

James River

W R I T E R S



Panels on
the craft
and
business of
WRITING

One-on-one
meetings
with
**LITERARY
AGENTS**

**FIRST
PAGES
PANEL**

**Agent
Dating
Game**

**LIBRARY
OF
VIRGINIA**
Literary
Luncheon

conference 2017
october 13-15

Contents

3	From the Executive Director
4	From the Conference Chair & One-on-one Sessions
5	Follow a Track & What Do You Write?
6	Sessions, Saturday, Oct. 14
9	Poetry in the Enchanted Garden & Agent Dating Game
10	Sessions, Sunday, Oct. 15
11	Lunch Sessions
14	Conference Speakers
22	JRW Programs
24	JRW Contests
26	Youth Advisory Board and Staff
27	Donors

About JRW

OUR MISSION

James River Writers builds community by connecting and inspiring writers and all those in central Virginia with a love for the written word.

OUR PAST

JRW was established in 2002 by a group of local writers who saw the need to support the growth of the region's literary community.

The James River Writers Conference began in 2003 as a two-day writing and publishing festival with seminars and lectures for aspiring and working writers. The program was a sell-out success, making clear what many already suspected: Richmond is a thriving city for writers. JRW strove to expand and now hosts a year-round calendar of literary programs plus a website and multiple newsletters about all things literary in central Virginia.

In January 2007, *Style Weekly* recognized the founding of JRW as one of the pivotal moments in the past quarter century of Richmond arts. JRW has been a recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and was awarded the Theresa Pollak Prize for excellence in the arts. James River Writers is honored to be recognized for all the ways the organization nurtures central Virginia's creative literary community.

The 2017 JRW conference is presented with special thanks to these generous sponsors:

- Virginia Commission for the Arts
- Dominion Energy

On social media? If you're sharing your conference experience with the world, please use **#JRW17** so we can easily find and boost your posts. You can also tag us on Twitter @jamesrvwriters.



From the Executive Director

Welcome to JRW's fifteenth annual writing conference! By joining us this weekend, you're affirming your commitment to your craft, investing in your creative self, and becoming part of our storied history.

Since its founding in 2002 by a group of local authors, James River Writers has encouraged and educated writers in the Richmond area and beyond. Fourteen years of conferences have engaged over 4,000 aspiring and professional writers from a multitude of genres. We've produced over one hundred Writing Shows and welcomed our diverse literary community to well over 150 social/networking events.

While these are impressive numbers, we really measure our success through your stories: the email from a member saying our Writing Show on self-publishing helped him get his book published, the shiny-eyed teacher who stopped by the conference desk to tell us the weekend was life-altering, the agent who hadn't signed anyone at a conference in five years but signed two people from our 2016 conference, or the student who was inspired to write by an author who met her publisher through us. These, and a hundred more stories like them, are the true milestones of our fifteen-year journey.

Some of the faces here today are different, and many things have changed in the writing world in the last decade and a half. But the camaraderie, the inspiration, and the joy of this weekend are very much the same.

I hope that when this small part of your writing journey is done, you'll have more stories to share with us!



Katharine Herndon
Executive Director

2017 Board of Directors

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4 From the Conference Chair

Fifteen years ago, James River Writers hosted its first writers conference. We started off fitting comfortably in the Library of Virginia and have recently grown into the space of the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Our founders had a vision to provide a sanctuary for writers where they could learn from experts about the craft of writing and the business of publishing. A place where people could connect with like-minded individuals and integrate into a creative tribe.

This weekend is the 15th Annual James River Writers Conference. There are a few things to keep in mind; be prepared to be mugged by inspiration, uplifted by someone's journey, and educated by the amazing guests. It doesn't matter whether you've attended each of the fifteen conferences or if this is your first time attending; you are home amongst your peeps.

I am proud to be a part of James River Writers. I have met authors whom I admire and can count among my friends and developed friendships with fellow writers who are on the same creative journey.

Look to your left and to your right and introduce yourself to someone you don't know. Be open to inspiration and connections. You won't be disappointed.



Welcome to the 15th Annual James River Writers Conference.

I'm glad you're here.

Leila Gaskin
2017 Conference Chair

One-on-one Sessions

We are excited to, once again, offer one-on-one sessions during the conference. This year includes meetings with agents and editors from a full spectrum of genres, and feedback sessions with all three of JRW's co-founders: Phaedra Hise, Dean King, and David L. Robbins.

Please arrive thirty minutes before your scheduled meeting time and check in at the desk outside room E11B.

Follow a Track

The James River Writers conference is designed to help you reach your writing goals, whatever they may be.

To assist you in choosing from a variety of sessions, we've grouped them into tracks. You may want to follow a certain track throughout the conference to get an in-depth look at one aspect of writing. Or you might choose a few panels from each track to get a well-rounded experience. Then again, feel free to ignore the tracks altogether and follow your favorite speakers. As always, you select the sessions that are most relevant to your circumstances.

Check the description of each breakout session to see if they fall into one of this year's three tracks — Author Care, Craft, and Publishing.

What do you write?

Be proud of what you write and easily share your interests with nametag flair. Stop by the sticker table near the registration desk, find the stickers that correspond to your genre or target audience, and apply as many as your literary output demands. It's a great way to spot other attendees with similar passions and provides an easy conversation starter.



Comic Books/
Graphic Novels



Memoir/
Biography



Poetry



Fiction



Middle Grade/
Young Adult



Romance/
Erotica



Historical Fiction



Mystery/
Suspense/
Crime



SciFi/Fantasy



Horror



Nonfiction



Screen/
Playwriting



Literary Fiction



Picture Books/
Childrens'



Short Story

8:00AM to 8:45AM
Registration & Breakfast

First-time Attendee Mixer

When: 8:15-8:45
Facilitator: Lana Krumwiede
Room: E10C

8:45AM to 9:15AM
Opening Ceremonies

Poetry reading by Ron Smith
Room: E10A-B

9:30AM to 10:30AM
Concurrent Sessions

Paths to Publication

Sponsored by Tuck Austin Associates

Speakers: Cherise Fisher, Joy Harris, Sadeqa Johnson, Kim Drew Wright

Moderator: Julie Valerie
Room: E10A-B
Track: Publishing

The path to publication is no longer cut and dry. Options now include traditional publishing, self-publishing, and hybrid publishing. Learn the pros and cons to assist you in determining your path forward.

Writing Authentically

Speakers: Gigi Amateau, Nicole Dennis-Benn, Panio Gianopoulos, Annie Hwang

Moderator: Kristi Tuck Austin
Room: E10C
Track: Craft

A story is only as good as the authenticity of place, character, and culture that a reader perceives. Learn how important diversity and culture are in creating a rich and engaging narrative.

9:30AM to 10:30AM
Concurrent Sessions

Mind the Gaps

Speakers: Amy Gary, Jon Kukla, Beth Macy, Meg Medina

Moderator: Karen Chase
Room: E10D
Track: Craft

Historical records give an author a framework to hang the story on. How do you fill in the gaps in character development and event details so that you can draw the reader into the story?

Heroes vs. Villains

Speakers: Marguerite Bennett, Booker T. Mattison, Angele McQuade, Patty Smith

Moderator: Douglas Jones
Room: E11A
Track: Craft

Gone are the days of mustache-twirling villains and heroes who save the day, every day. What twist of fate separates a villain from a hero or anti-hero? Why are relatable heroes and villains important to storytelling?



10:45AM to 11:45AM
Concurrent Sessions

10:45AM to 11:45AM
Concurrent Sessions

Polishing Your Pearls

Speakers: Nicole Dennis-Benn, Jaime Coyne, Peter Hubbard, Carrie Thornton

Moderator: Kris Spisak

Room: E10A-B

Track: Publishing

Learn tips and tricks every author needs to know about self-editing, when to bring in an editor, and how to process the feedback given by agents and editors.

Social Media

Speakers: Panio Gianopoulos, Sadeqa Johnson, Sonja Yoerg

Moderator: Joshua Paul Cane

Room: E10C

What is the best way to reach your readers through social media? Our experts will help you make the best use of your time and make your presence known.

