

The following series of events is made possible with financial support from the West Virginia Humanities Council, in partnership with the Shepherd University Foundation, the West Virginia Center for the Book, the Scarborough Society at Shepherd University, the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd, the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at Shepherd University, the Shepherdstown Film Society, the Shepherdstown Public Library, the Martinsburg Public Library, Four Seasons Books, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

#### September 1-30

- Photographic Art Exhibit, Curator Mike Mendez, Scarborough Library

#### Friday, September 24

- 7 p.m. Stories from West Virginia, with Shepherd University Storyteller in Residence Adam Booth, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and livestreamed via **YouTube**

#### Saturday, September 25

- \*Appalachian Heritage Festival Daylong Events and Concert, for events online throughout the semester visit [www.shepherd.edu/pass](http://www.shepherd.edu/pass)

#### Monday, September 27

- 7 p.m. *Mother Jones and Transformation through Suffering*, with Karen Spears Zacharias, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and livestreamed via **YouTube**

#### Tuesday, September 28

- 7 p.m. *A Celebration of Appalachian Storytellers, Anthology of Appalachian Writers, Dorothy Allison Volume XIII*, with West Virginia Poet Laureate Marc Harshman and Friends. Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and livestreamed via **YouTube**

#### Wednesday, September 29

- \*9:30 a.m. Marie Manilla Reading from *The Patron Saint of Ugly*, High School Honors Students from Jefferson and Berkeley counties
- \*11 a.m. Marie Manilla Reading at Martinsburg Public Library
- \*12:30 p.m. Shepherdstown Library Nourishing Literacy Giving Circle, Bavarian Inn
- 7 p.m. *The Writing Life*, with Marie Manilla and Reception, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and livestreamed via **YouTube**

#### Thursday, September 30

- \*Noon Lunch and book discussion with Senior Moments Book Club
- 3-4:30 p.m. Writers Master Class with Marie Manilla, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and livestreamed across the state via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/6031914077>)
- 7 p.m. Scarborough Society Keynote with Marie Manilla and AHWIR Awards Ceremony and Reception, Robert C. Byrd Center for Congressional History and Education and livestreamed across the state via **YouTube**

#### Friday, October 1

- Interview with Inside Appalachia, West Virginia Public Radio
- \*7:30 p.m. *Fried Green Tomatoes* Screening and Film Discussion, Shepherdstown Film Society, a story of redemption and forgiveness, Reynolds Hall

\*Contingent on COVID-19 safety protocols in effect at the time of the event.

#### YouTube Channel

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCQa2Ejpd2\\_Kh9ojCYSgumvQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQa2Ejpd2_Kh9ojCYSgumvQ)

## Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project Committee Members

Dr. Sylvia Bailey Shurbutt

*AHWIR Project Director and Appalachian Studies Center Director*

Monica Lingenfelter

*Shepherd Foundation Executive Vice President and Project Fiscal Officer*

Rachael Meads

*PASS Director and Heritage Festival Coordinator*

Dr. Benjamin Bankhurst

*Department of History*

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*Executive Director, Library Commission*

Heather Campbell

*The West Virginia Center for the Book*

Carla Hunter

*Educator and Community Liaison*

Jennifer Nicholson

*Teacher and Resources Coordinator*

Adam Leviton

*Residency Webmaster and Anthology Graphic Designer*

Kendra Goldsborough

*Four Seasons Book Store*

Dr. James Pate

*Creative Writing Professor and Fiction Competition Judge*

David O. Hoffman

*Anthology Editor and Fiction Competition Judge*

Ellen Wade

*Anthology Editor and Fiction Competition Judge*

Adam Booth

*Storyteller and Committee Member*

Rebecca Calloway

*ASPT Graduate Rep Board Member*

Mary Barker

*APST Undergraduate Rep Board Member*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence

*“Home Is Where the Heart Is”  
Empathy, Art, and the Fiction of*

2021 West Virginia  
Common Read Author

**MARIE MANILLA**

2021 Recipient of the Appalachian Heritage  
Writer’s Award presented by the West  
Virginia Humanities Council, Shepherd  
University Foundation, and Center for  
Appalachian Studies and Communities



ABOUT THE SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY  
APPALACHIAN HERITAGE WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

The Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award and Appalachian Heritage Writers Project were conceived and developed by Shepherd University and the West Virginia Humanities Council in 1998 to honor distinguished contemporary writers whose work celebrates the cultural heritage of the people of Appalachia. The residency and Heritage Writers Project were designed to function in concert with the Appalachian Heritage Festival, an annual celebration of Appalachian cultural, musical, and visual arts traditions and achievements, developed by the Performing Arts Series at Shepherd University (PASS). The Appalachian Heritage Writers Project is housed under the Shepherd University Center for Appalachian Studies and Communities. In addition to the Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence Project and Heritage Festival, the center supports the annual Anthology of Appalachian Writers, West Virginia Fiction Competition, Speak Story Series, Celtic Roots Global Appalachia Program, a vibrant Appalachian Speakers Series, and the NEH Voices from the Misty Mountains and the Power of Storytelling Summer Institute for Teachers, as well as an Appalachian Studies minor, graduate certificate, and new M.A. degree in Appalachian Studies, with global studies dual degree alternative with the University of the West of Scotland in Glasgow.

