

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LOCAL JAMES RIVER WRITERS AUTHOR
WINS RUNNER-UP IN INTERNATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION**

RICHMOND, VA – Author Karen A. Chase, a member of the James River Writers literary organization, has placed as runner-up in the 2017 William Faulkner – William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition for her novel CARRYING INDEPENDENCE.

In the Unpublished Novel category, which amassed 502 entries, Chase’s historical novel, CARRYING INDEPENDENCE, was short-listed to the top 12, and secured the 2nd place position as runner-up. The novel, set in 1776, centers on a reluctant patriot who is hired to carry the sole copy of the Declaration of Independence to seven founding fathers, whose final signatures must be secured to unite the colonies.

The winner and runner-up positions were selected by Katharine Fausett of Curtis-Brown literary agency, who said of Chase’s novel, “I was very impressed by the historical research in Carrying Independence (and learned a lot about the period). It’s also well plotted and I appreciated the inclusion of the Native American characters’ points of view.”

Chase also entered the contest’s Novel-in-Progress category, which produced 313 entries. Her women’s fiction novel set in North Carolina, DECOYS was selected as one of 76 finalists.

[Karen A. Chase](#) says her novels performed so strongly because of her involvement with James River Writers. “I’ve learned about the craft and the publishing industry at monthly writing shows and the annual conference. I also found writing partners and editors who pushed me to complete drafts worthy of submission.”

[James River Writers](#), based in Richmond, formed in 2002 as a non-profit literary organization, dedicated to building community and inspiring writers in central Virginia.

[The William Faulkner – William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition](#) is an international competition, sponsored annually by The Pirate’s Alley Society, Inc, a non-profit literary and educational organization. For previously unpublished work, the competition has propelled many previously unknown writers into successful careers as established authors.

Karen A. Chase is represented by [literary agent, Roger Williams](#).

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