



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



A DOWNTOWN
BOOK
FESTIVAL



GREAT STORIES
GREAT
 CONVERSATIONS

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RECORD-EAGLE

A publication of the Record-Eagle

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Summer ~ Fall
 2011 Season

Traverse City

**In support of the National Writers Series
 Scholarship Program**

Welcome

TO THE SUMMER-FALL 2011 SEASON

The power of the imagination can be transformative. So explained Pulitzer prize-winning author Richard Ford to a rapt National Writers Series audience. We couldn't agree more. Read a book. Change your life.

An evening with a great author can be life changing, as well. By the end of this 2011 season, we will have hosted 40 writers on the grand stage at the City Opera House, and, after each event, someone has come up to me and said, "Now, that was your best one." Each one is the best one for a different reason. So far this season, audiences loved novelist and sports writer Mitch Albom recounting hilarious tales from his career. Paula McLain transported us to Paris life in the 1930s with Ernest and Hadley Hemingway. Sebastian Junger made real to us the terrifying, sorrowful and adrenaline-charged world of war and adventure. Sarah Brokaw inspired us to be our best, no matter how old we are. Our Summer-Fall line up includes authors who are very funny, poignant, and entertaining. They are artists of the highest merit.

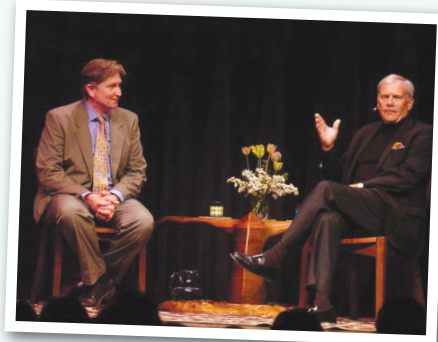
The National Writers Series is a year-long book festival dedicated to bringing to life great conversations with today's best authors. We have one of the most exciting lists of authors of any festival and series in the U.S. But our true mission is to help aspiring student writers. This year we were able to boost scholarship awards to \$2,000 each for three student writers of nonfiction, fiction and poetry. We plan to increase this even more next year.

As we look ahead, we want to bring poets, novelists, and non-fiction story-tellers to a permanent storefront home in downtown Traverse City. There, high school students could be mentored, encouraged, and critiqued on a weekly basis. Writing, after all, is the most employable skill we can encourage; and reading great writing is one of life's great pleasures. We will also continue our tradition of sponsoring master classes for writers of all ages, led by distinguished guests.

Please continue to join us and celebrate another season of great stories and great conversations. We like to think these evenings are like fun dinner parties, where around eight o'clock the conversation turns entertaining and full of surprises. The response to NWS from writers and publishers in New York has been tremendous, and you have helped make NWS a world-class, one-of-a-kind book event and a sought-after destination by writers and readers throughout the U.S. Together, we are making Michigan into the "Book State." Imagine this: a book in everyone's hand as they walk down main street!

Doug Stanton • Founder
National Writers Series

Co-founders:
Anne Stanton and Grant Parsons



Doug Stanton & Tom Brokaw

Thank You!

They say it takes a village to raise a child...I say it takes a community to grow a National Writers Series! One of the delights of my job is seeing first hand the amazing support we receive from sponsors, donors, volunteers, and patrons who enthusiastically attend our events. Community organizations like TCAPS and Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, and countless businesses give us their time, treasures and talents. We could not do the incredible things we are able to do, without the community behind us. We are very grateful we live in such a generous, warm-hearted Region. Thank you!



In turn, we do our best to pass on the goodness we receive. This Winter-Fall Season we contributed money to Mitch Albom's Haiti efforts, and to Sebastian Junger's foundation supporting the good works of Tim Hetherington, the noted photographer who was killed in action earlier this year. We donate hours advising new and established authors, helping them develop ways to publish and/or publicize their work. During Writer's Minute, our weekly spot on TV 7&4, we will have featured by year's end close to 50 authors, regional and national, women and men who are writing some of today's best stories. We mentor young people in the community so they know how important their unique voices are. We want to – and will continue to – 'pay it forward' wherever and whenever we can.

I am very excited about the new upcoming Season, and look forward to seeing you at our many stellar events. Thank you so much for all your support and encouragement!

Megan Raphael • Director
National Writers Series

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

The 2011 National Writers Series would like to thank the following donors for their generous support.

