

SUCCEED2GETHER

PRESENTS



# Montclair

## LITERARY FESTIVAL

**MARCH 15-18, 2018**

MONTCLAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY | FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY | MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM



**SUCCEED2GETHER**  
BUILDING OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

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**Sincere thanks to our generous sponsors:**

Montclair State University, NJEA, Dagmara Dominczyk and Patrick Wilson, Rose Cali, Susan Gifford, Rosemary Iversen, Investors Foundation, Whole Foods Market, Open Road Subaru, Park Street Auto Montclair, Montclair Orthodontics.

**And to our event partners:**

Watchung Booksellers, Montclair Public Library, Montclair Art Museum, Halfway There Reading Series, Montclair Film, Amanti Vino, The Writers Circle, The Creativity Caravan, Montclair Cooperative School, East Side Mags, Leon Levy Center for Biography, and First Congregational Church.



**MONTCLAIR STATE**  
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watchung booksellers  
YOUR COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE



# Welcome to the Second Montclair Literary Festival

After a lively and well-received first festival in 2017, Succeed2gether is delighted to present the second annual Montclair Literary Festival, March 15-18, 2018. This year, we welcome more than 100 authors and speakers, appearing over four days in an exciting lineup of book talks with featured authors, thought-provoking panel discussions, writing workshops, and children's activities.

The Montclair Literary Festival is presented by Succeed2gether to extend our educational initiatives into the community with a celebration of books, ideas, and Montclair's vibrant literary scene. Succeed2gether works to close the education achievement gap in Essex County with after-school tutoring and education enrichment programs for students most in need. The literary festival supports this work and offers an opportunity to learn more about our rewarding and effective tutoring program and find out how you can get involved and help kids reach their full potential.

The festival also aims to generate lasting connections between arts institutions and the community, but above all it is a celebration, of reading, writing, ideas, and all things book-related. Our program has something for everyone: whether you are an aspiring writer, an avid reader, the parent of a young reader, or are concerned about politics or the #metoo movement, we have an event for you. Drop in for an hour or stay all day, but be sure to join us to celebrate Montclair and reading for all.

The Succeed2gether team has worked closely with Margot Sage-EL and her staff at Watchung Booksellers to produce the festival. We are also grateful to the support of everyone at Montclair Public Library, under the leadership of Library Director Peter Coyl and Assistant Director Janet Torsney, and to the First Congregational Church for their beautiful venue. Montclair Art Museum is another festival partner and we are also delighted to work with Montclair Film, Halfway There Reading Series, The Creativity Caravan, The Writing Circle, East Side Mags, Montclair Cooperative School, and the Leon Levy Center for Biography.

Once again we are grateful to the festival's major sponsor, Montclair State University. MSU will host events on Friday, March 16, and MSU faculty are participating in events throughout the festival. We also want to thank Councilwoman Robin Schlager and the Montclair Council for their support of the festival, including providing free parking near our venues. Particular thanks to Katrina Browning for her tireless work on marketing, sponsorship and web design, Cynthia Kitay for her work on sponsorship and event planning, Itewari Ekpebu Bryan for IT support, Amanda Ansoorge for design work, and Judith Rew for layout and design of the festival program.

Sincere thanks are also due to Succeed2gether Board Members, tutors and students; Bob Feinberg, Sue Hollenberg, & Lisa Ingersoll at Montclair Film; Petra Pankow, Noaa Stoler, & Benedetta Balsimelli at MAM, Judy Newman & team at Scholastic; Mr. Earle, Ms. Rembert, Mr. Woodruff, Maggie Vaughn & Mia Rodriguez-Vars at Montclair High School; Mr. Wilson & Mr. Garzon at Renaissance Middle School; Dr. Putrino & Ms. Dominick at Glenfield Middle School; Ms. Thomas at Buzz Aldrin Middle School; Ms. Darling & Ms. Boncher at Montclair Kimberly Academy; Reagan Arthur, Susan Weinberg, Laura and Jim Nicosia, Christina Baker Kline, Sarah McGrath, Jay Richardson, Tanya Manning-Yarde, Roger Sedarat, Ghana Imani Hylton, Anthony Mattero, Arielle Eckstut, David Henry Sterry, all committee members, volunteers and everyone else who helped bring this festival to life.

The Succeed2gether and Montclair Literary Festival Team

# Festival Team

Festival Chair & President, Succeed2gether: Marcia Marley

Festival Co-Director & Program Director, Succeed2gether: Jacqueline Mroz

Festival Co-Director: Catherine Platt

Director, Student Events: Candy Cooper

Director, Marketing and Sponsorship: Katrina Browning

Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Antonucci

Office Manager: Jamila Shivers

Venue Coordinator: Alan Myers

Website: Itewari Ekpebu Bryan and Katrina Browning

Design: Amanda Ansoorge/amandaansorge@gmail.com

Program: Judith Rew, Catherine Platt

Festival Committee: Marcia Marley, Jacqueline Mroz, Catherine Platt, Katrina Browning, Candy Cooper, Margot Sage-El, Janet Torsney, Enola Romano, Antonio Aiello, Marcy Dermansky, Thad Ziolkowski, Jon Greenberg, Katherine Duncan.

School and Children's Events: Candy Cooper, Catherine Platt, Jacqueline Mroz, Laura Nicosia, Jim Nicosia, Dana Hawkins-Simon, Alexandra Okun, Christina Loccke.

Sponsorship and Ad Sales: Katrina Browning, Cynthia Kitay, Marcia Marley, Jacqueline Mroz, Catherine Platt, Sharon Linietsky, Annie Hurley, Mary Beth Rosenthal.

Media and Marketing: Katrina Browning, Amber Rae Scott, Ghana Imani Hylton.

Hospitality and Author Care: Cynthia Kitay, Nancy Grande, Lori Montague, Barbara Farber, Jan Schwartz, Carol Apprendi, Gerri Stewart.

Venue Managers: Kim Burns, Ghana Imani Hylton, Mary Beth Rosenthal, Liza Cohn, Thomas Pluck, Sharon Linietsky, Gerri Stewart, Diane Herbst.

## Venue Addresses

Montclair State University: 1 Normal Ave. Montclair

Montclair Public Library: 50 South Fullerton Ave. Montclair

First Congregational Church: 40 South Fullerton Ave. Montclair

Montclair Art Museum: 3 South Mountain Ave. Montclair

Succeed2gether: 11 Pine St. Montclair (office building)

Montclair Film: 505 Bloomfield Ave. Montclair

East Side Mags: 7 South Fullerton Ave. Montclair

The Creativity Caravan: 28 South Fullerton Ave. Montclair

Amanti Vino: 30 Church Street Montclair



# watchung booksellers

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**MONTCLAIR**  
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1893 2018  
CELEBRATING  
125 YEARS  
AS THE CENTER  
OF THE  
MONTCLAIR  
COMMUNITY

## Help us celebrate our Birthday!

Community Birthday Party  
Wednesday, April 11  
4:30-7:30 pm  
*Free family event*

125th Birthday Celebration  
Saturday, April 14  
7-9 pm  
*Tickets available at [montclairplf.org](http://montclairplf.org)*

Check out [montclairlibrary.org](http://montclairlibrary.org) for more activities and events

**Montclair's home for all things literary since 1893**

# Ticketed Events

All tickets can be purchased at [www.succeed2gether.org](http://www.succeed2gether.org)

## Friday, March 16

**6:30–8:30 pm An Evening with Meg Wolitzer**

*Girls Night Out—bring your book club!*

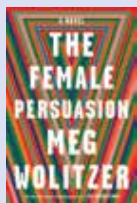
*Book soon—space is limited.*

**6:30–7:30 pm Meet the Author.**

Join **Meg Wolitzer**, New York Times bestselling author of *The Female Persuasion*, *The Interestings* etc., and her editor, Glen Ridge local **Sarah McGrath**, for wine and conversation before their book talk tonight. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served in the lobby of MSU's new Communications Center, with spectacular views of Manhattan.



**7:30–8:30 pm Meg Wolitzer in Conversation.**



**Meg Wolitzer** is known for exploring themes of marriage, sex, gender politics, and family. Tonight she delves into these topics with her editor **Sarah McGrath** as they discuss her latest book, *The Female Persuasion*, described as, “an electric, multi-layered novel about ambition, power, friendship, and mentorship, and the romantic ideals we all follow deep into adulthood.”

*Tickets \$50 Drinks reception, book talk and a copy of The Female Persuasion.*

*Tickets \$30 Book Talk only, including a copy of The Female Persuasion.*

*Venue: Montclair State University Communications Center*

## Saturday, March 17

**2:45–3:45 pm Alternate Side: Anna Quindlen in Conversation.**

We're delighted to welcome renowned author **Anna Quindlen** to Montclair on the first stop of a countrywide tour, to discuss her new novel *Alternate Side* with local author **Deborah Davis**. Find out how tensions in a tight-knit neighborhood—and a seemingly happy marriage—are exposed by an unexpected act.

*Tickets \$40 including a copy of Alternate Side*

*Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

**4:00–5:00 pm How to Get Published, Survive and Thrive as a Working Writer: with Christina Baker-Kline, Nicholas Delbanco, and Reagan Arthur.**

Join Montclair local **Christina Baker Kline**, bestselling author of *A Piece of the World* and *Orphan Train*, Little Brown publisher **Reagan Arthur**, and **Nicholas Delbanco**, former chair of the National Book Awards Fiction Panel, as they discuss how to achieve literary success. How do you sell your first book? How do you pull off a long-term career as a writer? How do writers adapt and thrive, and adjust their careers to keep up with a rapidly changing publishing climate? What are publishers looking for? With expertise from three perspectives, this event offers essential information for developing writers, and fascinating insights for everyone into the world of publishing

*Tickets \$30. Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*



## Saturday, March 17



**6:30–7:30 pm Sex, Schools and Suburbia.** Three of the many subjects that enliven the work of author and screenwriter **Tom Perrotta**. Tonight the New Jerseyan known for *Mrs. Fletcher*, *Little Children*, *The Election*, *The Leftovers* etc. talks with actor **Patrick Wilson**, star of the film version of *Little Children*, about the process of translating fiction to film and TV and how different media reflect his preferred themes. Novelist and actress **Dagmara Dominczyk** moderates the conversation from both perspectives.

*Tickets \$35 including a copy of Tom Perrotta's latest novel, Mrs. Fletcher.*

*Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

**7:30–9:00 pm Festival Party: Meet the Authors.** Join festival authors and supporters for jazz, drinks, and a light meal to celebrate the second Montclair Literary Festival. Round off the day in style while supporting Succeed2gether's important work to close the education achievement gap.

*Tickets \$35. Buy both events together for only \$50.*

*Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*



## Sunday, March 18

**5:00–6:00 pm  
Devotion  
(Why I Write)  
with Patti  
Smith.**

We are delighted to close out the 2018 Montclair Literary Festival with renowned artist and author **Patti Smith**. Tonight Patti talks with guitarist, composer, and writer **Lenny Kaye** and reads from her latest book, *Devotion*

(*Why I Write*), which explores the mysteries and impacts of creativity and details her own creative process. Patti and Lenny will also play music from their long-term collaboration.



*“Devotion is short enough to devour at one enjoyable sitting and thought-provoking enough to deserve re-reading . . . It’s a privilege to spend any time with Patti Smith, however brief.”*

—Suzi Feay, *Financial Times*

*Tickets \$35 including a copy of Devotion (Why I Write)*

*Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

# Main Program

All events are free, unless otherwise noted.

## Wednesday 14 March

### 6:15–9:00 pm Pre-Festival Wine-Tasting and Film Screening

On the eve of the festival, we're delighted to present a cooperative event with our friends at Amanti Vino and Montclair Film. Get in the mood for the days ahead by sampling artisanal wines at Amanti Vino from 6:30 pm onwards, then head over to Montclair Film for a 7:30 pm screening of *Little Children*, based on the book of the same name by **Tom Perrotta**. On Saturday night Tom will talk with **Patrick Wilson**, who stars in the movie, about the process of transferring fiction to film and television.

Wine-tasting at Amanti Vino, 30 Church Street. Free event.

Screening at Montclair Film, 505 Bloomfield Avenue.

Tickets: \$10 from Montclair Film.

## Thursday 15 March

### 6:30–9:00 pm Find Your Voice! Montclair Poetry Slam

The 2018 Montclair Literary Festival starts on a high note, as Succeed2gether presents the 2nd annual Montclair Poetry Slam, with students from Montclair High School and Middle Schools competing in a high-energy spoken word competition. With guest performances from M.C. **Vincent Toro**, and judges **Grisel Acosta**, **Tanya Manning-Yarde** and **Roger Sedarat**.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

## Friday 16 March

### 3:30–4:30pm *Equipment for Living: On Poetry and Pop Music*

How can art help us make sense—or nonsense—of the world? Poet and MSU faculty member **Michael Robbins** has a refreshing, insightful take on the question of whether poetry and popular music can serve as essential tools for living. He talks with local musician **Warren Zanes** about his new book of “brilliant, illuminating criticism.”

