

EASTERN SHORE WRITERS ASSOCIATION



# Bay to Ocean

WRITERS CONFERENCE

MARCH 5, 2022

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE | WYE MILLS, MD

# 2022 Sessions Schedule

**REGISTRATION:** 8:00 – 9:00 | Lobby, outside of Cadby Auditorium (Kent Humanities Building)

**BREAKS:** 10:30 – 10:45 | 3:30 – 3:45

**LUNCH:** 12:15 – 1:00 | Caroline Building Cafeteria

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** 1:00 – 1:45 | Caroline College Center



	9:00 – 10:30	10:45 – 12:15	2:00 – 3:30	3:45 – 5:15
<b>Fiction I</b> Room: H-101	How to Structure an Un-Put-Downable Story <b>Robert Bidinotto</b>	Begin at the Beginning <b>Judy Kelly</b>	Finding Your Story Purpose <b>Dylan Roche</b>	From Novice to Novelist <b>John DeDakis</b>
<b>Fiction II</b> Cadby Auditorium	Shedding Light on Your Characters <b>Kris Faatz</b>	Plan a Series with Ease <b>Tracee Lydia Garner</b>	Flash Flash Stories <b>Wendy Brown-Baez</b>	Bringing Your Story to Life with Captivating Scenes <b>Linda Budzinski</b>
<b>Poetry I</b> Room: H-113	The Joy of Light Verse <b>Pat Valdata</b>	On Reflection: Shine A Fresh Light on Revision <b>Jane Edna Mohler</b>	True Confessions: How to Write Memoir Poetry <b>Christopher T. George</b>	"Light" - the Utility Word <b>David P. Kozinski</b>
<b>Poetry II</b> Room: H-114	Pulling Down Stars: Using Lorca's Deep Song and Duende to Illuminate Tone in Your Poetry <b>Elizabeth Mercurio</b>	Particle and Wave: Strengthening Poems' Sonic Power <b>Catherine W. Carter</b>	Writing Love Poems <b>Kim Roberts</b>	The Ferro Rod of Forms <b>Truth Thomas</b>
<b>Publishing &amp; Editing</b> Room: H-109	Welcome to Your Book! <b>Katharine Sands</b>	Shedding Light on the Agent Hunt <b>Elle E. Ire &amp; Jose Iriarte</b>	Spotlight on Literary Magazines: 10 Tips for Submitting Your Work <b>Melanie Figg</b>	Revising with Focus: The Guiding Light of the Novel <b>Meg Eden</b>
<b>Marketing</b> Room: H-112	0 to 30: Kicking Your Author Career Into Gear <b>Ariele Sieling</b>	Enjoy Reading Your Work in Public <b>Gail Priest</b>	A Marketing Plan to Shine Light on Your Work <b>Austin S. Camacho</b>	Lights, Camera, Action! Publicity, Promotions, Public Speaking, and More <b>Michele Chynoweth</b>
<b>Craft</b> Room: H-111	Humor Writing How-To <b>Laura J. Oliver</b>	Ditch the Doldrums: Generating New Work <b>Tara Campbell</b>	Wait for the Light: Resisting Resolution, Easy Reach and Wrapping It Up in Our Writing <b>Nancy Mitchell</b>	Illuminating Conversations: Interviews and Oral Histories for Better Fiction and Nonfiction <b>Brent Lewis</b>
<b>Specialty Writing</b> Room: H-102	Writing Things That Encourage Kids To Be Good Humans <b>Lynne Streeter Childress</b>	Exploring Grief Writing <b>Diane Zinna</b>	Crash Course in the Lyric Essay <b>Randon Billings Noble</b>	Light: The Backdrop of our Memories <b>Lizzy Solovey</b>

# Welcome to the 25th Bay to Ocean Writers Conference!

Dear Bay to Ocean Participants,

Over its 25-year history, the Bay to Ocean Writers Conference (BTO) has attracted more than four thousand writers from the surrounding Chesapeake Bay region. Sponsored by Eastern Shore Writers Association (ESWA), a non-profit organization supporting writers and the literary arts, BTO is organized entirely by ESWA volunteers, many of whom have been working tirelessly throughout the year to plan your special writing adventure today. It is our mission is to leave you informed, encouraged, and inspired in your writing.

The 34 sessions offered in today's program are keyed to the interests and needs of writers at all levels, from those just starting to seasoned published authors. Our committee has carefully curated the day's sessions and assigned them to tracks, allowing you the ability to put together a personalized program of four 90-minute sessions perfect for your writing needs. You can follow an entire track from start to finish or attend a mix of sessions. Brief descriptions of the session topics and the biographies of each of the presenters appear in this program alphabetically by speaker's last name. You will also find a grid listing all the offerings, and maps showing the locations of where the presentations will take place.

Please note that ALL sessions will take place in the Kent Humanities Building. Lunch will be from 12:15-1:00. Boxed lunches will be provided in the Kent Humanities Building. Due to the college's social distancing protocols, no more than 100 people may eat in the cafeteria at the Caroline Center, a short walk from the back of where you checked in. You may also eat in any of the Kent Humanities classrooms. Following lunch, please join us in the Caroline Center for featured readings from Austin Camacho, Nancy Mitchell, and James Arthur. This will be followed by our keynote address, "The Year of Yes!", by noted poet, author, and Folger Shakespeare Library Poetry Coordinator, Teri Ellen Cross Davis, co-winner of the Maryland State Art Council's 2022 Independent Arts Award.

Bay to Ocean Writers Conference is a fantastic opportunity to learn from other writers as well as from our speakers, and we hope you'll enjoy networking as well as attending our dynamic learning sessions. You're doing something extraordinary for your writing career today and we hope you will have an enriching experience!

Sincerely, on behalf of all our volunteers and speakers,

**Kenton Kilgore and Tara A. Elliott**  
Bay to Ocean Conference Chairs



*Cover Artwork: "Tranquility" by Kate Meyer ([www.milbybarnstudio.com](http://www.milbybarnstudio.com))*

## Bay to Ocean Volunteers

Please help us thank the following people who have devoted both time and energy into coordination and hosting of today's events...

**Welcomer:** Anny Williams

**Registration:** Jo Ebling, Caroline Kalfas, Marie Leonard, Joyce Maust, Fran Severn

**Bay to Ocean Journal Managing**

**Editor & Sales:** Emily Rich

## Session Hosts:

James Arthur Session I, Caroline Kalfas

James Arthur Session II, Joyce Maust

Fiction I, Nathan Horowitz

Fiction II, Salvatore Roseo

Poetry I, Amber Collins

Poetry II, Kari Ebert

Marketing, Molly Hill

Publishing & Editing, Jackie Oldham

Craft, Kaitlyn Wright

Specialty Writing, Jeff Scott

Assistant to Chairs, Willie Schatz

## Interested in Assisting

All ESWA members are welcome to join our planning committee. We're seeking session hosts, proofreaders, social media assistance, advertising coordinators, on-site assistance, scholarship facilitators, and more for our 26th annual Bay to Ocean Conference. Come be part of an extraordinary team of those seeking to give back to the writing community, enjoy the day and a one-year membership to ESWA free-of-charge.

