

# IN THIS ISSUE

SWA SPRING  
CONFERENCE

SWA MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS

MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS  
FOR SPECIAL  
BEREAVEMENT  
ANTHOLOGY

COMING EVENTS

and more....

*A Publication of the Seacoast Writers Association*

# THE Seacoast Writer



## SWA SPRING CONFERENCE

**Saturday, May 14 at the  
McConnell Center, Dover, NH**

### REBECCA RULE KEYNOTES SPRING CONFERENCE

**R**ebbecca Rule travels all around New England gathering local stories and retelling them at a variety of community venues. Her sense of humor and her careful ear have helped her develop an acute awareness of language as it varies from region to region, even town to town. The topic of her keynote speech, *Falling In Love With Language, All Over Again*, reflects, she says, “what storytelling and the oral tradition have taught me about paying attention to words on the page, every one of the little beauties.”

Becky is a long-time friend and previous presenter for Seacoast Writers. Her books include *The Best Revenge: Short Stories; Could Have Been Worse: True Stories, Embellishments, and Outright Lies; Live Free and Eat Pie: A Storyteller's Guide to New Hampshire*, and most recently, *Headin' For The Rhubarb: A New Hampshire Dictionary (well, kinda)*. You can catch up with her and follow her adventures through her blog, *Travels With Becky*, at [livefreeandeatpie.com](http://livefreeandeatpie.com). She also hosts the NH Authors Series on NHPTV.

### WRITING CONTEST RESULTS

**E**ighty three entries were submitted to the SWA Writing Contest. The winners will be announced during the morning session. Our judges will comment on the winning entries and on the qualities they looked for in the submissions. (This feedback is always helpful.) First Place winners are invited to read their entries.

## AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTERS

### Plotting: the Dark Art—James Patrick Kelly

**D**eft plotting is a virtue. For the dark purposes of this presentation, we will take a very mechanistic view of plot. Over the ages, writers have developed schemes and techniques and shortcuts and, yes, tricks of plotting. (What, mistaken identities again, Mr. Shakespeare?) We'll look at ten of the easiest, the best and the most dangerous of these arcane spells. Only those who feel certain that they can resist succumbing to the dark art of plotting should plan to attend. Please bring a current story or an idea you are struggling with and plan to practice some plot magic!

**James Patrick Kelly**, a science fiction and fantasy author, has written novels, short stories, essays, reviews, poetry, plays and planetarium shows. His short novel *Burn* won the Science Fiction Writers of America's Nebula Award in 2007, and he is also a recipient of two Hugo Awards. His fiction has been translated into eighteen languages. He writes a column on the internet for *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* and is on the faculty of the Stonecoast Creative Writing MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. His website is [jimkelly.net](http://jimkelly.net).

### Writing True: Narrative and Creative Nonfiction Writing—Lara Bricker

**N**arrative nonfiction, sometimes called creative nonfiction, includes a wide range of writing projects from memoir, literary journalism, personal essay, to true crime and investigative work. This style of nonfiction includes storytelling elements such as well-developed characters, a narrative arc, tension and revelation, and dialogue. How do you decide as a writer what details to include, especially if you are trying to recreate events from the past? What sources of information can you tap to really bring a nonfiction story to life? How should you approach recreating dialogue? Bricker will detail the process of writing a nonfiction book manuscript from proposal to publication. The discussion in the workshop can be applied to any type of creative nonfiction writing project.

**Lara Bricker**, the author of the true crime book, *Lie After Lie: The True Story of a Master of Deception, Betrayal and Murder* (Berkley 2010) is a freelance writer in Exeter, NH with over a decade of experience writing and reporting on crime and justice issues. Her work has appeared in the *Portsmouth Herald*, the *Exeter News-Letter*, the *Hampton Union*, *Women's World* magazine, and *The Boston Globe*. She has received numerous awards from both the New Hampshire Press Association and the New England Newspaper and Press Association for her crime and investigative reporting. Bricker is currently a private detective in New Hampshire where she works as a criminal defense investigator.

### Sweating the Small Stuff:

#### Turning Minor Events into Significant Poems—Matt and Ayanna Gallant

**P**oetry tends to be retrospective, but poems don't have to be about grandiose subjects. It's not always the huge events in a lifetime that really matter; sometimes the seeming inconsequential, everyday instances carry life lessons that we don't realize until we write about them. This workshop will focus on narrowing in on these smaller occurrences that may have come to play pivotal roles in our lives, like learning to ride a bike or falling off of one. Fiction and memoir writers are welcome to join this workshop. Participants will have time to compose and share a new piece of writing, poetry or prose.

**Ayanna Gallant** is the author of *How to Say Hello* (Sargent Press, 2008) and has works included in

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

*Poets Guide to New Hampshire, 2008* and *Open Mic Review: Jazzmouth* edition, Volume 4 (Sargent Press, 2009). She has performed as a musician and featured poet for Jazzmouth: The Seacoast Poetry and Jazz Festival. She has taught workshops on effective poetry performance, poetry and social witness, writing from your childhood, and using poetry effectively in the classroom. Her next poetry chapbook, tentatively titled *Childhood & Other Awkward Stories*, is forthcoming from Sargent press.

