22nd ANNUAL BAY TO OCEAN WRITERS CONFERENCE

MARCH 9, 2019
CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE | WYE MILLS, MD
Welcome to the 22nd 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 2020 Bay to Ocean Writers’ Conference, please contact us at baytoocean2019@gmail.com

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

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

Dear Participants,

The Bay to Ocean Writers Conference (BTO): Over its history, the BTO has attracted more than 3,700 writers from the tristate Delmarva and Chesapeake Bay region. The Eastern Shore Writers’ Association (ESWA), a nonprofit 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 30 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’s planned to enable you to put together a program of six sessions perfect for where you are in your writing life.

A keynote address by Gregg Wilhelm starts the day in the cafeteria (located in the Caroline Building, a short walk from the back of where you are now, Kent Humanities) from 8:00-8:45 am. Please arrive early should you want a good seat. The core learning sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. in various locations. Brief descriptions of the session topics and bios of each of the presenters appear in this program, where you will find a chart showing all the offerings and maps showing the locations of where they will be presented.

The conference bookstore (located in Kent Humanities Room-107) 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!). www.mysterylovescompany.com

The nonprofit BTO conference is organized entirely by ESWA volunteers, many of whom have been working throughout the year to plan today’s event. They are identified by name badges with green ribbons. Please get to know them. They can answer your questions and are invaluable resources. ESWA encourages members to become conference volunteers to assist in helping writers achieve their dreams. If you’re interested in volunteering, please send an email to baytoocean2019@gmail.com.

You will also find a gold evaluation form in the folder and we ask that you fill it out at the end of the day 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.

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 of our volunteers,

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

For their special support we thank the following:

Scholarships: Participation of five students at BTO 2019 is provided by the Eastern Shore Writers Association.

Cover Painting: “Derelicts” by Lynne Lockhart.

Lynne Lockhart is a painter whose work explores the Eastern Shore landscape, farms, people and wildlife. Her paintings are included in public, private and museum collections throughout the United States. “Derelicts” is an oil painting inspired by a scene in the outer marshes of Chincoteague Island, Virginia. To see more work or to contact the artist go to lynnelockhart.com.
**Time Slots:** For each of the six time-slots, you may choose one of five sessions. All sessions take place in the Kent Humanities Building (where you checked in) and the Health Professions and Athletic Center (HPAC). Please note that your session preferences were requested for planning purposes only and no seats are reserved. Due to fire regulations, each classroom has its own capacity and once filled will be closed. Therefore, seats will be filled on a “first-come, first served” basis. The Cadby Theatre seats 100, most Humanities classrooms accommodate from 40-45, with the Health Professions and Athletic Center accommodating up to 70 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 Kent Humanities Room-107. The bookstore will be open all day. There are bathrooms located in both buildings, as well as the Caroline Building, which houses the cafeteria.

**Buffet Networking Lunch** (12:30 pm-1:45 pm): 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. The program sessions begin again promptly at 1:45 p.m.

**Evaluation Forms:** Conference evaluation forms (gold) have been included in the folder you got 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 in the design of the next conference.

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**8:00-8:45 am Session:**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**GREGG WILHELM • Cafeteria (Located in the Caroline Building)**

Writerly Ruts: Step Out of Your Comfort Zone to Change Your Writing

We all get into ruts – at work, at home, and with our writing. Learn three ways to break out of your writerly rut from someone who started as a publisher, turned into a nonprofit manager, and now is directing a university’s creative writing program.

Gregg Wilhelm’s expertise covers book publishing, arts administration, and higher education. He started his career at Johns Hopkins University Press, launched four imprints including one with a major independent bookseller, founded the nonprofit literary arts organization CityLit Project in Baltimore, and held adjunct and leadership positions at several institutions. Over the years, Gregg has published more than 150 books across all genres and produced nearly 1,000 literary programs. In spring 2018, he became the director of creative writing at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. For more information, visit: www.greggwilhelm.com
MARY McCARthy • Humanities-114 (Located in Kent Humanities)

**Meditative Journaling**

In this enlightening session, Reiki master and bestselling author Mary McCarthy will explore ways to invite deeper self-reflection and inner peace through the combination of meditation and journaling. Using universal healing energy combined with the powerful ability of writing to clear our minds of stressors and emotional baggage, we will explore ways to use the practice of meditative journaling to enrich our daily lives.

Mary McCarthy’s 25-year professional writing career includes her role as senior editor for splicetoday.com, as well as work on Salon.com, the Washington Post, Philadelphia Inquirer, Baltimore Sun, editorial positions at regional magazines including Chesapeake Family and What’s Up Eastern Shore and a newspaper humor column “Quite Contrary”. She blogged for Katie Couric, appeared on The Today Show, Huffington Post Live and ABC TV News. She has served as an adjunct instructor for American University’s continuing education program, guest lecturer for the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland and an instructor for The Writer’s Center in Washington, D.C. McCarthy’s debut novel, The Scarlet Letter Society, was published in by Polis Books in June 2014, reaching #1 on the Amazon bestseller list in its genre. Her second novel, The Scarlet Letter Scandal, released in November 2015 and her third novel in the trilogy, The Scarlet Letter Storm, in May 2016.

AMY SCHISLER • Cadby Auditorium (Located in Kent Humanities)

**Using Dialogue to Advance a Plot**

Drive your story forward without having to do too much except what we do in our daily lives: speak! Join Amy Schisler as she teaches you how to speak in your writing through the use of dialogue to grow your characters and turn them into real, relatable human beings, describe the scenes of your novel, create the sense that the reader is actually part of the action, drive the plot of your story and more!

Amy Schisler has been writing all her life as an author and freelance writer. She has released five clean romance novels and two children’s books. Picture Me was the winner of the 2016 Illumination Award. Whispering Vines was awarded a LYRA and a 2017 Illumination award. Island of Miracles was the winner of a 2016 Illumination Award. Amy grew up in southern Maryland and holds a master’s degree in library and information science. A former librarian and teacher, she now lives on the Eastern Shore of Maryland with her husband, three daughters and two dogs, where she’s an active community volunteer. Visit her website for more information: www.amyschislerauthor.com

CHRISTOPHER SALERNO

Humanities-113 (Located in Kent Humanities)

**Writing the Contemporary Lyric Poem**

Currently, the “lyric” poem dominates mainstream American poetry. With its variety of forms and voices, the free verse lyric poem offers an enormous range of possibilities and stylistic choices. In this workshop we will look at several poems of our contemporary moment, consider their forebears, their styles, modes, and approaches. We’ll see what about our own contemporary experiences and tendencies offer us the promise of poetry, and then, through generative exercises, we’ll attend to style and method in drafts of our own work.

