

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Betsy Ashton, born in Washington, DC, was raised in Southern California where she claims she ran wild with coyotes in the hills above Malibu. She protested the war in Vietnam and burned her bra for feminism. She is the author of *Unintended Consequences*, *Uncharted Territory*, and *Unsafe Haven*, all Mad Max mysteries, and a stand-alone psychological suspense novel, *Eyes Without A Face*. Other works have appeared in various anthologies, including *Voices from Smith Mountain Lake*, *Reflections on Smith Mountain Lake*, *Candles of Hope*, and *50 Shades of Cabernet*. She is the past-president of the state-wide Virginia Writers Club. She is active in both the Valley Writers Chapter and Lake Writer Subchapter.

Judy Light Ayyildiz, a Marshall University graduate, with years of teaching, stage, directing, conducting experience. She graduated from Hollins Writing Program, instructs writing, literary, international, conferences, women's studies, writer-in-schools. She is internationally published, translated, *Artemis* editor 13 years, a BR Conference founder. Her publications include eleven books of text, poetry, children, nonfiction, fiction including *Writers Express*, *Mud River*, *Nothing but Time*, *Forty Thorns*, and *Intervals-Appalachia to Istanbul*. Her work can also be found in *NY Quarterly*, *Mickle Street*, *new renaissance*, *Sow's Ear*, *Pig Iron*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Black Water Review*, *Northeast Journal*, *Kalliope*, *McGuffin*, *Nazim Hikmet Chapbook*, *Women in Dialogue*, *Outstanding Persons in Kirklareli, Turkey*, anthologies, translations, *International Women Writing Today*, *Biting the Bullet*, and *Auschwitz Poems-Auschwitz Birkenau Museum*.

Lynn Bechdolt grew up in Minnesota, but has lived longer in Southern Virginia than anywhere else. She is a retired Lutheran pastor and shares her house with an auburn Boston terrier pup whose daily schedule comes before hers. She first published in *Poetry from the Valley of Virginia* 1996 and won first prize in *Poetry from the Valley of Virginia* 1998. In 2015, she was published in *The Maine Review* and was included in the *The County Line, A Literary Journal* 2017.

Madalin Edwards Jackson Bickel (writing as m. e. jackson), from Fredericksburg, Virginia, is a native West Virginian having moved to Virginia in 2003. She retired in 2012 after teaching for over forty years in both public schools and higher education. Her collection of poems *Notes From a Failed World* was released in September 2016. A second collection, *Some Kind of Alternate Universe*, followed later in 2016. An award-winning poet, she has had poems published in several anthologies by Riverside Writers and *Scratching Against the Fabric*, an anthology published by Bridgewater College, from the 2013 Bridgewater International Poetry Festival.

John D. Broadwater has loved writing since childhood. While in middle school he "published" his own newspaper, based loosely on *MAD* magazine. In 1971 he published his first book, *Kwajalein, Lagoon of Found Ships* (Tri State Printing, 1971, rev. ed. 1972), based on his research into sunken ships at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Since then he has contributed chapters to several nonfiction books and written scores of

non-fiction magazine and journal articles, including “Secrets of a Yorktown Shipwreck” (*National Geographic*, June 1988). His most recent book, *USS Monitor: A Historic Ship Completes Its Final Voyage* (Texas A&M University Press, 2012), provided the excerpt published in this volume.

Cindy Brookshire is a co-founder of Write by the Rails, the award-winning Prince William Chapter of the Virginia Writers Club. Since moving to Pine Level, North Carolina in 2014, three of her short stories have been recognized: “Loose Threads” won second place in the 2015 NC Senior Games’ Silver Arts competition; “Balloon Baby Jesus” was a finalist in NCSU’s 2016 Fiction Contest, and “Woman of the Year” was published in the *Pisgah Review* (2017). She is active in the Johnston County Writers Group in Selma, a critique group in Goldsboro, and the North Carolina Writers Network. Her blog is <https://cookies4nataka.wordpress.com>.

As a child growing up in the Appalachian Mountains, **Peggy Callison** learned to love the mountains and their stories. Many of those stories validated the harshness of lives struggling within a culture of absolutes. Literary fiction based on true narratives would allow her to memorialize the emotional and spiritual aspects of a society in flux. She wanted to write novels and short stories, but that required "schooling." A B.A Degree from Emory and Henry College, an M.A. Degree from Middlebury College in Vermont, and a summer's study at Lincoln College, Oxford, England, provided the support for her dream of authorship.

