



The Chesapeake Bay Chapter of The Virginia Writers Club



# Bay Writers News

December 2023 - Volume 30 - Issue 6

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**Please Renew Your Membership to CBW.**



**The 2024 Membership Renewal form is on the CBW website. Renewing now lets the Board set the budget for programs for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!**

## CBW Golden Nib Winners



Virginia Writers Club, Inc.

*Golden Nib*  
Writing  
Contest

2023

**Chesapeake Bay  
Writers Winners**



### CBW Fiction

- 1st Place Craig Trebilcock "The Grove"
- 2nd Place Tim Holland "A Good Scout"
- 3rd Place Amy Voltaire "Sunrise Sarah"

### CBW Poetry

- 1st Place Jennifer Randall Hotz "In the Midst of Hanami"
- 2nd Place Christopher Green "Morph"
- 3rd Place Kathy Kasunich "How Did I Get Here"

### CBW Nonfiction

- 1st Place Timothy Blair "Self Destruction"

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.

## Is It Time to Give Back?



During this season of giving, I ask all of you to take a moment and consider where you are in your writing careers. What helped you get there? Who spurred you on? How did you gain the knowledge you needed to succeed? Is it time that you shared your knowledge and experience with others?

Somewhere in your answer is a name of a person who shared information with you. Maybe you attended a presentation or webinar on a topic. Perhaps you took a course or went to a conference. That person or organization kept you on your path.

When I joined the CBW, I didn't know anything about the world of writing and publishing. I wrote and manufactured my first eight books like a crafter creating something to sell at a fair. What an eye opener to attend my first Gala and talk to other writers. From speaking with them, I realized that I needed to change my publication process. The CBW helped me grow as a writer.

When the position of president opened up, I didn't think I was qualified. I asked myself, "Do

I have anything to give? Who am I to lead such talented writers?" The answer screamed, "NO." But I volunteered anyway, and boy, am I glad I did.

During my time as president, I grew, I learned, and I felt good about helping. The CBW board is not a big machine, it is other writers who want to promote good writing, share their experiences, and help others. The board, especially the past president, was tremendously supportive and helpful.

During my first year, I asked the members what they wanted. I made an effort to fill presentations with people that would satisfy those needs.

Then Covid hit. We learned to adapt virtually. Now we are back to in-person events, but the board still meets virtually which makes serving even easier.

My time as president, however, is ending. I cannot continue leading the CBW from Alabama. The CBW needs someone who can be physically present at events. Besides the board positions of president and secretary, we have non-board volunteer positions open. Two of those are Submissions Editor for the newsletter and Website Coordinator. If you have questions, or wish to explore other volunteer options, feel free to email me or call me.

I ask all of you to consider the question, "Is it my time to give back?"

*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).**

*December 2023*

**December 11, 2023 - 8:05 a.m.**  
**Second Monday Radio Show**  
**on Xtra 99.1 FM**

Neal Steele interviews Sarah Collins Honenberger about her book *The Mouse in the House*.

**January 20, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Williamsburg Stryker Center**

Bradley Harper  
*Sherlock Holmes as Science Fiction*, Please see Page 9 for more information.

**January 11, 2024, 10:00 - 12:00 a.m.**  
**Williamsburg Stryker Center**

Janis Robinson Daly  
*The Unlocked Path: An Examination and Celebration of Family History*

**February 1, 2024**

### Short Short Story Contest

Flash Fiction - 100 words on one of four topics

Sponsor: Ethos Literacy, a nonprofit adult literacy program - Fundraiser to support free literacy and ESL tutoring to adults

Deadline: Feb. 1, 2024

Prizes: 6 cash prizes

Publication: E-magazine

All ages

Fees: Standard: \$15

Youth (14 and younger): \$10

website: <https://www.ethosliteracy.org/about-1>

**February 24, 2024**  
**Williamsburg Book Festival**

See Page 5 for more information

**February 28, 2024**  
**Zoom Presentation**

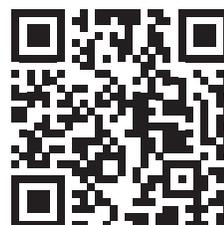
Robert Connor, the curator of the Aeronautics Department of the National Air and Space Museum, will discuss technical writing with us.