Christopher Salerno is the author of four books of poems and the editor of Saturnalia Books. His most recent collection is Sun & Urn, selected by Thomas Lux for the Georgia Poetry Prize and published by University of Georgia Press in early 2017. Previous books include ATM, (Georgetown Review Poetry Prize 2014), Minimum Heroic (Mississippi Review Poetry Prize 2010), and Whirligig (2006). He is a recipient of the Laurel Review Midwest Chapbook Prize, the Prairie Schooner Glenn Luschei Award, and a New Jersey State Council on the Arts fellowship. His poems have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, American Poetry Review, New England
9:00-10:00 am Sessions: (continued)

**CHRISTINE STEWART & ANNA TATRO**

**HPAC-127 (Located in the Health Professions & Athletic Ctr)**

Grants and Opportunities for Writers (MSAC)

Find all about grants and opportunities for writers that you may not even know exist! Find out about your local arts councils, the Maryland State Arts Council’s Individual Artist Awards, The Maryland Artist Registry, and how to become an Artist-in-Residence, or a Visiting Artist Performer with the Maryland State Arts Council.

**Christine Stewart** is the program director for literary arts with the Maryland State Arts Council and editor-in-chief of Del Sol Press (@delsolpressbks). Chris is the recipient of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Some of her publications include *Poetry, Ploughshares, Five Points, Blackbird, The Cortland Review*, and *Smartish Pace*. She’s faculty at the Algonkian Writer Retreat and Novel Workshop in Virginia (www.algonkianconferences.com/AlgonkianWriterRetreat). Find tips, tools, information, and inspiration on her website: www.therealwriter.com

**Anna Tatro** is the grants collection specialist at Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. Through the State Learning Research Center, Anna serves the state of Maryland as a Foundation Information Network Supervisor for the Foundation Center. She uses her knowledge and passion to support nonprofits and to help organizations seek grant funding by teaching people how to use the Foundation Directory Online for prospect research, giving tips on proposal writing, and working closely with professional organizations and nonprofits throughout the state.

**SOPHIE MOSS • Humanities-101 (Located in Kent Humanities)**

Secrets to a Successful Writing Career

Want to quit your day job and write full time? In this session, Sophie will share her story of how she took control of her writing career, found the courage to treat her books like a business, and built a worldwide fan-base of loyal readers. Yes, it’s all about writing a great book. But what about after that? How do you find the confidence to invest in yourself as an author and share your work with the world? Sophie will explain how to use social media to build relationships with potential readers, how to recognize industry trends and when to act on them, which advertising sites deliver the best return on investment, and how to maximize exposure for a book to drive sales and generate buzz.

**Sophie Moss** is a USA Today bestselling author of six novels, three of which are set on a fictional island in the Chesapeake Bay. Her most recent series, the *Wind Chime Novels*, are a collection of standalone love stories that explore economic, social, and cultural issues that are particularly relevant to the Eastern Shore. As a former journalist, Sophie has been writing professionally for more than 10 years. She lives in Maryland, where she’s working on her next novel. When she’s not writing, she’s testing out a new dessert recipe, exploring the Chesapeake Bay, or working in her garden. For more about Sophie Moss, visit: www.sophiemossauthor.com

**DAVID OATES • Humanities-114 (Located in Kent Humanities)**

The Art and Seriousness of Humor Writing

Even if you’ve never tried to be funny before or are not sure that you are (!), David will help show you that, with some training, anyone can write and perform humor. He will discuss various types of humor, share comedic techniques, and help you find your unique humorous writing style. As an amateur stand-up comic and sketch comedy performer himself, Oates formally wrote comedy for the comic strip *Shoe* in the ‘80s.

**David Oates** is the host and producer of *Wordland*, a radio program of poetry, stories, and comedy; and the former host of *Great Apes* (comedy), both on WUGA, Athens,
Georgia’s public radio station. He ran the Athens poetry slam, is the current emcee of the Athens Word of Mouth monthly poetry reading and was editor and publisher of Monkey Magazine (slam poetry and satire, mostly). His books are Night of the Potato (fiction and poetry), Shifting with My Sandwich Hand, Drunken Robins and, The Deer’s Bandanna (all three, haiku). He is a member of the Haiku Society of America, Word of Mouth Poetry, Athens, and Los Donderinos writing groups. His stories and poems have been published in several magazines, newspapers and websites. His degrees are in writing from The University of Chicago and the University of Illinois – Chicago. Former jobs include reporting, radio announcing, teaching, proofreading, and Burger-Chefing. His website is www.davidoatesathensga.com

JOHN DEDAKIS
Cadby Auditorium (Located in Kent Humanities)
How to Write a Novel
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, journalist, novelist, and writing coach, is a former senior copy editor on CNN’s “The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer.” DeDakis is the author of four mystery-suspense novels. His most recent novel, Bullet in the Chamber, is the winner of Reviewers Choice, Foreword INDIES, and Feathered Quill book awards in 2017. The novel deals, in part, with the death of John’s youngest son in 2011 due to an accidental heroin overdose. DeDakis regularly teaches novel writing at The Writer’s Center in Bethesda and the Politics & Prose Bookstore in D.C. Visit his website at www.johndedakis.com

NANCY MITCHELL
Humanities-113 (Located in Kent Humanities)
Make it Sound True: A Guide to Hijacking your Readers’ Hearts
Long before the proof of scientific evidence was in, musicians, poets and filmmakers have long intuited that of all our senses, sound is the expressway loop to the emotional center of the brain. Because early humans communicated via sound before the evolution of language, the resultant, logical part of the brain, the cortex, will immediately defer to the sound of words before engaging in the lengthy task of processing meaning—which was, and still is quite handy during emergencies, when there was/is no time to parse meaning. Because of this primal hard-wiring in the primitive, limbic part of our brains, the poetic device of sound is one of the most potent as it has instant access to the emotional center of the brain. Yet, it’s often the most under utilized and the least understood of all the tools at a writer’s disposal. During this presentation we will examine three very different, widely anthologized poems to understand how these poets revealed the complexities of the human heart with near miraculous economy and simplicity through the poetic device of sound.