Venue: *Montclair State University Communications Center*



## Saturday 17 March

### 11:00 am–12:00 pm Why We Write

A chance to hear four successful authors consider essential questions of the writing life, including how to juggle writing with another career, finding time to write, and where, why and for whom they write. **Jillian Medoff** (*This Could Hurt* etc.), **Jonathan Santlofer** (*The Widower's Notebook*, *Kate McKinnon* novels etc.), **Miranda Beverly-Whittemore** (*June*, *Bittersweet* etc.) and **Marcy Dermansky** (*The Red Car*, *Twins* etc.) talk with bestselling local author **Nancy Star** (*Sisters One*, *Two*, *Three* etc.).

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

### 11:00 am–12:00 pm Irish Women: Revolution, Romance, and “the Troubles”

On St. Patrick's Day, novelist **Belinda McKeon**, scholar **Lucy McDiarmid**, and poet **Colette Bryce** talk with **Elizabeth Brewer Redwine** about how they and other Irish writers confront revolution, romantic love and “the Troubles,” both political and sexual.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*

### 11:00 am–12:00 pm Letters to Secretary DeVos: What We'd Like To Discuss With You About Education

MSU Professors **Laura Nicosia** and **Rebecca Goldstein**, are the editors of a collection of letters, poems, and illustrations addressed to Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, intended to stimulate conversation about the current educational landscape. History Professor **Leslie Wilson** of MSU and **Masiel Rodriguez-Vars**, executive director of the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence, join them for a lively and informed discussion of issues including equity and discrimination in schools, assessment and accountability, school funding (at all levels), the precarious role of Title IX, the needs of students who receive special education services, and the future of public education in an era of privatization of public goods.

Venue: *Montclair Public Library Auditorium*



**11:00 am–12:00 pm**  
**Writing without**  
**Boundaries:**  
**Self-Expression through**  
**the Written Word**

Writers from Matheny Medical & Educational Center's Arts Access Program explore themes that include love, disability, family, faith, and more, in readings from their work and a discussion of the creative process and the messages they want to share. At Arts Access, adults with developmental disabilities are empowered to create art without boundaries.

Venue: YA Room at Montclair Public Library

**12:15–1:15 pm**  
**How to Write One True**  
**Sentence**

Montclair luminaries **D.T. Max** (*Every Love Story is a Ghost Story: A Life of David Foster Wallace*), **Garth Risk Hallberg** (*City on Fire*), and **Matthew Thomas** (*We are Not Ourselves*) discuss the craft of writing and finding your voice with **Christina Baker Kline** (*A Piece of the World, Orphan Train*)

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church

**12:15–1:15 pm**  
**The Science of Innovation**

What distinguishes the people who change the world? How can we nurture breakthrough innovation in our own lives? Innovation expert **Melissa Schilling** shares the science behind success as she discusses her new book *Quirky: The Remarkable Story of the Traits, Foibles, and Genius of Breakthrough Innovators Who Changed the World*, with science author and Montclair local **Dan Hurley**.

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church

**12:15–1:15 pm**  
**Engage, Rage or Both?:**  
**Cartoonists Respond to**  
**Trump**

Cartoonists from the *New Yorker* and other publications share and illuminate work inspired by our current president. With **R. Sikoryak**, **Emily Flake** and **Lauren Weinstein**, moderated by local graphic novelist **Kevin Pyle**.

Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium

**12:15–1:15 pm**  
**Going Rogue: Alternative**  
**Ways to Get Into Print**

National Book Award finalist **Min Jin Lee** launched her writing career without an MFA, as did upcoming writers **Kem Joy Ukwu**, **Ananda Lima**, **Teka Lark** and **Brea Tremblay**. Come and find out about their writing and publishing journeys, how they persist through the highs and lows of writing and submitting work, the pros and cons of an MFA, and alternative approaches to the writing life.

Venue: YA room, 1st Floor of Montclair Public Library

**1:30–2:30 pm**  
**Strangers in a Strange**  
**Land: The Immigrant**  
**Experience in Fiction**

*Pachinko*, **Min Jin Lee's** page-turning saga of four generations of Korean immigrants to Japan, featured on many top ten lists in 2017. Don't miss hearing her share thoughts on writing about immigrant and trans-national experience with fellow authors **Dagmara Dominczyk** (*The Lullaby of Polish Girls*), **Nicole Dennis Benn** (*Here Comes the Sun*) and **Wena Poon** (*Chang'an, Café Jauze* etc). Moderated by National Book Critics Circle President **Kate Tuttle**.  
Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church

**1:30–2:30 pm**  
**The Dark Side of the**  
**Short Story**

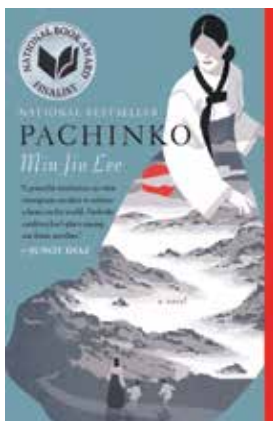
Bestselling crime writer **Megan Abbott** (*The Fever, You Will Know Me*) and noted short story writer **Samantha Hunt** (*The Dark Dark*) discuss the fantastical, suspenseful side to the short story with Montclair author and short story writer **Alice Elliott Dark**.

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church

**1:30–2:30 pm**  
**Building the Great Society:**  
**Inside Lyndon Johnson's**  
**White House**

In his new book, social historian **Joshua Zeitz** takes us behind the scenes of the legendary Great Society programs to reveal the personalities behind every burst of 1960s liberal reform—from civil rights and immigration reform, to Medicare and Head Start. Introduced by MSU Professor of History, Leslie Wilson.

Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium





**1:30–2:30 pm**  
**Rich Douek at East Side Mags**

If you love comics and fantasy, or are interested in writing, step down the road for an hour this afternoon to Montclair's comic book store, East Side Mags. Montclair writer and graphic novelist **Rich Douek** will be signing copies of *Gutter Magic*, his urban fantasy series, talking about writing comics and breaking into the industry, and answering your questions.

**Ages 8 and up**  
 Venue: East Side Mags, 7 South Fullerton Ave.

**2:45–3:45 pm**  
**Beyond Classics: How Contemporary Writers are Moving beyond the Young Adult Sci-Fi/Fantasy Canon and Reinventing the Genre**

With the movie version of *A Wrinkle in Time* and the 200th anniversary of *Frankenstein*, four successful fantasy writers reflect on the enduring appeal of fantasy and how they reach beyond the classics to reinvent the genre for contemporary audiences. **Laura** and **Jim Nicosia** speak with **Alex London** (*The Skybound Saga*, *Proxy* etc.), **Sarah Beth Durst** (*The Queens of Renithia*, *The Reluctant Queen* etc.), **Yvonne Ventresca** (*Black Flowers*, *White Lies*, *Pandemic* etc.), and **Josiah Bancroft** (*Senlin Ascends*, *The Arm of the Sphinx*).

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church

**2:45–3:45 pm**  
**Women, Sex, Power and the #MeToo Movement**

How will the sexual harassment scandal impact the way women navigate ambition and gender roles in the workplace? **Jaclyn Friedman** (*Unscrewed: Women, Sex, Power, and How to Stop Letting the System Screw us All*) Professor of Sociology

**Yasemin Besen-Cassino**, (*Cost of Being a Girl: Working Teens and the Origins of the Gender Wage Gap*), and New York Times Magazine journalist **Susan Dominus** consider this and other questions arising from the #MeToo movement with MSU Professor **Patricia Matthew**.

Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium

**2:45–3:45 pm**  
**Halfway There Reading Series**

Montclair's popular reading series presents work in progress by five emerging local writers: **Nancy Burke**, **Dani Fleischer**, **Carole Stone**, **John J. Trause**, and **Kristen Witucki**. A chance to hear and be inspired by the voices of the future.

Venue: YA Room at Montclair Public Library

**4:00–5:00 pm**  
**Rock'n'Roll Lives**

Associate Director of the Leon Levy Center for Biography **Thad Ziolkowski** leads a conversation on writing about the lives of rock icons. With **Joe Hagan** (*Sticky Fingers: The Life and Times of Jann Wenner and Rolling Stone Magazine*), **David Yaffe** (*Reckless Daughter: A Portrait of Joni Mitchell*), **Warren Zanes** (*Tom Petty, The Biography*), and **Deborah Davis**, who is co-writing Tina Turner's memoir *My Love Story*.

Thanks to the Leon Levy Center for Biography for their support.

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.

**4:00–5:00 pm**  
**"They Can't Kill Us All": Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement**

Washington Post writer and Pulitzer Prize winner **Wesley Lowery** discusses his account of the Black Lives Matter movement with MSU Professor of Justice Studies **Jason Williams**.

Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium

**4:00–5:00 pm**  
**Poetry as Resistance**

**Ghana Imani Hylton** moderates a conversation about art as activism, looking in particular at poetry as a medium for social justice. With readings and discussion from local poets **Pamela Hughes**, **Tanya Manning-Yarde**, **Teka Lark**, & **Elijah Brown**.

Venue: Montclair Public Library YA Room



**5:15–6:15 pm**  
**Trump's War with the Media**

Join author and political commentator **Jonathan Alter** as he reviews the Trump Presidency's efforts to define political reality with **David Cay Johnston** (*It's Even Worse Than You Think: What the Trump Administration Is Doing to America*; *The Making of Donald Trump*), New York Times Op-Ed Columnist **Andrew Rosenthal**, NY Daily News Editorial Writer **Robert**

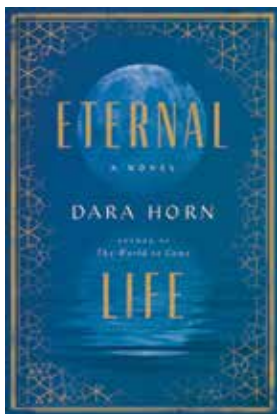
**George, and Eric Boehlert** (*Bloggers on the Bus: How the Internet Changed Politics and the Press; Lapdogs: How the Press Rolled Over for Bush*).

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

**5:15–6:15 pm**  
*Eternal Life*

**Dara Horn's** latest novel celebrates the bonds between generations, the power of faith, the purpose of death, and the reasons for being alive. The bestselling NJ author and recipient of the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction talks with *NJ Monthly* Editor **Ken Schlager** about her prizewinning work and the inspirations behind her remarkable storytelling.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*



**5:15–6:15 pm**  
**The Book Doctors**  
**PITCHAPALOOZA**

Pitchapalooza is American Idol for books (only kinder and gentler). Twenty writers will be selected at random to pitch their book to an all-star publishing panel. Each writer gets one minute—and only

one minute! Dozens of writers have gone from talented amateurs to professionally published authors as a result of participating in Pitchapalooza. Whether potential authors pitch themselves, or simply listen to trained professionals critique each presentation, Pitchapalooza is educational and entertaining for one and all. At the end of Pitchapalooza, the judges will pick a winner. The winner receives an introduction to an agent or publisher appropriate for his/her book. As always, bestselling author **David Henry Sterry** and agent-to-the-stars **Arielle Eckstut** will host the party.

This year, featuring **Susan Weinberg**, the publisher of Perseus; **Victoria Skurnick**, agent at Levine Greenberg Rostan; and **Erika Turner**, editor at Versify (a new imprint at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

Venue: *Montclair Public Library Auditorium*

## Writing Workshops

**Sunday, March 18**

Venues for all workshops: 11 Pine Street, Montclair 07042. (Office of Succeed2gether, 1st floor of office building with green awning, NOT residential building.)

Purchase tickets [www.succeed2gether.org](http://www.succeed2gether.org)

**10:00 am–1:00 pm How to Locate, Lure and Land an Agent**

Inspired by the amazing events and writers you heard on March 17 and want to get your own work published? How do you get your book successfully published in today's ridiculously competitive marketplace?

Come to this Master Class with the authors of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published*, **Arielle Eckstut** and **David Henry Sterry**, to find out. Every participant will get the chance to pitch their book idea and have it critiqued kindly and gently. Whether you are looking to get a deal with one of the Big 5, a great independent publisher, or self-publish, your pitch is the key that unlocks the door to an agent, a publisher, and in the end, a reader. Space is limited, sign up soon!

Tickets \$100, including a copy of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published*

**10:00–11:30 am**  
**Writing from Memory with Lisa Romeo**

To write memoir, family history, personal essay, or other forms of creative nonfiction, writers need to mine memories, to excavate the past, and recreate the events, conversations, places, and emotions that memory evokes. But memory is often uncooperative. What happens when we can't access the whole story? When details are cloudy? When the puzzle pieces don't seem to fit? In this interactive, generative workshop, you will learn some new tools, techniques, and craft approaches that help writers shape incomplete, inaccessible, or elusive memories. Practice new ways to dislodge mental blocks, sweep out the sand, and strike something solid, and move from muddled memory, to putting something interesting on paper.

Tickets \$35

**10:00–11:00 am**  
**Flash Fiction Workshop**  
**with David Galef**

Flash fiction stories, narratives under 1,000 words, are everywhere these days, from 'zines to cell phones. But what works in such a small space? **David Galef**, the creative writing program director of Montclair State University and author of a dozen books, including *Brevity: A Flash Fiction Handbook*, leads you through the possibilities in a flash presentation and workshop to get you started.