Peggy Clutz moved to Smith Mountain Lake in 2004 from Pittsford, NY. She is a long-time antique dealer and lover of all things old and with character. In 2013 she had two childhood stories published in VOICES FROM SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE and four stories relating to her time at the lake in REFLECTIONS ON SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE in 2016. She is a member of Lake Writers, a satellite chapter of Virginia Writers Club.

Carol L. Covin is the author of “Who Gets to Name Grandma?” and six computer-job related books. Her blog, <http://newgrandmas.com>, features 10-minute science and math activities to do with grandchildren, stories about growing up, and how the world has changed since Boomers were born. She has three books in the works: “Cancer Should Come with a Secretary,” “Who Gets to Name the Baby?” and “Invisible,” a photo-illustrated children’s book, and is testing out a comedy routine about her breast cancer journey. She has two sons and two grandchildren and lives in Manassas, Virginia, with her husband of 48 years.

John Cowgill is native of the Washington D.C. region. He is a photographer and a writer and also loves railroads. He wrote railroad articles for the DC Examiner for five years. He currently writes articles on LinkedIn Pulse. His website, <https://jbcowgill.blog>, displays his poetry. He shares his works at Spilled Ink, an open mic at the Jirani Coffeehouse in Manassas, Virginia

Carol Cutler, who enjoys writing non-fiction, fiction, and poetry, lives in Albemarle County in the foothills of the Blue Ridge. She has published research as a clinical specialist in the Journal of the American Psychiatric Nursing Association, Archives of Psychiatric Nursing, and Issues in Mental Health Nursing. Her chapter, Tillich's Multidimensional View of Health was published in the book, *Theonomy and Autonomy* (edited by John J. Carey). She is the author of an essay in *Skyline 2017*. She's active as a hiker and amateur naturalist and being with her three children and four grandchildren.

Kimberly "Kimba" Dalferes is a native Floridian who pretends to be a Virginian. She's an accomplished king salmon slayer, estate sale junkie, and sometimes writes books, including *I Was In Love With a Short Man Once* and *Magic Fishing Panties*. Dalferes's essays have been featured in diverse publications including *The Roanoke Times*, *Feisty After 45*, *Reflections On Smith Mountain Lake*, and *Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop*. Dalferes's humor column, *Dock Tale Hour*, has been featured in *Laker Magazine* since 2014. She's also had a limerick published in *The Washington Post* which she emphatically claims as a legitimate publication cred. You can find her hanging out in *The Middle-Aged Cheap Seats*—her blog or visit her at www.kimdalferes.com.

Dr. Patricia Daly-Lipe, is an author, artist and speaker. She has written nine books. *A Cruel Calm*, *Paris Between the Wars* won the 1st Runner-Up for Fiction JADA Trophy, the USABookNews.com Finalist Award, and, in 2013, First Prize for historical fiction Royal Dragonfly Book Award. Patricia grew up in both La Jolla, CA and Washington, DC, the home of five generations of her mother's family. Her undergraduate studies were completed at Vassar College with a year at the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. After her children were grown, she completed a Master's degree followed by a Doctorate in Creative Art and Communication. Past President of the National League of American Pen Women-La Jolla Branch, she was also President of the Washington, DC Branch of NLAPW. Patricia has written for the *Evening Star Newspaper* in Washington, DC, the Beach and Bay Press including *La Jolla Village News* in California, and *The Georgetown* and *Uptowner Newspapers* in Washington, DC as well as several magazines across the country. In her "spare" time, Patricia has been rescuing thoroughbred horses. In the late '70s and '80s, she raised, raced, and showed them. Patricia and her husband, Dr. Steele Lipe, live in Virginia with their menagerie of horses, dogs and cats, all rescues.

Wendi Dass is an emerging author from central Virginia. She has finished the first novel in her women's fiction series and is working on the second. An excerpt from her first novel, *Bella Cigna*, was a finalist in the 2016 Beacon Contest. She is currently working on several short stories, both genre and literary. She is a professor of mathematics at Piedmont Virginia Community College and lives in Charlottesville with her husband, daughter, and two dogs.

