



SUCCEED2GETHER'S

MONTCLAIR LITERARY FESTIVAL

March 25-29, 2020

FESTIVAL DAY:
SATURDAY,
MARCH 28

120+
AUTHORS &
SPEAKERS



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BUILDING OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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Mary Kate Mellow, Cherry Provost, Joanna Varone, Phoebe Pollinger, Susan Van Inwegen, Thomas Zaubler and Katherine Sonnenberg, Dede Horowicz, Linda Sterling, Shirley Grill, Lois Whipple.

AND TO OUR FABULOUS EVENT PARTNERS AND VENUES:



**The Episcopal Church
of St. James**



Welcome to Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival

In the fourth year of Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival we have seen a surge in recognition and momentum from authors, publishers and the local community that has swept the Festival to new heights. This year we have hosted pre-festival events with Isabel Allende, Malcolm Gladwell, and Colum McCann, and from March 25 to 29 more than 130 authors and speakers will take part in a dynamic, interactive program of book talks, panel discussions, writing workshops, and children's activities. It is truly exciting to see supporters, volunteers, writers, and readers come together to celebrate the written and spoken word in our town.

Once again the S2G festival team has worked closely with Margot Sage-EL and her brilliant 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. This year we are also holding events at the Episcopal Church of St James in Upper Montclair, and we appreciate the enthusiasm and efficiency of the Rev. Melissa Hall and Carmel Loughman, among others. Montclair Art Museum is another festival partner and Montclair State University is not only a sponsor but is also hosting an event with Ambassador Susan E. Rice. Thanks go to President Susan Cole and Joseph Brennan, VP Communications & Marketing, for making this possible. We also want to thank Councilwoman Robin Schlager and the Montclair council for their support, including providing free parking near our venues. Finally, we appreciate everyone on our Advisory Committee for contributing their time, contacts, and inspiration to developing this year's program of events.

A new event at this year's festival is the Lit Crawl, where we take the unbeatable

combination of stories, poetry, wine, and song out to local venues in an evening of events hosted by Montclair's popular Halfway There Reading Series. A big shout out to Apryl Lee and Nicole Haroutunian for organizing something we hope will be the start of a new tradition.

Once again, this year we are enormously grateful to the generous members of this community who have become festival friends and sponsors. Many people have given time and energy to spread the word and build support, including Liza Cohn, Jill Williams, Deirdre Narcisse, Suna Chang, and June Zimmerman. We are able to expand this festival and keep most events free and open to the public thanks to our community-minded, book-loving supporters!

The mission of Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival is not only to bring world-class authors to town to celebrate books and ideas, but to help all local children achieve their academic potential. Succeed2gether's tutoring and enrichment programs address unequal access to educational resources in Essex County and work to close the socio-economic opportunity and education achievement gaps. Succeed2gether offers 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. Whether you are a long-term supporter or a newcomer, we are thrilled you could join us and we hope you enjoy the festival!

Venue Addresses

Montclair State University Alexander Kasser Theater: 1 Normal Ave., Montclair.

•
Amanti Vino: 30 Church St., Montclair.

•
Clerestory Fine Arts: 40 Church St., Montclair.

•
The Episcopal Church of St James: 581 Valley Rd., Montclair.

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

•
Java Love: 49 Church St., Montclair.

•
Legacy Coffee: 41 Glenridge Ave., Montclair.

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

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

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

•
Temple Ner Tamid: 936 Broad St., Bloomfield.

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

Festival Pass

Festival Pass Price: \$195 per person, save \$25 on individual event prices

VIP Festival Pass Price: \$350 per person, save \$130 on VIP event prices

Pick up your festival pass and bag of books the first time you attend the festival.

The Festival Pass for Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival 2020 gives you general admission to all six ticketed festival events, including a book for each book talk event. (Note: this pass does not include VIP venue entry, VIP receptions [where available], VIP seating, Festival Party, and ticketed publishing workshops.)

- **Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope** on Wednesday March 25 at 7:00 pm, with **Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn**, and former NJ gubernatorial candidate **Jim Johnson**.
- **Tough Love** on Friday March 27 at 7:00 pm, with **Ambassador Susan E. Rice**, and former Secretary of Homeland Security, **Jeh Johnson**.
- **Mobituaries** talk on Saturday March 28 at 12:15 pm, with **Mo Rocca** and co-author **Jonathan Greenberg**.
- **Circe** on Saturday March 28 at 4:00 pm, with **Madeline Miller** and her editor **Lee Boudreaux**.
- **The Splendid and the Vile** on Saturday March 28 at 6:30 pm, with **Erik Larson** and author **Christina Baker Kline**.
- **Arguing with Zombies: Economics, Politics, and the Fight for a Better Future** on Sunday March 29 at 4:00 pm, with **Paul Krugman** and veteran journalist **Bill Moyers**.

The VIP Festival Pass includes all of the above PLUS:

- **VIP venue entrance** to all six ticketed events
- **VIP seating** for all six ticketed events
- **VIP Receptions** with Nicholas Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn, Susan Rice, and Paul Krugman (authors' attendance subject to change), and buffet food and drink.
- Entry to **Festival Party: Meet the Authors** on Saturday March 28 at 7:30 pm. This event is held in The Guild Room, First Congregational Church, 40 South Fullerton Ave, Montclair, 07042.

Festival Week Events

Tickets and Passes can be purchased at www.succeed2gether.org and on Eventbrite.

Monday, March 23 Pre-Festival Event

7:00 - 9:00 pm

WE PROTEST: Fighting for What We Believe In – An Essential Conversation About Activism

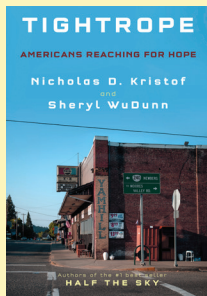
In the last few years we have seen a wave of activism wash across our nation and inspire unprecedented protest and civic engagement. Author and photojournalist Tish Lampert's new book *We Protest* captures the spirit of the heroes and ordinary citizens on their journey to defend their American values during the most conflicted era in our recent history. Joining **Tish Lampert** to discuss activism in America are **Enrique Morones**, founder of Border Angels and Human Rights Border Coalition, Gente Unida, who has been saving migrants lives along the US/Mexican border for 33 years, and **Kathi Lynn Austin**, former UN expert on arms trafficking and founder and director of the Conflict Awareness Project, which tracks illegal weapon flows fueling mass harm at home and abroad. Join them to discuss what ordinary Americans can do on the front lines of activism. Moderated by **Budd Mishkin**, Anchor & Correspondent, CBS News Radio Network. A book signing will follow the panel.

Presented by arrangement with George Greenfield, CreativeWell, Inc. & Temple Ner Tamid.

Venue: Temple Ner Tamid.

Admission is free, but reservations are requested at succeed2gether.org

Wednesday, March 25 Opening Event



7:00 - 9:00 pm

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn – Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope

We are delighted to welcome Pulitzer Prize-winning authors **Nicholas D. Kristof** and **Sheryl WuDunn** to Montclair for the opening event of Succeed2gether's Montclair Literary Festival 2020. They will discuss their latest book, *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope*, with former NJ gubernatorial candidate and Montclair resident, **Jim Johnson**. In *Tightrope*, the authors of the acclaimed, best-selling *Half the Sky* issue a plea—deeply personal and told through the lives of real Americans—to address the crisis in working-class America, while focusing on solutions to mend a half century of governmental failure. With their superb, nuanced reportage, Kristof and WuDunn have written a book that is both riveting and impossible to ignore.

Talk 7:00 - 8:00 pm / Reception 8:00 - 9:00 pm

Visit succeed2gether.org for tickets. General Admission: \$40 including a copy of *Tightrope*.

VIP Admission: \$100 including a copy of *Tightrope* plus VIP entry, reserved seating, and post-event reception.

Venue: St James Episcopal Church.

Thursday, March 26 Poetry Night

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

Succeed2gether presents the fourth 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 hosts **Joanne Ashe** and **Elijah M. Brown** and judges **Sharon Dennis Wyeth**, **Jessica de Koninck**, **Theresa Burns**, **Marcia LeBeau** and **Saúl Grullon**.

Venue: St James Episcopal Church

8:30 - 10:00 pm Poetry Cafe

We all need more poetry in our lives! Stop by Montclair's much-loved independent bookstore and festival partner, Watchung Booksellers, for a coffee or a glass of wine and readings by some of New Jersey's finest poets. Expect to be illuminated.

Hosted by **Chris Beckett**. Featuring **Sharon Dennis Wyeth**, **Deborah Garrison**, **Claudia Serea**, **David Wohl**, **Carole Stone**, **Tina Kelley**, **Elinor Mattern**, **Helen Mazarakis**, **Frank Rubino**, **Saúl Grullon**, and **David Burr**.

Venue: Watchung Booksellers.



Friday, March 27 Lit Crawl

5:00 pm till late: Halfway There Lit Crawl

Now in our fourth year of providing literary programming in Montclair, Halfway There is thrilled to present a new addition to this year's Montclair Literary Festival: the LIT CRAWL! Taking place the evening before the Festival, the Lit Crawl will feature a series of five events beginning with wine and ending with a party. What could be more literary than that?

Please join us for a welcome drink at Amanti Vino. We'll progress from there to Java Love for a panel entitled **Good Stories about Bad People**, then we'll roll across the street to Clerestory Fine Art to hear a group of writers discuss **Dreams and Visions: Writing the Music of New Jersey**. From there, we'll head over to Legacy Coffee for the **Halfway There 6x6**, our own panel of local New Jersey writers. We'll continue to loosen up with some literary games led by writer and comedian **Abby Sher** and then raise a glass at the after-party.



Friday, March 27 Lit Crawl continues...

5:00 - 5:45 pm: WINE TASTING

We will assemble at Amanti Vino to start the evening right with a glass of wine.
Venue: Amanti Vino, 30 Church St.

6:00 - 6:45 pm: FICTION Good Stories About Bad People

Writers **Thomas Pluck**, **Livia Llewellyn**, **Scott Alderberg**, and **Z. Williams, MD** will read their work and discuss writing “unlikeable” characters, as well as likeable characters who do terrible things.
Venue: Java Love, 49 Church St.

7:00 - 7:45 pm: MUSIC Dreams and Visions: Writing the Music of New Jersey

New Jersey has a unique and rich musical heritage from hip-hop to jazz, and of course, rock and roll. This panel will examine what makes it so special and resonant by way of Bruce Springsteen and other important New Jersey musicians and scenes. **Tobias Carroll** will moderate this reading and discussion featuring **Dewar MacLeod**, author of *Making the Scene in the Garden State: Popular Music in New Jersey from Edison to Springsteen and Beyond*, **Ronen Kauffman**, author of *New Brunswick, New Jersey, Goodbye: Bands, Dirty Basements, and the Search for Self*, and **Naomi Gordon-Loebl**, writer of a piece in *The Nation* entitled “Things that Can Only Be Found in the Darkness on the Edge of Town: The Queerness of Bruce Springsteen.”
Venue: Clerestory Fine Arts, 40 Church St.

8:00 - 8:45 pm: FUN AND GAMES + THE HALFWAY THERE 6X6

Halfway There 6x6—six writers, six minutes each! Halfway There, a quarterly literary reading series in Montclair, is pleased to present our annual Succeed2gether’s Montclair Literary Festival panel at the Lit Crawl this year. Hosted by series co-founder, **Apryl Lee**, our panel of local New Jersey writers **Victor Alcindor**, **Marina Carreira**, **Martha Moffet**, **Doreen Oliver**, **Abby Sher**, and **Shelby Vittek** will read from their work.
Venue: Legacy Coffee: 41 Glenridge Ave.

9:00 pm till late: PARTY

Abby Sher leads a literary party game before we celebrate the lit fest and community at our after-party! Enjoy a NJ-centered playlist programmed by DREAMS AND VISIONS panelist and local Montclair business owner, **Dewar MacLeod**.

Venue: Legacy Coffee: 41 Glenridge Ave.

Halfway There is a quarterly reading series in Montclair NJ that aims to bring together established and emerging literary voices, as well as local and visiting writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Founded in 2015, Halfway There has proven to be an exciting addition to Montclair’s vibrant artistic community, showcasing a diverse range of writers. In addition to programming its four main events each season, Halfway There takes part in Succeed2gether’s annual Montclair Literary Festival.

Festival Weekend Ticketed Events

Friday, March 27 Featured Event

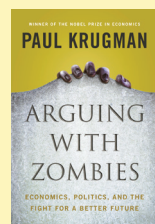
Susan Rice – Tough Love: My Story of the Things Worth Fighting For
Reception 6:00 - 7:00 pm / Talk 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Succeed2gether’s Montclair Literary Festival presents an evening with **Ambassador Susan E. Rice**, recalling pivotal moments from her dynamic career on the front lines of American diplomacy and foreign policy. In *Tough Love*, Susan Rice—National Security Advisor to President Barack Obama and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations—reveals her surprising story with unflinching candor. Mother, wife, scholar, diplomat, and fierce champion of American interests and values, Rice powerfully connects the personal and the professional. Ambassador Rice will be in conversation with **Jeh Johnson**, former Secretary of Homeland Security.

Reception 6:00 - 7:00 pm / Talk 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Visit succeed2gether.org for tickets. General Admission: \$40 including a copy of *Tough Love*. VIP Admission: \$100 including a copy of *Tough Love*, VIP entry, reserved seating, and pre-event reception with the author.

Venue: Alexander Kasser Theater, Montclair State University



Sunday, March 29 Closing Event

Paul Krugman in Conversation with Bill Moyers
Talk 4:00 - 5:00 pm / Reception 5:00 - 6:00 pm

For our final event of 2020, we are thrilled to welcome *New York Times* columnist, best-selling author, and Nobel prize-winning economist **Paul Krugman** to Montclair to discuss his latest book. In *Arguing with Zombies: Economics, Politics, and the Fight for a Better Future*, Krugman tackles many of the misunderstandings of basic economics, or ‘zombie economics’, taking stock of where the United States has come from and where it’s headed. The book is an indispensable guide to two decades’ worth of political and economic discourse in the United States and around the globe. Join Paul Krugman for a guided tour of the greatest economic policy issues of our time, moderated by renowned journalist, political commentator, and former White House Press Secretary, **Bill Moyers**.

Talk 4:00 - 5:00 pm / Reception 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

General Admission: \$40 including a copy of *Arguing with Zombies*. VIP Admission: \$100 including a copy of *Arguing with Zombies* plus VIP entry, reserved seating, and post-event reception.