*Tickets \$25*

**11:30 am–12:30 pm**  
**Writing YA Fiction**  
**Workshop with E.R. Frank**

Have you always wanted to write a Young Adult book but didn't know where to begin? Or do you have a novel tucked away in a drawer somewhere that's just waiting to be published? **ER Frank**, author of five celebrated YA novels, will answer your questions, share her own successes and failures, and discuss what she knows about writing and publishing.

*Tickets \$35*

**12:30–2:00 pm**  
**How to Write About Food**  
**with Marissa Rothkopf**  
**Bates**

This 90-minute interactive class will help you hone your food writing skills, whether you've always dreamed of writing a cookbook, you're working on a food blog, want to become a freelance food writer or write restaurant reviews, or are working on fiction or nonfiction. We'll discuss what makes copy stand out, and look at how voice, storytelling and reporting makes a good food story. We'll explore techniques for writing engaging, thoughtful copy through reading, speed-writing

prompts and, yes, eating. Pizza will be served. **Marissa Rothkopf Bates** writes about food for the *New York Times*, *Food52*, *Newsweek* and *New Jersey Monthly*, among others. She is currently working on a book about the history of technology and innovation in the American kitchen.

*Tickets \$40*

**12:30–2:00 pm**  
**Get to the Point! How to**  
**Sharpen Your Pitch with**  
**Joel Schwartzberg**

How do you respond when someone says, "Tell me about your book, screenplay, or feature story idea?" And, at that moment, are you truly *selling* your idea or merely describing it? At a time when everyone needs to be a good marketer as well, knowing the driving point behind your work and expressing it effectively is critical. But instead, too many of us dilute, bury, or completely omit our key points—without even realizing it. In this fun and interactive workshop Joel Schwartzberg, author of the recently-released *Get to the Point! Sharpen Your Ideas and Make Your Words Matter*, demonstrates how to identify the point of your concept, sharpen it, and convey it with impact. A former national champion public speaker and longtime presentation trainer, Joel Schwartzberg is also Senior Director of Strategic and Executive Communications for the ASPCA in New York City. Bring your pitches!

*Tickets \$35*

**12:30–2:00 pm**  
**College Essays 101: A**  
**Presentation for Students**  
**and Parents with Pat Berry**

For high school students applying to college, no task looms larger or

causes more stress than completing applications. In this session, Pat Berry, a writer and the founder of College Application Camp & Coaching ([www.collegeapplicationcamp.com](http://www.collegeapplicationcamp.com)), will present her guidelines on writing memorable college application essays. Though not a workshop per se, Pat's talk will provide tips for finding creative inspiration, working through writer's block, and getting started. Pat brings to essay coaching a track record of helping reluctant writers identify engaging topics and produce personal narratives that reflect each student's unique voice, passions, and outlook on the world. She'll address the long-term value of writing in first-person and help students discern the activities, experiences, insights, and feelings that will make stories resonate with admissions readers. This session is designed to be meaningful to both future college applicants and parents, and it includes a question and answer period.

*Tickets \$25/Parent+child special price \$30*

**7:30 pm**  
**Slam My Story! Calling all**  
**High School Students**

Everyone has a story to tell. Slam My Story! gives high school students an opportunity to share their own individual story and/or college essay. Submit your story in advance and you may be chosen to read or perform live today at Montclair Film's Cinema505. The top performers will go on to perform at Montclair Film's adult StorySlam at the Wellmont Theater on Saturday, April 28th as part of the Montclair Film Festival. Register at [montclairfilm.org](http://montclairfilm.org). For questions, call: 973-705-0813.

# Children's Program

All programming for kids is FREE!

## Thursday March 15

6:30-9:00 pm

### Find Your Voice: Montclair Poetry Slam

This year Montclair High School students take the stage as well as Middle Schoolers in Succeed2gether's popular, high-energy evening of spoken word poetry. With guest performances from M.C. **Vincent Toro** and judges **Roger Sedarat**, **Tanya Manning-Yarde**, **Joanne Ashe**, and **Grisel Acosta**.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

## Saturday, March 17

### The Storyroom, Montclair Public Library 3rd Floor

10:30-11:20 am

#### **We're Going to be Friends**

Join illustrator, animator, and singer-songwriter **Elinor Blake**, also known as April March, for a hands-on drawing workshop based on her picture-book version of the White Stripes song *We're Going to be Friends*. Be prepared to draw, sing—and have fun! (Age 5-12)

11:30am-12:20 pm

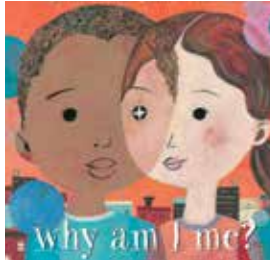
#### **Monsters Beware!**

She's fought giants, clobbered dragons, and now Claudette faces her biggest challenge yet... herself! Well, that and a gang of vile monsters. Come and help Montclair author **Jorge Aguirre** bring his latest graphic novel to life. (Age 5-12)

12:30-1:20 pm

#### **Poopendous!**

**Mike Moran**, children's book illustrator of *Poopendous* and the *Project Droid* series, will draw pictures, show illustrations and chat about making art for books. (Age 5-9)



1:30-2:20 pm

#### **Why Am I Me?**

Author/illustrator **Selina Alko** shares her picture books, including her latest book, *Why Am I Me?*, a celebration of humanity and diversity that is also a love letter to her NYC neighborhood and neighbors. (Age 4-8)

2:30-3:20 pm

#### **A Writer by Mistake.**

Come learn how **David Lubar**, author of the popular *Weenies* short-story collection, became a writer by mistake and a video-game designer by accident. He'll also share a variety of ways that aspiring writers can get endless ideas for their own stories. (Age 8 +)

### The Green Room, Montclair Public Library 3rd Floor

10:30-11:20 am **Freedom Bird**

Storyteller **April Armstrong** shares stories with a social justice theme, including *Freedom Bird* and a modern urban retelling of Jack and Beanstalk. (Age 2-12)

11:30 am-12:20 pm

#### **Proud Black Girl.**

**Shy Williams** is a detective and a doctoral student as well as an author. Today she introduces *Proud Black Girl*, a children's book that empowers young girls through self-love, self-respect and self-enrichment—with a take-away message for girls and women of all ages. (Age 2-12)

12:30-1:20 pm

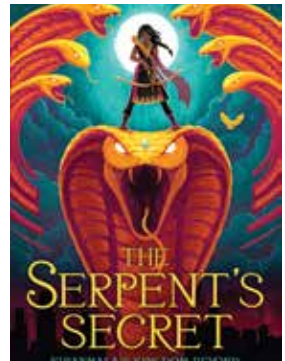
#### **Writing is Magic.**

Being a writer is a bit like being a wizard. You're trying to cast a spell that transports a reader out of their lives and into a shared dream. Come listen to **Sarah Beth Durst** talk about her newest fantasy books for kids and teens, and hear tips on how you can become a wizard/writer. (Age 8+)

1:30-2:20 pm

#### **The Serpent's Secret.**

Author **Sayantani DasGupta** introduces *The Serpent's Secret*, book one of an exciting new fantasy series, *Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond*. Fans of Rick Riordan will love this story of an NJ 6th grader's battles with the serpent king and other demons of Indian mythology. (Age 8+)





**2:45–3:45 pm**

### **Finding Someplace.**

On Reesie's birthday, Hurricane Katrina hits her city. Stranded at home alone, Reesie takes refuge with her elderly neighbor, Miss Martine. The waters rise.

They escape in a boat. And soon Reesie is reunited with her family. But her journey back home has only begun.

**Denise Lewis Patrick** reads and discusses her story of a family putting itself back together, and a young girl learning to find herself in the aftermath of disaster.

**(Age 8–12)**

**4:00–5:30 pm**

### **Writing as a Family.**

A multi-generational workshop where writers of all ages can pick up a pen and record family memories and create portraits of loved ones. Bring your grandchild, your Mom, your best friend or anyone else who loves to write, and explore how to record the vital moments of life in a meaningful and memorable way. The Writers Circle Directors **Judith Lindbergh** and **Michelle Cameron** lead the workshop with the help of selected author-instructors from their creative writing staff. **(Age 7–70 and up!)**

### **The YA Room, Montclair Public Library 1st Floor**

**1:30–2:30 pm The Story Behind the Story**

**Bruce Coville** has published over 100 books for kids featuring magic and monsters, unicorns and aliens. Find out where his ideas come from as he tells the story behind the story of *The Monster's Ring*, the first book in *The Magic Shop Series*. **(Age 8+)**

### **The Creativity Caravan**

**1:00–3:00 pm**

#### **Tiny Books, Big Ideas.**

In the spring and summer of 2016, **Amy Tingle** and **Maya**

**Stein** transformed their 1965

Covered Wagon Caravan into a mobile museum of 350 miniature books made by more than 160 artists and writers of all ages from around the world. Join them today at The Creativity Caravan Studio to view the remaining collection and make your own miniature book filled with personal words and stories from your own life. Children 7 and under require an adult caregiver to be present. Free, but donations will be accepted to benefit Succeed2gether. All ages; bring the whole family!

*Venue: The Creativity Caravan, 28 South Fullerton Avenue.*

### **Art and Literature Workshops for Kids at Montclair Art Museum**

In cooperation with Montclair Art Museum, we are thrilled to present a series of free workshops that explore the synergy between literature and art. All materials provided, so roll up your sleeves and get creative!

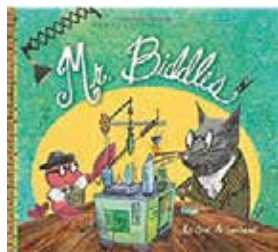
Please register in advance at [www.succeed2gether.org](http://www.succeed2gether.org)

- Workshops will start promptly and latecomers will not be admitted.
- Children aged 8 and above may be dropped off.
- Children aged 7 and under require an adult caregiver to be present.

#### **Studio A: 1:00–2:00 pm Collage Workshop with Kristine Lombardi**

Make your own collage and learn how to use collage in story-telling, with author/illustrator **Kristine Lombardi**, based on her new book about cat inventor Mr Biddles and his helpful lobster friend Hobson.

*Age 5–8 with an adult caregiver. Maximum 15 participants.*



#### **Studio B: 1:00–2:00pm Printing Workshop with Claudia Sabino**

Create your own *Hungry Caterpillar*, *Grouchy Ladybug* or *Very Busy Spider*—Eric Carle's beloved picture books are the jumping-off point for young artists to make their own prints, with artist **Claudia Sabino**.

*Age 3–6 with an adult caregiver. Maximum 15 participants.*

#### **Studio A: 3:00–4:30 pm Introduction to Comics and Graphic Novels**

Montclair graphic novelist **Kevin Pyle** returns with this popular workshop, where he will introduce participants to the basic visual storytelling tools of comics and graphic novels. Students will learn to use word balloons and complex facial emotions in comics, as well as how to draw basic anatomy and design their own characters.

*Age 8–12, teens also welcome. Maximum 20 participants.*

#### **Studio B: 3:00–4:00 pm Poetry in Motion**

**Debbie Harner** and **Suzanne Nakamura** from Montclair Cooperative School lead a workshop that connects poetry and art. The E.E. Cummings poem *who are you, little i* provides inspiration for students to create an original poem, which they will illustrate using techniques in how to draw the human body in action and composition.

**Age 10–14**

*Maximum 20 participants.*

# Author Biographies



**Megan Abbott** is the award-winning author of nine novels, including *You Will Know Me*, *The Fever*, *Dare Me*, and *The End of Everything*. She received her PhD in literature from New York University. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, the *Guardian*, and *The Believer*. Currently, she is a staff writer on HBO's new David Simon show, *The Deuce*. She lives in New York City.



**Dr. Grisel Y. Acosta** is a Geraldine Dodge Foundation Poet, and an assistant professor at Bronx Community College-CUNY. Her creative writing is in *In Full Color: A Collection of Stories by Women of Color*, *Love You Madly: Poems About Jazz, Nineteen Sixty Nine: An Ethnic Studies Journal*, *Voices de la Luna*, *MiPoesias*, *Pembroke Magazine*, *Private International Photo Review*, *¡Tex! Magazine*, the NAACP Image Award-nominated *Check the Rhyme*, *After Hours Magazine*, *The Reproductive Freedom Festival Anthology*, *NJTV.com's Drug Addiction Crisis* website, and forthcoming short fiction in *Basta! 100 Latinas Write on Violence Against Women*, and poems in *The American Studies Journal*, *The Paterson Review*, and *The Lauryn Hill Reader*. Scholarly work and essays are in *The Routledge Companion to Latino/a Literature*, *African American Women's Language*, *The Handbook of Latinos and Education*, *Western American Literature*, *Diálogo*, *Salon*, *VIDA: Women in Literary Arts*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *English Kills Journal*.



**Jorge Aguirre** is the author of the graphic novel series, *The Chronicles of Claudette: Book 1: Giants Beware; Book 2: Dragons Beware; and Book 3: Monsters Beware* (March 2018). He also writes animated TV for kids. He created the show, *Goldie & Bear*, for Disney Junior, and he's currently story editing for Sprout's, *Nina's World*.