Danielle Dayney is a freelance writer and personal blogger living in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Early in her college career, Danielle wrote music reviews for *Via* music magazine based in Toledo, Ohio called *The Glass Eye*; an opportunity that kick-started Danielle's love for writing. She has been published on *BlogHer*, *Sammiches* and *Psych*

Meds, and *The Mighty*, plus featured on both the parents' and women's section of The Huffington Post. This year, she won a Voices of the Year award at the BlogHer conference for a microblog she wrote. You can find her blog at <https://danielledayney.com> and on Twitter at https://twitter.com/danielle_dayney.

Linda Dodkins, writing as Jo Allison, writes historical mystery and suspense fiction, both novels and short stories, set in 1910 St. Louis.

Phyllis A. Duncan is a retired bureaucrat with an overactive imagination. Her books include *A War of Deception*, *The Yellow Scarf*, *My Noble Enemy*, and *Spy Flash*. She is the current president of The Virginia Writers Club, and is active in both Blue Ridge Writers and SWAG, a satellite chapter of Blue Ridge Writers.

Timothy A. Duskin is a native of Fairfax County, Virginia. He received his B.A. degree in history at American Christian College in Tulsa, Oklahoma and his M.A. degree in international relations at the University of Oklahoma. He is a member of the Virginia Writers Club and its Northern Virginia Writers and Write by the Rails chapters. He is a member of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table and frequently contributes articles to its monthly newsletter, *The Stone Wall*. He has also published articles in *The Mill Race*, the newsletter of the Historic Centreville Society, and the *Civil War News*.

Sydney Everson, a.k.a. Nicole Wilberg, writes young adult fantasy novels and children's picture books. She holds a B.A. from The College of William & Mary and a J.D. from Washington & Lee University. A recovering lawyer, as well as a busy wife and mother, Sydney enjoys keeping one foot in the real world and the other in a fictional one. Sydney is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and lives in Virginia with her husband and son.

Diane Fanning is the author of 25 traditionally published books in fiction and non-fiction. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, she spent the second portion of her life in Virginia before moving to Texas. After her sojourn there, she has returned home to the state she loves and lives nestled next to the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bedford. Awarded the Defender of Innocence Award and nominated for an Edgar. She writes true crime non-fiction and mysteries.

Pete Fanning lives in Lynchburg with his wife. He spends most of his time chasing after his dogs and/or four-year-old son. He has a parenting blog over at fatherknowslittle.blogspot.com and a fiction site at Lunchbreakfiction.wordpress.com. He is an emerging middle-grade fiction writer and is currently querying a young adult novel.

Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, Virginia Poet Laureate Emerita, has co-edited three anthologies and published seven poetry books, including *The Embrace: Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo*, winner of the 2014 Art in Literature: Mary Lynn Kotz Award. Her poems appear in numerous journals, including *Nimrod*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Best of Literary Journals*. Her poetry, along with that of other Virginia poets laureate, is featured in two art installations at the McLean Metro Station in Northern

Virginia. An abstract artist, Kreiter-Foronda's paintings and sculpture have been exhibited in galleries, educational settings, and nursing homes throughout the state of Virginia.

Past president of the VWC, **June Forte** has served on its Board of Governors since 2008. She is an award-winning journalist, photographer, editor and speechwriter. Her writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, the *Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph*, and in publications as diverse as *Woman's World*, *U.S. Medicine*, *Washington Golf Monthly*, *Aviation Digest* and *The Northern Virginia Review*. A member of the Poetry Society of Virginia's Advisory Board, she was instrumental in establishing a Poet Laureate position in Prince William County.

James Gaines writes in several genres and is now devoting the greatest part of his time to science fiction, mainly written in collaboration with his son John M. Gaines. Their first novel, *Life Sentence*, came out in late 2016, and their second, *Spy Station*, is nearing completion. His most recent works have appeared in *Voices on the Wind*, *Avocet*, *Baseballbard*, *Bay State Echo*, and *Fredericksburg Arts and Literary Review*. He has served as president of Riverside Writers and Virginia Writers Club.

Lynne Eve Grossman is a visual artist, educator, and writer. *Eternal Embrace* is published in *Poems of the Super Moon*. *Wings of Freedom*, (healing essay) is published in *The Light Between Us*. *The Visit*, flash fiction (humor), is published on the National League of American Pen Women's website and chosen for publication. Lynne read at the historic "Celebration of African-American Poets of Washington, D.C." Introducing Sofia M. Starnes, then Poet Laureate of Virginia, Lynne read her own poem, *Life's Crayons*, at The Pen Arts Building. B.S. Speech-Language Pathology, M.Ed.(Audiology): The University of Virginia. As a Hearing Therapist, Lynne taught English.