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church. Visit succeed2gether.org for tickets

Festival Day Ticketed Events **Saturday, March 28**

Tickets can be purchased at www.succeed2gether.org and on Eventbrite, or visit the Information Desk in the First

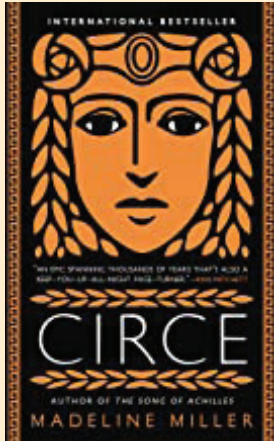
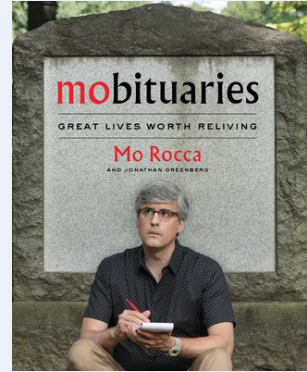
12:15 - 1:15 pm

MO ROCCA

Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving

Don't miss beloved CBS *Sunday Morning* correspondent and humorist **Mo Rocca** discussing *Mobituaries*, a book that celebrates the dead people who have long fascinated him. Mo Rocca has always loved obituaries—reading about the remarkable lives of global leaders, Hollywood heavyweights, and innovators who changed the world. But not every notable life has received the send-off it deserves. Rocca's quest to right that wrong inspired *Mobituaries*, his #1 hit podcast. Now with *Mobituaries*, the book, he has gone much further, with all new essays on artists, entertainers, sports stars, political pioneers, founding fathers, and more. Rocca brings these men and women back to life with dogged reporting and his trademark wit, as he talks with his co-author and college friend, MSU English Professor **Jonathan Greenberg**.

Tickets: \$35 including a copy of *Mobituaries* / \$55 including a copy of *Mobituaries* plus reserved seating. Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.



4:00 - 5:00 pm

FICTION

**Madeline Miller's
*Circe***

Madeline Miller speaks with her editor **Lee Boudreaux** about her phenomenally successful retelling of the life of the Greek goddess, *Circe*. "A daring feminist take on a classic narrative" (*O Magazine*), *Circe* has won numerous awards and accolades, and

was an instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller. With unforgettably vivid characters, mesmerizing language and page-turning suspense, *Circe* is a triumph of storytelling, an intoxicating epic of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss, as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world.

Tickets: \$25 including an advanced paperback copy of *Circe*, available for pick up at Watchung Booksellers after April 14, 2020.

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church.

6:30 - 7:30 pm

HISTORY

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz.

For our closing event on Festival Day 2020, we welcome **Erik Larson**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Devil in the White City*, to talk about his latest book, a compelling portrait of Churchill and London during the Blitz. Join one of "the modern masters of popular narrative nonfiction" (*New York Times Review of Books*) for an insightful conversation with longtime Montclair resident and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, **Christina Baker Kline**. Larson takes readers out of today's political dysfunction and back to a time of true leadership, when – in the face of unrelenting horror – Churchill's eloquence, strategic brilliance, and perseverance bound a country, and a family, together.

Tickets: \$40 including a copy of *The Splendid and the Vile* / \$60 including a copy of *The Splendid and the Vile* plus reserved seating.

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church



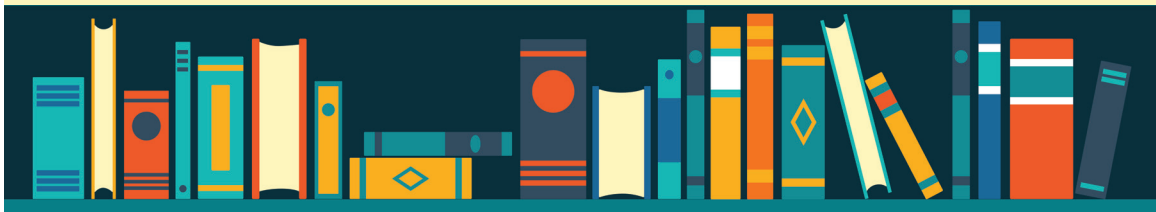
7:30 - 9:30 pm

FESTIVAL PARTY: MEET THE AUTHORS

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

Tickets \$50 with drinks and hot and cold food provided by local restaurants including the MC Hotel (Allegory), Mercado, Mish Mish/Marcel, Vesta Chocolates, Wood Legacy Productions, SO Tasty Vegan, and Little Daisy Bakeshop.

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church



Festival Day

Saturday, March 28

10:00 - 11:00 am

CULTURE/GENDER

Why We Can't Sleep:

Women's New Midlife Crisis

An essential event for all middle-aged women - or anyone - who feels exhausted, overwhelmed and under-employed. Author **Ada Calhoun** talks with book critic **Kate Tuttle** about the cultural and political contexts of the new midlife crisis facing Gen X women and the unique circumstances that have brought them to this point. Join them for an empowering conversation about how to pull oneself out of the abyss and keep the next generation of women from falling in.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

10:00 - 11:00 am

ADDICTION and the Family

Eilene Zimmerman's powerful memoir, *Smacked: A Story of White Collar Ambition, Addiction and Tragedy*, examines the world of white-collar drug abuse as the author pieces together the mysteries surrounding her ex-husband's descent into drug addiction, while **Dr. Larry Westreich**, an addiction expert and author of *A Parent's Guide to Teen Addiction: Professional Advice on Signs, Symptoms, What to Say, and How to Help*, talks about treatment options. Moderated by **Gabrielle Glaser**, author of *Her Best-Kept Secret: Why Women Drink and How They Can Regain Control*.
Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*

10:15 - 11:15 am

SPORT

In the Zone

The Hot Hand: The Mystery and Science of Streaks by **Ben Cohen**, *Running to the Edge: A Band of Misfits and the Guru Who Unlocked the Secrets of Speed* by **Matthew Futterman**, and *Astrobball: The New Way to Win it All*, by **Ben Reiter**, are books that use sports to explore the world, in particular why we're so fascinated with that magical feeling of beating the odds, becoming temporarily superhuman and transcending our internal limits. Some call it "the hot hand," others call it "the runner's high", but it's something we've all felt in one way or another. The authors explain why they wrote books about it and what they learned along the way from Olympic runners, Oscar-winning directors, Nobel-winning academics, and basketball phenom Stephen Cur.
Venue: *The Auditorium at Montclair Public Library*

10:15 - 11:15 am

FICTION

Dark Matters: Outside Female Narrators

Mona Awad (*Bunny*, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*), **Lauren Acampora** (*The Paper Wasp*, *The Wonder Garden*) and **Laura Sims** (*Looker*), consider their female characters' tendencies toward loneliness, obsession, delusion, and, ultimately, violence. Why are these characters and "outsider" female narrators increasingly popular, and does this mark a significant shift in representations of women in literature?

Moderated by author **Laurie Lico Albanese**.

Venue: *The YA Room at Montclair Public Library*



American Poison

How Racial Hostility Destroyed Our Promise

Eduardo Porter

11:05 am - 12:05 pm

POLITICS/RACE

American Poison

Veteran NY Times journalist **Eduardo Porter's** book, *American Poison: How Racial Hostility Destroyed Our Promise*, is a sweeping examination of how American racism has broken the country's social compact, eroded America's common goods, and damaged the lives of every American—and a heartfelt look at how these deep wounds might begin to heal. He discusses these issues with former NJ gubernatorial candidate, **Jim Johnson**.

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

11:05 am - 12:05 pm

JOURNALISM

Final Draft: The Collected Works of David Carr

Montclair's **Jill Rooney Carr** has edited a career-spanning selection of journalism by her late husband, legendary reporter David Carr. This wide-ranging volume showcases Carr's sharp and fearless observations, his uncanny sense of fairness and justice,

and his remarkable compassion and wit. We are pleased to welcome Jill Rooney Carr to the festival to discuss the book, and her experience editing it, with NJTV News Anchor, **Mary Alice Williams**.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

FICTION

New Voices

Then the Fish Swallowed Him is **Amir Ahmadi Arian's** first novel in English after a career as a journalist, author and translator in Iran. **Douglas Stuart** has published his first novel, *Shuggie Bain*, after a successful career in fashion design, while **Ruvanee Pietersz Vilhauer** is a psychology professor and science writer who has turned to fiction with her first novel, *The Mask Collectors*. Author **Nancy Star** talks to these compelling debut novelists, accomplished in other fields, about what drew them to fiction, and what they have learned and gained from writing their first novel.

Venue: *The Auditorium at Montclair Public Library*

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

IMMIGRANT VOICES

Carrying Stories Across Borders and Generations

Immigration populates our news feeds. But too often missing are the voices of immigrants themselves — who and what they left behind, what it means to create a life in a new and not always welcoming country, and the stories their children inherit. A group of diverse writers, all immigrants or children of immigrants, will share their work and speak to the weight and importance of writing immigrant perspectives. We'll go beyond stereotypes, to explore racism, xenophobia, and the traumas that transcend borders and generations. Novelists **Stephanie Jimenez** (*They Could Have Named Her Anything*), **Marco Rafalà** (*How Fires End*), and memoirist **Neda Toloui-Semnani** (*They Said They Wanted a Revolution: A Memoir of My Parents*) talk with poet **Hafizah Geter** (*Un-American*).

Venue: *The YA Room at Montclair Public Library*

12:15 - 1:15 pm

MO ROCCA

Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving

See **TICKETED EVENTS** for details. Tickets: \$35 including a copy of *Mobituaries*

Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

12:15 - 1:15 pm

FICTION

Writing Across Cultures in English and Spanish

The publication of *American Dirt* generated intense debate about cultural appropriation and the marginalization of Hispanic authors. These notable writers discuss their journey to getting published, as well as writing in English vs. Spanish and how they found an audience.

Ernesto Quinoñez, author of the landmark novel, *Bodega Dreams*, and the new book, *Taina*, and **Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa**, author of *Daughters of the Stone*, talk with Montclair State University Spanish literature professor **Marta López-Luaces**, author of *Los traductores del viento*.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*

12:15 - 1:15 pm

RACE/HISTORY

America's Journey

An exploration of the legacy of slavery in our country and its impact on racial segregation, African-American culture, and the preservation of African traditions and identity, with **Steve Luxenberg**, author of *Separate: The Story of Plessy v. Ferguson*, and **Melissa Cooper**, author of *Making Gullah: A History of Sapelo Islanders, Race, and the American Imagination*. Moderated by **Dionne Ford**, editor of *Slavery's Descendants: Shared Legacies of Race and Reconciliation*.

Venue: *The Auditorium at Montclair Public Library*



SEPARATE

THE STORY OF PLESSY V. FERGUSON, AND AMERICA'S JOURNEY FROM SLAVERY TO SEGREGATION

STEVE LUXENBERG

12:15 - 1:15 pm

YA FICTION

Building Worlds

Marina Budhos engages three authors of very different Young Adult books in a lively discussion of world-building, inspiration,

and what makes a successful YA novel. **Tochi Onyebuchi's** action-packed, futuristic fiction includes *War Girls* and *Beasts of the Night*, and his latest, the adult novel *Riot Baby*. Writer and performer **Abby Sher's** darkly comic new novel *Miss You Love You Hate You Bye* considers friendship and mental health, while **Emma Lord's** debut *Tweet Cute* is a witty rom-com reinvention.

Venue: *The YA Room at Montclair Public Library*



1:30 - 2:30 pm

CRIME FICTION

Long Bright River

Author **Liz Moore** in conversation with her editor **Sarah McGrath** about her latest book, *Long Bright River*, a gripping suspense novel that is also a moving story of sisters, addiction, and the formidable ties that persist between place, family, and fate. In a Philadelphia neighborhood rocked by the opioid crisis, two once-inseparable sisters find themselves at odds. One, Kacey, lives on the streets in the vise of addiction. The other, Mickey, walks those same blocks on her police beat. When Kacey disappears, suddenly, at the same time that a mysterious string of murders begins, Mickey becomes dangerously obsessed with finding the culprit, and her sister, before it's too late.

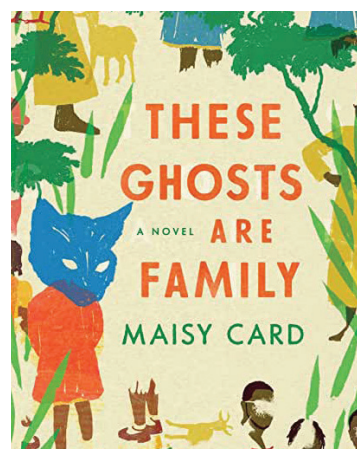
Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

1:30 - 2:30 pm

TECHNOLOGY

The Information Trade: How Big Tech Conquers Countries, Challenges Our Rights, and Transforms Our World

Government and tech expert **Alexis Wichowski** reveals how Facebook, Google, Amazon, Tesla, and other tech giants are disrupting the way the world works, and outlines the growing



risk they pose to our future if we do not act to contain them. Moderated by **Steve Lohr**, technology writer for *The New York Times* and author of *Data-ism*.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*

1:30 - 2:30 pm

THE FUTURE OF READING

A Conversation with Maisy Card, Peter Coyl and Leah Price

Montclair Library Director **Peter Coyl** talks with Newark Librarian **Maisy Card** about her electric family saga, *These Ghosts are Family*, and about how being a librarian impacted her as a writer. They are joined by **Leah Price**, founder and director of the Rutgers Initiative for the Book and author of *What We Talk About When We Talk About Books*, to consider the importance of reading and the role of libraries, how they create readers and writers, and our shared responsibility for the history and future of reading.

Venue: *The Auditorium at Montclair Public Library*

1:30 - 2:30 pm

EDUCATION/YA

When Adults Listen to Kids: Young People on the Forefront of Social Change.

As some young people are taking action on issues from gun violence to climate change and LGBTQ rights, others are pulled into activism through circumstance. What is it like to live through major social change and be caught up in social activism? In her novel *The Long Ride*, **Marina Budhos** tells the story of three mixed-race girls who are part of the social experiment of bussing in 1970s New York, while journalist **Candy Cooper** explores the Flint water crisis in *Poisoned Water: How the Citizens of Flint, Michigan Fought for their Lives and Warned the Nation*. They are joined by MHS junior **Devany Kurtti**, who talks about her activism. **(Age 11+)**

Venue: *The YA Room at Montclair Public Library*

2:45 - 3:45 pm

SPORT

Elevated: The Global Rise of the NBA

New York Times sports columnist and Hall of Fame honoree **Harvey Araton** speaks about his new book and the NBA, from Magic and Bird to the present, in this collection of Times' coverage of the sport, with Daily News NBA writers **Stefan Bondy** and **Kristian Winfield**.

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church

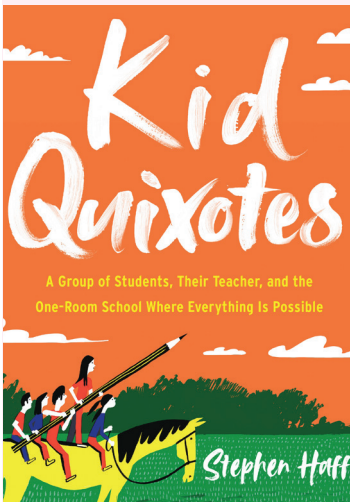
2:45 - 3:45 pm

PARENTING

Hotspots and Coping Strategies

Ylonda Gault (*Child, Please*) leads a discussion on how to cope with some of parenting's toughest challenges, including anxiety, technology, risky behavior, school challenges, learning differences and more. With clinical psychologist **Dr. Sharon Saline** (*What Your ADHD Child Wishes you Knew*), author and journalist **Judith Newman** (*To Siri with Love*), and author and podcaster **Hillary Frank** (*Weird Parenting Wins*).

