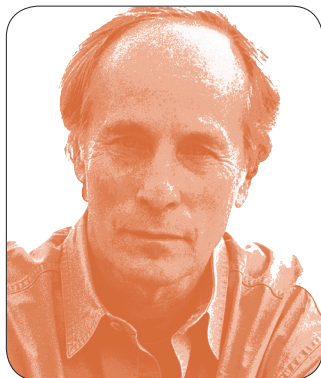




NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES
 Writers Series of Traverse City™
 and DOUG STANTON present



A DOWNTOWN
BOOK
FESTIVAL



GREAT STORIES
GREAT
CONVERSATIONS

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The National Writers Series
January - June
2011 SEASON
 Downtown Traverse City

In support of the National Writers Series
 Scholarship Program

LETTER FROM NWS FOUNDER

~ Introducing one of the most exciting book events in the country ~

2010 marked a number of firsts for the Traverse City National Writers Series. It was our first full year of programming, bringing 15 nationally acclaimed authors in 12 months to Traverse City – and with them thousands of readers to downtown. It was our first round of applicants for the NWS Scholarship Fund, which culminated in an awards ceremony on September 28 with New York Times best-selling author James Bradley presenting three local high school students with \$1,500 scholarships. And it was our first in-depth look at the positive impact a year-round book festival could have on our community.

In 2011, we're building on that foundation to bring even more authors to Traverse City and engage readers, writers and students in fresh and exciting ways. Our lineup this year includes some of the literary world's brightest stars, as well as a variety of best-selling writers covering everything from crime writing to food to humor to short stories. By supporting diverse writing forms, we hope to make the Series an all-inclusive festival that offers something for everyone. We also hope to support our local bookstores, and encourage you to do the same, wherever you live. Bookstores are serious business for our communities, bringing literally hundreds of thousands of people to downtowns and elsewhere to shop.

Look for a number of new NWS benefits and programs this year, including the Friends of the National Writers Series program, subscriber discounts, special partnership events with the National Cherry Festival and Epicurean Classic, master classes with visiting authors, the formation of a writer-in-residence program and outreach to local book clubs. We hope you'll visit our website, www.nationalwritersseries.org, to stay tuned on the latest updates.

After his NWS event with nearly 2,000 attendees last summer, renowned Food Network star and author Mario Batali said: "There's no place like northern Michigan, and there's no other book event like the National Writers Series." In 2011, as in 2010, we look forward to celebrating another year of great stories with you.

Doug Stanton • Founder
National Writers Series



Doug Stanton



Co-founders: Anne Stanton and Grant Parsons



“Being in the National Writers Series is one of the best experiences I’ve ever had as an author.”

– **ELMORE LEONARD** “Road Dogs”

LETTER FROM OUR SCHOOLS

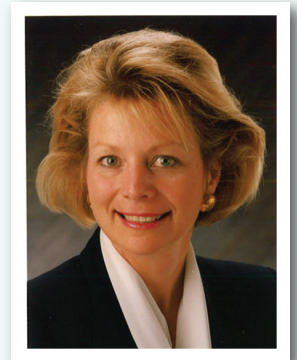
In its first magical season, the National Writers Series created new story lines in our community in ways we can only begin to imagine. Programs that made us laugh, cry, think and wonder expanded the horizons for many, including our young people, by bringing us together with authors and with one another around stories, ideas and literary forms.

But even more brilliantly, the Series inspired our young writers, sparked creative energies and ignited insights as we develop a new generation of writers. Outstanding scholarship opportunities for students helped intensify their “sense of possibility.” Guest authors shared their writing, their own personal stories and moreover their interest and belief in students’ potential.

Our teachers and our schools are deeply grateful for the partnership with the National Writers Series and its founders, who crafted this wonderfully unique venue that will continue to enrich our community. Students will forever cherish the real learning connections and unforgettable memories made possible through the Series.

We look forward to more exciting chapters to come with the National Writers Series!

Dr. Jayne H. Mohr • Associate Superintendent
Traverse City Area Public Schools



National Writers Series 2010 scholarship winners:
Abigail Woughter, Emily Puttinos and Michael Russell.

