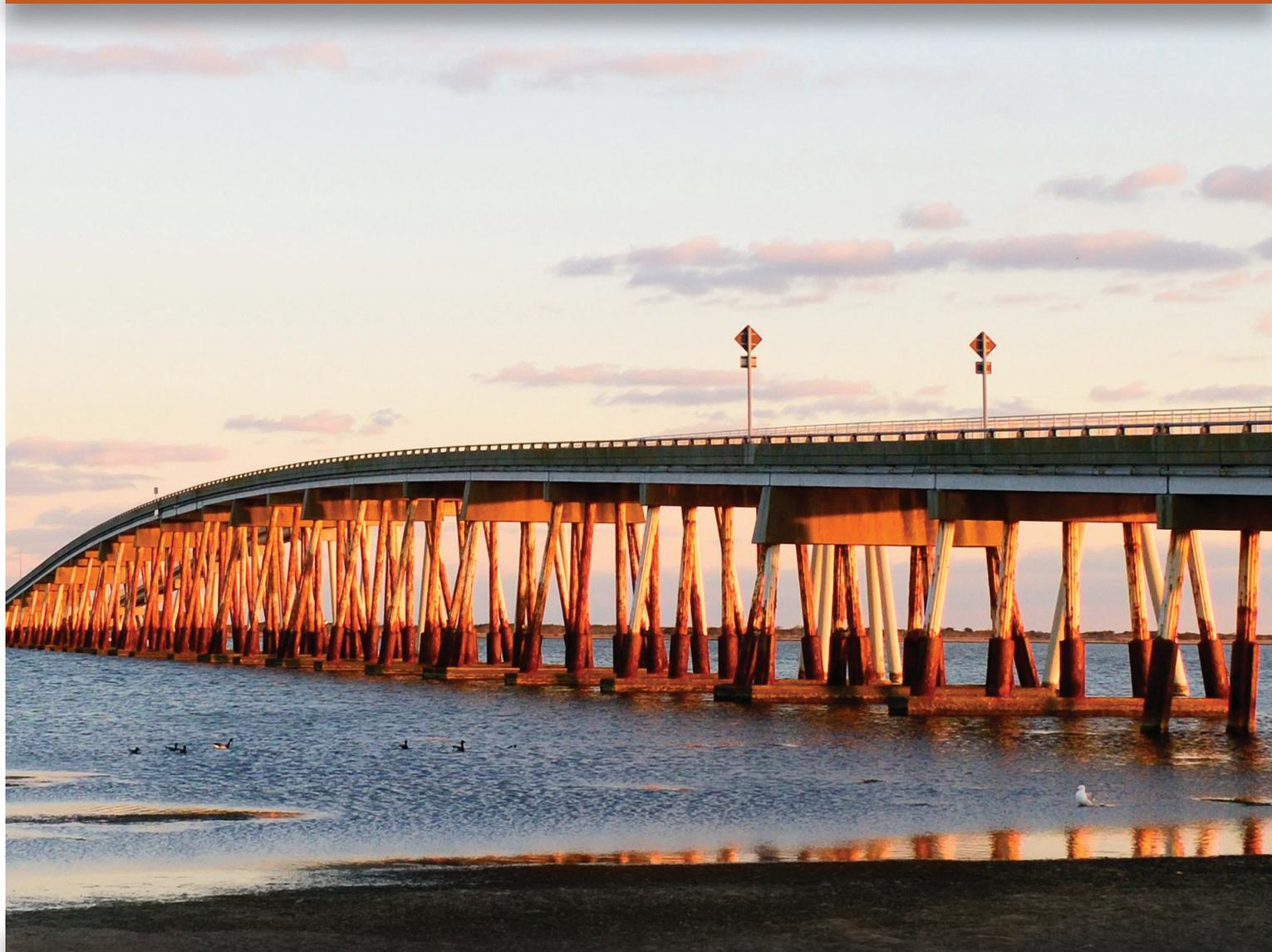


THE EASTERN SHORE WRITERS ASSOCIATION

23rd
ANNUAL

BAY TO OCEAN

WRITERS CONFERENCE



MARCH 7, 2020

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE | WYE MILLS, MD

Welcome to the 23rd Bay to Ocean Writers Conference!

*All ESWA members
can volunteer to assist with BTO.*

*If you are interested in being on
the planning committee for the
2021 Bay to Ocean Writers' Conference,
please contact us at
baytoceanwritersconference@gmail.com*

Bay to Ocean Writers Conference
P.O. Box 1773
Easton, MD 21601

Follow Us Online:



www.baytocean.com



@baytocean



Bay to Ocean Writers Conference

Please Note:

*Your attendance at this conference
grants us permission to use your image
for all future advertising.*

Bay to Ocean Conference Planning Committee:

Jo Ebling
Keith Shaffer
Leslie Walker
Ron Sauder (Advisor)

Further Assistance Provided by:

Hannah Bateman
Jim & Katie Brewster
Paul Briggs
Bill Cecil
Joan D. Cooper
Beth Dulin
Elissa Gordon
Susan Moynihan
Susan Parker
Riley Peters
Emily Rich
Olivia Salin
Carole Sellman
Merin Thomas
Kaitlyn Wright
Charlotte Zang

Dear participants,

Over its history, the Bay to Ocean Writers Conference (BTO) has attracted more than 3,900 writers from the Delmarva and Chesapeake Bay region. The Eastern Shore Writers Association (ESWA), a non-profit organization supporting writers and the literary arts, sponsors the conference as part of its educational mission. Chesapeake College has provided a secure and convenient environment for BTO since 2007.

BTO's mission is to leave you informed, encouraged, and inspired. The 25 sessions offered in today's program are keyed to the interests and needs of writers at all levels, from beginners to best-selling authors. It has been planned to enable you to put together a program of five sessions that are perfect for where you are in your writing life.

Our core learning sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. Brief descriptions of the session topics and bios of each of the presenters appear in this program. You will also find a chart listing all the offerings and maps showing the locations of where the presentations will take place. To ensure ease of travel this year, ALL sessions will take place in Kent Humanities building. Lunch will take place in the Caroline building, a short walk from the back of where you are now, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Following lunch there will be a keynote address, "Culling the Chesapeake: Oral History on the Eastern Shore", by noted local historian and author Brent Lewis from 12:30-1:00 p.m.

The conference bookstore (located in H-112) will be open throughout the day, offering the published works of our speakers, members, and others. Authors are available and pleased to sign their books. Kathy Harig, owner of Mystery Loves Company Booksellers in Oxford, Maryland, has managed the bookstore since 2009 (thank you, Kathy!). For more details, visit www.mysterylovescompany.com.

The nonprofit BTO conference is organized entirely by ESWA volunteers, many of whom have been working tirelessly throughout the year to plan today's event. They are identified by name badges. Please get to know them. They can answer your questions and are invaluable resources.

You will also find a gold evaluation form in the folder. We ask that you fill it out and return it to any of the volunteers or drop it off at the registration desk. Your thoughts and comments provide us with invaluable insight needed for future conferences.