## Scholarships

Thanks for the kind and generous patronage of several ESWA members, we were able to fully fund six student scholarships, and two adult scholarships this year. Thank you so much for your donations. If you'd like to fund a scholarship to help fund student guests and writers in need for the 26th annual BTO conference, please contact [bayoceanwritersconference@gmail.com](mailto:bayoceanwritersconference@gmail.com)

## Follow Us Online

**Web:** [www.easternshorewriters.org](http://www.easternshorewriters.org)

**FB:** [@easternshorewriters](https://www.facebook.com/easternshorewriters)

## Please Note

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

**UPON ARRIVAL****8:00 – 9:00 am****Check-In / Registration**

Location: Lobby, outside of Cadby Auditorium (Kent Humanities Building)

**9:00 am****Core Learning Sessions Begin**

Please report directly to your first session. All sessions are located in the Kent Humanities Building.



**In time-honored BTO tradition, we dedicate this year's conference to Gilbert Byron, "Thoreau of the Chesapeake", and to those who have lost their lives and loved ones to COVID-19.**

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**2022 Program**

**Time Slots:** For each of the four time slots, you may choose one of eight 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-107. The bookstore will remain open all day. There are bathrooms located in the building, as well as the Caroline building which houses the cafeteria.

**Lunch (12:15 – 1:00):** Boxed lunches will be provided in the Kent Humanities Building. Due to the college’s social distancing protocols, no more than 100 people may eat in the cafeteria at the Caroline Center, a short walk across the courtyard. You may also eat in any of the Kent Humanities classrooms. We hope you enjoy your lunchtime, and network with other writers and speakers.

**Featured Readings & Keynote Address:** After lunch, beginning at 1 PM, everyone will be admitted to the Cafeteria (Caroline Center) masked for our featured readings and keynote address. Featured readers include Austin Comacho, Nancy Mitchell, and James Arthur! The readings will be followed by “The Year of Yes!”—a keynote address by Teri Ellen Cross Davis!

**Evaluation Forms:** Evaluations will be done entirely online this year. Links to this year’s surveys will be displayed on the Eastern Shore Writers Association’s website during the day. Just click and type! Don’t have your device with you? Links to the surveys will be emailed to you the following day!

**Eastern Shore Writers Association**

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 memoir, 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.

**ESWA | P.O. Box 1773  
Easton, MD 21601**

[www.easternshorewriters.org](http://www.easternshorewriters.org)

**9:00 – 10:30****10:45 – 12:15****JAMES ARTHUR | SPECIAL SESSIONS | H-132****Poetry Critique Workshop** (*both sessions: SOLD OUT*)

In this workshop we’ll explore the many ways that poets can tell stories, make music, and create meaning. Participants can expect detailed line-level feedback on their work; from time to time the poems under discussion will also serve as jumping-off points for more general conversations about poetic technique. Throughout the session the instructor will provide participants with useful examples drawn from the work of both contemporary and non-contemporary writers.

■ Canadian-American poet **James Arthur** is the author of *The Suicide’s Son* (Véhicule Press 2019) and *Charms Against Lightning* (Copper Canyon Press, 2012.) His poems have also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The American Poetry Review*, *The New Republic*, and *The London Review of Books*. He has received the Amy Lowell Travelling Poetry Scholarship, a Hodder Fellowship, a Stegner Fellowship, a Discovery/The Nation Prize, a Fulbright Scholarship to Northern Ireland, and a Visiting Fellowship at Exeter College, Oxford. Arthur lives in Baltimore where he teaches in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University.

**9:00 – 10:30****ROBERT BIDINOTTO | FICTION I | H-101****How to Structure an Un-Put-Downable Story**

Readers want a story that grabs them at the beginning and then grips them till the end—one whose suspenseful pacing makes it “un-put-downable.” But how do you craft a tale that keeps them turning pages? Whether you write by the “seat of the pants” or are a detailed planner, how you structure your story is critical to making it a riveting, memorable experience for your readers. In this presentation, best-selling thriller novelist Robert Bidinotto sheds light on classic plot-structure forms that great storytellers use to entrance readers from the first page to the last. You’ll learn how to structure and pace tales that, at the end, will leave your readers exclaiming, “I couldn’t put it down!”—and eagerly awaiting your next story.

■ **Robert Bidinotto** is the *Wall St. Journal* bestselling author of *Hunter*, the debut novel in his Dylan Hunter thrillers series. A former award-winning magazine editor and investigative journalist for *Reader’s Digest*, he also is a popular speaker, and a freelance editor of fiction and nonfiction books. His thrillers and nonfiction books are available on Amazon in ebook, print, and audio editions.

**2:00 – 3:30****RANDON BILLINGS NOBLE | SPECIALTY WRITING | H-102****Crash Course in the Lyric Essay**

Join essayist Randon Billings Noble for a crash course in the lyric essay. What makes an essay “lyric?” What are the benefits of using imagery and intuition to explore a line of thought instead of narrative and exposition? In this session we will discuss the possibilities and pleasures of the lyric essay. We will read short examples, look at some of the myriad forms a lyric essay can take (like flash, braided, and hermit crab), consider the ways form can intensify content, and do some sketching towards a lyric essay of our own. Participants will leave with a new understanding of the lyric essay as well as 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 2019 and her anthology of lyric essays, *A Harp in the Stars*, is forthcoming from Nebraska in October 2021. Other work has appeared in the Modern Love column of *The New York Times*, *The Rumpus*, *Brevity*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and elsewhere. Currently she is the founding editor of the online literary magazine *After the Art* and teaches in West Virginia Wesleyan’s Low-Residency MFA Program and Goucher’s MFA in Nonfiction Program. You can read more at her website, [www.randonbillingsnoble.com](http://www.randonbillingsnoble.com).

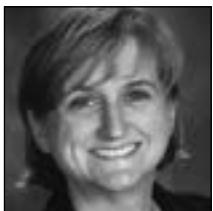
2:00 – 3:30

**WENDY BROWN-BAEZ | FICTION II | CADBY AUDITORIUM****Flash Flash Stories**

We've heard of flash fiction, a story told in less than 1000 words. Flash Flash is a way to create a story by focusing on specific moments, the way you flip through a box of photographs. We'll try our hand at writing stories that are not based on chronological order, with playfulness, imagery, and imagination. You can use either fiction or memories as the raw material for this process of priceless is more. We'll shake up the usual ways of following a story line in order to bring aha! moments into focus.

■ **Wendy Brown-Baez** is the creator of *Writing Circles for Healing* and author of the writers' guide *Heart on the Page: A Portable Writing Workshop*, a novel *Catch a Dream* and a poetry collection *Ceremonies of the Spirit*. Her poetry and prose appear widely in literary journals and anthologies, including *Mizna*, *Wising Up Press*, *Poets & Writers*, *Talking Writing*, *Water~Stone Review*, *Peregrine*, *Duende*, and *Tiferet*. Wendy leads creative writing classes in community spaces such as healing centers, prisons, libraries, and churches. She is a member of Mn Prison Writing Workshop, *Writing to Wholeness Collective*, and *The Loft Literary Center*.