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church



2:45 - 3:45 pm

EDUCATION

Kid Quixotes

Schoolteacher **Stephen Haff** introduces his forthcoming book, *Kid Quixotes: A Group of Students, Their Teacher, and the One Room School Where Everything is Possible*. **Dale Russakoff** talks with him about this unlikely, inspiring true story of a one-room school where children of undocumented immigrants and their teacher discover their voices and speak truth to power. National DACA activist **Indira Islas** and poet **Saúl Grullon** join the conversation, as well as S2G students **Natalia** and **Mia Morales**. Venue: The Auditorium at Montclair Public Library

2:45 - 3:45 pm

CULTURE/RACE

Writing Jewishly in an Age of Anti-Semitism

In 2019, the Jewish Electorate Institute found 73% of Jews feel less secure in the United States than they have for generations. As antisemitic attacks increase, many contemporary Jewish writers feel it is more critical than ever to explore Jewish culture, its place in history and in the modern world, and to build a better understanding of Jewish history and belief. Historical novelists **Mitchell James Kaplan** and **Michelle Cameron** and poet/short-story writer **Erika Dreifus** join journalist **Johanna Ginsberg** in a far-reaching conversation about how the rise of antisemitism has touched and even deepened their writing. Venue: The YA Room at Montclair Public Library

4:00 - 5:00 pm

FICTION

Madeline Miller's Circe

See **TICKETED EVENTS** for details.

Tickets: \$25 including an advanced paperback copy of *Circe*, available for pick up at Watchung Booksellers after April 14, 2020.

Venue: The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church

4:00 - 5:00 pm

GENDER POLITICS

Breaking Boundaries

MSU Professor and Chair of Sociology, **Yasemin Besen-Cassino** talks to the authors of three new books about women breaking cultural norms and how their experience reflects on the gender politics of today. **Nancy Princenthal's Unspeakable Acts: Women, Art and Sexual Violence in the 1970s** is a groundbreaking exploration of how women artists of the 1970s combined art and protest to make sexual violence visible, creating a new kind of art in the process. **Adrienne Miller's In the Land of Men** is a memoir about coming of age in the male-dominated literary world of the nineties, and becoming the first female literary editor of *Esquire*, while **Victoria James's memoir Wine Girl** charts her career as America's youngest sommelier and addresses repercussions, solutions and inclusion in the hospitality industry after #MeToo.

Venue: The Guild Room at First Congregational Church

4:00 - 5:00 pm

POLITICS

Can This Party Be Saved?

Republicans, Democrats and their Future

"EXCELLENT AND TIMELY." -REBECCA TRAISTER

THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

HOW A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS WILL TRANSFORM AMERICA

CHARLOTTE ALTER

In this year's politics panel, *New York Times National* correspondent **Kate Zernike** leads a discussion of the ground-breaking new leadership and political currents shaping the future of government in America. *Time* correspondent **Charlotte Alter** defines the class of young leaders who are remaking the nation in her book, *The Ones We've Been Waiting For: How a New Generation of Leaders Will Transform America*, while *New York Times* congressional editor and deputy Washington editor **Julie Hirschfeld Davis** has covered the Trump administration from its earliest days and looked in particular at its immigration policies in her book *Border Wars: Inside Trump's Assault on Immigration*. They are joined by **Jack Jenkins**, one of the country's most respected religion reporters, who introduces *American Prophets*, a paradigm-shifting discussion of how the Religious Left is the moral compass that has long steered America's political debate. Venue: The Auditorium at Montclair Public Library

4:00 - 5:30 pm

WRITING COMMUNITIES

We Are Family: The Kimbilio Community of Writers from the African Diaspora

Kimbilio is a community of writers and scholars committed to developing, empowering and sustaining fiction writers from the African diaspora and their stories. Projects include readings, presentations at professional conferences, social media networking, and an annual summer retreat for fiction writers who are members of the Kimbilio community. Project Director **David Haynes** welcomes five Kimbilio Fellows to share highlights from their work and to discuss the importance of culturally-based creative communities. With **Renee Simms**, **Brian Gilmore**, **Dahlma Llanos Figueroa**, **Leslie-Ann Murray**, **Denise Laidler**, and **Deesha Phillyaw**.

Venue: The YA Room at Montclair Public Library

5:15 - 6:15 pm

FICTION

Love and Loneliness.

In *Very Nice*, **Marcy Dermansky's** brilliantly funny novel of bad behavior, people fall into relationships through unexpected living arrangements. **Lily King's** *Writers and Lovers* explores the terrifying and exhilarating leap between the end of one phase of life and the beginning of another.

Teddy Wayne's novel *Apartment* interrogates the origins of our contemporary political divide and its ties to masculinity and class through the relationship of roommates in Manhattan.

The authors talk with **Benilde Little** about the proximity and dislocation of urban vs suburban life, and how the lost souls in their fiction find ways to connect.

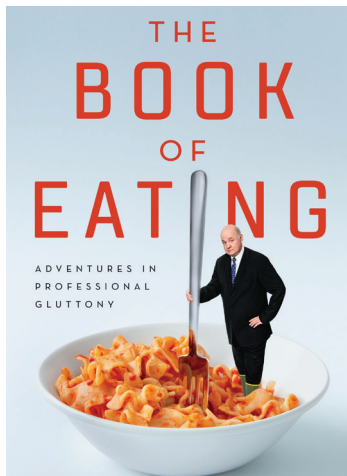
Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

5:15 - 6:15 pm

FOOD

Adventures in Professional Gluttony

Marissa Rothkopf Bates talks with **Adam Platt**, *New York Magazine* food critic and the author of *The Book of Eating: Adventures in Professional Gluttony*. Don't miss this wildly



hilarious and irreverent memoir of a globe-trotting life lived meal-to-meal, by one of our most influential and respected food writers.

Venue: *The Guild Room at First Congregational Church*

5:15 - 6:15 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, with **Susan Weinberg**, publisher of Perseus Books, and other guest panelists from the publishing industry.

Venue: *The Auditorium at Montclair Public Library*

6:30 - 7:30 pm

HISTORY

Erik Larson *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*

See **TICKETED EVENTS** for details

Tickets: \$40 including a copy of *The Splendid and the Vile*
Venue: *The Sanctuary at First Congregational Church*

Children's and YA Events

The Classroom, Montclair Public Library, 1st Floor

E-mail montclairliteraryfestival@gmail.com to register.

11:15 am - 12:15 pm

TEEN WRITERS WORKSHOP

**Finding Your Character's Voice
with Rachel Carter and
Dayna Lorenz**

How do writers craft different voices for their characters? What does it mean to get inside of a character's head and capture how they speak on the page? In this workshop, we'll dive deep into finding your character's voice, looking closely at the ways that different authors craft voices for their characters and how we can translate that into our own writing. We will also participate in writing exercises that will help us better understand our characters and how they speak. Participants will have the opportunity share their work in an open forum, getting feedback on their characters and the ways they're creating a unique sense of voice. **(Age 15-19)**

Maximum 20 Participants



2:45 - 3:45 pm

TEEN WRITERS WORKSHOP

**Your Literary Community:
Social Media Literacy for
Young Writers**

Writing doesn't have to be a solitary pursuit. Whether you've got half a novel or ten, an idea or a goal or any of the above, you can use social media to work towards your literary dreams. In this workshop, we'll discuss using social media to join a worldwide literary community through blogging, BookTube, Twitter, and more. No matter where you live, no matter how old you are, and no matter what your goals may be, you can put yourself out there and build a platform for yourself and your art. Bring your dreams and your questions!

Krisdee Dishmon, Gabbi Calabrese, Camille Smaby, Kaylee Duff, and Kate Koenig

are MFA candidates at The New School studying Writing for Children & Young Adults. Collectively, they have experience with professional book blogging, website design, BookTube, literary agencies, literary magazines, online journalism, and evaluating Twitter pitch contests including #PitchWars and #DvPit. **(Age**

15-19) Maximum 20 Participants

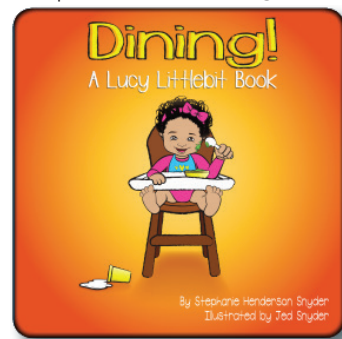
The Storyroom, Montclair Public Library, 3rd Floor

10:30 - 11:15 am

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Dining! A Lucy Littlebit Book.

A story time event with author **Stephanie Henderson Snyder** and illustrator **Jed Snyder**, including reading, singing, coloring and sticker fun. 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)**





11:30 am - 12:15 pm
CHILDREN'S FICTION
Something Beautiful
 20th Birthday Party!

Montclair author **Sharon Dennis Wyeth's** award-winning book *Something Beautiful* has been read in classrooms throughout the country for 20 years. Join her to celebrate the book's 20th birthday, with a reading followed by cupcakes, party favors, and a brief Q&A with the author. Young readers will also be invited to present (show) or talk about "something beautiful" in their own lives. **(All ages)**

12:30 - 1:15 pm
CHILDREN'S FICTION
Super Satya Saves The Day

Super Satya is ready to have a super day, including finally conquering the tallest slide in Hoboken. But her day takes a not-so-super turn when she realizes her superhero cape is stuck at the dry cleaner. Will she be able to face her fears, help her friends and be the true hero everyone knows she is? Author **Raakhee Mirchandani** introduces Satya, a precocious Indian-American superhero. **(Age 5-9)**

1:30 - 2:15 pm
CHILDREN'S FICTION
Bilingual Story Time with Malty the Blue Tiger

Kelsey Kloss reads her bilingual Spanish and English storybook, *Malty the Blue Tiger*. Listen to Malty's story in both Spanish and English, learn new Spanish words and enjoy some interactive language learning games. Kelsey will also share language learning tips and give away some free books! **(Age 4-8)**

2:30 - 3:15 pm
CHILDREN'S FICTION
Wild About Dads

Dads are strong, dads are brave, but sometimes dads could use a shave. Everyone loves dads—humans, lions, frogs, prairie dogs, and even pelicans! Celebrate dads of every kind with author **Diana**

Murray and her new book, *Wild About Dads*, and learn some fun facts about animals at the same time. **(Age 2-6)**

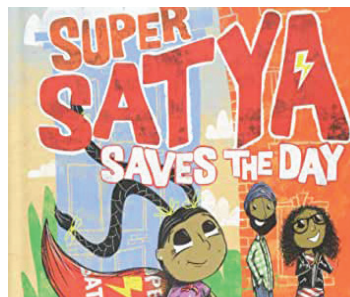
The Green Space, Montclair Public Library, 3rd Floor

10:15 - 11:15 am
STORYTELLER
Tales from a Different Drum

Children's events on the first floor always start with a story. This year storyteller **Yvonne D. Ceaser** will tell "Tales from a Different Drum" featuring stories from Africa, Haiti and China. Thanks to Montclair Public Library for organizing this fun and popular event! **(Age 2-12)**

11:30 am - 12:15 pm
CHILDREN'S FICTION
Twins

This is a book about a boy and his twin who do everything together—leap frog and piggy back rides, dancing and disagreeing, and everything in between. Is there someone you like to do everything with? Even if you don't have a twin, it could be your sister or brother, or your BFF. Bring them along for story and drawing time that celebrates togetherness, with author-illustrator and father of twins, **Mike Ciccotello**. **(Age 2-6)**



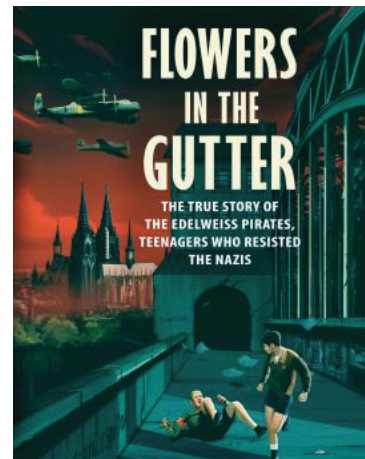
12:30 - 1:15 pm
CHILDREN'S FICTION
Bunny Business

It's morning when Mama gets the call that the bunnysitter is sick. But Papa is out of town and school is out. That means Bunny gets to go to work at Mama's office! But the big city isn't all it's cracked up to be, even with its many distractions. Boredom and hunger strike, and Bunny has to get creative to save Mama's office from the workday blues. Don't miss author-illustrator **Lori Richmond** and her new book, *Bunny Business (Mama's Day at Work)*. Parents and children alike will laugh and cheer at the ingenuity of one bunny's impromptu Take Your Child to Work Day! **(Age 3-5)**

1:30 - 2:15 pm
MIDDLE GRADES FICTION
Stories of Resistance

The authors of two books about teenagers who resisted the Nazis in Germany during World War

Two lead a discussion about what it means to resist. **K.R. Gaddy's** book *Flowers in the Gutter* is the true story of the Edelweiss Pirates, working-class teenagers who fought the Nazis by whatever means they could. **Jennifer Voigt Kaplan's** novel is about how two ordinary boys deal with the changes steamrolling through Germany in 1938, and the extraordinary circumstances of Kristallnacht. Join them to talk about what resistance means and the different forms it can take, in history and today. Does it have to be political? Does it have to be organized? How far would you go to help someone in trouble? **(Age 11+)**



2:30 - 3:30 pm
YOUNG ADULT FICTION
Imagining Disaster

Two Young Adult authors discuss how they turned disasters—both real and imagined—into fascinating fiction. What are the challenges of using real historical events for action and adventure? What happens when reality catches up with fictional disasters? Come hear **Rachel Carter**, author of the *So Close to You* series, and **Dayna Lorentz**, author of the *No Safety in Numbers* trilogy, talk about the inspiration and challenges behind creating their action-packed disaster novels. **(Age 12+)**

3:45 - 4:45 pm
READING
How to Raise a Reader with Maria Russo

Join **Maria Russo**, children's book editor of the *New York Times Book Review*, in a discussion of her book, *How to Raise a Reader*, an indispensable guide to welcoming children—from babies to teens—to a lifelong love of reading. The book combines clear, practical advice with inspiration, wisdom, tips, and curated reading lists. Maria debunks common myths, assuages parental fears, and delivers invaluable lessons in a positive and easy-to-act-on way, from how to develop rituals around reading or build a family library, to ways to engage a reluctant reader. **(All ages)**

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. Our instructors put so much time and effort into preparing and we hate to see them with a half-empty studio!**
- 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 3:00 - 4:30 pm workshop and MAM will offer a guided gallery tour to caregivers.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Fangbone and other Heroes with Michael Rex

