

Schedule of Events:

Rocktown Author Room - Meet Local Authors

Noon-4PM

Meeting Room - 1st Floor

*Drop in anytime to meet local authors, buy books, and have them signed. All ages welcome and activities are available for children. **No advance registration required.***

Panel Session I*

Publishing Paths: Which One is Yours?

1PM - 2PM

Community Youth Center - 2nd Floor

*Learn the pros and cons of different publishing routes, from traditional publishing houses, to self-publishing, and the hybrid model in between. Whether you're a budding novelist or an experienced writer, this session will help you discover the path that best aligns with your literary aspirations and goals. Panelists include: Cara Sue Achterberg, Heather Cole, Mollie Cox Bryan, and M.K.B. Graham. ***Advance registration required.***
Walk-ins accommodated as space allows.

Panel Session II*

From Concept to Page: Bringing Your Ideas to Life

2:30PM-3:30PM

Community Youth Center - 2nd Floor

*Learn about the creative process of writing, including practical advice and strategies for transforming abstract concepts into compelling narratives. Hear insights on getting started, overcoming writer's block, and fostering creativity. Discover techniques for idea development, maintaining momentum, and more. Panelists include: Ryan B., Alan W. Harris, Susan Hasler, and Kwyn Townsend Riley. ***Advance registration required.***
Walk-ins accommodated as space allows.



Thank you for attending!

We value your feedback. If you registered for our panel sessions, you will receive an emailed survey to help us improve future festivals.

If you only attended the Author Room and have feedback to share, please email your thoughts to: abrueckner@mrlib.org.

About MRL

Founded in 1928, Massanutten Regional Library is a seven branch system that serves over 160,000 residents in Harrisonburg, Page County, and Rockingham County.

As a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization we are funded in partnership with state and locality support and through the generosity of our patrons. Thank you!

We welcome you to visit us at any of our branches in: Bridgewater, Broadway, Elkton, Grottoes, Harrisonburg, Luray, and Shenandoah. All are welcome at MRL!

Learn more about your public library at:

www.mrlib.org



CELEBRATING LOCAL AUTHORS

Saturday, April 13, 2024

12PM - 4PM

Central Library - Harrisonburg



MEET THE AUTHORS



Cara Sue Achterberg is the author of seven books, including *One Hundred Dogs & Counting*. Her most recent novel, *Blind Turn*, won the Women's Fiction category of the American Writing Awards. Cara is a blogger, writing coach, and cofounder of the national nonprofit, *Who Will Let the Dogs Out*. She lives in the Shenandoah Valley with her husband, three rescue dogs, and a cast of foster dogs and cats.



Ryan B. is an author/illustrator of comics and graphic novels for all ages. He has been making comics all his life, except for a brief pause between the ages of 10 and 32. His latest graphic novel, *Swap Meet and Other Stories*, debuted in Fall 2023. Ryan probably has a new project out now or coming soon! He lives in Staunton with his wife, their two dogs, and four cats.



Everett Brubaker is the author of the children's book *Do You Need a Song?* (2023), which he created with his childhood friend and Arizona-based watercolor artist Kendall Yvonne. Everett works for the non-profit Community Housing Partners and is a graduate of both EMU and JMU. He lives in Harrisonburg with his wife, two young sons, dog Mako, and backyard chickens.



Heather Cole is a writer and public historian living in Staunton. She's the author of several local history books, including *Virginia's Presidents: A History & Guide*, (The History Press, 2023) and the forthcoming *Ohio's Presidents: A History & Guide* (The History Press, 2024). She runs a small business providing writing, editing, and archival management services and publishing local history and memoirs.



Dr. Laura Copley is a seasoned therapist, counselor educator, and author who brings a unique approach to mending unseen relationship wounds. Her methods offer a fresh perspective to a global clientele of survivors. She empowers other therapists and healers with her knowledge, spreading her transformative techniques across continents and bringing hope and healing to those who need it most.



Mollie Cox Bryan is author of cozy mysteries with an edge and traditional mysteries with heart. She's also the author of several bestselling mystery series under the pen name Maggie Blackburn. Her books have been selected as finalists for an Agatha Award and a Daphne du Maurier Award, as well as a Top 10 Beach Reads by *Woman's World*. Her newest book, *The Lace Window: An Eliza Hamilton Mystery*, is the first historical mystery release by pen name Mollie Ann Cox. Mollie is the mother of two grown daughters and makes her home at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Melodie Davis worked for Menno Media in Harrisonburg for 43 years as a writer/producer before retiring in 2019. In addition to writing 12 nonfiction books, she edited the quarterly magazine, *Valley Living*, for 20 years and wrote a column in the *Daily News-Record* called *Another Way*. She and her husband live near Linville, have raised three daughters, and have six grandchildren.