3:45 – 5:15

**LINDA BUDZINSKI | FICTION II | CADBY AUDITORIUM****Lights, Camera, Action: Bringing Your Story to Life with Captivating Scenes**

The building blocks of fiction are scenes, and this interactive workshop will share how to write scenes so vivid, your readers will picture them as though they're playing out on the big screen. Discover how to incorporate—and ensure a proper balance—of the four essential elements of the scene:

- Action
- Dialogue
- Internal Dialogue
- Description

This workshop will take you through guided writing exercises to help you develop the first draft of an effective scene.

■ **Linda Budzinski** is the author of four young adult novels, including *Em & Em*, which has been optioned for development as a TV series and was named a "Must Read for Teens" by *Your Teen Magazine*, as well as *The Boyfriend Whisperer*, winner of the Romance Writers of America YA Chapter's Rosemary Award. Her short story *The Merrifield Affair* appears in the *Beach Secrets* anthology published in November 2021 by *Cat & Mouse Press*. When she's not writing, Linda works in nonprofit communications and outreach.

2:00 – 3:30

**AUSTIN S. CAMACHO | MARKETING | H-112****A Marketing Plan to Shine a Light on Your Work**

Shining a light on your writing through promotion takes careful planning. There are dozens of possible techniques you can use to promote your work including advertising, social media and personal appearances. But what tools are best for you, and when should you use them? Answering those questions is the reason a book marketing plan is an essential part of the process. In this class we'll explain how to build a great marketing plan.

■ **Austin S. Camacho** is the author of seven 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.

10:45 – 12:15

**TARA CAMPBELL | CRAFT | H-111****Ditch the Doldrums: Generating New Work**

Embrace the element of surprise to shake off writer's block and do some new work. In this open-genre workshop, you'll encounter three different prompts—textual, visual, and aural—to use as a basis for your own new creations. We will discuss each prompt as a group initially, to help get ideas flowing before you start writing. Whether you write poetry or prose, this workshop will provide time and inspiration to help you out of your artistic rut. Come ready to explore, discuss, and write!

■ **Tara Campbell** is a writer, teacher, Kimbilio Fellow, and fiction co-editor at *Barrelhouse*. She received her MFA from American University. Previous publication credits include *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *Masters Review*, *Wigleaf*, *Jellyfish Review*, *Booth*, *Strange Horizons*, and *Craft Literary*. She's the author of a novel, *TreeVolution*, and four collections: *Circe's Bicycle*, *Midnight at the Organporium*, *Political AF: A Rage Collection*, and *Cabinet of Wrath: A Doll Collection*. Connect with her at [www.taracampbell.com](http://www.taracampbell.com) or on Twitter @TaraCampbellCom

10:45 – 12:15

**CATHERINE CARTER | POETRY II | H-114****Particle and Wave: Strengthening Poems' Sonic Power**

In this discussion-based workshop, Eastern Shore native and poet Catherine Carter uses contemporary poems to discuss a few of the ways in which a poem can be built around the sounds of single words, model one possible process for revising a poem in this way, and encourage participants to do this with their own works. Participants should bring hard copy of one or two of their own short poems (no more than a page) to work on.

■ **Catherine Carter**'s collections of poetry with LSU Press include *The Memory of Gills* (2006), *The Swamp Monster at Home* (2012), and *Larvae of the Nearest Stars* (2019). Her poetry has won the North Carolina Literary Review's James Applewhite Prize, the NC Literary and Historical Society's Roanoke-Chowan Award, Jacar Press' chapbook contest, and Caldwell County Arts Council's Western NC Regional Poetry Contest; it has also appeared in *Best American Poetry 2009*, *Orion*, *Poetry*, *Ecotone*, *Tar River Poetry*, and *Ploughshares*, among others. Raised on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, she is now professor of English at Western Carolina University.

9:00 – 10:30

**LYNNE STREETER CHILDRESS | SPECIALTY WRITING | H-102****Writing Things That Encourage Kids To Be Good Humans (and won't make their parents leave the room)**

In this presentation, participants will receive tips on how to write engaging, fun works for audiences that encourage character-building. Our goal is to present kid-centered work that is clear and entertaining but doesn't talk down, and fosters discussion between children and adults.

■ **Lynne Streeter Childress** is a playwright, actor, teaching artist, singer, director, and the founder and artistic director of *Building Better People Productions*, a professional theater company based in Annapolis, MD, that does shows for young audiences all based in themes of kindness, respect and the things that make us all better people. This is her 27th year in professional theater, with much of that experience in theater for young audiences. This includes performing at the Kennedy Center, Arena Stage and Adventure Theatre, and teaching for institutions like the Folger Shakespeare Library. Through all those experiences, Lynne has seen firsthand how theater can communicate the most important things in the clearest and most interesting of ways, especially to young people. Lynne lives in Annapolis, Maryland with her husband and son.

3:45 – 5:15

**MICHELE CHYNOWETH | MARKETING | H-112****Lights, Camera, Action!**

Publicity, promotions, public speaking, platform... the words can strike terror into some writers who just want to hide away at their desks and write. But marketing your book is important now more than ever and stepping into the limelight is crucial. Author, speaker, book coach and marketing expert Michele Chynoweth will share tips on how you can be your own best publicist and provide training on developing your press release and media kit, solid advice on becoming a better public speaker and overcoming your fear of public speaking, and tips on getting more publicity by landing TV, radio and podcast gigs so that you can sell more copies of your book. She'll even talk about pitching your book to movie producers, and to agents by developing a better platform so you will shine!

■ **Michele Chynoweth** is a book coach and the best-selling and award-winning author of *The Faithful One*, *The Peace Maker*, *The Runaway Prophet* and *The Jealous Son*, contemporary suspense novels that re-imagine Bible stories. Michele is also a sought-after public speaker who has addressed a variety of writers' conferences and other organizations across the country, a professional editor, college writing instructor and founder of "Your Book Done Right" Master Class and Elite Coaching. She's a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and lives with her husband in North East, Maryland.

1:00 – 1:45

**TERI ELLEN CROSS DAVIS | KEYNOTE | CAROLINE CENTER****The Year of “Yes!”**

Teri Ellen Cross Davis will address pushing past feelings of imposter syndrome and break down the (self-built) walls that can keep you from expanding your writing.

After an unconventional year of “no,” “maybe,” or “wait,” let’s usher in a year of “Yes!” We may not be able to travel literal roads to other countries, but our minds can lead our talents on figurative paths to different outcomes. Teri Ellen Cross Davis will talk about expanding your willingness to try something different: be it a sonnet or haibun, prose or memoir, screenplay or flash fiction, why not say “Yes” and let your pen wander? With examples for inspiration, Cross Davis will discuss her own journey past the outpost of imposter syndrome to the land of something tried and something new. Let the journey begin.