Don't Sweat It

Speakers: Nicole Terez Dutton, David Kazzie, Sarah Sneed, Tia Williams

Moderator: Kristi Tuck Austin

Room: E10D

Track: Author Care

Most writers have moments where the whole "writing thing" is not going well, and sometimes it feels like it might not ever go well again. Explore ways to cope with self-doubt, depression, impostor syndrome, and anxiety.

Bad Words vs. Strong Language

Speakers: Marguerite Bennett, Meg Medina, Esi Sogah, Kim Drew Wright

Moderator: Julie Valerie

Room: E11A

Track: Craft

How does the choice of words affect the story and the reader? Can strong language be an acceptable substitution for curse words? What are the rules of thumb for usage in different genres?

12:00PM to 2:00PM
Literary Luncheon

Library of Virginia Literary Luncheon

featuring David Baldacci

Location: Grand Ballroom

The Library of Virginia's annual Literary Luncheon features medal announcements for all 2017 Library of Virginia Literary Award finalists and the Lifetime Achievement Award winner.



Saturday Schedule Continues

2:15PM to 3:15PM
Concurrent SessionsBeen There, Done That – YA TropesSpeakers: Gigi Amateau, Sarah Glenn Marsh,
Alex Sanchez

Moderator: Shawna Christos

Room: E10A-B

Track: Craft

Absent or dead parents, love triangles, love at first sight, the chosen one. When is a trope comfortingly familiar, and when is it so overdone that it induces eye-rolling? How can you avoid or incorporate popular YA clichés?

Library of Virginia Award Finalists – Fiction

Sponsored by New York City Big Book Award

Speakers: Jane Alison, Elizabeth Poliner

Moderator: Erica Orloff

Room: E10C

Track: Craft

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards are given annually to outstanding authors as a way of celebrating the power of the written word. In this panel, the fiction finalists will discuss their experiences and thoughts on writing.

Library of Virginia Award Finalists – Nonfiction

Speakers: Belle Boggs, Annette Gordon-Reed, Patrick K. O'Donnell

Moderator: David Streever

Room: E10D

Track: Craft

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards are given annually to outstanding authors as a way of celebrating the power of the written word. In this panel, the nonfiction finalists will discuss their experiences and thoughts on writing.

2:15PM to 3:15PM
Concurrent SessionsLibrary of Virginia Award Finalists – Poetry

Speakers: Rita Dove, Cathryn Hankla, Brynne Rebele-Henry, Sally Keith

Moderator: Ron Smith

Room: E11A

Track: Craft

The Library of Virginia Literary Awards are given annually to outstanding authors as a way of celebrating the power of the written word. In this panel, the poetry finalists will discuss their experiences and thoughts on writing.

3:30PM to 4:45PM
Plenary SessionA Conversation with Margot Lee Shetterly

Speakers: Margot Lee Shetterly, Kirk T. Schroder

Room: E10A-B

Track: Craft

Margot Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures*, discusses her journey in writing this national best-seller and her lessons learned along the way with entertainment attorney Kirk Schroder.



Poetry in the Enchanted Garden ⁹

Your conference day doesn't have to end yet! Saturday night, James River Writers and the Poe Museum will co-host a special Evening of Poetry in the Enchanted Garden from 6PM to 9PM.

The event will feature readings by several acclaimed poets from the 15th Annual James River Writers Conference. Located at 1914 East Main Street, the Poe Museum's grounds and exhibits will be open for exploration. Admission is free. A cash bar with beer/wine will be available, along with light hors d'oeuvres.



Have you ever heard of the goofy 70s game show where a bachelor or bachelorette was matched with one of three mystery dates? Well, we've brought back the popular James River Writers version for a second year!

Here's how it works . . .

During the two days of the conference, you can drop your name in a bowl, indicating your willingness to participate in The Agent Dating Game and selecting which category best describes your current work. Categories for 2017 are YA/MG, Historical Fiction, Romance/Women's Fiction, Mystery, Literary Fiction, and Nonfiction/Memoir.

During Sunday's final plenary session, an agent will take a chair as the "bachelor" or "bachelorette." MC Brian Rock will select three names from the bowl. If your name is called, take a seat in one of the three mystery date chairs.

Now the fun begins. Our agent will ask each writer a question (for instance, "What would be your main character's idea of a perfect date?" or "What does your protagonist want most of all?"). The three writers will then be given the chance to respond. After a few rounds of follow-up questions, our MC will encourage the agent to select a winner. And no, the winner will not take a sunset cruise with the agent, but they will have their proposal and first chapter read (nonfiction), or their synopsis and three chapters read (fiction).

The audience will gain insights into the thinking of agents—and who knows? One of our own dates just might find the perfect relationship.

Don't miss it!

8:45AM to 9:15AM
Opening Ceremonies

A special presentation by
Richmond Young Writers
Room: E10A-B

9:15AM to 10:15AM
Plenary Session

First Pages

Speakers: Erica Bauman, Jaime Coyne, Ben Grange, Carrie Thornton

Readers: dl Hopkins, A.B. Westrick

Moderator: Bill Blume

Room: E10A-B

Track: Publishing & Craft

Two agents and two editors across a broad spectrum of publishing listen to and critique first pages, read on the spot so the audience can hear their initial reactions. First pages should grab and not let go. Listen to the insights and gentle criticism from the experts. Will someone be "discovered" this year?

10:30AM to 11:30AM
Concurrent Sessions

Out of the Slush Pile

Speakers: Caroline Eisenmann, Cherise Fisher, Annie Hwang

Moderator: Jon Sealy

Room: E10A-B

Track: Publishing

Is your pitch perfected? Agents talk about what they like to see in a query and what they'd really like to never see again.

10:30AM to 11:30AM
Concurrent Sessions

Poetry and Life

Speakers: Nicole Terez Dutton, Brynne Rebele-Henry, Laura-Gray Street

Moderator: Joanna S. Lee

Room: E10C

Track: Craft

Poets talk about how they pull inspiration from life and the events surrounding them to create compelling pieces of poetry that connect with the listener or reader.

Self-publishing 101

Speakers: Joy Harris, David Kazzie, Kim Drew Wright

Moderator: Melissa Powell Gay

Room: E10D

Track: Publishing

Navigating the world of self-publishing can be overwhelming. Our panelists will share the steps and resources that have allowed them to have success in this ever-evolving platform.

Queer Literature

Speakers: Nicole Dennis-Benn, Sarah Glenn Marsh, Alex Sanchez, Patty Smith

Moderator: Wendy DeGroat

Room: E11A

Track: Craft

What is queer literature? How do you create LGBTQ characters that aren't stereotypes? Our panelists will discuss current trends.

11:45AM to 12:45PM
Lunch

It's our fifteenth anniversary, and we're celebrating during lunch with a variety of opportunities for you to enjoy. Choose from a panel in the main room where we'll share JRW success stories, or pick one of three Lunch and Learns offered by our three original founders. Whatever your choice, grab your lunch, and pull up a chair. We're ready to share fifteen-plus years of writing expertise!

James River Writers 15th Anniversary Panel

Speakers: a wide range of writers from our past, present, and future

Moderator: A.B. Westrick

Room: E10A-B

Former JRW Administrative Director and local award-winning author, A.B. Westrick, chats with a few of our literary superstars about how JRW has helped them and what their writing journey has been like so far.

Lunch and Learn: Content Marketing

Facilitator: Phaedra Hise

Room: E10C

Want to freelance great stories and get paid fat corporate dollars? Phaedra Hise teaches you what to know about breaking into content marketing: What publications to target, how to get noticed, and what to pitch.

Lunch and Learn: All Nonfiction Things Considered

Facilitator: Dean King

Room: E10D

How to formulate, research, write, and sell a nonfiction project—no questions too small or too large. This discussion is for anyone currently writing nonfiction or considering it. From proposals, to plots, to promotion, come prepared to ask, listen, and share.

Lunch and Learn: What Is Your Story?

