

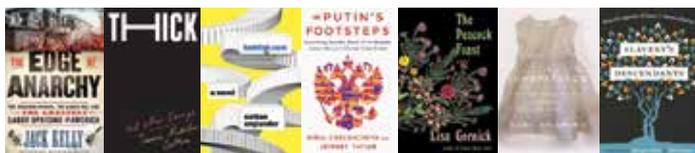
SUCCEED2GETHER'S



Montclair LITERARY FESTIVAL

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM
MONTCLAIR PUBLIC LIBRARY
WATCHUNG BOOKSELLERS

MARCH
20-24
2019



FESTIVAL DAY: SATURDAY, MARCH 23

SUCCEED2GETHER.ORG



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BUILDING OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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

Festival Co-Director: Catherine Platt

Director, Marketing and Sponsorship: Katrina Browning

Office Manager: Michelle Antonucci

Program Coordinator: Jamila Shivers

Venue Supervisor: Alan Myers

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Community Outreach Director: June Zimmerman

Volunteer Coordinator: Samantha Scanlon

Website: Katrina Browning, Itewari Ekpebu Bryan

Design: Amanda Ansorge/amandaansorge@gmail.com

Program: Judith Rew, Catherine Platt

Planning Committee: Marcia Marley, Jacqueline Mroz, Catherine Platt, Katrina Browning, Margot Sage-El, Molly Hone, Enola Romano, Cynthia Kitay, Liza Cohn.

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Venue Managers: Liza Cohn, Kim Burns, Mary Beth Rosenthal, Achi Dosanjh, Jaimee Bogusz, Suna Chang, Toni Martin, Jan Hoffman, Oumaima Oumarir, Anna Hotard.

Welcome to Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival

Since starting in 2017, Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival has gone from strength to strength. In our 3rd year we are excited to bring 137 authors and speakers to town from March 20 to 24, 2019, for a wide-ranging program of 67 book talks, panel discussions, writing workshops, and children's activities.

The S2G team has worked closely with Margot Sage-EL and her tireless staff at Watchung Booksellers to produce the festival—we could not do this without them! We are also grateful to the support of everyone at Montclair Public Library, under the leadership of Library Director Peter Coyl and Assistant Director Selwa Shamy, 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 the Halfway There Reading Series and The Writers Circle. We also want to thank Councilwoman Robin Schlager and the Montclair council for their support, including providing free parking near our venues.

Thanks go to everyone on our Advisory Committee for contributing their time, their contacts, and their brilliance. To name just a few: Garth Risk Hallberg invited a panel of distinguished literary translators; Reagan Arthur reached out to many authors; Sarah McGrath brought in Sigrid Nunez; and Laura and Jim Nicosia and Maria Russo have brought many children's and young adult authors to the festival.

In particular, sincere thanks are due this year to the generous members of this community who have come forward with sponsorship and made this festival possible. Many people have given time and energy this year to spread the word and build momentum, including Jill Williams, Liza Cohn, June Zimmerman, and Shana Rubin. We are able to build this festival and keep most events free and open to the public thanks to our community-minded, book-loving supporters!

Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival not only brings world-class authors to town for a celebration of books and ideas, it also helps local children achieve their academic potential. Succeed2gether's tutoring and enrichment programs address unequal access to educational resources in Essex County. Montclair school students have vastly different experiences in our classrooms based on income level and race, a gap that begins as early as 3rd grade, a gap that has persisted for decades. The lack of subsidized support services such as tutoring has been identified as a contributory factor.

Succeed2gether offers free after-school one-on-one tutoring for over 150 students in grades K through 12; a book buddy program to help with reading comprehension; enrichment classes such as writing, violin, chess and robotics; parent workshops; a summer enrichment program shown to be effective in reducing "summer slide"; and family support programs. The annual literary festival extends our educational initiatives into the community, promotes reading for all, and fosters a love of reading, writing, and storytelling.

This is all made possible by the people in our community who contribute their time, skills, resources, and love. Thank you all — enjoy the festival!

Ticketed Events

All tickets can be purchased at www.succeed2gether.org

Wednesday, March 20

7:00-8:30 pm A Night of Words and Music with Zara Phillips, Richard Thompson, and Warren Zanes. Reception 8:30-9:30 pm



An intimate, limited-capacity evening featuring three musicians who write songs and prose. Zara Phillips, Richard Thompson, and Warren Zanes, all of whom share a connection to Montclair, will take turns reading from their written work and performing a few of their songs. While some words become songs and others become books, the creative process is blurred. Join us for an evening of literature in the broad sense. Zara will read from her memoir *Somebody's Daughter*; Warren from recent writing; and Richard from his new book *Beeswing*, a memoir of the years 1967 to 1974, to be published by Algonquin Books in spring 2020.



Tickets: \$35 general admission; \$45 including Zara Phillips' book *Somebody's Daughter*; \$55 including Zara Phillips' book *Somebody's Daughter* and Warren Zanes' book *Petty: The Biography*.

\$150 VIP ticket includes post-event VIP reception with the musicians; VIP seating in first 4 rows; Zara Phillips' book *Somebody's Daughter*, Warren Zanes' book *Petty: The Biography* and Richard Thompson's CD *13 Rivers*. Limited Numbers Available! (Please note this VIP reception is not included in the Festival Pass.)



Venue: United Way Auditorium, 60 South Fullerton Ave

Thursday, March 21

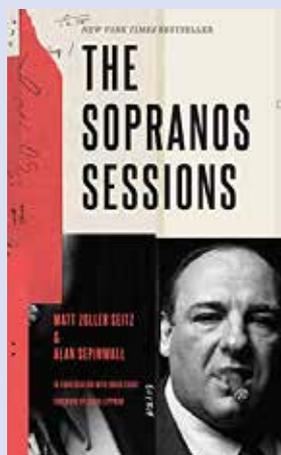
7:00-9:00 pm The Sopranos Sessions with Alan Sepinwall

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of *The Sopranos*, two renowned television critics have reunited to produce *The Sopranos Sessions*. This collection of recaps, essays, and interviews is the ultimate insider's guide to the groundbreaking series that changed television history. Tonight, author **Alan Sepinwall** talks with **Dalton Ross**, Executive Editor of Entertainment Weekly, about the show's artistry, themes, and legacy, its portrayal of Italian Americans, its graphic depictions of violence, and its deep connections to other cinematic and television classics - and of course to local sites around our neighborhood. Don't miss this chance to celebrate a New Jersey phenomenon. Wine and cheese will be served, and there will be a Q&A and book-signing, as well as clips of the feature documentary *My Dinner with Alan: A Soprano Session*, a conversation between Alan and fellow author Matt Zoller Seitz, filmed at Holsten's in Bloomfield.

Tickets: \$20 general admission;
\$40 including a copy of *The Sopranos Sessions*.

Venue: The Annex, 22 Frink St., Montclair.

Thanks to Steven Plofker and Bobbi Brown for the use of The Annex for this event.



Saturday, March 23

4:00-5:00 pm *The Friend*

Sigrid Nunez and her editor Sarah McGrath discuss her National Book Award winning novel, a moving story of love, friendship, grief, healing, and the magical bond between a woman and her dog. Find out why, 8 books later, *The Friend* made Nunez an overnight literary sensation.

"The intensity and elegance of *The Friend* mean two things: you cannot put it down and you will cry. In a novel about loss and the loneliness of writing and imagination, Sigrid Nunez creates an irresistible tale of love and an unforgettable Great Dane. A beautiful, beautiful book." — Cathleen Schine, bestselling author of *They May Not Mean To, But They Do*.

Tickets: \$30 including a copy of *The Friend*.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.*



5:15-6:15 pm *kaddish.com*: Nathan Englander in Conversation



In Nathan Englander's latest novel, when Larry's father dies, he turns to the website *kaddish.com* for help reciting the Jewish prayer for the dead. The celebrated Pulitzer finalist and prize-winning author of *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* etc. talks with novelist Julie Orringer (*The Flight Portfolio*) about his satirical tale of atonement, spiritual redemption, and the temptations of the internet.

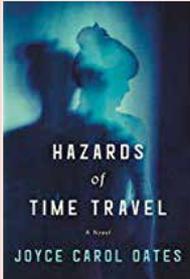
"Englander is mischievously hilarious, nightmarish,

suspenseful, inquisitive, and deliriously tender in this concentrated tale of tradition and improvisation, faith and love."—*Booklist*

Tickets: \$35 including a copy of *kaddish.com*

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.*

6:30-7:30 pm An Evening with Joyce Carol Oates



We are excited to welcome the universally acclaimed New Jersey novelist Joyce Carol Oates to Montclair for a conversation with artist and author Jonathan Santlofer about her latest work, including the dystopian tale of resistance *Hazards of Time Travel*.

The two writers will also discuss their respective memoirs of love, loss, and self-discovery: *A Widow's Story* and *The Widower's Notebook*, exploring how they each responded to the loss of a

beloved spouse and the role that memoir-writing played in coping with grief and moving forward.

Tickets: \$40 including a copy of *Hazards of Time Travel*.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.*



7:30-9:30 pm Festival Party: Meet the Authors

Join festival authors and supporters for jazz, drinks, and a light meal to celebrate the 3rd Montclair Literary Festival. Round off the day in style while supporting Succeed2gether's important work to close the education achievement gap.

Tickets: \$40 including drinks and hot and cold food from local restaurants.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.*



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Venue Addresses

Montclair Public Library: 50 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair.

•

First Congregational Church: 40 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair.

•

Montclair Art Museum: 3 South Mountain Ave., Montclair.

•

Watchung Booksellers: 54 Fairfield St., Watchung Plaza, Montclair

•

United Way: 60 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair.

•

The Annex, 22 Frink St., Montclair.

•

Succeed2gether: 11 Pine St., Montclair (Community Services Building)

Main Program

All events are free, unless otherwise noted.

Friday, March 22 Poetry Night

6:00–8:00 pm Find Your Voice! Montclair Poetry Slam.

Succeed2gether presents the 3rd annual Montclair Poetry Slam, with students from Montclair High School and three middle schools competing in a high-energy spoken word competition. With guest performances from M.C **Vincent Toro**, and judges **Joanne Ashe**, **Gretchen Gomez**, **Elijah M. Brown** and **Claudia Cortese**.
Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.*

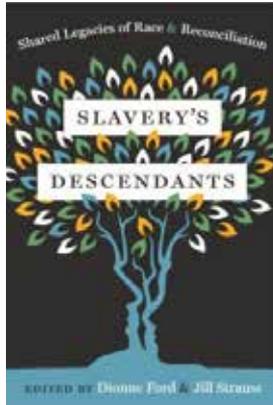
8:30–10:00 pm Poetry Café

We all need more poetry in our lives! What better way to end your week and launch a literary weekend? Stop by Montclair's much-loved independent bookstore, Watchung Booksellers, for a coffee or glass of wine and readings by some of New Jersey's finest poets. Expect to be illuminated. Featuring **Amanda Lovelace**, **Alicia Cook**, **Gretchen Gomez**, **John Trause**, **Joanne Ashe**, **Chris Adams**, and **Claudia Cortese**.
Venue: *Watchung Booksellers*

Saturday, March 23

10:00-11:00 am Location, Location, Location

Montclair author **Alice Elliott Dark** leads a conversation about the role of place and setting in fiction, from Rikers Island in **Sergio De La Pava's** *Lost Empress*, to a New York City hospital in **Pamela Erens's** *Eleven Hours*, and the islands of Maine in **Estep Nagy's** *We Shall Not All Sleep*.
Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.*



10:00–11:00 am *Slavery's Descendants: Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation*

This powerful anthology confronts the legacy of slavery as contributors relate how they deal with America's racial past through experience or family history. Editor **Dionne Ford** and contributor **Karen Branam**, author of *The Family Tree: A Lynching in Georgia, a Legacy of Secrets*, and *My Search for the Truth*, talk with **Rachel Swarns**, author of *American Tapestry: The Story of the Black, White, and Multiracial ancestors of Michelle Obama*.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.*

10:15–11:15 am *The YA Phenomenon*

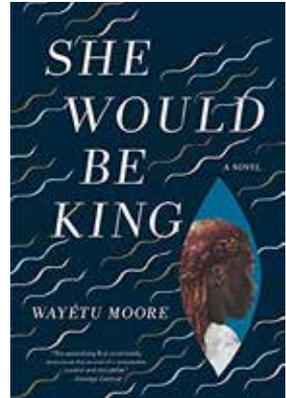
Bestselling Young Adult authors **Gayle Forman** (*If I Stay Series*, etc.) and **Arvin Ahmadi** (*Down and Across*, *Girl Gone Viral*.) talk with **Jim Nicosia** about their hit novels and discuss who are the audience of YA fiction and what are the secrets of its rapidly growing popularity? (Age 12 and up)

Venue: *Montclair Public Library Auditorium.*

10:15–11:15 am Halfway There Reading Series

Apryl Lee and **Nicole Haroutunian** host this popular local reading series on a quarterly basis. At this year's festival they showcase fiction by **Marina Antropow Cramer** (*Roads*) and **Richard Klin** (*Petroleum Transfer Engineer*); non-fiction by **Dawn Raffel** (*The Strange Case of Dr. Couney*); and poetry from **Johnny Lorenz** and **Frank Rubino**.