Following tradition, we are pleased to dedicate this year's conference to the life and legacy of Eastern Shore writer Gilbert Byron (1903-1991) who is often called "The Chesapeake Thoreau" and "The Voice of the Chesapeake." His works are available in the conference bookstore, as is the Byron biography by BTO co-founder Jacques Baker.

BTO is a grand opportunity to learn from other writers as well as from our speakers. You're doing something exciting and important for your writing life and we hope you will have an enriching and fantastic experience.

Sincerely, on behalf of all our volunteers,

Kenton Kilgore and Tara A. Elliot
BTO Conference Co-Chairs



Scholarships: Participation of five students at BTO 2020 is provided by the Eastern Shore Writers Association.

Cover Photograph: "Verrazano Bridge to Assateague Island at Sunset" by Bob Balestri.

About Bob Balestri: Bob got his first camera, a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye, when he was 8 years old. He got his first SLR as a reward for caddying for his father in a golf tournament in Rochester, NY. He took a long hiatus for a very short military stint, went to college for seven years and then plied his trade in the physical sciences for 40 years. Since 2000, he has travelled the globe with his spouse Marcia, become an exclusive contributor to Getty Images, and enjoys a fair degree of success with commercial images for an international clientele.

2020 Bay to Ocean Writers Conference Program

Arrival & Check In:

Time Slots: For each of the five time slots, you may choose one of five sessions. All sessions take place in the Kent Humanities Building (where you checked in). Please note that no seats are reserved. Due to fire regulations, each classroom has its own capacity and will be closed once filled. Therefore, seats will be filled on a “first-come, first served” basis. The Cadby Theatre seats 100 and most Humanities classrooms accommodate 35-45 people.

Breaks/Snacks/Bathrooms: The scheduled 15-minute breaks between sessions should give you ample time for refreshments (located in the lobby of Kent Humanities), meeting other writers, and walking to your next session. You can also visit the BTO bookstore in the Kent Humanities building in H-112. The bookstore will remain open all day. There are bathrooms located in the building, as well as the Caroline building which houses the cafeteria.

Buffet Lunch (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.): Lunch will be held in the cafeteria of the Caroline building, a short walk across the courtyard from Kent Humanities where you checked in. Please take advantage of your time at lunch to talk with other writers and speakers. A keynote address by Eastern Shore native historian Brent Lewis will follow lunch from 12:30 p.m.-1:00 p.m., titled, “Culling the Chesapeake: Oral History on the Eastern Shore”.

Evaluation Forms: Conference evaluation forms (gold) are included in the folder you received at Check-In. Please fill out the form as you go through the day and return it to the Check-In table or to a volunteer before you leave. Your feedback is most appreciated and helps to design the next conference.

8:00 – 9:00 am Check-In

Location: Lobby, outside of Cadby Auditorium
(Kent Humanities Building)
Coatroom: Kent Humanities Room-102
Bookstore: Kent Humanities Room-112

8:00 – 8:45 am Continental Breakfast/Welcome Address

Location: Caroline Building Cafeteria (A short walk across the courtyard from the back of the Kent Humanities building where you came in.)

9:00 am Core Learning Sessions Begin

(All sessions located in Kent Humanities building.)

2020 ESWA Conference Program Table of Contents:

Welcome & 2020 Conference Committee	Inside Front Cover
2020 Conference Information	Page 1
2020 Program Sessions	Pages 2–11
2020 Program Sessions Grid	Page 12
Chesapeake College Map & Building Floor Plans	Inside Back Cover
About ESWA	Back Cover
2021 ESWA Anthology Call for Submissions	Back Cover



A Special Thanks
to Official BTO Greeter
Anny Williams

For 23 years of a smiling
warm Eastern Shore welcome!



9:00-10:00 am Sessions:



Kenton Kilgore

KENTON KILGORE • H-113

“Five for Ten” Writing

As a new writer, you may wonder how to make your work the best it can be. Join author Kenton Kilgore as he presents five overall principles and ten focused rules that will immediately improve your writing skills no matter your genre or subject matter.

Kenton Kilgore is the current ESWA President. He is the author of the young adult sci-fi/fantasy novels *This Wasted Land*, *Lost Dogs*, and *Dragontamer’s Daughter*, as well as the children’s book *Our Wild Place*, and the non-fiction book for writers, *Handselling Books: Making Money and Winning Fans*. He and his family live on Kent Island in Maryland.



Tara Campbell

TARA CAMPBELL • Cadby Auditorium

Flash Fiction: Fantastic New Forms

Have you ever looked at an order form or a recipe and thought, “There’s a story there?” No? Well, it’s time to change that. In this workshop, we’ll explore different forms of flash fiction and use them as the basis for our own off-kilter creations. These stories are often called “hermit crab” stories because they hide in unexpected shapes. Come ready to read, write, and uncover new stories of your own!

Tara Campbell (www.taracampbell.com) is a writer, teacher, Kimbilio Fellow, and fiction editor at *Barrelhouse*. Prior publication credits include *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Masters Review*, *Jellyfish Review*, *Booth*, and *Strange Horizons*. Campbell is the author of the novel *TreeVolution*, a hybrid fiction/poetry collection called *Circe’s Bicycle*, and a short story collection, *Midnight at the Organporium*. She received her MFA from American University in 2019.



Sarah Freligh

SARAH FRELIGH • Location: H-114

Beyond What the “I” Can See: Point of View for Poets

In this one-hour interactive craft talk, we’ll discuss how poems can get beyond the “I” of the beholder and the role of point of view as a series of deliberate decisions.

Sarah Freligh is the author of *Sad Math*, winner of the 2014 Moon City Press Poetry Prize and the 2015 Whirling Prize from the University of Indianapolis; *A Brief Natural History of an American Girl* (Accents Publishing, 2012), and *Sort of Gone* (Turning Point Books, 2008). Recent work has appeared in the *Cincinnati Review*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *diode*, and in the anthologies *New Microfiction* and *Best Microfiction 2019*. Among her awards are a 2009 poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts and a grant from the Constance Saltonstall Foundation in 2006.



Tara A. Elliott

TARA A. ELLIOTT • Location: H-101

Intro to the Process of Getting Pieces Published in Journals, Reviews, and Magazines

Want to know more about the process of submitting short stories, poetry, and creative nonfiction to journals, reviews, and magazines? Learn the process of using Submittable, email, and online submission forms for submitting material. Understand how important it is to track your information in one easy place. Dive into important lingo that you need to know such as “simultaneous submissions,” “first serial rights,” “query,” “masthead,” and “cover letter” in this session designed for those new to using online tools for publication.

Tara A. Elliott’s poems have appeared in *TAOS Journal of International Poetry & Art*, *The American Journal of Poetry*, *Wildness*, and *Stirring* among others. A middle grade English teacher, she is the founder and director of Salisbury, Maryland’s Poetry Week, the 2021-2022 President Elect of ESWA, and the co-chair of the Bay to Ocean Writers Conference. She has served as Poet-in-Residence for the Freeman Stage and was awarded a fellowship to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA). For more information, visit www.taraelliott.com.