**March 9, 2024**  
**1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

Open Mic at the Williamsburg Library

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!





## 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**

**Neal will interview Sarah Collins Honenberger about her book , *The Mouse in the House*, on December 11, 2023 - 8:05 AM**

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 MOUSE IN THE HOUSE (On the Night Before Christmas)



Written by Sarah Collins Honenberger  
Illustrated by Elizabeth P. Harper

## Update on the Williamsburg Book Festival



The Williamsburg Book Festival is scheduled to be held on February 24, 2024 in the Stryker Building and the Williamsburg Community Building. More than 90 authors applied for inclusion on the Festival, by far the most ever. After an intensive jury process, 50 authors were selected and have been invited. These authors represent most genres including fiction and non-fiction as well as poetry. In addition, five publishers have been invited to participate.

The list of speakers includes:

Keynote Speaker Mollie Cox Bryan, the prolific author of the Cumberland Creek Mystery Series and the Cora Crafts Mystery Series which takes place in North Carolina and features a sleuth who blogs when she's not running her craft shop. Bryan is also the author of the Classic Star Biography Mystery Series, and the Buttermilk Creek Mystery Series.

L. M. Elliott, who writes young adult historical fiction, will also be speaking at the Book Festival. Her novels explore a variety of eras (the Italian Renaissance, the American Revolutionary War, WWII, and the Cold War), and are written for a variety of ages. Many of her works have been named NCSS/CBC Notables (National Council of Social Studies and Children's Book Council), Bank Street College Best Books, Jefferson Cup Honor Books, Kirkus Bests, and Grateful American Book Prize winners.

Along with these speakers, five poets will be featured, reading from their works.

The local student writing contest winners will also be awarded their prizes during the Book Festival.

If you are interested in volunteering to help on the day of the event, please contact Peter Stipe at [pstiper@cox.net](mailto:pstiper@cox.net) or go to our website for more information about volunteering. There is a form at:

<https://www.williamsburgbookfestival.org/volunteer>

Further updates will be shared with the Chesapeake Bay Writers as we get closer to the event. You can also follow our facebook page and our website for updates.

### 2024 Williamsburg Book Festival

**February 24, 2024 from 10 am - 4 pm**

### Stryker Center and Williamsburg Community Building

*The Williamsburg Book Festival's mission is to promote and support the art of literary composition in the Williamsburg area and expose writers to the reading public. Our free event includes authors from various genres, speakers, illustrators, and publishers from Virginia and beyond. We hope you'll join us for a family-friendly day of celebrating books and book lovers as we fill the Stryker Center and the Williamsburg Community Building.*

# Chesapeake Bay Writers Announce Golden Nib Contest Winners

Denise DeVries

Chesapeake Bay Writers (CBW) recognized the winners of the 2023 Golden Nib Chapter Contest at a banquet in November. The Golden Nib is the Virginia Writers Club (VWC) annual writing competition in three categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry. The contest has two tiers. First, writers submit work to chapters such as CBW. The chapter's first place winners receive a cash prize and go on to compete in the VWC state-wide contest. Submissions by second and third place winners will be published in the Virginia Writers Club Journal along with the first place entries.

## Fiction

**Craig Trebilcock** placed first in Fiction at the CBW chapter level with his short story "The Grove," which also placed third in the VWC contest.