Venue: *YA Room at Montclair Public Library.*



11:05 am–12:05 pm Recreating the Past

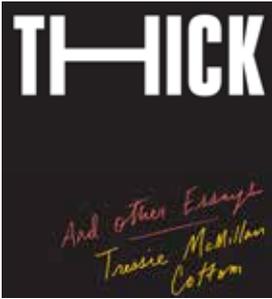
David Ebershoff's acclaimed historical fiction includes *The Danish Girl* and *The 19th Wife*; **Wayétu Moore's** powerful debut novel, *She Would Be King*, reimagines the dramatic story of Liberia's early years; **Lisa Gornick's** *The Peacock Feast* is a panoramic family drama spanning the 20th century. These three authors discuss research, reinvention, and bringing the past to life with **Laurie Lico Albanese**, author of *Stolen Beauty*.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.*

11:05 am–12:05 pm
Green: A Novel on Race and Public School in America

Sam Graham-Felsen, chief blogger on Obama's 2008 campaign, discusses his debut novel, *Green*, and its themes of race, privilege, and coming of age with **Dale Russakoff** (*The Prize: Who's in Charge of America's Schools?*) and **Jasmine Hughes**, an editor and writer for the *New York Times Magazine*.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.*



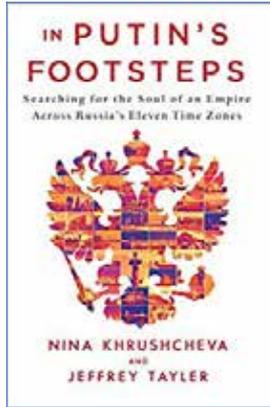
11:15 am–12:15 pm
Thick and Other Essays

Called "the author you need to read now" by the *Chicago Tribune*, and one of "America's most bracing thinkers on race, gender, and capitalism of our time" by Rebecca Traister, **Tressie McMillan Cottom** shares wit and wisdom about all that is right and wrong in the world with **Glory Edim**, founder of Well Read Black Girl.

Venue: *Montclair Public Library Auditorium.*

12:15–1:15 pm
In Putin's Footsteps

Join **Craig Unger**, author of political exposé, *House of Trump, House of Putin: The Untold Story of Donald Trump and the Russian Mafia*, and **Nina Krushcheva**, great-granddaughter of Nikita Krushchev and author of *In Putin's Footsteps: Searching for the Soul of an Empire*



across Russia's Eleven Time Zones, for an in-depth look at contemporary Russia and its complex relations with the west. Moderated by **David Pepper**, Chairman of the Ohio Democratic Party and author of *The People's House* and *The Wingman*, both political thrillers involving Russia and US politics.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.*

12:15–1:15 pm
Crafting Stories from Visual Inspiration

Andrew Wyeth's painting *Christina's World* is the inspiration for **Christina Baker Kline's** bestselling novel *A Piece of the World*, while **Fiona Davis**, author of *The Masterpiece*, *The Dollhouse*, etc. weaves iconic NYC architecture into the heart of her novels. Join them for a conversation with **Dawn Raffel** about art, inspiration, and story-telling.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.*

12:15–1:15 pm
The Edge of Anarchy: The Railroad Barons, the Gilded Age, and the Greatest Labor Uprising in America

Jack Kelly discusses his vivid account of the greatest uprising of working people in American history, and its relevance to the ongoing

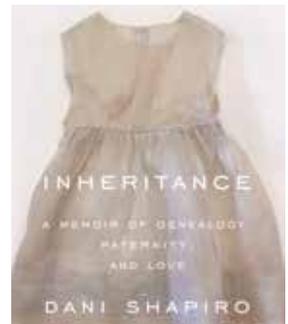
battle between labor and capital, with labor activist **Larry Engelstein**, VP of one of the fastest growing labor unions in the country.

Venue: *The Crescent Room at First Congregational Church.*

12:15–1:15 pm
Inheritance, a Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love

Best-selling author and memoirist **Dani Shapiro** talks to **Deborah Davis** about her gripping memoir on the meaning of parenthood and family identity, written after a DNA test revealed that the adored father she grew up with was not her biological father.

Venue: *Montclair Public Library Auditorium.*



1:30–2:30 pm
Mentors and Muses: We Don't Write Alone

Writing may look and feel like a solitary, unaccompanied practice but is actually more communal than we think. Join authors **Kathy Curto** and **Irene O'Garden** in a conversation about the practical, creative, and spiritual value of writing communities, mentors, and muses. Short readings from the authors' new books as well as a Q&A session will be part of this reminder about why we need one another more than we may sometimes realize.

Venue: *Montclair Public Library Classroom (1st Floor)*

1:30–2:30 pm
Found in Translation

Three translators and an editor of major European literary fiction reflect on the creativity, the challenges, and the responsibilities inherent in the translator's role. **Ann Goldstein**, celebrated translator of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels; **Damion Searls**, who has translated 40 books from German, Norwegian, French, and Dutch including Uwe Johnson's *Anniversaries*; prize-winning translator from French, **Emma Ramadan**; and **Michael Reynolds**, Editor-in-Chief of Europa Editions, talk with novelist **Garth Risk Hallberg** about the art of translation and the growing popularity of fiction in translation.

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.

1:30-2:30 pm Just Giving: Why Philanthropy is Failing Democracy and How it Can Do Better

Author and Stanford University Professor of Political Science **Rob Reich** talks with **Dale Russakoff** about the ways philanthropy, as currently structured, undermines democracy, and how it could be made more ethical and accountable.

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.

1:30–2:30 pm Bullets into Bells: Poets and Citizens Respond to Gun Violence

This persuasive and moving collection brings together poems about the crisis of gun violence with responses by activists and survivors. Today's event includes readings and discussion with co-editor **Brian Clements**, contributors **Meghan Privitello** and **Abbey Clements**, and NJ Moms Demand Action activist **Jaime Bedrin**.

Venue: The Crescent Room at First Congregational Church.

1:30–2:30 pm
Immigrant Stories

Marina Budhos, author of the YA novels *Watched*, *Tell Us We're Home*, and *Ask Me No Questions*, leads a conversation about the polarizing politics of immigration. Featuring two novelists whose work focuses on the immigrant experience, **Irina Reyn** (*Mother Country*) and **Maria E. Andreu** (*The Secret Side of Empty*), and NYU Associate Professor of Journalism **Suketu Mehta**, whose forthcoming book, *This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto*, scrutinizes anti-immigrant biases and policies.

Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium.

2:45–3:45 pm
Writing Ourselves—Moving to Memoir

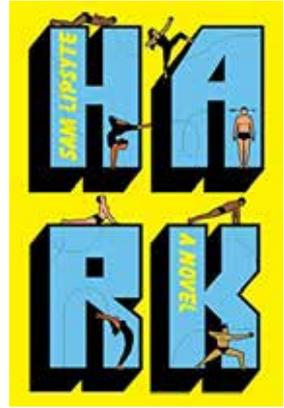
When a fiction writer or artist turns to memoir, what crossover and synergy do they observe, and what do they learn from transcribing their own lives into narrative? What brings a personal story to life on the page?

Benilde Little (*Welcome to my Breakdown*) discusses recollection, revelation, and genre with **Dani Shapiro** (*Inheritance, a Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*), **Nell Painter** (*Old in Art School*), and **Jonathan Santlofer** (*The Widower's Notebook*).

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.

2:45–3:45 pm Sam Lipsyte in Conversation with Charles McGrath

In **Sam Lipsyte's** latest madcap social satire, *Hark*, an unwitting guru achieves cult status. The bestselling humorist talks with **Charles McGrath**, former editor of the *New York Times Book Review*. Find out why Gary Shteyngart wrote, "If *Hark* doesn't make you stalk Sam



Lipsyte and try to break up his marriage, then you are not human."

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.

2:45–3:45 pm
The Last Act

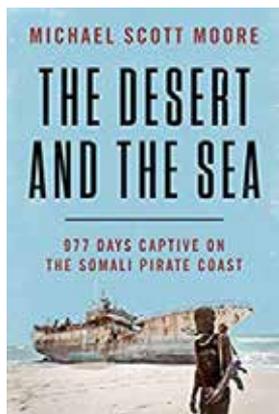
In award winning crime fiction author **Brad Parks'** new novel, an out-of-work stage actor is approached by the FBI with the role of a lifetime: go undercover at a federal prison, impersonate a convicted felon, and befriend a fellow inmate who knows the location of documents that can be used to bring down a ruthless drug cartel. Join Brad and **Wallace Stroby**—both former *Star-Ledger* journalists who have turned to a life of crime fiction—as they discuss this novel—and the thrills, twists, and tension that make the genre so popular.

Venue: The Crescent Room at First Congregational Church.

2:45–3:45 pm
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, and the other panelists are editor **Hilary Redmon**, publicist **Gretchen Koss**, and agent **Daniel Greenberg**.
Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium.



4:00–5:00 pm
Fighting for Truth, Safety, and Freedom

Tracy Higgins, Co-Director of the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham, hosts a wide-ranging conversation about human rights with **Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno**, author of *There Are No Dead Here: A Story of Murder and Denial in Colombia*, **Chi Mgbako**, author of *To Live Freely*

in *this World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa*, and **Michael Scott Moore**, author of *The Desert and the Sea: 977 Days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast*.
Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.

4:00–5:00 pm
Writing New Jersey: Unique Challenges, Unique Stories

Montclair author **Thomas Pluck** (*Bad Boy Boogie*), chats with **Jen Conley** (*Cannibals and Other Stories from the Edge of the Pine Barrens*), **Wallace Stroby**, (*Some Die Nameless*), **Dave White**, (the Jackson Donne series), and **Marina Cramer** (*Roads*) about the pros and cons of being New Jersey writers in NYC-centric publishing, and what makes New Jersey fascinating to write about.
Venue: The Crescent Room at First Congregational Church.

4:00–5:00 pm
Hidden Voices

Sarah Weinman's literary detective story *The Real Lolita* explores the 1948 abduction case that inspired Nabakov's notorious novel, while in *Conan Doyle for the Defense*, **Margalit Fox** recounts how the creator of Sherlock Holmes solved a real life murder mystery. They talk with *New Yorker* staff writer **D.T. Max** about researching historical true crime and bringing forgotten voices back to life.
Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium.

5:15–6:15 pm
Do Prizes Matter?

Larry Dark, Director of The Story Prize, and **Kate Tuttle**, President of the National Book Critics' Circle, are joined by MacArthur Genius grant winner **John Keene**, prize-winning novelist **Christina Baker Kline**, and

Ruvanee Pieterz Vilhauer, who won the Iowa Short Fiction Award for *The Water Diviner and Other Stories*. Together they consider what constitutes prize-winning fiction, whether we should care about book awards, and how winning a literary prize changes a writer's career.
Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church.

5:15–6:15 pm
Funny Pages: Books by Comedians and Comedy Writers

To get their content out some comedians use radio, others use TV and movies, some even use good old-fashioned stand-up comedy, but more and more comedians are finding their voice in the literary world. **Selena Coppock**, **Andrew Bayroff**, **Corinne Caputo**, and **Anthony Kapfer**, four comedians who have found a new audience through the written word, trade humor and stories with **Darin Patterson**.
Venue: The Crescent Room at First Congregational Church.

5:15–6:15 pm
The Cost of Survival

Two extraordinary true stories examine foreign policy, rescue missions, and the will to survive. *The Desert and the Sea: 977 Days Captive on the Somali Pirate Coast*, is **Michael Scott Moore's** memoir of his three years of captivity by Somali pirates, while **Stephan Talty's** *Saving Bravo: The Greatest Rescue Mission in Navy SEAL History* tells the untold story of the most important rescue mission of the cold war. **Mark Rotella** moderates a conversation between the authors.
Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium.

Children's and Young Adult Program

All programming for kids is FREE!

Saturday, March 23

Young Adult Program

Don't miss this Special Book Signing Event and Chance to Meet YA Authors!