Nancy Mitchell is a 2012 Pushcart Prize winner and the author of three volumes of poetry, The Near Surround (Four Way Books, 2002) Grief Hut (Cervena Barva Press, 2009) and The Out-of-Body Shop (Plume Editions, 2018). She is co-editor of Plume Interviews 1 (MadHat Press, 2016). She leads “Writing for Wellness” workshops for those grieving the loss of loved ones, particularly to the opioid crisis. Mitchell teaches at Salisbury University in Maryland and serves as associate editor of special features for Plume Poetry.
SCOTT McCORMICK
HPAC-127 (Located in the Health Professions & Athletic Ctr)
Audio: All You Ever Need Know

Join Scott McCormick, multi-talented director, book adapter, and narrator of GraphicAudio, who will discuss other means by which writers might tell/share their stories in a world where on-demand media, the death of book stores and digital piracy are making it harder and harder to make a living in print.

We’ll examine alternative formats and means of distributing your work with a focus on audio entertainment.

Scott McCormick has been a professional actor and voice artist for more than 20 years. Scott has directed and adapted more than 40 audiobook titles for the Rockville-based GraphicAudio, where he works as a director, book adapter and narrator. His work in Comic Book Prose Audio has included such titles as It’s Superman, Spider-Man: Kraven’s Last Hunt, The Avengers, and Daredevil: Man Without Fear. His adaptation of Marvel’s Superheroes: Secret Wars (2015) and Thanos: Death Sentence (2017) were both named one of Audiofile Magazine’s Audio Books of the Year. Currently he is the narrator and lead in G.S. Denning’s Warlock Holmes series and Simon R. Green’s Ishmael Jones Mysteries. Scott has appeared on stages large and small around the DC Region, including Shakespeare Theatre, Studio Theater, Woolly Mammoth and Rorschach Theatre, where he has been a company member for more than fifteen years. He lives in Kensington, Maryland, with his wife and not enough shelf space.

ARIELE SIELING • Humanities-101 (Located in Kent Humanities)
Your Book Your Way – Step-by-Step Self-Publishing

Recent changes in the publishing industry have made self-publishing a viable way to publish a book and build a writing career. Ariele Sieling is author of 13 self-published kids and science fiction books, and a publishing coach for those looking to self-publish their own work. In this presentation, she takes a closer look at strategies for creating a book that is both a quality product and affordable for the writer. She discusses the pros and cons of self-publishing, the right—and wrong—reasons for choosing to self-publish, tips for preparing a book for publication, and how to avoid common pitfalls—all interspersed with tales of her own.

Ariele Sieling writes all the time, by day for companies and nonprofits, and by night for mysterious readers both near and far. She pursues all kinds of writing, from short stories and essays, to newspaper articles, newsletters, classroom curriculum, and novels. She also serves as a guide and coach for those beginning the process of self-publishing. She is the author of the science fiction series’, The Sagittan Chronicles and Land of Szornyek, and kids book series Rutherford the Unicorn Sheep. She lives in Baltimore with her husband, three cats, and a dog. For more information, visit: www.arielesieling.com

LAURA J. OLIVER • Humanities-114 (Located in Kent Humanities)
Micro Creative Nonfiction

We write micro (brief creative nonfiction pieces of 750 words or less) to capture a moment of change, tension, conflict, contradiction or mystery. The skill is to choose ground worth reporting on and to learn how to tease out why the memory or observation matters. We capture relationships, places where our lives changed course, expanded or contracted, places where our trajectories changed. We use the same tools with which we craft fiction, making micro an excellent learning template for both genres. In micro, crystalline prose as potent as poetry, resonates in the reader’s mind long after making him laugh or moving him to tears. In micro we ask not just “what did you observe,” but “what did you find there? Not just, “what do you remember?” but “why do you remember this?” The first question is a gift to the reader. The second, a gift to the writer. We will look at the takeaway in published examples and distill exactly how the writer delighted us in so brief a time. We can tell a whole life story that way—just one moment at a time.
Laura J. Oliver is the author of *The Story Within* (Penguin Random House,) named by "The Writer Magazine" as one of the best writing books of the year, and "Poets and Writers Magazine" as one of the best writing books ever published. She has taught essay and fiction writing at the University of Maryland and writing workshops at St. John’s College. Oliver is an award-winning writer, writing mentor, instructor and co-creator of The Writing Intensive at St. John’s College. Oliver’s fiction and essays are published in national newspapers, magazines and top-tier literary reviews (*The Washington Post*, *Country Living Magazine*, *The Writer Magazine*, *The Sun Magazine*, *Glimmer Train Stories*, *Charleston Magazine*, *Portland Magazine*, *The Baltimore Review*, *Rosebud*, *Redux*, *Loose Change* and *Annapolis Lifestyle* to name a few.) She is the recipient of a Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award in Fiction, an Anne Arundel County Arts Council Literary Arts Award winner, a two-time *Glimmer Train* Short Fiction finalist, and her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. For more information, visit: [www.thestorywithin.net](http://www.thestorywithin.net)

**KRIS FAATZ • Cadby Auditorium (Located in Kent Humanities)**

Creating Layered Fiction

This workshop session will focus on the importance of creating layered fiction that implements both “top story” (surface plot/action) and “bottom story” (why the top action matters: how it affects and changes the characters). Successful fiction requires the use of both story layers. The session will begin with a presentation about top and bottom story and how to create both elements in writing fiction. Participants will then read and discuss an example of a piece of fiction that uses both layers, and will receive a writing prompt, which they’ll begin work on during the session, in which they will focus on creating these layers in their own piece.

