

## Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 27, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
with Pete Freas  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
Virginia Beach

Tuesday, March 24, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
with Dr. Virginia O'Keefe  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
Virginia Beach

Tuesday, April 16, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Towne Bank  
137 Mt. Pleasant Rd. at Battlefield Blvd.  
Chesapeake

Tuesday, April 28, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
Virginia Beach

Thursday, May 14, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
Virginia Beach

Tuesday, June 23, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
Virginia Beach

Thursday, July 16, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Towne Bank  
137 Mt. Pleasant Rd. at Battlefield Blvd.  
Chesapeake

Tuesday, July 28, 2009  
HRW Open Mic Night  
6:00 - 8:30 pm  
Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
Virginia Beach

For additional information,  
go to our website at  
[www.hamptonroadswriters.org](http://www.hamptonroadswriters.org)

## On-line prescription for writer's block

Writing exercises are a great way to increase your skill as a writer and to generate ideas for future work. They can also give you a new perspective on your current project. You can find daily writing exercises and prompts at our website ([hamptonroadswriters.org/writingprompts.php](http://hamptonroadswriters.org/writingprompts.php)). These exercises can help free you from writer's block, help you explore new possibilities, and help you get in touch with your genius. Some demand a lot of time, but then the serious writer devotes a lot of time to learning the craft.

Some of the nearly 150 prompts and exercises will appeal more to left-brained thinkers and contain much detail, instruction, and structure. Others will appeal more to the right-brained thinkers. These exercises are more relaxed, with fewer rules, instruction, or structure. All of the exercises will force you to write and exercise your creativity muscle and your technical (craft) muscle.

You'll find exercises and prompts that will help you with: dialogue, plotting, characterization, voice, pacing, figurative language, poetry, flashes, and micros.

*Lauran Strait*

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## How your tax-deductible contributions help

As the ball dropped and illuminated 2009, HRW hit the ground running with a focus on bringing exciting new opportunities to Hampton Roads. We have amazing ideas and great strategies, making it a struggle to pace ourselves and stay within the budget of a newly-established not for profit organization.

We are excited about our 501(c)(3) status, as it will provide us the opportunity to apply for grants and expand our one-day conference into two or three days. Also, it will allow us to bring to fruition things that are forced to be put on the back burner, such as youth reading/writing programs, memoir writing with senior citizens, and various writing contests.

While grant money is very exciting, the membership contributions were our mainstay for 2008. These contributions enabled us to kick off a great first year promoting our schedule of events and we count on them to do the same in 2009.

Your tax-deductible contribution plants the seeds necessary for Hampton Roads to become a mecca whose reputation is one of highly visible and strongly sought after literary talent. We appreciate you and all that you have done, are doing, and will do, to encourage reading and writing.

In addition to taking pride in being a part of the grassroots organization, a list of what renewing your annual membership with HRW affords you can be found on our website at [www.hamptonroadswriters.org](http://www.hamptonroadswriters.org).

*Sherrie Pilkington*