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Gayle Forman, Arvin Ahmadi, Gae Polisner.

12:15–1:00 pm

Marc Aronson

2:30–3:30 pm

Mark Oshiro, Sara Farizan, e.E. Charlton-Trujillo,

3:45–4:30 pm

Esther Friesner

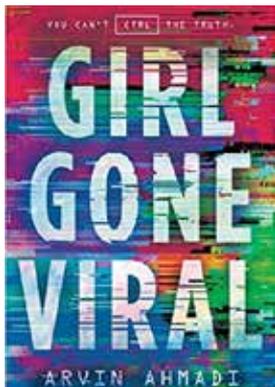
Venue: Montclair Public Library, Classroom (1st floor).

10:15–11:15 am

The YA Phenomenon

Bestselling Young Adult authors **Gayle Forman**, (*If I Stay Series*, etc.) and **Arvin Ahmadi**, (*Down and Across*, *Girl Gone Viral*) talk with **Jim Nicosia** about their hit novels and discuss who are the audience of YA fiction and what are the secrets of its rapidly growing popularity? (Age 12 and up)

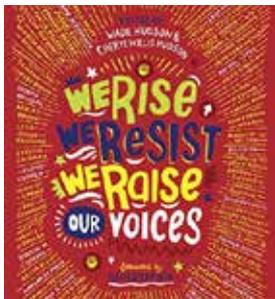
Venue: Montclair Public Library Auditorium



11:15 am–12:15 pm
Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue

Marc Aronson's latest book tells the incredible true story of the 12 boys trapped with their coach in a flooded cave in Thailand and their inspiring rescue. As a result of in-depth research and exclusive interviews with key divers and rescuers, Aronson discovered stories from the rescue that were never covered in the press. What might seem like a survival tale is really the triumph of internationalism, and a testimony to the importance of undocumented, stateless, refugees everywhere. (Age 12 and up)

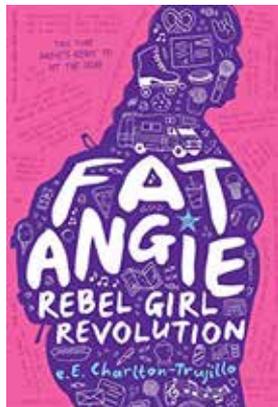
Venue: Montclair Public YA Room.



12:15–1:15 pm **We Rise, We Resist, We Raise our Voices**

What do we tell our children when the world seems bleak, and prejudice and racism run rampant? This inspiring anthology of poems, letters, essays, and art lends voice to young activists. Editors **Wade Hudson** and **Cheryl Willis Hudson** and contributors **Denise Lewis Patrick** and **Curtis Hudson** read selections. (All ages)

Venue: Montclair Public YA Room.



1:30–2:30 pm
Speaking Your Truth

Mark Oshiro (*Anger is a Gift*), **Sara Farizan** (*Here to Stay*), and **e.E. Charlton-Trujillo** (*Fat Angie: Rebel Girl Revolution*) write novels that address bullying, bigotry, LGBTQ activism, and other issues of teen identity. Join them for a conversation about representation, activism and facing hard truths in fiction, with **Laura Nicosia**. (Age 12 and up)

Venue: Montclair Public YA Room.

2:45–3:45 pm **Nobody's Princess**

Gae Polisner's fiction (*In Sight of Stars*, *The Memory of Things*, etc.) deals with the struggle to find light and hope in the face of hardship, while **Esther Friesner** writes the popular *Princess of Myth* series. Join them as they talk with **Denise Lewis Patrick** about strong female characters and writing teen love stories in the #metoo era. (Age 12 and up)

Venue: Montclair Public YA Room.

Children's Events on the 3rd Floor, Montclair Public Library

10:15–11:15 am Drum, Dance and Sing

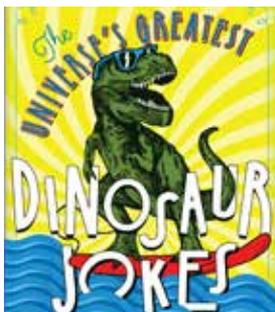
Join with storyteller **Eric Rucker** for an unforgettable and unique journey for all ages! We'll tell some stories together. We'll drum, dance and sing about two sisters who forgot their friend, how fox outsmarted rabbit, what happened to turtle and why parrot is so beautiful. That will take us from where we are, to a kinder place, from who we are, to our better selves. After all, character is beauty! Be there! (Age 2-12)
Venue: The Green Space.

10:30–11:15 am Strolling!

Reading and drawing for little ones with author **Stephanie Henderson Snyder** and illustrator **Jed Snyder**. Littlebit Book Club helps parents instill a passion for literacy in children from an early age. Join Lucy Littlebit on her early childhood adventures and watch your Littlebit(s) make connections to their own experiences as they develop receptive language, new vocabulary, and reading comprehension skills. (Age 0-3)
Venue: The Storyroom.

11:30 am–12:15 pm **The Universe's Greatest Dinosaur Jokes and Pre-Hysterical Puns**

Love jokes? Love dinosaurs? What could be better than jokes about dinosaurs! Don't miss popular picture-book author **Artie Bennett** reading from this and other favorites. (Age 3-8)
Venue: The Storyroom.



11:30 am–12:15 pm **Quinny and Hopper: Smart Cookies**

Best friends Quinny and Hopper are back with a new story about a mysterious "smart list," a school-wide ban on sweets and cookies (the horror!), a quirky new flock of chickens that won't stop fighting, and a beloved guinea pig that goes missing. Find out how they handle these problems at a lively read aloud with Montclair author **Adriana Brad Schanen**. (Age 8–11)
Venue: The Green Space.

12:30–1:15 pm **Author and Illustrator Dan Yaccarino!**

Through childhood drawings and photos, illustration and animation, this inspiring presentation connects the dots from Dan's childhood to a 25-year career in children's publishing, television and character design. As well as being an author and illustrator, Dan is the creator of the animated series *Oswald* and *Willa's Wild Life*, and the character designer behind *The Backyardigans*. (Age 5–8)
Venue: The Storyroom.

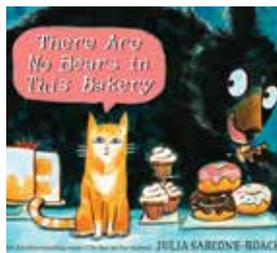


12:30–1:15 pm **Juno Valentine and the Magical Shoes**

When Juno's favorite shoes go missing, she discovers a magical room filled with every shoe imaginable. Instagram superstar **Eva Chen's** book is equal parts fashion fairy tale and guide to girl power. (Age 3-8)
Venue: The Green Space.

1:30–2:15 pm **We're Not From Here**

Imagine moving to a new planet where YOU are the alien and the locals don't like humans! Find out how one family survives as refugees in a strange new world with **Geoff Rodkey**, author of the bestselling *Tapper Twins* series. (Age 8-12)
Venue: The Storyroom.



1:30–2:15 pm **There are No Bears in This Bakery**

Muffin the cat protects The Little Bear Bakery from intruders, including hungry bears, but one night Muffin hears a suspicious noise. Help Muffin solve the case with author/illustrator **Julia Sarcone-Roach**. (Age 3-8)
Venue: The Green Space.

2:30–3:15 pm **Mr. Rogers Story Time**

Christopher de Vinck talks about his lifelong friendship with Fred Rogers and shares Mr. Rogers-style fun and stories. (For children of all ages.)
Venue: The Green Space.

2:30–3:30 pm

Writing Poetry with Emily Dickinson and Edna St. Vincent Millay

Krystyna Poray Goddu

introduces these two poets and their work, comparing and contrasting their lives and writing styles, then leads participants in writing exercises based on some of their poems. Young poets will learn some new approaches to composing poetry; newcomers to the genre will discover the fun and pleasure of creating their own verses. (Best suited for ages 10-14 but all ages welcome.)

Venue: The Storyroom.

3:30–4:15 pm

The Lore of Ramridge

Montclair High School Senior **Karuna Savoie's** first novel is a suspenseful action-packed thriller about a curious boy who defies his parents, and ends up the hero of a spooky adventure in a corn maze. Find out more about the story and Karuna's experience writing and publishing her first book. For all budding writers aged 10 and up.

Venue: The Green Space.

4:00–5:00 pm **George O'Connor's Olympians**

We are excited to welcome author and illustrator **George O'Connor** to the festival for an event focused on his popular

comic series, which retells classic myths in a perfect fusion of super-hero aesthetics and ancient Greek mythology. These are action-packed, fast-paced, high-drama adventures, with monsters, romance, and not a few huge explosions. (Age 9-14)
Venue: Montclair Public Library YA Room.



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—maximum 3 children per registration.
- **If you register but cannot attend, please cancel so others can participate.**
- Workshops will start promptly and latecomers will not be admitted.
- Walk-ins will be permitted only if there is space.
- Children aged 9 and under require an adult caregiver to be present
- Children aged 10 and above may be dropped off for the 3:00pm workshop.

Venue: Geyer Studio

11:00 am –12:00 pm

Perfect with Max Amato

What is perfect for you? For a finicky eraser, “perfect” is making sure the book pages stay stark white. For a fun-loving pencil, “perfect” is making a squiggly mess. By doing what they each do best, can this imperfect pair become perfect pals? With each turn of the page comes a new mistake... and a new opportunity to turn it into something wondrous. In this drawing workshop, **Max Amato** shows young artists and readers that “when we embrace imperfection, we embrace the unknown, opening ourselves up to the world.”

Age 3 to 6 with an adult caregiver. Maximum 15 participants.

1:00–2:30 pm

Pop Up Book Making Workshop with Gwen Charles

Inspired by colorful pop-up books, families will be guided by artist **Gwen Charles** to create their own paper pop-up book combining bold

imagery and the written word. Explore various techniques for a cut-paper three-dimensional pop-up, incorporating silhouettes and collage to bring your own creative story to life. Families may also bring photographs to tell a personal story of a shared adventure or fond memory.

Age 7 to 9 with an adult caregiver. Maximum 15 participants.

3:00–4:30 pm

Introduction to Comics and Graphic Novels with Kristen Gudsnuik

When 7th grader Danny needs a new best friend, she draws Madison, the most amazing, perfect, and awesome best friend ever. Graphic novelist **Kristen Gudsnuik**, author of *Making Friends*, uses Danny's story to introduce 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 10 to 13. Maximum 20 participants.

Writing Workshops

Sunday, March 24

Venue for all workshops:
11 Pine St., Montclair.
(Office of Succeed2gether,
Community Service Building
with green awning, NOT
residential building.)

Purchase tickets at
succeed2gether.org/
mif-writing-workshops/

9:00–11:00 am The Writer's Circle: Creating Characters that Live Beyond the Page.

Do your characters talk to you while you're taking a shower? Do they wake you up in the middle of the night with their own ideas and emotions? If you want to create rich, layered characters who walk through your plot in ways even you can't anticipate, this workshop will help you. Take a deep dive into the minds of your characters—existing or new—based on nine criteria that we will help you define.

Taught by **Michelle Cameron**, writer and co-director of The Writers Circle (writerscircleworkshops.com). 1.5 hours/Tickets \$35.

10:00–11:30 am Memoir: Telling Personal Stories Without Being Disowned By Friends and Family.

Memoir and essay writers tell unvarnished personal stories that brush up against the stories of their loved ones. But what happens when your friends and family members don't want to be included? When they remember things differently? Is it possible for you to keep the peace but still tell your truth? In this 1.5-hour workshop, we'll talk about the unreliability of memory, how to research things you



can't quite remember, why it's so fraught to write about loved ones, and how to put the "creative" in "nonfiction" without getting disowned by friends and family.

Taught by writer and editor, **Stephanie Auteri** (www.stephauteri.com). Steph is the author of *A Dirty Word*, a reported memoir about the ways in which our culture has co-opted female sexuality. 1.5 hours/Tickets \$35.

10:00–11:30 am Setting the Scene— Writing Riveting Worlds.

Whether you are plunging into the past, exploring complex contemporary realities, or creating a futuristic, fantastic universe, the rules of your world need to be well-defined. In this 1.5-hour workshop, you'll stroll down the rich avenues of your real or imagined society and create a firm setting for your characters and plot. By considering culture, beliefs, traditions, technology, social structures, and more, you will begin to build an immersive world for your readers.

Taught by **Judith Lindbergh**, founder/director of The Writers Circle (writerscircleworkshops.com) and author of historical novels including *The Thrall's Tale*, about three women surviving in 10th century Greenland. 1.5 hours/Tickets \$35.

10:00 am–1:00 pm The Book Doctors: How To Get Published Successfully...Today!