**Selina Alko** is the author of several books including the Kirkus Best Picture Book of 2015 honoree *The Case for Loving*, which she illustrated with husband Sean Qualls. Selina and Sean co-illustrated *Two Friends: Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass* by Dean Robbins which was a CCBC Best Book of 2016. Selina and Sean live in Brooklyn, New York, with their two children. The urban art in *Why Am I Me?* is a love letter to their NYC neighborhood and neighbors.



**Jonathan Alter** is an American journalist, best-selling author, and television producer who was a columnist and senior editor for *Newsweek* magazine from 1983 until 2011. He is the author of *The Defining Moment: FDR's Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*; *The Promise: President Obama, Year One*; *The Center Holds: Obama and His Enemies*; and *Between the Lines: A View Inside American Politics, People and Culture*. Alter is a columnist for *The Daily Beast* and a contributing correspondent to *NBC News*, where since 1996 he has appeared on NBC, MSNBC, and CNBC. Alter was one of the first magazine or newspaper reporters to appear on MSNBC. When the shows were on the air, he could often be heard on *Imus in the Morning* and *The Al Franken Show* on Air America Radio. Alter is currently an executive producer on the Amazon Studio's production *Alpha House*, which stars John Goodman, Mark Consuelos, Clark Johnson, and Matt Malloy.



Storyteller **April Armstrong** was awarded a BRIO Award for storytelling in 2015 from the Bronx Council for the Arts. Her debut CD, *The Cat Came Back: Stories and Songs with a Jazzy Twist* won a 2015 Parent's Choice Award – Silver (available on her website & CDBaby.com & Amazon.com). She and her jazz trio took her concert of *Stories and Songs with a Jazzy Twist* to the legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem and Flushing Town Hall. April is a featured teller for Historic Hudson Valley venues and has appeared at the Hudson River Clearwater, The Mohegan and the Connecticut College Festivals. She tells stories for schools, colleges, libraries, and museums in the NYC tri-state area, CA & Florida. Her cd, *Jazzy Twist 2: Birds of a Feather* was released in December 2017. Visit her online: [www.aprilarmstrong.com](http://www.aprilarmstrong.com)



**Reagan Arthur** is Senior Vice President and Publisher of Little, Brown. She grew up in Los Angeles and moved to the east coast to work in publishing, starting at St. Martin's Press and Picador before joining Little, Brown in 2001, the same week she and her family moved from Brooklyn to Montclair. Writers she has worked with include Sherman Alexie, Kate Atkinson, Josh Bazell, Joshua Ferris, Tina Fey, Elin Hilderbrand, Elizabeth Kostova, Attica Locke, Denise Mina, James Patterson, George Pelecanos, and Ian Rankin.



**Josiah Bancroft** started writing novels when he was twelve, and by the time he finished his first, he was an addict. Eventually, the writing of *Senlin Ascends* began, a fantasy adventure, not so unlike the stories that got him addicted to words in the first place. He wanted to do for others what his favorite writers had done for him, namely, to pick them up and to carry them to a wonderful and perilous world that is spinning very fast. If he's done that with this book, then he's happy. Josiah lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Sharon, and their two rabbits, Mabel and Chaplin. Photo Credit Kim Bricker.



**Marissa Rothkopf Bates** writes about food for *The New York Times*, *Food52*, *Newsweek* and *New Jersey Monthly*, among others. She is currently working on a book about the history of technology and innovation in the American kitchen. Marissa has worked at *SPY* magazine, Nickelodeon, CondéNast and Oxygen TV. Marissa has a graduate degree in history and earned her professional qualification as a chef from the Institute of Culinary Education, yet still gets nervous when asked to make custard. In her spare time she enjoys writing about herself in the third person. For the best pizza in NJ, follow her: Twitter@MarissaRothkopf and Insta @MarissaRothkopfEats



**Yasemin Besen-Cassino** is a Professor of Sociology and Distinguished Scholar at Montclair State University. She is the Book Editor of *Gender and Society*. She is the author of six books, her newest book *Cost of Being a Girl: Teen Work and the Origins of the Gender Wage Gap* came out from Temple University Press. Her work focuses on gender, work and youth. Her work has appeared in many academic journals and been featured in popular outlets as BBC4, *The Atlantic*, *Fortune* magazine and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.



**Elinor Blake**, a.k.a. singer/songwriter April March, is a Disney trained animator first hired at age 18 by Paul Rubens for Pee Wee's Playhouse, in a studio so large there was rollerskating around the drawing boards after hours. She then went on to work with some of the best known artists and directors in movies and television, among them Ralph Bakshi, Quentin Tarantino, Nick Park, and John Kricfalusi. She's animated everything from Coke to Crest Toothpaste and everyone from Ren & Stimpy to Bugs Bunny, not to mention Frank Zappa (whom she just mentioned). *We're Going to be Friends* is her first children's book. Photo Credit Chantal Anderson.



**Pat Berry** has been coaching the essay for more than a decade through her private coaching services and her College Application Camp, which she offers each summer on the campus of Montclair State University. An essayist whose work has appeared in several anthologies, she has a background in magazine journalism and was a creative writing instructor in the Columbia University Summer High School Program. Pat holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Columbia University and a BA in English from Dartmouth College.



**Miranda Beverly-Whittemore** is the author of four novels: *June*, *New York Times* bestseller *Bittersweet*; *Set Me Free*, which won the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize, given annually for the best book of fiction by an American woman; and *The Effects of Light*. A recipient of the Crazyhorse Prize in Fiction, she lives and writes in Brooklyn.



**Eric Boehlert** is a senior writer for Shareblue Media who is the author of two books, *Bloggers On The Bus: How The Internet Changed Politics and the Press*, and *Lapdogs: How the Press Rolled Over for Bush*. Previously, he worked as a senior fellow for Media Matters for America, and a staffer writer at Salon and Rolling Stone. He lives in Montclair with his wife and two children.





Bestselling Author of *Missing Pages*, *Out Of My Life*, **Elijah M. Brown** was born on January 31st, 1985 in Newark, NJ. He is a motivational speaker, educator, actor, playwright, curator, producer, publisher, creative writing instructor and mentor. He also authored *It Takes a Child to Raise a Village*, *In Two Weeks*, and his first children book *Letters Make Words*, where alphabets are given human characteristics. He began his experience with poetry at Vailsburg Middle School in the 7th grade, 1998, with his teacher Ms. Brenda Burwell, his mentor and friend. Although it took him years to realize the power of the pen he continued to write...write...and write... on any and all subjects. He realized the gift that rested inside of him, so he wrote with a purpose.



**Colette Bryce** is a poet from Derry, Northern Ireland. She has published four poetry collections including *The Full Indian Rope Trick* (2004) and *Self-Portrait in the Dark* (2008). Her latest, *The Whole & Rain-domed Universe* (2014), which draws on her experience of growing up in Derry during the Troubles, was awarded a Ewart-Biggs Award in memory of Seamus Heaney. Selected Poems, drawing on all her books, is a Poetry Book Society Commendation, 2017.



**Nancy Burke** is the author of *From the Abuelas' Window*, a story of the disappeared in Chile under Pinochet's regime and *If I Could Paint the Moon Black* a true story of a young girl who fled into Nazi Germany as the German occupiers lost to the Russians. Nancy's short stories have appeared in *Meat for Tea: The Valley Review* and *Pilgrim Journal*. Nancy teaches writing at Montclair State and Kean University. She holds a communications position at Union County College and is active in two local writing workshops, Working Title Six and Finding Our Way Back, a group dedicated to healing from loss through writing. Nancy is at work revising her novel based in a fictitious Essex County town and her short story collection, *Units of Measure*. She holds a Creative Writing MFA from Rutgers University, Newark. She resides in Montclair and is the mother of three twenty-something daughters.



**Cheryl Chapin** began participating in the arts because she used to watch the bloopers on TV shows and thought they were fun. She started participating in the arts around 1993 at the Matheny Medical & Educational Center. She is a multi-talented writer and artist. Cheryl composes poems, monologues, and plays. Her writing is included in the compilation *Writes of Passage* and her playwriting was developed and featured in a Raritan Valley College course and performance. She also likes to participate in acting. Cheryl's writings have been performed on stage and her paintings featured in various exhibits.



**Bruce Coville** has published over 100 books, ranging from picture books to young adult novels. His best known works include the recently filmed *Aliens Ate My Homework*, as well as *Into the Land of the Unicorns*, and *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher*. His writing has appeared in sixteen languages, and won Children's Choice awards in over a dozen states. He has spoken at schools and libraries around the world and is a three-time keynoter for the SCBWI national conference in Los Angeles. He is also the founder of Full Cast Audio, a multiple-award-winning audiobook company devoted to producing full cast, unabridged recordings of great children's books, and has produced, directed, and performed in over 125 recordings. He lives in Syracuse, New York, with his wife, author Katherine Coville. You can visit him on the web at [www.brucecoville.com](http://www.brucecoville.com). Photo Credit Charles Wainwright.



**The Creativity Caravan.** Amy Tingle and Maya Stein co-founded The Creativity Caravan in 2013 with a desire to build community through creative action, and to deliver creative experiences to people everywhere. Together we have 15 years' experience facilitating art and writing workshops for children and adults, and we have spent a combined 30 years refining our own practice as writers and artists. Our vintage caravan, a 1965 Covered Wagon named "MAUDE" (Mobile Art Unit Designed for Everyone), serves as our creative hub and home away from home when we are not at our studio in Montclair, New Jersey. With a unique menu of offerings for all ages, The Creativity Caravan invites everyone to the table. We also partner with schools, libraries, bookstores, schools, community centers, and other organizations to design and facilitate inspiring and inclusive programs for all ages. To see a list of our current and upcoming events, please visit [thecreativitycaravan.com](http://thecreativitycaravan.com)



**Alice Elliott Dark** is the author of three books of fiction, *Think of England*, *In the Gloaming*, and *Naked to the Waist*, and has recently completed a new novel, *Fellowship Point*. She teaches in the MFA program at Rutgers University-Newark.



**Sayantani DasGupta** trained in pediatric medicine and now teaches undergraduate and graduate courses at Columbia University. *The Serpent's Secret* is her debut middle grade novel. Read more at [www.sayantanidasgupta.com](http://www.sayantanidasgupta.com). Photo Credit Chris X. Carroll



**Deborah Davis** is the author of eight books, including *Strapless: John Singer Sargent and the Fall of Madame X*, *Party of the Century: The Fabulous Story of Truman Capote and His Black and White Ball*; *Gilded: How Newport Became the Richest Resort in America*; *The Oprah Winfrey Show: Reflections on an American Legacy*; *Guest of Honor: Booker T. Washington, Theodore Roosevelt, and the White House Dinner that Shocked a Nation*, which won the prestigious Phillis Wheatley Award for best work of History in 2013 and was nominated for an NAACP Image Award; *Fabritius and the Goldfinch*, which Amazon named one of the Best Books of 2014; *The Trip: Andy Warhol's Plastic-Fantastic Cross-Country Adventure*; and *The Art of Southern Charm*. She is co-authoring Tina Turner's upcoming memoir, *My Love Story*, which will be published in October, 2018.



**Nicole Dennis-Benn** is the author of the highly acclaimed debut novel, *Here Comes the Sun*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, an NPR Best Book of 2016, an Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Entertainment Weekly, and Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2016, a BuzzFeed Best Literary Debuts of 2016, among others. Dennis-Benn was a finalist for the 2016 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and the 2016 National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Award. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *ELLE Magazine*, *Electric Literature*, *Lenny Letter*, *Catapult*, *Red Rock Review*, *Kweli Literary Journal*, *Mosaic*, *Ebony*, and the *Feminist Wire*. Her writing has been awarded a Richard and Julie Logsdon Fiction Prize; and two of her stories have been nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize in Fiction. Dennis-Benn was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica. She lives with her wife in Brooklyn, New York.



**Marcy Dermansky** is the author of the novels *Bad Marie*, *Twins*, and most recently *The Red Car*. *The Red Car* was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice Pick and named a best book of the year by *Buzzfeed*, the *Huffington Post*, *Flavorwire*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Her writing has appeared in *McSweeney's*, *Salon*, *Guernica*, and the *Paris Review*. She lives in Montclair, NJ with her daughter. For more information about Marcy, you can visit her website—<http://marcydermansky.com>—or follow her on Twitter or Instagram at @mdermansky.



**Dagmara Dominczyk** was born in Kielce, Poland and emigrated to the United States at the age of seven. She majored in Drama at Carnegie Mellon University, and has starred in films, television, and on and off Broadway for the past twenty years. In 2013, her first novel, *The Lullaby of Polish Girls* (Spiegel & Grau/Random House) made its debut to positive reviews, and was hailed by the *New York Times* as “a coming of age tale... brimming with teary epiphanies, betrayal, and love, as well as the grit of New York City and Kielce.” Dominczyk's essays have appeared in *Huffington Post* and *Fodor's*. She is currently working on her follow-up novel, a prequel to *Lullaby*. She lives in Montclair with her husband and two sons.