Learn to write and draw your own comics! Discover the secrets of making something funny! **Michael Rex** will share simple tricks and techniques that will get you creating your own characters and writing your own stories. Michael Rex is the author/illustrator of more than 40 books for children, including the #1 bestseller *Goodnight Goon* and the popular, sword-swinging graphic novel series *Fangbone*, also an animated show on Disney XD. **(Age 5-8 with an adult caregiver)**

Maximum 16 participants

1:00-2:30pm Book Making Workshop with Lisa Conrad

Working within the fine art of bookmaking, students will learn about various bookbinding

techniques, including pamphlet stitch, flag books, and accordion. In this fun workshop each student will create an original artist book, reflective of their personal voice and acquired skills of the medium. **(Age 7-9 with an adult caregiver)**
Maximum 16 participants

3:00 - 4:30 pm Introduction to Cartooning with Chental Song Bemby

Twelve-year-old Desiree Davenport adjusts to life in a new city and a new school while fitting in as a cheerleader for USA Little League Football. Challenges arise when she befriends the stars of the football team and must choose between holding onto the close relationship with her friends and standing up for what is right. Author, motivational speaker and literacy advocate **Chental Song Bemby** uses Desiree's story to introduce storytelling through cartooning and shares ideas about finding passion and purpose. **(Age 10-14)** Maximum 20 participants

Venue for all MAM workshops:
Geyer Studio

Workshops

Sunday, March 29 Workshops

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

10:00 am - 1:00 pm The Book Doctors - Locating, Luring & Landing the Right Agent For You (and/or when to forgo an agent altogether)

It's harder to find a great agent than it is to write a great book. With the publishing world turned upside down, unless your name is Michelle Obama, the odds of getting an agent are against you. **David Henry Sterry & Arielle Eckstut**, a professional agent hunter and an agent that has been hunted, will give you the insider skinny from both writer and agent perspectives. This nuts-and-bolts master class will teach you:



- How to research and put together the right agent list
- How to write a query letter that will get a response
- How to approach and pitch agents in person
- How to gently but persistently follow up
- How to get multiple agents fighting to represent you
- What questions to ask a prospective agent

- How to choose which agent is the right one for you
- When to abandon (or not even start) your agent search and go straight to publishers or self-publish

Arielle Eckstut and David Henry Sterry are the co-founders of The Book Doctors, a company dedicated to helping authors get successfully published and the co-authors of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published*. Arielle has been a literary agent at Levine Greenberg Rostan for over 25 years, helping hundreds of first-time writers become professionally published authors. She is also the author of ten books. David Henry Sterry is the author of 16 books. Between his 15 years as a professional actor and 15 years as a professional writer, David has convinced over 50 agents to represent him. They have been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, NPR's Morning Edition and many other media outlets. **3 hours/Tickets \$100 including a copy of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published*.**





10:00 - 11:30 am
Self-Publishing 101

An extensive workshop on what writers and non-writers need to know to successfully take their book projects from an idea to a finished book. In this workshop, self-published author, **Jeffrey J. Antonucci**, will take participants through the entire self-publishing process and help writers discover their options when taking this popular publishing route. Author Antonucci will share his self-publishing story and provide practical advice on how to navigate this publishing path based on his experience writing his novel *Deep Within a Blueberry Sky*. Freelance publishing professional **Lindsey N. Mach** will also offer insight into the self-publishing process, strategies for how writers can build an author platform, and marketing and publicity tips for self-published authors. This workshop is intended for writers of all experience levels and genres and will include time for Q&A.
 1.5 hours/Tickets \$40

10:00 - 11:30 am
Writing with the Senses

Just as in life, the five senses are our window into the world of our narrative and key to creating visceral experiences on the page. In this interactive workshop, you will learn to go beyond simple physical description and explore how to apply all five senses - sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste - to your writing. No matter your literary genre, this workshop will teach you to open up your sensory awareness to lend texture, color, vibrance, and dimension to your writing.

Taught by **Judith Lindbergh**, founder/director of The Writers Circle (www.writerscircleworkshops.com) and author of historical novels including *The Thrall's Tale*, about women in Viking Age Greenland.
 1.5 hours/Tickets \$40

11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Next For Takeoff:
Turn Your Love of Travel into Unforgettable Stories

Want to learn the secret to memorable travel writing? Whether your last trip was to South Jersey or South Africa, this workshop will help you to turn your personal travels into fascinating, and marketable, tales. Learn to deep dive into a destination to uncover the most

interesting angles, get off the beaten path to discover golden writing moments, and even turn your family vacation memories into sellable stories.

Taught by travel expert and writer **Melissa Klurman**, a former book editor at both *Fodor's* and *Frommer's* travel guides, a Lowell Thomas Travel Writing Award Winner for her work on *Fodor's Caribbean* guidebook, and the editor of *Frommer's 2020 Orlando/Walt Disney World Guidebook*.
 1.5 hours/Tickets \$40

11:30 am - 1:00 pm
The Ultimate Book Marketing Workshop: Get Your Books Noticed & Increase Sales

When authors ask, "Do I really need to market my book?" There's only one answer: "Only if you want to sell it." This workshop is designed for all authors, indie or trade, introvert or extrovert, fiction or non-fiction. Learn actionable marketing strategies you can execute the minute the workshop is over. We will cover what to do and how to do it. There's nothing more empowering than becoming a savvy book marketer and having a hand in increasing your books' sales. Instead of thinking of marketing as a negative, grab ahold of the power you have, and get your book noticed!

Taught by **Eva Natiello**, an NJ author and self-publishing and book marketing consultant, whose self-published psychological thriller, *The Memory Box*, is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller and has sold over 200,000 copies worldwide.
 1.5 hours/Tickets \$40

11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Structuring the Novel

For those actively engaged in working on a novel, as well as for those who have not yet begun writing, this workshop will cover ways of outlining and structuring a novel-length manuscript. Items to be addressed will include:

Basic structures—including the Aristotelian model; Beginnings, Middles, and Ends; Other more experimental structures: circular, flatline (horizontal), reverse, etc.; Using character as the basis for plot. What does the main character want? What are the obstacles? How does he/she change?; Use of subplots; Use of Point of View: single, multiple,

experimental; Use of Time and how to frame the narrative; Progressing scene by scene and arranging the arc of the narrative; and Editing and revising.

Taught by **Philip Cioffari**, a novelist, short story writer, filmmaker, playwright and Professor of English at William Paterson University.
 1.5 hours/Tickets \$40



1:00 - 2:30 pm
Sex and the Memoir:
How To Write About Sexual Intimacy Without Making Your Reader Cringe and/or Horrifying Friends and Family

The strongest memoirs are those that bring the reader in close, creating a sense of intimacy with personal disclosure that can range from the good to the embarrassing to the horrific. And this includes what happens beneath the sheets.

With the stigma that remains attached to conversations around sexuality, it can be scary to approach sex in our memoirs. In this session, Steph Auteri shares her own experience writing about sex, talks about the stigma surrounding it, explores how it can serve the narrative (or not), and lays out some rules for good and bad sex writing.

Taught by **Steph Auteri**, 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.
 1.5 hours/Tickets \$40

Author Biographies 2020



Lauren Acampora is the author of the novel *The Paper Wasp*, which was named a Best Summer Read by the *New York Times*, *O Magazine*, *Publishers Weekly*, and others, as well as one of *USA Today's* "5 books not to miss." It was longlisted for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize and nominated for the Kirkus Prize. Lauren's debut collection of linked stories, *The Wonder Garden*, was named a *Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers* selection and an Indie Next selection, and was chosen as one of the best books of the year by Amazon and NPR. It won the GLCA New Writers Award and was a finalist for the New England Book Award, longlisted for the Story Prize, and nominated for the Kirkus Prize. She lives in Westchester County, New York with her husband and daughter.



A proud mother of three, **Christine Adams** is the author of two collections of poetry, *Setting The Table in the Age of Reason and Quatrains*. She is currently working on *Homespun*, a piece of creative non-fiction about the history and renovation of a 225 year-old New England cottage, a former fullers mill. Chris, who earned a BA in English and Creative Writing from Gettysburg College, also writes on a freelance basis, mostly for not-for-profits, and is a certified grant writer.



Scott Adlerberg is the author of four books. They include *Graveyard Love* (2016), a psychological thriller that takes place in the dead of winter in upstate New York, and *Jack Waters* (2018), a story of revenge and revolution on a Caribbean island in the early 20th century. He contributes pieces regularly to *Criminal Element*, *Crime Reads*, and *Mystery Tribune*, and every summer he hosts the Word for Word Reel Talks film series in Bryant Park in Manhattan. Most recently, his essay on Chester Himes had a place in the book *Sticking It to the Man: Revolution and Counterculture in Pulp and Popular Fiction from 1950 to 1980*. He lives in Brooklyn.



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.



Victor Alcindor is an American poet of Haitian descent whose poems have appeared in various online and literary journals. *Stand Mute*, his first poetry collection, contains a series of unapologetic and candid poems that according to Randall Horton, author of *Pitch Dark Anarchy*, and *Hook: A Memoir* expressed that Alcindor's collection "...will break your heart, but in the breaking, there is rebuilding—for empathy, for human compassion for reshaping what we think we know of men. Victor Alcindor's poems shatter the false narrative of masculinity." When he is not writing poems, Victor serves as an English teacher at West Orange High School in New Jersey.



Charlotte Alter is a national correspondent for *Time*, covering the 2016, 2018 and 2020 elections, women in politics, and the rise of the grassroots left. Her work has also appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and she has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *Morning Joe*, *The Last Word*, and CNN's *Reliable Sources*. *The Ones We've Been Waiting For* is her first book. Photo (c) Karen Obrist.



Jeffrey J. Antonucci is the author of the magical realism novel, *Deep Within a Blueberry Sky*. For many years, he followed in the footsteps of his father, uncle, and grandfather, all master tradesmen, by working in construction as a bricklayer. It wasn't until the idea for his first novel came to Jeff, as he tells it, like a slideshow before his eyes, that he ever even thought of writing a story. Jeff wrote *Deep Within a Blueberry Sky* with a desire for spreading the importance of love and peace for all people and all things. Find out more at InspiredWorks.net. [Facebook.com/InspiredWorksLLC](https://www.facebook.com/InspiredWorksLLC)



Harvey Araton is a longtime sports journalist with the *New York Times* and other New York-area newspapers, author or co-author of nine books and adjunct professor at Montclair State University. He co-produced a documentary of his 2011 book, *When The Garden Was Eden*, for ESPN. His 2012 book, *Driving Mr. Yogi*, was a *New York Times* best-seller.



Amir Ahmadi Arian started out as a journalist in Iran in 2000 and has since published a collection of stories, a non-fiction book, and two novels in Persian. He also translated from English to Persian novels by E.L Doctorow, Paul Auster, P.D. James, and Cormac McCarthy. Since leaving Iran in 2011 to complete a PhD in comparative literature at the University of Queensland, Australia, he has published short stories and essays in *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Guernica*, *The New York Times*, and *The Guardian*. He currently lives in New York where he earned an MFA in the NYU Creative Writing Program as The Axinn Foundation/E.L. Doctorow Fellowship recipient, and teaches literature and creative writing at CUNY City College. Photo (c) Jason Keith.



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 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.



Kathi Lynn Austin is an internationally recognized expert on arms trafficking, peace and security, and human rights. She is founder and Executive Director of the Conflict Awareness Project, an international nonprofit that investigates, exposes, and brings to justice major arms traffickers, war profiteering networks, and transnational criminal operations that fuel war and conflict around the world. For nearly 30 years, Ms. Austin has carried out in-depth field investigations into the illegal trade in weapons, illicit trafficking operations, illegal resource exploitation, transnational crime and terrorism. Her award-winning documentaries include *Follow The Guns (2018)*. In 2012, she starred in *A Short Film About Guns* (winner, 2013 Tribeca Film Festival). Photo (c) Christian Högstedt.



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.



Mona Awad is the author of the novel *Bunny*, published by Viking in 2019. *Bunny* was a finalist for a Goodreads Choice Award for Best Horror and for the New England Book Award; it was selected as a Best Book of 2019 by *Time*, *Vogue*, *Bookriot*, *Electric Literature*, *CBC Books*, and the *New York Public Library*. Her first novel, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* won the Amazon Best First Novel Award and was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. She earned an MFA in Fiction from Brown University and a PhD in Creative Writing and English from the University of Denver. She is currently a Visiting Writer at UMass Amherst and lives in Boston.



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



Chental Song Bembry is an author and motivational speaker from Somerset, NJ. She holds a B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Leadership Studies from Hampton University. Chental is the author of *Desiree Davenport: Welcome to Treeless Park*, coming in March 2020. Prior to publishing *Desiree Davenport*, she wrote and illustrated *The Honey Bunch Kids* book series. Chental's contributions to literacy have been recognized by *Black Enterprise*, *Ebony Magazine*, *Essence Magazine*, *ESPN's The Undefeated*, *BuzzFeed*, *USA Today*, *The Ringer*, *The Cheat Sheet TV*, *the National Urban League*, and *Black Entertainment Television*. In 2015, she was recognized at the BET Honors as an "Early Riser" and at the Black Girls Rock! awards show, where Michelle Obama declared her a "Making a Difference Girl." In May 2018, Chental was featured in LeBron James' Always Believe campaign during the NBA Playoffs.



Yasemin Besen-Cassino is a Professor and Chair of Sociology and Distinguished Scholar at Montclair State University. She is the Editor of *Contemporary Sociology*. She is the author of six books, her newest book *Cost of Being a Girl: Teen Work and the Origins of the Gender Wage Gap* came out from Temple University Press. Her work focuses on gender, work and youth. Her work has appeared in many academic journals and featured in popular outlets such as *Washington Post*, the *Guardian*, *BBC4*, the *Atlantic*, *Fortune* magazine, *CNN*, *NBC* and *MTV* among many others.



Stefan Bondy is the NBA beat writer for the *Daily News*, where he has worked since 2010 while covering both the Knicks and Nets. He previously worked at the *Bergen Record*, the *New Jersey Herald* and the Associated Press. Thierry Henry said he asks stupid questions.



Lee Boudreaux is Executive Editor at Doubleday where she publishes a fiction list devoted to unusual stories, unexpected voices and a strong sense of place. Among the books she has edited are Patrick deWitt's Booker-prize nominee *The Sisters Brothers*, Madeline Miller's #1 NYT bestseller *Circe* and Orange-prize winner *The Song of Achilles*, Andrew Sean Greer's Pulitzer-Prize winning novel *Less*, Curtis Sittenfeld's *Prep*, Kevin Wilson's *The Family Fang*, and Leni Zumas's *Red Clocks*. She moved with her husband and daughter to Montclair, NJ in 2018 and has learned that everything people tell you about buying old houses is true.



Bestselling author of *Missing Pages*, *Out Of My Life*, **Elijah M. Brown** hails from Newark, NJ. He is a motivational speaker, educator, actor and 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's book, *Letters Make Words*, where alphabets are given human characteristics.