It is the greatest time in history to be a writer. The barrier to publishing has been torn down and now anyone can get published. But to get published successfully is a whole other matter. **David Henry Sterry & Arielle Eckstut**, co-founders of the Book Doctors, take you through the entire publishing process. This step-by-step, soups-to-nuts workshop will remove the smoke and mirrors from the murky world of publishing and give writers a compass and map to a successfully published book. Topics covered include:

- Choosing the right idea
- Crafting an attention-getting pitch
- Finding the right agent/publisher
- Self-publishing effectively without getting ripped off
- Finding your audience and building a following through social media

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

11:30 am–1:00 pm Writing a YA novel: How to Write for Teenagers in an Age of Activism and Explicitness.

We will examine such questions as: Does writing for teenagers mean avoiding expressing strong views? As adults struggle to establish objectivity as a value can an author be both impassioned and fair? Now that the most explicit material is readily available what should or should not be in a YA book? What is the balance of reaching teenagers and not falling afoul of adult

gatekeepers who control school and library budgets? Issues of authenticity and sensitivity are roiling all of publishing, who should write what? As teenagers themselves are becoming politically active, what kind of writing can match their intensities and give them new insights? What makes a book YA anyway?

Taught by **Marc Aronson**



(author of over 20 books including *Trapped*, about the rescue of trapped

miners in Chile in 2010) and **Candy J. Cooper** (Pulitzer Prize finalist and winner of the Selden Ring Award for Investigative



Reporting), co-authors of an upcoming YA book about the Flint water crisis.

**1.5 hours/
Tickets \$35.**

**After you sign up, please indicate if you're interested in writing fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, realistic fiction, etc.*

11:30 am–1:00 pm Graphic Novels and Visual Storytelling.



Participants in this workshop will be given an introduction to basic visual storytelling tools and techniques

of sequential story-telling. The session will consist of both discussion and exercise-based activities appropriate for all drawing skills. *For teens and adults.* Taught by **Kevin C. Pyle**, the author/illustrator of numerous graphic novels and Silver

Medal winner from the Society of Illustrators.

1.5 hours/Tickets \$40.

1:00–2.30 pm Revising Your Work to Get it Published.

For all writers, revision, self-editing, and rewriting are essential to develop highly polished work. Real revision is about the true definition of the word: to re-see. And it's hard work! Come explore techniques that make the process more palatable and maybe even fun. Learn how sharp revision and self-editing can elevate writing, improve and deepen stories, and enhance writing craft. Discover how to look at your own work, see it anew, and use what you find to produce a much-improved next version.

Taught by **Lisa Romeo**, author of *Starting with Goodbye: A Daughter's Memoir of Love after Loss*. Lisa teaches with Bay Path University's MFA program and formerly taught with Rutgers and Montclair State Universities.

1.5 hours/Tickets \$35.

1:00–2.30 pm Getting the Last Laugh: Comedy in Fiction.

What do comic techniques have to do with producing a good narrative? Everything from the old one-two-three to economy, precision, and proper timing! What do David Foster Wallace and Dave Barry have in common? How does noticing what's out of place heighten the focus? In this craft talk, participants will learn about a variety of skills borrowed from comedy routines to produce stories that readers will remember long after they've finished the last page.

Taught by **David Galf**, creative writing program director at Montclair State University, who has published humor in places ranging from

the old British *Punch* and *The Village Voice* to *McSweeney's* and *The Satirist*.

1.5 hours/Tickets \$35.

1:00–2.30 pm Getting the Word Out: Marketing & Publicity in an Ever-Changing Publishing & Media Landscape

You've written your book and maybe even figured out how to get it published. Now what?! Publishing houses are merging, media outlets are closing, and books sections are being eliminated. Every day seems to bring a new seismic shift to the world of social media. So, what's an author to do to ensure their book gets the attention it deserves? What's the best use of an author's time, energy, and budget? How do authors juggle the demands of writing while also building a platform and mercifully flogging their books? What expectations are reasonable and what's even possible out there in today's ever-changing publishing and media landscape?

Presented by a team of seasoned PR & marketing professionals, this panel will present practical tips for surviving and thriving in this ever-changing world, whether you're an aspiring or debut writer or a seasoned publishing veteran.



Taught by **Meghan Walker** and **Gretchen Koss**, partners

in Tandem Literary, a full-service publicity & marketing firm that caters exclusively to authors and publishers. Koss and Walker have worked with such bestselling authors as Suze Orman, Nathaniel Philbrick, Dorothea Benton Frank and Mary Kay Andrews.

1.5 hours/Tickets \$35.

Author Biographies



Christine Adams has just completed a collection of poems entitled *Setting the Table in the Age of Reason*, and is currently in the research phase of a piece of creative non-fiction, highlighting the restoration of a beloved 18th-century cottage. She also writes for the local press and not-for-profits on a freelance basis, and is a certified grant writer. Chris studied English and Creative Writing at Gettysburg College. The mother of three children, she is the former Legal Recruitment Manager of the New York office of Cravath Swaine and Moore, and lived in Paris, France from 2002–2006, where she studied the French language and ate a lot of cheese.



Arvin Ahmadi is the author of *Down and Across* and *Girl Gone Viral*. He grew up outside Washington, DC, graduated from Columbia University, and worked in the tech industry prior to becoming a full-time writer. When he's not reading or writing books, he can be found watching late-night talk show interviews and editing Wikipedia pages. He lives in New York City.



Laurie Lico Albanese is the author of two novels and a memoir: *Stolen Beauty*, *Blue Suburbia*, and *Lynelle by the Sea*, and the co-author of the novel *The Miracles of Prato*. Her books have been translated into Spanish, French, German and Portuguese. Lico Albanese earned her MFA from Stonecoast at the University of Southern Maine, where she will be leading workshops this summer. She's taught creative and formal writing to all ages and has worked in book publishing and journalism. Her travel and general-interest stories have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and elsewhere.



Max Amato studied at the Tyler School of Art and is a designer, art director, and illustrator based in Brooklyn, New York. *Perfect* is his first picture book.



Maria E. Andreu is a writer and speaker whose work has appeared in *Newsweek*, the *Washington Post*, *NJ.com*, and the *Newark Star Ledger*. Her debut Young Adult novel, *The Secret Side of Empty* is a Junior Library Guild Selection, a National Indie Excellence Book Award winner, an International Latino Book Awards Finalist and has been called "captivating" by *School Library Journal*.



Marc Aronson is a passionate advocate for nonfiction as pleasure reading. The first winner of the American Library Association's medal for excellence in youth nonfiction, and the only person to be a winner or finalist for the two ALA nonfiction awards as both an author and an editor, he believes that ideas, stories, biographies, and questions about history, science, and current events can be as compelling for children and teenagers as any fiction. Aronson has a doctorate in American history and teaches in the Master of Information program at the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information. He and his wife live with their two sons in Maplewood, NJ. He is thrilled to be able to launch his new book *Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue* at Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival.



Joanne Childs Ashe is a mother, ex-wife, spoken word artist/poet, author, grandmother, perpetual volunteer, educator and stand-up comic who currently teaches in the Montclair Public Schools and has volunteered for decades as a tutor, mentor and poetry instructor. Childs-Ashe also directed, produced and performed as a member of the steering committee for "The Gathering", a women's writers group, founded by the Oscar winning actress, Olympia Dukakis. As a spoken-word artist, Joanne (also known as, N'Jie) has performed from San Francisco to Senegal, and more locally, in New York City, at the famed Nuyorican Poet's Cafe, The Knitting Factory, The Schomberg Institute, etc.



Steph Auteri is a writer and editor who has written about women's health and sexuality for the *Atlantic*, *VICE*, *Pacific Standard*, the *Washington Post*, *Rewire.News*, and other publications. Her more literary work has appeared in *Narratively*, *The Rumpus*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and elsewhere. Steph is the author of *A Dirty Word* (Cleis Press, October 2018), a reported memoir about the ways in which our culture has co-opted female sexuality. She lives in Verona, NJ with her husband and daughter.



Andrew Bayroff is a seasoned stand-up comic with over 15 years experience as a comic, producer, and author. Performing for nearly six years in Los Angeles, including The Comedy Store, Laugh Factory, and The Ice House, with three years training at The Groundlings, Andrew returned to NYC. Andrew has performed and produced in The Edinburgh Fringe festival for two years, and is the author of *Check, Please!: Comical stories about dating, relationships, and the horrible things we say to each other*. www.CheckPleaseBook.com. You can learn and read more about Andrew at www.andrews-tandingup.com



Artie Bennett is a copy editor by day and a writer by night. He is the proud author of *The Butt Book*, *Poependous!*, *Peter Panda Melts Down!*, and *Belches, Burps, and Farts—Oh My!* He's also written *The Universe's Greatest Dinosaur Jokes and Pre-Hysterical Puns* and *The Universe's Greatest School Jokes and Rip-Roaring Riddles* (May 2019). Another hilarious, educational picture book, *What's Afoot! Your Complete, Offbeat Guide to Feet*, follows in 2019. He lives deep in the bowels of Brooklyn, New York, where he spends his time shaking his fist at his neighbors. Visit ArtieBennett.com. before someone else does!



Jaime Bedrin teaches in the School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University. She is also an advisor in the student internship program and coordinates the school's weekly colloquium series. She started the local (Essex County) chapter of Moms Demand Action six years ago, immediately following the Sandy Hook School shooting. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and two sons.



Karen Branan is a veteran journalist whose work has appeared in *Life*, the *Guardian*, *Ms.*, *Mother Jones*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *Woman's Day*, *Scholastic Teacher*, *Ladies Home Journal* and the *New York Times*. Her work as a documentary filmmaker and researcher has been broadcast on PBS, CBS, CBC, CNN, and BBC. *The Family Tree* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2016. She currently works with Coming to the Table and local community remembrance projects to investigate, educate about, and memorialize lynchings as well as to create restorative justice projects.



Bestselling author of *Missing Pages*, *Out Of My Life*, **Elijah M. Brown** hails from Newark, NJ. He is a Motivational Speaker, Educator, Actor & Director of manUP The Play, Curator for Planet Hip Hop at NJPAC, 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 will be releasing *Missing Pages*, *Out Of My Life Special Edition 10 Years Later*.



Marina Budhos is an award-winning author who often writes on immigrant themes, including the novels *Watched*, about surveillance of Muslim communities; *Ask Me No Questions*, about an undocumented family, cited by Bustle.com as one of "12 YA Novels That Will Make You See the World Differently," and *Tell Us We're Home*, about immigrant daughters of maids and nannies in a NJ suburb. Her nonfiction includes *Remix: Conversations with Immigrant Teenagers* and *Eyes of the World*, co-authored with Marc Aronson, about Jewish refugees who invented modern photojournalism during the Spanish Civil War. Her next novel, *The Long Ride*, about three mixed race girls during a 1970s integration battle, publishes in September. www.marinabudhos.com



Michelle Cameron's debut novel, *The Fruit of Her Hands: the story of Shira of Ashkenaz* relates the life of her 13th-century ancestor, Rabbi Meir of Rothenberg. *Publisher's Weekly* praised the novel's "powerful immediacy" and *Library Journal* its "rich details." Her full-length novel in verse, *In the Shadow of the Globe*, was named the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's 2003-4 Winter Book Selection. Her forthcoming historical novel, *Beyond the Ghetto Gates*, will be published by SheWrites Press in Spring 2020. She joined The Writers Circle in 2011 and is now a co-director, teaching children, teens, and aspiring novelists. Learn more at <https://michelle-cameron.com>.



Corinne Caputo is a comedian, writer, and actor. Her first book, a self-help parody titled *How To Succeed: A Writer's Guide To Fame and Fortune* was published in March of 2017 by Chronicle Books to rave reviews (from her mother, other people have described it as "a filler for my Amazon order"). She currently hosts a monthly live game show called *Astronaut Training* where real scientists and real comedians compete for a spot to go to Mars. Corinne has also written scripted content for outlets like MTV and Refinery29.



Multi-disciplinary artist **Gwen Charles'** installations merge elements of reality and magical realism with digital video and photography capturing the body moving through space and handcrafted wearable objects and textiles. Her works have been exhibited in galleries and festivals nationally and internationally, and she has participated in artist residencies in the U.S., Mexico, India, and Slovenia. As a resourceful community educator working with ages from preschool to senior citizens, she is deeply committed to providing inventive hands-on experiences to stimulate the creative growth of her students. Gwen's studio is located on the historic Church Street in Montclair Center in Montclair, New Jersey.