**Susan Dominus** joined the *Times* as a metro columnist in November 2007. A frequent contributor for the *New York Times Magazine* since 2001, she became a staff writer there in 2011. Ms. Dominus has written long form stories on a wide range of topics; her most recent cover story for the *New York Times Magazine* was about the social psychologist Amy Cuddy. In 2009, Ms. Dominus, then a columnist, was a member of a team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for its coverage of the scandal that resulted in the resignation of Governor Eliot Spitzer. She is also the recipient of the Newswoman's Club of New York Front Page Award, and the Mychal Judge Heart of New York award, from the National Press Club. She has studied as a fellow at the National Institutes of Health and Yale Law School. Photo Credit Kathy Ryan.



**Rich Douek** is a writer, copywriter, and graphic designer working in New York City. He has written comics for Comixtribe, Red Stylo Press and IDW Publishing, and helmed award-winning advertising campaigns for clients such as Snickers, FedEx, and Foot Locker. He is the creator of *Gutter Magic*, an urban fantasy series, and the forthcoming series *Wailing Blade*. He has written for the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* comics line. Born in Queens, NY, Rich and his family moved to Montclair four years ago, and have loved the town, and community ever since.



**Jenny Durr** started writing at the age of seven. She has been in a wheelchair all her life. She dictates her work because she has cerebral palsy. She spent her childhood living in the country with her parents and sister. Her favorite subject in school was and continues to be English. Jenny's grandmother lovingly took down Jenny's very first poem titled "Why, Why, Why?" She is the author of the book of poetry titled *Life View*. Jenny has been a participant (as a writer and visual artist) at the Arts Access Program at Matheny Medical and Educational Center for many years.



**Sarah Beth Durst** is the award-winning author of 16 fantasy books for kids, teens, and adults, including *The -s Story*, *Drink Slay Love*, and *The Queens of Renthia* series. She won an ALA Alex Award and a Mythopoeic Fantasy Award, and has been a finalist for SFWA's Andre Norton Award three times. She is a graduate of Princeton University, where she spent four years studying English, writing about dragons, and wondering what the campus gargoyles would say if they could talk. Sarah lives in Stony Brook, New York, with her husband, her children, and her ill-mannered cat. For more information, visit her at [sarahbethdurst.com](http://sarahbethdurst.com).



**Arielle Eckstut** is co-founder of The Book Doctors. She is the author of nine books including *The Secret Language of Color: The Science, Nature, History, Culture and Beauty of Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue & Violet*. She is also an agent-at-large at the Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency, where for over 20 years, she has been helping hundreds of talented writers become published authors. Lastly, Arielle co-founded the iconic company LittleMissMatched, and grew it from a tiny operation into a leading national brand, which now has stores from coast to coast, everywhere from Disneyland to Disney World to Fifth Avenue in New York City.



**Jessica Evans** takes part in the Matheny Arts Access program's writing, drama, dance, and painting disciplines. Her plays, poetry and writings use imagery that reflects her imagination, her involvement in the arts and her love of life and friends. Jessica is the author of the poetry book *In My Heart Like a Key*. Her work was also included in the compilation *Writes of Passage: A Collection of Prose by Arts Access Writers*. Jessica is an artist who demonstrates great dedication to her vision and continues to move forward with her art, taking every opportunity to create new works in writing, dance or painting. Her art has been displayed in several exhibits.



**Emily Flake** is a cartoonist, writer, illustrator, and performer living in Brooklyn, NY. Her work appears regularly in the *New Yorker*, as well as the *Nib*, *MAD*, and other fine (or fine-ish) publications. She is the author and illustrator of *Mama Tried: Dispatches From the Seamy Underbelly of Modern Parenting*, a book of cartoons and essays about parenthood. She co-hosts a quarterly parenting-themed comedy show with NPR host Ophira Eisenberg; the title of the show is not printable in a family publication, but rhymes with *Mitshow*. Picture credit Marty Umans.



**Dani Fleischer** is a memoirist who's been published in the *Washington Post*, the *Huffington Post*, *Essig Magazine*, *The Classical*, *Role Reboot*, and *Scary Mommy*. She is a freelance writer for NJ Advance Media, a blogger at [sumofmypiecesblog.wordpress.com](http://sumofmypiecesblog.wordpress.com), and an ACT/SAT tutor. A beginner at this writing game, she is 200 pages into a memoir that she'd hoped to have done by now, and believes very much in Ray Carver's edict about showing up at your station every day. Currently, her station is located in Summit, New Jersey.



**Jaclyn Friedman** is a writer, educator and activist, and creator of three books *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*, *What You Really Really Want: The Smart Girl's Shame-Free Guide to Sex & Safety*, and her latest, *Unscrewed: Women, Sex, Power and How to Stop Letting the System Screw Us All*. Her podcast, also called *Unscrewed*, was named one of the Best Sex Podcasts by both *Marie Claire* and *Esquire*. A popular speaker on campuses and at conferences across the U.S., she has been a guest on the *Today Show*, *Nightline* and *PBS News Hour*, and her commentary has appeared in outlets including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Glamour* and *The Guardian*. Friedman is a founder of Women, Action & the Media, where she led the successful #FBrape campaign to apply Facebook's hate-speech ban to content that promotes gender-based violence. Photo credit Ashton Lyle.



**E.R. Frank** is the author of five celebrated Young Adult novels, one of which, *America*, was made into a Lifetime television movie by Rosie O'Donnell. In addition to being a writer, she is a psychotherapist with a specialty in trauma. Her books have been favorably reviewed by the *New York Times Book Review*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews* and *Horn Book*.



**David Galef** has published over a dozen books, including the novels *Flesh*, *Turning Japanese*, and *How to Cope with Suburban Stress* (a Book Sense choice, listed by *Kirkus* as one of the Best 30 Books of 2006); the short-story collections *Laugh Track* and *My Date with Neanderthal Woman* (winner of Dzanc Books' Short Story Collection Award); two children's books, *The Little Red Bicycle* by Random House and *Tracks* by William Morrow; and a co-edited anthology of fiction called *20 over 40* (University Press of Mississippi). His latest volume is *Brevity: A Flash Fiction Handbook*, from Columbia University Press. A co-founder of the M.F.A. program in creative writing at the University of Mississippi, he is now a professor of English and creative writing program director at Montclair State University. A former fiction columnist for *The Writer*, he is also a humor columnist at *Inside Higher Ed*.



**Robert A. George**, a member of the *New York Daily News* editorial board, has written about politics and popular culture for more than two decades. A former member of the *New York Post* editorial board, his written work has appeared in such diverse publications as *National Review*, the *New Republic*, NBC Digital and his personal blog *Ragged Thots*. His political analysis has been seen and heard on a variety of local and national media outlets, including NY1, WNYC-AM, MSNBC, CNN, Fox News and NPR. Born in Trinidad, Robert A. George grew up in the UK, New York and California. A Manhattan resident, his free time is spent performing improv comedy, feeding his inner comic-book geek and searching for the next withering pun.



**Rebecca A. Goldstein, Ph.D.**, is Associate Professor of Secondary and Special Education at Montclair State University. She teaches courses in democracy and education, equity and diversity, advanced teaching methods and reflective practice, and mentors student teachers working in diverse communities. Her research focuses on how news media frame education discourses and policies for public consumption, education and the public sphere, and how school settings create or hinder the realization of equity and social justice. She is co-author of *Dear Secretary DeVos: What We Want You to Know About Education* (forthcoming, Brill), and has published in several professional journals and edited texts. Raised in Morris County, she is a product of NJ public schools and believes passionately in the potential of public education to create a more socially just world. She splits her time between NJ and VT, where she lives with her husband, five dogs and two cats.



**Joe Hagan** has written for *New York*, *Rolling Stone*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and many other publications. He has published long-form profiles and investigative exposés of some of the most significant figures and subjects of our time, including Hillary Clinton (her first post–secretary of state interview), Karl Rove, the Bush family, Henry Kissinger, Dan Rather, Goldman Sachs, the *New York Times*, and Twitter. He lives with his family in Tivoli, New York.



**Garth Risk Hallberg's** first novel, *City on Fire*, was a *New York Times* and international bestseller and was named one of the best books of 2015 by the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, and *Vogue*. A new edition of his novella, *A Field Guide to the North American Family*, followed in 2017. His short stories and essays have appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Guardian*, the *Best New American Voices* anthology, and *Granta*, which last year named him one of the Best Young American Novelists. His work has been translated into 17 languages.



**Debbie Harner** is an artist and formally trained graphic designer with a BFA from the School of Visual Arts, who left corporate America to become an art educator and activist. In 2004 she proposed and later developed an art program for the Montclair Cooperative School that supported their approach to interdisciplinary learning. Since then she has co-developed a number of key initiatives for the school including the Museum Studies, Media Literacy, STEAM and the Electives programs. Debbie has also created art activism and beautification programs to involve the greater Montclair community. Working in partnership with Montclair Films, Montclair High School, Montclair Literary Festival and local businesses, these programs have included art workshops, speaking events and public art exhibits for important issues such as immigration, climate change and media literacy. Debbie teaches art at the Montclair Cooperative School.



**Tammy Heppner** has been writing poetry, essays, and short stories for many years. Her whimsical and thoughtful pieces are about family, friends, God, nature, music, and more. She says that writing is comforting and relaxing. Her work has been featured in the Matheny Arts Access book, *Writes of Passage*. She is also the author of her own text of poetry and essays titled *My Favorite Things*. Several of Tammy's pieces have been recited during readings at Mondo in Summit, the Bernardsville Library, and the Morris Museum in Morristown. Tammy is also a talented artist, who enjoys working in acrylic paint.



**Dara Horn** received her Ph.D. in comparative literature from Harvard University, and was chosen by *Granta* magazine as one of the best young American novelists for 2007. Her first novel, *In the Image*, received a National Jewish Book Award. Her second novel, *The World to Come*, received another National Jewish Book Award along with the Harold U. Ribalow Prize and other honors. Her third novel, *All Other Nights*, was selected as an Editors' Choice in the *New York Times Book Review*, and her fourth novel, *A Guide for the Perplexed*, was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. She has taught courses in Hebrew and Yiddish literature at Harvard University, Sarah Lawrence College, and City University of New York. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and four children. Photo credit Michael B. Priest.



**Pamela Hughes** is the editor of *Narrative Northeast*, a literary and arts magazine that supports diverse voices and visions, LBGQTQ and feminist voices, the environment, as well as the arts in New Jersey. Her environmentally-themed collection of poetry, *Meadowland Take My Hand*, was published this year by Three Mile Harbor Press. Her poetry has appeared in such literary journals as: *Canary*; the *Brooklyn Review*; *Ellipsis*; *Isotope: A Journal of Literary Nature and Writing*; *Literary Mama*; *PANK*; the *Paterson Literary Review*; *Rutherford Red Wheelbarrow*; *Thema*, and in other publications. She graduated from Brooklyn College with an MFA in Creative Writing. Photo credit Bill Doran.





**Samantha Hunt** is the author of *The Dark Dark: Stories*, and three novels. *Mr. Splitfoot* is a ghost story. *The Invention of Everything Else* is about the life of inventor Nikola Tesla. *The Seas*, Hunt's first novel, will be republished by Tin House Books in 2018. Hunt is the recipient of a 2017 Guggenheim Fellowship, the Bard Fiction Prize, the National Book Foundation's 5 Under 35 Prize and she was a finalist for the Orange Prize. Hunt has been published by the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian* and a number of other fine publications. She teaches at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and lives in upstate New York.



**Dan Hurley** is the author of four books, including *Smarter, the New Science of Building Brain Power* (Plume, 2014). His articles have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic* and *Discover*. He also has a secret identity as the World's Only 60-Second Novelist, having typed instant "life stories" for Jeff Bezos, Michael Bloomberg, and over 50,000 people you've never heard of.



**Ghana Imani Hylton** is a writer & poet who honed her skills in the Brooklyn poetry scene as a featured artist at the Brooklyn Tea Party, Nuyorican Poets Café, The Point, African Globe Studio Theater and other spoken word venues. She shared the stage with The Vibe Kameleons, RhaGoddess, UNIVERSES, Mariposa and others. Her essay can be found in *We Got Issues! A Young Woman's Guide to A Bold, Courageous and Empowered Life*. Ghana has over 20 years of experience in Human Resources. She's volunteered at a number of non-profits and is currently on the MFEE (Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence) Street team. She led the #SayHerName Creative Writing & Poetry cipher for girls in Newark. Ghana's passions are social justice, writing, music, education, women's empowerment, and addressing the intersectionality of racism, sexism and other oppressions. After decades in Brooklyn NY she returned to her hometown of Montclair with her husband and their three children.



**David Cay Johnston** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter and bestselling author of *The Making of Donald Trump*. He has lectured on economics, journalism and tax policy on every continent except Antarctica and is a former president of Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE). Johnston teaches at Syracuse University College of Law. He has been a frequent guest on MSNBC, CNN, the BBC, Democracy Now and NPR's Morning Edition, among other shows, and was a consultant for the Netflix series *House of Cards*. Visit the author at [www.DavidCayJohnston.com](http://www.DavidCayJohnston.com). Photo credit Bonk Johnston.