9:00-10:00 am Sessions:
(continued)



Randon Billings Noble

RANDON BILLINGS NOBLE • Location: H-111

The “Hermit Crab” Essay: How to Use Borrowed Forms to Structure Your Work

Join essayist Randon Billings Noble in exploring a curious new sub-genre of creative nonfiction: the so-called “hermit crab” essay. Hermit crab essays borrow their structures from ordinary, extra-literary sources (a recipe, a syllabus, a deck of cards, a field guide, etc.) to use as a framework for a meditation on a chosen subject. In this workshop, we will read two short hermit crab essays, discuss the importance of choosing the right “shell” and generate new work. Participants will leave with a new understanding of the form, the start of a hermit crab essay of their own, and a list of places to read and publish them.

Randon Billings Noble is an essayist. Her collection *Be with Me Always* was published by the University of Nebraska Press in March 2019 and her lyric essay chapbook *Devotional* was published by Red Bird in 2017. Other work has appeared in the Modern Love column of *The New York Times*, *The Rumpus*, *Brevity*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and elsewhere. Noble has taught at American University; led writing workshops at Politics and Prose, the Writer’s Center, and the Washington National Cathedral; and has presented at conferences like HippoCamp, NonfictionNOW, and AWP. Currently she is the founding editor of *After the Art*. You can read more at www.randonbillingsnoble.com.

10:15-11:15 am Sessions:



Judy Kelly

JUDY KELLY • Location: H-113

The Essence of Dialogue: Its Ultimate Nature

To find what is needed in dialogue, to serve a purpose and have meaning, we will delve deeply into examples to discover the composition regarding purpose, importance, and meaning. We will see how dialogue gives depth and quality to character, plot, and setting. We discover the various types of dialogue and determine when and how to use them.

Judy Kelly is an award-winning author. Her latest novel, *Blessings and Curses*, was in the top ten most popular novels at the Frankfurt, Sharjah, and Guadalajara International Book Fairs, 2018. Her first novel, *That Ever Died So Young*, was a finalist in the Somerset Literary and Contemporary Fiction Award, 2014. She has given presentations on dialogue, empathy, conflict, tension, and suspense at conferences, libraries, and meetings. Kelly is a member of Eastern Shore Writers Association (ESWA), Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP), Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA), The Writing Center in Bethesda, and Maryland Writers’ Association. She teaches fiction writing at Montgomery College and Frederick Community College in the Lifelong Learning Institute. She serves as a beta reader and a reader for the prestigious Eric Hoffer Awards Program. An adjunct professor at Montgomery College, Kelly has taught speech, college reading, and English. She enjoys walking, the theater, movies, museums, reading, and writing.

JOHN DeDAKIS • Location: Cadby Auditorium

How to Write in the Voice of the Opposite Sex

Emotions are not gender specific. We all have them. It just takes a little work (okay, a LOT of work), to get into the head of the opposite sex. In this session, we’ll explore techniques for how it can be done. But the emphasis of this class goes beyond gender. The goal is also to learn ways to follow one’s curiosity about people of other races, ages, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds with an eye on creating interesting and varied characters.

Journalist, novelist, and writing coach **John DeDakis** is a former Senior Copy Editor on CNN’s “The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer.” DeDakis is the author of five novels in the Lark Chadwick mystery-suspense series. His fourth novel, *Bullet in the Chamber*, is the winner of Reviewers Choice, Foreword INDIES, and Feathered Quill book awards. In his most recent novel, *Fake*, Lark is a White House correspondent dealing with “fake news” in the era of #MeToo. DeDakis regularly teaches novel writing at The Writer’s Center in Bethesda and the Politics & Prose Bookstore in DC. He is also a jazz drummer. For more info, visit www.johndedakis.com.

10:15-11:15 am Sessions:
(continued)



Jamie Brown

JAMIE BROWN • Location: H-114

Have You Ever Wanted to Write a Sonnet?

Have you ever wanted to write a sonnet but been afraid to try? Writing in form – especially in as challenging a form as the sonnet – is not something which most people who call themselves poets do. Writing in form is something that has been considerably sneered at by those who call themselves poets, frowned upon by most editors of literary magazines and e-publications, and is, frankly, a difficult thing to do. The rewards are great, however, simply because it is difficult. The rigor and discipline in examining every word choice, rhythm, and meter in order to achieve a poem of some significance (to one personally as well as to others) will profoundly and positively affect all poets' non-form poetry.

Jamie Brown is author of *Sakura*, *Conventional Heresies*, and *Freeholder and Other Poems*. The founder and first editor of *The Broadkill Review*, he is currently CEO of The Broadkill River Press. His poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have been widely published. He taught at Wesley College and University of Delaware after twelve years of teaching at George Washington University. Brown has taught Creative Writing workshops (Intro to Creative Writing, Advanced Fiction) at Georgetown University and taught the very first Poetry workshop at the Smithsonian Institution. He helped edit several literary magazines and served as poetry critic for *The Washington Times*.

AUSTIN CAMACHO • Location: H-101

Publishing Options

Should you be published by a large publisher or a small press or should you self-publish? In this session Austin Camacho spells out the advantages and disadvantages of each approach while letting the audience make up their own minds.

Austin S. Camacho is the author of six novels about Washington DC-based private eye Hannibal Jones, five in the Stark and O'Brien international adventure-thriller series, and the detective novel, *Beyond Blue*. His short stories have been featured in several anthologies including *Dying in a Winter Wonderland*, an Independent Mystery Booksellers Association Top Ten Bestseller for 2008. He is featured in the Edgar-nominated *African American Mystery Writers: A Historical and Thematic Study* by Frankie Y. Bailey. Camacho is also editorial director for Intrigue Publishing, a Maryland small press.



Austin S. Comacho

AMBER GREEN • Location: H-111

Unlocking Your Voice: Spoken Word Activism

Explore how spoken word activist **Amber Green** unlocks raw emotion and experience to combat social justice issues in her local community. Millennial activism, so often criticized, finds hope in the revival of spoken word poetry as an adaptable advocacy, organizing, and mobilizing tool. To understand the power of words, Green plans to challenge individuals to think about the power of language and the importance of unlocking the powerful voices of the disenfranchised.

Dedicated to empowering our country's future leaders and marginalized groups, Green has served as a Youth Development Specialist for her local city government, sits on both the Youth Development Advisory Committee and Human Rights Advisory Committee, and founded Fenix Youth Project Inc., a creative arts youth development 501(c)3 nonprofit organization focused on empowering youth to make social change while using art as a tool. Green studied English literature with a concentration in communications at the historically black university, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. It was there she fell in love with digital media storytelling. Her passion for community proved to be an asset as she used her skills in video production, web design, social media management, and research to enhance her ability to become an advocate for juvenile justice and other social justice issues.