■ **Teri Ellen Cross Davis** is the author of *a more perfect Union*, (winner of the 2019 *Journal/Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize*, Mad Creek Books) and *Haint*, (winner of the 2017 *Ohioana Book Award for Poetry*, Gival Press, 2016). She was awarded the Poetry Society of America's 2020 Robert H. Winner Memorial Award and is the recipient of grants from the Sustainable Arts Foundation and The Freya Project. A member of the Black Ladies Brunch Collective, she has been awarded fellowships and scholarships to Cave Canem, the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Hedgebrook, Community of Writers Poetry Workshop, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Hermitage Artist Retreat, and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. Her work has appeared in print, online, and in many journals and anthologies including: *Academy of American Poets*, *Deep Beauty*; *Not Without Our Laughter*; *Harvard Review*, *PANK*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, and *Kenyon Review*. She was the 2019-2020 HoCoPoLitSo Writer-in-Residence for Howard County, Maryland, and is the current Poetry Coordinator for the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C. She lives in Maryland with her husband, poet Hayes Davis and their two children.

3:45 – 5:15

**JOHN DEDAKIS | FICTION I | H-101****From Novice to Novelist**

A practical 15-point plan that demystifies and deconstructs novel-writing—from the mere germ of an idea—all the way through the creative process, with an eye on getting a finished book into the hands of potential fans. We'll discuss how to tap into your subconscious and life experiences to transform them into a book-length project, populated with interesting characters, a twisty-turny plot, snappy dialogue, and an interesting setting. We'll also look at strategies for finding an agent, marketing the finished product, and facing your writing and marketing fears.

■ **John Dedakis** is a former editor on CNN's "The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer." DeDakis is the author of five mystery-suspense novels. 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," protagonist Lark Chadwick is a White House correspondent dealing with "fake news" in the era of #MeToo. "Fake" earned Honorable Mention for the *Reviewers Choice Award* and was a Finalist for *Killer Nashville's Silver Falchion*.

3:45 – 5:15

**MEG EDEN | PUBLISHING & EDITING | H-109****Revising with Focus: The Guiding Light of the Novel**

Once you've written a draft, it can be difficult to figure out where to go next. A range of people will provide feedback, but who is right? How do you go about discerning what to edit and what to keep the same? To effectively edit, it's critical to identify a novel's underlying argument—it's heart and guiding light. In this workshop, we'll discuss the "thesis statement" approach to editing, looking at examples of novels' "thesis statements," as well as providing exercises to help you identify and hone in on your novel's thesis to use to guide your editing process.

■ **Meg Eden** is a 2020 Pitch Wars mentee, and winner of the 2021 Towson Prize for Literature. Her 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. She is the author of five poetry chapbooks, the novel *"Post-High School Reality Quest* (2017), and the poetry collection, *Drowning in the Floating World* (2020). Find her online at [www.megedenbooks.com](http://www.megedenbooks.com) or on Twitter at @ConfusedNarwhal

9:00 – 10:30

**KRIS FAATZ | FICTION I | H-101****Shedding Light on Your Characters**

This session is designed to help writers of fiction (all genres) and nonfiction dig deeply into character development. We'll talk about why character is the most important element of writing—no matter what genre you work in—ways to reveal character on the page; and how to get to know your characters both before you start working and as your stories develop. The session will include exercises using both assigned characters that you will flesh out, and your own creations that you'd like to get to know better. Writers will have the opportunity to share what they create in session with the group, and get feedback. You'll leave the session with tools you can apply to any project.

■ **Kris Faatz**'s short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in journals including *Craft*, *Baltimore Review*, and *Streetlight Magazine*. Her first novel, *To Love A Stranger* (Blue Moon Publishers, 2017), was a finalist for the 2016 Schaffner Press Music in Literature Award. Her second novel, *Fourteen Stones*, is forthcoming in 2022 from *The Patchwork Raven* (Wellington, NZ). Kris teaches creative writing for the Community College of Baltimore County and for the Baltimore County public library system. She is also a performing pianist.

2:00 – 3:30

**MELANIE FIGG | PUBLISHING & EDITING | H-109**

## Spotlight on Literary Magazines: 10 Tips for Submitting Your Work

Are you ready to submit your stuff (short fiction, poetry, personal essays, hybrids) to literary magazines, or improve your acceptance rate? In this workshop with writer and editor Melanie Figg (she's judged writing contests as well as worked at Quarterly West, Graywolf Press, and others), you'll learn how to professionally present your work and yourself to online and print literary magazines. You'll also learn what makes effective cover letters and biographies, how to find magazines that are a good fit for your work, how to combat rejection, and other helpful tips.

■ **Melanie Figg** is the author of the award-winning poetry collection, *Trace* (named one of the Best Indie Books of 2020 by Kirkus Reviews), and is currently working on a hybrid memoir. She's won grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Maryland State Arts Council and others, and her poems and essays are published widely. Melanie teaches writing in the DC area, as well as privately. As a certified professional coach, she offers women's writing retreats, manuscript reviews, and works 1-1 with writers to demystify the business of writing, finish their projects, and build more confidence and ease as a writer.

10:45 – 12:15

**TRACEE LYDIA GARNER | FICTION II | CADBY AUDITORIUM**

## Plan a Series with Ease

Nothing like starting what you feel is a stand-alone title, only to find out there are at least three, maybe even six more books to be written connected to the first one. Writing a series is hot business these days. Readers love to visit with all the iterations of a single-family saga, glimpses of characters they have fallen in love with, siblings who made cameo appearances, extended family, and friends, all who add to multi book-length problems. Even prequels are just more fodder of "where it all began" and excellent to explore as well. Avoid the headache of not correctly documenting vital components of your books, avoid naming issues and redundancy, plotting disasters, and an entire list of other potential pitfalls to help participants gear their series from the get-go.

■ **Tracee Lydia Garner** is a 20-year veteran author and publisher of more than 14 titles. She is both traditionally and self-published in fiction and is a person of color with a disability who uses a wheelchair. Tracee loves helping other aspiring writers finish and publish their books. She has coached more than 15 writers who have worked with her to complete their projects and held their hand through the maze of publishing and marketing options until their book is available for sale on Amazon and other bookseller sites. Tracee resides in the Northern Virginia area with her family while pounding her keys in only pockets of time committed to her craft, all while maintaining an almost fifteen-year career as a case manager for a DC-based nonprofit organization.

## VISIT THE BAY TO OCEAN BOOKSTORE! @ H-107

*Open all the day and offering many of the works of our speakers.*

**BTO THANKS Mystery Loves Company for serving the BTO conference community for so many years!**

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2:00 – 3:30

**CHRISTOPHER T. GEORGE | POETRY I | H-113**

## True Confessions: How to Write Memoir Poetry

Shed light on life by writing verses that capture your own life experiences or those of family members or people in history. Join published historian and poet, Christopher T. George, as he uncovers what truly makes people "tick." The workshop will discuss examples and methods of writing memoir poetry. Class discussion will center around participants' ideas for poems and include a writing period with appropriate prompts followed by additional discussion and Q&A.

■ **Christopher T. George** was born in Liverpool, England in 1948 in the same hospital where John Lennon of the Beatles was born. His self-published autobiographical poem "Toxteth" told the story of his immigration to the U.S. age 7 and going back to attend school in Liverpool in the Sixties. He has published poetry and essays for over 50 years as well as several history books, including "Terror on the Chesapeake: The War of 1812 on the Bay" (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane, 2000) and appeared as a "talking head" on the History Channel and in Maryland Public Television's Francis Scott Key docudrama "FSK." He lives in Newark, Delaware with his wife Donna and sister-in-law Lisa, two cats, and a Mini-Pinscher.