Mexican American writer, filmmaker and Texas native, **e.E. Charlton-Trujillo** is the Stonewall Award-Winning and Lambda Literary Finalist of *Fat Angie* and other books for teens and children. Kirkus Reviews has celebrated her as a "force of nature" for her activism with youth as seen in the documentary *At-Risk Summer*, a film that chronicles her unorthodox book tour across America to empower youth on the fringe via writing and discussion. She is the co-founder of the non-profit, Never Counted Out, which empowers youth via access to books and artist mentorship. Her highly anticipated novel, *Fat Angie: Rebel Girl Revolution*, is newly published in March 2019.



Eva Chen, the author of *Juno Valentine and the Magical Shoes* and *A Is for Awesome*, is a first-generation Chinese-American who grew up in New York City. She blames her deviation from pre-med at Johns Hopkins University on a love of fashion and beauty instilled in her by her mother. Previously the editor in chief of *Lucky*, Eva has also written for *ELLE*, *Vogue*, *Teen Vogue*, *Vogue China*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. She is currently the head of fashion partnerships at Instagram, where she is guilty of the occasional duck-face selfie. Eva lives in New York City with her husband and two children.



Abbey Clements was a second grade teacher at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, Connecticut, for 11 years. She and her students survived the shooting on December 14, 2012, which took the lives of 20 first graders and six educators. Since the shooting, Abbey has been a gun violence prevention activist and volunteer leader with Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety in America. She is now teaching fourth grade at another Newtown elementary school.



Brian Clements is co-editor of *Bullets into Bells: Poets & Citizens Respond to Gun Violence* and author or editor of over a dozen other collections of poetry. He is Professor of Writing, Linguistics, and Creative Process at Western Connecticut State University and lives in Newtown, CT with his wife, Abbey, a teacher and survivor of the Sandy Hook School shooting.



Jen Conley's short stories have been published in *Beat to a Pulp*, *Thuglit*, and many others. Her short story collection, *Cannibals: Stories from the Edge of the Pine Barrens*, was nominated for an Anthony Award in 2017. Her latest, *Seven Ways To Get Rid Of Harry*, a YA novel about a 13-year-old boy who comes up with seven ways to get rid of his mom's cruel boyfriend, will be out this June from Down and Out Books. She lives in Brick, New Jersey.



Alicia Cook is an established essayist and poet, aspiring songwriter, and award-winning advocate for families affected by drug addiction. She has been featured in and has contributed to popular media outlets including the *HuffPost*, *Thrive*, *USA Today*, the *NY Post*, CNN, the *Asbury Park Press*, *Teen Vogue*, *Bustle*, *American Songwriter Magazine*, the *LA Times*, and on PBS. Her best-selling book of poetry, *Stuff I've Been Feeling Lately*, was a finalist in the 2016 Goodreads Choice Awards. Her second poetry collection, *I Hope My Voice Doesn't Skip*, was released by Andrews McMeel Publishing in June of 2018. She lives in Newark, NJ and works at Bloomfield College.



Candy J. Cooper is a Pulitzer Prize finalist and winner of the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting. She has been a staff writer for four newspapers, and her work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New York Times*, the *Columbia Journalism Review* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, among others. She is currently at work, with Marc Aronson, on a young adult book about the Flint water crisis. She is on leave as the Director of Education for Succeed2gether.



Selena Coppock is a stand-up comedian, book author, and storyteller based in NYC. She is the creator of popular *New York Times* Wedding section parody Twitter and Instagram account, @NYTVows. She recently released her debut standup album, *Seen Better Days* (Little Lamb Recordings), which premiered at #1 on the iTunes comedy chart and spent many days there. She was a guest star in the Amazon sitcom *Red Oaks* and recently launched a podcast about candles called *Two Wick Minimum*. In May 2013, she published her debut book, *The New Rules for Blondes* (It Books/HarperCollins), a collection of hilarious, personal essays celebrating and subverting the blonde stereotype.



Claudia Cortese is a poet, essayist, and fiction writer and the author of the following books: *Wasp Queen* (Black Lawrence Press, 2017), winner of the Devil's Kitchen Award in Emerging Poetry from Southern Illinois University; *Blood Medals* (Thrush Press, 2015); and *The Red Essay and Other Histories* (Horse Less Press, 2015). She has published work in *Black Warrior Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Gulf Coast*, *Kenyon Review*, and *The Offing*, among others. Cortese writes book reviews for *Muzzle Magazine* and is an associate editor at *Tupelo Quarterly*. Cortese grew up in Ohio and lives in New Jersey where she teaches at Montclair State University. claudia-cortese.com



Tressie McMillan Cottom is an assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her work has been featured by the *Washington Post*, NPR's *Fresh Air*, *The Daily Show*, the *New York Times*, *Slate*, and *The Atlantic*, among others. She is the author of *Thick: And Other Essays* and *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy* (The New Press) and lives in Richmond, Virginia.



Born in postwar Germany into a family of Russian refugees, **Marina Antropow Cramer** has been a waitress, fabric store manager, traveling saleswoman, telephone fundraiser, used book dealer, business owner, and bookseller. She holds a BA in English from Upsala College. Her work has appeared in *Blackbird*, *Istanbul Literary Review*, and *Wilderness House Literary Review*. She owned and operated The Cup and Chaucer Bookstore in Montclair, NJ, for 16 years, then worked for Watchung Booksellers for the next 12. She left bookselling in 2014 to focus on writing full-time, and now lives in New York's Hudson Valley. *Roads* is her first novel.



Kathy Curto teaches at The Writing Institute/Sarah Lawrence College and Montclair State University. She is the author of *Not for Nothing-Glimpses into a Jersey Girlhood*, published by Bordighera Press. Kathy contributed to the collection *Listen to Your Mother: What She Said Then, What We're Saying Now*, and to the *New York Times*, *Barrelhouse*, *La Voce di New York*, *VIA-Voices in Italian Americana*, *Ovunque Siamo*, and many other publications. She serves on the faculty of the Joe Papaleo Writers' Workshop in Cetara, Italy and lives in the Hudson Valley with her husband and their four children.



Larry Dark is the director of The Story Prize, an annual book award for short story collections established in 2004. Before that, he served as series editor of the annual *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards* volumes for six years. He has published four other anthologies, including *The Literary Ghost* and *Literary Outtakes*. He lives in Montclair, New Jersey, with his wife, author Alice Elliott Dark.



Alice Elliott Dark is the author of three books of fiction, *Think of England*, *In the Gloaming*, and *Naked to the Waist*. She teaches in the MFA program at Rutgers University-Newark.



Deborah Davis is the author of 10 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 memoir *My Love Story*, which she wrote with music legend Tina Turner.



Fiona Davis is the nationally bestselling author of *The Masterpiece*, *The Address*, and *The Dollhouse*. She began her career in New York City as an actress, working on Broadway, off-Broadway, and in regional theater. After getting a master's degree at Columbia Journalism School, she fell in love with writing, leaping from editor to freelance journalist before finally settling down as an author of historical fiction. Fiona is a graduate of the College of William & Mary and is based in New York City. For more info, visit www.fionadavis.net.



A graduate of Columbia University with a doctorate in education, **Christopher de Vinck**, a 40-year veteran of high school teaching and administration, is best known as an essayist. John Updike called his essays "excellent and often moving." Peggy Noonan wrote that "Chris de Vinck's real subject is magic. Such magic is there for all to see, but I don't know of another writer who sees it so wholly, with such consistency, and respect, and sweetness." And Madeleine L'Engle wrote "I have read his essays with great pleasure. De Vinck's point of view about life and love and children and teachers is important for the whole world at this time in history."



Sergio De La Pava is the author of three novels: *A Naked Singularity*, *Personae*, and *Lost Empress*. He is also Legal Director at New York County Defender Services in Manhattan where he represents indigent people accused of crimes and advocates for large-scale criminal justice reform.



David Ebershoff's novels include *The Danish Girl*, which was adapted into an Oscar-winning film starring Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander, and the #1 bestseller *The 19th Wife*, which was adapted into a television movie that has aired around the world. His books have been translated into more than 25 languages to critical acclaim. A former Vice President and Executive Editor at Random House, he's edited more than twenty *New York Times* bestsellers, three Pulitzer Prize winners, a winner of the National Book Award, and an Oprah Book Club selection. He lives in New York City.



Glory Edim is the founder of Well-Read Black Girl, a Brooklyn-based book club and online community that celebrates the uniqueness of Black literature and sisterhood. In fall 2017, she organized the first-ever Well-Read Black Girl Literary Festival. She has worked as a creative strategist for over 10 years at startups and cultural institutions, including Kickstarter, The Webby Awards and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She received the 2017 Innovator's Award from the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes for her work as a literary advocate. Her first anthology collection, *Well-Read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves*, is an inspiring collection of essays which highlight the importance of recognizing ourselves in literature. She serves on the board of New York City's Housing Works Bookstore and lives in Brooklyn, New York.



Larry Engelstein is the Executive Vice-President of Local 32BJ, Service Employees International Union, a 170,000 member Local Union representing janitors, apartment house workers, security officers, airport workers, food service workers and other property service workers in 11 states along the east coast. Prior to joining Local 32BJ in 1999, he was an Associate General Counsel of the SEIU, and the AFL-CIO, represented local unions, and workers in New England, and Illinois, and worked as a community organizer in Chicago.



Pamela Erens is the author of the novels *The Virgins*, *The Understory*, and, most recently, *Eleven Hours*, which was named a Best Book of the Year by NPR, *The New Yorker*, *Kirkus*, and *Literary Hub*. She has been a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for First Fiction, the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing, and the John Gardner Fiction Book Award. Erens's essays and criticism have appeared in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Slate*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Los Angeles Review of Books*. *Reader's Digest* named her one of "23 Contemporary Writers You Should Have Read by Now."



Arielle Ekstut 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.



Nathan Englander is the author of the story collections *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, an international best seller, and *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*, and the novels *The Ministry of Special Cases* and *Dinner at the Center of the Earth*. He was a Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2013. He is Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University and lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife and daughter. His latest novel, *kaddish.com*, is newly published in March 2019.



Sara Farizan is an Iranian American writer and ardent basketball fan who was born in and lives near Boston. The award-winning author of *If You Could Be Mine* and *Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel*, she has an MFA from Lesley University and a BA in film and media studies from American University. *Here to Stay* is her third novel.



Dionne Ford is co-editor of the anthology *Slavery's Descendants: Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation* (Rutgers University, May 2019) and author of the memoir *Finding Josephine*, forthcoming from Putnam. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, *LitHub*, *More*, *Rumpus* and *Ebony* among other publications and won awards from the National Association of Black Journalists and the Newswomen's Club of New York. A 2018 recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Creative Writing, she lives in New Jersey with her family.



Award-winning author and journalist **Gayle Forman** has written several bestselling novels for adults and young adults, including the *Just One Series*, *I Was Here*, *Leave Me*, *I Have Lost My Way* and the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *If I Stay*, which has been translated into more than 40 languages and was adapted into a major motion picture.



A retired senior writer at the *New York Times*, **Margalit Fox** is considered one of the foremost explanatory writers and literary stylists in American journalism. As a long-time member of the newspaper's celebrated Obituary News Department, she has written the front-page public sendoffs of some of the leading cultural figures of our age. (*Conan Doyle for the Defense* is in many ways a fond belated obituary—for the long-overlooked Oscar Slater, an immigrant Everyman treated inexcusably by history.) Fox's previous book, *The Riddle of the Labyrinth*, won the William Saroyan Prize for International Writing. She lives in Manhattan with her husband, the writer and critic George Robinson.



Nebula Award winner **Esther Friesner** is the author of over 40 novels and more than 200 short stories. Educated at Vassar College and Yale University, where she received a Ph.D. in Spanish, she is also a poet, a playwright, and the editor of 11 anthologies. Although her career began with science fiction/fantasy/horror, she truly enjoys where it has taken her, namely to writing the popular Princesses of Myth series of Young Adult novels from Random House. She never met a cat that she didn't like.



David Galef has published over a dozen books in two dozen directions. A humor columnist for *Inside Higher Ed*, with a readership of over a quarter million, he's also written humor for places ranging from the old British *Punch* and *The Village Voice* to *McSweeney's Internet Tendency* and *The Satirist*. His day job is professor of English and director of the creative writing program at Montclair State University.



Krystyna Poray Goddu is author of the middle-grade biographies *Becoming Emily: The Life of Emily Dickinson* and *A Girl Called Vincent: The Life of Poet Edna St. Vincent Millay*, winner of the SCBWI 2017 Golden Kite Honor Book for Nonfiction. She has also written a picture-book about Alicia Markova, *An Unlikely Ballerina*, and a collective biography, *Dollmakers and Their Stories: Women Who Changed the World of Play*, and is co-author, with Krystyna Mihulka, of *Kryisia—A Polish Girl's Stolen Childhood During World War II: A Memoir*. She loves visiting schools and talking about the subjects of her books.



