

Betsy Ashton, born in Washington, DC, was raised in Southern California where she ran wild with coyotes in the hills above Malibu. She protested the war in Vietnam, burned her bra for feminism, and is a steadfast Independent. She is a writer, a thinker, the mother of three grown stepchildren, companion and friend. She mentors writers and writes and publishes fiction. Her first mystery, *Mad Max Unintended Consequences*, was published in February 2013. The second in the series, *Uncharted Territory, A Mad Max Mystery*, came out in April 2015. In her spare time, she is the president of the state-wide Virginia Writers Club. She loves riding behind her husband on his motorcycle. You'll have to decide for yourself if and where she has a tattoo.



Betsy.Ashton2005@yahoo.com
www.betsy-ashton.com



Judy Light Ayyildiz, a graduate of the Hollins Writing Program, has taught creative workshops to all education levels. Internationally published and translated, she was an editor of *Artemis, Artists and Writers from the Blue Ridge* for 13 years, a Blue Ridge Writers Conference founder, President of the Medical Auxiliary and founder/director of the RAMA Chorus. Author of 11 books in 5 genres, her work has appeared in such as, *New York Quarterly, Mickle Street Review, the new renaissance, Sow's Ear, Pig Iron Press, Hawaii Pacific Review, Black Water Review, Northeast Journal, Kalliope*, and *The McGuffin*. She was featured in the books,

Nazim Hikmet Festival Chapbook, Women in Dialogue, an international anthology, *Outstanding Persons Come and Gone in Kirklareli, Turkey* by historian Nazif Karacam, as well as in articles in periodicals and Internet. Honors include YWCA Women of Achievement, VCA grants, poetry and short story prizes, Daughters of Ataturk award, Turkish Forum award, College Bookstores Best Book nominee, Gusto Poet Discovery Winner, VCCA Fellow, and JXP International Literary Novel 1st Place. Judy is currently completing a memoir titled, *The West Virginia Diet*.

<http://www.judylyghtayyildiz.com> and www.fortythorns.com

Claire E. Cameron will begin a position in Fall 2015 as Associate Professor in the Learning and Instruction department at the University at Buffalo's Graduate School of Education. Her primary research examines foundational cognitive skills (e.g., self-control) in early childhood and how teachers can better organize classroom environments for learning. She is also a non-fiction writer who seeks to understand how researchers can effectively communicate, both within academia and to the public. She edited *Braver Than You Believe: True Stories of Losing Love and Finding Self* (The Last Play, 2013), by Sue Mangum. Claire is a founding member of BACCA Literary. 32 on the I/E Quiz www.baccaliterary.com





A. M. (Anne) Carley has published nonfiction articles on arts, education, technology, and social policy, and is currently writing the fictional story of a Midwestern journalist named Andie Jordan. A founding member of BACCA Literary, Anne is an editor and book developer. Her company, Chenille Books, helps nonfiction authors complete and polish their books, including *The Art of the Q*, by Charlie Van Hecke, *Sassy Salad Secrets* by Bobbie Jo Lieberman and Kenny Weber, *Making It Up As You Go* by Isabel McNeill Carley, *Dead, Insane, or in Jail: A CEDU Memoir* by Zack Bonnie, and *Records to the Rescue!* By Christine Ballard. 28 on the I/E Quiz. www.baccaliterary.com

Bethany Joy Carlson is a screenwriter and owner of The Artist's Partner, a business consulting firm for entrepreneurial authors, filmmakers, musicians, and other artists. She is a founding member of BACCA Literary and Vice President of WriterHouse. Her eclectic career includes teaching math at the Renaissance School and casting for film and television with arvoid. She is originally from Seattle, WA but has loved calling Charlottesville home since 2010. 69 on the I/E Quiz. www.baccaliterary.com



Austin S. Camacho is the author of five novels featuring Hannibal Jones, an African-American, Washington, DC-based private eye, plus four books in the Stark and O'Brien adventure series. His short stories have been in six anthologies, including *Dying in a Winter Wonderland*, an Independent Mystery Booksellers Association Top Ten Bestseller for 2008. He's featured in the Edgar-nominated *African-American Mystery Writers: A Historical and Thematic Study* by Frankie Y. Bailey. After a career in the Army, Camacho now handles media relations for the Defense Department. He is active in several writers groups, including the Mystery Writers of America and International Thriller Writers.