10:45 – 12:15

**ELLE E. IRE & JOSE IRIARTE | PUBLISHING & EDITING | H-109**

## Shedding Light on the Agent Hunt

Finding and acquiring a literary agent can feel like stumbling down a dark tunnel without a flashlight. Elle Ire and her partner, Jose Iriarte, will shine a beacon into that shadowy abyss going step-by-step through the process including finding literary agents to query, writing the query letter, pitching to agents at conferences, fielding "the call," choosing between multiple agent offers, what it's like to work with an agent, and finally, what to do if the agent/client relationship isn't working out. Between them, Elle and Jose have been offered agent representation fifteen times and worked with a total of five different agents.

■ **Elle E. Ire & Jose Iriarte** As a presenting team, Elle and Jose have a wide and varied range of experience. Elle is a bisexual author of four traditionally published lesbian and bisexual science fiction/romance novels with four more already contracted. Jose is a Nebula award finalist and on the board of directors of the Science Fiction Writers of America. He is multi-published in short stories and a novelette. Both have had multiple offers of agent representation. Elle has worked with four different literary agents. They also happen to be a married couple who enjoy teasing one another about their different approaches to publication while instructing their audience on the various possible paths to take.

10:45 – 12:15

**JUDY KELLY | FICTION I | H-101**

## Begin at the Beginning

You can write. You know you can. Over the years, your teachers in all your English classes have praised your writing. Your friends and spouses say you can write. You love to read, and you carry stories around in your head. But you ask yourself, How do I begin a novel or a short story? In this work session, we will explore a variety of story openings across genres and see the patterns. You will learn how to open your short story or novel by following a few steps. From there, you will launch into your story. Come with a good and lengthy summary of your story, your characters, and setting, and be prepared to write or type.

■ **Judy Kelly** is an award-winning author. Her first novel, *Blessings and Curses*, was a finalist in Readers Favorite Award for 2020, and a Top Ten Most Popular Novel at Frankfort, Sharjah, and Guadalajara International Book Fairs in 2018. *That Ever Died So Young*, was a finalist in Somerset Literary and Contemporary Fiction Award for 2014. She presents at conferences, libraries, and meetings. She's a member in several organizations. She teaches fiction writing at Montgomery College, and Frederick Community College. She's an adjunct professor at Montgomery College teaching speech, college reading and English. She enjoys walking, live theatre, movies, museums, reading and writing.

3:45 – 5:15

**DAVID P. KOZINSKI | POETRY I | H-113****“Light” — the Utility Word**

“Light” is a Swiss Army knife word, a mini tool kit. It is a noun, a verb and an adjective with multiple meanings in each part of speech. It’s a word that rhymes with a myriad of other words and has connotations galore. We’ll explore how great poets like Dickinson, Levertov, Tennyson and Thomas have used the word thematically and metaphorically; have played with it and built around it; and consider other “multi-purpose” words that are useful tools in figurative language, i.e., the fabric of poetry. Attendees will be offered in-workshop writing exercises that involve using several utensils from the tool kit, and have a chance to share their drafts aloud.

■ **David P. Kozinski** was a finalist for the Inlandia (California) Institute’s 2020 Hillary Gravendyke Prize for a book-length poetry manuscript, which is scheduled to be published by Kelsay books in 2022. Publications include *Tripping Over Memorial Day* (Kelsay Books) and *Loopholes* (Broadkill Press) which won the Dogfish Head Poetry Prize. Kozinski was Expressive Path’s 2018 Mentor of the Year. He serves on the boards of the Manayunk-Roxborough Art Center and the Eastern Shore Writers Association, and on the editorial board of Philadelphia Stories magazine. He is Rockwood Park & Museum’s resident poet and Art Editor of the Schuylkill Valley Journal.

3:45 – 5:15

**BRENT LEWIS | CRAFT | H-111****Illuminating Conversations: Interviews, Oral Histories, and Firsthand Accounts for Better Fiction and Nonfiction**

Better listeners make better storytellers. For fiction and nonfiction writers alike, this session spotlights both the challenges and benefits of developing and strengthening one’s skills as an interviewer. A powerful but often overlooked tool in the writer’s kit, interviewing as part of the creative process offers a broad range of literary applications and adds the luster of insight and authenticity to every project. From inspiration to resource research to creating credible characters, settings, and dialogue, the interview provides the writer a real-life opportunity to get their story straight. Through examples of technique, the instructor’s personal experience as an oral historian and writer, group exercises, helpful handouts, and constructive conversation with practical tips, attendees will learn how to ignite their natural curiosity and desire to communicate with the art of the interview and then use those skills to explore the rewards of being able to proficiently articulate the voice of others.

■ **Brent Lewis** is a native Eastern Shoreman with deep Eastern Shore roots. He’s written for magazines, newspapers, and newsletters, and for 10 years oversaw the Kent Island Heritage Society’s Oral History Program. Before the release of 2021’s *Stardust by the Bushel: Hollywood on the Eastern Shore*, Brent published two nonfiction books, *Remembering Kent Island: Stories from the Chesapeake* and *A History of the Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department*, and one indie novel, *Bloody Point 1976*. A documentarian and a playwright, Brent’s blog, *easternshorebrent.com* is a popular destination for readers interested in Chesapeake Bay storytelling, history, and memoir.

9:00 – 10:30

**ELIZABETH MERCURIO | POETRY II | H-114****Pulling Down Stars: Using Lorca’s Deep Song and Duende to Illuminate Tone in Your Poetry**

This presentation will offer an in-depth discussion of Federico Garcia Lorca’s brilliant essays and how they can help each poet to find their own distinctive voice. Delving into the intensity of the words of these songs Lorca explains, “The poem either poses a deep emotional question with no answer, or solves it with death, which is the question of questions.” Deep song for the poet must come from a deep recess of internal emotional questioning. To find duende the artist must be willing to be emotionally vulnerable. Lorca addresses this raw emotion in his lecture, “In the healing of the wound that never closes, lies the strange, invented qualities of a man’s work.” In this presentation we will discuss Lorca’s essays, take a close look at a few deep song poems, and write our own poems from specific duende inspired prompts to explore the dark night steeped in stars.

■ **Elizabeth Mercurio** earned an MFA in poetry from The Solstice Low-Residency Program of Pine Manor College. Her work has appeared in *Third Point Press*, *Philadelphia Stories*, *The Skinny Poetry Journal*, *The Literary Nest*, *Fledgling Rag*, *Martin Lake Journal*, *Lily Poetry Review*, *The American Journal of Poetry*, *Anti Heroin Chic*, *Ample Remains*, *The Wild Word*, *Thimble Magazine*, and is forthcoming in *Solstice Literary Magazine*. She was nominated for a Best of the Net nomination and was the 2016 recipient of The Sharon Olds Fellowship for Poetry. Her chapbook, *Doll*, is currently available from *Lily Poetry Review Books*.