Ann Goldstein is a former editor at the *New Yorker*. She has translated works by, among others, Primo Levi, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Elena Ferrante, Italo Calvino, and Alessandro Baricco, and is the editor of *The Complete Works of Primo Levi* in English. She has been the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship and awards from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.



Gretchen Gomez is a Puerto Rican poet from The Bronx. When home you will find her watching crime shows, cuddling with her dog, or writing—trying to make sense of things. Gretchen is a full-time lover of words. She is also the author of *love, and you and welcome to ghost town*.



Lisa Gornick is the author of *Louisa Meets Bear*, *Tinderbox*, *A Private Sorcery*, and *The Peacock Feast*. Her stories and essays have appeared widely, including in the *New York Times*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Real Simple*, *Salon*, *Slate*, and *The Sun*. She holds a BA from Princeton and a PhD in clinical psychology from Yale, and is on the faculty of the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. A long-time *New Yorker*, she lives in Manhattan with her family.



Sam Graham-Felsen is the author of the novel *Green*, which received the American Library Association's Alex Award, was a *New York Times* Editor's Pick, and was one of the *New Yorker's* "Books We Loved in 2018." His nonfiction has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Washington Post*, the *Nation*, and elsewhere. He was the chief blogger on Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.



Daniel Greenberg is a principal at Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency, where he has worked for the last 25 years. He represents many *New York Times* bestselling authors.



Kristen Gudsnuk is the creator of the graphic novel *Making Friends* and the comic series *Henchgirl*, and the illustrator of the book series VIP by Jen Calonita. In her spare time she performs with the band Sally. Kristen learned everything she knows about art and life from Sailor Moon, X-Men, and Animorphs. She lives in New York City with her supportive dog and loyal boyfriend.



Garth Risk Hallberg's first novel, *City on Fire*, was a *New York Times* and international bestseller, has been translated into 17 languages, 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*. He is also the author of a novella, *A Field Guide to the North American Family*. His short stories have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Glimmer Train*, and *Best New American Voices 2008*, and he has written critical essays for the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Guardian*, *The Millions*, and *Slate*.



Tracy Higgins is a law professor at Fordham Law School where she teaches US constitutional law and international human rights. She is also the founder of the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice, which seeks to promote respect for international human rights at home and abroad through training, advocacy, and legal scholarship. She has conducted research on international human rights compliance in the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia, with a particular focus on issues of gender equality and traditional legal systems.



Cheryl Willis Hudson is an author, editor and cofounder of Just Us Books, Inc., an independent publishing company that focuses on black interest books for young people. Cheryl has authored more than two dozen books for young children including *Bright Eyes*, *Brown Skin* (with Bernette G. Ford) *AFRO-BETS ABC Book*, *Good Morning, Baby*, *From Where I Stand in the City*, *Hands Can*, and *My Friend Maya Loves to Dance*. Cheryl has served as diversity consultant and frequently speaks to writers, illustrators, editors, teachers, and librarians about African American and multicultural publishing. She is an active member of the Children's Committee of PEN America.



Curtis Hudson is a musician/songwriter/producer who has been playing and composing music since the age of 12. He began his musical career playing in church and for gospel and R&B groups in Louisiana. As a member of the group "Pure Energy", Curtis composed and produced most of the group's music. Curtis co-wrote the classic hit song "Holiday" by Madonna, the hit song "Body Work" for the hit movie *Breakin* and the mega-hit "Lose Control" by Missy Elliot. Curtis is also the father of the multi-platinum producer Eric Hudson, who produced music for Whitney Houston, Kanye West, and others.



Wade Hudson is an author and publisher and president and CEO of Just Us Books, Inc., an independent publisher of books for children and young adults. Among his 30 published books for children and young adults are *Book of Black Heroes from A to Z*, *Jamal's Busy Day*, and *Pass It On: African American Poetry for Children*. His latest book is *We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices*, an anthology co-edited with his wife and published by Crown Books for Young Readers. Wade has received numerous awards and has been inducted into the International Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent. His website is wadehudson-authorpublisher.com



Jazmine Hughes is a story editor for the *New York Times Magazine*. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, *New York Magazine* and the *New Republic*, among others. She was named to *Forbes Magazine's* 30 under 30 in 2017.



Anthony Kapfer is an NYC comedian, musician, filmmaker, cartoonist, author, narcissist, and native of planet Earth. Anthony Kapfer is the star of the film *Mute Date*, which was released on Amazon Prime in January 2019. He has also been seen on *The Comedy Show Show*, on NBC's *Seeso*. He is in the film *Better Off Single*, on Netflix. Anthony has also appeared on the FOX comedy TV show, *Laughs*. His comedy has been featured on Sirius XM Radio. He's appeared multiple times on *Naked News* in Canada. Anthony's comedy can also be seen on Comedy Time TV on HULLU, as well as the first episode of the PopcornFlix original series "*Live at New York Comedy Club*." Anthony Kapfer's first book, entitled *Book: The Book*, is out now. It's available on AnthonyKapfer.com, as well as Amazon.com.



John Keene's recent books include the story collection *Counternarratives* (New Directions, 2015), and several books of poetry. He also has translated the Brazilian author Hilda Hilst's novel *Letters from a Seducer* (Nightboat Books, 2014). His recent honors include an American Book Award, a Windham-Campbell Prize for Fiction, as well as a 2018 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. He chairs the department of African American and African Studies, and teaches English and creative writing at Rutgers University-Newark.



Jack Kelly is a journalist, novelist, and historian, whose books include *Band of Giants*, which received the DAR's History Award Medal and *Heaven's Ditch*. He has contributed to national periodicals including the *Wall Street Journal* and is a New York Foundation for the Arts fellow. He has appeared on The History Channel and interviewed on National Public Radio. He grew up in a town in the canal corridor adjacent to Palmyra, Joseph Smith's home. He currently lives in New York's Hudson Valley.



Richard Klin's novel, *Petroleum Transfer Engineer* (Underground Voices), is set at the Jersey shore, circa 1983. The author of two nonfiction books, his work has been featured on Public Radio International's *Studio 360* and has appeared in the *Atlantic*, the *Brooklyn Rail*, the *Forward*, Akashic Books' "Thursdaze" series, *Flyover Country Review*, and many others. www.richardklin.com



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 New York City and on the coast of Maine.



Gretchen Koss started her publishing career in 1990 in the publicity department of Bantam Books where she spent a lot of time opening mail submissions for the *Guinness Book of World Records* and trying to figure out her word processor. After this stunning debut she would go on to work in the publicity departments at Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Alfred A. Knopf, Delacorte, Viking, Penguin and Spiegel & Grau before starting Tandem Literary with Meg Walker in May, 2009. Some of the best-selling authors she's worked with over the past 29 years include: Robert Pirsig, Elmore Leonard, Dr. Andrew Weil, Carl Hiaasen, Nathaniel Philbrick, Terry McMillan, Mary Karr, Peggy Noonan, Jane Green, Matt Taibbi, Sharon Olds, A.M Homes, Suze Orman, Megan Abbott, Dottie Frank and Adriana Trigiani. She lives in Glen Ridge, NJ and has a teen, a tween, a Shetland Sheepdog and a hilarious cat named Ferris Mueller.



Nina Krushcheva is the author of *Imagining Nabokov* and *The Lost Khrushchev*, and a Professor of International Affairs at New School University, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Her work has appeared in *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times* among others.



Judith Lindbergh's debut novel, *The Thrall's Tale*, about women in Viking Age Greenland, was a Booksense (IndieBound) Pick, a Borders Original Voices Selection and praised by Pulitzer Prize winners Geraldine Brooks and Robert Olen Butler. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including *Archaeology Magazine*, *Scandinavian Review*, *The World & I*, the literary journal *Other Voices*, and most recently in *UP HERE: The North at the Center of the World* published by University of Washington Press. In January 2010, Judith founded The Writers Circle, offering creative writing workshops for children and adults. Learn more at www.judithlindbergh.com



Sam Lipsyte was born in 1968. He is the author of the story collections *Venus Drive* (named one of the top 25 books of its year by the Voice Literary Supplement) and *The Fun Parts* and four novels: *The Ask*, *The Subject Steve*, *Hark*, and *Home Land*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book and received the first annual Believer Book Award. He is also the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship. He lives in New York City and teaches at Columbia University.



Benilde Little is the bestselling author of the novels *Good Hair*, *The Itch*, *Acting Out*, *Who Does She Think She Is?* and a memoir *Welcome to My Breakdown*. A former reporter for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the *Star-Ledger* and *People* magazine and a senior editor at *Essence*, she has written for the *New York Times*, and been featured there and also in the *Washington Post*, *Essence*, *Jet*, and *People Magazine* among others. She has been a creative writing professor at Ramapo College, The City College of New York and currently teaches writing at The Writers Circle.



Johnny Lorenz is the son of Brazilian immigrants to the US, and he received his doctorate in English from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000. He is an associate professor at Montclair State University. His poems have appeared in the *Massachusetts Review*, *Quiddity*, *Rattapallax*, and the anthology *Luso-American Literature*. In 2013, he was a finalist for Best Translated Book for his translation of *A Breath of Life* by Clarice Lispector (New Directions), and his translation of Lispector's *The Besieged City* will appear in April 2019. His book of poems, *Education by Windows*, was published by Poets & Traitors Press in the summer of 2018.



Growing up a word-devourer & avid fairytale lover, it was only natural that **Amanda Lovelace** began writing books of her own. When she isn't reading or writing, she can be found waiting for pumpkin spice coffee to come back into season and binge-watching *Gilmore Girls* (before you ask: Team Jess all the way). The lifelong poetess and storyteller currently lives in New Jersey with her spouse, their bunnycat, and a combined book collection so large it will soon need its own home. She has her B.A. in English literature with a minor in sociology. Winner of two Goodreads choice awards for best poetry and a *USA TODAY* and *Publishers Weekly* bestseller.



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.



Maria McFarland Sánchez-Moreno is an activist, writer, and lawyer. She is the Executive Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, the leading organization in the US fighting to end the war on drugs in the United States and beyond. Previously, Maria held several positions at Human Rights Watch, including as the organization's senior America's researcher, covering Colombia and Peru, and as co-director of its US program. She grew up in Lima, Peru, and now lives in Brooklyn.



Charles McGrath is a writer at large at the *New York Times*, and was formerly editor of the *New York Times Book Review* and deputy editor of the *New Yorker*. He is the coauthor of *The Ultimate Golf Book* and a frequent contributor to *Golf Digest*. McGrath lives in New Jersey.



Sarah McGrath is Vice President and Editor in Chief of Riverhead Books, where she acquires and edits a range of fiction and nonfiction. Among the many critically acclaimed, prize-winning, and *New York Times*-bestselling authors she currently works with are: Brit Bennett, Elizabeth Gilbert, Lauren Groff, Paula Hawkins, Khaled Hosseini, Chang-rae Lee, Maile Meloy, Sigrid Nunez, Helen Oyeyemi, Emma Straub, Gabriel Tallent, and Meg Wolitzer. Ms. McGrath began her career in publishing at Knopf in 1997 and spent seven years as an editor at Scribner, before coming to Riverhead in 2006.



Suketu Mehta is the New York-based author of *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*, which won the Kiriyaama Prize and the Hutch Crossword Award. He has won the Whiting Writers' Award, the O. Henry Prize, and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship for his fiction. Mehta's work has been published in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Granta*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*. Mehta is an Associate Professor of Journalism at New York University. His book about global migration, *This Land is Their Land*, will be published by Farrar Straus & Giroux in June 2019.



Chi Adanna Mgbako is clinical professor of law and director of the Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic at Fordham Law School. Chi and her students work on human rights projects focusing primarily on gender justice in many countries, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, and the United States. A graduate of Harvard Law School and Columbia University, she has published widely in academic journals and the popular press, including the *New York Times*, the *Guardian*, *HuffPost*, *Harvard Human Rights Journal*, *Yale Journal of International Affairs*, and *Georgetown Journal of International Law*.



Wayétu Moore is the founder of One Moore Book and is a graduate of Howard University, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California. She teaches at the City University of New York's John Jay College and lives in Brooklyn. www.wayetu.com



Michael Scott Moore is a journalist and a novelist, author of a comic novel about L.A., *Too Much of Nothing*, as well as a travel book about surfing, *Sweetness and Blood*, which was named a best book of 2010 by the *Economist*. He's won Fulbright, Logan, and Pulitzer Center grants for his nonfiction, and a MacDowell Colony fellowship for his fiction. Mr. Moore was kidnapped in early 2012 on a reporting trip to Somalia and held hostage by pirates for 32 months. *The Desert and the Sea*, a memoir about that ordeal, is out now from HarperCollins.



