

## James River Writers Timeline

- 2002** A group of area writers begins plans for a new literary organization in Richmond, Virginia.
- 2003** Inaugural conference sells out, as it will for almost every subsequent year. Keynote speaker Tom Robbins inspires audience and thanks Richmond for his inspiration.
- 2004** JRW partners with Library of Virginia and the Barksdale Theatre to produce the first *Virginia Arts and Letters LIVE*, a celebration of live storytelling and original short fiction produced in Virginia. JRW launches *Get Your Word On*, an on-line newsletter.
- 2005** JRW launches *The Writing Show*, a lively monthly panel on the craft and the business of writing. JRW establishes its first office.
- 2006** JRW wins the Theresa Pollak Prize for Excellence in the Arts and launches the Best Unpublished Novel contest.
- 2007** *Style Weekly* names the founding of JRW as one of the pivotal moments in the past quarter century of Richmond arts.
- 2008** JRW launches its Focus on Youth initiative. Among new programs, Student Writing contests open to all Richmond area students. Successful transition to second generation of organizational board leadership.
- 2009** JRW adds Best Poetry Contest in association with *Richmond* magazine.
- 2010** JRW becomes an NEA grant recipient and launches a new professionally designed brand identity.
- 2011** New Strategic Plan in place, emphasizing JRW goals of engaging diverse audiences, continued growth of our programs and achieving greater financial stability.