**Kris Faatz** (rhymes with skates) is a writer and musician. Her debut novel, *To Love a Stranger*, was a finalist for the 2016 Schaffner Press Music in Literature Award and was released in May 2017 by Blue Moon Publishers (Toronto). Her short fiction has appeared in various journals, including *Kenyon Review Online*, *Potomac Review*, and *Reed*, and has received recognition in competitions run by *Woven Tale Press*, *Glimmer Train*, and *NYC Midnight*. Kris has been a contributor at the Sewanee Writers’ Conference and a teaching fellow at the Kenyon Review Writers Workshops and was a preliminary judge for the 2018 Flannery O’Connor Short Fiction Award. She teaches writing workshops for the Baltimore County library system and for Washington DC’s Writopia Lab. Further information about Kris Faatz can be found here: [www.krisfaatz.com](http://www.krisfaatz.com)

**KIM ROBERTS • Humanities-113 (Located in Kent Humanities)**

The Insectanum: Small Life Forms in Poetry

In this workshop, we will narrow our focus by taking a long look at some very small life forms. By writing about insects and spiders, we will practice the skills of close observation, describing with precision, and using specialized vocabulary in our poems. The workshop will begin with a reading of model poems by such master poets as Elizabeth Alexander, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, Yusef Komunyakaa, Stanley Kunitz, Natasha Trethewey, and Walt Whitman. After a group discussion, we will have time in class to write first drafts of poems of our own, picking a single insect or spider on which to concentrate, and revealing something about that bug’s appearance or habits.

**Kim Roberts** 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). She co-edits the journal Beltway Poetry Quarterly and the web exhibit DC Writers’ Homes. Roberts has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, HumanitiesDC, and the DC Commission on the Arts, and has been a writer-in-residence at 18 artist colonies. Poems of hers have been featured in the Wick Poetry Center’s Traveling Stanzas Project, on the Academy of American Poets’ Poem-a-Day Project, and on podcasts sponsored by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more about Kim Roberts, visit: [www.kimroberts.org](http://www.kimroberts.org)
AUSTIN S. COMACHO
HPAC-127 (Located in the Health Professions & Athletic Ctr)
Writing Winning Dialogue

In good fiction, dialog not only moves your plot along, it is the best way to reveal the true nature of your characters. In this session you will learn the techniques that make dialog believable, enjoyable and a vital element in your storytelling.

Austin S. Camacho is the author of six novels about Washington DC-based private eye Hannibal Jones, five novels 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, and works with their authors to improve their manuscripts. And Camacho is deeply involved with the writing community. He is a past president of the Maryland Writers Association (MWA), past vice president of the Virginia Writers Club, and an active member of Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers and Sisters in Crime.

DIANNE L. PEARCE
Humanities-101 (Located in Kent Humanities)
Don’t Die with Your Secret: Committing & Community in Writing

Have you recently started writing? Have you been writing forever but never had time to fully commit because of work, raising children, building your life? Getting published is hard. The average age of authors who have their debut novel published is mid-30s. What do you do when you’ve passed that age? Do you skip publishing simply because you may not be the preferred demographic? Do you keep your writing to yourself or face the daunting task of working as much at the publishing as you do at the writing? How do you keep going in the inevitable face of rejection? Don’t die with your secret! No matter your age, the world needs your story. Come and learn how to build a community of support and find inroads into the world of publishing. Discuss when to put your work in the hands of an agent and how long to leave it there. Learn how to build a fan base for yourself. Meet other mature writers who will discuss their publishing journey with you, how they decided to let their baby go, and use local resources to help them find a home for their stories. Participants are asked to bring a writing sample to share.

Dianne Pearce possesses an MFA and an MA in creative writing. She has been teaching writing classes to adult students for more than twenty-five years. In 2015 she founded The Milton Workshop, and in 2017, Devil’s Party Press, a publishing house that specializes in showcasing the work of mature writers. For more about Devil’s Party Press, visit: www.devilspartypress.com

12:30-1:45 pm Luncheon Buffet
(Located in the Caroline Building Cafeteria)

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 2020 BTO conference? Please contact baytocean2019@gmail.com
1:45-2:45 pm Sessions:

**CHRIS GRABENSTEIN**

Humanities-114 via SKYPE (Located in Kent Humanities)

**Everything You Want to Know About Everything You Want to Know**

A special live SKYPE question and answer session with the No. 1 NY Times Best Selling Author! Join Chris, live on the internet, where he will address everything you want to know about everything you want to know! Participants are asked to bring questions pertaining to writing, and/or unique questions to which you might want to know the answers. Participants will step up to the laptop and talk one-on-one with Chris which will live stream to the audience in real time.

**Chris Grabenstein** is the No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the award-winning *Lemoncello Library* series, the *Welcome to Wonderland* series, the *Haunted Mysteries* series, and *The Island of Dr. Libris*. He is also the co-author of several fun and funny page-turners with James Patterson, including *I Funny*, *Treasure Hunters*, *Jacky Ha Ha*, *Word of Mouse*, and *Max Einstein: The Genius Project*. For more information visit: www.chrisgrabenstein.com

**JOSHUA ISARD** • Cadby Auditorium (Located in Kent Humanities)

**Autobiographical Inspiration:**

Finding Effective Ways to Keep Yourself in Your Fiction

Many writers mix some parts of their personalities or life experiences into their fiction. There is a long tradition of this, from Baldwin to Plath to Kerouac and many more. But some writers feel too tied to the real-life inspirations behind their fiction and refuse to change anything, to the point of making the work bloated or unbelievable. Other writers feel like they should try to excise all parts of themselves from their fiction, which can lead to a story lacking a feeling of authenticity. What, then, is the proper balance? Like so many issues with writing, there is no one answer, but through critical self-analysis it is possible for writers to figure out what works best for themselves. In this presentation, Joshua Isard will help each participant find the best way to weave autobiographical elements to enhance their fiction.

**Joshua Isard** is the author of the novel *Conquistador of the Useless* (Cinco Puntos Press, 2013), and his short stories have appeared in journals such as *Wyvern Lit.*, *Northwind*, and *Pithead Chapel*. Currently, he’s the director of the MFA program in creative writing at Arcadia University. He lives outside Philadelphia with his wife and two children. For more information, visit: www.joshuaisard.com

**BHODI TIMS** • Humanities-113 (Located in Kent Humanities)

**Mining the World of Science for Ideas & Language to Expand Your Poetry**

Much like ekphrasis, which uses visual art as a jump off point, science articles offer both unique phenomena and highly specific vocabulary to plumb to build the scaffolding of poetry. And the substructure of ideas provides space for more esoteric, even spiritual explorations that link questions about grand design with the granularity of a narrator’s voice. During the 60 minutes, the speaker will deconstruct two poems, and highlight the challenges faced and the opportunities found in this process. A hands-on exercise will immerse the audience during the final 20 minutes, working first with a partner, and having audience members share their results.