Amber Green

11:30 am-12:30 pm
Luncheon Buffet:

12:30-1:00 pm
Keynote Address



Brent Lewis

11:30 am-12:30 pm Luncheon Buffet
(Located in the Caroline Building Cafeteria)

BRENT LEWIS • Cafeteria (Located in the Caroline Building)

Culling the Chesapeake: Oral History on the Eastern Shore

Learn about the Eastern Shore's heritage of storytelling, its deep historical relevance, and its long tradition of characters with character. Join our Bay to Ocean's keynote speaker, Brent Lewis, in this informative and lighthearted speech. He plans to touch on the craft of interviewing for both fiction and nonfiction works and to encourage fellow writers to listen more strongly and find stories in the world all around them.

Brent Lewis is a native Eastern Shoreman with local roots that go back for generations. He has written for magazines, newspapers, and newsletters, and for 10 years oversaw the Kent Island Heritage Society's Oral History Program where he recorded dozens of interviews with elderly members of his community, many of whom have since passed away. He's published two nonfiction books, *Remembering Kent Island: Stories from the Chesapeake* and *A History of the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department*. He published one indie novel, *Bloody Point 1976* which takes place over America's Bicentennial weekend and is about a young Eastern Shore waterman hired to retrieve a local big wheel's daughter from The Block, Baltimore's notorious red-light district. Lewis participated in the Chesapeake Storytelling Festival and has hosted several Watermen's Story Swaps, public events featuring up to a dozen career watermen entertaining and informing audiences by sharing their tales of working on the water. He produced a series of shows featuring writers and musicians for QACTV, the Queen Anne's County public access television channel. He is a documentarian and a playwright member of the Dramatists Guild of America. Most recently his 10-minute plays *All Over but the Shouting* and *The Superhero* have been part of the annual Short Attention Span Theatre produced by The Garfield Center for the Arts at the Prince Theatre in Chestertown. His blog, easternshorebrent.com, is a popular destination for readers interested in Chesapeake Bay storytelling, history, and memoir. He is currently working on an unannounced nonfiction project.

1:15-2:15 pm Sessions:



Gail Priest

GAIL PRIEST • Location: H-113

Characterization from the Actor's Perspective

How do actors come to understand the characters they are playing? They look to the script for what motivates their character. Just as an actor portrays a character on stage or on screen, authors need to understand what motivates their characters. Participants will have an opportunity to practice objectives, obstacles, and tactics as actors using improvisation and then as writers approaching their own characters. The participants will come away with a deeper insight into how to develop characterization. They will also experience a unique way of experiencing their character as an actor does.

Gail Priest is the author the *Annie Crow Knoll* trilogy. The final novel was a Kindle Book Awards 2017 semi-finalist. *Eastern Shore Shorts*, her collection of short stories set in various Eastern Shore towns, was a 2019 International Book Awards finalist in the Fiction: Short Story category. 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*. Priest is a member of Eastern Shore Writers Association, Women's Fiction Writers Association, Artist Network Conference, and South Jersey Writers' Group where she was named Writer of the Year for 2016. Priest's career in theater as a college professor, actor, director, and playwright, along with her degree in and experiences as a counselor, significantly influence her writing.

1:15-2:15 pm
Sessions (continued):



Laura J. Oliver

LAURA J. OLIVER • Location: Cadby Auditorium

How to Hook Readers: It's a Brain Thing

The human brain has evolved to biologically respond to story in specific ways that savvy writers use to captivate readers. This workshop teaches writers to fulfill and exceed readers' hard-wired expectations from the first sentence to the last. This fun and dynamic workshop fascinates as it informs. Participants leave armed with a new understanding of the concrete elements that stories must deliver and why. Learn the difference between good stories and stories that readers (agents and publishers) just can't put down.

Laura J. Oliver publishes award-winning stories in magazines, newspapers and top-tier literary reviews such as *The Washington Post*, *The Sun Magazine*, *The Writer*, *Country Living*, and *Glimmer Train*. She is the author of *The Story Within*, *New Insights and Inspiration for Writers* (Penguin Random House) which was named by *Poets and Writers Magazine* as one of the best writing books ever published. She has taught at the University of Maryland, St. John's College, and Washington College. Oliver holds an MFA from Bennington College. Read more at www.thestorywithin.com.



Jane Edna Mohler

JANE EDNA MOHLER • Location: H-114

On Reflection: Secrets to Revision

Ever have the burning need to write a poem, and then that poem becomes ornery and refuses to move along? In this workshop we'll turn stubborn poems upside down and see what shakes out of their pockets. The "reflection" idea comes from my late friend Herb Perkins-Frederick. The reflection we see in our rear-view mirror is backwards but the perspective still contains truth. Sometimes this approach yields a better poem, a deeper understanding, or valuable parts to keep in stock. We'll briefly discuss Herb's method, then get down to work on our poems. Participants are asked to bring a short (15 lines max) poem that just won't ignite.

Jane Edna Mohler is the author of *Broken Umbrellas* (Kelsay Books, 2019). Her poems have appeared in *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *U.S. 1 Worksheets*, *River Heron Review*, and the *Boston Globe*. She is the 2016 winner of Main Street Voices, a Pushcart Prize nominee, and a frequent bridesmaid in other contests including the Bucks County Poet Laureate competition. Mohler lives in the woods of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She supports her book buying habit as a school counselor. She pretends to live on the Eastern Shore whenever possible.



We thank you for coming today.

Please be sure to fill out the gold evaluation form following each session and drop it off at the registration desk on your way out.

Interested in volunteering for the 2021 BTO conference?
Please contact baytoceanwritersconference@gmail.com

1:15-2:15 pm
Sessions (continued):



Michele Chynoweth



Judy Reveal



Cheryl Somers Aubin

COLLABORATIVE WORKSHOP • Location: H-101

First Impressions & the Editing Process

Many writers are so excited to be finished with their manuscripts that they don't take the time or use the resources needed to polish their books before publication. Or if they do find the time, they often are too close to their work to cut away what isn't needed, or rewrite for the best possible reading. The editing process plays a vital role in making sure your book is perfect. In this hands-on collaborative workshop, polished and published writers Michele Chynoweth and Judy Reveal share crucial editing tips to help you craft the best version of your book. Together, these two leading authors will show you how to create a tight, strong work worthy of submission to a publisher.

Michele Chynoweth is the best-selling and award-winning author of *The Faithful One*, *The Peace Maker*, *The Runaway Prophet* and *The Jealous Son*, contemporary suspense/romance novels that re-imagine Old Testament stories. Chynoweth is also an inspirational speaker who has addressed a variety of writers' conferences and other organizations across the country, a book coach/editor, and a writing instructor for the Continuing Education program at Cecil College. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, she and her husband have a blended family of five grown children and live in North East, Maryland.

Judy Reveal is a freelance editor, book indexer, author, and book reviewer who has worked at her profession for over 15 years. She served as President of the Eastern Shore Writers Association and the Maryland Writers Association and is an active member in both groups. Reveal worked with BTO for its first 20 years. She is currently the Managing Editor of *Crisis, Stress, and Human Resilience: An International Journal* and is an active member of the Editorial Freelancer's Association (EFA) and the National Association of Independent Writers and Editors (NAIWE).

