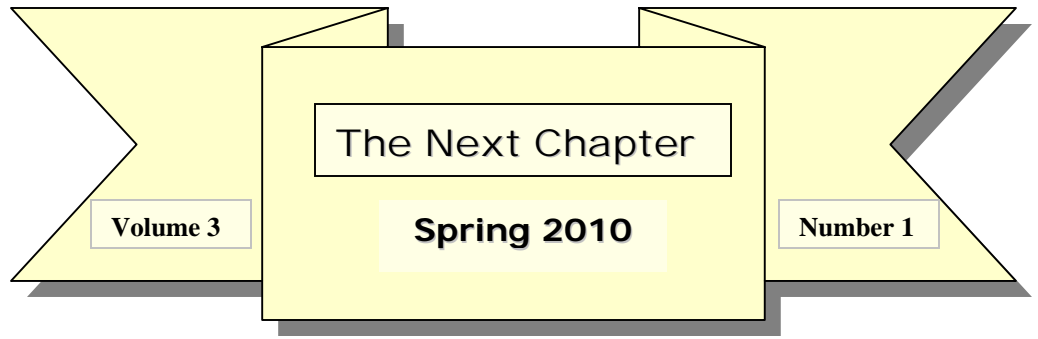




Hampton Roads Writers  
Where Characters Connect



## Calendar of Events

**Open Mic--Thursday, February 18, 2010** at the **Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library**, Virginia Beach BLVD, VB from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. **Angela Lawrence**, from the Samaritan House, will emcee this event and will award prizes to the winners of their 2010 youth writing contest.

**Open Mic--Wednesday, March 3, 2010** at the **Central Library**, 298 Cedar Road, Chesapeake from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. **Synnika Lofton** will emcee the event.

**Open Mic--Thursday, March 18, 2010** at the **Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library**, Virginia Beach BLVD, VB from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. **Jerry Scheeley**, President of Uptown Voices Toastmasters Club and author of *Why You Failed in Real Estate*, will emcee the event.

**Open Mic--Wednesday, March 31, 2010** at the **Mary D. Pretlow Library**, 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. **Jean Hendrickson**, author of the chapbook *Tiny Poems for Women Who Think They Hate Poetry*, will emcee the event

**Open Mic--Wednesday, April 7, 2010** at the **Greenbrier Library**, 1214 Volvo Parkway, Chesapeake from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. **Synnika Lofton** will emcee the event.

**Open Mic--Thursday, April 15, 2010** at the **Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library**, Virginia Beach BLVD, VB from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. The emcee for the evening is **Nathan Richardson**.

**Open Mic--Thursday, April 29, 2010** at the **Mary D. Pretlow Library**, 111 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. **Anne Meek** will emcee the event.

**Open Mic--Wednesday, May 5, 2010** at the **Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library**, Virginia Beach BLVD, VB from 6:00 to 8:30 PM. **Phyllis Johnson** will emcee the event.

For additional info, visit our website at [hamptonroadswriters.org](http://hamptonroadswriters.org)

## HRW Members' Recent Publication Successes

**Jeanette Cheezum** achieved an astounding publication record for 2009, placing her work online and in print in 160 places. Another four pieces are forthcoming soon.

Likewise, **Jean Hendrickson** amassed more than twenty publication credits last year. She's especially pleased that her poem, "Desert War," was chosen for the anthology, *Poems of the Poppies*.

Congratulations to **Kay Brownlow** for her first place win for Creative Nonfiction at the CNU Writers' Conference last April.

Two of **Anne Meek's** short stories were published in *In Good Company*, Vol. 7 as were five of her poems in *The Poet's Domain*, Vol. 25

The poems of **Linda Ardison, Marty Basden, Jeanette Cheezum, Nancy Dorband, Jeanette Gallagher, Jean Hendrickson, Phyllis Johnson, Susan Okaty, and Sharon Poch** were published in *Vox Poetica* during Oct, Nov, Dec 2009 and Jan. 2010.

If you're an HRW member and have had a recent publication success story you'd like to share via the newsletter, please send the information to [HRWriters@cox.net](mailto:HRWriters@cox.net)

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

### NON-PAYING

Born January 2, 2010, **Corium** (<http://www.coriummagazine.com/>) is an online, quarterly magazine, featuring short and flash fiction and poetry. New issues run in March, June, September and December.

**Brave Blue Mice** (<http://www.bravebluemice.com/>), another new E-zine, publishes once a month. BBM likes wierd, bizarro, horror, noir, sci-fi, and high fantasy pieces.

### PAYING

Rewrite a fairy tale in your favorite genre for a new anthology, **Twisted Fairytales**, VOL. 2. Whether you pick horror, science fiction, fantasy, romance, or even a modern day version of a fairy tale, make sure your story is well written and well plotted. (<http://www.sonar4publications.com/>)

**The Cincinnati Review**, (<http://www.cincinnatiareview.com/>) established in 2003, draws the finest work from across the country. Open to poetry and fiction submissions until May 31, they pay professional rates of 5 cents or more per word.