**Dr. Michael (Bhodi) Tims** is academic director of herbal programs at Maryland University of Integrative Health. He has worked with herbal medicine as clinical herbalist, teacher and researcher; collaborated with the FDA to provide herbal toxicity assessments; and completed an NIH/NIST postdoctoral fellowship. Dr. Tims’ research interest explores the chemical ecology of medicinal plants and how humans adapt those chemicals to maintain resilience. His poetry manuscript, *The Acoustic Property of Ancient People*, was recently published by Finishing Line Press. The manuscript was a finalist in both the 12th Annual Dogfish Head Poetry Prize and the Brick House Books, New Poets Series. For more about Bhodi Timms, visit: www.bhoditims.com
PANEL DISCUSSION

HPAC-127 (Located in the Health Professions & Athletic Ctr)

What Are We Looking For? An Editor’s Panel, Moderated by Gregg Wilhelm

Explore what editors are truly looking for in poetry, creative nonfiction, and short story submissions with this fantastic panel discussion which will address best practices in the submission process, as well as editing tips, and ways to ensure your writing is up to par before submission.

Gregg Wilhelm’s expertise covers book publishing, arts administration, and higher education. He started his career at Johns Hopkins University Press, launched four imprints including one with a major independent bookseller, founded nonprofit literary arts organization CityLit Project in Baltimore, and held adjunct and leadership positions at several institutions. Over the years, Gregg has published more than 150 books across all genres and produced nearly 1,000 literary programs. In spring 2018, he became the director of creative writing at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. For more information, visit: www.greggwilhelm.com

Chris Stewart, editor-in-chief of Del Sol Press (@DelSolPressBks), the recipient of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Some of her publications include Poetry, Ploughshares, Five Points, Blackbird, The Cortland Review, and Smartish Pace. Chris is faculty at the Algonkian Writer Retreat and Novel Workshop in Virginia and provides manuscript editing and critiques. Find tips, tools, information, and inspiration on her website: www.therealwriter.com and follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChrisStewartTheRealWriter or Twitter @EditorStewart

Kim Roberts 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). She co-edits the journal Beltway Poetry Quarterly and the web exhibit DC Writers’ Homes. Roberts has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, HumanitiesDC, and the DC Commission on the Arts, and has been a writer-in-residence at 18 artist colonies. Poems of hers have been featured in the Wick Poetry Center’s Traveling Stanzas Project, on the Academy of American Poets’ Poem-a-Day Project, and on podcasts sponsored by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more about Kim Roberts, visit: www.kimroberts.org

Christopher Salerno is the author of four books of poems and the editor of Saturnalia Books. His most recent collection is Sun & Urn, selected by Thomas Lux for the Georgia Poetry Prize and published by University of Georgia Press in early 2017. Previous books include ATM, (Georgetown Review Poetry Prize 2014), Minimum Heroic (Mississippi Review Poetry Prize 2010), and Whirligig (2006). He is a recipient of the Laurel Review Midwest Chapbook Prize, the Prairie Schooner Glenna Luschei Award, and a New Jersey State Council on the Arts fellowship. His poems have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, American Poetry Review, New England Review, The Academy of American Poets series, Guernica, Gulf Coast, Fence, Boston Review, Los Angeles Review, and elsewhere. He is an associate professor of English at William Paterson University in New Jersey, where he teaches in the undergraduate and MFA writing programs. For more information, visit: www.csalernopoet.com

Gerry LaFemina’s latest book is the poetry collection The Story of Ash (Anhinga, 2018). He is also the author of a novel, a collection of short stories, and numerous award-winning collections of poetry, including The Parakeets of Brooklyn, Notes for the Novice Ventriloquist (prose poems), Vanishing Horizon, and Little Heretic. His collection of essays on poets and prosody, Palpable Magic, came out in 2015 from Stephen F. Austin University Press and his textbook, Composing Poetry: A Guide to Writing Poems and Thinking Lyrically was released last year from Kendall Hunt. The former director of the Frostburg Center for Literary Arts, he teaches at Frostburg State University and serves as a mentor in the MFA program at Carlow University. For more about Gerry LaFemina, visit: www.gerrylafemina.com
1:45-2:45 pm Sessions:
(continued)

ALLY MACHATE • Humanities-101 (Located in Kent Humanities)
Perfecting Your Author Platform

In today’s highly saturated book market, a strong marketing campaign requires that authors have a solid platform to get the kind of attention necessary for reviews and sales. But what is a platform, what is it used for, and how do you build one? How does it affect your book deal, or whether you get one at all? How does it help you sell more books, whether you self-publish or have a publisher? Learn how to evaluate the “planks” you already have and design a blueprint for building a bigger, stronger platform – the most critical tool in your toolbox after the book itself.

Ally Machate is the founder of The Writer’s Ally, an award-winning business that offers expert writing and editorial services to business professionals, publishers, agents, and authors. Ally is a bestselling book collaborator, award-winning editor, and expert publishing consultant who loves using her insider knowledge of the publishing industry and wealth of experience to lead serious authors toward publishing success. Since 1999, she has supported countless authors on their publishing journey and takes pride in serving as their books’ best ally. Grab Ally’s free gifts and learn more about her services at www.thewritersally.com and www.allymachate.com

3:00-4:00 pm Sessions:

MATTHEW SWANSON & ROBBI BEHR
Humanities-114 (Located in Kent Humanities)
The Secrets of Collaboration – The Powers of Two:
The Co-Creators of The Real McCoys

Husband/wife, author/illustrator duo Matthew Swanson and Robbi Behr will present their humorous whodunit of a middle grade book series The Real McCoys while giving a humorous, lively, image-rich presentation about how they (and the series’ two main characters) collaborate to create, produce, and accomplish things that would be impossible on their own. This session will be followed by Q&A. The recipient of starred reviews from Booklist, Publisher’s Weekly, and School Library Journal, The Real McCoys is a 2018 Bank Street selection, an Amazon book of the month, School Library Guild selection, and a nominee for the 2019 Cartwheel Book Award.