Estep Nagy's debut novel, *We Shall Not All Sleep*, was published worldwide in 2017 by Bloomsbury. It was an ABA Indies Introduce selection and was featured in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, and many other outlets. His plays have been performed on three continents, and he is also the writer and director of *The Broken Giant*, an independent feature film in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He lives in Montclair.



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, PhD, 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*.



Sigrid Nunez has published seven novels, including *A Feather on the Breath of God*, *The Last of Her Kind*, *Salvation City*, and, most recently, *The Friend*. She is also the author of *Sempre Susan: A Memoir of Susan Sontag*. Among the journals to which she has contributed are the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Paris Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *Harper's*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, *the Believer*, and *newyorker.com*. Her work has also appeared in several anthologies, including four Pushcart Prize volumes and four anthologies of Asian American literature.



Joyce Carol Oates is a recipient of the National Medal of Humanities, the National Book Critics Circle Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Book Award, and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction, and has been several times nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. She has written some of the most enduring fiction of our time, including the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvaney*s, *Blonde*, which was nominated for the National Book Award, and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Falls*, which won the 2005 Prix Femina. Her most recent novel is *Hazards of Time Travel*. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978.



George O'Connor's first graphic novel, *Journey Into Mohawk Country*, followed the historical journal of the 17th-century Dutch trader Harmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert. He followed that up with *Ball Peen Hammer*, a dark dystopian view of a society's collapse as intimately viewed by four lost souls. Now he has brought his attention to *Olympians*, an ongoing series retelling the classic Greek myths in comics form. In addition to his graphic novel career, Mr. O'Connor has published several children's picture books, including the *New York Times* best-selling *Kapow*, *Sally and the Something*, and *Uncle Bigfoot*. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.



Irene O'Garden has won or been nominated for prizes in nearly every writing category from stage to e-screen, hardcovers and literary magazines and anthologies. Her critically-acclaimed play *Women On Fire* (Samuel French) played sold-out houses at Off-Broadway's Cherry Lane Theatre and was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award. O'Garden won The Pushcart Prize for her lyric essay "Glad To Be Human," (Untreed Reads.) Her new memoir *Risking the Rapids: How My Wilderness Adventure Healed My Childhood* was just published by Mango (January 2019). Harper published her first memoir, *Fat Girl*, and Nirala published *Fulcrum*, her first poetry collection, in 2017.



Julie Orringer is the author of the novel *The Invisible Bridge* and the award-winning short-story collection *How to Breathe Underwater*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book. She is the winner of the *Paris Review's* Plimpton Prize for Fiction and the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Stanford University, and the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. She lives in Brooklyn.



Mark Oshiro is the Hugo-nominated writer of the online Mark Does Stuff universe (Mark Reads and Mark Watches), where they analyze book and TV series. When not writing/recording reviews or editing, Oshiro engages in social activism online and offline. *Anger is a Gift* is their debut YA novel.



Nell Painter (the painter formerly known as the historian Nell Irvin Painter, Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita, Princeton University, author of *The History of White People* and *Old in Art School: A Memoir of Starting Over*, and holder of an MFA in painting from RISD) lives and works in Newark, New Jersey.



International bestselling author **Brad Parks** is the only writer to have won the Shamus, Nero, and Lefty Awards, three of American crime fiction's most prestigious prizes. His novels have been translated into a dozen languages and have won critical acclaim across the globe, including stars from every major pre-publication review outlet. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Parks is a former journalist with the *Washington Post* and the (Newark, NJ) *Star-Ledger*. He is now a full-time novelist living in Virginia with his wife and two school-aged children. For more, visit www.BradParksBooks.com.



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 freelance 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. Current projects include adult short stories and the upcoming poetry collection, *vindicated*.



Darin Patterson is a stand-up comedian, writer, and proud Queens, New York native. He's performed in various comedy festivals including the Boston Comedy Arts Festival in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the Park Slope Comedy Festival. He's also the co-host of the Saturday Night Live-themed podcast "SNL Nerds" and the "Virgin Chronicles," podcast, where comedians and storytellers share their "first time" stories. Darin currently lives in Bloomfield, New Jersey with his lovely wife and he's an all-around swell guy!



David Pepper is serving his second term as the Chair of the Ohio Democratic Party. Born and raised in Cincinnati, David served on Cincinnati City Council from 2001-2005, followed by a term on the Hamilton County Commission from 2006-2010. David earned his B.A. and J.D. from Yale. David is also the author of *The People's House*, a political thriller described by Politico as "the novel that predicted the Russia scandal," and its sequel, *The Wingman*. Between 1993-1996, David worked extensively in St. Petersburg, Russia, primarily with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he engaged directly with numerous Russian leaders, including then Vice Mayor Vladimir Putin.



Ruvanee Pietsz Vilhauer spent her early years in Sri Lanka and lived in India, Thailand, Canada and Australia before settling in the United States. Her short fiction has appeared in many literary journals, including the *Kenyon Review*, the *Massachusetts Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, the *Summerset Review*, *Quiddity*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *American Literary Review*, *Saranac Review*, and the *Examined Life*. She won the Iowa Short Fiction Award in 2018 and the Commonwealth Short Story Competition in 2004. Her novel, *The Mask Collectors*, is forthcoming in June 2019. She is a clinical associate professor of psychology at New York University.



Zara Phillips is a singer/songwriter, author, and actor, who started her career as a backing vocalist for Bob Geldof and various bands in the UK, and went on to write record and tour with her own music. She wrote and performed "I'm Legit" with Run DMC Darryl Macdaniels to bring awareness to open records for adopted people in the USA. Her one woman show, *Beneath My Father's Sky*, directed by Eric Roberts, won Best Direction at the United Solo Festival. She is the author of the memoirs *Mother Me* (2008) and *Somebody's Daughter* (2018).



Thomas Pluck has slung hash, worked on the docks, trained in martial arts in Japan, and even swept the Guggenheim museum (but not as part of a clever heist). He is the author of the Jay Desmarteaux crime thriller *Bad Boy Boogie*, which was nominated for an Anthony award, and its sequel *Riff Raff*, to be released in October 2019 from Down & Out Books. Library Journal has called his stories "stunning", and Joyce Carol Oates calls him "a lovely kitty man." His latest book is the story collection *Life During Wartime*, which includes "Deadbeat," chosen for a Distinguished Mystery Story of 2017 by Louise Penny.



Gae Polisner is the award-winning author of *In Sight of Stars*, *The Memory of Things*, and more. A family law attorney and mediator by trade, but a writer by calling, she lives on Long Island with her husband, two sons, and a suspiciously-fictional-looking small dog she swore she'd never own. She is an avid swimmer, and when she's not writing, she can be found in a pool, or better yet, in the open waters of the Long Island Sound. Her next book, *Jack Kerouac is Dead to Me* releases early 2020 from St. Martin's Press.



Meghan Privitello is the author of *A New Language for Falling out of Love* (YesYes Books, 2015), *Notes on the End of the World*, winner of the Black River Chapbook Competition (Black Lawrence Press, 2016), and *One God at a Time* (forthcoming, YesYes Books, 2019). Poems have appeared in *Guernica*, *Gulf Coast*, *A Public Space*, *Best New Poets*, *Best of the Net*, *Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poets for the Next Generation*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of a New Jersey State Council of the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, and winner of the 2018 NJ Poets Prize.



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 Jeffry 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.



Dawn Raffel's new book is *The Strange Case of Dr. Couney: How a Mysterious European Showman Saved Thousands of American Babies*. It's the true story of the “incubator doctor” of Coney Island and Atlantic City who saved premature infants by placing them in sideshows on the boardwalk. NPR chose it as one of the great reads of 2018, describing it as “a mosaic mystery told in vignettes, cliffhangers, curious asides, and some surreal plot twists as Raffel investigates the secrets of the man who changed infant care in America.” Previous books include an illustrated memoir, *The Secret Life of Objects*, a novel, and two story collections.



Emma Ramadan is a literary translator based in Providence, Rhode Island, where she co-owns Riffraff bookstore and bar. She is the recipient of the 2018 Albertine Prize, a PEN/Heim Translation Fund grant, an NEA Translation Fellowship, and a Fulbright fellowship for her work. Her translations include Marcus Malte's *The Boy*, Brice Matthieussent's *Revenge of the Translator*, Anne Garréta's *Sphinx* and *Not One Day*, Ahmed Bouanani's *The Shutters*, and Virginie Despentes's *Pretty Things*, among others.



Hilary Redmon edits literary non-fiction—memoir, reportage, history, science, philosophy, and biography. She began her career at Viking Penguin where she edited Norman Doidge's *New York Times* bestseller *The Brain that Changes Itself*. At Free Press she brought on NYT bestsellers *Brain on Fire* by Susannah Cahalan and *The Greatest Show on Earth* by Richard Dawkins; At Ecco/HarperCollins, she published NYT bestsellers *Elon Musk* by Ashlee Vance and *I Contain Multitudes* by Ed Yong. In 2015 she joined Random House where she recently published NYT bestsellers *Educated* by Tara Westover and *Everything Happens for a Reason* and *Other Lies I've Loved* by Kate Bowler. Upcoming is *Lost and Found* by Kathryn Schulz and *An Immense World* by Ed Yong.



Michael Reynolds (Editor in chief, Europa Editions) is the recipient of the 2016 Golden Colophon Award for Superlative Achievement & Leadership in Independent Literary Publishing, awarded by the Community of Literary and Magazine Presses, and a 2017 Epiphany Magazine Honoree for Publishing Excellence. He has served on juries for the PEN/Heim Translation Fund, the Gutekunst Prize for Young Translators, and the Strega Prize. He is a member of the Independent Publisher Caucus Steering Committee, and the founder of Bookselling Without Borders. Authors Reynolds has worked with include Alina Bronsky, Amelie Nothomb, Elena Ferrante, Chantal Acevedo, and Domenico Starnone.



Rob Reich is professor of political science and, by courtesy, professor of philosophy and at the Graduate School of Education, at Stanford University. He is the director of the Center for Ethics in Society and co-director of the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society (publisher of the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*), both at Stanford University. Reich is a New Jersey native and attended Pequannock Township High School. More details at his webpage: robreich.stanford.edu.



Irina Reyn is the author of three novels, *What Happened to Anna K.*, *The Imperial Wife*, and the recently released *Mother Country*. She teaches creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh.



Geoff Rodkey is the author of the science fiction comedy *We're Not From Here*; the *Tapper Twins* comedy series; the *Chronicles of Egg* adventure trilogy; and *The Story Pirates Present: Stuck in the Stone Age*, a comic novel bundled with a how-to guide for kids who want to create stories of their own. He's also the Emmy-nominated screenwriter of such films as *Daddy Day Care* and *RV*. @GeoffRodkey geoffrodkey.com



Lisa Romeo is the author of *Starting with Goodbye: A Daughter's Memoir of Love after Loss* (University of Nevada Press, May 2018). Her short work is listed in *Best American Essays* 2018 and BAE 2016, and published in popular and literary venues, including the *New York Times*, *O The Oprah Magazine*, *Longreads*, *Under the Sun*, *Brevity*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *Inside Jersey*, *Hippocampus* and many others. Lisa teaches with Bay Path University's MFA program and formerly taught with Rutgers and Montclair State Universities. Lisa lives in northern New Jersey with her husband and sons.



Dalton Ross joined *Entertainment Weekly* in 1999 as a writer for the Television section. Since then he has steadily moved up the masthead by becoming a Senior Editor, Assistant Managing Editor, Editor at Large and most recently Executive Editor at Large. Ross is also the host of *EW Morning Live*, a daily morning radio show on SiriusXM's Entertainment Weekly Radio. He has served as a TV expert on *CBS This Morning*, NBC's *TODAY*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, *The View*, CNBC, MTV, ESPN, VH1, Bravo, AMC, and cbs.com. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Ross currently resides in New Jersey with his wife and two children.



Mark Rotella is the author of *Amore: The Story of Italian American Song and Stolen Figs and Other Adventures in Calabria* and wrote the introduction to the classic *Christ Stopped at Eboli* by Carlo Levi (all published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux). He is the senior editor at *Publishers Weekly* magazine.