www.ascamacho.com

Phyllis A. "Maggie" Duncan is a former commercial pilot and retired FAA safety official who lives and writes in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. A graduate of Madison College (now James Madison University) she has degrees in history and political science. She is the author of the short story collections, *Blood Vengeance*, *Fences and Other Stories*, and *Spy Flash*, all published in 2012. A novella, *My Noble Enemy*, and a fourth story collection, *The Better Spy*, were published in 2015. Her literary short stories have appeared in *eFiction Magazine* and *Prime Number Magazine*; and in the following anthologies: the *Blue Ridge Anthology*, *1 Photo 50 Authors 100 Words*, *Skyline*, *The Ink Ribbon Reader*, and will be in the upcoming *Skyline 2016*. A one-act play, "Yo' Mamma," was



selected by the Ampersand Arts Bar Hopping Contest for staging in April 2014 in Staunton, Virginia. Her as yet unpublished novels involve spies, current and past events, and general mayhem.

<http://unexpectedpaths.com>

<http://phyllisduncan52.wix.com/phyllisduncanauthor>



Diane Fanning is the Edgar-nominated writer and author of thirteen true crime books, seven books in the Lt. Lucinda Pierce crime fiction series, and a World War Two novel. She has appeared on the Today Show, 48 Hours, 20/20, Forensic Files, Snapped, the Biography Channel, Investigation Discovery, E!, and the BBC, as well as numerous cable network news shows and radio stations across the States and Canada. Raised in Baltimore, she moved to Virginia, then Texas, and she now lives in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Bedford, Virginia.

Nora Firestone, is a professional writer, freelance journalist, website designer and coach in business messaging, media relations and do-it-yourself website building. Her published work includes children's TV scripts and thousands of articles for *The Virginian-Pilot* and *Inside Business* newspapers and other publications and outlets. In 2012 Firestone began pulling away from full-time reporting to further develop Step-by-Step Presentations, by which she teaches **writing for business, media relations/outreach** and **"Design, Build and Manage Your Own Website" workshops** to authors and other businesspeople. She keeps a hand in reporting and regularly designs websites for authors and others and writes for ad agencies, magazines/journals, and private clients' marketing messages, media outreach, website content and more. The merging of her expertise comprises her new book, *The \$10,000 Apostrophe*. Firestone is also an acquisitions editor for Koehler Books publishing company in Virginia Beach, where she helps fellow writers on the road to published authorship. www.norafirestone.com





Jane Friedman has more than 15 years of experience in the publishing industry, with expertise in digital media strategy for authors and publishers. From 2001–2010 she worked at *Writer's Digest*, where she ultimately became publisher and editorial director of the \$10-million multimedia brand. Most recently, she served as the digital editor for the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, where she led a strategic overhaul of its website and launched digital subscriptions. Jane specializes in educating authors about the publishing industry (without drama or hype) to help them make the best long-term decisions for their careers. She is known for thought-provoking talks on the future of authorship, and recently delivered keynotes at *The Muse & The Marketplace*, the University of Wisconsin Writers' Institute, and PubSmart. She currently teaches digital media and publishing at the University of Virginia and is a

columnist for *Publishers Weekly*. : <http://janefriedman.com>

Jim and John Gaines Jim Gaines taught French for over 40 years, including professorships at Mary Washington and Southeastern Louisiana. Recognized internationally as a Molière specialist, he is the author of six scholarly books and numerous articles, reviews, and translations. Having retired in 2014 to devote himself to creative writing with his son John, he has widely published his own poetry, short stories, and essays. He and John maintain the blog, gainesscifi@blogspot.com.



John Gaines became a professional librarian after studies at Emory & Henry, Mary Washington, and Pittsburgh. He proposed collaborating on the novel *Life Sentence*, which had been begun several years earlier, after writing work in poetry, prose, and theater. *Life Sentence* reflects John's enduring interest in the cinema of science fiction and Jim's literary background with early modern French science fiction writers, as well as other sources. Since finishing *Life Sentence*, he has been at work with his father on the second installment of the Klein and Entara cycle, *Spy Station*.



Stan Galloway teaches English at Bridgewater College. He has been nominated for both the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net. His poetry collection, *Just Married* (unbound CONTENT, 2013) focuses on early relationship lessons from the point of view of a new groom. He has hundreds of poems online and in print, in such places as *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Contemporary World Literature*, and *4th Floor Literary Journal*. He has also written a book of literary criticism, *The Teenage Tarzan* (McFarland, 2010). In addition to the Virginia Writers Club Symposium (2013, 2015), he has been featured at the Niagara Literary Arts Festival (2012-2014) and the Turner Cassity

Literary Festival (2014). He hosts the Bridgewater International Poetry Festival in odd-numbered years, and has a determined interest in the production and influence of poetry around the globe.