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 latest novel, *The Long Ride*, is about three mixed race girls during a 1970s integration battle. www.marinabudhos.com



Theresa Burns's poetry, reviews, and nonfiction have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Prairie Schooner*, *America Magazine*, *New Ohio Review*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *The Cortland Review*, and elsewhere. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2018, and her chapbook *Two Train Town* was recently published. The founder and curator of Watershed Literary Events in New Jersey, she has taught writing at Seton Hall University, The Fashion Institute of Technology, and the 92nd Street Y.



Ada Calhoun is the author of the memoir *Wedding Toasts I'll Never Give*, named an Amazon Book of the Month and one of the top 10 memoirs of 2017 by *W* magazine; and the history *St. Marks Is Dead*, one of the best books of 2015, according to *Kirkus* and the *Boston Globe*. She has collaborated on several *New York Times* bestsellers, and written for the *New York Times*, *New York*, and *The New Republic*. Her latest book is *Why We Can't Sleep: Women's New Midlife Crisis*. Photo (c) Gilbert King.



Michelle Cameron is the author of *The Fruit of Her Hands* (Pocket Books / Simon & Schuster, 2009), based on the life of the author's thirteenth-century rabbi ancestor, and the forthcoming *Beyond the Ghetto Gates* (She Writes Press, April 2020), which tells the story of the young General Bonaparte's Italian invasion, during which he demolishes the country's ghetto gates. She lives in Chatham, NJ and is a director of The Writers Circle, which offers creative writing classes to kids, teens, and adults in five New Jersey locations.



Maisy Card holds an MFA in fiction from Brooklyn College and is a public librarian. *These Ghosts are Family* is her first novel. Her nonfiction has appeared in *Lenny Letter* and is forthcoming in *School Library Journal*. Her short fiction has been published by AGNI, *Sycamore Review*, *Liars' League NYC*, and *Ampersand Review*. Maisy was born in St. Catherine, Jamaica, but was raised in Queens, New York. She earned an MLIS from Rutgers University and a BA in English and American Studies from Wesleyan University. Photo (c) Marian Calle.



Jill Rooney Carr lives in Montclair. David and Jill were married in 1994 and raised three daughters. She works in hospitality and event management in the New York City area.



Marina Correia is a queer Luso-American writer and multimedia artist from Newark, NJ. She is the author of *Save the Bathwater* (Get Fresh Books, 2018) and *I Sing to That Bird Knowing It Won't Sing Back* (Finishing Line Press, 2017). She has work featured in *Queen Mob's Teahouse*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *The Acentos Review*, *Pittsburgh Poetry Review*, *Green Mountain Review*, *Hinchas de Poesia*, *wildness journal*, and *Harpoon Review*. Marina has exhibited her visual art in group exhibitions and festivals and is a founding member of "Brick City Collective", a Newark-based multicultural, multimedia group working for social change through the arts.



Tobias Carroll is the author of the short story collection *Transitory* (Civil Coping Mechanisms) and the novel *Reel* (Rare Bird). He is the managing editor of Vol.1 Brooklyn, and writes Words Without Borders' Watchlist column. His writing has been published by *Tin House*, *Rolling Stone*, *Hazlitt*, *The Scofield*, *Bookforum*, and more. He has taught writing courses for LitReactor and Catapult. His newest book, *Political Sign*, will be released by Bloomsbury as part of the Object Lessons series on September 3, 2020.



Rachel Carter is the author of the *So Close to You* series with Harperteen. She has taught creative writing at Columbia University, Champlain College, and Southern New Hampshire University, and her nonfiction has appeared in *The New Republic*, *The Faster Times*, and *Booktrib.com*. She currently lives in Brooklyn and is a visiting professor of fiction at Montclair State University, specializing in young adult writing.



Yvonne D. Ceaser (AKA StoryWeaver) loves to share tales with NJ audiences. Indeed, it was her love of stories that inspired her to become a professional storyteller. Her area of expertise is stories from the African diaspora. She has performed at school, libraries, and churches throughout the state. This will be Ms. Ceaser's first time performing in Montclair but she is not new to the festival circuit having made appearances at Holmdel's African Heritage Festival and the Festival of Ballooning in Readington. Additionally, Ms. Ceaser is a children's librarian.



Mike Ciccotello is an author and illustrator in Little Silver, New Jersey. *Twins* is his first book.



Philip Cioffari is a novelist, short story writer, filmmaker, playwright and Professor of English at William Paterson University. His newest novel, *If Anyone Asks, Say I Died from the Heartbreaking Blues*, was published in February 2020. Previous novels include: *The Bronx Kill*; *Jesusville*; *Dark Road*, *Dead End*; and *Catholic Boys*, and his story collection, *A History of Things Lost or Broken*, won the Tartt First Fiction Prize and the D.H. Lawrence award. Cioffari's plays have been produced Off and Off-Off Broadway. He teaches in the MFA program in Creative Writing, and directs the Performing & Literary Arts Honors program at WP University.



Ben Cohen is a sports reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*. He writes about the NBA, the Olympics and other topics that don't involve extraordinarily athletic people. He lives in New York with his wife and their cat. *The Hot Hand* is his first book.



Lisa Conrad is a visual artist, curator, art director, and educator. Conrad holds a Masters Degree in Art Education and a BFA in Studio Art. As a practicing artist, she has created a multifaceted body of work including ceramics, works on handmade paper, artist books, paintings and prints. Her work references a range of influences, from shifting urban landscapes, displacement, regeneration, and recreating home. She founded the Newark Print Shop, a community printmaking studio, in 2012 to share her love of fine art print. Conrad teaches elementary art at Franklin School in Newark, NJ, as well as the Montclair Art Museum in Montclair, NJ.



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.



Dr. Melissa L. Cooper is a writer, historian and professor. She is the author of the groundbreaking historical study, *Making Gullah: A History of Sapelo Islanders, Race, and the American Imagination* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). Dr. Cooper's teaching experience spans more than two decades. She is currently an Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University-Newark and has been a member of the faculty at the University of South Carolina and Columbia University. Her long teaching career includes teaching diverse populations of learners in New Jersey public high schools. As a result, Dr. Cooper was featured in the Peabody Award winning documentary, *Minding the Gap: Why Good Schools are Failing Black Students*, produced by Nancy Solomon, Spencer Fellow, in 2008. Dr. Cooper also appears in the interactive web documentary, *Between the Waters: Hobcaw Barony*. Dr. Cooper was recently awarded the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Corporation Fellowship.



Peter Coyl has been the Director of the Montclair Public Library since March 2017. Previously he was the Manager of the Dallas Public Library's J. Erik Jonsson Central Library. He is a frequent presenter at regional, state, and national library conferences and workshops. He served as chair of the American Library Association's GLBT Round Table, chair of the Stonewall Book Awards Committee, and as a member on the Intellectual Freedom Committee. Currently he is a Trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation and a member of the Public Library Association's Task Force on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice.



Julie Hirschfeld Davis is the congressional editor and deputy Washington editor at the *New York Times*. She has covered politics and policy from Washington for two decades, including three presidential campaigns, three presidents and many sessions of Congress. She was previously a White House correspondent for the *Times*, and has also worked at Bloomberg, the Associated Press, the *Baltimore Sun*, and *Congressional Quarterly*. She is the 2009 winner of the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress for her coverage of the federal response to the 2008 financial meltdown. Julie is the co-author with Michael D. Shear of *Border Wars: Inside Trump's Assault on Immigration*, released in October 2019 and soon to be published in paperback by Simon & Schuster.



Marcy Dermansky is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Very Nice*, *The Red Car*, *Bad Marie*, and *Twins*. She has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the Edward F. Albee Foundation. She lives with her daughter in Montclair, New Jersey.



Erika Dreifus is the author of *Birthright: Poems* (Kelsay Books, 2019) as well as *Quiet Americans: Stories* (Last Light Studio, 2011), a collection largely inspired by her paternal grandparents, German Jews who escaped Nazi persecution and immigrated to the United States. Born in Brooklyn and raised there and in suburban New Jersey, Erika currently lives in New York City. Photo (c) Jody Christopherson.



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.



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. 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.



Hillary Frank is the creator of *The Longest Shortest Time*, a podcast about the surprises and absurdities of raising other humans. The show was named one of the 50 Best Podcasts by *The Atlantic* and *TIME* and has won several awards. Hillary's first radio story aired on *This American Life* in 1999. She went on to become a regular contributor to the program, and also reported stories for *Studio 360*, *Marketplace*, *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, and *Weekend America*. Hillary is also the author and illustrator of three young adult novels. Her latest book is *Weird Parenting Wins: Bathtub Dining, Family Screams, and Other Hacks from the Parenting Trenches*.



Matthew Futterman is a deputy sports editor and writer at the *New York Times*. He is the bestselling author of *Running to the Edge: A Band of Misfits and the Guru Who Unlocked the Secrets of Speed*, and *Players: How Sports Became a Business*. He was previously a senior special writer for sports at the *Wall Street Journal*. He was also part of the team at the *Star-Ledger* of New Jersey awarded the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News. He has covered the past five Olympics, five World Cups and numerous other major international sports events. In his spare time he runs marathons – 25 and counting.



K.R. Gaddy is an award-winning writer who believes in the power of narrative nonfiction to bring stories from the past to life in order to inform the world we live in today. In her debut book *Flowers in the Gutter* (Dutton 2020), she tells the true story of the teenage Edelweiss Pirates who fought the Nazis. She immerses the reader in the world of these teenagers as they resist the Third Reich. Her writing explores and highlights forgotten and marginalized histories, and has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Bitch Magazine*, *Narratively*, *Atlas Obscura*, *OZY*, among other publications.



Deborah Garrison is the poetry editor of Alfred A. Knopf and a senior editor at Pantheon Books. Prior to joining the Knopf Publishing Group in 2000, she spent 14 years at the *New Yorker*, where she edited both fiction and nonfiction and wrote criticism for the books section. She is the author of *A Working Girl Can't Win and Other Poems* (1998) and *The Second Child* (2007). Her poems and pieces about poetry have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Slate*, the *Yale Review*, and other journals.



Ylonda Gault is the author of the parenting memoir *Child, Please* (Penguin/Random House) and an Opinion contributor for the *New York Times*. An award-winning journalist and former editor at *ESSENCE*, she specializes in issues related to feminism, motherhood, family and the Black experience. Her work has been featured in iconic anthologies on Beyonce Knowles Carter and Michelle Obama recently published by St. Martin's Press. Gault, who is Senior Editorial Director at Planned Parenthood Federation of America, lives in New Jersey with her three awesome children.



Born in Zaria, Nigeria, **Hafizah Geter's** poetry and prose have appeared or is forthcoming in *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's Indelible* in the *Hippocampus*, *Tin House*, *Narrative Magazine*, *Boston Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *Longreads*, among others. She is an editor for Little A and TOPPLE Books from Amazon Publishing, and serves on the poetry committee for the Brooklyn Book Festival. Hafizah lives in Brooklyn, New York where she is working on a novel about coming to America and a full-length nonfiction project about the racial landscapes of loss, grief, and becoming in America. Her debut poetry collection *Un-American* is forthcoming from Wesleyan University Press in Fall 2020.



Brian Gilmore is a native of Washington DC, poet, writer, public interest lawyer, and author of four collections of poetry, including the latest, *'come see about me, marvin,'* (Wayne State Press), a 2020 Michigan Notable Books recipient. He has written for the *Crisis Magazine*, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Jazz Times*, and is a long time columnist with the Progressive Media Project. He has also been an NAACP Image Award nominee, a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award nominee, and runner up for the Larry Neal Writers Award. He is a Kimbilio Fellow and a Cave Canem Fellow and currently teaches social justice law at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.



Johanna Ginsberg is a senior writer for the *New Jersey Jewish News*. Trained as an attorney, Johanna figured out it was much more fun to work as a journalist. She's been covering all facets of Jewish New Jersey for 17 years, and her articles have been picked up by *The Forward*, *JTA*, and *The Jewish Week*. Along the way, she won The David Twersky Journalism Award, as well as awards from the American Jewish Press Association and The New Jersey Press Association. She lives in Maplewood, NJ, where she raised two children with her husband.



Gabrielle Glaser is the author of the forthcoming, *American Baby: A Mother, A Child, and the Shadow History of Adoption*, to be published by Viking in June. Her 2013 book examining women's drinking and the American rehab industry, *Her Best-Kept Secret: Why Women Drink – and How They Can Regain Control*, was a *New York Times* bestseller. Her 2015 Atlantic story, "The False Gospel of Alcoholics Anonymous," which examined science-based approaches to addiction, was included in the Best American Science and Nature Writing anthology of 2016. She has covered the intersection of health, medicine, and culture for the *New York Times* and many other publications, including the *Daily Beast*, the *Washington Post*, and *Scientific American*.



Naomi Gordon-Loebl is a writer, an educator, and a Puffin Foundation Writing Fellow at Type Media Center. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, *Complex*, *Hazlitt*, *Out*, *The Washington Spectator*, *The Toast*, the anthologies *The Social Construction of Difference and Inequality* and *Emerge*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of residencies and fellowships from Lambda Literary, Monson Arts, the Studios at Key West, and the Vermont Studio Center. Before working in journalism, she spent five years as a teacher and youth development professional, helping people who had left school to complete their high school equivalency diplomas. She was born, raised, and still lives in Brooklyn.



Jonathan Greenberg is an Emmy Award-winning screenwriter and Professor of English at Montclair State University. His television credits include the children's animated series *Rugrats*, *Hey Arnold*, *Recess*, and *Arthur*. He is the author of two books in addition to *Mobitiaries: Modernism, Satire, and the Novel* (2011), and *The Cambridge Introduction to Satire* (2019), both from Cambridge University Press.



As a survivor of domestic violence, **Saúl Grullon** draws his creative inspirations from raw experiences. His endeavor to absolve himself from intellectual incarceration through the means of his mother's zealous religious beliefs, as well as his father's military surviving skills, has molded Saul to be a hero of two worlds — dancing to the beat of a different drummer. In hardships, he has found the way to relinquish his pain on stage, through storytelling and poetry slams that contain an intrinsic element that'll soothe your soul.



Stephen Haff is the founder of Still Waters in a Storm, a one-room school serving Spanish-speaking immigrant children in Bushwick, Brooklyn. Previously, he taught English at a public school in Bushwick for nearly a decade. He earned his MFA in Theater Studies at Yale, and has made a living directing plays and writing essays for the *Village Voice* and other publications. Stephen lives in Queens with his wife, children's book author Tina Schneider, and their three children.



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*.



Nicole Haroutunian is co-founder—along with Apryl Lee—of Halfway There, a quarterly literary reading series in Montclair. She is the author of the short story collection *Speed Dreaming* (Little A, 2015) and an editor of the anthology *Silent Beaches, Untold Stories: New York City's Forgotten Waterfront* (Damiani, 2016). Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Bennington Review*, *Tin House's Open Bar*, *Joyland*, *Post Road*, *Pigeon Pages*, and elsewhere. She is an editor of the digital arts platform *Underwater New York*. She lives in Queens, but is from New Jersey.