CHERYL SOMERS AUBIN • Location: H-111

Writing the Family Memoir

Do you need help bringing your ancestors' stories to life? Are you not even sure where to start? In this class you will learn about the seven types of genealogical writing and decide which one you feel most comfortable working in. Participants will take part in writing exercises including writing prompts based on photographs and music. After each writing exercise, students will have a chance to share their work in small groups if they would like. Participants will leave the class with a greater understanding of family memoirs, resources available to help them, and enthusiasm to begin or continue their own family memoir.

Cheryl Somers Aubin has been writing and publishing for almost 30 years and her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *Foundation Magazine* and other newspapers, magazines, and online journals. She has a Master of Arts degree in Writing from Johns Hopkins University. Aubin teaches memoir writing and is a featured speaker at personal history writing symposia, writing conferences, and workshops. Her book, *The Survivor Tree: Inspired by a True Story*, is available online. She presents about her book at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, book festivals, schools, community groups, and book clubs. Learn more at www.thesurvivortree.com and www.cherylaubin.com.

2:30-3:30 pm Sessions:



Suzanne Supplee

SUZANNE SUPPLEE • Location: H-113

Pudgy in the Middle

You've written 200-plus pages. The beginning of your novel has the hook you were hoping for. The ending leaves the reader feeling satisfied. Your beta readers raved about the voice and personality and heart. Oh, boy, but that middle part ... well, it's pudgy. It drags. It needs a few laps around the track. You've read the thing over a thousand times, but fear cutting some of the middle will leave the manuscript malnourished. In this workshop we'll delve into what's really holding back your work-in-progress. We'll focus on the pudginess in the middle. No sit-ups involved!

Suzanne Supplee is the author of three young adult novels: *When Irish Guys Are Smiling* (Speak/Penguin), *Artichoke's Heart* (Dutton/Penguin), and *Somebody Everybody Listens To* (Dutton/Penguin). Suzanne earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and a master's in creative writing from Towson University. Her books have been honored on various state lists including a 2011 Golden Sower Honor and the Louisiana Teen Choice Award. *Somebody Everybody Listens To* received a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*, and was named a 2011 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults. Other works have been published by various literary magazines and online. Supplee taught creative writing for a number of years at a magnet high school in Maryland. She was recognized as an Alliance for Young Artists and Writers Gold Medal Portfolio Educator in 2015 and a Silver Medal with Distinction Educator in 2014 and 2015. Recently, she was named a University of Chicago Outstanding educator.



Meg Eden

MEG EDEN • Location: Cadby Auditorium

Writing Outside the Box: Playing with the Page

Writers are discovering that nothing is off limits on the page. Novels are coming out that emulate video games, choose-your-own-adventures, text messages, tweets, emails, and more. What can we learn from the text mediums in our daily lives, and how can we apply the strengths of these mediums to our writing? Come to this workshop to take part in a lively discussion on the possibilities for the page, as well as practice writing in unconventional mediums through a writing exercise.

Meg Eden's work is published or forthcoming in magazines including *Prairie Schooner*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *RHINO*, and *CV2*. She teaches creative writing at Anne Arundel Community College. Eden is the author of five poetry chapbooks, the novel, *Post-High School Reality Quest* (2017), and the forthcoming poetry collection, *Drowning in the Floating World* (2020). She runs the Magfest MAGES Library blog which posts accessible academic articles about video games. Find her online at www.megedenbooks.com or on Twitter at @ConfusedNarwhal.



Truth Thomas

TRUTH THOMAS • Location: H-114

The "Skinny" Poetry Workshop

In this workshop, NAACP award-winning poet Truth Thomas will teach the formal writing rules of The Skinny Poetry Form: a form of his creation that has blossomed in worldwide popularity. Workshop participants will learn the importance of concision in the composition of poetry in general and Thomas' approach to the crafting of notable work in the fixed form of the Skinny in particular. This will be a writing intensive, one of a kind, profoundly positive experience.

Truth Thomas is a singer-songwriter and poet born in Knoxville, Tennessee and raised in Washington, DC. He is the founder of Cherry Castle Publishing. Thomas earned his MFA in poetry at New England College. He has published four collections of poetry. His most recent book, *Speak Water*, won the 2013 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry. The "Skinny" poetry form is credited as Thomas' creation. A former writer-in-residence for the Howard County Poetry and Literature Society (HoCoPoLitSo), his poems have appeared in over 150 publications including *The 100 Best African American Poems* (edited by Nikki Giovanni).

2:30-3:30 pm
Sessions (continued):



Robert Bidinotto

ROBERT BIDINOTTO • Location: H-101

The Author's 2020 Guide to Career Survival

During the early "Gold Rush" years of eBooks and self-publishing, authors enjoyed free Amazon promotions and cheap advertising rates from retailers. Not anymore. Facing plunging sales in today's glutted book marketplace, many desperate authors are pouring money into ads. But competitive bidding has sent ad rates skyrocketing. Like many early beneficiaries of the "Gold Rush," bestselling thriller writer Robert Bidinotto was hit hard by changing market conditions and Amazon policies since 2018. He's had to adapt to the new reality. Now, he'll share today's most effective and affordable marketing tactics to increase your sales and forge a financially sustainable career.

Robert Bidinotto is author of *Hunter*, a #1 Kindle Bestseller in "Mysteries & Thrillers" and a *Wall Street Journal* Top Ten Fiction eBook. Its sequel, *Bad Deeds*, was named CLFA 2014 Book of the Year. His most recent thriller is *Winner Takes All*. Before turning to fiction, Bidinotto received top national journalism awards as an investigative staff writer for *Reader's Digest* and as editor of *The New Individualist* magazine. His articles and reviews have appeared in many newspapers, magazines, and online journals. Bidinotto lives on the Chesapeake Bay with his musician wife, Cynthia. Visit his website at www.bidinotto.com.



Andi Cumbo-Floyd

ANDI CUMBO-FLOYD • Location: H-111

The Story of a Place: Using Historical Locations in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction

In this presentation, Andi Cumbo-Floyd will talk about the ways to use historical events to deepen a story and give the reader a richer experience of the characters, plot, and setting of a book. Using examples from her own work in fiction and creative nonfiction, she'll discuss the role of formal and informal research (and when to stop research) in crafting a story that is complex, rich, and great to read. Her talk will cover subjects such as using archival materials and oral histories to understand the history of a location as well as how to use that information directly or in a fictionalized manner to enrich a book, short story, or essay. She will also discuss the ethical considerations about using such work: ownership, appropriation, and citation. Her presentation will be informal with plenty of room for conversation and questions. She will also incorporate many examples from various published works, including her own.

Andi Cumbo-Floyd is a writer, editor, and historian who specializes in the history and legacy of enslavement in the Mid-Atlantic. Her works include the creative nonfiction book *The Slaves Have Names* and the young adult novel *Steele Secrets*. Her work can be found at www.andilit.com.

