



The Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club



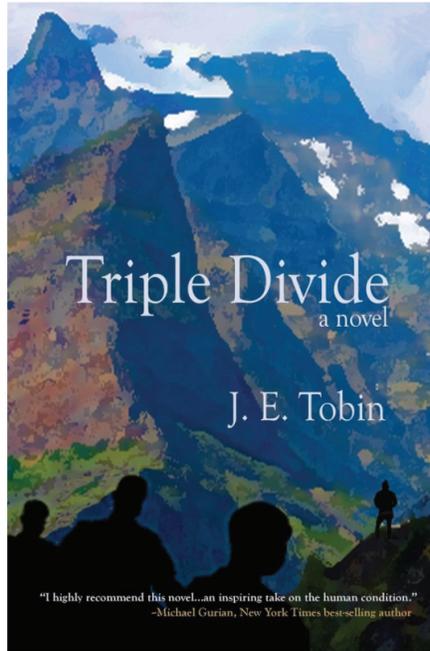
# Bay Writers News

October 2023- Volume 30 \* Issue 5

## In This Issue

President's Message	2
Upcoming Events	3
Member News	4
Critique Groups	5
Upcoming Event Details	6-7
Member News	8
Chesapeake Bay Writers Gala	9
Marketing Opportunities	10-11

## October Events



**J E Tobin**  
**October 7, 10:30 am**

*Illusions of Speech? Writing Great Dialogue Workshop*  
with James Tobin, at the  
Williamsburg library

Author of  
*Triple Divide*

See Page 6 for more information



New Marketing Opportunities  
in Williamsburg Bookstore  
(Page 11)

Scan the  
code to  
join  
our  
Facebook  
page



**October 7, 1:30 pm**

### Open Mic

After the workshop, Join us at the  
Yorktown Library for an afternoon  
of sharing snippets of your work.

Email Mary Shipko for more  
information [shipkom@msn.com](mailto:shipkom@msn.com)

8500 George Washington  
Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA  
23692



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.

“There are three rules for writing a novel. Unfortunately, no one knows what they are.”

- W. Somerset Maugham



What do you think these three rules would be? I've pondered this quote for a while and I've come up with three simple rules that affect my writing.

Rule number one - Write. You're a writer if you write. It doesn't

matter if you write a short poem, a children's book, or a four-hundred page book. It doesn't matter if you've published your words or kept them locked up in your diary. Those that pick up the pen, or open their word document and spill words in some meaningful way onto the page, are writers.

I've produced twenty Jazzy books full of words, however I often shy away from being labeled an author. "I haven't written anything without pictures in it." But when I speak to elementary school children, I realize that I am an author. I wrote poems. I wrote stories. I wrote concept prompts for pictures. I wrote, ergo, I am an author.

Rule number two - Share. Words kept alone are sacred. If that's all you wish to do, then more power to you. You are still an author but nobody is going to know you are one. The rest of us, those with goals of

publishing, have to share. There are many kinds of sharing. Simple conversations with friends, family, or other writers about your characters, the plot, and your goals are helpful. Words pondered in a critique group may seem harsh, but critical feedback is important. Reading comments made by a professional editor might send you into a temper, or make you cry, but in the end, it will strengthen your story. Then, of course, once you've published your words, you have to share them with the world.

Rule number three - Cut. Take that feedback and kill your darlings. Yes, remove excess scenes, slash those pesky adverbs, take a hatchet to all those helping words. I learned about this process and I cannot unlearn it. When I read books full of "She had been's" and "I am going to think about doing something's." I often stop reading. The process is detrimental to my writing and I have to fight doing this as new words form. I have to remember, I'm in step one, not three. However, by cutting out stuff that does not move the reader to the next sentence, paragraph or page, you come closer to engaging your reader.

So there you have it. Sonja's three rules to write by. What would your three rules be?