Judith Fournie Helms writes novels, including women's and coming-of-age fiction. Her submission is an excerpt from a novel in progress, *What's With Mr. Jones?* She is also working on a second novel, *The Lady Suits*. She placed second in the 2015 Valley Writers Chapter Golden Nib competition for a short story, "Adverse Possession." She is a member of the Virginia Writers Club and is active in the Lake Writers satellite chapter. She currently serves as chair of the scholarship committee for the Smith Mountain Arts Council. She practiced law in Chicago for 33 years and retired in 2011.

Jody Hobbs Hesler lives and writes in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Her fiction, feature articles, essays, and book reviews appear or are forthcoming in *Gargoyle*, *Georgia Review*, [PANK], *As It Ought To Be's* "At the Margins Book Review Series," *Steel Toe Review*, *Valparaiso Fiction Review*, *Prime Number*, *Pearl*, *Charlottesville Family Magazine*, *A Short Ride: Remembering Barry Hannah*, and more. You can follow her at jodyhobbshesler.com or on her Facebook writer page: Jody Hobbs Hesler – Writer.

Linda Hudson Hoagland has won acclaim for her mystery novels that include the recent *Onward & Upward*, *Missing Sammy*, *An Unjust Court*, and *Snooping Can Be Helpful* -

Sometimes. She is also the author of works of nonfiction, a collection of short writings, along with a volume of poems. Hoagland has won numerous awards for her work, including first place for the Pearl S. Buck Award for Social Change and the Sherwood Anderson Short Story Contest.

Lois Holden's entry, "Old Sukie and Me," won first prize in the 2013 Fralin Museum of Art (University of Virginia) Writer's Eye competition in the university/adult prose category and was published in the *2013 Writer's Eye* anthology. "An Ordinary Day," received an honorable mention in the 2014 Writers' Eye competition. "The Hearing Aide" won honorable mention in the Blue Ridge Writers Chapter 2014 writing contest; in 2015, "Target Practice" won third place in the Blue Ridge Writers contest. She is a member of the Lonesome Mountain Pros(e) Workshop, Blue Ridge Writers Chapter of Virginia Writers Club and Virginia Writers Club.

John P. Hornung has written four titles: "The Silent Aftermath" (early school integration in the deep South), "ABANDON SHIP" (Sea Scout adventures) five stars by Barnes and Noble, "Private 1543868" (brutality in the US Marine Corps), and "To the Moon Without Me" (John's years as an Apollo rocket scientist) given high accolades and interviewed by Dr. Livingston on The Space Show. The four titles have been incorporated as chapters in "Entering the Race to the Moon—Autography of an Apollo Rocket Scientist," published in June 2015.

Esther Whitman Johnson, a former educator from Southwest Virginia, now travels the globe, often writing about her volunteer journeys. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Artemis*, *Broad River Review*, *colere*, *Connecticut River Review*, *dirty chai*, *eno*, *Earth's Daughters*, *Forgotten Women*, *fiftiness*, *Lunch Ticket*, *Longleaf Pine*, *Main St. Rag*, *Virginia Writers*, *Well-Versed Reader* and other publications.

Amanda Valerie Judd was born and raised in northern Indiana, but now makes her home in Manassas, Virginia. She has published two collections of poetry: "SOUR" and "BITTER," both of which deal with the emotional scars of verbal abuse in a relationship. Her poems have also appeared in various anthologies, most recently the international anthology, "The Poetic Bond V." She is currently at work on another collection of poems, "Tainted Love" and a children's book, "A Dog Named Bailey."

Urmilla Khanna, a board-certified pediatrician, came to United States as a young bride in 1963. After a successful career in medicine she retired in 2000. After her retirement, she started creative writing as a hobby and soon realized it was her passion. Besides publishing her essays in magazines, she has published two of her stories in *Patchwork*, *Stories from the Dining Table*, an anthology of short stories. Her first book, *Boundaries of the Wind—A Memoir*, was published in 2015. She lives in Northern Virginia.