David Haynes is professor emeritus of English at Southern Methodist University, where he directed the creative writing program for 10 years. For the past 23 years he has also been on the faculty of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. He is the founder of Kimbilio, and in 2019 he concluded a seven-year term as a Trustee for AWP. He is the author of seven novels for adults and five books for younger readers, most recently, *A Star in the Face of the Sky*, which was published in 2013 by New Rivers Press.



Indira Islas is a DACA recipient from Georgia who has lived in the U.S. for 15 years. She studies biology at Delaware State University, which she attends as a recipient of The Dream Act scholarship for undocumented students. After DACA was rescinded, she began to advocate for permanent bipartisan legislation that will give DACA beneficiaries a pathway to citizenship.



Victoria James has worked in restaurants since she was 13. She was certified as a sommelier when she was 21, making her the youngest sommelier in the country. She was *Food & Wine's* Sommelier of the Year in 2018 and has appeared on both *Forbes* and *Zagat's* "30 Under 30" lists. She has worked at some of the most prestigious restaurants in New York City, including Marea and Aureole. Currently, she is the Beverage Director and partner at Cote, a Michelin-starred hot spot in the Flatiron district. She is the author of *Drink Pink: A Celebration of Rosé* and *Wine Girl: The Obstacles, Humiliations, and Triumphs of America's Youngest Sommelier*. Photo (c) Alice Prenat.



Jack Jenkins is a national reporter for Religion News Service and a former Senior Religion Reporter for ThinkProgress. His work has also been published in *The Atlantic* and the *Washington Post*, and he is cited regularly in the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal*, National Public Radio, MSNBC, and other top media outlets. He is a regular guest on radio shows and podcasts, including ABC, BBC, various NPR affiliates, Sirius XM, Vox.com's *Today Explained* podcast, and many others. A graduate of Presbyterian College, Jenkins earned his Master of Divinity at Harvard University.



Stephanie Jimenez is based in Queens, New York. Her fiction and non-fiction have appeared in the *Guardian*, *O! the Oprah Magazine*, *Joyland Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and more. She is a former Fulbright recipient and a graduate of Scripps College in Claremont, California. Her debut novel, *They Could Have Named Her Anything*, was published on August 1, 2019 (Little A).



Jeh Johnson is a lawyer and former government official who served as the fourth United States Secretary of Homeland Security from 2013 to 2017. He previously was the General Counsel of the Department of Defense from 2009 to 2012 during the first years of the Obama Administration. He is currently a partner at the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and a board of directors member at Lockheed Martin Corporation.



Jim Johnson is an American politician, attorney, and community activist, who was formerly an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, where he received the Hamilton Award, the Department of Treasury's highest award. He was a Democratic Party candidate in the 2017 New Jersey gubernatorial race.



Jennifer Voigt Kaplan is an award-winning author of children's fiction. Her debut children's novel, *Crushing the Red Flowers*, was recognized in six literary contests before its publication, including earning a Letter of Merit for the SCBWI Work-in-Progress Grant and winning the middle-grade category of the *Publishers Weekly* BookLife Prize for Fiction. While the story is fictional, it is based on true family experiences. Jennifer was born in Germany, raised in Philadelphia, and now resides in the New York City area. She holds degrees from the Wharton School of Business in marketing and from the London School of Economics in social psychology. Connect with Jennifer at: JenniferVK.com



Mitchell James Kaplan's novel, *By Fire, By Water* (Other Press, 2010), won numerous literary awards both domestically and abroad. *Into The Boundless Night* (Regal House, September 2020), a novel of 1st century Rome and the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, will be out this fall, while *Rhapsody*, a novel about Kay Swift and her 1920s Broadway circle, including George Gershwin, will appear in 2021 (Gallery/Simon & Schuster). Mitchell lives with his family and their cats in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.



Ronen Kauffman is the author of *New Brunswick*, *New Jersey*, *Goodbye - Bands*, *Dirty Basements* and *the Search for Self*. He is a public elementary school teacher, sings for the band *Zombie Apocalypse* and is a devoted yogi. Kauffman lives with his family in Union City, NJ. Photo credit: Michael Alago.



Tina Kelley's *Rise Wildly* is forthcoming from CavanKerry Press, joining *Abloom and Awry*, *Precise*, and *The Gospel of Galore*, which won the Washington State Book Award. She co-authored *Almost Home: Helping Kids Move from Homelessness to Hope*, and shared in a Pulitzer covering 9/11 at *The New York Times*.



Lily King is the award-winning author of the novels *The Pleasing Hour*, *The English Teacher*, *Father of the Rain* and *Euphoria*, one of the *New York Times Book Review's* "10 Best Books of 2014," finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and winner of the Kirkus Prize for fiction. Her latest novel is *Writers & Lovers*. She lives in Maine. Photo (c) Winky Lewis.



Christina Baker Kline is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of eight novels, including *Tin Ticket* (forthcoming 9/2020), *Orphan Train*, and *A Piece of the World*. 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. Photo (c) Beowulf Sheehan.



Kelsey Kloss is the author of *Malty the Blue Tiger* bilingual children's books, and a former editor for national magazines including *Reader's Digest*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Woman's Day*, *Prevention*, *ELLE Decor*, and *Redbook*. She hosts *In Plain Language*, the biweekly podcast presented by *Malty the Blue Tiger* about speech and language in kids. She is also currently a content strategist for the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. www.maltythebluetiger.com www.kelseykloss.com



Jessica de Koninck is the author of one full-length poetry collection, *Cutting Room* (Terrapin Books) and one chapbook, *Repairs* (Finishing Line Press). Her poems appear in journals and anthologies including *Poetry Magazine*, *Diode* and *The Valparaiso Poetry Review* and have been featured twice on *Verse Daily*. Baron Wormser has said about her work, "A stubborn, jumpy vitality abides, capable of real truth-telling." Jessica has been a finalist in the Raynes, Dobler, Juniper Press and Black Lawrence competitions. She leads poetry workshops at the Greenwich House Senior Center in Manhattan and serves on the editorial board of *Jewish Currents* magazine. For more information go to www.jessicadekoninck.com.



Melissa Klurman is a former book editor at both *Fodor's* and *Frommer's* travel guides; a Lowell Thomas Travel Writing Award Winner for her work on *Fodor's Caribbean Guidebook*; and the editor of *Frommer's 2020 Orlando/Walt Disney World Guidebook*. Melissa's travel writing has appeared in myriad lifestyle publications including *Elle*, *Islands*, *Brides*, *Martha Stewart Weddings*, *Reader's Digest*, *Parents*, and *Saveur*. She lives in Montclair with her husband, son, and rescue dog, Pepper.



Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, the first husband and wife to share a Pulitzer Prize for journalism, have co-authored four previous books: *A Path Appears*, *Half the Sky*, *Thunder from the East*, and *China Wakes*. They were awarded a Pulitzer in 1990 for their coverage of China, as well as the 2009 Dayton Literary Peace Prize Lifetime Achievement Award. Now an op-ed columnist for the *New York Times*, Kristof was previously bureau chief in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Tokyo. He won his second Pulitzer in 2006 for his columns on Darfur. WuDunn worked at the Times as a business editor and foreign correspondent in Tokyo and Beijing, and now works in finance and consulting.



Paul Krugman, recipient of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Economics and a bestselling author, has been a columnist at the *New York Times* for 20 years. A Distinguished Professor at City University of New York, he resides in New York City.



Devany Kurtti is a junior at Montclair High School where she is a member of the Center for Social Justice. Devany has regularly volunteered for Succeed2gether, M.E.S.H (Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless) and helped organize a sleep in outside of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair to raise awareness for the homeless. She participated in the 2016 Women's March in New York City. Devany also published an essay on NJ.com regarding biracial identity following the marriage of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry.



Denise Laidler is a communication specialist and culture and travel writer and Founder and Creative Director of GoldenPen Ink Communication. Her fiction has been featured in the *Caribbean Writer* Vol. 27 and was awarded the anthology's David Hough Literary Prize to a Caribbean author for her short story *Where Dreams Die*, an excerpt from her debut novel *Journey to Land of Look Behind*.



Tish Lampert a photojournalist, writer & host of the blog "America Speaks," is author of the new book, *We Protest: Fighting For What We Believe In* (Rizzoli). Lampert has chronicled protest movements that have been catalysts for reform in America for 20 years, including the 1992 riots in Los Angeles; the Cesar Chavez movement for migrant worker's rights; the Navajo Nation in Arizona. Her investigations include assignments for Conflict Awareness Project, Voices of African Mothers, Gente Unide and Border Angels. She has won awards for her work in Sub-Saharan Africa and has exhibited in the United Nations, Photo LA and elsewhere. Visit www.tishlampert.org.



Erik Larson is the author of five national bestsellers: *Dead Wake*, *In the Garden of Beasts*, *Thunderstruck*, *The Devil in the White City*, and *Isaac's Storm*, which have collectively sold more than nine million copies. His books have been published in nearly 20 countries.



Marcia LeBeau's poems have been published in *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Hiram Poetry Review*, *Rattle*, *SLANT*, and elsewhere. Her work has also appeared in *O: The Oprah Magazine* and has been read on the radio. She has been a finalist for the Rattle Poetry Prize and nominated twice for a Pushcart Prize. Recently, her chapbook, *The Book of Bob*, was shortlisted for the 2019 Wallace Award. She holds an MFA in poetry from VCFA. Marcia is an artist-in-residence in the schools, plays viola in her local symphony, and has an energy healing business. In January 2020, she launched The Write Space in the Valley Arts District of Orange, NJ; a co-working and event space for creative writers.



Apryl Lee is the co-founder—along with Nicole Haroutunian—and host of *Halfway There*, a quarterly reading series in Montclair. Her short stories and essays have been published at *The New Orleans Review*, *Joyland Magazine*, *Word Riot*, *Underwater New York*, *Keyhole Press*, *Necessary Fiction*, and *Handwritten Work*, among others. She teaches writing and screenwriting, and holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. She lives in New Jersey with her husband and son and has recently completed a novel-in-stories.



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.



Benilde Little is the bestselling author of the novels *Good Hair*, *The Itch*, *Acting Out*, *Who Does She Think She Is?* (Simon and Schuster) and a memoir *Welcome to My Breakdown* (Atria). A former reporter for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, the *Star Ledger* and *People* magazine and a senior editor at *Essence*, Benilde has written for the *New York Times*, among many other publications. She has been a creative writing professor at Ramapo College, The City College of New York, and currently teaches memoir writing in Montclair. She's currently working on a one-woman show based on her memoir. She and her husband live in Montclair and have an adult daughter and college-age son.



Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa's first novel, *Daughters of the Stone* was selected as a finalist for the 2010 PEN America Bingham Literary Award. Her work has appeared in a number of literary journals including *Narrative Fiction*, *Kweli Journal*, *Label Me Latina*, *The Latino Book Review*, *Pleiades*, *The Afro-Hispanic Review* and *Auburn Avenue*. Ms. Llanos has also contributed to several anthologies, including the bilingual publication, *Breaking Ground: An Anthology of Puerto Rican Women Writers in New York City 1980-2012* and *Latina Authors and Their Muses*. For further information refer to her website at www.dahlmallanosfigueroa.com



Livia Llewellyn is a writer of dark fantasy, horror, and erotica, whose short fiction has appeared in over 40 anthologies and magazines and has been reprinted in multiple best-of anthologies, including *Ellen Datlow's The Best Horror of the Year series*, *Years Best Weird Fiction*, and *The Mammoth Book of Best Erotica*. Her first collection, *Engines of Desire: Tales of Love & Other Horrors*, received two Shirley Jackson Award nominations. Her story "Furnace" received a 2013 Shirley Jackson Award nomination for Best Short Story. Her second collection, *Furnace*, received a Shirley Jackson Award nomination for Best Collection and won the 2016 This is Horror Award for Best Collection. You can find her online at liviallewellyn.com, and on Instagram and Twitter.



Steve Lohr has covered technology, business and economics for the *New York Times* for more than 20 years. In 2013, he was part of the team awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting. He was a foreign correspondent for a decade and served as an editor, and has written for magazines including the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Atlantic*, and the *Washington Monthly*. He is the author of *Data-ism*, which examines the field of data science and decision-making (Harper Business, 2015). He is also the author of a history of software and computer programming, *Go To* (Basic Books, 2001).



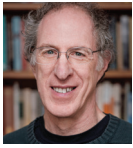
Marta López-Luaces was born in Spain and lives in New York. She is a poet, writer and translator. She holds a Ph.D. in Spanish and Latin American Literatures from New York University (1998). She is a Full Professor at Montclair State University. She published two novels and a book of short stories: *La Virgen de la Noche* (2009), *Los traductores del viento* (Madrid-Monterrey, Vaso Roto, 2013), won the International Latino Book Award for Best Fantasy Novel, 2014 and *El Placer de matar a una madre* (Madrid: Ediciones B, Penguin Random House, 2019). She also published five books of poetry: *Diatancia y destierros* (1998), *Las lenguas del viajero* (2005), *Los arquitectos del imaginario* (finalist of the prestigious award Ausiás March, published by Pre-Texto 2011), and *Después de la oscuridad* (Valencia, Pre-Texto 2016).



Emma Lord is a digital media editor and writer living in New York City, where she spends whatever time she isn't writing either running or belting show tunes in community theater. She graduated from the University of Virginia with a major in psychology and a minor in how to tilt your computer screen so nobody will notice you updating your fan fiction from the back row. She was raised on glitter, grilled cheese, and a whole lot of love. Her sun sign is Hufflepuff, but she is a Gryffindor rising. *Tweet Cute* is her debut novel. You can find her geeking out online on Twitter.



Dayna Lorentz is the author of the middle grade trilogy *Dogs of the Drowned City* and the young adult trilogy *No Safety in Numbers*, which was an ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers. Her next middle grade book, *Of a Feather*, is about the friendship that forms between an orphaned great horned owl and the eleven-year-old girl who rescues and trains him for falconry. Dayna lives in Vermont with her husband and two children, and always scans the skies for hawks and the trees for owls. Visit her at daynalorentz.com.



Steve Luxenberg is an associate editor at the *Washington Post* and an award-winning author. During his 40 years as an editor and reporter, Steve has overseen reporting that has earned many national honors, including two Pulitzer Prizes. His latest book, *Separate*, has garnered several honors: The *New York Times* named it as one of 100 Notable Books for 2019 and designated it as an Editors' Choice. Amazon selected it as one of the year's Best Books for History. It was longlisted for the Cundill History Prize, an international award recognizing the best history writing in English. As a work in progress, it won the 2016 J. Anthony Lukas Prize for excellence in nonfiction. Photo (c) Josh Luxenberg.