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| Mark & Wendy Stackable | Bob & Marcy Baranski | Colleen Zanotti |
| Traverse City Eye | Hanna Bistro | |
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GREAT STORIES • GREAT CONVERSATIONS

JULY 2011

National Writers Series &
National Cherry Festival Present:

A "Pure Michigan" Picnic
with

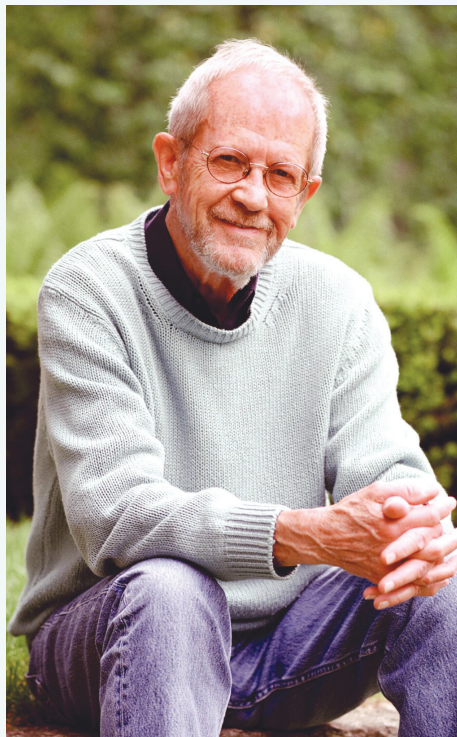
ELMORE LEONARD

Saturday, July 2 ~ 6:00 PM
CLINCH PARK MARINA

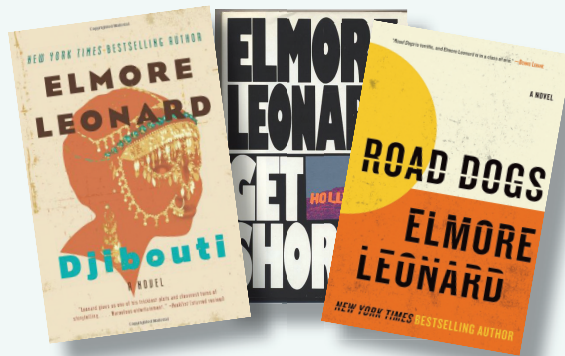
Elmore Leonard is one of America's most gifted and prolific writers, credited with over 45 novels, multiple screenplays and a hit TV series "Justified" on FX, based on his popular character U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens. Countless of his best-known works have been adapted into blockbuster films, including "Get Shorty," "Out of Sight" and "Rum Punch," which was filmed by Quentin Tarantino as "Jackie Brown." His short stories also became the basis for movies, including "3:10 to Yuma" and "The Tall T."

On July 2, Leonard returns to Traverse City for a special partnership event between the National Writers Series and the National Cherry Festival. Event attendees will enjoy an on-stage conversation between NWS founder Doug Stanton and Leonard about Leonard's life and work, as well as a 'Pure Michigan' picnic in the park featuring dinner courtesy of the Boathouse Restaurant and wine from Bowers Harbor Vineyard. Every attendee will receive a complimentary book authored by Leonard. Local musician Ron Getz will provide opening entertainment. The evening will conclude with a book signing with the author. Don't miss this special celebration of Michigan writing, food, wine and music!

This event is sponsored by Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.



“Elmore Leonard is one of America's most beloved and literary novelists. Not only is he a master at his craft, he is kind and generous with other writers. A true American gem. It's an honor and a pleasure to host Elmore Leonard at NWS.”



JULY 2011

thrilling

A^V Evening With

DANIEL SILVA

Thursday, July 21 ~ 7:00 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE

Over the course of his brilliant career, Daniel Silva has established himself as a "world-class practitioner of spy fiction" (Washington Post) who has produced "the best thriller series on the market in the past decade" (Midwest Book Review). Gabriel Allon, his enigmatic hero, has been described as the most compelling creation since "Ian Fleming put down his martini and invented James Bond" (The Rocky Mountain News). Silva has written over 10 spy novels all of which have been New York Times best-sellers, including "Moscow Rules," "The Defector" and "The Rembrandt Affair." Earlier this year, Universal announced they had acquired the screen rights to the Gabriel Allon series and will soon be bringing Silva's creation to life on the big screen.

NWS is honored to welcome Silva at the launch of his national book tour. He will take the stage with Doug Stanton to discuss his enormously popular novels, including the latest installment in the Gabriel Allon series, "A Portrait of a Spy." His new book has been called Silva's "most extraordinary novel to date." The evening will conclude with a reception and book signing with the author.



“The really great thing about the National Writers Series is that it's not a tour stop, it's an experience with an entire community. For that reason, it reminds me of literature's high aspirations, and of why I got into this business in the first place.”