Jeanne Larsen is a poet, novelist, essayist, and translator who lives in Roanoke County. Her most recent book is *Why We Make Gardens, & Other Poems*. She teaches in the B.A. and M.F.A. programs in the Jackson Center for Creative Writing at Hollins University.

Julie Leverenz, writer and photographer, has won Firsts in the Virginia Writers Club Golden Nib contest (nonfiction), VWC Summer Shorts (fiction), and the York County Library Juried Literary Competition (poetry). Her short stories, novellas, and poems have been published in numerous anthologies, including *Chesapeake Bay Christmas* Volumes II, III, and IV, and the Chesapeake Bay Writers Club Anthology, *Harboring Secrets*. She has also published *Hoop Snake Hill*, a collection of family stories and photos. More information can be found at www.julieleverenz.com.

Bethany Lortz is nineteen years old and attending her first year of college at Virginia Highlands Community College. Bethany is planning on majoring in nursing, but really wants to write novels full time. She moved to Abingdon, Virginia over eight years ago with her family of five. Bethany is currently in the final editing stages of getting her first novel, *The Flag I Stand For* published on Amazon.com and is looking forward to writing many more in the near future.

Michelle McBeth started writing fiction four years ago on a dare. Three books later, she is finally working on publishing her series, *The Sphere Saga* and writing a variety of short stories for fun. She lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband where she spends her days working as an engineer for the Navy, and her nights engaging the other half of her brain as an author, actor, and creator. More information about Michelle can be found on her website, www.michellemcbeth.com.

Born and raised in New York City, fiction writer, **RJ McCarthy**, has lived in the South more than half his life. He received his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina in 1972 and worked as a Clinical Psychologist before retiring in 2006 to devote himself to writing full-time. An athlete in high school and college, physical fitness has remained an integral part of his life – he earned a black belt in karate from Shotokan Karate of America at 34, placed second in the 90-kilo division of the Virginia State Olympic-style weightlifting meet at 39, and won the silver medal (shot put) in the North Carolina Senior Games at 60. Physical fitness is often a key feature in his protagonists' profiles. McCarthy is a member of the Virginia Writer's Group, the North Carolina Writer's Network, and both the Franklin County and Vance County Arts Councils. He's been writing fiction for 40 years and has a binder full of rejections to prove it. *Quarry Steps Up*, crime fiction, was his first published novel. Married and the father of two adult children, he and his wife, Susan, reside with two dogs and four cats in Henderson, North Carolina.

Greg Miller was born in Ft. Sill, OK, the youngest child of Lt. Col. Robert Miller and his wife, Patricia. Most of his formative years were spent in Galesburg, IL, where he was educated holistically about the realities of life. In 1986, he moved with his wife and daughter to Fredericksburg, VA to begin a 22-year career as an IT expert and advanced technology report writer. During that time, and more emphatically afterwards, he pursued writing as a hobby and second career. He has participated in NanoWriMo (winning in 2012 and 2013), and maintains a blog *PoisonedCheetos* (<http://poisonedcheetos.wordpress.com/>), and is a member of the Riverside Writers. Two

of his works were published in the 2014 edition of the Riverside anthology, *Rappahannock Voices*.

Frank Milligan has published fiction and nonfiction and is author of the writing reference book, *Time to Write: Discovering the Writer Within After 50*, winner of a 2009 Silver Award at the National Mature Media Awards. He is immediate past-president of the Chesapeake Bay Writers. His short fiction and non-fiction have won numerous awards including first-place in the Virginia Writers Club Golden Nib state-wide short story competition. Frank holds a Master's in business and public administration, and a Master of Arts in Writing (Fiction) from the Johns Hopkins University. He teaches writing at various college, writer, and Arts venues.

Louise M. Mitchell is an author, retreat and workshop leader, and spirit life coach. She writes non-fiction, fiction, and poetry, and contributes to newspapers and magazines. Book titles are *Feet Upon the Earth*, a story of spiritual awakening, and *Rain Makes the Rocks Sing*, a book and card set that captures the voice of wisdom and humor woven through nature. Louise says, "My books are refuges in lightheartedness, inspiration, and affection that feed readers' curiosity and help to balance their lives." She is co-facilitator of BRWC critique meetings, facilitated the group's first retreat, and was president of Mountain Writers (Colorado).