Frank Rubino's poetry has been published in *Vending Machine*, *DMQ Review*, *The Cape Rock*, *Caliban Online*, *Caveat Lector*, *Inscape*, *The Oleander Review*, *The World*, and *Little Light*, among others. His poem, "I'm Alive" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize by Carbon Culture Review. He's performed his poetry since 1982, reading at St. Mark's Poetry Project, The Ear Inn, The Cornelia Street Cafe, and numerous other locations in and around NYC. Like most other poets he knows, Rubino has a job—in a tech startup. He Instagrams as @xmlnovelist and lives in New Jersey.



For over 45 years **Eric Rucker** has been an educator and performer in numerous institutions throughout the US. He is widely known for his work to further the understanding of African American Cultural History throughout the Pan African Diaspora. For the past 20 years he has conducted teacher training, arts workshops and after-school literacy programs in the Metro NJ/NYC area. Mr. Rucker is also widely recognized for his efforts to document and present African and African American Music genres in the Americas. He performs as a storyteller and percussionist. Presently, he is writing two books: an autobiography, and a comprehensive study of cowrie shell divination.



Dale Russakoff spent 28 years as a reporter for the *Washington Post* and is now a freelance writer, focusing on education and immigration. She is the author of *The Prize—Who's in Charge of America's Schools* (Houghton Mifflin, 2015), a *New York Times* bestseller about Mark Zuckerberg's \$100 million gift to the Newark schools. Her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *ProPublica* and elsewhere. Dale and her husband have lived in Montclair for 25 years and have two grown sons who attended Montclair Public Schools.



Jonathan Santlofer is a writer and artist. He has published five novels, including the bestselling *The Death Artist*, and the Nero 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 what it means to be an American, in support of the ACLU. His artwork is in major public and private collections in the US and abroad. He has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards, among them two National Endowment for Arts grants, Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome, and he serves on the board of Yaddo. His bestselling memoir, *The Widower's Notebook*, was published by Penguin Books, and has appeared on numerous "Best Books of 2018" lists. He lives in NYC, where he is at work on a new novel.



After attending the Rhode Island School of Design, **Julia Sarcone-Roach** made her Knopf picture book debut with *The Secret Plan*, and followed it up with the highly praised *Subway Story*. She is also the creator of animated videos, including *Call of the Wild*, which was featured in indie film festivals and won several prizes. Julia lives in Brooklyn, New York. You can find her on the Web at jsarconeroach.com.



Karuna Savoie fostered her love for writing when, receiving a journal from a friend, she drafted enough chapters to create her first novel and shared it with her middle school English teacher. "Her feedback was better than compliments. It wasn't long before writing became a passion of mine.... I had to write," recounts Karuna. *The Lore of Ramridge: Book One of The Lore of Ramridge Series* is Karuna's debut novel. She is currently working on her next novel, *The Innkeeper*, a prequel to *The Lore of Ramridge*. Besides writing, Karuna enjoys baking, skateboarding and indulging in all things chocolate. You can find her on the Web at karunasavoieauthor.com and pressingthefuturenews.com.



Adriana Brad Schanen was born in Romania, raised in Chicago, and now lives in the vibrant town of Montclair, NJ with her husband, two daughters and a shaggy 60-pound lap dog named Oliver. Her debut early middle-grade novel, *Quinny and Hopper*, won the 2016 Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Book Award and has been nominated to several state reading lists. A sequel, *Q&H: Partners in Slime*, followed, and a third title in the series, *Q&H: Smart Cookies*, published summer 2018. Visit her at www.adrianabradshanen.com



Damion Searls is a translator from German, French, Norwegian, and Dutch and the recipient of Guggenheim, Cullman Center, and two NEA fellowships. He has also edited *The Journal of Henry David Thoreau, 1837-1861*, and is the author of *The Inkblots*, a history of the Rorschach test and biography of its creator, which has been translated into nine languages.



Before he was *Rolling Stone's* chief TV critic, Jersey native **Alan Sepinwall** spent 14 years covering television for Tony Soprano's favorite newspaper, the *Star-Ledger*, then worked for digital sites HitFix and Uproxx. He's the author or co-author of *The Sopranos Sessions*, *Breaking Bad 101*, *TV (THE BOOK)* and *The Revolution Was Televised*.



Dani Shapiro is the author of the memoirs *Hourglass*, *Still Writing*, *Devotion*, and *Slow Motion*, and five novels including *Black & White* and *Family History*. Also an essayist and a journalist, Shapiro's short fiction, essays, and journalistic pieces have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *One Story*, *Elle*, *Vogue*, *O The Oprah Magazine*, *The New York Times Book Review*, the op-ed pages of the *New York Times*, and many other publications. She has taught in the writing programs at Columbia, NYU, the New School, and Wesleyan University; she is cofounder of the Sirenland Writers Conference in Positano, Italy. She lives with her family in Litchfield County, Connecticut.



Littlebit Book Club was conceived in 2017 by **Stephanie and Jed Snyder**. Stephanie, a new mom and former reading teacher, began reading books to her newborn daughter, Lucy. Tired of books about animals and objects, Stephanie grew determined to create a book for babies, toddlers, and the parents who read to them, that would capture their day-to-day experiences while teaching language and literacy. Thus, *Strolling! A Lucy Littlebit Book* was drafted. Jed mastered the illustrations. The Snyder family's interests include bargain shopping, fantasy football, and toddler mischief. They live in New Jersey, where they enjoy strolling down the shore.



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 grade 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.



Wallace Stroby is an award-winning journalist, and the author of eight novels, four of which feature professional thief Crissa Stone, whom Kirkus Reviews named "Crime fiction's best bad girl ever." His most recent novel, *Some Die Nameless*, was published by Mulholland Books / Little, Brown & Co. in 2018. A Long Branch native, for 13 years he was an editor at the Newark *Star-Ledger*.



Rachel L. Swarns is a journalist, author and professor, who writes about race and race relations for the *New York Times* and has covered immigration and politics and reported from Russia, Cuba, Guatemala and southern Africa, where she served as Johannesburg bureau chief. She is the author of *American Tapestry: The Story of the Black, White and Multiracial Ancestors of Michelle Obama* and a co-author of *Unseen: Unpublished Black History from The New York Times Photo Archives*. She is an associate professor of journalism at New York University and her forthcoming book about Georgetown's roots in slavery will be published by Random House.



Stephan Talty is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 10 acclaimed nonfiction books, including *Empire of Blue Water* and *The Black Hand*. He's also written two detective novels, *Black Irish* and *Hangman*, set in his hometown of Buffalo. Two of his works have been made into films, the Oscar-winning *Captain Phillips* and *Only the Brave*. His next book, an untold story of the Holocaust and the Mossad, will be published in 2020. Talty lives outside New York City with his wife and two children.



Matthew Thomas's *New York Times* bestselling novel, *We Are Not Ourselves*, was shortlisted for the James Tait Black Prize, the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, and the John Gardener Fiction Book Award; long listed 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 as 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 10 favorite books of the year in the *New York Times*. *We Are Not Ourselves* is being translated into 18 languages.



Richard Thompson OBE is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist. He made his debut as a recording artist as a member of Fairport Convention in September 1967. He continues to write and record new material and frequently performs live at venues throughout the world. His new album, *13 Rivers*, made many record of the year lists for 2018. Thompson was awarded the Orville H. Gibson Award for best acoustic guitar player in 1997; his songwriting earned him a lifetime achievement award from BBC Radio in 2006; and in 2011 he was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to music. His book *Beeswing*, a memoir of the years 1967 to 1974, will be published by Algonquin Books in spring 2020.



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 a 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. He 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?, Picture This: For Your Eyes and Ears, Exercises in High Treason, Eye Candy for Andy, Inside Out, Upside Down, and Round and Round, Seriously Serial, and Latter-Day Litany*, the latter staged Off Broadway. His translations, poetry, and visual work appear internationally in many journals and anthologies, including *Rabbit Ears: TV Poems*. 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.



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.



Craig Unger is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling books *House of Trump, House of Putin* and *House of Bush, House of Saud*. He frequently appears as an analyst on CNN, MSNBC, the ABC Radio Network, and other broadcast outlets. The former deputy editor of the *New York Observer* and editor-in-chief of *Boston Magazine*, he has written for *Vanity Fair* and the *New Yorker*. He lives in New York City.



Prior to opening Tandem Literary in 2009, **Meghan Walker** spent 17 years in book publishing, all in marketing roles at major New York houses. From 2005-2008 she was Director of Marketing at Spiegel & Grau, a division of Random House, where she crafted national campaigns for bestselling authors like Suze Orman, Artie Lange, and Matt Taibbi. Meg spent the previous nine years at Penguin working on the Putnam, Riverhead, Tarcher, and Avery imprints including books by authors Patricia Cornwell, Tom Clancy, and Nora Roberts. She got her start at Prentice Hall in 1992 in college textbook publishing. Born, raised, and again residing at the Jersey Shore, Meg is the mother of two teenagers and two unruly hounds, and serves on the Board of Education.



Sarah Weinman is the author of *The Real Lolita: The Kidnapping of Sally Horner* and the *Novel That Scandalized the World*, named a notable book of 2018 by the *Washington Post, BuzzFeed, Vulture, NPR*, and more. She also edited the anthologies *Women Crime Writers: Eight Suspense Novels of the 1940s & 50s* (Library of America) and *Troubled Daughters, Twisted Wives: Stories From the Trailblazers of Domestic Suspense* (Penguin), and her work has most recently appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post, Vanity Fair*, and *New York Magazine*. She is at work on a new book, forthcoming from Ecco/HarperCollins and Knopf Canada.



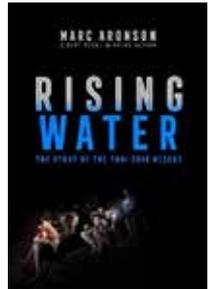
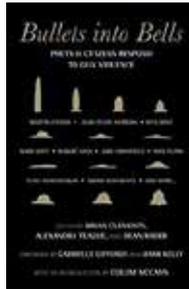
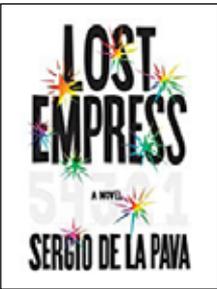
Dave White is the Shamus Award Nominated author of the Jackson Donne series and thriller *Witness to Death* available from Polis Books. He has been nominated for multiple awards for both his novels and short stories. In his spare time, he's an educator.



Dan Yaccarino is an acclaimed author and illustrator of many children's books including *I Am a Story*, *Doug Unplugged*, *Unlovable*, and *The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau*; the creator and producer of the animated series the Parents Choice Award-winning *Oswald* and the Emmy-winning *Willa's Wild Life*, as well as the character designer behind the Emmy-winning *The Backyardigans*. His books have won a host of prestigious awards including the *New York Times* Best Illustrated award, an ALA Notable designation, a Parents Choice Award, and the Bologna Ragazzi. Dan lives in New York City. You can visit him online at www.yaccarinostudio.com.



Dr. Warren Zanes is a *New York Times* bestselling author and Grammy-nominated producer whose writings have 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 10 music books of 2015. He currently teaches at NYU and is at work on a series of books with Garth Brooks. A former member of The Del Fuegos, Zanes's solo recordings include *Memory Girls*, *People That I'm Wrong For*, *I Want To Move Out in the Daylight!* and *The Biggest Bankrupt City in the World*.



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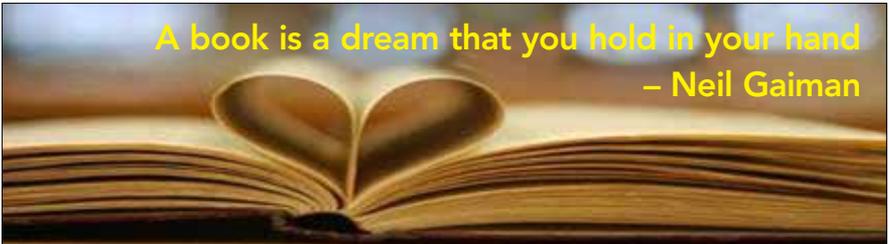
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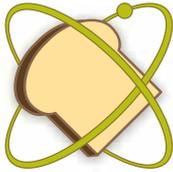
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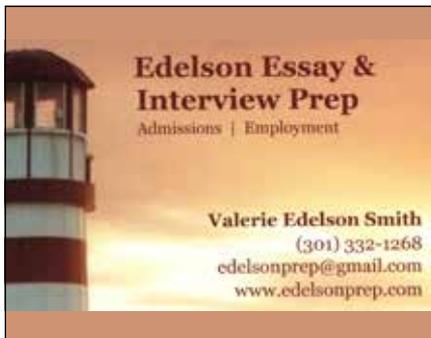
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