The Appalachian Heritage Writer's Award is funded by the West Virginia Humanities Council and presented by the West Virginia Center for the Book and Shepherd University. The award has been given to an honor roll of extraordinary Appalachian writers:

- Sharyn McCrumb (1999)
- Marilou Awiakta (2000)
- George Ella Lyon (2001)
- Denise Giardina (2002)
- Robert Morgan (2003)
- Fred Chappell (2004)
- Jayne Anne Phillips (2005)
- Terry Kay (2006)
- Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (2007)
- Adriana Trigiani (2008)
- Silas House (2009)
- Bobbie Ann Mason (2010)
- Ron Rash (2011)
- Gretchen Moran Laskas (2012)
- Frank X Walker (2013)
- Homer Hickam (2014)
- Nikki Giovanni (2015)
- Charles Frazier (2016)
- Wiley Cash (2017)
- Karen Spears Zacharias (2018)
- Crystal Wilkinson (2019)
- Dorothy Allison (2020)
- Marie Manilla (2021)

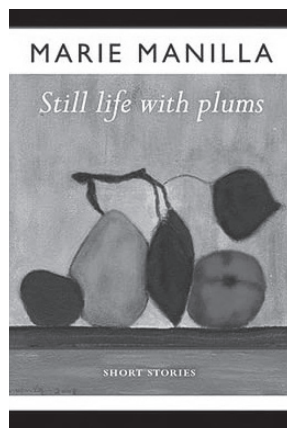
ABOUT THE 2021 RECIPIENT OF THE APPALACHIAN  
HERITAGE WRITER'S AWARD AND ONE BOOK ONE WEST  
VIRGINIA COMMON READ AUTHOR

*"My years on the planet have taught me, everyone needs someone to kick."*—The Patron Saint of Ugly

Marie Manilla grew up in West Virginia, and like many young people yearned to see the world beyond Appalachia. After college, she moved to Texas, for what she thought was another culture and another life, working seven years as a graphic designer and writing some. She found that even half a continent away from West Virginia's country roads, people were more alike than different and different was usually the same. After getting her M.F.A. and returning to West Virginia, she began to write seriously, initially considering herself a short story writer and publishing in a range of journals, exploring what she calls "those pivotal moments in characters' lives that forever change them for better or worse"—the secret to what makes a good short story.



Like Silas House, characterization is Manilla's true forte, though her writing also possesses a wonderful *joie de vivre* and energy that allows her to entertain even as she tackles the thorniest of issues and profoundest of themes. Manilla is a product of the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop and has evinced a prodigious talent over the years. Her short story collection, *Still Life with Plums*, was finalist for both the Weatherford Award and ForeWord Reviews Book of the Year.

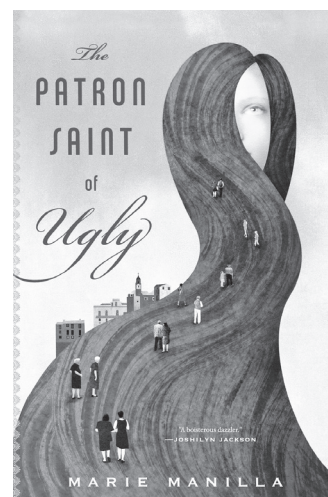
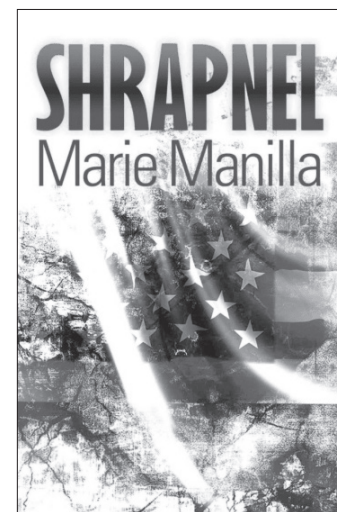


*Still Life with Plums* (2010) explores the quirks and depths of the inner thoughts and worlds of characters attempting to make sense of their lives. Manilla gives us an array of Appalachian characters, from Black-Irish West Virginians to a Guatemalan widow, to academics and an award-winning novelist. Manilla's humor, magic realism, and depth of understanding sets a literary feast for her readers and provides food for thought and a multicultural Appalachian world to ponder.

*"Just let it all go. . . . Everything's going to be all right."*

—Shrapnel

In 2012, Manilla published *Shrapnel*, which takes us into the consciousness of a transplanted old Texan, Bing Butler, whom Manilla somehow makes endearing for her readers. Despite his narrow and intolerant attitudes, Bing discovers when he moves from Texas to West Virginia both the importance of family and the necessity of tempering his judgement of others whom he finds different from himself. *Shrapnel* won the Fred Bonnie Award for Best First Novel and allowed Manilla to explore the journey of the hero which raises the level of the story to archetype, following the paradigm explored in the work of Joseph Campbell.



The extraordinary success and rave reviews of Manilla's third book, *The Patron Saint of Ugly*, established her as a literary force to be reckoned with and won for her the Weatherford Award in 2014. Exploring her own Italian roots, *The Patron Saint of Ugly* has been called a "blend of magical realism, Southern Gothic, and Sicilian malocchio." Manilla's fiction has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Mississippi Review*, *Portland Review*, *Kestrel*, *Yamasee Review*, among others.

Her stories have been Nelson Algren finalists and have won for her the Lawrence Foundation Award for Fiction. Today Marie Manilla lives with her husband Don Primerano in her hometown of Huntington. She has taught at Marshall University and was a visiting faculty member in the M.F.A. Program at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

*"Souls need no finery, Wounds will do."*

—The Patron Saint of Ugly