James W. Morrison has written books on international affairs, a local history, essays, a novel, short stories and plays, and poetry. His drama *Bedford Goes to War* has been performed locally nine times, and his plays have been performed at Smith Mountain Lake. His history *Bedford Goes to War: The Heroic Story of a Small Virginia Community in World War II*, now in its third edition, was a finalist for a Library of Virginia award. His historical novel, *Class of 1940: Coming of Age in World War II*, was released in 2014. His essays and stories have won regional prizes. His most recent collection is *Shorts in a Bunch*. **Becky Mushko**, an Appalachian fiction writer and three-time winner of the Sherwood Anderson Short Story Contest, is best known for her Bulwer-Lytton Bad Fiction Contest wins—"Worst Western" (1998) and "Vile Pun" (2008). Her stories have appeared in *A Cup of Comfort for Writers*, volumes II and III of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, *Voices From Smith Mountain Lake*, and many other publications. Her best-known books are *Ferradiddledumday*, *Stuck*, *Patches on the Same Quilt*, and *Them That Go*. She blogs about her life in rural Penhook at <http://peevishpen.blogspot.com>. She is a member of Lake Writers.

Author of *Fatty in the Back Seat*, **Deborah M. Prum** has won ten awards for her fiction, which has appeared in *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Across the Margin* and other publications. Her audio book, *First Kiss and Other Cautionary Tales*, is a collection of essays, which have aired on NPR-member stations and have appeared in *The Washington Post* and other publications. She's written on writing for *Writer Magazine*, *The Writer's Handbook*, and the *Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Magazine*.

Jan Rayl is a Registered Nurse who has published in numerous professional nursing journals including, "Advance for Nurses" and "Nursing Spectrum." Jan is Vice President

of Write by the Rails, Prince William County's Chapter of the VWC. Jan is submitting Poetry that was inspired by her writing clubs recent Writers Workshop held at Windy Knoll Farm in Nokesville, Va. The serenity of one of the last working farms in the county was an inspiring location to try her hand at poetry. The book she is pictured with, *New Departures*, is an anthology by her writing group.

Richard Raymond is a long-time member of the Valley and Lake Writers chapters. He writes poetry, short stories, and a novel about the Civil War.

K.P. Robbins is the author of two novels, *The Stonehenge Scrolls* (historical fiction) and *PMS: The Power & Money Sisters* (women's fiction). See www.kprobbinsbooks.com. Her published short stories include: "UFOs Are Welcome," published on *WashingtonPost.com*, "Cruising the Cone Zone," on *Fluent*, "The Blow-Ins," in *Seven Hills Review*, "Clane's Secret" in *Appalachian Writers Guild Anthology*, "Cause and Effect" in *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* and "Rock of Ages" in *Imagine This! An Art Prize Anthology 2015*. A former Washington, D.C., advertising executive, Robbins lives in Montclair, Virginia. She is a graduate of the West Virginia University School of Journalism.

Sara M. Robinson, award-winning poet, founder of the Lonesome Mountain Pros(e) Writers' Workshop, and Instructor of a course on Contemporary American Poets at UVA-OLLI, is poetry columnist for *Southern Writers Magazine* and poetry editor for the premier issue of *Virginia Literary Journal*. In addition to publication in various anthologies, including *We Grew Wings and Flew* (2014) and *Scratching Against the Fabric* (2015), and journals: *Loch Raven Review*, *The Virginia Literary Journal*, and *Poetica*, she is poet and author of *Love Always, Hobby and Jessie* (2009), *Two Little Girls in a Wading Pool* (2012), *A Cruise in Rare Waters* (2013), and *Stones for Words* (2014). Her latest poetry book, *Sometimes the Little Town*, released in February 2016.

Madelyn Rohrer is a member of the Lost State Writers Guild, Virginia Writers Club, and the Appalachian Authors Guild, as well as a performing member of the Jonesborough Storytellers Guild, and a member of the National Storytelling Network. Her first book, *Tiggy Tiggy Touch Wood, Stories of Faith, Strength, and Character*, was released in 2014 with a five-star rating by Red City Review, followed by *Shoes in the River, The Story of Feather* in 2015, and her newly released *Touched by Tennessee, Stories from the Heartland* in 2016. She has plans for a sequel to *Shoes in the River* and two children's books in 2017.