Facilitator: David L. Robbins

Room: E11A

What lies at the core of your story, beneath plot, character, and setting? Once you identify that *raison d'être* that is the seed of the story, how do you build out from there to create a memorable story?



1:00PM to 2:00PM
Concurrent Sessions

Finding Your Point of View

Sponsored by Robert Sexton in loving memory of Emyl Jenkins

Speakers: Amy Gary, Panio Gianopoulos, Booker T. Mattison, Laura-Gray Street

Moderator: dl Hopkins

Room: E10A-B

Track: Craft

Using the right frame or viewpoint will transport the reader or viewer into the author's world. Listen to experienced creatives talk about how they determine what point of view they use for their projects.

#OwnVoices

Speakers: Nicole Terez Dutton, Meg Medina, Esi Sogah

Moderator: Erica Orloff

Room: E10C

Track: Craft

Accurate representation of marginalized voices is critical. What does #OwnVoices mean to publishing and storytelling?

Filling Your Creative Well

Speakers: Gigi Amateau, Brynne Rebele-Henry, Alex Sanchez, Patty Smith

Moderator: Stacy Hawkins Adams

Room: E10D

Track: Author Care

Everyone gets stuck. Our panelists will share what they do to get past the barrier and let the creativity flow. The process won't be the same for any two writers, but the experiences of others can spark an idea.

1:00PM to 2:00PM
Concurrent Sessions

Sexy Narratives

Speakers: Marguerite Bennett, Sadeqa Johnson, Tia Williams

Moderator: Robin Farmer

Room: E11A

Track: Craft

When including intimate content in a story, how does an author determine what is appropriate for their project's genre and intended audience? What are the boundaries, and how do you maximize the sexual tension?

2:15PM to 3:15PM
Concurrent Sessions

Worlds Without End

Speakers: Erica Bauman, Marguerite Bennett, Sarah Glenn Marsh, Booker T. Mattison

Moderator: Bill Blume

Room: E10A-B

Track: Craft

Regardless of your genre or target audience, world building is key to successful storytelling. How do you build a world that engages the reader in your work? What elements help with the suspension of disbelief?



2:15PM to 3:15PM
Concurrent Sessions

The Power of Community

Speakers: Maggie King, Joanna S. Lee, Angele McQuade, Maya Smart

Moderator: Shawna Christos

Room: E10C

Track: Author Care

Networking is important for writers, but how do you make the most of a writing community? How do you find people to critique your work, retweet your tweets, talk you through the hard times, and come to your book launch? What can getting out from behind the computer do for you?

Family Stories: For Your Family or the World?

Sponsored by Constance Costas

Speakers: Caroline Eisenmann, Joy Harris, Carrie Thornton

Moderator: Kristen Green

Room: E10D

Track: Craft

Every family has a story to tell. Is your story compelling enough to have an audience in the wider world? Does it have a unique point of view and a platform that will appeal to a large demographic? Our panelists weigh in on the elements of creative nonfiction that bring you readers.

What's Your Platform?

Speakers: Amy Gary, Peter Hubbard, Tia Williams, Sonja Yoerg

Moderator: Julie Valerie

Room: E11A

Track: Publishing

Agents, publishers, and readers look for writers who can craft their public persona as skillfully as they write their books. Learn how to build a successful platform and use it to sell books and get your message across.



3:30PM to 4:30PM
Plenary Session



Speakers: Erica Bauman, Caroline Eisenmann, Cherise Fisher, Annie Hwang, Ben Grange, Esi Sogah

MC: Brian Rock

Room: E10A-B

See page 9 for a full description of The Agent Dating Game.



Stacy Hawkins Adams is an author and journalist whose writing infuses readers with confidence in their own stories. She has penned nine women's fiction novels and one nonfiction inspirational book. Her novel *Watercolored Pearls* has been a featured title in college coursework; *Lead Me Home* was a Target stores' "Recommended Read" and *The Someday List* was an *Essence* magazine bestseller. Along with penning books, Stacy writes a parenting column for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* and blogs for the *Huffington Post*.



Gigi Amateau has written seven young adult and middle-grade novels including *Claiming Georgia Tate*, *Chancey of the Maury River*, and *Come August, Come Freedom*. She's a recipient of a Theresa Pollak Prize for Excellence in the Arts, Library of Virginia People's Choice Award for Fiction, and Pat Asch Social Justice Fellowship. She is also a RYT-200 certified yoga instructor. Currently studying for her Master of Science in gerontology at VCU, Gigi lives in Richmond, VA.

Kristi Tuck Austin waded New York City sewers, ran from trains, and slid through a water pipe to the Harlem River while researching her novels. She's celebrated Thanksgiving in the Paris catacombs, hiking, crawling, wading (again), and dining by candlelight. In her daily life, which is dry and above ground, she's founder of Tuck Austin Associates, a literary and media services company that helps authors connect with readers. She's a former board chair of James River Writers and JRW Conference chair.



Erica Bauman is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and has worked in the publishing industry for the last five years. Before coming to Aevitas she worked at Spectrum Literary Agency. Erica is currently focused on building her own list of clients, representing a wide range of authors across both children's and adult fiction, as well as some select nonfiction projects. She is most interested in novels that straddle the line between literary and commercial, fearless storytellers that tackle big ideas and contemporary issues, and working with and supporting marginalized authors and stories that represent the wide range of humanity.

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles. Her superheroic credits include DC Comics' *Batwoman* and *DC Bombshells*, as well as stints on *Batgirl* and *Lois Lane*, and Marvel's *A-Force*, *Years of Future Past*, and *Angela: Queen Of Hel*. Elsewhere, her credits include *Josie and the Pussycats* and *Red Sonja*. Her creator-owned titles, *Animosity* and *Insexts*, can be found through Aftershock Comics. Her prose has appeared in *The Secret Loves of Geek Girls*.



Bill Blume is the author of the *Gidion Keep*, *Vampire Hunter* series. His short stories have been published in several anthologies and ezines. He's worked as a 911 dispatcher since 2001. He's also a former board member for James River Writers and a finalist in JRW's 2016 Best Unpublished Novel Contest.

Joshua Paul Cane is a board member of James River Writers. He hosts a monthly podcast about the craft and business of writing. His debut novel, *Shadows Within*, is out now.



Karen A. Chase is a writer, designer, photographer, and traveler. Her first book, *Bonjour 40: A Paris Travel Log*, garnered seven independent publishing awards. Her first historical novel about the Declaration of Independence is currently agented, and she is working on a second about the Constitution. She owns 224Design—a branding and design studio. Karen and her partner, Ted, live in Richmond, VA, with their two cats, Linus and Olive.

Shawna Christos has written manuals, booklets, programs, etc. for a variety of companies, including a local Fortune 500 company, earning inter-company recognition and awards for graphics, art, computer, and database work. She is a long-time supporter of James River Writers, serving on many conference and other committees, including the board of directors for several years. Shawna is currently at work on many things, including writing young adult, middle grade, and adult fiction.



Wendy DeGroot is a poet and librarian who lives in RVA where she teaches writing, research, and creativity workshops (including a new series at the Library of Virginia which begins Oct. 21), and curates poetryriver.org. Her poetry has appeared in U.S. and U.K. publications, including *Raleigh Review*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, and *Rust + Moth*. Her chapbook, *Beautiful Machinery*, is available from Headmistress Press, and she's currently working on a documentary poetry manuscript centered on the life of Grace Evelyn Arents, an education reformer and philanthropist who lived in Richmond during the Progressive era.



Nicole Terez Dutton's work has appeared in *Callaloo*, *Ploughshares*, *32 Poems*, and *Indiana Review*. She earned an MFA from Brown University and has received fellowships from the Frost Place, the Fine Arts Work Center, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Her collection of poems, *If One of Us Should Fall*, was selected as the winner of the 2011 Cave Canem Poetry Prize. She teaches in the Solstice Low-Residency MFA Program and is the poetry editor at *The Baffler* and a senior editor at *Transition Magazine*.