Trebilcock writes on topics of national security and law. His writing has appeared in *Prism*, *A Journal of the National Defense University*, *Army Magazine*, *The Army Lawyer*, *The Strategic Studies Institute of the US Army War College*, and *The Pennsylvania Lawyer*. He is the author of two

novels regarding the Global War on Terrorism – *One Weekend A Month* and *No Time For Ribbons*. His third novel, *Kabul – An Absence of Faith*, is due out in 2024. Craig is a retired Army colonel and sat as a criminal court trial judge in Pennsylvania for ten years.

The CBW second place fiction winner was **Tim Holland** with "A Good Scout." Holland is the author of the critically acclaimed Sidney Lake lowcountry mystery series: *The Rising Tide*, *The Murder of Amos Dunn* and *Deception*, as well as the thriller/mystery *What the Mirror Doesn't See*. He is a director of the Williamsburg Book Festival, a past director of Chesapeake Bay Writers, a member of

Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime and The Brontë Society of Haworth, England. He has also received a Keating award for his short fiction. Over the years, his freelance articles have appeared in a wide variety of newspapers and magazines, along with book reviews and literary criticism for Recorder Publishing's eight newspapers in New Jersey.

**Amy Voltaire** won third place in fiction for "Sunrise Sarah." Voltaire has lived in Yorktown, Virginia her entire life. Her debut young-adult novel, *My Name is Erin*, and *My Mom's an Addict* was inspired by children who, because of the opioid epidemic, are being raised by their grandparents; it was also inspired by the many loving grandparents who are raising them.

## NonFiction

In Nonfiction, one entry, "Self Destruct" by **Timothy Blair**, went on to the VWC contest. Blair has survived the death of his first son in 1997 from SIDS. On 24 December 2021, an accident left 30% of Blair's body with third degree burns. He says, "My life and mind were transformed as a result of this accident." Writing and meditation have assisted his recovery from alcohol addiction. "I attempt to cherish every moment as if it may be my last."

## Poetry

### Jennifer Randall

**Hotz's** poem "In the Midst of Hanami" won first prize in both the CBW and the state contest. Hotz, a poet perpetually delighted by words, rhythm, and music, lives in coastal Virginia. She received an M.A. in English from San José State University. Her work has appeared in *Burningword*



*Literary Journal*, and is forthcoming in *Connecticut River Review*, *Naugatuck River Review*, and *Literary Mama*. In the CBW Gala contest, Hotz received third place.

### Christopher Green's

poem "Morph" placed second in the CBW contest. Green is a poet from Gloucester, Virginia, writing with the hopes to live up to his moniker "The



Poetic Genius." Chris recently won the Poetry Society of Virginia's Honoring Fatherhood award with "Breaking Myth" a poem about the misconceptions about black fathers. On July 19th (Juneteenth) he was published by Inlandia for their anthology *These Black Bodies Are...* featuring his poems "Reparations," "Monuments," and "Right to be Black." The Poetic Genius hopes that his poetry will honor his people and inspire many including his singer/songwriter 7-year-old daughter Layla. Currently, Green attends monthly open mics with Slam Connection in Williamsburg and works with their team to build a community of poetry and outreach in Williamsburg.

### Kathy Kasunich

won 3rd Place in the CBW Golden Nib with her poem "How Did I Get Here." Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Steeler Country), Kasunich now resides in Williamsburg. She enjoys the great outdoors, listening to music or capturing moments in time with her camera. She is an avid fan of historical fiction and likes to write in that genre as well.



# VWC State-Wide Winners of Golden Nib 2023

## Fiction:

- 1st place: "Desperation" by Michelle McBeth
- 2nd place: "Front Porch" by Emily Walls Ray
- 3rd place: "The Grove" by Craig Trebilcock **CBW**

## Nonfiction:

- 1st place: "On a Sunday Morning" by Andrea Yarbough
- 2nd place: "Sloshim" by Abbey Pachter
- 3rd place: "The Lost Starfish" by Wendy Dwyer

## Poetry:

- 1st place: "In the Midst of Hanami" by Jennifer Randall Hotz **CBW**
- 2nd place: "Tipping Point" by Jessica Mardian
- 3rd place: "Climbing Bear Claw" by Emily Walls Ray