Matthew Swanson and Robbi Behr are the husband/wife, author/illustrator co-creators of The Real McCoys (a densely illustrated/humorous/vaguely mysterious middle grade series) and the picture books Babies Ruin Everything, and Everywhere, Wonder. They spend most of their time making books and raising four kids in the hayloft of an old barn in Chestertown, Maryland. They spend the rest of their time speaking, teaching, and leading workshops on collaboration and creative entrepreneurship – and the rest of the rest of their time running a commercial salmon fishing operation on the Alaskan tundra. For more information, visit: www.robbiandmatthew.com

TARA CAMPBELL
Cadby Auditorium (Located in Kent Humanities)
The World in a Flash

How do you fit the world into 1,000 words or less? This is your opportunity to explore the genre of flash fiction and create your own compact masterpiece. Together we’ll analyze published flash fiction pieces and discuss the techniques that make them effective. You’ll learn how to adapt the elements of fiction to the constraints of flash and write to prompts to practice your newly acquired knowledge. We’ll also discuss opportunities for further reading—and perhaps future publication.

Tara Campbell is a fiction editor at Barrelhouse and an MFA candidate at American University. She has received the following awards from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities: the Larry Neal Writers’ Award in Fiction, the Mayor’s Arts Award for Outstanding New Artist, and an Arts and Humanities Fellowship. She is also a Kimbilio Fellow and recipient of the 2018 Robert Gover Story Prize. Prior publication credits include SmokeLong Quarterly, Masters Review, b(OINK), Booth, Spelk, Jellyfish Review, Strange Horizons, and Queen Mob’s Teahouse.
Her debut novel, *TreeVolution*, was published in 2016, and her collection, *Circe’s Bicycle*, was released spring 2018. For more about Tara Campbell, visit: https://sites.google.com/site/tarapcampbell

**GERRY LAFEMINA • Humanities-113 (Located in Kent Humanities)**

A Gallery of Poems: Curating Your Chapbook

In this session poet an editor Gerry LaFemina discusses a few strategies in putting a chapbook manuscript together. Sample chapbooks will be shared, pros and cons regarding chapbook lengths will be discussed, and the limitations, possibilities, and flexibility of the chapbook form will be highlighted.

**Gerry LaFemina**’s latest book is the poetry collection *The Story of Ash* (Anhinga, 2018). He is also the author of a novel, a collection of short stories, and numerous award-winning collections of poetry, including *The Parakeets of Brooklyn*, *Notes for the Novice Ventriloquist* (prose poems), *Vanishing Horizon*, and *Little Heretic*. His collection of essays on poets and prosody, *Palpable Magic*, came out in 2015 from Stephen F. Austin University Press and his textbook, *Composing Poetry: A Guide to Writing Poems and Thinking Lyrically* was released last year from Kendall Hunt. The former director of the Frostburg Center for Literary Arts, he teaches at Frostburg State University and serves as a mentor in the MFA program at Carlow University. For more about Gerry LaFemina, visit: www.gerrylafemina.com

**LORIANN OBERLIN & ROBERT BIDINOTTO**

HPAC-127 (Located in the Health Professions & Athletic Ctr)

The Do Nots & Definitely Do Steps for Writers

Professional writers spend one-third of their time creating, the rest on “the business side of writing.” In this presentation, Loriann and Robert will share their own hard-won learning experiences: their mistakes and the lessons they learned along the way to successful writing careers. Among many topics, they’ll discuss how to identify “the one thing” – your most important goal during each writing session. They’ll explain how you can avoid becoming paralyzed by anxiety and perfectionism, while still maintaining high standards of professionalism in writing, production, and marketing. They’ll address such common errors as impatience and hasty publishing; failing to engage the right beta-readers prior to publication; confused branding and poor marketing; unrealistic sales expectations; plus much more. There’s a ton to learn from these veteran authors’ missteps, and you’ll have the opportunity to ask them about your own problems and concerns. Here’s a can’t-miss session if you want to avoid costly, time-consuming, and demoralizing mistakes.

**Loriann Oberlin** has written 13 books, beginning with a Writer’s Digest title more than 20 years ago. Her latest, *Writing to Make Money: Short Projects*, helps writers boost bank accounts and their confidence. In addition to her decades of experience with magazines, newspapers, greeting card companies, and traditional publishers, Loriann is also a licensed mental health therapist. This background helps her to encourage writers through their self-defeating glitches and habits. Her titles *Overcoming Passive-Aggression* as well as *Surviving Separation & Divorce* are available in most bookstores. Under the pen name of Lauren Monroe, she has also indie-published two women’s novels – *Letting Go: Book One of The Maryland Shores* and *Second Chances: Book Two*. Visit her website: www.lorriannoberlin.com

**Robert Bidinotto** is author of *HUNTER* – a No. 1 Amazon Kindle bestseller in “Mysteries & Thrillers,” and a Wall Street Journal “Top Ten Fiction Ebook.” Its first sequel, *BAD DEEDS*, was named CLFA “Book of the Year.” His latest thriller, *WINNER TAKES ALL*, is garnering stellar reviews and completes the opening trilogy of his bestselling Dylan Hunter thrillers series. For decades prior to his turn to fiction, Robert was an award-winning nonfiction author, magazine editor, and investigative journalist. His work has appeared in *Reader’s Digest, The Boston Herald, The American Spectator*, and many other publications. He lives with his wife on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, where he is at work on new Dylan Hunter adventures. Visit Robert’s website here: www.bidinotto.com
Humanities-101 (Located in Kent Humanities)

Residencies & Fellowships

Kim Roberts and Pat Valdata will discuss three distinct types of residency programs: artist-in-residence (AIR) programs, usually hosted by institutions such as a college, national park or museum; artist colonies, where groups of four to 20 artists are provided unstructured time for the creation of new work; and retreat programs. The first two are competitive, requiring formal applications. The third category serves artists on a first-come, first-served basis for a fee. We’ll review how writers can research these programs, how to prepare applications, what are reasonable costs and stipends, what to expect from the residency experience, and how to make the most of your time while there.