– Richard Ford



“Daniel Silva creates rich, full characters who do amazing things in outrageously interesting places. This is a rare night with a master of his craft. This is sure to be a thrilling and thoughtful evening.”



SEPTEMBER 2011

National Writers Series & Epicurean Classic Present:

An Evening with

GRETCHEN WITT

Thursday, September 8 ~ 7:00 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE



Opening night reception at award-winning cookbook author Gretchen Holt Witt. The Epicurean Classic is one of the country's premier culinary events, bringing together the finest chefs, authors and taste-makers for a celebration of food and wine.



A powerhouse in the food industry, Witt has overseen PR for KitchenAid Cookware, Chicago Cutlery, etc. But nearly five years ago, her career took a back seat when her then two-and-a-half-year-old son Liam was diagnosed with stage IV pediatric cancer. Discovering a lack of research funding for the disease, she held a bake sale to try and raise money for the cause. In December of 2007, Witt sold an astonishing 96,000 cookies and raised \$400,000 for cancer research. Since then, her foundation, Cookies for Kids Cancer, has held over 2,000 bake sales in 49 states and raised millions of dollars for cancer research. Witt has been named one of 50 "Women Who Are Changing the World."

At this special event, Witt will talk about her new fall cookbook "The Bake Sale Cookbook," and how she created a national movement. 100% of the proceeds from the book benefit pediatric cancer research. The event will conclude with a reception and author book signing.

“It's up to us to get involved because what's happening to one child is something that impacts us all. We can, and we are, making a difference - one bake sale at a time.”

- Gretchen Holt Witt



“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*



SEPTEMBER 2011

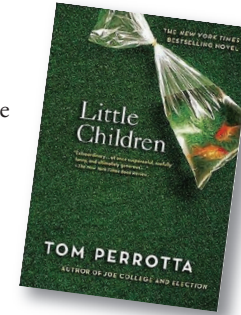
An Evening with

TOM PERROTTA

Thursday, September 15 ~ 7:00 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE



Described as “that rare combination: a satirist with a heart” (The Seattle Times), Tom Perrotta has earned critical acclaim and the adoration of book clubs across the country for his biting, empathetic novels about American life. He is best known for popular titles “Election,” which was adapted into a hit film starring Reese Witherspoon and Matthew Broderick, and “Little Children,” which was turned into an award-winning film starring Kate Winslet and Patrick Wilson that earned three Oscar nominations, including one for Perrotta for Best Adapted Screenplay. His most recent book, “The Abstinence Teacher,” is currently being adapted for the screen by Oscar-nominated director Lisa Cholodenko (“The Kids Are All Right”) for a 2012 release.



“Tom Perrotta is an American Chekhov whose characters, even at their most ridiculous, seem blessed and ennobled by a luminous human aura.”

- New York Times

Enjoy a lively conversation as Perrotta joins Doug Stanton to discuss his highly anticipated new novel “The Leftovers,” out August 30. In “The Leftovers,” Perrotta explores thought-provoking themes of love, connection and loss as a small suburban town is caught up in the chaos of a mysterious global event called the Sudden Departure. Is it the Rapture? Or something more sinister? And how will those left behind pick up the pieces of their shattered lives? A powerful and deeply moving book about people struggling to hold on to their beliefs, “The Leftovers” is sure to have readers buzzing long through the fall season. The evening will conclude with a reception and book signing with the author.

2010 AUTHORS

Tom Brokaw, Mario Batali, Mary Karr, Peter Matthiessen, Elmore Leonard, Peter Leonard, Rhoda Janzen, Audrey Niffenegger, Walter Kirn, Thomas Lynch, James Bradley, Karl Marlantes, Phil Caputo, and Amy Alkon.

2011 AUTHORS

Mitch Albom, David Sedaris, Elmore Leonard, Jeffrey Eugenides, Paula McLain, Janet Leahy and Lisa Albert (producers and TV writers for “Mad Men”), Roy Blount, Richard Ford, Sebastian Junger, Sarah Brokaw, Daniel Silva, Tom Perrotta, Chuck Klosterman, and Wayne State University's award-winning ‘Made in Michigan’ writers, including Bonnie Jo Campbell, Jack Driscoll, Michael Delp and Michael Zadoorian.