Chris "The Poetic Genius" Green won first place with his recitation of his poem "Distilled Spirits." Presented by Mary Shipko

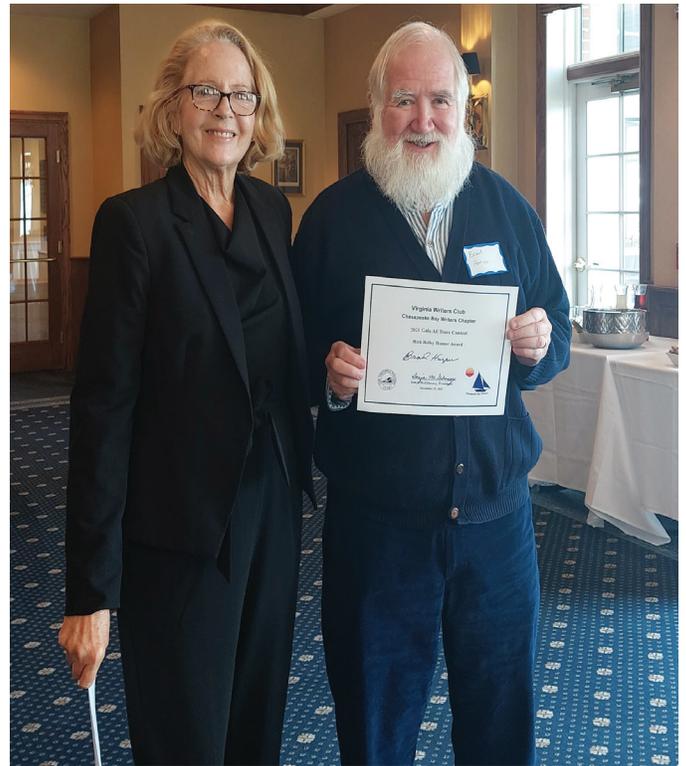


Cindy Freeman placed second with an essay, "The Fixer." Presented by Mary Shipko

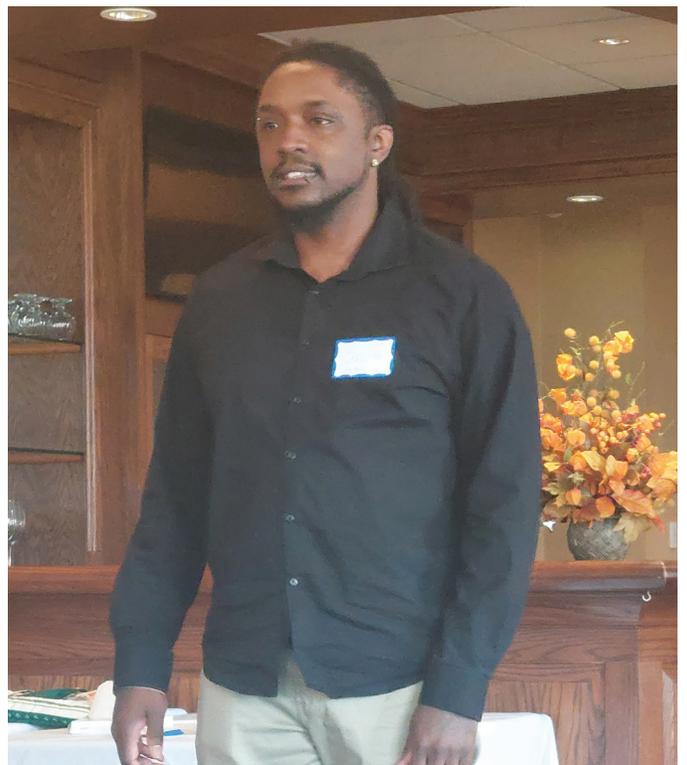




Jennifer Randall Hotz received third place for her poem "O The Leaving." Presented by Mary Shipko