An award-winning writer, **Robin Farmer** has written for *The Washington Post*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Undeclared*, and *AARP*. Her topics include business, health, and travel for online outlets, universities, and nonprofits. Robin's fiction focuses on girls discovering their voices to advocate for positive change. Her short story was included in *River City Secrets*. A recipient of residencies at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program and the Virginia Center for Creative Arts, she is completing a debut YA novel.



Jaime Coyne began her career in Marketing at Macmillan in 2012 and later transitioned to Editorial at St. Martin's Press. She is interested in literary fiction, upmarket and commercial women's fiction, and young adult. She tends to be drawn to contemporary, character and relationship-driven narratives. Nonfiction interests include memoir, biography, humor, and investigative journalism. Her list includes the humorous guide *The Big Redhead Book*, Autumn Chiklis' YA book *Raising Mom*, and a yet-to-be-announced celebrity music memoir. Jaime graduated from Colgate University with a degree in English literature and creative writing, and lives in Brooklyn.

Nicole Dennis-Benn is the author of the novel *Here Comes the Sun*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, a NPR Best Books of 2016, Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2016, and more. She has been named a finalist for Lambda Literary Award, the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Award, and The New York Public Library Young Lions Award.

Caroline Eisenmann is an associate agent at the Frances Goldin Literary Agency. Prior to joining the agency in 2017, she spent four years at ICMPartners. She represents upmarket and literary fiction, as well as nonfiction, including reported narratives, memoir, cultural criticism, essay collections, and history and biography with a surprising point of view. In fiction, she is particularly drawn to work that centers around intimacy and its discontents, stories about obsession, and narratives that grapple with our current cultural climate.

Over the course of her twenty-five year career as an acquiring editor at Simon & Schuster and as the Editor-in-Chief of Plume, **Cherise Fisher** has shepherded several books to nationally bestselling and award-winning status. As a literary agent, Cherise is most interested in representing commercial fiction and nonfiction titles that are relevant, enduring, and help readers maximize joy and productivity in their lives.

Amy Gary has worked in the book retailing and publishing industry for over thirty years. In 1990 she discovered a trunk of unpublished manuscripts by Margaret Wise Brown and since then has managed the publication rights of those works. Her biography, *In the Great Green Room: The Brilliant and Bold Life of Margaret Wise Brown*, was published by Flatiron Books in January 2017. Amy also was the Director of Publishing for Lucasfilm, and headed the publishing department for Pixar Animation Studios.



Panio Gianopoulos is the author of the story collection, *How to Get Into Our House and Where We Keep the Money* and the novella *A Familiar Beast*. His writing has appeared widely, and he is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship for nonfiction literature. He lives in New York.



Kristen Green is the author of *Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County*, a *New York Times* bestseller and the winner of the Library of Virginia Literary Award for Nonfiction and the People's Choice Award in 2016. A longtime newspaper reporter, Kristen is currently a fellow with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.



Phaedra Hise (Advisory Board Chair and JRW co-founder) is an entrepreneurial writer, editor, and author. She has written award-winning articles and cover stories for national publications including the *Washington Post*, *Inc*, *Fortune*, *Forbes*, *CNN Money*, *the Wall Street Journal*, *Popular Mechanics*, and *Salon*. Phaedra has written five books for major publishers, including two co-author collaborations. She has also run print and digital magazines including *Edible Richmond*, *Colloquy*, and *Colloquy India*. Phaedra is currently Vice President, Content & Social Media for Richmond-based company, Legacy Navigator; and Contributing Food Editor for *Virginia Living*. She blogs about urban gardening and cooking at www.kitchenplot.com



A Virginian by birth, **Melissa Powell Gay** has never gotten around to adopting a dog or cats. She writes fictional accounts of stories she believes never actually happened. She is the author of *When Are You Leaving* and *Parkland Tales*.

Before joining the L. Perkins Agency, **Ben Grange** worked all over the publishing industry. He started out at a small publishing company in Salt Lake City and proceeded to do internships at three literary agencies before his most recent position as the assistant at JABberwocky Literary Agency. He decided he wanted to be an agent after his first internship and is excited to be actively pursuing clients. His tastes gravitate towards middle-grade fiction of all types, and he is particularly on the lookout for exceptional author-illustrators who write middle grade or young adult. For more specifics about what he's looking for, including adult and nonfiction, see his speaker page or website.

Joy Harris is the author of the book *Singing Ain't Enough: The Inspiring Story of Maggie Ingram*. Her book has been featured in *Style Weekly* and *Richmond* magazine, and by the Virginia Folklife Showcase. She has also appeared on ABC, NBC, and CBS. Joy is founder of Alltrepreneur, a lifestyle brand, creating content, tools, and events for families.



dl Hopkins is a fixture in the Richmond theatre community. Onstage he is an award-winning actor, veteran poet, and former Artistic Director of the African American Repertory Theatre of Virginia. On film and the small screen he has appeared in numerous roles ranging from HBO's *The Wire*, *The Real Lone Ranger*, and most recently *Loving*, and he starred in the Fox series *Legends & Lies* as Bass Reeves. Mr. Hopkins has been an Artist-In-Residence at the University of Richmond where he both performed and taught. Additionally, he is a founding member of Ernie McClintock's Jazz Actors Theatre, where he toured as a fellow repertory artist and taught Mr. McClintock's Jazz Actor's technique.



Executive Editor **Peter Hubbard** has spent his entire career at William Morrow/HarperCollins, joining in 2004. He acquires new nonfiction and oversees key backlist titles by Aldous Huxley, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Robert Pirsig, and the Harper Perennial Modern Thought line of philosophy classics. A graduate of the University of Chicago, he grew up in the Washington, D.C., area.



Originally from Los Angeles, **Annie Hwang** represents a range of fiction and select nonfiction. As a former journalist, she possesses a keen editorial eye, which she brings to her approach to agenting, taking an active role in helping clients reach their full potential and guiding them through every stage of their writing career from ideation to publication and beyond. Since joining Folio Literary Management she's had the pleasure of working with both debut and seasoned authors alike.



Sadeqa Johnson, a former public relations manager, spent several years working with well-known authors such as J.K. Rowling, Amy Tan, and Bishop T.D. Jakes before becoming an author herself. Her debut novel, *Love in a Carry-on Bag*, is the recipient of the 2013 Phillis Wheatley award for Best Fiction. She is also the author of *Second House from the Corner* and *And Then There Was Me*. A native of Philadelphia, she has recently relocated to Midlothian, VA. She teaches a course in Richmond for writers called Pens Up, Fears Down! She is a motivational speaker, inspirational blogger, wife, and mother of three.



Douglas Jones has written and seen produced more than forty plays and screenplays. BBC's Bernard Mayes cited Jones's "ability to write in ways which are appealing to the general population without condescension, and focus on the essentials without sugaring the pill." Recent projects include a one-act play *Frankenstein Lives!*, which aired on Virginia's PBS stations, and four films commissioned by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation for its 400th Anniversary (currently playing at the Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center).



David Kazzie's first two novels, *The Jackpot* and *The Immune*, were Top 100 bestsellers on Amazon, and *The Jackpot* was published by Bard Publishing (Bulgaria) in 2015. His third novel, *The Living*, was published in May 2017. David is also the creator of a series of viral YouTube films, which were featured on CNN, in *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is represented by the Ann Rittenberg Literary Agency. David lives in Richmond, VA.



Dean King (JRW co-founder) is the author of *The Feud*, which the WSJ called, "popular history as it ought to be written," and nine other books. His national bestseller *Skeletons on the Zahara* was translated into ten languages and optioned by Steven Spielberg. Dean is the chief storyteller of two History Channel documentaries and a producer of its unscripted series *Hatfields and McCoys*. His writing appears in *Esquire*, *Granta*, *Men's Journal*, and the *New York Times*.



Maggie King is the author of the *Hazel Rose Book Group* mysteries, including *Murder at the Moonshine Inn*. She contributed "A Not So Genteel Murder" and "Reunion in Shockoe Slip" to the *Virginia is for Mysteries* anthologies, published by Koehler Books. Her story, "Wine, Women, and Wrong" is featured in *50 Shades of Cabernet*. Maggie is a member of Sisters in Crime, James River Writers, and the American Association of University Women.