2:00 – 3:30

**NANCY MITCHELL | CRAFT | H-111****Wait For The Light: Resisting Resolution, Easy Reach And Wrapping It Up In Our Writing**

So often in our writing—be it poems/prose poems, short stories, essays, novels, and flash fiction—we, for what ever reasons, often conclude, or wrap up too soon with an unearned resolution rather than wait for a strong and original finish, or revelation. Often, the urgency to resolve comes from a place of “not knowing” and, too often we conclude with a “lesson” or commentary, or, worse, a vague ambiguous, amorphous, and forgettable generalization. Research has revealed that what makes the most indelible impression in a reader’s mind is the last one. As a writer, you want to be sure your last words make in indelible impression. In this workshop, we’ll look at writing with stellar endings, and how and why they are successful. We’ll look at your work, and where and HOW to wait for the best last words.

■ A 2012 Pushcart Prize recipient, **Nancy Mitchell** is the author of *The Near Surround*, *Grief Hut*, and *The Out-of-Body Shop* and co-Editor of *Plume Interviews I*. Her poems have or will appear in such journals as *Agni*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Thrush*, *Washington Square Review*, and others. Mitchell serves as the Associate Editor of Special Features for *Plume Poetry*, and is the Poet Laureate of Salisbury, Maryland. She hosts the Poets on the Plaza Reading Series live and on Zoom.



Generative writing workshops, craft sessions, readings and more! Join us every Thursday night from 7:30-9 PM on Zoom. Free & open to all!

10:45 – 12:15

JANE EDNA MOHLER | POETRY I | H-113



## On Reflection: Shine A Fresh Light on 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. A reflection we see in our rearview 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. Please bring a poem that just won't ignite.

■ **Jane Edna Mohler** recently served as the Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Poet Laureate. Her book of poems is *Broken Umbrellas*, (Kelsay 2019.) Her poems appear in *Gargoyle*, *The Skinny Poetry Journal*, *Boston Globe*, *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *U.S.1 Worksheets*, *River Heron Review*, and *Bay to Ocean Anthology*. She won the 2016 Main Street Voices competition, was twice a Pushcart Prize nominee, and Robert Fraser Open finalist. Jane presented at two previous Bay to Ocean conferences. Previously Jane taught English over two summers at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in China. For decades she was a counselor in schools, agencies, and an advocate for homeless education.

9:00 – 10:30

LAURA J. OLIVER | CRAFT | H-111



## Humor Writing How-To

Laughter sheds light on how much more alike we are than different. It illuminates tender subjects, making us more receptive to insight. Simply put, laughter is intimate. It is how the light gets in. That is why humor resonates with readers and deepens our appreciation of a piece of writing like nothing else can. Number one rule? Don't tell a joke, tell a story. In this substantive, fun, and inspiring workshop, we will learn specific techniques for including humor in our stories, essays, memoirs, and novels. We will explore different types of humor writing and tips for crafting each. Through published examples, videos, exercises, and lively discussion, we will come away armed with a craft toolkit for adding this rare, highly-publishable, and sought-after skill to our work.

■ **Laura J. Oliver** is a developmental book editor, writing coach, and former instructor at the University of Maryland and St. John's College. The author of *The Story Within* (Penguin Random House), named by "Poets and Writers Magazine" as one of the best writing books ever published, her fiction and essays appear in national newspapers, magazines, and top-tier literary reviews. Co-creator of The Writing Intensive at St. John's College, she has received a Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award, an Anne Arundel County Arts Council Literary Arts Award, is a Glimmer Train Short Fiction finalist, and her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

10:45 – 12:15

GAIL PRIEST | MARKETING | H-112



## Enjoy Reading Your Work in Public

Reading work in public is a great way to promote the work, but authors aren't necessarily public speakers or actors. Sometimes, they're quite introverted, and the idea of speaking to an audience and reading a selection from their work can send shivers down their spines. This class is designed to help the author to feel lighter and more playful about the experience. It will help the author (and the audience) to enjoy the experience more and sell more books. The workshop covers such things as: selecting sections to read, managing stage fright, bringing characters to life, and interacting with the audience. The experience offers opportunity for practice readings for the class while receiving pointers and encouragement.

■ **Gail Priest** loves writing about familial relationships. Family history, secrets, and forgiveness are favorite sources of inspiration. Gail's career in theatre as an educator, actor, director, and playwright significantly influence her writing. Her *Annie Crow Knoll* trilogy which includes *Annie Crow Knoll: Sunrise, Sunset, and Moonrise* explores four generations of a family living on the Chesapeake Bay. The final novel was a Kindle Book Awards 2017 semi-finalist. *Eastern Shore Shorts*, Gail's collection of short stories set in various Eastern Shore towns, was praised by Liane Hanson of National Public Radio. Gail is a member of Eastern Shore Writers Association, Chesapeake Bay Writers, the Artist Conference Network, and the South Jersey Writers Group, where she was named Writer of the Year for 2016.

2:00 – 3:30

KIM ROBERTS | POETRY II | H-114



## Writing Love Poems

The oldest known written poem was a love poem. “The Love Song of Shu-Shin” was found in excavations of the city of Ur in ancient Mesopotamia, and probably written in the 20th c. BCE. If love is the original subject, how can we possibly make our contemporary poems say anything new on the subject? In this workshop, we will look at model poems and discuss how writers have handled our most tender emotion—and why new love poems continue to be necessary.

■ **Kim Roberts** is the editor of the anthology *By Broad Potomac's Shore: Great Poems from the Early Days of our Nation's Capital* (University of Virginia Press, 2020), selected by the DC Public Library for the 2021 Route 1 Reads program as the book that “best illuminates important aspects” of the culture of Washington, DC. She is the author of *A Literary Guide to Washington, DC: Walking in the Footsteps of American Writers from Francis Scott Key to Zora Neale Hurston* (University of Virginia Press, 2018), and five books of poems, most recently *The Scientific Method* (WordTech Editions, 2017).

**A VERY SPECIAL THANKS  
to Official Bay to Ocean  
Greeter: Anny Williams**

*For 25 years of a smiling, warm  
Eastern Shore welcome!*



2:00 – 3:30

DYLAN ROCHE | FICTION II | CADBY AUDITORIUM



## Finding Your Story Purpose: Using Conflict and Resolution to Leave a Big Impact

Have you ever found yourself halfway through a story you're writing and asking yourself, "Why am I doing this?" It's good that you're asking yourself that — because every story needs to have a purpose, or else there's really no point in telling it, is there? This course will explore how you can figure out what your message is and use that to create high-stakes conflicts, set believable obstacles (both internal and external) for your characters to overcome, motivate your protagonist and antagonist to act, and ultimately build to a climax that will leave your readers feeling changed by the experience of reading your story.

■ **Dylan Roche** is a novelist, playwright, journalist, copywriter, blogger, editor, and creative writing coach with years of professional experience in a breadth of writing-related endeavors. Whether he's writing magazine features about fitness and nutrition, farcical sitcoms for the stage, or ad copy for small businesses, he loves connecting with and resonating with readers. His first novel, *The Purple Bird*, a YA fantasy adventure, debuted in 2019. He lives in Annapolis with his dog, Tyrion the corgi, and when he's not writing, he can usually be found going on long-distance runs. Dylan serves as the host of the monthly ESWA program, "Get Lit"

9:00 – 10:30

KATHARINE SANDS | PUBLISHING &amp; EDITING | H-109



## Welcome to Your Book!

Cut through the mystery of getting an agent to want YOU and an editor to say YES...and the many ways to create a writing career in today's literary market. Learn tips on:

- Practicing "PitchCraft"
- Identifying the most exciting elements to compel your reader and propel your story
- Making the perfect pitch
- Building in cliffhangers
- Writing the all-important first page
- Crafting query letters with a strong hook in the first two lines

Essential secrets include what mistakes many writers make when querying agents, and seven surefire techniques that get you out of the slushpile. Learn how to identify and develop your selling points and sales engines, whet an agent's appetite, and get editors to say "yes." Learn what to do—and what not to do—when setting out to woo and win a literary agent.