“What a joy to be part of the National Writers Series! This is an organization that brings eclectic writers into conversation with the best sort of readers—open, inquiring and intellectually alert. And I was delighted to learn that NWS demonstrates its commitment to the larger writing community by providing scholarships for young writers.”

– **RHODA JANZEN**

“Mennonite in a Little Black Dress”

“Participating in the National Writers Series reminded me that literature is a vital, living enterprise. Thank you for keeping the cultural energy flowing. Our intellectual health depends on it.”

– **WALTER KIRN** “Up in the Air”

“You seemed to have turned the whole community back toward reading and books. It’s quite an accomplishment. Congratulations!”

– **PETER MATTHIESSEN**
“Shadow Country”

OUR MISSION

The Traverse City National Writers Series supports Grand Traverse area high school students pursuing writing careers by bringing to life great conversations with today’s best-selling authors.

Net proceeds from events are donated to a dedicated scholarship fund with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

february

An Evening with the **WRITERS OF "MAD MEN"**

Thursday, February 3 • 7PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE

AMC's hit series "Mad Men" has become one of the most critically acclaimed shows on television, winning three consecutive Golden Globes and back-to-back Emmys for Outstanding Drama Series. Now entering its fifth season, the provocative drama follows the lives of the ruthlessly competitive men and women of Madison Avenue advertising during 1960s New York.

MAD MEN

JANET LEAHY
and
LISA ALBERT

Writer-producers Janet Leahy and Lisa Albert kick off the 2011 National Writers Series with an inside look at the writing and production of some of television's most popular shows. National Writers Series founder Doug Stanton will host this entertaining discussion about adventures in writing for the screen, including an audience Q&A. The evening will conclude with a DVD and book signing with the writers.

march

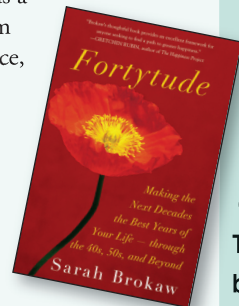
An Evening with **SARAH BROKAW**

Thursday, March 3 • 7PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE

Daughter of legendary news anchor (and 2010 NWS guest) Tom Brokaw, author Sarah Brokaw is a licensed therapist and professional certified coach with a practice in Beverly Hills, California. She holds a Master's degree in social work from New York University. In her practice, and through discussion groups all across the country, Brokaw has discovered that the women who navigate midlife most smoothly – who go on to prosper and to enjoy the best years of their lives – are those who foster five core values in themselves.



Licensed therapist and author Sarah Brokaw takes the stage at the National Writers Series for an illuminating discussion on the secrets to living well in one's forties and beyond. An audience Q&A will be included at the event. The evening will conclude with a book signing with the author.



april

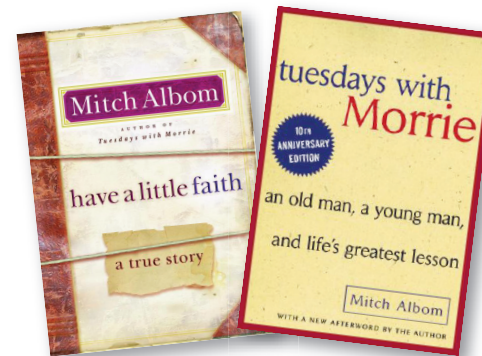
An Evening with **MITCH ALBOM**

Wednesday, April 6 • 7:30pm
CITY OPERA HOUSE

Internationally renowned author, screenwriter, playwright, broadcaster and Detroit Free Press columnist, Albom has penned four #1 New York Times best-sellers, including "Tuesdays with Morrie," "The Five People You Meet in Heaven," "For One More Day" and "Have a Little Faith." "Tuesdays with Morrie" became the most successful memoir ever published, spending four years on the New York Times best-sellers list and generating a television film adaptation starring Jack Lemmon that won four Emmy awards. Albom's most recent work, "Have a Little Faith," was selected by Oprah.com as the best nonfiction book of 2009.