P.A. Duncan is a former commercial pilot, aviation safety official, and stodgy bureaucrat with an overactive imagination. A graduate of JMU, she lives and writes in the Shenandoah Valley. Her fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies, and her debut novel, *A War of Deception*, was a featured selection for historical fiction in an international contest. When not writing, you can find her cheering on the Yankees, watching NASCAR or Formula 1, and spoiling grandchildren.



H M DuVal is a mother, kinesiologist, and author of the *Dream Walker* series. She has always had a passion for good stories: Telling, sharing, and getting lost in them. Fiction and fantasy, with a healthy dose of romance, are her favorite genres. She loves the incredible power books have to spirit us away from the mundane and into the sensational. She lives in the Shenandoah Valley with her husband, two children, and a dog, cat, and horse.



M.K.B. Graham is a former feature and freelance writer, editor, and blogger in higher education. She left her career in 2017 to write fiction and has published three historical novels set in Western Virginia: *CAIRNAERIE*, *FLEURINGALA*, and *DUNKARD'S HOLLOW*. A lifelong Virginian, her writing and editing experience spans more than 45 years. She lives in Rockingham County with her husband, Mark, and has four children and ten grandchildren.



Carl E. Hansen was born and raised in rural Alberta and Ontario, Canada. He holds a BA degree from Eastern Mennonite University, and graduate degrees from Goshen Biblical Seminary and Fuller Theological Seminary. Carl served as a missionary in Eastern Africa for more than thirty-two years, in both teaching and development capacities and helped establish Meserete Kristos College (now Seminary). In retirement, Carl continues raising support for the seminary while writing his memoirs.



Alan W. Harris is a retired veterinarian living by the Shenandoah River in Luray. Inspired by his love of nature, the fun of telling a good story, and his desire to draw his family closer, Dr. Harris has completed nine books and is working on two more. Convinced that good stories change hearts, he hopes his books will not only entertain and challenge his readers but will also motivate families to spend quality time with one another and stimulate thought-provoking discussions.



Susan Hasler is the author of four novels and one book of essays. Her first novel, *Intelligence* - based on her experience as a CIA counterterrorism analyst during 9/11 - is now in development for a television series. Her latest novel, *KRILL: When the Good Choices Are Gone*, won the 2022 Independent Publishers Book Awards Gold Medal for Science Fiction. Susan was born in Harrisonburg and graduated from UC Berkeley.



Jeff W. Ishee is an award-winning journalist with a career in radio, television, and print media. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard three ships of the Atlantic Fleet. He is passionate about gardening, genealogy, American history, and growing heirloom peanuts. Jeff is married to Carole Marshall Ishee and lives in Mount Sidney, Virginia.



Sarah Lamb is wife to an amazing teacher and mom to two boys growing up just a little too fast. Her day job is helping others to become writers, while she squeezes in each spare moment she can on her own books. She spends her days working and writing in the Blue Ridge Mountains and planning her next trip to Disney World.



John Norment is a former elementary school teacher who began writing shortly after experiencing a life-threatening stroke, which required him to have to relearn how to speak, read, and write. His first book, *Strong Work*, chronicles his experiences surrounding his illness and recovery. John also wrote *The Tunnel Through the Trees*, the first installment in *The Hollow Oak*, his children's fantasy series. He divides his time between writing and collaborating with Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley.



Kwyn Townsend Riley channels her Southside Chicagoan experiences into her writing. Most of her poems center on social justice issues, including racism, sexism, rape culture, and gun violence. Her poetry has been featured in the *Huffington Post*, *BLAVITY*, *For Harriet*, *The Chicago Reader*, and others, and she has performed at many college campuses, including California State and the University of Chicago. She has published two books and an award-winning poetry album. Kwyn is currently writing from Virginia.



Greg Wrenn is a former Stegner Fellow at Stanford University and author of *Mothership: A Memoir of Wonder and Crisis*, an evidence-based account of his turning to psychedelic plants and endangered coral reefs to heal from complex PTSD. He also wrote *Centaur*, which was awarded the Brittingham Prize. As an associate English professor at JMU, he weaves climate change science into literary studies. He lives in the Shenandoah Valley with his husband and their growing family of trees.