Pat Valdata is a poet and novelist with an MFA in writing from Goddard College. Her publications include two poetry books, Where No Man Can Touch (winner of the 2015 Donald Justice Poetry Prize) and Inherent Vice; the chapbook Looking for Bivalve; and two novels, Crosswind and The Other Sister. She is an adjunct professor who teaches creative writing for the University of Maryland University College and the Salisbury University Center for Extended and Lifelong Learning. She lives in Crisfield, Maryland. For more information about Pat Valdata, visit: www.patvaldata.com

Kim Roberts 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). She co-edits the journal Beltway Poetry Quarterly and the web exhibit DC Writers’ Homes. Roberts has been the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, HumanitiesDC, and the DC Commission on the Arts, and has been a writer-in-residence at 18 artist colonies. Poems of hers have been featured in the Wick Poetry Center’s Traveling Stanzas Project, on the Academy of American Poets’ Poem-a-Day Project, and on podcasts sponsored by the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more about Kim Roberts, visit: www.kimroberts.org

4:15-5:15 pm Sessions:

PANEL DISCUSSION: Picture Books
Humanities-114 (Located in Kent Humanities)

Creating children’s picture books can be a daunting task, but our three expert authors—James Burd Brewster, Dr. Carol Franks-Randall, and Michelle Meadows—will take your questions and tell you everything you want to know, from getting started through holding your book in your hands. You’ll learn about generating story ideas, deciding on formats and text or verse, writing for different ages, finding and working with illustrators, and publishing and marketing. Our authors will share their experiences so that you can produce picture books that kids and parents will enjoy.

Matthew Swanson and Robbi Behr are the husband/wife, author/illustrator co-creators of The Real McCoys (a densely illustrated/humorous/vaguely mysterious middle grade series) and the picture books Babies Ruin Everything and Everywhere, Wonder. They spend most of their time making books and raising four kids in the hayloft of an old barn in Chestertown, Maryland. They spend the rest of their time speaking, teaching, and leading workshops on collaboration and creative entrepreneurship—and the rest of the rest of their time running a commercial salmon fishing operation on the Alaskan tundra. For more information, visit: www.robbiandmatthew.com

James Burd Brewster authored the successful Glad To Do It! picture book series and is the president of J2B Publishing. Jim was raised in New England, learned to sail on Lake Champlain, and navigated a USCG polar icebreaker to Alaska. He is on the board of the Maryland Writers Association and is a member of the Charles County
Chapter. His work has been presented at the Gaithersburg Book Festival, Baltimore Book Festival, and College Park Book Festival. He has given similar presentations at retreat centers and the Brain to Bookshelf writers’ conference as well as to Optimist and Rotary clubs.

Carol Franks-Randall, EdD began her career as a special education teacher, and became a special education administrator, elementary principal and school superintendent, all in New York. After retirement in 2008, she relocated to Maryland and continues to work in both New York and Maryland as an educational consultant, workshop presenter, college professor and community volunteer. In November 2017, she published her first children’s book, Jamal and Me. She conducts author’s visits in elementary schools, and professional development workshops for teachers and library-media specialists. Dr. Franks-Randall is presently working on her next book, Playground Heroes.

Michelle Meadows is the author of nine picture books, including Hibernation Station, Piggies in Pajamas, and Super Bugs. She writes both fiction and nonfiction, and her publishers include Henry Holt/Macmillan, Scholastic, and Simon & Schuster. Michelle’s most recent picture book is Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins. Michelle is represented by literary agent Rosemary Stimola. With a dual degree in journalism and literature from Syracuse University, Michelle loves to get kids hooked on reading. She lives near the beach in Delaware with her husband and son. Visit her online at www.michellemeadows.com

PANEL DISCUSSION: Character Cadby Auditorium (Located in Kent Humanities)
Characters with Character, moderated by Michele Chynoweth

Great stories need great characters, but how does one get them? Popular authors Michele Chynoweth, Susan Reiss, and Lynn Schwartz will answer your questions and tell you everything you need to know about creating and portraying believable, compelling characters, establishing their point of view, finding their “voice” through dialogue that’s natural and memorable, and revealing their inner values in ways that are integral to the plot. You’ll learn what motivates characters, how they change through the “character arc,” what triggers reader empathy versus sympathy, and much more.

Michele Chynoweth is the best-selling and award winning author of The Faithful One, The Peace Maker and The Runaway Prophet, contemporary novels based on Old Testament stories filled with the same suspense and romance found in the Bible yet written so that today’s readers can easily see themselves in the characters and understand what God is saying. Michele is also an inspirational speaker, book coach and writing instructor for the Continuing Education program at Cecil College in North East, Maryland. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, she and her husband have a blended family of five children. For further information about Michele Chynoweth visit: www.michelechynoweth.com

Susan Reiss, a native of Washington, D.C., trained as a concert pianist then worked as a television writer/producer for many years at the network level and as head of her own production company. Her work has received a Silver Medal, New York International Film Festival, Cine Golden Eagle, three Tellys and Emmy nominations. Her Silver Mystery novels are set in St. Michaels. She was named a Scribe of the Shore in 2015. Recently, she returned to television and has two miniseries under consideration in LA. For more information, visit: www.susanreiss.com

Lynn Auld Schwartz is a writer, story development editor, and has ghostwritten three books. Her plays and staged readings have been performed in NYC, including Lincoln Center. She founded the Temple Bar Literary Reading Series in NYC, has received two Individual Artist Awards in Fiction from the Maryland State Arts Council, and a Literary Arts Annie Award from the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County. Schwartz has taught fiction at St. John’s College and The Writer’s Center and produces a Page to Stage series for adults and teens in Annapolis. www.writerswordhouse.com
CHRISTOPHER T. GEORGE • Humanities-113
Resilience, Trauma & Autobiographical Poetry

There is the old adage “Write about what you know.” Having written poetry for 50 years, Chris has come to the realization that many of the poems he has written are about life’s experiences – various traumas that he has undergone that have made him a more resilient and better person. In 1976, he wrote, illustrated, and self-published, “Toxteth: An Autobiographical Poem”, about his experiences of being born in Liverpool, England, his emigration to the United States with his parents at the age of 7, his return to the UK to live with his grandparents, and his eventual arrival in the United States to attend university in 1968. Two subsequent prize-winning poems, “Blizzard” and “The Day the Egrets Came Calling,” concerned the death of his father. Works that he has written have been influenced by poets he’s admired throughout his life: Dylan Thomas, T. S. Eliot and Sylvia Plath. This session will encourage those in attendance to use their own experiences in their writing, to study the works of the best modern poets and write in the modern idiom and not in outdated poetic styles.