A native of Wisconsin, **Jon Kukla** aspires to bring first-rate historical scholarship to a general readership – books, as one scholar put it, "that working historians have to read and the general public want to read." His comprehensive new biography, *Patrick Henry: Champion of Liberty*, will be published by Simon & Schuster in August 2017. Both *Mr. Jefferson's Women* (Knopf 2007) and *A Wilderness So Immense: The Louisiana Purchase and the Destiny of America* (Knopf 2003) were Book-of-the-Month and History Book Club selections.



Joanna Suzanne Lee earned her MD from the Medical College of Virginia in 2007. Focusing on the intersection of healing and creativity, her poetry has been published in a number of online and print journals and has been nominated for both Best of the Net and Pushcart prizes. *Dissections*, her first chapbook, was published this summer through Finishing Line Press. Joanna is a founder of Richmond's River City Poets and is currently serving as Board Chair of the James River Writers.



Beth Macy is the Roanoke, Virginia-based author of the 2014 Lukas Prize-winning *Factory Man*, a nonfiction narrative now in development for a film produced by Tom Hanks. Her 2016 *Truevine* was also a *Times* bestseller, short-listed for the Kirkus Prize and the Carnegie Medal. Both books were *New York Times* Notable Books. A former newspaper reporter, Macy has won more than a dozen national journalism awards, including a Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard.



Booker T. Mattison is an author and filmmaker who wrote and directed the film adaptation of Zora Neale Hurston's *The Gilded Six Bits*, which aired on Showtime. Mattison's novel *Snitch* received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*. His debut novel *Unsigned Hype* was nominated for a South Carolina Book Award. Mattison received his Master of Fine Arts in film and television from New York University. He teaches film production and screenwriting at the University of Georgia.



Sarah Glenn Marsh has been an avid fantasy reader from the day her dad handed her a copy of *The Hobbit* and promised it would change her life; she's been making up words and worlds ever since. Sarah lives in Richmond, VA, with her husband and their zoo of rescued greyhounds, three birds, and many fish. She is the author of *Fear the Drowning Deep*, the forthcoming *Reign of the Fallen* duology with Razorbill (Penguin), and several forthcoming picture books.



Meg Medina is the author of numerous prize-winning works for children and teens. Her newest novel, *Burn Baby Burn*, was long listed for the 2016 National Book Award and was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize and the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award. It was also named the 2016 Young Adult Book of the Year by the New Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association (NAIBA). In 2014, Meg was named one of the CNN 10 Visionary Women in America.



Angele McQuade is the author of two books about investing, including *Investment Clubs for Dummies*. As a columnist for *Better Investing* magazine, she's published more than 300 cover and feature articles. She teaches "Cash & Creativity" workshops at local and national investment and writing events and online. Angele also writes novels for children and young adults, and is a member of RWA, SCBWI, and the Authors Guild. She is represented by Jennifer Laughran of the Andrea Brown Literary Agency.



Erica Orloff is the author of twenty-five books for adults and young adults and, as Erica Kirov, the award-winning *Magickeepers* series for middle-grade readers. She is one of the founders of Editing for Authors and its sister company Dragon Tree Books. She has worked as a ghostwriter and book doctor for over two decades. An in-demand speaker, she gives workshops on writing, editing, and finding your voice, and is a Pushcart-nominated essayist. A native New Yorker, she roots for the Yankees and her beloved minor league team. She lives in Virginia with her family, where she chases dust bunnies, plays her Ibanez guitar (very badly), and tries not to drop any of the myriad plates ever-spinning in her multitasking life.



Sharvette Mitchell is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing. She has twenty-four-plus years of experience in corporate America in the field of training and development. She has been featured in *Hope for Women* magazine and other publications. Sharvette is a web designer and social media coach who enables you to build a brand and generate revenue. Lastly, she hosts a weekly internet talk radio show that airs live and on iTunes.



Brynne Rebele-Henry's poetry, fiction, and nonfiction have appeared in such journals as *Prairie Schooner*, *Denver Quarterly*, *jubilat*, *Rookie*, and *So to Speak*, among other places. Her writing has won numerous awards, including the 2015 Louise Louis/Emily F. Bourne Poetry Award from the Poetry Society of America, and a 2017 Glenna Luschei Award from *Prairie Schooner*. Her first book *Fleshgraphs* appeared in 2016. Her second book, *Autobiography of a Wound*, is forthcoming in 2019. She's working on her first novel, *Orpheus Girl*. She was born in 1999.



Brian Rock writes funny books for kids. His most recent titles are *The Tyler Files* chapter book series and the picture book *Martian Mustache Mischief*. Brian lives in Chesterfield, VA, with his wife, daughter, and many imaginary friends. Besides writing for kids, Brian has written award-winning country songs, performed as a stand-up comic, climbed a Mexican pyramid, and even swum with dolphins.



Kirk T. Schroder is a distinguished entertainment industry attorney experienced in all aspects of entertainment, arts, internet, and new media law. Kirk's law practice draws entertainment and arts-related clients from all over the United States and around the world. From 2008-2010, Kirk served as Chair of the American Bar Association Entertainment & Sports Law section. He has taught entertainment law and presented on numerous entertainment law topics both in national law school settings and at major entertainment law conferences.



Margot Lee Shetterly is the author of *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* (William Morrow/HarperCollins). She is also the founder of The Human Computer Project, an endeavor that is recovering the names and accomplishments of all of the women who worked as computers, mathematicians, scientists, and engineers at the NACA and NASA from the 1930s through the 1980s. Margot is a Hampton, VA native, University of Virginia graduate, an entrepreneur, and an intrepid traveler who spent eleven years living in Mexico.



David L. Robbins was born in Richmond, VA, and received his undergraduate and Juris Doctorate degrees from the College of William & Mary. He has been writer-in-residence and visiting professor of creative writing at W&M and taught advanced creative writing for the VCU Honors College. David has published twelve novels and had several of his plays produced, including *The End of War*, which had its world premiere in Richmond in 2017. He is a co-founder of JRW, co-founder of The Podium Foundation, and founder of The Mighty Pen Project.



Alex Sanchez is the author of eight novels, including the groundbreaking ALA "Best Book for Young Adults" *Rainbow Boys*; the Lambda Award-winning *So Hard to Say*; and *Bait*, winner of the Florida Gold Medal for Young Adult fiction. Alex received his master's in guidance and counseling from Old Dominion University and worked for many years as a youth and family counselor. Born in Mexico, he resides in Florida and on the web at AlexSanchez.com



Jon Sealy is a communications consultant and author of *The Whiskey Baron*, which the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* said reads like "what you'd get if Cormac McCarthy and William Faulkner co-wrote the HBO series *Boardwalk Empire* while on an especially inspired, existentially tinged bender."



Maya Payne Smart is an Austin-based book lover and reviewer. She serves on the boards of the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation, Texas Book Festival, Literacy Coalition of Central Texas, and the University of Texas Libraries Advisory Council. Her advocacy and fundraising help enhance library collections, bolster community literacy programs, and inspire the next generation of readers. She interviews authors for *Kirkus Reviews* and muses about literacy, literature, and more at MayaSmart.com



Patricia (Patty) Smith is the author of the novel *The Year of Needy Girls*. Her work has appeared most recently in the anthologies *Older Queer Voices*, *One Teacher in Ten in the New Millennium: LGBT Teachers Discuss What Has Gotten Better...and What Hasn't*, and *9 Lives: A Life in Ten Minutes Anthology*. She teaches writing and American literature at the Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology in Petersburg, VA.



Ron Smith is an American poet and the first writer-in-residence at St. Christopher's School. He is the author of *The Humility of the Brutes*, *Running Again in Hollywood Cemetery*, *Moon Road*, and *Its Ghostly Workshop*. In 2005, he was selected, along with Elizabeth Seydel Morgan, as an inaugural winner of the Carole Weinstein Poetry Prize. Ron's poems and essay-reviews have appeared in numerous periodicals and reference works. He is a former president of the Poetry Society of Virginia and was Poet Laureate of Virginia from 2014 to 2016.