Best-selling author and Detroit Free Press columnist Mitch Albom joins National Writers Series founder Doug Stanton on stage for a lively conversation on Albom's life and work. An audience Q&A will be featured at the event. The evening will conclude with a post-event reception featuring a book signing, dessert courtesy of Grand Traverse Pie Company, and a cash bar by Trattoria Stella.



“Once again, Mitch Albom has given us a heart-warming true story, about the power of love to triumph over death, and the power of faith to guide us through the worst adversity.”
—Rabbi Harold Kushner, author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*



City Opera House

With its historic ambiance the theater offers an exciting, one-of-a-kind venue for great stories and great conversations.

april

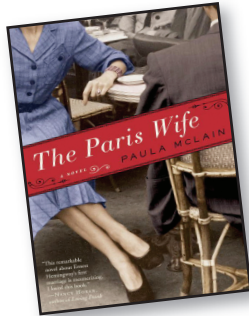
An Evening with
PAULA MCLAIN
Thursday, April 14 • 7PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE



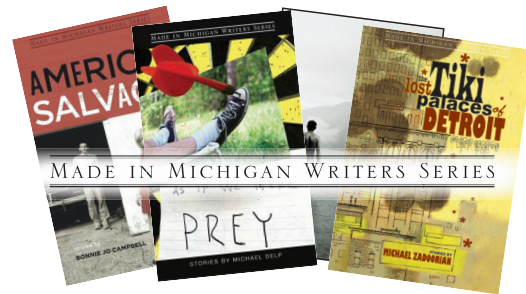
Join acclaimed author Paula McLain for a riveting discussion about her work, including new novel "The Paris Wife" about the career and love life of literary legend – and frequent Michigander – Ernest Hemingway. The evening, which features an audience Q&A, will conclude with a

Paula McLain received an MFA in poetry from the University of Michigan and has been awarded fellowships from Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is the author of two collections of poetry, a memoir ("Like Family: Growing Up in Other People's Houses"), and debut novel "A Ticket to Ride." Her highly

anticipated second novel – "The Paris Wife" – has already garnered comparisons to Nancy Horan's sensational hit "Loving Frank." A deeply evocative story of ambition and betrayal, "The Paris Wife" captures a remarkable period of time and a love affair between two unforgettable people: Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley.



An Evening with the
MADE IN MICHIGAN WRITERS SERIES
& Presentation of the NWS
Scholarship Awards
Thursday, April 28 • 7PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE



on writing, creative collaboration and the life of the artist. Don't miss this one-time opportunity to see some of Michigan's most renowned writers under one roof!

The second annual NWS Scholarships will also be awarded.

Wayne State University Press' "Made in Michigan Writers Series" is devoted to showcasing distinguished writers and their diverse voices.

At this special event, nationally acclaimed Michigan authors will share the stage at the City Opera House for an exciting conversation

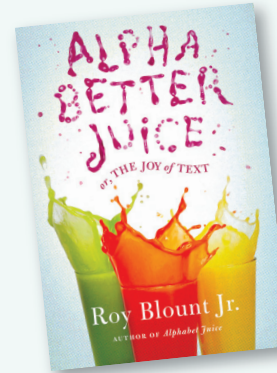
may

incredibly funny
An Evening with
ROY BLOUNT JR.
Wednesday, May 11 • 7PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE



Roy Blount Jr. wears many hats: Humorist. Sportswriter. Reporter. Musician. Author. The witty writer, renowned for his role as panelist on NPR's "Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!", has penned twenty-two books on topics ranging from the Marx Brothers to the inner thoughts of barnyard animals. Norman Mailer called Blount "as funny as anyone I've read," and Time magazine put him

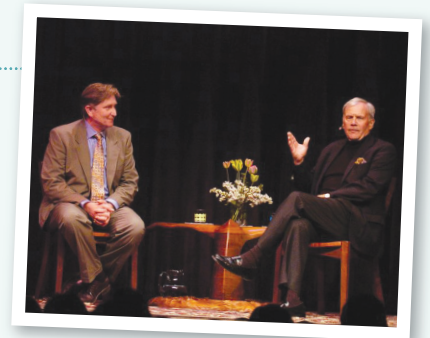
"in the tradition of great curmudgeons like H.L. Mencken and W.C. Fields." Ex-president of the Authors Guild, Blount is a member of esteemed literary groups PEN and the Fellowship of Southern Authors and was the 2009 recipient of the Thomas Wolfe Award from the University of North Carolina. He is also a usage consultant to the American Heritage Dictionary.