Christopher T. George was born in Liverpool in 1948 and attended some of the same schools as the Beatles. He emigrated to the US in 1955 but returned to the UK in the “Swinging Sixties.” After return to US in 1968, he studied poetry composition with the late Sister Maura Eichner and Elliott Coleman. He is the former editor of Desert Moon Review and Loch Raven Review. For more about Christopher T. George, visit: www.chrisgeorge.netpublish.net

LAURA SHOVAN
HPAC-127 (Located in the Health Professions & Athletic Ctr)
But I’m Not a Poet: Writing the Novel-in-Verse

Novels-in-verse are increasingly popular with kidlit and young adult readers, but you don’t have to be a poet to give this genre a try. Join children’s author, verse novelist, and poet-in-the-schools, Laura Shovan, for an overview of the novel in verse form. We’ll focus on three key ways that poetry appeals to young readers: white space, wordplay, and voice; as well as how plot structure works in a verse novel. Laura will lead a writing exercise that authors of any genre can use to hone a character’s voice.

Laura Shovan’s debut middle grade novel, The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary, was an NCTE 2017 Notable Verse Novel, a Bank Street College of Education Best Children’s Book of the year, and won a Cybils Award for poetry. It was named the Arnold Adoff Poetry Award for New Voices honor book in 2018. Laura’s second children’s novel with Random House Kids, Takedown, is about the first girl on an all-boys wrestling team. She lives with her family in Maryland, where she is a longtime poet-in-the-schools for the Maryland State Arts Council. She is former editor of Little Patuxent Review and won the Clarinda Harriss Poetry Prize for her chapbook, Mountain, Log, Salt, and Stone. For more about Laura Shovan, visit: www.laurashovan.com

KENTON KILGORE • Humanities-101 (Located in Kent Humanities)
Hand-Selling Books: Making Money and Winning Fans

You can make money and win hardcore fans by selling your books in person, but there’s much more to it than just signing copies. Author Kenton Kilgore walks you through every step of how to successfully hand-sell books, with lots of do’s and don’ts that he learned from extensive experience. Among the aspects that Kenton discusses are picking the right venue, what you’ll need to bring, setting up the display, and his “one-spoonful-at-a-time” selling technique. If you’re an introvert (or just shy), he’ll show you how to overcome that so you can easily engage with potential readers.

Kenton Kilgore is writes young adult science-fiction and fantasy that you’ll feel. He is the author of the novels This Wasted Land, Lost Dogs, and Dragontamer’s Daughters; as well as Our Wild Place, a children’s picture book. Kenton and his family live with too many dogs and cats in Stevensville, Maryland. Visit kentonkilgore.com for more information.
**2019 Bay to Ocean Writers Conference**

**CHECK-IN: LOBBY of the KENT HUMANITIES BUILDING**

*Please Note: Following breakfast, snacks & drinks are available here all day. The coat room is located in Kent Humanities Building, Room-102*

**8:00 – 8:45** CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, WELCOME, KEYNOTE SPEECH BY GREGG WILHELM: CAROLINE COLLEGE CENTER CAFETERIA

** ALL OTHER SESSIONS HELD IN KENT HUMANITIES BUILDING, CADBY AUDITORIUM, HEALTH PROFESSIONS & ATHLETIC CENTER (HPAC)**

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<td>TRACK:</td>
<td>Children’s Literature &amp; Creative Nonfiction</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Meditative Journaling Mary McCarthy</td>
<td>Using Dialogue to Advance a Plot Amy Schisler</td>
<td>Writing the Contemporary Lyric Poem Chris Salerno</td>
<td>Grants/Fellowships Christine Stewart (MSAC)</td>
<td>Secrets to a Successful Writing Career Sophie Moss</td>
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<td>11:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Micro Creative Nonfiction Laura J. Oliver</td>
<td>Creating Layered Fiction Kris Faatz</td>
<td>The Insectanum: Small Life Forms in Poetry Kim Roberts</td>
<td>Writing Winning Dialogue Austin S. Camacho</td>
<td>Don’t Die with Your Secret Dianne L. Pearce</td>
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<td>12:30 – 1:45</td>
<td>LUNCH BUFFET: CAROLINE COLLEGE CENTER CAFETERIA • Please visit the bookstore, located in the Kent Humanities Building, Room-107</td>
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<td>1:45 – 2:45</td>
<td>Everything You Want to Know About Everything You Want to Know Chris Grabenstein (Skype)</td>
<td>Autobiographical Inspiration: Finding Effective Ways to Keep Yourself in Your Fiction Joshua Isard</td>
<td>Mining the World of Science for Ideas &amp; Language to Expand Your Poetry Bhodi Tims</td>
<td>What Are We Looking For? The Editors Panel Moderated by Gregg Wilhelm With: Christine Stewart, Chris Salerno, Kim Roberts, Gerry LaFemina</td>
<td>Perfecting Your Author Platform Ally Machate</td>
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<td>3:00 – 4:00</td>
<td>The Secrets of Collaboration Matthew Swanson &amp; Robbi Behr</td>
<td>The World in a Flash Tara Campbell</td>
<td>The Chapbook Gerry LaFemina</td>
<td>The Do Nots &amp; Definitely Do Steps for Writers Loriann Oberlin &amp; Robert Bidinotto</td>
<td>Residencies &amp; Fellowships Pat Valdata &amp; Kim Roberts</td>
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*All speakers and topics were confirmed as of the publishing deadline.*
**Welcome to the 2019 Bay To Ocean Writers Conference**, 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 this year’s anthology is being guest edited by BTO keynote speaker, Gregg Wilhelm. In 2019, we’ll be holding readings and writing workshops, fostering critique groups, and hosting luncheons and other events where writers can meet up, swap experiences, learn from one another, and receive encouragement as well as inspiration. And ESWA helps to sponsor other writing events, such as Canal Town Writers Conference, and upcoming Salisbury Poetry Week with Poet in Residence, Jane Satterfield!

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 will be doing as we speed toward the 2020s. If you want in on that – and why wouldn’t you – then join us. Sign up to be a member at easternshorewriters.org for only $35 a year. Unlike some other groups, we don’t require you to meet certain qualifications: our membership includes prizewinning, 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, 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’ll:**
- **Receive** our 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, please 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

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**Call for Submissions:**

**Easter Shore Writers Association**

**2nd Annual Bay to Ocean Anthology**

We are enthusiastically accepting applications for the 2nd Annual *Bay to Ocean Anthology*, a publication celebrating the very best fiction, nonfiction and poetry from the Eastern Shore Writers Association.

**Final selections** will be made by Guest Editor, Gregg Wilhelm, Chair of the Creative Writing Program at George Mason University.

**Who May Submit:** Any ESWA member in good standing.

**All attendees of the 2019 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, 2019

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