**Matthew P. Gallant** has published poetry chapbooks for authors Young Dawkins, John Michael Albert, Renee Emerson and many others under his independent publishing company, Sargent Press ([sargentpress.webs.com](http://sargentpress.webs.com)). He also published six editions of *Open Mic Review* for Jazzmouth, the seacoast poetry and Jazz festival that ran from 2005-2010. He has been a feature poet at Port Veritas, Portland, ME; Slam Free or Die, Manchester, NH; Poet's Asylum, Worcester, MA; Got Poetry Live and The Encyclopedia Show, Providence, RI; Zion Hill, Newmarket, NH and many other venues. He is the author of the poetry chapbooks *Too Damn Big*, *Unspoken Story*, *The Fake Sleep of Hobos*, *Monster*, *Mistaken for Miracle* and other forthcoming titles, all under Sargent Press (2006-2011).

## How to get published: It may not be as difficult as you think —George Geers

**T**his workshop addresses writing for publication—from the internet and newspapers to magazines and books. We'll talk about writing and editing, pitching ideas to editors and publishers, meeting the needs of publishers and editors, and ensuring continued relationships with those in the publishing industry. Most importantly, bring your questions. We'll try to answer as many as possible.

**George L. Geers**, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Writers' Project, is a career journalist and a former editor of the *Nashua Telegraph*. In 2000, he formed Plaidswede Publishing, which specializes in New Hampshire and New England books, fiction and nonfiction. In 2005 he received the Yankee Quill award for lifetime achievement from the Academy of New England Journalists.

### BOOK SALES

Our *Conference Book Sale* gives attendees the opportunity to purchase presenters' and other writers' books. Writers, other than presenters, who wish to make their own published books available for sale are welcome to do so, but must manage such sales themselves. Purchasers: Sorry, Cash and Checks only. No credit card sales.

*"Gently Used" Book Sale* – If you have books on writing or other books you've finished with that your fellow writers might enjoy, please bring them to the conference for sale. We'll sell them at \$1.00 for hardcovers and 50-cents for paperbacks, proceeds to benefit SWA.

### SUBMISSIONS WANTED

**WIDOWS.** Seeking women's poems and short personal essays about experiences of widowhood (de facto or de jure), for an anthology: *Bereavement*. We are a published poet/editor and a scientist/professor, both widowed. Final manuscript will be submitted to trade publishers. Payment in contributor's copies. Deadline June 30, 2011. Send with stamped SASE for reply to: The Widow's Handbook, 1427 Commonwealth Ave, #401, Brighton, MA 02135.

## SWA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

**F**ilmmaker and attorney **Alfred (Freddie) Catalfo**, a recent SWA workshop presenter, has released a new short film, *Big Horn*, about Custer's last battle and alternate universes. The 15-minute film is available for free at **BigHornMovie.com**. Catalfo's film, *Norman Rockwell Code*, was a hit with conference participants.

Another former SWA workshop presenter, **Jane Cowen-Fletcher**, children's book author and illustrator, recently created the art for a picture book entitled *I Love You, Baby, from Head to Toe* (Candlewick Press, 12/2010). She also wrote and illustrated *Hello, Puppy!* (6/2010) which was published last summer. For more information go to the publisher's website at **candlewick.com**.

A third former workshop presenter, **Aine Greaney**, launched her second book, *Dance Lessons* (Syracuse University Press) on April 1. *Dance Lessons* is a contemporary novel set in greater Boston and the west of Ireland. Her website address is **ainegreaney.com**.

SWA member **Sarah S. Smith** recently published *They Sawed Up a Storm, The Women's Sawmill at Turkey Pond, NH, 1942* (Jetty Press). This book tells the story of the extraordinary women who operated a saw mill during World War II at Turkey Pond in Concord, NH. The book includes interviews, family stories and historic photographs. Check out Sarah's website at **turkeypond.com**.

Two posthumous novels by **William G. Tapply** have recently been published by Minotaur Books. Tapply and his wife **Vicki Stiefel** were joint SWA fiction presenters shortly before his death in 2009. *Outwitting Trolls* features Boston attorney Brady Coyne. The last book written by Tapply, *The Nomination* is a stand-alone thriller. For further information, see Tapply's website at **williamgtapply.com**.

## COMING EVENTS

**P**lan Ahead! The fall Seacoast Writers Conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, at the McConnell Center in Dover. Watch for the Fall SWA Newsletter.

Recent SWA workshop presenter **Deidre Randall** announces the seventh annual Writers in the Round Creative Retreat on Star Island September 8 to 11. Instructors will be John Perrault (poetry) and Bob Franke (songwriting). Financial aid programs are available. Visit the retreat's website at **WITRhome.org** or Star Island's website at **starisland.org** for more information.

Author **Joyce Maynard** is again hosting a week-long writing workshop on Star Island (August 6 – 13). For more information go to her website at **joycemaynard.com**.