3:30-4:30 pm Sessions:



Christie Wright Wild

CHRISTIE WRIGHT WILD • Location: H-113

The Marathon Method of Plotting

This workshop shares the similarities of running a marathon with writing a novel. It covers the five main plot points necessary to begin (or revise) your novel with lots of examples. Includes time to workshop a portion of attendee manuscripts and help identify plot points.

Christie Wright Wild is a writer of children's books and a runner of races. She writes picture books and middle grade novels (both fiction and nonfiction). She has participated in two marathons, two half marathons, and numerous 5k and 10k races. She is represented by Stacey Graham of Red Sofa Literary. When not writing or running, Wild tries to avoid doing housework. You will likely find her playing word games such as Bananagrams, Upwords, or Boggle.

3:30-4:30 pm
Sessions (continued):



Kris Faatz



Barbara "Babs" McGrory

KRIS FAATZ • Location: Cadby Auditorium

Crossing the Length Bridge: Working with Short and Long-Form Fiction

Are you a novelist eager to explore short fiction, or a short-story expert who would like to write a novel but are not sure where to start? This session is for you! We'll explore how to cross the bridge from short to long form and back again, and we'll look at common ground between the two forms, especially two specific story elements essential to both: well-developed, unique characters and "bottom story." The session will include lecture, discussion, and one or more writing exercises. You'll leave with a starting point and ideas for your next project.

Kris Faatz's short fiction has appeared in various journals including *Kenyon Review*, *The Baltimore Review*, and *100 Word Story*, and has received recognition in competitions run by *Glimmer Train*, The Woven Tale Press, and *NYC Midnight*. Her first novel, *To Love a Stranger* (released 2017 by Blue Moon Publishers), was a finalist for the 2016 Schaffner Press Music in Literature Award. Faatz has been a teaching fellow at the Kenyon Review Writers Workshops and a preliminary round judge for the Flannery O'Connor Short Fiction Award. She teaches creative writing with the Baltimore County Public Library system, Writopia Lab DC, and Baltimore Bridges.

BLW McGRORY • Location: H-114

Introduction to Pi-ku: A Contemporary Variation of Japanese Short-Form

Focusing on how brilliant Pi-ku can be written by absolutely anyone – regardless of age or level of writing experience – the presentation will begin with a brief explanation regarding the creation of Pi-ku and how its variation maintains adherence to the technical principles of haiku, senryu, haiga, shahai, monoku, and other forms of traditional Japanese poetry styles. Like haiku, the Pi-ku is syllable-based but instead of 5-7-5 it's strictly 3-1-4 (because the first three numbers of Pi are 3.14, and March 14th is Pi(e) Day). The presentation will offer a variety of prompts, giving attendees the opportunity to compose, workshop, and edit a number of Pi-ku poems throughout the hour. We will also delve into Found Pi-ku (also known as Blackout Poetry). Materials will be provided for attendees to create their own Found Pi-ku pieces. Afterward, selected works will be published in a special edition of Pi(e)-ku Poetry, an independently produced zine of Pi-ku Poetry, sold to raise money for three Delmarva-area food banks and the SPCA in Georgetown, Delaware. Launched in 2019, Pi-ku Poetry was developed as a way to use poetry to address the need for more conversation about food insecurity on the Eastern Shore.

Barbara "Babs" McGrory is a former morning radio show host and the new State of Delaware Beat Poet Laureate (2019-2021). She is the founder of Vowel Mouth Poetry, creator of #Piku314, and featured participant in 2018 Golden Haiku contest. McGrory is a self-employed eco-soldier at TREAD Delmarva, enthusiastic shutterbug at Just Delmarvalous, novice self-publisher at Mouthing-Off Press, unknown podcaster at My Dad's Crazy Old Vinyl Albums, pole-to-pole pugilist at Litterbox Riot Blog, and wannabe conglomeration at B.ink #Binkstuff. First published in 1984, her poetry has been included in a number of indie anthologies throughout the '90s, '00s, and present day.

3:30-4:30 pm Sessions:
(continued)



Ariele Sieling



Dylan Roche

ARIELE SIELING • Location: H-101

Building a Marketing Strategy: How to Decide Where to Spend Your Time and Money

When you choose to pursue your dream of becoming a full-time writer, there's always one pesky little thing that stands in the way: marketing. To make money means to tell people about your work, and this is particularly difficult when you're selling your heart and soul. So how do you decide what marketing activities are going to work and which ones aren't? How do you figure out exactly where to spend your time and money? How do you build a strategy for selling books or art from scratch? In this presentation, author Ariele Sieling takes a closer look at marketing from a high-level perspective. She discusses the "why" behind choosing a variety of marketing tactics and provides a simple system for growing and building your marketing plan.

Ariele Sieling is the author of the science fiction series *The Sagittan Chronicles*, YA science fiction series *Land of Szornyek*, and children's book series *Rutherford the Unicorn Sheep*. By day she writes websites, blogs, product descriptions, and e-learnings for non-profits and small businesses. She is also a publishing coach for those looking to self-publish and has worked with writers of all genres, from romance to academic to poetry. She lives in Baltimore with her husband, three cats, and an enormous dog.

DYLAN ROCHE • Location: H-111

Interview with a Playwright

Nearly all writing is an exploration of character: what people want, what motivates them, and how they overcome obstacles. Learn how playwriting overlaps with fiction writing and journalism, but also what makes this mode of storytelling different. This presentation will explore how to develop characters, create dialogue, explore story structure and find an audience. Learn about the many fundamentals of good storytelling that any author will appreciate and find encouraging.

Dylan Roche is a professional freelance journalist, editor, novelist, and award-winning playwright whose scripts have been produced by community theater companies in the Annapolis area. His first novel, *The Purple Bird*, is a fantasy geared toward middle grade/young adult readers and was released in March 2019. He has written feature articles for local, regional, and national publications. Visit him online at www.dylanrochewriter.com or follow him on Facebook and Twitter @dylanroche287.