Victor Rook has produced several award-winning films, as well as written and edited several books. His nature film aired on PBS for four years and won two Telly awards. Recent books include *People Who Need To Die*, a collection of satirical horror stories; *In Search of Good Times*, a story about a man who believes that the TV sitcom families from "All in the Family" and "Good Times" are real; and *Musings of a Dysfunctional Life*, a humorous and poignant compilation of everyday mid-life musings.

Retired from science teaching, **Richard Rose** has written poetry and stories and composed and produced operas for many years. He self-published the book *FRAMESHIFTS* in 2011.

C.A. Rowland is an award-winning writer who has published short stories and non-fiction articles. She is currently finishing her first amateur sleuth paranormal mystery set in Savannah, Georgia. In addition, she is one of the authors on the Mostly Mystery blog, which provides resources, interviews, and personal experiences of writers. C.A. is a member of Sisters in Crime and the local chapter in Central Virginia, and Riverside Writers. When she's not exploring the haunted areas of Savannah, she is exploring civil war and other historic sites. For more information, see www.carowland.com.

Elaine Ruggieri's short fiction has placed in several Blue Ridge Writers Chapter contests and was published in the Chapter's anthologies in 2009 and 2013. The *Skyline* series of prose and poetry by central Virginia writers published by Cyberworld included her short stories in 2014, 2015, and 2016. As the first-place winner in the 2014 BRWC writing contest, "Nun Run" appeared in *Skyline 2015*. She is the former Vice President of Public Relations at the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business where she wrote and edited extensively for over 20 years.

Susan Schwartz, RN, MSN, MSHA, has been an avid writer for around 10 years doing everything from writing freelance articles to editing manuscripts for other authors. She loves to write horror stories with a twist at the end. Her stories have appeared in anthologies such as *Nightmares and Echoes, I, II, III*. She also has written a non-fiction work coming out in 2018 about haunted Charlottesville and surrounding counties. Her alter ego is an Operating Room Nurse/Nurse Educator who loves creating tales from the interesting and weird things she has seen. She is a member of the Horror Writers Association and the Virginia Writers Club where she is serving as Co-President of the Richmond Chapter. She also has two novels in the works, a paranormal romance and a medical thriller. Reach her at her website, www.susanschwarzauthor.com.

Writing has been an essential component and passion throughout **Ann Skelton**'s professional life and as an international and teacher of writing at the university level. Since retirement in Williamsburg, she has focused on writing short fiction, middle grade stories, and poetry. She has won prizes for humor, poetry, and historical fiction. Her children's story, *Lessons from Grandfather Jim*, appeared in the anthology *Harboring Secrets*. Her various articles on the craft of writing have appeared in the *Chesapeake Style Magazine*. Currently, she is the secretary of the Chesapeake Bay Writers organization.

Brenda Gates Spielman is a writer, software engineer, and teacher. Brenda writes mysteries, science fiction, and fantasy. Her prior publications include *Stalker Lord*, a book, *Umbar*, a FRP module, and short stories in *Fantasy Book*, and *Dragon Magazine*. Her current work in progress is a mystery set in Richmond. Brenda uses her science/technology experience to provide background and support for her mysteries and for science fiction world building (MSc Computer Science, MSc Applied Mathematics,

BSc Physics). Brenda is a member of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) and Virginia Writers Club. She lives near Richmond, VA.

Elizabeth Spencer Spragins is a linguist and editor who taught in North Carolina community colleges for more than a decade. She writes in a variety of traditional poetic forms. Her Celtic bardic verse (in English) has been published by *The Lyric*, *The Quarterday Review*, and the *Society of Classical Poets Journal*. Her short verse and tanka have appeared in *The Bamboo Hut*, *Skylark Tanka Journal*, *Atlas Poetica*, and *Peacock Journal*. An avid swimmer and an enthusiastic fiber artist, she lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia, with her husband and a rescued cat.

Sofia M. Starnes is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *Fully Into Ashes* (Wings Press) and *Love and the Afterlife* (Franciscan University Press). In addition to a Fellowship from the Virginia Commission for the Arts, she has received various awards for her work, including the Aldrich Poetry Prize, the Transcontinental Poetry Editor's Prize, the Whitebird Poetry Series Prize, the Rainer Maria Rilke Poetry Prize, and the Virginia Writers Club Outstanding Achievement Award, among others. In 2009, she was named Distinguished Scholar by Union College (KY). She is listed in *Who's Who in America*; *Who's Who in the World*, and *Who's Who of American Women*. Sofia serves as Poetry Editor of the *Anglican Theological Review* and mentors other writers through her professional editing service, Creative Writing Critiques.