Sonja McGiboney, President  
Chesapeake Bay Writers

## Chesapeake Bay Writers Board of Directors - 2023

**Sonja McGiboney - President**

**Richard Easton - Vice President**

**Jeff Price - Secretary**

**Carol J. Bova - Treasurer**

**Denise DeVries - Publicity Director**

**Patti Gaustand Procopi - Membership Director**

**Mary Shipko - Director at Large**

**Ann Skelton - Director At Large**

**Carol J. Bova - Immediate Past President**

**Contact by email at [CBWreply@gmail.com](mailto:CBWreply@gmail.com).**

*October 2023*

**October 7, 10:30 am**

*Illusions of Speech? Writing Great Dialogue Workshop*

with James Tobin, at the Williamsburg library

See Page 6 for more information

**October 7, 1:30 pm**

Open Mic

After the workshop, Join us at the Yorktown Library for an afternoon of sharing snippets of your work.

Email Mary Shipko for more information [shipkom@msn.com](mailto:shipkom@msn.com)

8500 George Washington Memorial Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23692

**October 9, 8:05 am**

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*

**November 8, 10:30 am**

*Writing the Killer Plot*

with Malcom Massey

Schell Room

Williamsburg Library

See Page 6 for more information

**November 13, 805 am**

Second Monday Radio Show on Xtra 99.1 FM at 8:05 AM. Neal Steele interviews Kathy Kasunich and her book *Always Remembering*

**November 15, 2023**

All Stars Gala Luncheon at the Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg, VA

More info to follow

**November 18, 2:00 pm**

*Writing Your Story* with Patti Procopi at the Yorktown Library Auditorium

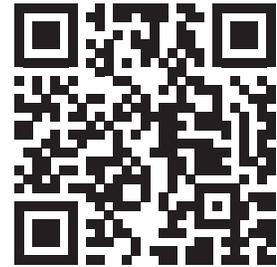
See Page 7 for more information

**December 11, 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*

Where is the best place to find the latest information about upcoming Chesapeake Bay Writers events? Scan the code to go directly to our website for up-to-date news!



“October is the month of painted leaves.  
Their rich glow now flashes round the world.  
As fruits and leaves and the day itself  
acquire a bright tint just before they fall,  
so the year near its setting.  
October is its sunset sky;  
November the later twilight.”

- Henry David Thoreau *Autumnal Tints*

## Book Signing - October 1

J. E. Tobin has a book signing for his new novel, *Triple Divide*, at Barnes & Noble in New Town, on October 1 from 1pm to 3 pm.



## Williamsburg's 2nd Sundays Art and Music Festival October 8 and November 10

The **October 8** event will feature Cindy L. Freeman, Mary Shipko, Ginny Brock, and Jeff Schnader. Then on **November 12**, CBW will be represented by Caterina Novelleire, Kathy Kasunich, and Patti Procopi.

We'll take a break in December, but 2nd Sundays start up again in March 2024.



Did you know that any CBW author can participate in Williamsburg's 2nd Sundays Art and Music Festival? Cindy L. Freeman has organized CBW's participation for three years but would like to take a break. If you can assume this leadership for 2024 or would like further information, please let her know: 757-870-4622 or [cindy@cindylfreeman.com](mailto:cindy@cindylfreeman.com).

“There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October.”

— Nathaniel Hawthorne

## New Critique Group Forming



Cat Novelliere wishes to start a developmental-oriented critique group with this format in mind. Electronic copies will be reviewed by all group members in advance of the meeting.

Discussion during meetings will focus on big picture items such as a plot, character development, etc... more than copy edit related feedback. While punctuation and basic grammar feedback is welcome to be provided on soft or hard copies given to the group members, the feedback during meetings should focus on big picture items.

All group members must be open to receiving constructive criticism and should provide it in a similar manner to help everyone in the group continue to grow as a writer.

Meeting day, time, and location will be determined by interested parties. If you are interested in joining this developmental critique group, please contact Cat Novelliere via email at [novelliere@me.com](mailto:novelliere@me.com).