■ **Katharine Sands** has worked with a varied list of authors who publish a diverse array of books including fiction, memoir and nonfiction. Among the books she represents are: *The Apothecary's Curse*, by Bram Stoker Award nominee Barbara Barnett; *Girl Walks Out of a Bar*, a memoir by Lisa Smith that was featured by People Magazine as Notable Nonfiction; and teenage climate activist Jamie Margolin's *Youth to Power: Your Voice and How to Use it*. Katharine likes books that have a clear benefit for readers, lives in categories of food, travel, lifestyle, home arts, beauty, wisdom, relationships, parenting, and fresh looks, which might be at issues, life challenges or popular culture. When reading fiction she wants to be compelled and propelled by urgent storytelling, and hooked by characters. For memoir, femoir, and himoir, she likes to be transported to a world rarely or newly observed.

9:00 – 10:30

ARIELE SIELING | MARKETING | H-112



## O to 30: Kicking Your Author Career Into Gear

Often when you're working on developing an author career, it feels like you're flailing around in the dark. You see success stories of other authors who are making millions or hundreds of thousands or even just more than you, and you wonder: How do they do it? How can you make money as an author? Not a million dollars, not six figures, just any money at all? And how do you know if you're actually making progress if you're only making \$5 a month?

In this workshop, join Ariele Sieling in a conversation about the practical, business side of writing. She will talk about what it means to build an author business, from the perspective of someone who is smack dab in the middle of doing just that. She will discuss how to sell more books, how decide where to spend your time and money, and most of all, how to know whether or not you're moving in the right direction. This workshop is hands-on, so come prepared to dig deep into your own writing business to shine light on the areas where you can make changes to alter the course of your writing career.

■ **Ariele Sieling** is a science fiction and fantasy author who enjoys books (obviously), cats, and trees. She has twenty-five books published, most of which are in three sci-fi series: post-apocalyptic monsters in *Land of Szornyek*; soft science fiction series, *The Sagittan Chronicles*; and sci-fi fairytale retellings in *Rove City*. She has also had numerous short stories published in a variety of anthologies and magazines and is the author of the book for authors: *How To Build A Book Marketing Strategy*. She lives with her spouse, enormous Great Pyrenees dog, and two cats.

3:45 – 5:15

LIZZY SOLOVEY | SPECIALTY WRITING | H-102



## Light: The Backdrop of Our Memories

Attendees will have a chance to brainstorm new ways of accessing memories that can inspire their creative nonfiction. In this session, writers will use prompts related to different lighting, such as dawn, dusk, golden hour, moonlight, candlelight, and spotlight, that may have been the backdrop to meaningful moments in their lives. Along with these prompts, attendees will learn experimental strategies, such as ambiguity, perspective, and form.

■ **Lizzy Solovey** holds an M.A. in the Teaching of English from Columbia University's Teachers College and a B.A. in English Language and Literature from University of Maryland, College Park. She participated in the 2017 Kenyon College Writing Workshop, taught high school English for four years, and led creative writing courses, "Unleash the Writer Within: Creative Writing for the Soul" and "Unleash the Memoir Within," in Baltimore, MD. Lizzy believes not only that everyone is a creative writer, but also that everyone can use creative writing as a way to heal. She encourages writers to reach out to her at lizzysolovey@gmail.com or join her writing group, Unleash the Writer Within, on Facebook.

3:45 – 5:15

**TRUTH THOMAS | POETRY II | H-114****The Ferro Rod of Forms**

Writing well in poetry is a practice. The daily act of it, arguably, is to touch others with experiences that have been profoundly touching to us—have enlightened us. Emotion is a key element required to fuel that imagination blaze. However, an equal partner in that exercise is the reliable spark of technique. In this workshop, technique and form work will be the focus. Poets will learn that free verse compositions can be greatly edified by embracing the creative campfire of forms.

■ **Truth Thomas** is a singer-songwriter and poet born in Knoxville, Tennessee, and raised in Washington, DC. He has four collections of poetry to his credit, including *Speak Water*, winner of the 2013 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry. The “Skinny” poetry form is credited to Thomas’ creation. Founder of Cherry Castle Publishing, his poems have appeared in over 150 publications, including *Poetry Magazine* and *The 100 Best African American Poems* (edited by Nikki Giovanni). His forthcoming collection, *Moon Jumps Over Stormy Monday*, is slated for release in 2022.

9:00 – 10:30

**PAT VALDATA | POETRY I | H-113****The Joy of Light Verse**

Poetry doesn’t have to be filled with angst or sorrow or depth. From Dorothy Parker to Ogden Nash to contemporary poets like Marilyn Taylor and Melissa Balmain, poets have enjoyed writing light verse purely for the fun of it. (Satire and snark are also valid reasons!) We’ll look at examples of poetry that’s full of wordplay and playful words, check out silly forms like the limerick and parapelle, and spend time writing our own lighthearted poetry. Participants will be encouraged to share their work. Poets at all experience levels (and yes, even prose writers) are welcome to join the fun.

■ **Pat Valdata** is a poet and novelist. Her poetry book about women aviation pioneers, *Where No Man Can Touch*, won the 2016 Donald Justice Poetry Prize. Her poetry has appeared in numerous literary magazines including *Delmarva Review*, *Ecotone*, *Ekphrastic Review*, *Italian Americana*, *Little Patuxent Review*, *North American Review*, *Passager*, *The Raintown Review*, *String Poet*, and *Valparaiso Poetry Review*, as well as several anthologies. Her third novel, *Eve’s Daughters* (*Moonshine Cove*, 2020), won first prize in the Novel category from the Delaware Press Association and received an Honorable Mention from the National Federation of Press Women. [www.patvaldata.com](http://www.patvaldata.com)

10:45 – 12:15

**DIANE ZINNA | SPECIALTY WRITING | H-102****Exploring Grief Writing**

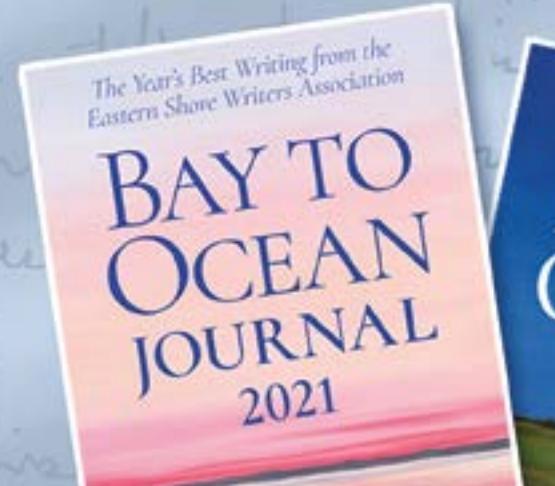
I have come to believe that if you can write grief as you truly experienced it, you can write anything. Together in a warm and supportive space, we’ll explore safe entrance ways into grief stories and ways to end them meaningfully, even if we haven’t found closure for similar personal experiences. We’ll look at how sound and structure can be used to communicate feeling; what might constitute “change” in a grief story; consider new ideas on sentimentality and reader resistance; and learn ways to care for ourselves as we tell these important stories.