As musician, writer, and record producer, **Lenny Kaye** has been intimately involved with the creative impulse that marks the music. He has been a guitarist for poet-rockers Patti Smith since her band's inception more than 40 years ago, and has worked in the studio with such artists as Suzanne Vega, Jim Carroll, Soul Asylum, Allen Ginsberg, and Pussy Riot. He is the co-author of *Waylon*, the life story of Waylon Jennings; and his impressionistic study of the romantic singers of the 1930s, *You Call It Madness: The Sensuous Song of the Croon*, was published in 2004. His seminal and influential anthology of 60's garage-rock, *Nuggets*, has long been regarded as defining a genre. In 2011, France honored him with the distinction of a Chevalier de L'ordre des Arts et des Lettres. His most recent production is Jessi Colter's *The Psalms*, improvisations on these classic sacred poems from the Old Testament; and he is currently working on a book, *Lightning Striking*, that traces the history of rock and roll through its legendary scenes.



**Christina Baker Kline** is the author of the instant *New York Times* bestseller *A Piece of the World* (2017), about the relationship between the artist Andrew Wyeth and the subject of his best-known painting, *Christina's World*. Kline has written six other novels — *Orphan Train*, *Orphan Train Girl*, *The Way Life Should Be*, *Bird in Hand*, *Desire Lines*, and *Sweet Water* — and written or edited five works of nonfiction. Her 2013 novel *Orphan Train* spent more than two years on the NYT bestseller list, including five weeks at #1, and was published in 40 countries. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *LitHub*, and *Psychology Today*, among other places. She lives in Montclair, NJ, and on the coast of Maine. Photo credit Karin Diana.



**Anthony LaFond** has been writing since he was 17 years old. He enjoys creating stories but says his passion is writing poetry. Anthony wrote his first poem, *God's Gift to Me*, in less than three minutes for a school project. He is the author of the poetry books *Artful Words* and *God's Gift to Me* as well as the novels *Ave Maria* and *The Monster in Me*. His work has been published in the online magazine called *Breath & Shadow* and in the compilation book *Writes of Passage* (published by Matheny Medical & Educational Center's Arts Access program). Several of his poems have also been included in the program's annual Full Circle production.



**Teka Lark** is a journalist, essayist, and poet who has had a tumultuous relationship with dramatic monologue and satire. She is the literary curator of the Brooklyn based *Blk Grrl Book Fair*, the founder of VELO Bloomfield, and a segment producer on Pacifica's *Feminist Magazine*. Her journalism has appeared in *Bustle*, *Montclair Local*, *Next City*, *Village Voice*, *Ebony*, *Counterpunch*, *Time*, *Streetsblog*, *USA Today*, *NJ.com*, *Bloomfield Life*, and *Zocalo*. She was formerly the *Tracks* columnist at *LA City Beat*. *Tracks* discussed race, transportation, and urban planning. She is an alumna of Mount St. Mary's College. Her poetry has appeared in *Dryland Lit*, *LA Review of Books*, *Angel City Press*, *Spectrum: An Anthology of Southern California Poets*, and Tia Chucha Press: *Coiled Serpent: Poets Arising from the Cultural Quakes and Shifts of Los Angeles*. Her book *Queen of Inglewood* was released on Word Palace Press in July 2017. She lives in the New York metropolitan community of Halcyon Park. Photo credit Erin Patrice O'Brien.



**Min Jin Lee's** *Pachinko* is a finalist for the National Book Award, a national bestseller, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice and an American Booksellers Association's Indie Next Great Reads. It is an Amazon Top Ten Books of the month and a selection of the Book of the Month Club. *Pachinko* is a top read or a most anticipated book for *BBC.com*, *Newsweek.com*, *Stylist UK*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Esquire.com*, *LitHub*, *The Millions*, *Chicago Review of Books*, *BuzzFeed*, *Book Riot*, *BookPage*, *Elle.com*, *Daily Mail UK*, and *Nylon*. It has been featured on NPR's *Morning Edition*, WNYC's *The Leonard Lopate Show*, *Publishers Weekly Radio*, and NPR's *Book Reviews*. Lee's debut novel *Free Food for Millionaires* was a No. 1 Book Sense Pick, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice, a *Wall Street Journal* Juggle Book Club selection, and a national best-seller. It was a Top 10 Novels of the Year for the *Times* of London, NPR's *Fresh Air* and *USA Today*. Photo credit Elena Seibert.



**Ananda Lima's** work has appeared in the *American Poetry Review*, *Rattle*, *Sugar House Review*, *PANK*, *The Offing*, *Superstition Review* and elsewhere. She has an MA in Linguistics from UCLA and is pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing from Rutgers University–Newark. She was selected for the AWP Writer to Writer program and has attended workshops at Bread Loaf, Tin House, the Community of Writers and Sewanee, where she currently serves as staff. Ananda is working on a full-length poetry collection centered on immigration and motherhood, and a novel set in Brasilia, where she grew up as the daughter of migrants from Northeast Brazil.



**Kristine Lombardi** is the author and illustrator of three picture books: *Lovey Bunny* (Abrams, 2015), *The Grumpy Pets* (Abrams, 2016) and *Mr. Biddles* (Harper Collins, 2017). Kristine absolutely adores animals, so they tend to be her preferred subject matter. An advocate for animal adoption, she wishes every dog and cat could find a loving forever home. Kristine lives in Montclair, NJ, with her rescue calico "Boo".



**Alex London** has written over 20 books for adults, children and teens. His young adult debut, *Proxy*, was an ALA Top Ten Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Readers, a 2014 Best Fiction for Young Adults, and Rainbow list selection, a 2016 ALA Popular Paperback; and appeared on state reading lists across the country from New York to Texas and California to Arkansas. His new YA fantasy trilogy, *Black Wings Beating*, an epic set in a world of cut-throat falconry, will launch in October 2018 from Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Younger Readers. At one time a journalist reporting from conflict zones and refugee camps, Alex lives with his husband in Philadelphia, PA.. [calexanderlondon.com](http://calexanderlondon.com)



**Wesley Lowery** is a national reporter for the *Washington Post* who covers law enforcement and justice. He was the paper's lead reporter in Ferguson, Missouri, and covering the Black Lives Matter protest movement, and was a member of the team awarded the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for the paper's coverage of police shootings. His reporting has previously appeared in the *Boston Globe*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.



**David Lubar** has written 40 books for young readers. His novels are on reading lists across the country, saving countless students from a close encounter with Madame Bovary. His YA coming-of-age novel, *Character, Driven*, received starred reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, and *Kirkus Reviews*. His *Weenies* short-story collections, which have been called "Twilight Zone for kids," have sold more than three million copies. *My Rotten Life*, the first book in his *Nathan Abercrombie, Accidental Zombie* series, is in development for an animated series. In a previous century, he designed and programmed video games. David lives in Pennsylvania with his wife and online at [www.davidlubar.com](http://www.davidlubar.com). In his spare time, he takes naps on the couch.



**Natalia Manning** is a unique writer who also loves participating in dance and painting. Unafraid to take on any topic, she weaves interesting tales into science fiction and romance genres. Her written and choreographed work has been included in multiple Full Circle (Arts Access' annual fine art showcase) productions. Natalia's poems have been shared at an open mic reading at the annual Dodge Poetry Festival. On the publishing front, her writing appears in the Arts Access compilation, *Writes of Passage*.



**Tanya Manning-Yarde, Ph.D.**, is a freelance writer and former educator from New York City. A graduate of Rutgers University and University at Albany, she recently worked as a copy editor and contributing writer for *Bronze Magazine*. She is a freelance blogger for the annual Montclair Film Festival in Montclair, NJ, as well as a blogger for personal website ([tmychronicles.wordpress.com](http://tmychronicles.wordpress.com)). Prior to pursuing a career as a writer, she was a high school English/Language Arts teacher, assistant professor, instructional coach and an educational consultant. Her poems have been published by *Literary Mama*, *Memoryhouse* and *Random Sample Review*. She published her first book, *Every Watering Word*, through Wasteland Press (2017). Inspired by her dissertation titled *Literacy as Contextualized Action* and homeschooling her two sons until school age, she is drafting a book on literacy and homeschooling.



**Patricia Matthew** is associate professor of English at Montclair State University where she specializes in 19th Century British literature and culture. She is also an expert on diversity in higher education. She has written about these subjects for *Women's Writing*, *19th Century Gender Studies*, the *Keats-Shelley Journal*, *The New Inquiry*, and *The Atlantic* online and is the editor of *Written/Unwritten: Diversity and the Hidden Truths of Tenure* (UNC Press). She is a scholar in the New Jersey Council for the Humanities' Public Scholar Project and is currently writing a book about gender, sugar, and British abolitionist literature.



**D.T. Max** is a graduate of Harvard University and a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. His book, *Every Love Story Is A Ghost Story: A Life of David Foster Wallace*, published in 2012, was a *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the author of *The Family That Couldn't Sleep: A Medical Mystery*. He lives in New Jersey with his wife, their two young children, and a cocker-dachshund mix named Nemo.



**Lucy McDiarmid** is a scholar and writer. Her academic interest in cultural politics, especially quirky, colorful, suggestive episodes, is exemplified by *The Irish Art of Controversy* (2005) and *Poets and the Peacock Dinner: the literary history of a meal* (2014; paperback 2016). She is a former fellow of the Guggenheim Foundation and of the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. Her most recent book is *At Home in the Revolution: What Women Said and Did in 1916*; at the moment she is completing a book on contemporary Irish poetry. She is currently Marie Frazee Baldassarre Professor of English at Montclair State University. Her dating memoir will be published soon, but not too soon.





**Sarah McGrath** is Vice President, Editor in Chief, of Riverhead Books. Among the award-winning and *New York Times*-bestselling authors she works with at Riverhead are Meg Wolitzer, Lauren Groff, Paula Hawkins, Khaled Hosseini, Gabriel Tallent, Emma Straub, Brit Bennett, Chang-rae Lee, and Helen Oyeyemi.



**Belinda McKeon's** debut novel, *Solace*, won the 2011 Faber prize and was voted Irish book of the year, as well as being shortlisted for the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. Her second novel, *Tender*, was shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the 2015 Irish Book Awards. Her essays and journalism have been published in *The Paris Review*, the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, and elsewhere. She is also a playwright, and has had plays produced in Dublin and New York. McKeon lives in Brooklyn and teaches at Rutgers University.



**Jillian Medoff** is the acclaimed author of four novels. *This Could Hurt*, her recently published corporate satire, landed on many "Best of the Month" and "Must Read" lists, including Amazon, *Entertainment Weekly*, *NY Post*, *Real Simple*, *O Magazine*, *Poets & Writers*, *People*, *Fast Company*, *Chicago Review of Books*, *Parade*, and the *Millions*, among others. She also wrote the much-lauded national bestseller *I Couldn't Love You More*, *Good Girls Gone Bad*, and *Hunger Point*, which was made into an original cable movie starring Christina Hendricks and Barbara Hershey. A former fellow at MacDowell, Blue Mountain Center, VCCA, and Fundación Valparaíso, Medoff has an MFA from NYU. Along with writing fiction, she is a senior consultant at the Segal Group, where she advises corporate clients on all aspects of the employee experience.



**Mike Moran** is a NJ born, raised and based Children's Book illustrator. Publishers include Dial Books for Young Readers, Sky Pony Press, Blue Apple Books, Scholastic Inc. Book Club, Lerner Publishing and Millbrook Press. Book titles include: *Project Droid* (series), Nancy Kurlik/ Amanda Burwasser, Sky Pony Press, *Poependous*: Artie Bennett, Blue Apple Books, *Iggy Loomis* (series) Jennifer Allison, Dial Books. Other clients include: Disney (animation), Major League Baseball, The Grammys. His work has been recognized by The Society of Illustrators Los Angeles and has had numerous gallery shows solo and group. One day he plans to play first base for the New York Mets or be the 5th Beatle.



**Suzanne Nakamura** is an English teacher at the Montclair Cooperative School. She has loved words and stories as long as she can remember and always wanted to teach. Her dream became a reality when she graduated Upsala College with a major in English and began teaching a combined fourth, fifth, and sixth grade class at the Montclair Cooperative School. When classes were reconfigured she taught a combined fifth and sixth grade class, still teaching the core subjects. Suzanne returned to school to earn an MA in Liberal Studies from Rutgers University and became the Upper School Language Arts teacher, a position she continues to cherish. To help the children fall in love with reading and writing, Suzanne is passionate about the subject matter and the children's engagement with it every day. When she is not teaching, she is reading, gardening, cooking, hiking, biking, and enjoying her family.



**Dr. Jim Nicosia** is a writer, scholar and children's literacy advocate. He teaches English, American literature, Grammars of English and Young Adult Literature at Montclair State University. He is a reviewer for *Voice of Youth Advocates*, and, though a self-professed reluctant reader, he has rarely met a book that was worth nothing. He is the author of *Reading Mark Strand* and runs the *BoyBookoftheMonth.com* website for reluctant readers.