For 26 years, **William E. Sypher** lived and worked as an English professor in five Middle Eastern countries: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. Living in the desert under an all too frequently featureless sky inspired him to turn within and to study and write about life at ground level. While in Oman he wrote essays accompanying a photography book, *Oman, My Beautiful Country*. He came to see that photographers and writers must observe similar constraints. For photographers, too much light and they might as well have photographed the sun itself. Too little, and they capture only darkness. Writers must also avoid capturing too little or too much of what they see.

Larry Turner moved to Virginia after retiring from a career in physics at American and English colleges and laboratories. His poetry has appeared in many print and online magazines. He served as president of the Riverside Writers chapter of the Virginia Writers Club, president of the Illinois State Poetry Society, and regional vice president of the Poetry Society of Virginia. His books include *Stops on the Way to Eden and Beyond* in 1992, *Eden and Other Addresses* in 2005, *Wanderer* in 2011 and *The Magic Years* in 2015. He also edited four anthologies for the Riverside Writers chapter.

Rodney Vanderhoof was raised in the Puget Sound country of the Pacific Northwest and was educated at Washington and Stanford. He served twenty years in the Air Force and another twenty in bonds and stocks. He has been a member of the Virginia Writers Club since 2004.

J. Elizabeth Vincent (a.k.a. Janell E. Robisch) is a fiction and nonfiction writer and editor. Many years ago, Janell served as a co-editor of a small literary magazine called

The Unknown Writer. Her nonfiction includes many articles on birth, breastfeeding, parenting, and homeschooling and the book *To Three and Beyond: Stories of Breastfed Children and the Mothers Who Love Them* (Praeclarus Press, 2014). In 2015, she finished the first draft of a paranormal romance novel and is currently writing a fantasy novel. Her award-winning short story “Transgression” will appear in the upcoming *Skyline 2017* anthology.

Erin Newton Wells teaches studio art in Charlottesville, VA, and is also a writer, concentrating on poetry, but enjoys writing fiction and nonfiction as well. Her work recently has appeared in *Spillway*, *Poetry South*, *A Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, *Poetry Virginia Review*, and *Skyline*, among others. She has won awards through The Poetry Society of Virginia, Virginia Writers Club, *Skyline* anthology, and The Academy of American Poets.

Robin Williams is an award-winning journalist who specializes in humorous essays for newspapers and magazines. Her essays have been collected in the popular gift book, *Chivalry, Thy Name Is Bubba*” Formerly a feature writer for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Robin recently produced a new collection of essays called *Bush Hogs and Other Swine*.”

John M. Wills has been writing professionally since 2004. His credits include more than 150 published articles regarding police officer training and safety; 10 books, both fiction and non-fiction; various poems and short stories; and one technical manual. John also writes video scripts for The William McLain Foundation in Atlanta, honoring first responders killed in the line of duty. An avid reader, John writes book reviews for the New York Journal of Books and is a member of the National Book Critics Circle

Judy Whitehill Witt's poetry has appeared in *The Quotable*, *The New Poet*, *Virginia Writers Club Virtual Anthology*, *Rhyme On*, *Atlanta Review*, and on Rhymezone.com as a Poetry Prize winner. She's written two books, now undergoing final revisions. *Twice upon a Trip*, weaves two travel memoirs—176 years apart—into one, while searching for the 1831 diarist's identity, clue by discovered clue. The second, a mystery called *Fire Underwater*, features an unusual mother/daughter duo caught in a downward spiral of personal disasters. Only by bridging a lifetime of misunderstandings will they unmask a murderer.

Sally Zakariya's poems have appeared in more than 50 print and online journals and anthologies and won prizes from Poetry Virginia and the Virginia Writers Club. A former magazine writer and editor, Sally dabbles in graphic design and has self-published illustrated alphabet books on anatomy, food, books, and other topics. She is the author of *Insectomania* (2013) and *Arithmetic and other verses* (2011) and the editor of *Joys of the Table* (2015), an anthology of poems about food and eating. Her chapbook, *When You Escape*, is forthcoming from Five Oaks Press. Zakariya lives with her husband and two cats in Arlington, Virginia, and blogs at www.butdoesitrhyme.com.