Clifford Garstang won the 2013 Library of Virginia Literary Award for Fiction for his novel in stories *What the Zhang Boys Know* (Press 53, 2012). He is also the author of a story collection, *In an Uncharted Country* (Press 53, 2009), and the editor of an anthology, *Everywhere Stories: Short Fiction from a Small Planet* (Press 53, 2014). His work has appeared in *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Blackbird*, *Cream City Review*, *The Tampa Review*, and elsewhere, and has received Distinguished Mention in the Best American Series. He holds an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte and is the co-founder and editor of *Prime Number*

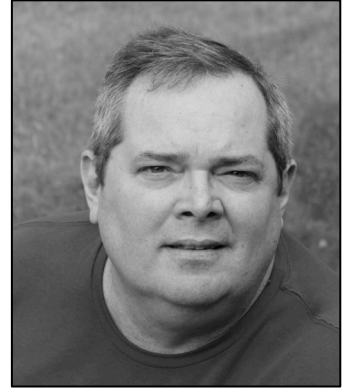
Magazine. After receiving a BA in Philosophy from Northwestern University, Garstang served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Korea. He earned an MA in English and a JD, both from Indiana University, and practiced international law in Singapore, Chicago, and Los Angeles with one of the world's largest law firms. Subsequently, he earned a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and worked as a legal reform consultant in Almaty, Kazakhstan. From 1996 to 2001, he was Senior Counsel for East Asia at the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

<http://cliffordgarstang.com>

April Gerard, the founder of A.L. Deleon Agency, LLC, is a media expert and Book Marketing Manager with Booktrope Publishing. She's spent most of her lifetime fueling a profound and passionate love of books. Gerard became fascinated with all aspects of book development at a young age, writing her first book when she was just 9-years-old. This drive, coupled with nearly a decade spent in non-profit directing and community relations, created the foundation for her current work as marketing director and project manager for authors. Leading, coaching, researching, and formulating cohesive strategies that fit each individual author's work, Gerard is in essence the "map maker" of an author's publishing journey. Currently, Gerard resides in Indiana with her children. She loves all things arts related, traveling when the opportunity arises, and enjoys the outdoors. For more information, visit www.aldeleonagency.com



Bill Glose is a former paratrooper, Gulf War veteran, and author of the poetry collections *Half a Man* (FutureCycle Press, 2013) and *The Human Touch* (San Francisco Bay Press, 2007). For the past eleven years, he has been the Books Editor for *Virginia Living*. In 2011, Glose was named the *Daily Press* Poet Laureate. Other honors include the F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Award and the Virginia Press Association First Place Award for Sports News Writing. Now a full-time writer, he undertakes intriguing pursuits—such as walking across Virginia and participating in a world-record-setting skinny dip event—to write about for magazines. His by-lined work has appeared in over 100 publications, including *Army Times*, *The Writer*, *Narrative Magazine*, and *Southern California Review*. His website (www.BillGlose.com) includes a page of helpful information for writers.



Teresa Inge grew up in North Carolina reading Nancy Drew mysteries. Today, she doesn't carry a rod like her idol, but she hot rods. She juggles assisting two busy executives and is president of the Sisters in Crime Virginia Beach chapter. Writing professional articles led to writing short fiction and a novel.

Sarah Kennedy is the author of the novels *The Altarpiece* (Knox Robinson 2013) and *City of Ladies* (Knox Robinson 2014). Her third novel, *The King's Sisters*, will be released in September 2015. Sarah has also written seven books of poems, including *The Gold Thread*, *Home Remedies*, *A Witch's Dictionary*, *Consider the Lilies*, *Double Exposure*, and *Flow Blue*. A professor of English with at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia, Sarah Kennedy holds a PhD in Renaissance Literature and an MFA in Creative Writing. She has received grants from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Virginia Commission for the Arts and is currently a contributing editor for *Shenandoah*.





Sharyn McCrumb, Keynote Speaker: Sharyn McCrumb is an award-winning Southern writer, best known for her Appalachian "Ballad" novels, including the New York Times best sellers *The Ballad of Tom Dooley*, *The Ballad of Frankie Silver*, and *Ghost Riders*. Her Revolutionary War novel, *King's Mountain* was published in September 2013 by St. Martin's Press. *Nora Bonesteel's Christmas Past*, a holiday Ballad novella, was published in October by Abingdon Press.

McCrumb, named a Virginia Woman of History by the Library of Virginia, was awarded the Mary Hobson Prize for Arts & Letters in 2014.

