

Raymond Duncan

Writing Things

Conferences, Festivals, and workshops. Not CBW sponsored. Please check details on the websites.

15th Annual Hampton Roads Writers Conference

November 9 - 11, 2023, Holiday Inn, Virginia Beach - Norfolk Hotel & Conference Center 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

- Early Bird (until Aug 11, 2023) Member = \$279, Early Bird Nonmember = \$319
- Aug 12 Oct 27, 2023 Member = \$329, Nonmember = \$369
- Oct 28 Nov 9, 2023 = \$409
- **2-day FULL TIME Student** = \$199
- 1-day FULL TIME Student = \$150
- 1-day (Friday OR Saturday) member or nonmember = \$209 (may attend Thursday evening session for free)
- Thursday evening only = \$59

More information on their website. https://hamptonroadswriters.org/2023-conference/

Virginia Children's Book Festival

Oct 11, 2023 9:45 AM to 2:00 PM

<u>Longwood University</u> High St, Farmville, Virginia 23901

The Virginia Children's Book Festival is free, three-day festival held each year on the campus of Longwood University. Vendor application deadline is September 1, 2023. Please see website for more information: https://www.vachildrensbookfestival.org/

2nd Annual Holiday Craft & Gift Market on November 11, 2023

The Woman's Club of King & Queen County is excited to announce they will hold their 2nd Annual Holiday Craft & Gift Market on November 11, 2023 from 10am to 4 pm in the Dragon Run Brewing "back yard." The brewery is located at 1401 Centerville Road, Shacklefords, VA 23156. Our primary goal is to create a fun Holiday Market that supports and involves the community.

Please see attached application. (Attached to email with newsletter) We would like all applications submitted by **September 1**. This will give us time to put together appropriate advertising.

Perhaps sharing of a table by CBW members would be permitted but you would have to find your own tablemates. Please contact the coordinator listed on the application to see if this is possible.



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.

The interview takes place at the station in Gloucester (just past Short Lane Ice Cream) and starts at about 8:05 a.m. Neal is a champ at making people comfortable. He asks intelligent questions and his genuine interest in an author's work comes through during the interview.

If you cannot make it to Gloucester, he can do the interview over the phone.

CBW Members have priority for upcoming shows but published VWC members statewide, past speakers at CBW meetings, and non-member authors living within CBW's Service area are also eligible.

All bookings must be made through CBW's coordinator, Patti Procopi. patti.pro@cox.net

Check out Neal on Facebook and on the Radio's website. https://www.facebook.com/nealnwmrkt https://xtra99.com/on-air/neal-steele



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. "Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."

Benjamin Franklin

Schedule

August 14, 2023, Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM at 8:05 AM. Neal Steele interviews Peggy Newcomb about her book *The Curtis Letters*

September 11, 2023, Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM at 8:05 AM. Neal Steele interviews Charles W. Sutherland about his book *Reminiscences of a Cynical Idealist - Global Experiences of a Naive Farm Boy*

September 16, 10:30 am: *Publishing Your Book: Making "Beautiful Blue and You"* With Michael and Melinda Richardson Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland St, Williamsburg, VA 23185

September: Date & time to be determined. Roger Connor who is a curator at the National Air and Space Museum will speak to us via Zoom about technical writing.

October 9, 2023, Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM at 8:05 AM. Neal Steele interviews Richard Easton about his book *GPS Declassified: From Smart Bombs to Smart Phones*

October 7, 2023 Open Mic - Join us at the Yorktown Library for an afternoon of sharing snippets of your work. Light refreshments will be provided. Sunday, October 15th, 1:30 to 3:30 Email Mary Shipko for more information shipkom@msn.com 8500 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23692

November: Malcom Massey Writing the Killer Plot, Date and location to be determined.

November: Chesapeake Bay Writers All Stars Gala Luncheon, More information coming soon.

November 13, 2023, Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM at 8:05 AM. Neal Steele interviews Sarah Collins Honenberger about her book *The Mouse in the House*.