NPR panelist and best-selling author Roy Blount Jr. joins National Writers Series founder Doug Stanton on stage for a lively conversation on Blount's diverse career in radio, print, stage and screen. An audience Q&A will be featured at the event. The evening will conclude with a book signing with the author.

“The essential colloquy between writers and readers, much neglected in the larger culture, is alive and well in Northern Michigan, thanks, in large measure, to the National Writers Series. The redemptive and corrective powers of language hold forth against the general din. In Traverse City voices rise to the occasion.”

– THOMAS LYNCH, "The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade"

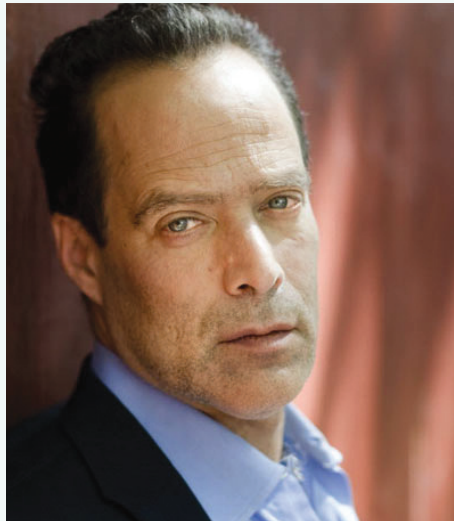


“Doug Stanton and the NWS Team have done the nation a favor with the creation of the National Writers Series, where interesting authors and great audiences come together.”

– JAMES BRADLEY "Flags of Our Fathers"

may

An Evening with **SEBASTIAN JUNGER** Tuesday, May 17 • 7:00pm CITY OPERA HOUSE



Join acclaimed journalist and best-selling author Sebastian Junger along with NWS host Doug Stanton for a revealing look at Junger's life and work. The evening will also include an audience Q&A and post-event reception.

Sebastian Junger is an internationally acclaimed journalist, best-selling author and Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker. His book "The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea" earned him the nickname "the next Hemingway" and was adapted into a hit Warner Brothers film starring George Clooney. A contributing editor at Vanity Fair, Junger has won the National

Magazine Award and the Dupont-Columbia Award for broadcast journalism, and received critical acclaim for nonfiction books "A Death in Belmont" and "War." In 2010, Junger and photographer Tim Hetherington won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival for their documentary "Restrepo," a film about the conflict in Afghanistan that went on to win an Oscar nomination in 2011 for Best Documentary.



“What a joy to be part of the National Writers Series! This is an organization that brings eclectic writers into conversation with the best sort of readers—open, inquiring and intellectually alert. And I was delighted to learn that NWS demonstrates its commitment to the larger writing community by providing scholarships for young writers.”



Rhoda Janzen, *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress*

“There's no place like Northern Michigan, and there's no other book event like the National Writers Series. It's fun! And it puts great authors in front of huge audiences, who love and buy books, in one of the most beautiful places in the world.”



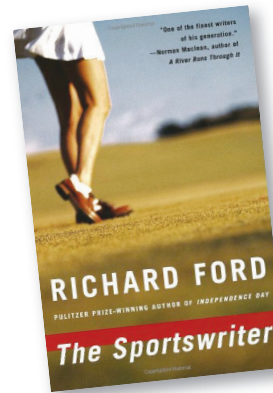
Mario Batali, *Molto Gusto*

june

An Evening with **RICHARD FORD** Thursday, June 2 • 7PM CITY OPERA HOUSE



Richard Ford is a Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist and one of the United States' most respected authors. A B.A. recipient from Michigan State University, Ford



enjoyed critical acclaim with his breakout hit "The Sportswriter," which was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. The book was selected as one of Time Magazine's five best books of 1986. The sequel to that novel, "Independence Day," became the first novel to win both the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/Faulkner Award in 1995.