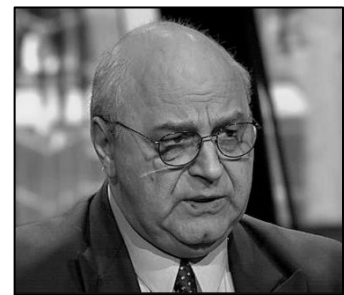
In addition to presenting programs at universities, libraries, and other organizations throughout the U.S., McCrumb has taught a writers workshop in Paris, and served as writer-in-residence at King University in Tennessee and at the Chautauqua Institute in western

New York.

McCrumb's great-grandfathers were circuit preachers in North Carolina's Smoky Mountains a hundred years ago, riding horseback over the ridges to preach in a different community each week. It is from them, she says, that she gets her regard for books, her gift of storytelling and public speaking, and her love of the Appalachian Mountains.

<http://www.sharynmccrumb.com>

Dan Moldea is a specialist on organized crime and political corruption investigations since 1974, best-selling author and independent investigative journalist Dan E. Moldea has published eight nonfiction books: *The Hoffa Wars* (1978); *The Hunting of Cain: A True Story of Money, Greed, and Fratricide* (1983); *Dark Victory: Ronald Reagan, MCA, and the Mob* (1986); *Interference: How Organized Crime Influences Professional Football* (1989); *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy* (1995); *Evidence Dismissed: The Inside Story of the Police Investigation of O.J. Simpson* (with Tom Lange and Philip Vannatter, 1997); and *A Washington Tragedy: How the Suicide of Vincent Foster Ignited a Political Firestorm* (1998, 2014). He recently published his memoir, *Confessions of a Guerrilla Writer: Adventures in the Jungles of Crime, Politics and Journalism* (2013). His website is located at www.moldea.com.

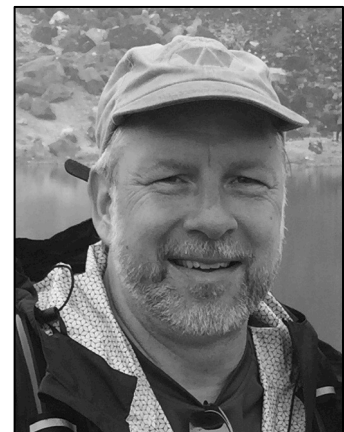


Ginger Moran is a teacher, published writer, and single mom of two boys. Her areas of expertise are in fiction and creative nonfiction writing, editing, and creative survival. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Houston in Literature and Creative Writing and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English from the University of Virginia. She has been published in Salon.com, Oxford American, The Virginia Quarterly Review, and Feminist Studies, among other journals and magazines. Her first novel, *The Algebra of Snow*, published in the spring of 2012, was nominated for a Pushcart Editor's Choice Award. She is a Certified Martha Beck Life Coach and a KMCC Creativity Coach. She teaches fiction and memoir writing at the university level and with private clients.



Carolyn O'Neal is a passionate environmentalist and a daring storyteller. Her first novel, *Kingsley*, is a creative and intriguing eco-fiction to be published next November. Her short story, "Silent Grace," won 2nd prize in The Hook's prestigious 2013 short story contest, judged by bestselling author John Grisham. Carolyn is a member of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and is active in the Oyster Shell Recycling Program. She is a founding member of BACCA Literary. Carolyn was born three blocks from the Chesapeake Bay in Norfolk. She now lives in Charlottesville. 55 on the I/E Quiz www.baccaliterary.com

Dan Radmacher worked as an opinion journalist for more than 20 years, winning state and national awards for his editorials and columns. In 2011, he joined Appalachian Mountain Advocates, a small nonprofit law and policy organization as Communications Director. He now writes and does other work for a number of clients, specializing in advocacy for progressive causes. You can find out more at WritingLeft.com. He is currently attempting to edit a novel of his own. He lives in Roanoke, Va., with his wife, son and two cats.



Rosemary Shomaker writes about the layers beneath ordinary occurrences. She's the lady you don't notice at church, estate sales, and parks, and the lady you do notice peering into abandoned buildings and wandering vacant lots, tiny notebook in hand. Several of her short stories fit the mystery genre, and she's a member of the Central Virginia chapter of Sisters in Crime (sinc-centralva.wix.com/sinc-centralva and at [Sisters-in-Crime-CentralVA](#) on Facebook). You can find Rosemary's stories in *Virginia is for Mysteries* and the upcoming *Virginia is for More Mysteries* as well as in several of Mozark Press's *A Shaker of Margaritas* and Rocking Horse Press's *Spirits of St. Louis: Missouri Ghost Stories* anthologies. She's an urban planner by degree, a government policy analyst by practice, and a fiction writer at heart. Rosemary lives in Virginia with her fine husband and exceptional children.