**Laura Nicosia, Ph.D.**, is Associate Professor of English at Montclair State University, New Jersey, where she teaches all things American literature, Young Adult/Children's Literatures, and literary theory. She serves as the NJ State Representative to the Assembly on Literature of Adolescents (ALAN) and is Past-President of the NJ Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE). Nicosia is the author of *Educators Online: Preparing Today's Educators for Tomorrow's Digital Literacies* (Peter Lang, 2013), co-editor of *Through a Distorted Lens: Media as Curricula and Pedagogy in the 21st Century* (Sense 2017), and co-editor of *Dear Secretary DeVos: What We Want You To Know About Education*. She also writes on Gloria Naylor, Sarah Orne Jewett, Suzanne Collins, Neil Gaiman, Louis Sachar, Paolo Bacigalupi, and Marianne Moore. Currently, Nicosia is working on two book-length projects—one on Gloria Naylor and the other on the *The Posthuman Chimera and Monstrous Other in Young Adult Literature and Popular Culture*.



**Denise Lewis Patrick** is a Louisiana native transplanted to New Jersey. She received an undergraduate degree in Journalism from Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans. She's worked as an editor and free-lance writer. Her published work has included board books, picture books, biographies, middle grade historical fiction and young adult fiction as well as poetry and short fiction for adults. She's an adjunct instructor in the First Year Writing program at Montclair State University. Her most recent book is a biography for third graders, *A Girl Named Rosa* (Scholastic). Current projects include adult short stories and the upcoming poetry collection, *vindicated*. When she's not writing, she's creating cloth doll characters...and thinking up new book ideas! Photo credit Fran Balzar.



**Tom Perrotta** is the bestselling author of eight works of fiction, including *Election* and *Little Children*, both of which were made into critically acclaimed movies, and *The Leftovers*, which was adapted into an HBO series. He lives outside Boston. Photo credit Ben King, courtesy of HBO. Photo credit Ben King, courtesy of HBO.



**Wena Poon** is an American novelist and photographer. Through her work, she documents diaspora culture, transnational identity, and gender roles. Her first novel *Alex y Robert*, about a Texan woman bullfighter in Spain, was adapted by the BBC and broadcast as a 10-episode Radio 4 series. Her play, *The Wood Orchid*, about the Chinese woman warrior Hua Mulan, was professionally staged in Westminster Abbey, London by the Bush Theatre. Author of 15 books of literary fiction, she won the UK's Willesden Herald Short Story Prize and was nominated for France's Prix Hemingway and the UK's Bridport Prize for Poetry. She was also a two-time nominee for Ireland's Frank O'Connor Award and the Singapore Literature Prize. She graduated magna cum laude in English Literature from Harvard College and holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School. She is a lawyer by profession. Photo credit Shanti Matulewski.



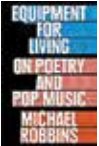
Montclair resident **Kevin Pyle** is the author/illustrator of three graphic novels, including *Blindspot* and *Take What You Can Carry*, all published by Henry Holt. He is also the author/illustrator of numerous "docu-comics," most recently *Bad For You: Exposing the War on Fun*. He recently co-authored, with Montclair resident Jeffrey Odell Korgen, and illustrated *Migrant: Stories of Hope and Resilience*, an activist comic based on numerous interviews on both sides of the Mexican border. His illustrations have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and numerous other publications.



**Anna Quindlen** is a novelist and journalist whose work has appeared on fiction, nonfiction, and self-help bestseller lists. She is the author of nine novels: *Object Lessons*, *One True Thing*, *Black and Blue*, *Blessings, Rise and Shine*, *Every Last One*, *Still Life with Bread Crumbs*, *Miller's Valley*, and *Alternate Side*. Her memoir *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*, published in 2012, was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. Her book *A Short Guide to a Happy Life* has sold more than a million copies. While a columnist at the *New York Times* she won the Pulitzer Prize and published two collections, *Living Out Loud* and *Thinking Out Loud*. Her *Newsweek* columns were collected in *Loud and Clear*. Photo credit Maria Krovatin.



**Masiel Rodriguez-Vars** is Executive Director of Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence (MFEE). Masiel's passion for public school education was forged early in life. She comes from a family of public school advocates, several of whom led walkouts in south Texas to desegregate schools in the 1970s. She taught bilingual education in the early 90s. Masiel graduated from NYU law school in 1998, focusing on educational and youth advocacy, then served as a program associate at The Andrus Family Foundation funding foster care organizations and those tackling community conflict. She simultaneously ran the Andrus Youth Philanthropy Program and later became a nonprofit consultant with organizations serving vulnerable youth. In between these varied career paths, she found a passion for filmmaking and has produced a few amateur films about the Montclair schools. As mom to four Montclair public school students, she is deeply grateful that her circuitous path led her to Montclair.



**Michael Robbins** is the author of the poetry collections *Alien vs. Predator* and *The Second Sex* (Penguin) and the essay collection *Equipment for Living: On Poetry and Pop Music* (Simon & Schuster). His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Harper's*, and several other publications. He is an Assistant Professor of English at Montclair State University.



**Elizabeth Brewer Redwine** is a Lecturer in the English Department at Seton Hall University and a trustee on the Board of the New Jersey College English Association. She is currently at work on a book-length project on Yeats, Synge, and the actresses who performed and contributed to their plays entitled *The Drama of Collaboration: Gender, Performance, and Authorship at the Abbey* as well as an anthology of essays about the complicated but fruitful collaboration between Yeats and Tagore entitled *Tagore and Yeats: A Postcolonial Re-envisioning*. Recent publications include "How Cathleen Became Mrs. Monihan: Sara Allgood's 'Grave Acting' and Irish Female Performance" in Cambridge University Press's *New Theatre Quarterly* and "The Big House in Flames: Constance Markievicz and Yeats' Response to the Rising" in *The Chesterton Review*. Dr. Redwine received, in January, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award from the West Orange Human Relations Commission for service to the community.



**Lisa Romeo** is the author of *Starting with Goodbye: A Daughter's Memoir of Love after Loss* (University of Nevada Press, May 2018). Her work is listed in *Best American Essays 2016*, and has appeared in the *New York Times*, *O The Oprah Magazine*, *Brevity*, *Under the Sun*, and other places. Lisa teaches in the Bay Path University MFA, and with The Writers Circle in northern NJ. Lisa has presented at ASJA (American Society of Journalists and Authors), Hippocamp Conference for Creative Nonfiction Writers, and Italian American Studies Association, and holds an MFA from Stonecoast (University of Southern Maine). She lives in Cedar Grove, NJ. <http://LisaRomeo.blogspot.com>



**Andrew Rosenthal** became an Op-Ed columnist for the *New York Times* in June 2016 after more than nine years as the Editorial Page editor of the *Times*, overseeing the newspaper's Opinion section. He previously was deputy Editorial Page editor, starting in August 2003. Before that, Mr. Rosenthal had been an assistant managing editor since September 2001 and the foreign editor beginning in May 1997. He also served as national editor of the *Times* for six months in 2000, supervising coverage of the presidential election and the post-election recount.



Born and raised in Brazil, **Claudia Sabino** is an art educator who has been teaching art in the East coast for more than 20 years. Claudia has created and delivered expressive arts programs to a wide range of people in the non-profit, corporate and educational sectors. Tapping into her insights as a psychologist and her knack for blending appealing materials in accessible ways, she creates an environment of beauty and relaxation, inviting everyone to explore and engage in the fun, creative process of making art!



**Jonathan Santlofer** is a writer and artist. He has published five novels, including the best-selling *The Death Art*, and the award-winning *Anatomy of Fear*, and numerous short stories. He has been both editor and contributor for six notable anthologies, among them the *New York Times* bestseller, *Inherit the Dead*, and most recently, from Touchstone/Simon & Schuster *It Occurs to Me That I Am America*, a collection of original stories and art concerning civil liberties in support of the ACLU. His artwork is in major public and private collections in the US and abroad. Jonathan has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, among them two National Endowment for Arts grants, the American Academy in Rome, and he serves on the board of Yaddo. His memoir, *The Widower's Notebook*, will be published by Penguin Books in July 2018.



**Melissa Schilling** is the John Herzog Family professor of management and organizations at New York University's Stern School of Business, and one of the world's leading experts on innovation. Her textbook, *Strategic Management of Technological Innovation*, (now in its fifth edition), is the #1 innovation strategy text in the world and is available in seven languages. Schilling is also co-author of *Strategic Management: An Integrated Approach*, now in its 12th edition, and one of the world's leading strategic management textbooks. She and her work have been featured on NPR's *Marketplace*, *Bloomberg BusinessWeek*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Huffington Post*, *CNBC*, *Scientific American*, and *USA Today*, among others. She also regularly delivers keynote presentations on strategy and innovation at national and international conferences as well as corporations.



**Ken Schlager** is Editor of *New Jersey Monthly*, the leading general-interest magazine in the Garden State. He is responsible for all editorial coverage, in print and online. During his tenure, the magazine has launched numerous e-newsletters and a Jersey Shore app, and built a substantial social-media following. Ken also serves as Editorial Director of a sister publication, *New Jersey Bride*. Previously, Ken was Executive Editor of *Billboard*, the newsweekly of the international music business. Ken spent 20 years at *Billboard*, also serving as Managing Editor and Vice President of Business Development. Prior to *Billboard*, he was Associate Features Editor of the *New York Post*, and held reporting and editing positions at Gannett Westchester Newspapers and the Fort Lauderdale (Fla.) News. He has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Ken and his wife, Robin, have been proud Montclair residents since 1992.



**Roger Sederat** is the author of four poetry books including just released *Haji as Puppet: An Orientalist Burlesque*, (Word Works, 2017). Winner of 2016 Tenth Gate Prize for Mid-Career Poets, Leslie McGrath, judge and just released *Foot Faults: Tennis Poems* (David Robert Books, 2016). Also, author of *Dear Regime: Letters to the Islamic Republic*, which won Ohio University Press's Hollis Summers' Prize, and *Ghazal Games* (Ohio UP, 2011). Roger teaches creative writing (poetry and literary translation) in the MFA program at Queens College, City University of New York. He teaches and writes on such academic interests as 19th and 20th Century American literature as well as Middle Eastern-American literature. Currently, Roger is working toward translating a full-length collection of ghazals by the 14th century Sufi Persian poet, Hafez.



**Cindy Shanks's** writing and paintings have a unique sophistication. She pays close attention to detail in all of her work. She has a passion for writing short stories that include the importance of family ties, history and the lives of the disabled. An excerpt of her short story, titled "My Story," was included in the Matheny Arts Access compilation *Writes of Passage*. An all-around artist, she also works on choreographed dances and digital paintings and sculptures. Her visual art has been shown at a number of exhibitions throughout New Jersey.



**R. Sikoryak** is a cartoonist and the author of *Masterpiece Comics*, *Terms and Conditions*, and *The Unquotable Trump* (published by Drawn and Quarterly). His comics and illustrations have appeared in the *Best American Comics 2015*, the *New Yorker*, *The Graphic Canon*, *The Onion*, *GQ*, *MAD*, and *SpongeBob Comics*, as well as on the *Daily Show* with Jon Stewart. He teaches in the illustration department at Parsons School of Design, and he hosts the long-running comics performance series, *Carousel*

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**Victoria Skurnik** is an agent at the Levine Greenberg Rostan Agency, where she started ten years ago. Before that, she was editor-in-chief of The Book-of-the-Month Club, senior editor at St. Martin's Press and Pocket Books, and Advertising Director of Holt, Rinehart & Winston. Among the kinds of books she handles are literary fiction, suspense fiction, narrative nonfiction, books about politics and history, and humor.



**Patti Smith** is a writer, performer, and visual artist. Her memoir, *Just Kids*, received a National Book Award, and her recent book *M Train* is a critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller. Smith was awarded the prestigious title of Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres by the French Republic. Her seminal album *Horses* has been hailed as one of the top 100 albums of all time, and in 2007 she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Smith lives in New York City. Photo credit Steven Sebring.



**Nancy Star** has published five novels, including the best-selling, *Sisters One, Two, Three*, which landed on *Publishers Weekly's* "Top Ten Print Book and Amazon Kindle Bestsellers of 2016". Nancy is also an essayist whose work has appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Money* and *Family Circle*, among other places. Before turning to writing fiction full time, she was a movie executive for the Samuel Goldwyn Company, working in New York and London. She lives and works in Montclair with her husband and raised two wonderful daughters here, who still like to come home to visit.



**David Henry Sterry** is co-founder of The Book Doctors. He is the author of 16 books on a wide variety of subjects, from memoir to middle-grades fiction, sports to reference. His work has been translated into over a dozen languages, optioned by Hollywood, and appeared on the cover of the *Sunday New York Times Book Review*. He is a regular contributor to the *Huffington Post*. Before writing professionally, David was a comic and an actor. His one-man show, based on his memoir, *Chicken*, was named the number one show in the United Kingdom for its entire run at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival, Fringe, by the *Independent*.



**Carole Stone**, Distinguished Professor Emerita, Montclair State University, has published four poetry books, among them *Late*, *Hurt*, *The Shadow*, and *American Rhapsody*. Her most recent poems appear in *Blue Fifth Review*, *Poetry Breakfast*, *US1 Worksheets*, *Slab*, and in the *Donut Anthology*, Terrapin Press. She has received three fellowships from the NJ State Council on the Arts.