**Travel Memories: Historic Star Conference (August 27 – September 2)** will also be held on Star Island. During the conference, participants will explore travel memories from long ago visitors to the Isles of Shoals as well as create their own memories. The event will include scrapbooking, travel writing, historical ephemera, nature sketching, shoals archaeology and hand-tint photographs. For more information go to the conference website, (**starisland.org/conferences/2011-listings/historicstar**).

## CONDOLENCES

**W**e send our sincere condolences to SWA's former longtime Secretary, **Joan Castro**. Joan's husband, **Carlos Castro**, passed away on February 12. Many board members remember preparing the SWA mailings at Joan and Carlos's home. Carlos, forever helpful and thoughtful, was always ready to lend a hand. Joan and Carlos enjoyed an adventurous life journey, which Joan recounted in her memoir, *Making My Way* (Lulu, 2004). All of us who knew Carlos will truly miss him.

Poet **Madonna M. Robinton**, a member of the New Hampshire Poetry Society, passed away on January 16th. Madonna was a multi-talented woman. In addition to being a published poet, she was also a member of the Sweet Adeline's Chorus and the Merrimack Valley Chorus.

# SWA SPRING CONFERENCE MAIL REGISTRATION FORM (please print)

Workshops will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, depending on the date of receipt of your registration form. We will try to accommodate your first choices, but workshop capacities are limited, so send in your form today! Return your form and all conference fees by April 30th to receive the **EARLY REGISTRATION RATE**. Checks should be made payable to Seacoast Writers Association and mailed to registrar Michael Wade, 9 Brookside Drive, Stratham, NH 03885.  
**(Do NOT send to our post office box!)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select Workshops by indicating first, second and third choice by noting (1), (2), (3)**

> **Plotting: the Dark Art** ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_

> **Writing True: Narrative and Creative Nonfiction Writing** ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_

> **Sweating the Small Stuff: Turning Minor Events into Significant Poems** ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_

> **How to Get Published: It may not be as difficult as you think** ~~~~~ \_\_\_\_\_

*The Registrar will notify you if a workshop is filled and it is necessary to give you your third choice.*

## CONFERENCE FEES

*Registrations Postmarked by April 30th*

> \$40.00 First-time Conference fee ~~~~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> \$45.00 Early registration, member ~~~~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> \$60.00 Early registration, non-member ~~~~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *Registrations Postmarked after April 30th*

> \$55.00 member ~~~~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> \$70.00 non-member ~~~~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> Note-taker, interpreter or aide, meal cost only: \$20.00 ~~~~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> Renew my membership or join SWA (\$25.00 annual membership fee) ~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

> **Total Amount Enclosed:** ~~~~~ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like registration confirmation, please include a postcard, or print your email address here ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

**TIME TO RENEW?** Your membership must be current in order to receive the member discount.  
(Check your mailing label or email for renewal date.)

**CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS?** Cancellations postmarked by April 30th will incur a \$10.00 administration fee. Sorry, no refunds after April 30th.

**Directions to McConnell Center/Dover Adult Learning Center, 61 Locust St.  
(Next to Dover Public Library) 603-742-1030**

Park behind Dover Library (driveway between the two buildings). Enter at Door #3. Take the elevator to cafeteria on the first floor or go directly to the cafeteria entrance (marked "Green Bean") from the parking lot.

**From the Spaulding Turnpike (Rte. 16)** North or South: Exit 8E (Downtown Dover, Route 9, Silver St.) Woodman Park Elem. on your left. At second set of lights take Left on Locust St.

**From Weeks Crossing (The intersection where Chili's restaurant is):** South on Central Ave. into downtown Dover. Pass all the stores to Lower Square, through light. Take the first right after Dover City Hall on to Hale Street. Cross Locust St. into driveway to parking.

**From Durham:** Rte. 108 to Dover past Dover H.S. through lights at Sawyer Mills Apts. At lights at Burger King, turn left on Locust St.  
**From Rtes. 9 & 155:** Follow Route to Junction of 9 & 155. Cross over the Spaulding Turnpike to

Silver St. (Downtown Dover, Route 9). Follow directions from above for Exit 8E.

**From Concord:** Take Rte. 4 through Lee traffic circle, continue exit Rte. 108N Dover/Durham. Turn left. Follow directions above from Durham.

**From Rte. 101 East (Manchester) or West (Seacoast):** Take 101 to Exit 7 (Rte. 125N). Follow directions above for either Rte. 155 or Lee traffic circle.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

**8:30 AM** Registration/Continental Breakfast

**9:00 AM** Welcome/Announcements

**9:30 AM** SWA Contest: Contest Judges Remarks, Awards and First Place Readings

**10:30 AM** Coffee Break: Networking, Book Sales

**11:00 AM** Keynote: Rebecca Rule

**Noon** Lunch Is Served!

**1:00 PM to 3:15 PM** Workshop: Select 1 of 4

**3:15 PM** Turn in evaluation forms; safe home and happy

**Seacoast Writers Association  
PO Box 6553  
Portsmouth, NH 03802-6553**



**REGISTER NOW!**

**Seacoast Writers  
Spring  
CONFERENCE**

**BEAT THE APRIL 30 DEADLINE  
FOR EARLY DISCOUNTS**

**Saturday, May 14,**

**8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.**