Dr. Sarah Sneed, licensed psychologist, practiced in Los Angeles for fifteen years, working with creative professionals and entrepreneurs. A former drama major herself, Dr. Sneed loves to spend time with great characters, both real and fictional. She earned her Ph.D. from UVA, with additional training through the College of Executive Coaching and Center for Story and Symbol. Dr. Sneed currently practices at her Richmond area office, helping her clients find peace, connection, and purpose in a demanding world.



Esi Sogah joined Kensington Publishing in January 2013 as a Senior Editor, working with such authors as Sally MacKenzie, Alyssa Cole, Judy Reene Singer, and Lynn Cahoon. She is looking to acquire romance: historical (esp. American historical), contemporary, cozy mysteries, historical mysteries, suspense/thrillers, upmarket fiction. She is also interested in narrative nonfiction (with a focus on arts and culture) and personal memoir (with a focus on identity) for all imprints.



With degrees from the College of William & Mary and the University of Richmond, **Kris Spisak** began her career as a college writing instructor; however, after six years in the classroom, she transitioned to professional writing and editing. Helping writers sharpen their craft was the driving force behind her book, *Get a Grip on your Grammar: 250 Writing and Editing Reminders for the Curious or Confused* (Career Press, 2017). Kris is the founder of Grammartopia and the co-founder of Midlothian Web Solutions. She is also pursuing the publication of her first novel.



Laura-Gray Street is author of *Pigment and Fume* (Salmon Poetry) and *Shift Work* (Red Bird Chapbooks) and co-editor of *The Ecopoetry Anthology* (Trinity UP). Her work has appeared in *The Colorado Review*, *Blackbird*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere, and won editors' prizes from *The Greensboro Review* and *Terrain.org*, and a fellowship from the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Street is associate professor of English and directs the Creative Writing Program at Randolph College in Lynchburg, VA.



David Streever is a contributing writer for *RVA Mag*. He's written two cycling books for Falcon and covered the Tour de France and the 2015 UCI Championship in Richmond. He writes about biking, culture, and politics.



Carrie Thornton joined Dey Street Books in 2011. She has spent her entire career specializing in media-driven nonfiction publishing, with a keen interest in the areas of humor, music, and memoir. Some of her titles include the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Yes Please* by Amy Poehler, *Not My Father's Son* by actor and activist Alan Cumming, *My Drunk Kitchen* by Youtube personality Hannah Hart, *Fast Girl* by Suzy Favor Hamilton, *Pretty Happy* by actress and entrepreneur Kate Hudson, *Bare Bones* by radio personality Bobby Bones, and *Every Little Step* by Bobby Brown.



Julie Valerie writes upmarket women's fiction. Her Scrabble-inspired short story, "LLL," was published in *A Kind of Mad Courage: Short Stories About Mothers, (S)mothers & Others*. A voracious reader, Julie has reviewed 200+ books in her genre, recently won the BookSparks 2015 Summer Reading Challenge Grand Prize, and founded the 85K Writing Challenge (85K90.com), providing writers with a supportive, enriching forum to pen 85,000 words in 90 days. When she's not writing, Julie is pursuing an editing certificate from the University of Chicago Graham School and testing her knowledge of the *Chicago Manual of Style*.



Dana Walters, ERYT-500, is an educator and co-founder of the nonprofit organization Project Yoga Richmond, making yoga and mindfulness accessible and affordable to all. She is a Leadership Trainer for The Yoga of 12 Step Recovery, connecting yoga practices, program principles, and neuroscience for sustainable addiction recovery. Writing has long been a vital part of her teaching and practice, supporting creative flow and authentic voice. She hosts a blog exploring writing, health, and wellness at danawaltersyoga.com



A.B. Westrick is the author of *Brotherhood* (Penguin Random House 2013), a YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults pick, and winner of the Jefferson Cup, Housatonic, Jane Addams Honor, and NCSS Notable Trade Book Awards. She lives near Richmond, VA, teaches in Western Connecticut State University's low-residency MFA program in writing, and blogs monthly about the craft of writing.



Tia Williams is the ultimate style insider. For fifteen years, she was a magazine beauty editor—and she created one of the first beauty blogs, *Shake Your Beauty*. She's the best-selling author of *The Accidental Diva* and the *It Chicks* series and co-writer of Iman's *Beauty of Color*. Her national bestseller, *The Perfect Find*, won Best Fiction at the 2016 African American Literary Awards. Tia lives in Brooklyn with her eight-year-old daughter and their various accessories.



Kim Drew Wright's fiction and poetry has been published in numerous literary journals and several anthologies. *The Strangeness of Men*, her debut collection of short stories and prose poems, won a Silver IPPY Award and Finalist in USA Best Book Awards. Kim is a human rights activist, currently living in Richmond, VA. She enjoys craft beer, paddle boarding, and spending time with her husband and three children.



Sonja Yoerg grew up in Stowe, VT, where she financed her college education by waitressing at the Trapp Family Lodge. She earned a Ph.D. in biological psychology from the University of California, Berkeley. Her novels, *House Broken* (2015), *Middle of Somewhere* (2015), and *All the Best People* (2017), are published by Penguin/Berkley. Sonja lives with her husband in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.



JRW Lucy Booth

The doctor is in! Do you have a unique narrator with a certain personality type or a specific mental illness? Do you have a character with addiction issues? Is your depiction true to reality? If you've ever wondered, come to the JRW LUCY BOOTH. Our "doctor" isn't actually Charlie Brown's friend Lucy; it's Dr. Sarah Sneed. For just 5¢, Sarah, a licensed mental health professional, will analyze your character or situation and answer questions about personality, mental illnesses, etc. This is a one-of-a-kind conference opportunity to add depth to your character portrayals. No appointment necessary. Just drop by the booth when the doctor is in, and Lucy . . . um . . . Sarah . . . will offer ten-minute sessions.



Inspiration.
Motivation.
Education.

The Writing Show is The Tonight Show with a literary bent.

In 2017, journalists, screenwriters, poets, bestselling novelists, social media gurus, tech professionals, and other experts graced the stage of the Firehouse Theatre to entertain and educate attendees on the craft and business of writing.

Did you miss out? Join us in 2018 when we happily return to Firehouse Theatre for more writing wit and wisdom.

FIREHOUSE
THEATRE



Where: Firehouse Theatre
When: The last Wednesday of the month, January through September
Cost: \$12 for JRW members, \$15 for non-members, \$5 students
Time: 6PM to 8:30PM



James River Writers and The Poe Museum welcome you back to the grand tradition of the literary salon—an intimate gathering centered around an inspiring host to “inform, educate, & delight.” Each evening features discussion with an expert creative and allows for dynamic interaction among participants. Whatever your genre or art, this will be a great way to connect with like-minded writers; to learn, philosophize, and leave inspired.



Where: Patrick Henry Pub & Grille
When: March 8, July 12, and November 8, 2018
Time: 7PM to 9PM



Join James River Writers for our casual meet-and-greet for writers of every genre on the second Wednesday of each month, 5:30PM to 7:30PM. Spend time with live characters, make connections, and find inspiration.

Where: Ardent Craft Ales
When: Second Wednesday of each month
Time: 5:30PM to 7:30PM



In 2017, JRW offered two individual Master Classes and six pre-conference Master Classes. In March, author Solveig Eggerz presented "Play Before You Write" and author Marita Golden presented "The Naked Truth: Writing a Memoir That Moves Readers" in August.



JRW is grateful to St. John's Parrish Hall and Visual Arts Center of Richmond for the use of their space.

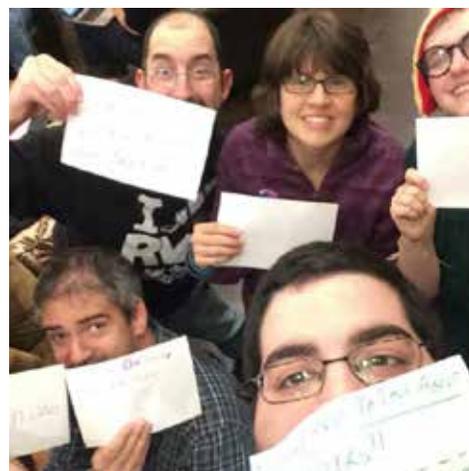
Watch the JRW website for updates on 2018's Master Classes!