## Silver Quill Writers

**Fall is creeping up on us and I've set up a full schedule of events extending through the end of the year.**

### Silver Quill Writers Booth at the Yorktown Market Days

**October 7, Saturday** – Noon to 6 pm  
Yorktown Wine Festival  
Riverwalk, Yorktown, VA

**October 21, 2023** – Saturday 8 am to noon  
Yorktown Market Arts and Crafts Festival  
311 Water Street, Yorktown, VA

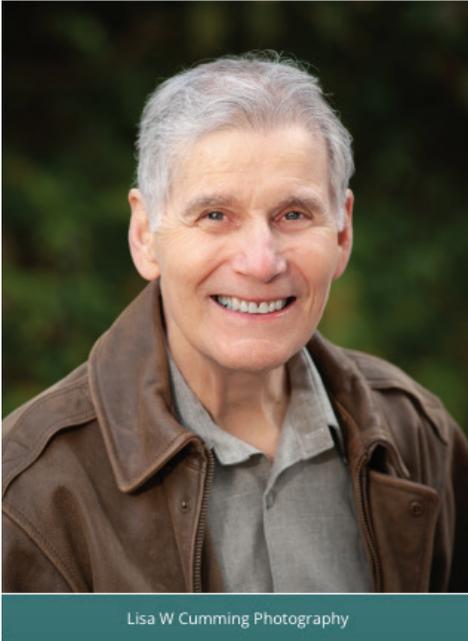
**November 4, 2023** – Saturday 10 am to 3 pm  
Queens Lake Festival,  
Williamsburg, VA

**December 2, 2023** - Saturday  
Christmas Festival  
Riverwalk, Yorktown, VA

- Tim Holland

“October is a fallen leaf, but it is also the wider horizon more clearly seen. It is the distant hill once more in sight, and the enduring constellations above that hill once again.”

— Hal Borlan, *This Hill, This Valley*



Lisa W Cumming Photography

## J E Tobin

**October 7, 10:30 am**

*Illusions of Speech? Writing Great Dialogue Workshop*  
with James Tobin, at the Williamsburg library

Dialogue has the power to connect the inner life of your characters with the inner life of your readers. In this interactive workshop, we will explore the elements of dialogue that harness this power to breathe life into a novel's characters and drive its action. Using examples and exercises, you will learn the forms, functions, and purposes of writing effective dialogue. Learn how to eliminate some common mistakes that undermine credibility. Leave the workshop with resources for further learning. Writers and readers who love good dialogue are welcome.

*James Tobin (pen name J. E. Tobin) has written Off-Broadway plays, children's books, non-fiction, and two novels. When We Were Wolves, his first novel, was published in 2022 and Triple Divide, his latest, this September. For his new novel, the author drew upon his experiences working with veterans in a VA hospital and the stories of war-torn soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. A retired psychologist and educator, James lives in Williamsburg, Virginia with his wife, Jean. He is a proud member of the Author's Guild, The Virginia Writers Club, and The Chesapeake Writers. More information can be found on his website [www.jetobin.com](http://www.jetobin.com)*

## Virginia Children's Book Festival

**October 11, 2023**

**9:45 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Longwood University 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. Come meet your favorite authors and illustrators in person, participate in amazing activities, and and experience the magic of reading.

<https://virginaliving.com/events/virginia-children-s-book-festival/>

## The Virginia Writers Club Annual Meeting

**November 4, 2023**

**Maggiano's Restaurant**

**11800 West Broad St., #2204,  
Richmond, Virginia, 23233-7909**

The Virginia Writers Club will conduct the annual business of the club, award the 2023 Golden Nib Awards, and elect three at-large members to the Board of Governors.

Additional information to follow. Check the CBW Facebook page or the Virginia Writers Club website:

<https://www.virginiawritersclub.org/>

*October 2023*

**Malcom Massey**  
**November 8, 10:30 am**

*Writing the Killer Plot* with Malcom Massey Schell Room -  
 Williamsburg Library



Malcom Massey primarily writes “The Martin Culver Series”, a series of action thrillers based on his experiences living in Central and South America, as well as his interests in history, archaeology and travel. The main character of the series, Martin Culver, is an author-turned-adventurer who gets unavoidably drawn into one dangerous exploit after another.