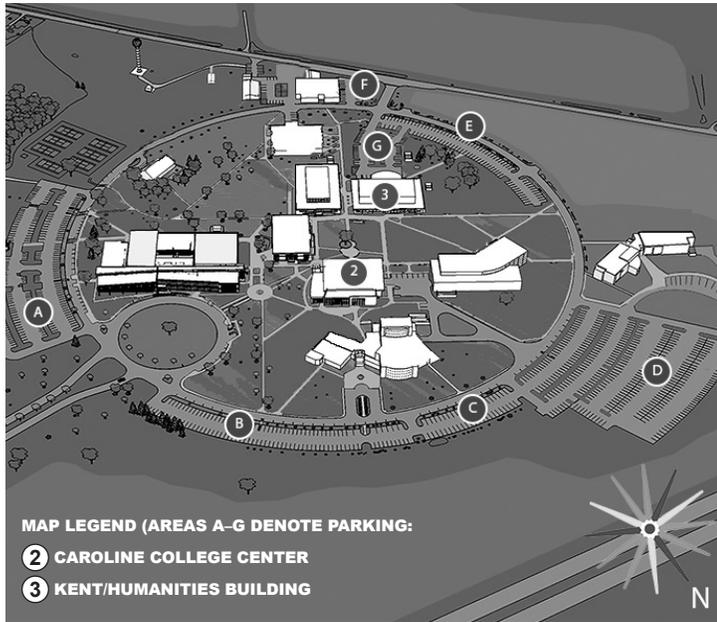
CHECK-IN: LOBBY of the KENT HUMANITIES BUILDING (outside of Cadby Auditorium)

Please Note: Following breakfast, snacks & drinks are available here all day. Coatroom: Kent Humanities Building, Room-102. Bookstore: Kent Humanities Room-112

Location		H-113	Cadby Auditorium	H-114	H-101	H-111
Time	Event	Fiction: Beginners	Fiction: Advanced	Poetry	Editing Publishing Marketing	Craft & Non-Fiction
8:00 AM	Check-In/Breakfast <i>(The Caroline Bldg. Cafeteria is a short walk across the courtyard from the back of the Kent Humanities Bldg. where you came in.)</i>					
CORE LEARNING SESSIONS BEGIN • ALL SESSIONS ARE LOCATED IN THE KENT HUMANITIES BUILDING						
9:00 AM	First Session	“Five for Ten” Writing <i>Kenton Kilgore</i>	Flash Fiction: Fantastic New Forms <i>Tara Campbell</i>	Beyond What the “I” Can See: Point of View for Poets <i>Sarah Freligh</i>	Intro to the Process of Getting Pieces Published in Journals, Reviews, and Magazines <i>Tara A. Elliott</i>	The “Hermit Crab” Essay: How to Use Borrowed Forms to Structure Your Work <i>Randon Billings Noble</i>
10:00 AM	Break					
10:15 AM	Second Session	The Essence of Dialogue: Its Ultimate Nature <i>Judy Kelly</i>	How to Write in the Voice of the Opposite Sex <i>John DeDakis</i>	Have You Ever Wanted to Write a Sonnet? <i>Jamie Brown</i>	Publishing Options <i>Austin Camacho</i>	Unlocking Your Voice: Spoken Word Activism <i>Amber Green</i>
11:15 AM	Break					
11:30 AM	Lunch • Please visit the bookstore, located in the Kent Humanities Building, Room-112					
12:30 PM	Keynote	Keynote Speaker: Brent Lewis				
1:15 PM	Third Session	Characterization from the Actor’s Perspective <i>Gail Priest</i>	How to Hook Readers: It’s a Brain Thing <i>Laura J. Oliver</i>	On Reflection: Secrets to Revision <i>Jane Edna Mohler</i>	First Impressions & the Editing Process <i>Michele Chynoweth & Judy Reveal</i>	Writing the Family Memoir <i>Cheryl Aubin</i>
2:15 PM	Break					
2:30 PM	Fourth Session	Pudgy in the Middle <i>Suzanne Supplee</i>	Writing Outside the Box: Playing with the Page <i>Meg Eden</i>	Skinny Poetry Workshop <i>Truth Thomas</i>	Author’s 2020 Guide to Career Survival <i>Robert Bidinotto</i>	The Story of a Place: Using Historical Locations in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction <i>Andi Cumbo-Floyd</i>
3:30 PM	Break					
3:45 PM	Fifth Session	The Marathon Method of Plotting <i>Christie Wright Wild</i>	Crossing the Length Bridge: Working with Short and Long-Form Fiction <i>Kris Faatz</i>	Introduction to ku: A Contemporary Variation of Japanese Short-Form <i>BLW McGrory</i>	Building a Marketing Strategy: How to Decide Where to Spend Your Time and Money <i>Ariele Sieling</i>	Interview with a Playwright <i>Dylan Roche</i>
4:45 PM	End					

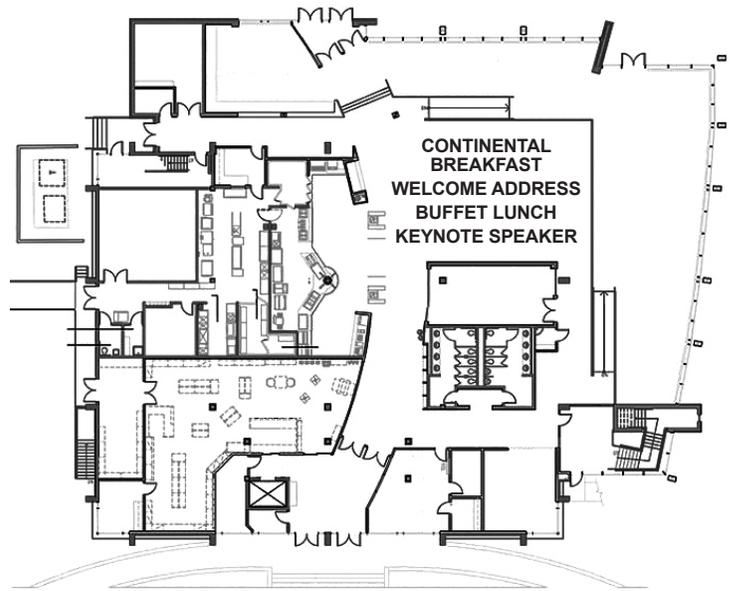
* All speakers and topics were confirmed as of the publishing deadline.

Chesapeake College Campus Map:



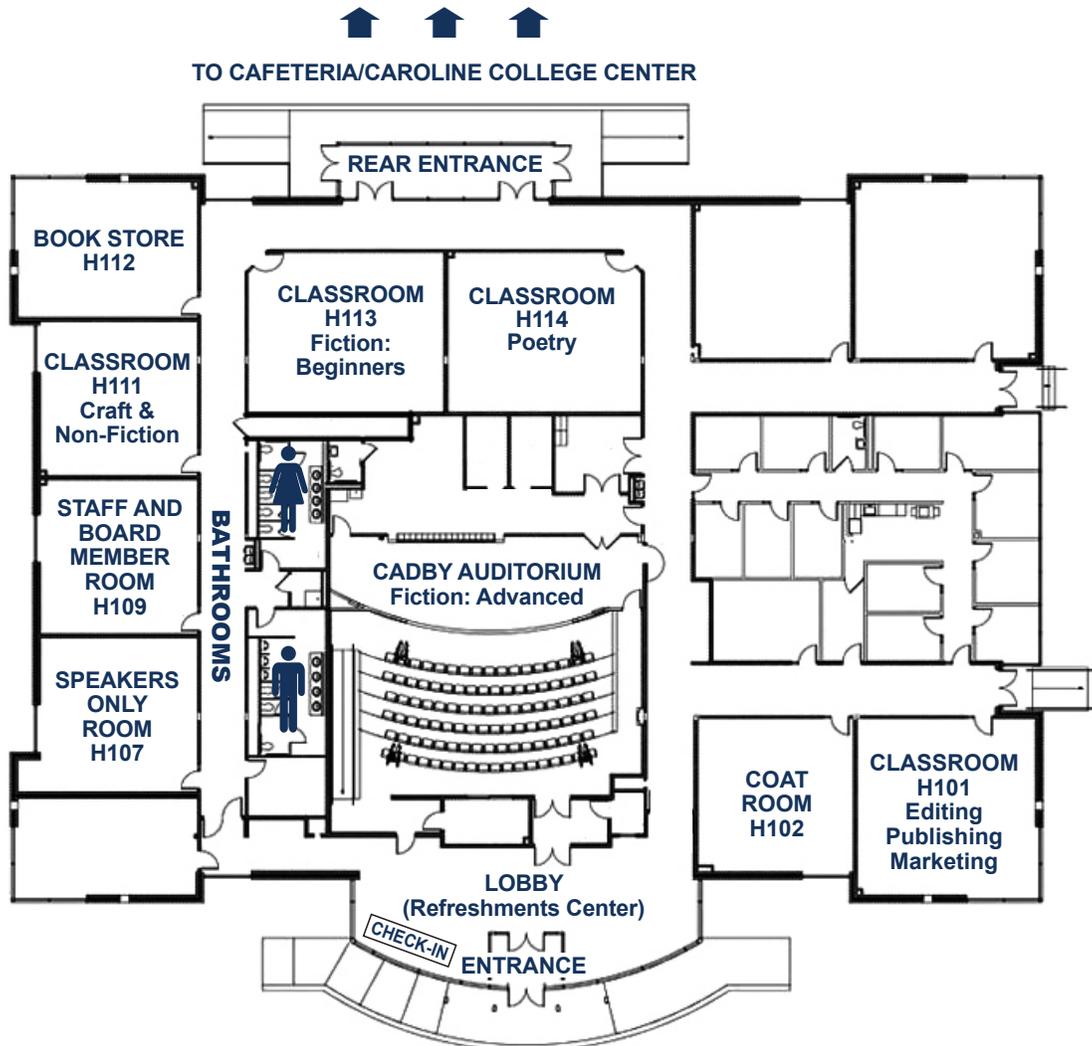
CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE CAMPUS

Building 2: Caroline College Center Floor Plan



CAROLINE COLLEGE CENTER

Building 3: Kent Humanities Building Floor Plan (All sessions are located in the Kent Humanities Building)



KENT HUMANITIES BUILDING

About ESWA



Member Benefits:

How to join ESWA:

Call for Submissions:

Welcome to the 2020 Bay to Ocean Writers Conference which is produced by the Eastern Shore Writers Association (ESWA). This year's BTO program is the best we've ever put together, but BTO is not all that ESWA does – not by far!

ESWA also publishes the acclaimed Bay to Ocean Anthology with the best short stories, poems, and essays from outstanding writers. We're excited to announce that the 2020 anthology will be guest edited by current BTO Poetry speaker Truth Thomas. In addition to our anthology, in 2020, ESWA will hold readings and writing workshops, foster local writing groups, and host other events where writers can swap experiences, learn from one another, and receive encouragement as well as inspiration. And ESWA helps to sponsor other writing events such as the Canal Town Writers Conference, The Crossroads Writers Conference, The Small Wonder Writers Conference, Open Mic opportunities, and this year's 2020 Salisbury Poetry Week with Poet-in-Residence Christopher Salerno!

What's more, ESWA is here to promote our members! We'll help you publicize your works and spread the word about your upcoming book launches and signings, speaking engagements, or whatever you're doing as a writer. It's increasingly crucial – and increasingly difficult – to find and connect with readers. We want to help.

That's what ESWA is doing now and what we will be doing as we speed into the 2020's. If you want in on that (and why wouldn't you?) then join us. Sign up to be a member or renew your membership at www.easternshorewriters.org for only \$35 a year. Unlike some other groups, we don't require you to meet certain qualifications: our membership includes prize winning, bestselling veteran pros as well as brand new, yet-to-be published beginners. We welcome all genres and viewpoints, and you don't have to live on or write about the Eastern Shore to join. Since 1985, ESWA has been a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization supporting member writers, other writers groups, and the literary arts in general throughout the Delmarva Peninsula. Whether you write fiction, nonfiction, poems, plays, or memoirs, whether you write professionally or as a hobby – or even if you don't write, but just love literature and reading – there's a place for you in ESWA.

Join us, and you will:

- **Receive** our bi-monthly newsletter telling you about upcoming events, opportunities for you and your writing and other items of interest;
- **Enjoy** discounted pricing at next year's Bay to Ocean Writers Conference, as well as for other programs and workshops held throughout the year;
- **Be eligible** to submit your fiction, nonfiction, and poetry to Bay to Ocean: The Year's Best Writing from the Eastern Shore, our ESWA members-only anthology, published annually;
- **Announce** your latest releases and promotions on the ESWA website and Facebook page;
- **Learn** about various readings, writing opportunities, and networking programs held at varying locations throughout Delmarva;
- **Connect** with other writers like you using our enhanced membership lists at www.easternshorewriters.org.

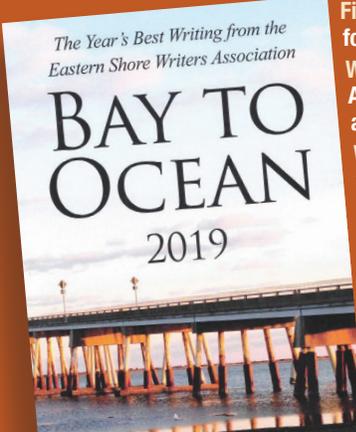
What are you waiting for? To join ESWA, sign up at www.easternshorewriters.org. If you prefer, you can write to us at: ESWA | P.O. Box 1773 | Easton, MD 21601. Come along and see what else ESWA can do for you and your writing!

Kenton Kilgore, President, Eastern Shore Writers Association



Eastern Shore Writers Association 3rd Annual Bay to Ocean Anthology

We are enthusiastically accepting applications for the 3rd Annual *Bay to Ocean Anthology*, a publication celebrating the very best fiction, nonfiction and poetry from the Eastern Shore Writers Association.



The Year's Best Writing from the Eastern Shore Writers Association
BAY TO OCEAN
2019

Final selections will be made by Guest Editor, Truth Thomas, founder and editor of Cherry Castle Publishing.

Who May Submit: Any ESWA member in good standing. All attendees of the 2020 Bay to Ocean conference are automatically eligible to submit.

What to Submit: Fiction or nonfiction of not more than 5,000 words. Poetry submissions of not more than three poems. Only one submission per writer per genre.

How to Submit: Works are accepted online through the ESWA website, Easternshorewriters.org

Deadline: March 31, 2020

Selected entries will be bound in a handsome volume. All selected writers will receive two complementary issues.

Questions? Please contact Managing Editor, Emily Rich at emilyjuanita.rich@verizon.net