Looking for some motivation? A place with friendly faces who will encourage you in your craft? Come write with us!

Bring your laptop or other writing paraphernalia, hang out, get a cup of coffee, get some words written, set your writing goals for the week, find a sympathetic ear, or all of the above!

Where: Urban Farmhouse Midlothian
When: Every Thursday
Time: 6PM to 8PM



2017 Best Unpublished Novel Contest



First Place:
KT Sparks for *Four Dead Horses*

Two Finalists:
James Bacon for *Mystery of the Empty Tomb*

Bill Blume for *A Badge and a Boomerang*

In 2017, James River Writers and *Richmond* magazine partnered for the seventh Best Unpublished Novel Contest. KT Sparks' *Four Dead Horses* was chosen as the winner after several rounds of judging. Head judge and crime author Brad Parks said, "If John Irving had chronicled the upper Midwest, he might have written

this boisterous, satirical gem of a novel. It is rare to come across such a remarkably assured work by any writer, much less one who has never been published before. *Four Dead Horses* is a joy to read, and the prose seems almost effortless in its grace."

The next Best Unpublished Novel Contest will be held in 2020, with more details to appear on the website as the submission period approaches.

Emyl Jenkins Award



Emyl Jenkins

Join us on Saturday morning to learn the identity of this year's Emyl Jenkins Award winner! The award honors the memory of Jenkins, who died in 2010, by recognizing individuals who continue her legacy of inspiring a love of writing and writing education in Virginia. Jenkins, a JRW board member and former conference chair, was a mentor and champion of writers of all levels.

JRW will begin accepting nominations for the 2018 award on May 1, with the entry deadline of June 30.



Doug Jones
2016 winner

Poe Inspires Flash Fiction and Poetry Contest

Edgar Allen Poe has been influencing authors for generations with his use of the grotesque, his theory of the unified effect, or his pioneering work in science fiction and detective stories. To celebrate his enduring legacy, JRW and the Poe Museum are partnering for the third annual Poe Inspires Contest. Submit your poetry or flash fiction that conjures a facet of Poe's influence.

Submission Period:
November 1, 2017 through
December 1, 2017

2016 winners:
James Metz, poetry
Catherine Baab-Muguira, fiction

One fiction and one poetry winner will each receive a coveted Golden Poe. Final entries will be displayed at the Poe Museum's annual Birthday Bash celebration on January 20, 2018, and winners and select entrants will be invited to read their work. Additionally, winners will be published in *Get Your Word On* and on the James River Writers and Poe Museum websites.

For more information on these contests see jamesriverwriters.org

2018 Shann Palmer Poetry Contest Contest



Zoa
2016 winner

First Prize:

\$500, publication in *Richmond* magazine, and a ticket to the annual James River Writers Conference.

Two Finalists will also be named.

The Shann Palmer Poetry Contest is a partnership between James River Writers and *Richmond*

magazine to encourage Virginia poets to share their best work.

Submission Period:
January 1 through
February 28, 2018

See the JRW website for detailed information and submission guidelines.

Best Self-published Novel Contest will return in 2019.

Updates will be posted on jamesriverwriters.org as the contest approaches.



Jo Allison
2016 winner

Youth Advisory Board

This year, with the leadership of Lindsay A. Chudzik, JRW continued its Youth Advisory Board for the fifth year. The students have been hard at work, giving us feedback, earning community service hours through volunteering, and generally improving our cool quotient. 2018 will bring new opportunities and challenges for our resourceful YAB, and we can't wait!



Staff

James River Writers' three part-time staff members are dedicated to helping our members and JRW reach their greatest potential. However, they are grateful for the efforts of numerous volunteers and generous board members that help run our programs and reach out to our community. Thank you to everyone who is a part of the JRW family!



Katharine Herndon,
Executive Director



Annette Marquis,
Program Director



Phillip Hilliker,
Membership Coordinator

EVENTS AND WRITING CLASSES

Volunteer Janet Wooldridge maintains a complete Meetup calendar of upcoming literary events, including readings, book signings, and workshops. Thank you, Janet!

RESOURCES

At JamesRiverWriters.org, you can learn about and register for all of our upcoming programming including Master Classes and Writing Shows.

Donors

We'd like to extend a very special thank you to these generous donors who helped make James River Writers' fifteenth year so successful.

BLOCKBUSTER (\$10,000+)

Ellen & Orran Brown

AWARD WINNER (\$2,500+)

Dominion Energy
Vivian Keasler
Virginia Commission for the Arts
Carole Weinstein

NOTEWORTHY (\$1,000+)

Kristi Tuck Austin &
Adam Austin
C. Ryan Frazier
Maya Payne Smart
Julie Valerie

PAGE TURNER (\$200+)

Gigi Amateau
Anonymous
William & Ellen Armstrong
Carole Christman
Mike & Shawna Christos
Constance Costas
Anne Marie Flynn
Helen Foster
Lenore Gay
Neal Hall

Phaedra Hise
Bruce Holsinger
Elizabeth Horsley
Paul Jackson
Sandra Levy-Achtemeier
Meg Medina
Chris & Dena Moore
Kevin O'Hagan
Virginia Pye & John Ravenal
Rochelle Ransom

Pamela & William Royall, Jr
In Loving Memory of Emyl Jenkins
by Robert M. Sexton
Martha Steger
Carrie Thornton
Barbara & James E. Ukrop
Tuck Austin Associates
Kendra Wood
Bruce Yoder

LITERARY CIRCLE (MONTHLY GIVING)

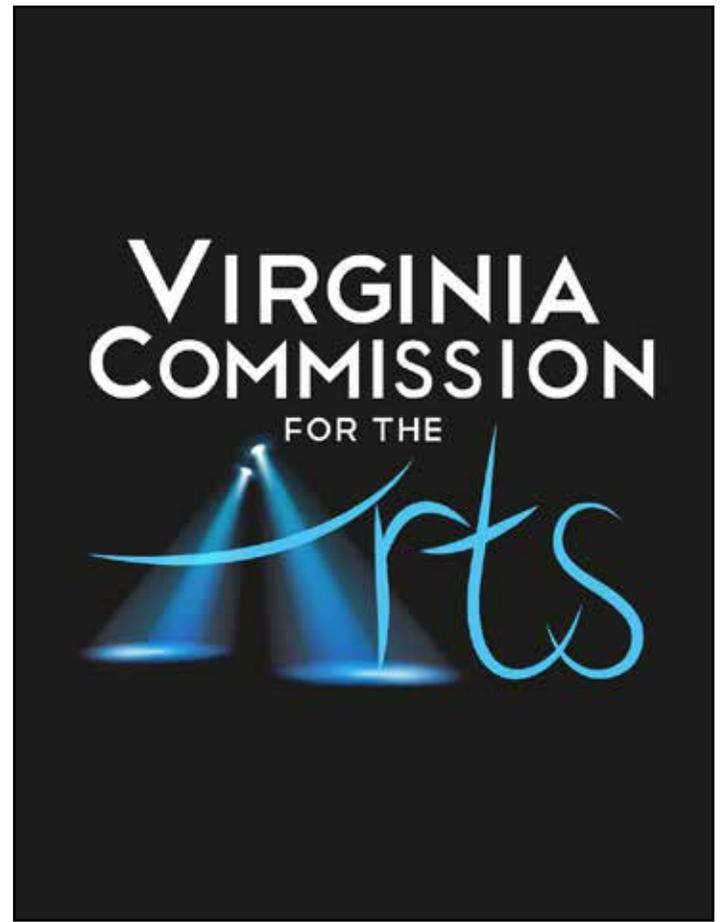
Georgie Green
Kristen Green
Jon Kukla

PATRON

Stacy Hawkins Adams
Robert & Dominique Anderson
Kurt Behm
Frances Broaddus-Crutchfield
Thomas Brown
Joshua Paul Cane
Martin Clark
Patricia Concodora
Anita Crean
Allen Cutchins
Penny Degaetani
Elfriede Dustin
Judy Flaherty
Susan Folkes
Ann Fowler
Kevin Garber
Melissa Gay
Julie Geen
Charles Gerena
Mattiecemaria Greene