Lindsey N. Mach is the owner of Lindsey Noelle Publishing Services LLC. She is a freelance writer, editor, and marketer who is also a certified teacher. She has almost 10 years of experience in the publishing industry and has worked in both trade and educational publishing. Her publishing experience includes editorial and publicity/marketing. Lindsey's goal is to help writers and companies find and refine their voice and connect with their audiences. In addition to providing publishing services, she offers workshops to help writers bring their projects to publication and connect with readers. Find out more at Reedsy.com/Lindsey-Mach



Dewar MacLeod is Professor of History at William Paterson University. He is the author of *Making the Scene in the Garden State: Popular Music in New Jersey from Edison to Springsteen and Beyond* (March 2020) and *Kids of the Black Hole: Punk Rock in Postsuburban California* (2010). He sings and plays guitar for Thee Volatiles, the greatest punk rock band in Montclair, New Jersey. And he is co-owner, with his daughter Sinéad MacLeod, of Legacy Coffee on Glenridge Ave & Bay Street in Montclair.



Elinor Mattern teaches classes and leads workshops on numerous aspects of writing, creativity, culture and communication at a variety of venues, including Czech Technical University in Prague. She's a visual artist and poet, and received her MFA at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her poems and non-fiction have appeared in several dozen journals and newspapers, including *Washington Square* and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. She can be reached at Elinorgrace@yahoo.com, or you can find her on Facebook.



Helen Mazarakis is a former community development specialist, who now works with several non-profit organizations when not writing. Her poetry has been published in *Exit 13*, *Clementine*, and *Everyday Poetry*, and the *Princeton Alumni Weekly*. She is currently at work on two middle-grade novels. She chairs the Board of the BRICK Education Network in Newark, as well as Impact100 Essex, a women's collaborative giving organization. She was formerly the director of the Montclair Economic Development Corporation, and lives in Montclair.



Colum McCann is the internationally bestselling author of the novels *TransAtlantic*, *Let the Great World Spin*, *Zoli*, *Dancer*, *This Side of Brightness*, and *Songdogs*, as well as three critically acclaimed story collections and the nonfiction book *Letters to a Young Writer*. His fiction has been published in over 40 languages.



Sarah McGrath is Vice President and Editor in Chief of Riverhead Books where she publishes an acclaimed list of award-winning and bestselling writers that includes Brit Bennett, Elizabeth Gilbert, Lauren Groff, Paula Hawkins, Khaled Hosseini, Sigrid Nunez, Helen Oyeyemi, Emma Straub, Gabriel Tallent, and Meg Wolitzer. Her books often transcend category, ranging from #1 bestsellers like *The Girl on the Train* to National Book Award finalist and winners *Fates and Furies* and *The Friend*, to debut discoveries.



Raakhee Merchandani is a writer, editor and pediatric cancer crusader. Her work has appeared in *Elle*, *Glamour*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Daily News*, *New York Post*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Redbook* and *HuffPo*. Raakhee has also appeared on the *Today* show as well as both a host and guest on SiriusXM. *Super Satya Saves the Day* is Raakhee's first book and is inspired by her own fiery daughter Satya. Her next book, *Hair Twins*, about a Sikh father and daughter, will be published by Little, Brown in 2021.



Adrienne Miller was the literary and fiction editor of *Esquire* from 1997-2006. She is the author of the novel *The Coast of Akron*. She lives in New York City with her husband, son, and Italian Greyhound. To learn more, please visit AdrienneMiller.com. Photo (c) Ulf Andersen.



Madeline Miller has taught and tutored Latin, Greek, and Shakespeare to high school students for over 15 years. *The Song of Achilles*, her first novel, was awarded the 2012 Orange Prize for Fiction and was a *New York Times* bestseller. Her second novel, *Circe*, was winner of the Goodreads Choice Award, and was widely named best book of the year.



Budd Mishkin has been a broadcast journalist for almost 40 years. He joined CBS News Radio in March, 2019 as an anchor/correspondent. Mishkin spent 25 years as an anchor/reporter for NY1, New York City's 24 hour television news channel. He was one of the station's founding journalists in 1992. In 2003, he created NY1's weekly series, *One on 1 with Budd Mishkin*, profiling influential and intriguing New Yorkers from a wide range of fields. From 1992-2017, Mishkin served as host and reporter for *Sports on 1: The Last Word*, NY1's nightly sports show.



Martha Moffet was born at the end of a dirt road in St. Clair County, Alabama. She worked in publishing in New York City (*GQ*, *American Heritage Dictionary*, *Ladies' Home Journal*) and wrote for *Cosmopolitan* and other magazines. At one point, with a full-time job and three children, she wrote her first novel (*The Common Garden*) on the subway, going back and forth to work. She returned to a small southern town (Lantana, Florida, another dirt road), where she was chief librarian at AMI. Asked what that was like, she says, "Like being flung into a Victorian workhouse."



Liz Moore is the author of the acclaimed novels *Heft* and *The Unseen World*, as well as the newly released *Long Bright River*. A winner of the 2014 Rome Prize in Literature, she lives in Philadelphia. Photo (c) Maggie Casey.



Enrique Morones. In the American Southwest and its borderlands, no social justice advocate has made a greater impact on the lives of undocumented workers than internationally acclaimed **Enrique Morones**. As founder and Executive Director of Border Angels for 33 years, he continues to save lives and make a difference. His non-profit organization has given a human face to countless migrants, while offering them compassion in the form of food, water, clothing, education, advocacy, and hope. Also founder of GENTE UNIDA, a human rights border coalition, Morones is recognized as one of the 100 most influential Latinos in the USA by *Hispanic Business Magazine*. He is author of *The Power of One: The Border Angels Story*.



Bill Moyers A singular voice in journalism and public affairs for more than five decades, Bill Moyers was a founding organizer of the Peace Corps and, at age 28, its first deputy director. He became President Lyndon Johnson's special assistant for domestic policy and then White House Press Secretary before resigning in 1967 to become publisher of *New York Newsday*. He served as senior correspondent of *CBS Reports* and senior news analyst for the *CBS Evening News* before he and his wife, Judith Davidson Moyers, formed an independent production company. Their ground-breaking PBS series earned more than 40 Emmy Awards and nine Peabodys. Bill Moyers received a National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Award and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a recipient of the PEN USA Courageous Advocacy Award. He is president of The Schumann Media Center, a non-profit which supports independent journalism. Photo (c) Peter Krogh.



Diana Murray grew up in New York City and still lives nearby with her husband, two daughters, and a spiky bearded dragon who loves listening to stories—especially about dinosaurs. Some of Diana's picture books include *Wild About Dads*, *Five Fuzzy Chicks*, *Doris the Bookasaurus*, *Grimelda: The Very Messy Witch*, *Ned the Knitting Pirate*, and *City Shapes*. Her poems have appeared in magazines including *Highlights*, *High Five*, and *Spider*.



Leslie-Ann Murray is a fiction writer from Trinidad and Tobago. She's currently living in Hardwick, MA. Before living in this small countrified town, she lived in Paris, Bangladesh, Beijing, and South Africa. Leslie-Ann Murray is currently working on her first novel collection, *The Start of Something in The Middle*. Besides writing, she hosts a monthly book review show – *Brown Girl Book Lover*.



Eva Lesko Natiello is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Memory Box*, a self-published psychological thriller which has sold hundreds of thousands of copies worldwide. She is a sought after speaker who has appeared at ThrillerFest, BookBaby Independent Author Conferences, Morristown Festival of Books, among others. Eva draws on her 20+ years of experience in PR, marketing and branding to coach authors on self-publishing and book marketing. Her articles and essays have appeared in the *Huffington Post*, *New Jersey Magazine*, *Martha's Vineyard Magazine* (2020), and others.



Judith Newman is the author of the bestseller *To Siri With Love: A Mother, Her Autistic Son, and the Kindness of Machines*, a collection of illuminating stories about life with a fourteen-year-old boy with autism. The *New York Times* called it "an uncommonly riotous and moving book...with whipsaws of brilliant zingers and heart punches." The *Washington Post* called Newman "a gifted personal essayist, her warmth and wit recalling Nora Ephron's." Previous books include *You Make Me Feel Like An Unnatural Woman: Diary of a New (Old) Mother*, about her adventures in the world of infertility. In addition to books and personal essays, Judith is a columnist for the *New York Times Book Review*. Her profiles are featured in a variety of publications from the *New York Times* and *People* to *Vanity Fair*, *AARP*, and *National Geographic*.



Doreen Oliver is a writer and performer whose critically-acclaimed one-woman show about raising a child with autism, *Everything is Fine Until It's Not*, broke a record for the fastest sell-out in the NY Fringe Festival's 20-year history and won the Audience Award at the United Solo Festival. Her essays about race, autism, and life's contradictions have appeared or are forthcoming in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Root*, *Kenyon Review* and elsewhere. Awarded fellowships from Hedgebrook, VCCA, Stanford Business School, and the Sustainable Arts Foundation at Gallery Aferro, Doreen is a former film producer for Lee Daniels Entertainment. More at www.doreenoliver.com or @doreenoliver on Twitter. Photo:© 2016 Julia Maloof Verderosa



Tochi Onyebuchi holds a BA from Yale, an MFA in screenwriting from Tisch, a master's degree in global economic law from L'institut d'études politiques, and a JD from Columbia Law School. His writing has appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction* and *Ideomancer*, among other places, and he is the author of the novels *Beasts Made of Night* and *Crown of Thunder*. Tochi resides in Connecticut.



Deesha Philyaw's collection of short stories about Black women, sex, and the Black church, *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies*, is forthcoming from West Virginia University Press in September 2020. Her work has been listed as Notable in the Best American Essays series and has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *McSweeney's*, *The Rumpus*, *Brevity*, *Full Grown People*, *Apogee Journal*, *TueNight*, *ESPN's The Undeclared*, *The Baltimore Review*, and elsewhere. Deesha is also the co-author of *Co-Parenting 101: Helping Your Kids Thrive in Two Households After Divorce*, written in collaboration with her ex-husband.



Adam Platt has been a contributing editor and restaurant critic for *New York* magazine since 2000. He won the James Beard Foundation Journalism Award for Restaurant Reviews in 2010. During the course of nearly 25 years in the magazine business, Platt has written for a variety of publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The New York Observer*, *Esquire*, and *Condé Nast Traveler*. He lives in Greenwich Village with his wife and two pizza-loving daughters.



Thomas Pluck is the author of the Anthony-finalist thriller *Bad Boy Boogie*, the adventure novel *Blade of Dishonor*, and the story collection *Life During Wartime*. His story "Deadbeat" was chosen as distinguished mystery story of 2018 by *Best American Mystery Stories*, and "The Big Snip" was included in *The Year's Best Crime & Mystery Stories 2016*. He has been published in *The Utne Reader*, *Weird New Jersey*, *Lit Hub*, and *The Good Men Project*, and *Library Journal* called his writing "stunning." He lives in Montclair with his wife and Louie the cat.



Eduardo Porter was born in Phoenix and grew up in the United States, Mexico, and Belgium. He is an economics reporter for *The New York Times*, where he was a member of the editorial board from 2007 to 2012 and the Economic Scene columnist from 2012 to 2018. He began his career in journalism as a financial reporter for Notimex, a Mexican news agency, in Mexico City. He was a correspondent in Tokyo and London, and in 1996 moved to São Paulo, Brazil, as editor of *América Economía*, a business magazine. In 2000, he went to work at *The Wall Street Journal* in Los Angeles to cover the growing Hispanic population. He is the author of *The Price of Everything* (2011), an exploration of the cost-benefit analyses that underpin human behaviors and institutions. He lives in Brooklyn. Photo (c) Michael Lionstar.



Leah Price has taught at Cambridge University, Harvard University, and Rutgers University, where she is currently Henry Rutgers Distinguished Professor of English and Founding Director of the Rutgers Book Initiative. Her most recent book is *What We Talk About When We Talk About Books*. She writes for the *New York Times Book Review*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Boston Globe*, and *Public Books*, where she also serves as the "Print/Screen" editor. Photo (c) Jon Chase.



Nancy Princenthal is a New York-based writer. A former senior editor of *Art in America*, where she remains a contributing editor, she has also written for the *New York Times*, *Parkett*, the *Village Voice*, and many other publications. She is currently on the faculty of the MFA art writing program at the School of Visual Arts. Her previous book, *Agnes Martin*, won 2016 PEN/ Jacqueline Bograd Weld award for biography.



Ernesto Quiñonez is an acclaimed novelist, essayist, a Sundance fellow, and a Moth storyteller. He was raised in Spanish Harlem and is a product of public education from kindergarten at PS 101 on 111th Street and Lex to his Master at the City College of New York. His debut *Bodega Dreams* is now a landmark classic, his latest novel *Taina*, was released in September 2019.



Marco Rafalà is a first-generation Sicilian American novelist, musician, and writer for award-winning tabletop role-playing games. He earned his MFA in Fiction from The New School and is a cocurator of the Guerrilla Lit Reading Series in New York City. Born in Middletown, Connecticut, he now lives in Brooklyn, New York. His fiction and non-fiction have appeared in the *Bellevue Literary Review* and LitHub. *How Fires End* is his debut novel.



Ben Reiter is the author of *Astroball: The New Way to Win It All*, a *New York Times* bestseller. As a longtime senior writer for *Sports Illustrated*, he wrote 27 cover stories and won the 2018 Deadline Award for Magazine Profile for his feature 'The Seeker: The Complicated Life and Death of Hideki Irabu.' Before joining SI, he was a research assistant for the legendary investigative journalist Wayne Barrett at the *Village Voice*. He is currently at work on both a narrative podcast and a documentary television series investigating the Houston Astros' cheating scandal. Reiter is a member of the board of directors of The Marshall Project. He grew up in South Orange, NJ, and lives in New York City.



Michael Rex is the creator of over 45 books for children, including the #1 Bestseller *Goodnight Goon* and the popular *Fangbone!* series that has been turned into an animated show that runs on Netflix. He has written and drawn picture books, illustrated chapter books and graphic novels. In 2020 he will have two picture books published. *Facts Vs. Opinion Vs. Robots*, out in February, is his first non-fiction work. *We're Going on a Goon Hunt*, will be out in August for the Halloween season. He is active on Instagram (fangbone_rex) where he posts cartoons, sketches and workshops book ideas. He lives in Leonia, NJ, with his wife, two teenage boys and a dog.



Ambassador Susan E. Rice is currently Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow at the School of International Service at American University, a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*. She serves on the boards of Netflix and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and previously served on several nonprofit boards, including the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Photo (c) Christopher Patey.



Lori Richmond is a corporate creative director turned picture book maker and can relate all too well to travel-for-work parents and the bunnies who miss them. As a former contributing editor and spokesperson for the leading pregnancy and parenting brand, The Bump, Lori has appeared as an expert on *Today*, *Good Morning America*, CNN, and more. She works out of her studio in Brooklyn, New York, where she lives with her family. Lori is also the author-illustrator of *Pax and Blue* and has illustrated several picture books, including *A Hop Is Up*, written by Kristy Dempsey, and *Oopsie-Do*, written by Tim Kubart.