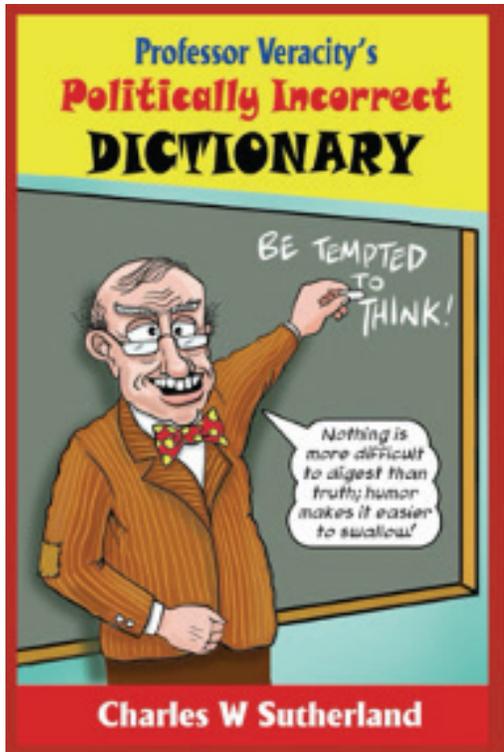


Bradley Harper won the Rick Bailey Humor award for his essay, "Staff Call." Presented by Mary Shipko



## Charles W. Sutherland

*Professor Veracity's Politically Incorrect Dictionary* is an illustrated depiction of the destructive current era of linguistic deception which puts the adjective 'political' in front of the word 'correct' to promote ... and mandate ... social deceit.



It is a combination of sarcasm, humor, insights, and historical information of which people seem to be completely (or deliberately) ignorant.

The actual etymology of each word is listed, followed by a cynical definition – whether social, religious, political, or ideological.

There are also a variety of little-known ... and sometimes shocking ... documented historical facts that may disturb some who are not aware of them.

In addition, the narrative contains over 100 illustrations of “Non-Recommended Reading”: comical fictitious ‘books’ and their fictitious ‘authors’ ... with their fictitious ‘credentials’ for being an expert.

The objective is to make the reader think ... and to enjoy thinking.

“The truth shall make you free” – or flee! Rejoice and enjoy – or run!



To find this book on Amazon, go to the Amazon website and enter this number in the search field:  
**979-8399012803**

## Richard Easton

I recently appeared on *The Space Show* with one of the giants of the military space program.

<https://thespaceshow.com/show/06-oct-2023/broadcast-4099-richard-easton-peter-wilhelm>

## Malcom Massey

Malcom offered to provide his slide show slides for *Writing the Killer Plot* to CBW members if they are interested in them. They should email [CBWreply@gmail.com](mailto:CBWreply@gmail.com) if they want them.

Scan the code to join  
our Facebook page



## Bradley Harper



### Sherlock Holmes as Science Fiction

In November 1887, the world was introduced to a detective who used science and his keen powers of observation to solve a mysterious crime. While the techniques that Sherlock Holmes employs to solve the murder portrayed in his debut Holmes story, *A Study in Scarlet*, are familiar to us today, at the time the story was published, investigative methods used by police forces consisted almost entirely of gathering witness statements, establishing alibis, and extracting confessions.

The use of scientific evidence as a recognized tool for identifying criminals was not a reality until the second decade of the twentieth century. The founder of this new scientific discipline was a French physician who, inspired by Sherlock Holmes, made the “science fiction” of Doyle’s detective into a reality.

Join Bradley Harper, a retired Army pathologist and published author, for a one-hour presentation on the evolution of forensic science and how Sherlock Holmes inspired the use of objective evidence in the never-ending hunt to determine “whodunnit.”

**January 20, 2024 2:00 PM**  
**Stryker Center**  
**412 N. Boundary St.**  
**Williamsburg, VA 23185**  
**757 741 3300**