*Malcom grew up devouring stories of ancient cultures and lost treasures from around the world. Raised in Virginia, Malcom has lived in Costa Rica and Bolivia, and has traveled throughout South America and the Caribbean, including Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and the Virgin Islands. After living and writing for*

*16 months in the Yucatan Peninsula, Malcom returned to the United States, where he still lives and writes near the coast. In addition to writing daily, Malcom has been instrumental in establishing Inspire Writers Center in Melbourne, FL. The mission of Inspire Writers Center is to provide creative writing classes for the general public, taught by trained published authors. Visit his website at [www.malcommassey.com](http://www.malcommassey.com).*

**Patti Gaustad Procopi**  
**November 18, 2:00 pm**

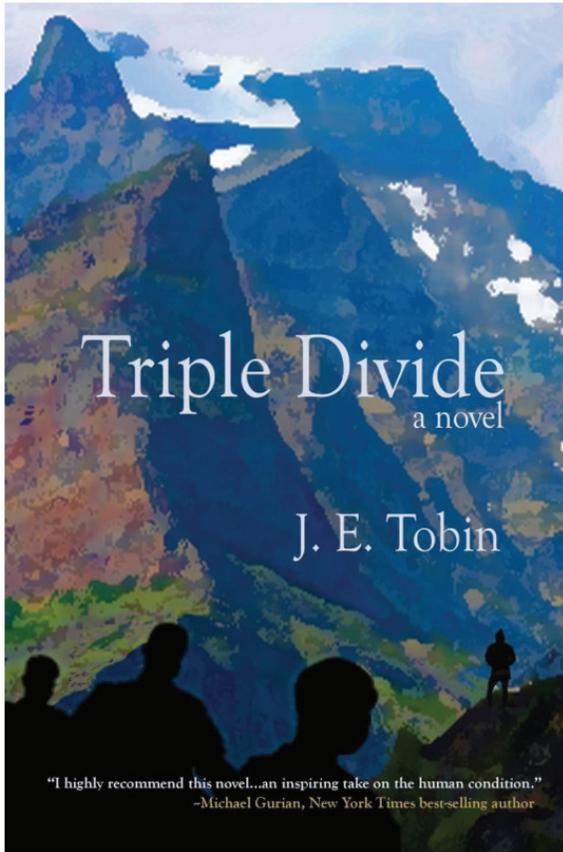
*Writing Your Story* with Patti Procopi  
 Yorktown Library Auditorium



We all have a story to tell but sometimes it’s hard to know how to start. Join award-winning author Patti Gaustad Procopi for an illuminating presentation on writing with Storyworth, writing a memoir, and fictionalizing your life. One of those options is bound to work for you! Registration is recommended. This program is for adults. Questions? Call 757-890-5207 or email [reference@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:reference@yorkcounty.gov). Yorktown Library Auditorium

*Patti is a former army brat who lived all over the world before settling in the rural community of Gloucester, Virginia with her husband, Greg. There, they raised three daughters and numerous cats and dogs. After retiring from working at two area history museums, Patti finally had time to do the things she always wanted to, including writing. Moving constantly made it difficult to make friends and form lasting relationships. Her writing is about emotional connections, friendship and family. In addition to writing, Patti*

*fills her days with rescuing raptors and other birds., Patti also likes to research her past on Ancestry. She and Greg love to travel and have been busy checking off their bucket list. More information can be found at her website at [www.pattiproauthor.com](http://www.pattiproauthor.com).*



## About the Book

Three American soldiers, following their latest deployment in Afghanistan, return home burdened by secrets and moral uncertainties. Being home in America brings them no peace. After visiting his mother, one soldier disappears into the vast wilderness of Glacier National Park. News of his disappearance drives the other two men to undertake separate missions to rescue him. Will they find him in time? And, as they approach the peak where rain flows into three oceans, what truth--if any--will they discover about themselves and each other? Inspired by Homer's *The Odyssey*, the novel tells a riveting story of courage, friendship, and redemption. It renders a poignant and unforgettable portrayal of war's aftermath on soldiers and those who love them.

## Praise for *Triple Divide*

"I couldn't put down this gripping book!"

- Kayla Williams, author of *Love My Rifle More than You*

"I highly recommend this novel not just to men, whose lives it reflects, but to women who are interested in bridging gaps between the inner worlds of women and men. An adventure and a thriller, *Triple Divide* is also an inspiring take on the human condition..."