Mo Rocca is a correspondent for CBS *Sunday Morning*, host of *The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation*, and host and creator of the Cooking Channel's *My Grandmother's Ravioli*, in which he learned to cook from grandmothers and grandfathers across the country. He's also a frequent panelist on NPR's hit weekly quiz show *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!* Rocca spent four seasons as a correspondent on Comedy Central's *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Photo (c) Jon Paul Filo CBS Broadcasting Inc.



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* best-seller 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.



Maria Russo is the Children's Book Editor for the *New York Times Book Review*. A longtime cultural journalist, she has been a writer and editor at the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Observer*, and *Salon*, and holds a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. She is the author, with Pamela Paul, of *How to Raise a Reader*. She lives in Montclair, New Jersey with her husband and three children.



Sharon Saline Psy.D., is a clinical psychologist and author of the award-winning book, *What Your ADHD Child Wishes You Knew: Working Together to Empower Kids for Success in School and Life*. She specializes in working with kids, young adults and families living with ADHD, learning disabilities and mental health issues. Her unique perspective - as a sibling in an ADHD home, combined with decades of experience as a clinical psychologist and consultant - assists her in guiding people towards effective communication and closer connections. She lectures and facilitates workshops internationally on ADHD, executive functioning, anxiety and working with different kinds of learners.



Claudia Serea's poems and translations have been published in *Field*, *New Letters*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Malahat Review*, *Oxford Poetry*, and elsewhere. She is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *Twoxism*, a collaboration with visual artist Maria Haro (8th House Publishing, 2018). Serea received the 2013 *New Letters* Readers Award, the *Levure Littéraire* 2014 Performance Award, and several honorable mentions for poems and chapbooks. Her poems have been translated in French, Italian, Arabic, and Farsi, and have been featured in *The Writer's Almanac*. She is a founding editor of *National Translation Month*, and she co-hosts The Williams Poetry Readings.



Abby Sher is a writer and performer whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, and more. She is the author of *Miss You Love You Hate You Bye*, *All the Ways the World Can End*, *Breaking Free: True Stories of Girls Who Escaped Modern Slavery*, *Amen, Amen, Amen: Memoir of a Girl Who Couldn't Stop Praying*, and *Kissing Snowflakes*. Abby has written and performed for The Second City, Upright Citizen's Brigade, HBO and NPR. She is a co-producer of the Chucklepatch Comedy Show and she lives in New Jersey with her ridiculously awesome family. www.abby-sher.com. Photo (c) Franck Goldberg.



Renee Simms's debut story collection *Meet Behind Mars* (Wayne State University Press) was a Foreword Indies Finalist and listed by *The Root* as one of 28 brilliant books by black authors in 2018. She has received fellowships from the NEA and Bread Loaf and teaches at the University of Puget Sound and in the Rainier Writing Workshop. She is currently at work on a novel and a collection of linked essays.



Laura Sims's debut novel, *Looker* (Scribner), was published to critical acclaim in early 2019 and named a Best Book of 2019 by *Vogue*, *Esquire UK*, *CrimeReads*, and *The Star-Ledger*, and a Best New Book by *People*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *CosmoUK*, *The Washington Independent Review of Books* and more. *Looker* has also been optioned for television by Entertainment One and Emily Mortimer's King Bee Productions. Sims has also published four books of poetry, including, most recently, *Staying Alive*; her first poetry collection, *Practice, Restraint*, was the winner of the 2005 Fence Books Alberta Prize. Her poetry and prose have appeared in *The New Republic*, *Boston Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Gulf Coast*, and other journals. She lives in New Jersey with her family.



Stephanie and Jed Snyder, a married author/illustrator team, conceived the Littlebit Book Club in 2017. New mom and former language arts teacher Stephanie 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 reinforcing language and literacy. Thus, *Strolling! A Lucy Littlebit Book* was drafted, and Jed completed the illustrations. Littlebit Book Club books are about the ways babies, toddlers, and young children learn about the world, told from the point-of-view of the pint-sized protagonist, Lucy Littlebit. *Strolling!* captures Lucy Littlebit's view from her stroller as she explores her town with Mommy. In the second book - *Dining!* - Lucy Littlebit enjoys all of her favorite foods (lovingly prepared by Daddy) in her high chair throughout the day. The third book - *Cruising!* - shares Lucy Littlebit's perspectives from her car seat. The Snyder family's interests include bargain shopping, fantasy football, and toddler mischief. They live in New Jersey, where they enjoy strolling, dining, and cruising down the shore.



Nancy Star is the author of five novels including the bestselling *Sisters, One, Two, Three*, which landed on the *Publishers Weekly* list of Top Ten Bestsellers of 2016. Her sixth novel, *Rules for Moving*, the story of a beloved advice columnist whose life is out of control, will be published in May 2020 by Lake Union. In addition to her novels, Nancy's essays have appeared in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and *Family Circle*, among other places. Before becoming a novelist, she spent over a decade working as a movie executive at the Samuel Goldwyn Company and The Ladd Company, dividing her time between New York and London. She raised and launched two kids here in Montclair, where she still lives with her husband.



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.



Carole Stone is Distinguished Professor of English and creative writing, emerita, Montclair State University. Her poetry collections include *Hurt: The Shadow* and *All We Have is Our Voice* (Dos Madres Press), *American Rhapsody* (CavanKerry Press), and *Traveling With the Dead*, (Backwaters Press, Dos Madres Press). She has published five poetry chapbooks and her work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She received three Fellowships from The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and a fellowship from Rothermere Institute, Oxford University, UK as well as residencies at Hawthornden Writers Retreat, Scotland and Chateau de Lavigny, Switzerland.



Douglas Stuart was born and raised in Glasgow. After graduating from the Royal College of Art in London, he moved to New York City, where he began a career in fashion design. *Shuggie Bain* is his first novel. Photo (c) Clive Smith.



Neda Toloui-Semnani is a journalist and writer whose work has appeared in various online and print publications, including the *Washington Post*, *New York*, *LA Review of Books*, *The Baffler*, *The Week*, *BuzzFeed*, and *Roll Call* among others. Her work has also been featured in *The Rumpus* and *This American Life*. She holds a Masters of Science in Gender and Social Policy from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a Masters in Fine Arts in Nonfiction from Goucher College. In 2017, she was named a NYFA fellow in Nonfiction. *They Said They Wanted a Revolution: A Memoir of My Parents* is forthcoming from Little A.



A past president of the National Book Critics Circle, **Kate Tuttle** is interim books editor at the *Boston Globe*. Her reviews and essays have appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, and elsewhere. She lives in Montclair.



Ruvanee Pieterz Vilhauer is the author of *The Mask Collectors* (2019), a literary thriller set in New Jersey and Sri Lanka. She is also the author of a collection of short stories, *The Water Diviner and Other Stories* (2018), which won the Iowa Short Fiction Award. She is a former winner of the Commonwealth Short Story Competition, and her short fiction has appeared in many literary journals. Before her career as an academic psychologist, she worked as a science writer for NASA and as a therapist in many settings, including a jail. Until recently, she had a day job as a psychology professor at New York University. She lives in New Jersey. Photo (c) Jon Agnello.



Shelby Vittek is a journalist and essayist whose work has appeared in *Longreads*, *Narratively*, *Catapult*, the *Washington Post*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Bon Appétit*, *National Geographic*, *The Kitchn*, *The Record*, among others. She holds a MFA in creative nonfiction from Rutgers-Camden, and teaches writing and journalism classes at Rutgers, Rowan University and Cedar Crest College. She's currently the associate editor for *New Jersey Monthly*.



Teddy Wayne is the author of *Loner*, *The Love Song of Jonny Valentine*, and *Kapitoil*. He is the winner of a Whiting Writers' Award and an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship as well as a finalist for the Young Lions Fiction Award, the PEN/Bingham Prize, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. He is a regular contributor to the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and *McSweeney's*. Photo (c) Christopher Gabello.



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



Dr. Larry Westreich, a board-certified psychiatrist, is Associate Clinical Professor Psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Westreich formerly directed the Detoxification Ward and the Dual Diagnosis Ward at Bellevue Hospital, where he remains on the faculty. He maintains a private practice in addiction treatment in New York and New Jersey, is Past President of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, and the author of *Helping the Addict You Love*, (Simon and Schuster, 2017) and *A Parent's Guide to Teen Addiction* (Skyhorse Publishing, 2017). Dr. Westreich has served since 2003 as the Consultant on Behavioral Health and Addiction to Major League Baseball.



Alexis Wichowski is the deputy chief technology officer for the City of New York, and an adjunct professor of technology, media, and communications at Columbia University. A widely recognized technology expert, Wichowski spent the past two decades working at the intersection of technology, media, and government, most recently at the State Department and the United Nations. Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *TechCrunch*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Wired*, which published her viral piece, "Net States Rule the World: Ignore Them at Your Peril."



Mary Alice Williams is the anchor of Public Media's NJTV News. The highly acclaimed pioneering broadcast journalist was one of the primary architects behind the design of the first worldwide television network, CNN, where she also served as New York Bureau Chief, Principal anchor and Vice president, becoming one of the highest-ranking female executives in American television. Williams anchored NBC News programs from *Sunrise* and *The Today Show* to *NBC Nightly News*, and was an anchor on the NBC News team that won a national Emmy Award for its coverage of the fall of communism. Williams has won multiple awards and 15 honorary doctorates for her work, including her specials and series for the Discovery Health Channel, The Hallmark channel, Lifetime and PBS.



Z. Williams, MD is a board-certified ophthalmic plastic surgeon and writer. She has two decades' worth of publications within ophthalmology textbooks and peer-reviewed journal articles. Her writing shifted from scientific to narrative after she left full-time clinical practice to pursue interests outside of medicine. Her work now focuses on themes illustrating the harmful consequences the medical system has on doctors, juxtaposed against the struggles of patients, who suffer the downstream effects within this toxic medical culture. Dr. Williams cares for patients during humanitarian campaigns to Central America and on a part-time basis at a public city hospital in Queens, New York. She is currently completing a manuscript entitled *Enduring Caduceus*, which details a physician's turbulent first year of medical training.



Kristian Winfield is a reporter covering the Brooklyn Nets and NBA for the *NY Daily News*. He is from Brooklyn, NY and a proud 2015 graduate of Hampton University. Kristian joined the *Daily News* in July 2019 after three seasons covering the NBA at *SB Nation*. He grew up in Bedstuy, and also writes about food and nutrition at the intersection of sports.



David Wohl is from Brooklyn. He met his wife, Eileen McMahon, at Northwestern University in 1972. He is an actor by trade (50 years almost), husband (42 almost), father (three grown sons) and grandfather (Eloise Mina, one year old). He began writing poetry in earnest in the winter of 2012 while playing Sigmund Freud in the play *Freud's Last Session* at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre. His poem, "Dog is the Father to Man" was published in the *Latham Letter*. He believes he was a dog in a previous life (if you go for that kind of thing).



Sharon Dennis Wyeth is an award-winning children's book author and poet. She is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Hollins University. She has visited numerous schools throughout the country, sharing her writing process and conducting workshops. She is a graduate of Harvard University and has an MFA in Memoir from Hunter College. www.sharondenniswyeth.com



Kate Zernike has been a reporter for the *New York Times* since 2000, and was a member of the team that shared the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting. She is the author of *Boiling Mad: Behind the Lines in Tea Party America*, published in 2010, and is writing a book about women in science.



Eilene Zimmerman has been a journalist for three decades, covering business, technology and social issues for a wide array of national magazines and newspapers. She was a columnist for *The New York Times* Sunday Business section for six years and since 2004 has been a regular contributor to the newspaper. In 2017, Zimmerman also began pursuing a master's degree in social work. She lives in New York City.

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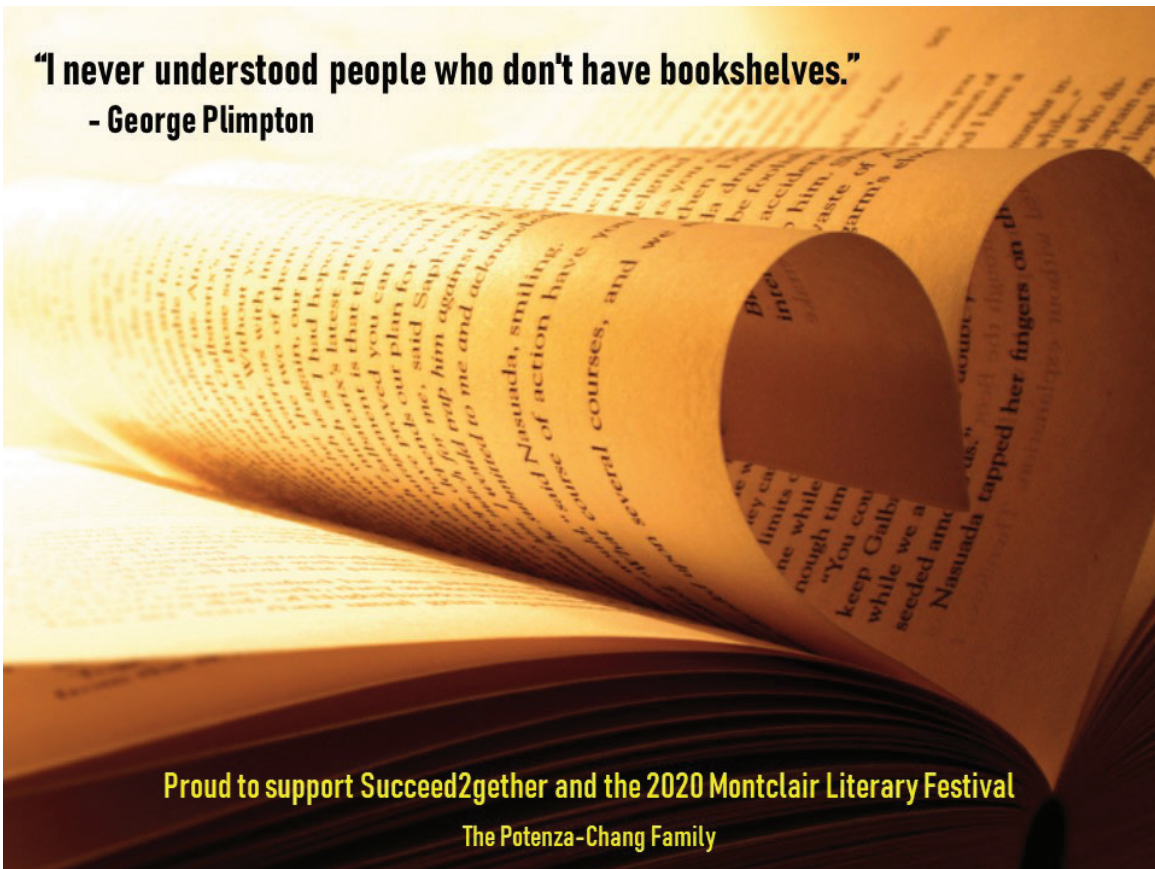
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