**Matthew Thomas's** New York Times best-selling novel, *We Are Not Ourselves*, was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize, the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, and the John Gardner Fiction Book Award, longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award, the Guardian First Book Award, and the Folio Prize, named a Notable Book of the Year by the *New York Times*, named one of the best books of the year by the *Washington Post*, *Esquire*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Publishers Weekly*, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Apple, and others, and named one of Janet Maslin's ten favorite books of the year in the *New York Times*. *We Are Not Ourselves* is being translated into 18 languages. Matthew teaches in NYU's Low-Residency MFA Program in Paris.



**Erika Turner** is the editorial project manager at Versify, Kwame Alexander's new imprint at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. In her spare time, she provides sensitivity feedback for authors and publishers, and proofreads Manga. She is interested in everything from light romantic comedies to sweeping fantasies, especially with unusual protagonists. She has also written essays for *Bustle*, *BuzzFeed*, *Mic*, and other publications. When she's not reading, writing, or editing, she looks up real estate listings for fun, obsesses over home décor, and wanders the city taking pictures of fancy buildings.



**Vincent Toro** is the author of *STEREO.ISLAND.MOSAIC.*, which was awarded the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber First Book Award and the Sawtooth Poetry Prize. He is recipient of a Poet's House Emerging Poets Fellowship, a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, The Caribbean Writer's Cecile De Jongh Poetry Prize, and the Metlife Nuestras Voces Playwriting Award. Vincent teaches English at Bronx Community College, is poet in the schools for Dreamyard and the Dodge Poetry Foundation, is writing liaison for Cooper Union's Saturday Program, and is a contributing editor at *Kweli Literary Journal*.





**John J. Trause**, the Director of Oradell Public Library, is the author of *Why Sing?* (Sensitive Skin Press, 2017); *Picture This: For Your Eyes and Ears* (Dos Madres Press, 2016); *Exercises in High Treason*, great weather for MEDIA, 2016; *Eye Candy for Andy* (13 Most Beautiful... Poems for Andy Warhol's Screen Tests, Finishing Line Press, 2013); *Inside Out, Upside Down, and Round and Round* (Nirala Publications, 2012); *Seriously Serial* (Poets Wear Prada, 2007; rev. ed. 2014); and *Latter-Day Litany* (Éditions élastiques, 1996), the latter staged Off Broadway. His translations, poetry, and visual work appear internationally in many journals and anthologies, including *Rabbit Ears: TV Poems* (NYQ Books, 2015). Marymark Press has published his visual poetry and art as broadsides and sheets. He is a founder of the William Carlos Williams Poetry Cooperative in Rutherford, NJ, and the former host and curator of its monthly reading series.



**Brea Tremblay** is currently a Content Strategist at Viacom where she works on integrating machine learning and the editorial process. Her past experience includes Head of Editorial at Tribeca Shortlist, Assistant Managing Editor at the *Daily Beast*, and Content Director at Viggle. She has covered a decade of media including two Presidential elections, two Olympics, and approximately 87 seasons of *The Bachelor*. Her work has also appeared at the *Hairpin*, *xoJane*, and the *Moth*.



**Kate Tuttle** is currently serving as President of the National Book Critics Circle. Her reviews and articles about books have appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Washington Post*, *Salon*, *Atlantic.com*, and elsewhere. She is a Native Kansan and longtime Cantabrigian, now living in Montclair, NJ.



**Kem Joy Ukwu's** fiction has appeared in *PANK*, *BLACKBERRY: a magazine*, *Carve*, *TINGE*, *Blue Lake Review*, *Jabberwock Review*, *Auburn Avenue*, the *Brooklyn Quarterly* and *Day One*. Her short story collection manuscript, *Locked Gray / Linked Blue*, was selected as a finalist for the 2016 New American Fiction Prize and is forthcoming from Brain Mill Press in February of 2018. She led a workshop as an Institute Scholar in the 2016 Writing from the Margins Institute at Bloomfield College and will return to the same institute in March of 2018. Born and raised in the Bronx, she currently lives in New Jersey with her husband. More of her work can be found at kemjoyukwu.com.



**Yvonne Ventresca's** latest YA psychological thriller, *Black Flowers, White Lies* (Sky Pony Press, 2016) won a National IPPY Gold Medal for YA fiction in 2017. Her debut novel, *Pandemic* (Sky Pony Press, 2014), won a Crystal Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Yvonne's other work includes two nonfiction books and several short stories selected for anthologies such as *30 Shades of Dead*, *Hero Lost: Mysteries of Death and Life*, and *Prep for Doom*. She loves a good ghost story and studies Isshinryu karate in a haunted dojo. You can learn more about her books at YvonneVentresca.com, where she also features resources for teen writers.



**Susan Weinberg** is the publisher of Perseus Books, a division of the Hachette Book Group, overseeing several non-fiction imprints including Avalon Travel, Basic Books, Da Capo Press, PublicAffairs and Running Press. Photo credit Phil Cantor.



**Lauren Weinstein's** highly acclaimed comic strip, *Normel Person*, can be found weekly in the *Village Voice*. Sometimes her work can be spotted in the *New Yorker*. She has published three books: *Girl Stories*, *Inside Vineyard* and *Goddess of War*. Currently she is working on a teenage memoir tentatively entitled, *Calamity*, to be published by Henry Holt and a comic about motherhood for the publisher, *Youth in Decline*.



**Jason Williams** is Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at Montclair State University, and chair of the criminal justice department of the Hampton Institution. He is co-editor of *A Critical Analysis of Race and the Administration of Justice*, and has two books forthcoming with Routledge: *Policing and Race: A Criminological Conception of #BlackLivesMatter* and *Black Males and the Criminal Justice System*. He is also conducting on-the-ground critical ethnographic research in Ferguson MO and Baltimore MD following the deaths of Michael Brown and Freddie Gray. His areas of specialization are race, ethnicity and crime, criminological/criminal justice theory, critical criminology, critical policing, social control, criminal justice policy, qualitative methods, and the sociology of knowledge.



**Shy Williams** is currently a Detective with the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office. Prior to her employment with BCPO she was a Special Victims Unit Detective with the Camden County Police Department. In addition, Shy has been serving in the New Jersey Army National Guard since 2012 where she is an Officer Candidate pursuing to become a 2nd Lieutenant. She is passionate about providing service to others who have lost hope. Shy frames her community involvement around the concept of paying it forward. In Shy's debut children's book, *Proud Black Girl*, she empowers young girls to self-love, self-respect and self-enrichment. Currently, Shy is a Doctoral Student at Stockton University where she is studying Organizational Leadership. She has a B.A. in Justice Studies and an M.A. in Law & Governance both from Montclair State University where she was a three-year student-athlete on the Women's Basketball team.



**Leslie Wilson** is the Assistant to the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and a professor in the Department of History at Montclair State University. He teaches the history of American education as well as American, African American, and African history. Outside of the classroom, Professor Wilson is a specialist in 19th and 20th century American urban history and is the author of several articles and book chapters in this discipline. Professor Wilson is also the author of *Reaching Out: The History of St. Philip's Episcopal Church* and the editor of *Introduction to African Civilization*. When not teaching, his academic pursuits include serving as the co-director of the Agenda for Education in a Democracy, a center devoted to practices of educational renewal. His current research focuses on the pedagogical uses of video and computer games in the history classroom and the impact of the African American migration to suburbia after the Second World War.



**Patrick Wilson** is a critically acclaimed actor whose numerous credits have earned him multiple Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. Wilson's illustrious career in theater, film, and television spans more than two decades, and has earned him rare reviews in Hollywood blockbusters, independent cinema, on and off Broadway. His credits include *Insidious*, *The Conjuring*, *Stretch*, *Hard Candy*, *Lakeview Terrace*, *Jack Strong*, *HBO's Angels in America*, *Girls*, *Little Children*, *Young Adult*, *The A-Team*, *Watchmen*, *Bone Tomahawk*, and the upcoming *Aquaman*. Most recently, Wilson starred in FX's second season of *Fargo*, garnering multiple award nominations for his career-defining role as Vietnam veteran Lou Solverson. Wilson lives in Montclair with his wife and two sons.



**Meg Wolitzer** is the *New York Times*-best-selling author of *The Interestings*, *The Uncoupling*, *The Ten-Year Nap*, *The Position*, *The Wife*, and *Sleepwalking*. She is also the author of the young adult novel, *Belzhar*. Wolitzer lives in New York City. Photo credit Nina Subin.



**Kristen Witucki** is the author of *The Transcriber* and her newest novel, *Outside Myself*, an extraordinary insight into living without sight. Kristen has been totally blind since birth. She earned a BA in English from Vassar College and three Masters degrees: an MA in teaching gifted students from Teachers College, Columbia University, an MFA in creative writing from Sarah Lawrence College, and an Ed.M. in teaching students who are blind or visually impaired from Dominican College. While in school, she earned her living at Learning Ally, where she helped people with visual impairments, dyslexia and other disabilities to access technology related to reading audio books. Kristen is now the curriculum and content editor for Learning Ally's College Success Program. Her nonfiction work has appeared at the *Huffington Post*, the *Memoir Project*, *Literary Mama* and *Brain, Child*. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and sons.



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**David Yaffe** was born in Dallas, Texas, in 1973. He is a professor of humanities at Syracuse University and a 2012 winner of the Roger Shattuck Prize for Criticism. His writing has appeared in many publications, including *The Nation*, *Harper's Magazine*, the *New York Times*, *Slate*, *New York*, the *Village Voice*, the *Daily Beast*, and *Bookforum*. He is the author of *Bob Dylan: Like a Complete Unknown* and *Fascinating Rhythm*. Photo credit Ellen M. Blalock.



**Dr. Warren Zanes** is the Executive Director of Steven Van Zandt's Rock and Roll Forever Foundation (RRFF). A former VP of Education and Programs at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, Warren has taught at several American universities, including Case Western Reserve University, University of Rochester, New York University, and The School of Visual Arts. He is a *New York Times* best-selling author, currently teaching at New York University, whose work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Rolling Stone*, the *Oxford American*, and more. He is the editor of collections on Jimmie Rodgers and Tom Petty, has written books including *Dusty in Memphis*, *Revolutions in Sound: Fifty Years of Warner Bros. Records*, and *Petty: The Biography*, which *Rolling Stone* named one of the top ten music books of 2015. A former member of Warner Bros. recording artists The Del Fuegos, he has released three solo recordings, including the most recent, *I Want To Move Out in the Daylight!*, and a fourth, *The Biggest Bankrupt City in the World*, coming soon.



**Joshua Zeitz** is a historian, contributing editor at *Politico* magazine, and *New York Times* best-selling author. He taught American history and politics at Cambridge University, Harvard University, and Princeton University and has written for *Politico*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *The Atlantic*, *Dissent*, *American Heritage*, and the *New York Times*. A former gubernatorial speechwriter and policy aide, Josh earned his B.A. with highest honors at Swarthmore College and his Ph.D. in American History at Brown University. He lives in Hoboken and Ocean Grove, New Jersey, with his wife and two daughters.



**Thad Ziolkowski** is the author of the memoir, *On a Wave*, which was a finalist for the PEN/Martha Albrand Award in 2003, and *Wichita*, a novel. His essays and reviews have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Slate*, *Bookforum*, *Artforum*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Interview Magazine* and *Index*. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in fiction.





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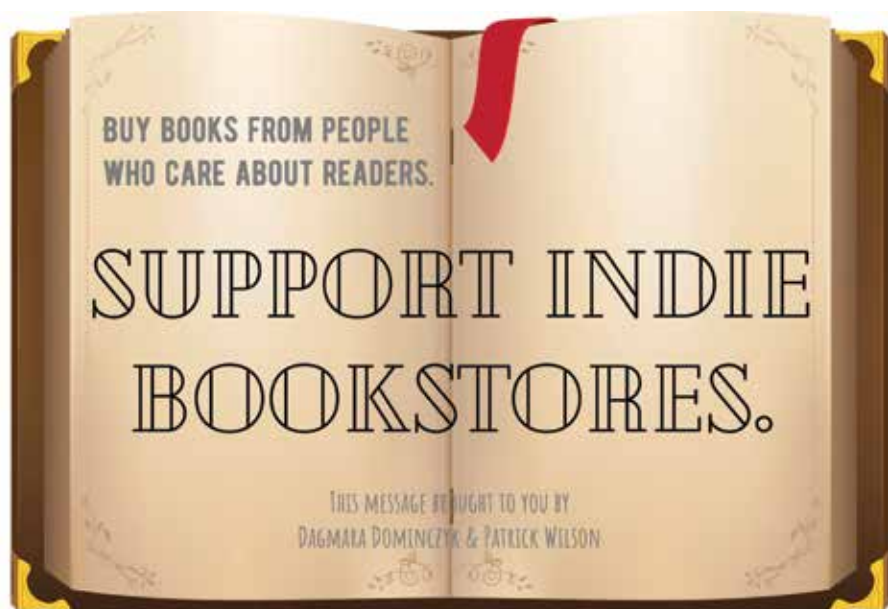
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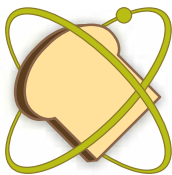


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