- Michael Gurian, New York Times bestselling author of *Saving Our Sons*

## About the Author

James Tobin (AKA J. E. Tobin) has written Off-Broadway plays, children's books, non-fiction, and two novels. His debut novel, *When We Were Wolves*, was published in 2022. For *Triple Divide*, the author drew upon the emotional struggles recounted to him by veterans in a VA hospital and the stories of war-torn soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. A retired psychologist and educator, James lives in Williamsburg, Virginia with his wife, Jean. He is a proud member of the Author's Guild, The Virginia Writers Club, and The Chesapeake Writers. More information can be found on his website [www.jetobin.com](http://www.jetobin.com)

Scan the code to find  
*Triple Divide* on Amazon



# Get ready for the 2023 All Stars Gala Luncheon and Contest!

**Wednesday, November 15, 11:30 a.m.**  
**at the Two Rivers Country Club Cypress Room in Williamsburg**

Members: \$25      Guests: \$28, including tax and gratuity.

11:30 Social Time - 12 Noon Lunch with Contest to follow.

Entree choices include:

- Vegetarian Autumn Salad with Autumn Greens, English Cucumbers, Roasted Sweet Potatoes, Dried Cranberries, Pumpkin Seeds and Apple Vinaigrette.
- Salmon Autumn Salad: Autumn Greens, English Cucumbers, Roasted Sweet Potatoes, Dried Cranberries, Pumpkin Seeds & Apple Vinaigrette (on the side)
- Prime Rib Panini with Fresh Fruit
- Chicken Salad Wrap with Fresh Fruit

All meals include dessert, coffee or iced tea.

Wine and sodas available for purchase through the servers

Complimentary self-service coffee and tea available throughout the afternoon.

Share your work and compete for prizes! Those in attendance will vote online for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners who will receive cash prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively. All work read is eligible for a separate contest for the Rick Bailey Humor Award and \$25 prize. You may choose one piece of your work--fiction, nonfiction or poetry to read on November 15th.

TO ENTER: Please complete the form on the Chesapeake Bay Writers website.

- Go to <https://www.ChesapeakeBayWriters.org> or scan the code to open the website page.
- Scroll down to the **2023 CBW All Stars Gala and Contest** Announcement and complete the form.
- Before you register, please read your work out loud and time it. You need the exact minutes and seconds so we can include as many as possible. 7-1/2 minutes is the maximum.
- Entries are closed at 90 minutes total.
- Work is read in the order of sign up.
- Only members of CBW in good standing for 2023 are eligible for the contest.
- Facebook group members are not eligible to compete unless they are also CBW members, but are welcome to make a luncheon reservation and share in the fun!





## 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>

## 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.

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 if you have a good phone connection.

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



**Patti Procopi**

All bookings must be made through CBW's coordinator, **Patti Procopi**. [patti.pro@cox.net](mailto:patti.pro@cox.net)

## Thanksgiving Weekend Book Signing

**Ellen Butler Contact**

Author signing at **Turn the Page Bookshop** in Williamsburg, VA (at the Prime Outlets between to White House Black Market & Banana Republic), the Thanksgiving Weekend.

Dates available on Friday, Saturday & Sunday - Nov. 24-26.

Via consignment. 30% goes to the bookstore. Sales to be rung up by the bookstore.

(If we have open slots 2 weeks before the event authors will be allowed to sign up for a second block.)  
Only 2 authors are allowed to sign during a time block.

NOTE: If 2 authors are signing during your timeblock, you will be sharing a 6-foot table.

This is a busy time and the bookstore owner recommended having 25 books. Books will need to be given to the shop owner **PRIOR** to the holiday weekend. Will discuss logistics next month.

Location: 5707 Richmond Rd Suite 40, Williamsburg, VA 23188

If you'd like to participate, sign up for ONE of

[https://www.signupgenius.com go/4090C4DADAC2BAA8-44355757-thanksgiving#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4DADAC2BAA8-44355757-thanksgiving#/)

Any questions contact Ellen via the contact form on the SignUp page.



**“I’m so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.”**

— Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Ann of Green Gables*