**Prole**, a new print magazine, publishes high quality, accessible poetry and prose. Anything that sniffs of literary elitism is highly unlikely to make it through the editorial process. Prole pays royalties.

“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.” Mark Twain

## Placeholders

By: Valerie Wilkinson

I recently completed a writers' workshop with Sheri Reynolds (#1 *New York Times* Bestselling author). One of her nuggets of wisdom initially shocked me: “Consider every word in your rough draft a placeholder. Once it's written, go back and decide what really needs to go in that space.”

*Every word a placeholder?*

Her statement irritated me like an itchy sweater. I had an assignment draft I was pleased with, but I decided to put her idea to work. If she was willing to rewrite every word of her novels, I could at least *try* on a five-page assignment.

The effect stunned me. So many words failed to carry their weight. When I reexamined each without the momentum of the entire draft flowing in my head, I discovered better words (not larger, just better) hiding behind. Symbolism leapt forward. An entire war theme marched forth, bringing definition and weight. The six-year-old point of view snapped into focus.

Under the spell of intense revision, I questioned everything and marveled at the number of times I'd written an approximation. The placeholder process transformed the assignment. My paper sprang to life. Thankfully, I've become a better writer as a result.

Give it a try. Take something you've written and consider each word a placeholder—even the ones you love. Does the word or phrase say precisely what you intend? Is it concrete? Evocative? If not, find one that is. You, too, may be pleasantly surprised by the vibrant writing that takes shape.

### CASHOLA Nights at **Guadalajara Restaurants** 4-9 PM

**Jan 27**—**Guadalajara Tropical Café**, 2149 General Booth Blvd, VB

**Feb 24**—**Guadalajara Mexican Bar and Grill**, 2272 W. Great Neck Rd, VB

**Mar 31**—**Guadalajara**, 509 Hilltop Plaza Shopping Ctr., VB

**Apr 28**—**Guadalajara Town Center**, 4611 Columbus Street, VB

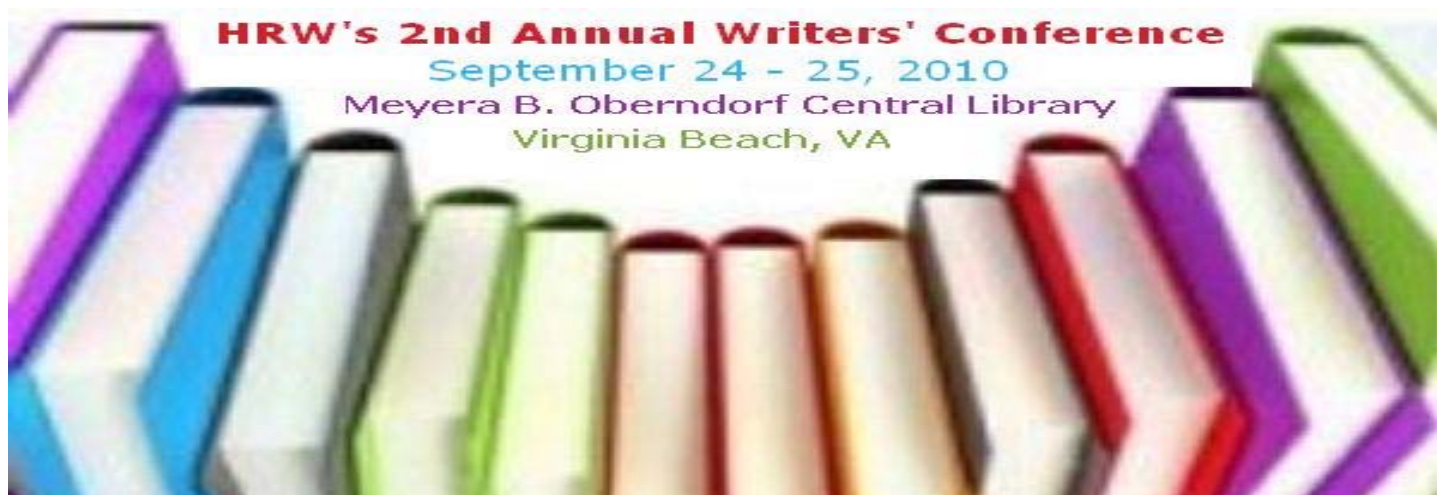
**May 26**—**Guadalajara Tropical Café**, 2149 General Booth Blvd, VB

Cashola Events are an easy way for HRW to raise funds. Tell the server you're with HRW, and we'll earn a portion of what you spend.

### An Easy Way to Help HRW, and it won't cost you a thing

Entering the Amazon.com website through the search box on the HRW page is a painless way to financially support HRW. For each sale of ANYTHING that Amazon.com sells, our group earns a referral fee. This in no way impacts your purchase price; it will be identical to what it would be if you were to go directly to Amazon.com and order. THANKS SO MUCH!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW AND PLAN TO ATTEND



**Five-Minute Pitch Sessions with Literary Agents, 2 First-Pages Critique Sessions, 4 Free Writing Contests, and MUCH more**  
Visit [hamptonroadswriters.org](http://hamptonroadswriters.org) for details