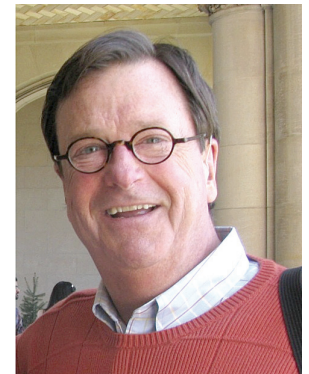
Join award-winning novelist and short story writer Richard Ford for an entertaining discussion on his life and work, including an audience Q&A. The evening will conclude with a book signing with the author.

NWS & Father Fred Foundation present*

An Evening with **PAUL LAPORTE** Sunday, June 12 • 7PM • CITY OPERA HOUSE

For thirty years, Father Edwin Frederick - better known as Father Fred - dedicated his life to service at the Traverse City State Hospital. Later he started a foundation to serve the vulnerable people of northern Michigan. Though he passed away in 2000, the Father Fred Foundation remains today one of the largest non-profit charities in the area, assisting thousands of families in need each year.

In "Listen, Care, and Share," local author and painter Paul LaPorte captures the story of the generous, outspoken priest who touched countless lives in his decades of service. LaPorte will take the stage at this special fundraising event to discuss the incredible life of one of Traverse City's most unforgettable figures. All book proceeds at the event will benefit the Father Fred Foundation.



* This event is not included in the subscription series tickets. Tickets will be sold separately.

NWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Traverse City National Writers Series supports Grand Traverse area high school students in the five-county region interested in pursuing writing careers by bringing to life great conversations with today's best-selling authors. Net proceeds from the Series are donated to a dedicated scholarship fund, which awards scholarships to high school students planning to attend college for writing. The Series also provides mentorship workshops and master classes for students with

visiting Series authors.

New York Times best-selling author James Bradley presented three area students with the first National Writers Series scholarships in September 2010. Abigail Woughter, Emily Puttinos and Michael Russell each received a \$1,500 college scholarship and had the opportunity to read their work on stage at the City Opera House. The next scholarship submission round will be held this winter, with recipients announced April 28

at An Evening with the Made in Michigan Series.

For more information on the National Writers Series Scholarship Fund, including how to donate, visit www.nationalwritersseries.org.

The National Writers Series Scholarship Fund is provided in partnership with:



Coming Up NEXT

We've got a great second half of the 2011 season lined up! For complete details on guests appearing from July to December, visit www.nationalwritersseries.org.

...and more to be announced!

JULY 2 – NWS/Cherry Festival Partnership Event – Special guest TBA!

JULY TBD – An Evening with DANIEL SILVA • SEPTEMBER 8 – An Evening with TOM PERROTTA

SEPTEMBER TBD – NWS/Epicurean Classic Partnership Event – Special guest TBA!

OCTOBER TBD – An Evening with JEFFREY EUGENIDES • OCTOBER 24 – An Evening with DAVID SEDARIS

NOVEMBER TBD - NWS THRILLER AND CRIME WRITERS EVENT

featuring **VINCE FLYNN** and special guests TBA

TICKETS TO NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES EVENTS

There are three ways to purchase tickets for events:

1) Friends of the National

Writers Series - For just \$50 a year (\$100 for a family), individuals can become a Friend of the NWS. Friends are able to purchase tickets to each season a week before the general public, receive first priority for tickets to private author receptions, and

have their name included in the annual donor program. To become a Friend, visit the City Opera House box office or call 231-941-8082.

2) **Subscribers** - Patrons who purchase tickets to three or four events in a NWS season receive a 10% discount on tickets. Patrons who purchase tickets to five or more events receive a 20% discount on tickets. To

purchase subscriber tickets, visit the City Opera House box office or call 231-941-8082.

3) **Individual Events** - Tickets to individual events can be purchased at the City Opera House box office, online at www.cityoperahouse.org or www.nationalwritersseries.org or by phone at 231-941-8082.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The 2010 National Writers Series would like to thank the following donors for their generous support.

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For more information visit www.nationalwritersseries.org