Britt Heisig
Larry Helms
Judith Helms
Katharine Herndon
Douglas Jones
Derek Kannemeyer
Dean King
John Kneebone
Ray Kozakewicz
Nancy Kunkel
Jordan Langley
Vivian Lawry
Karen Long
Peter Loomis
Linda Lyles
Deirdra McAfee
Gerald McCarthy
Marina Melnikova
Joanne Meredith
Alyn Minnerly

Lavinia Moxey
Susan Nolan
Elizabeth Outka
Joseph Papa
Madeline Pleasants
Nylce Prada Myers
Dorothy Rice
Christy Schragal
Sheila Shedd
Ellen Shuler
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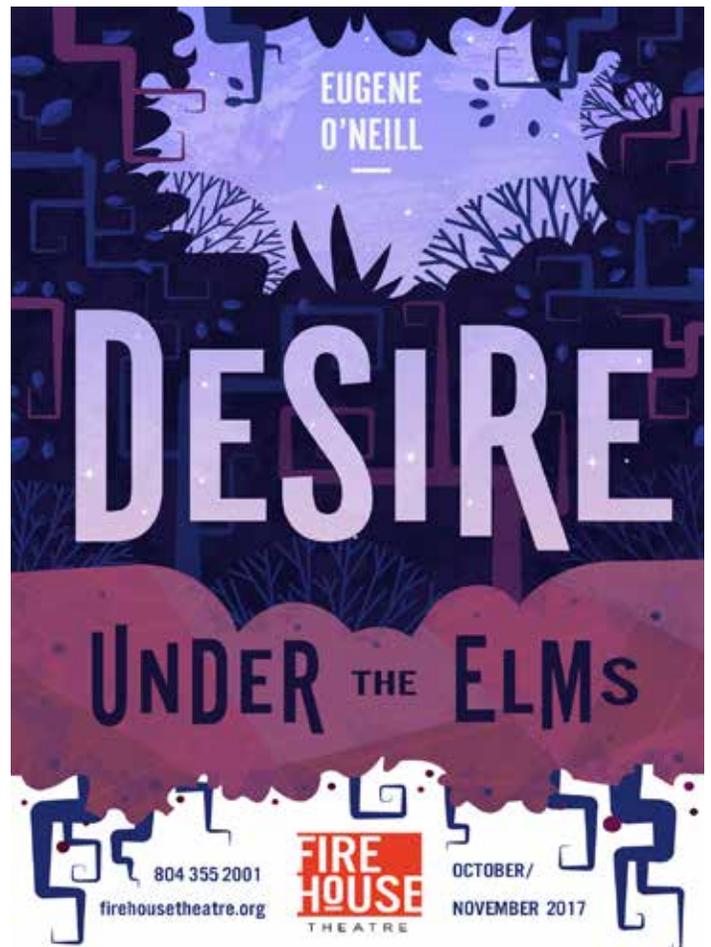
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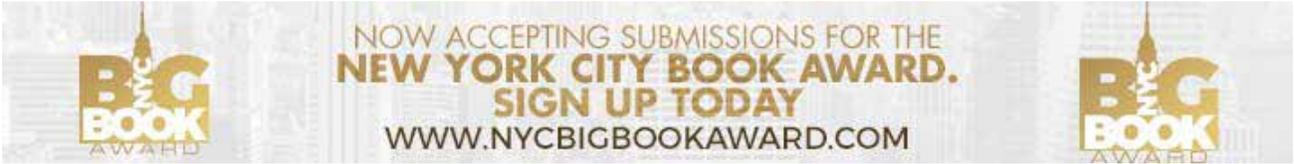
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W R I T E R S





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF RICHMOND



BOOK & AUTHOR

2018 event

MAY 10

Luncheon

The Tuckahoe Woman's Club

12:30 pm

Dinner

Greater Richmond Convention Center

7 pm

— AUTHORS TO BE ANNOUNCED **EARLY 2018** —

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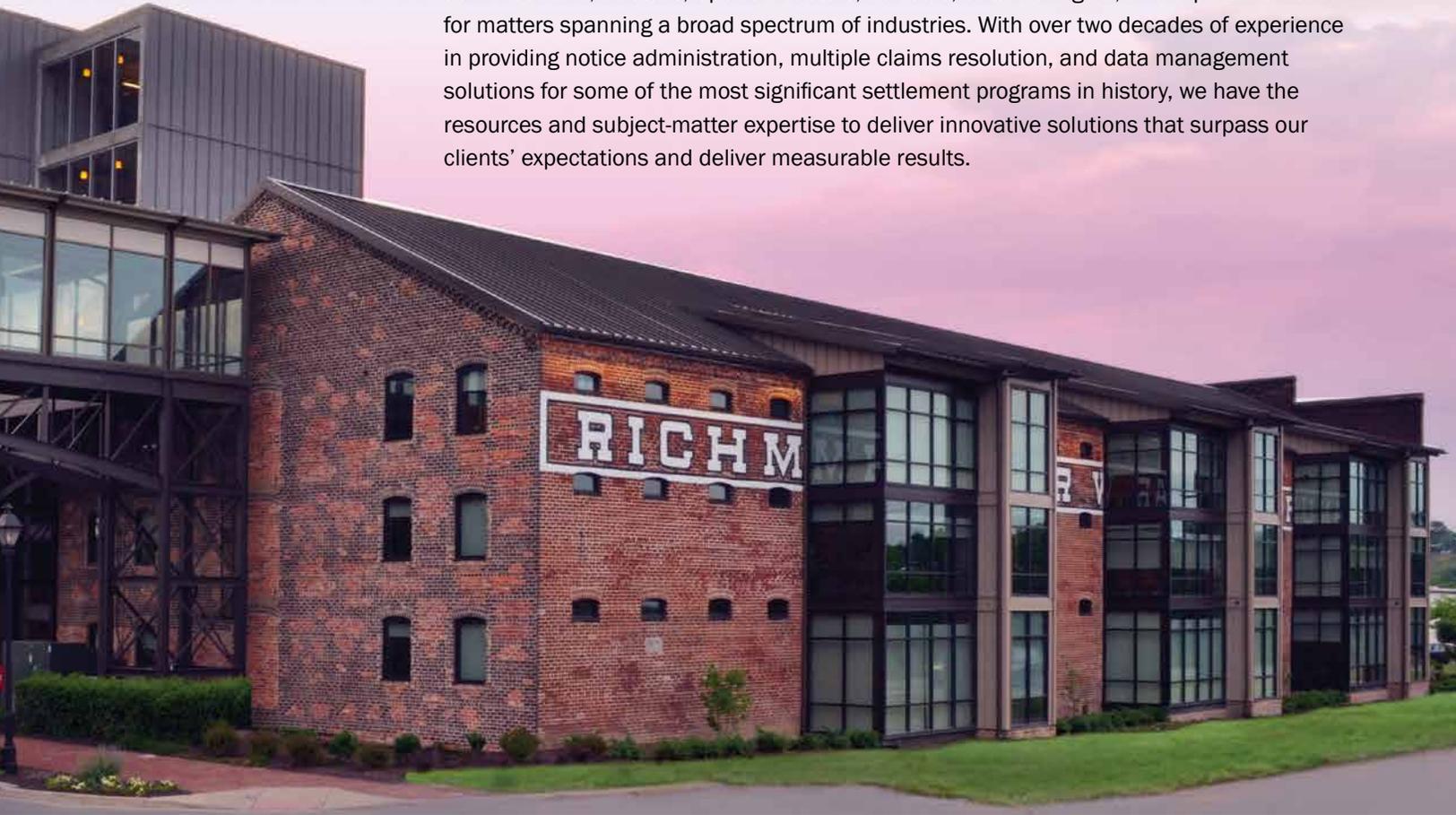
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