■ **Diane Zinna** received her MFA from the University of Florida and has taught creative writing for over a decade. She was the longtime membership director for AWP, the Association of Writers & Writing Programs, which hosts the largest literary conference in North America each year. In 2014, Diane created the Writer to Writer Mentorship Program, helping to match more than six hundred writers over twelve seasons. Since the start of the pandemic, Diane has led popular grief writing sessions every Sunday for writers of all levels of experience. The *All-Night Sun*, her first novel, was long-listed for The Center for Fiction’s First Novel Prize and the Cabell First Novelist Award. In 2020, Diane received the ArtsFairfax Artist Grant, and her work appeared at Electric Literature, LiteraryHub, Brevity, and Monkeybicycle. Diane lives in Fairfax, Virginia, with her husband and daughter.

## Eastern Shore Writers Association 5th Annual Bay to Ocean Journal Call for Submissions!

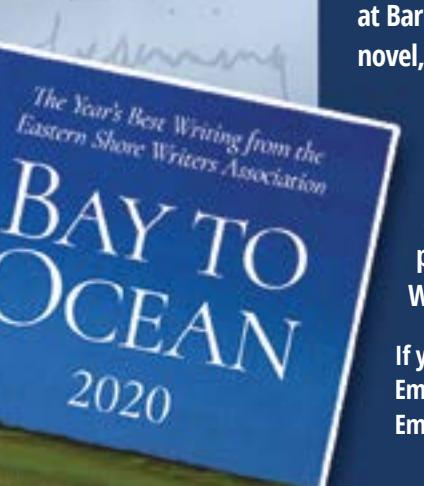
**Warm up those keyboards!**

The submission period runs from March 1st through April 15th. As always, you must be an ESWA member in good standing and submit through the ESWA website: [easternshorewriters.org](http://easternshorewriters.org)



*The Year's Best Writing from the Eastern Shore Writers Association*

**BAY TO OCEAN JOURNAL**  
**2021**



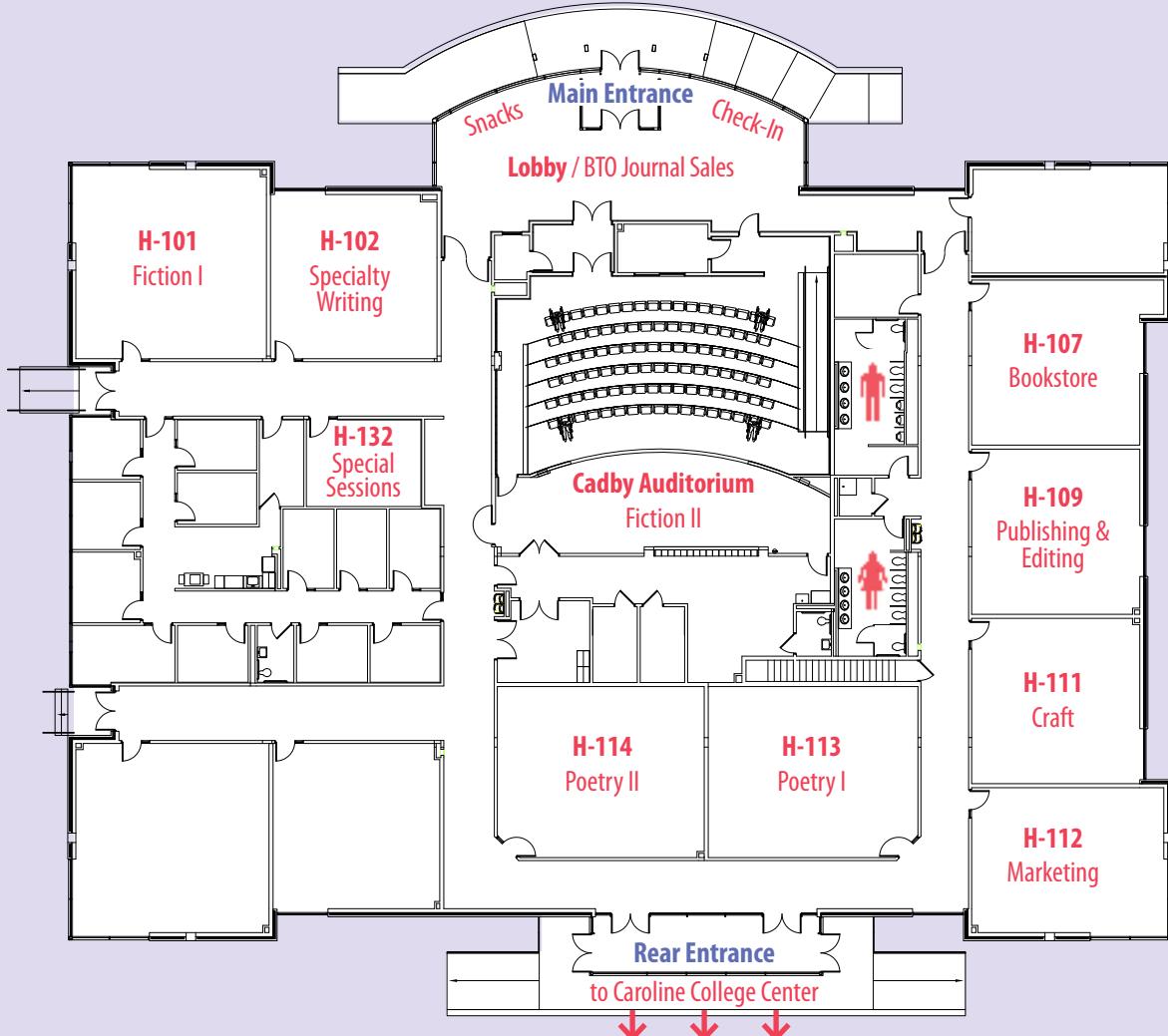
*The Year's Best Writing from the Eastern Shore Writers Association*

**BAY TO OCEAN**  
**2020**

This year we are thrilled to have **TARA CAMPBELL** as our guest Executive Editor. Ms. Campbell is a writer, teacher, Kimbilio Fellow, and fiction co-editor at Barrelhouse. She's the author of a novel, *Treevolution*, and four collections: *Circe's Bicycle*, *Midnight at the Organporium*, *Political AF: A Rage Collection*, and *Cabinet of Wrath: A Doll Collection*. She is a regular presenter at the Bay to Ocean Writers Conference.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Rich, BTO Journal's Managing Editor [Emilyjuanita.rich@verizon.net](mailto:Emilyjuanita.rich@verizon.net)

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