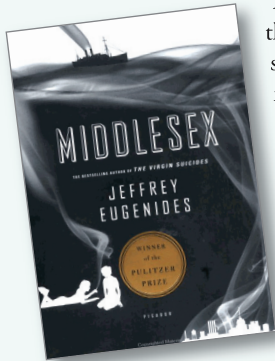
OCTOBER 2011

An Evening with **JEFFREY EUGENIDES**

Thursday, October 20 ~ 8:00 PM
LARS HOCKSTAD AUDITORIUM



“As with Elmore Leonard, Jeffrey Eugenides is proof-positive that Michigan is the Book State. Eugenides is a master with an international reputation, and we are honored to see him here during a very limited U.S. engagement schedule.”



Jeffrey Eugenides is an American Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and short story writer. Born in Detroit, he went on to earn writing degrees from Brown and Stanford Universities before launching his career as a novelist. He gained national attention when his 1993 novel, “The Virgin Suicides,” was adapted into a critically acclaimed film starring Kirsten Dunst by Sophia Coppola in 1999. Eugenides’ next book, “Middlesex,” exploded onto the publishing scene in 2002, selling more than three million copies, winning the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the Ambassador Book Award, and topping several “best-of-year” lists. The novel was also an official Oprah Book Club pick.

Nine years later, Eugenides is preparing to release his long-awaited third novel, entitled “The Marriage Plot” (out in October). Already garnering rave reviews from critics, who are calling it Eugenides’ best novel to date, the book has been described as a “brilliant, funny and heartbreaking novel about the glories and vicissitudes of young love.”

Following a triangle of friends from college into the complicated realm of adulthood, Eugenides writes with irony and wit about a generation finally beginning to grow up. Eugenides is a proud Michigander who says he has a “perverse love” for his hometown of Detroit, and who often works with organizations to support young writers.

Eugenides takes the Lars Hockstad stage with Doug Stanton in a rare public appearance to discuss his life and work. The evening will conclude with a reception and book signing with the author.

“Between the incredible charm of Traverse City, the great hospitality of Doug Stanton and the enthusiasm of the community, the experience as a guest of the National Writers Series was the highlight of my book tour. I would go back there in a heartbeat if they came calling.”

- Sebastian Junger, “War”



For more information visit www.nationalwritersseries.org

OCTOBER 2011

very funny A Evening with **DAVID SEDARIS**

Monday, October 24 ~ 7:00 p.m.
CITY OPERA HOUSE

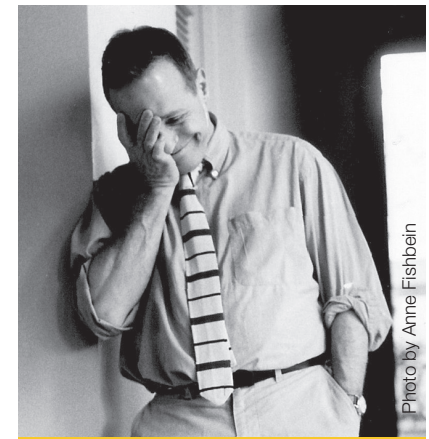
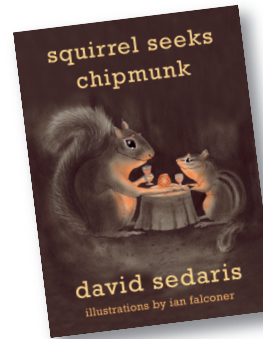


Photo by Anne Fishbein

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America’s pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today. His beloved collections of personal essays, including “Naked,” “Me Talk Pretty One Day,” “Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim” and “When You Are



Engulfed in Flames,” have sold more than seven million copies worldwide and been translated into 25 languages. Sedaris’ pieces regularly appear in the New Yorker and have twice been included in “The Best American Essays.” His newest book, a collection of fables entitled “Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary” (with illustrations by Ian Falconer), was published in September 2010 and immediately hit the New York Times Bestseller List.

Sedaris will take the City Opera House stage solo to read from his new and up-and-coming works, including a number of stories not yet published. A masterful reader and perennial crowd favorite for his hilarious and captivating storytelling style, Sedaris is a tour-de-force writer and entertainer not to be missed!

NOTE: Tickets for An Evening with David Sedaris are not eligible for the subscriber discount and will go on sale separately in September. For complete details, visit www.nationalwritersseries.org. Tickets for Friends of NWS go on sale September 19, and on September 26 to the general public.

“My few days in Traverse City and the National Writers Series were among the most stimulating and fun days I’ve spent in my life. The National Writers Series is the American equivalent of the 19th Century intellectual salons of Paris—with national media coverage and outreach.”

- Karl Marlantes, *Matterhorn*



NOVEMBER 2011

An Evening with

CHUCK KLOSTERMAN

Thursday, November 10

7:00 p.m.

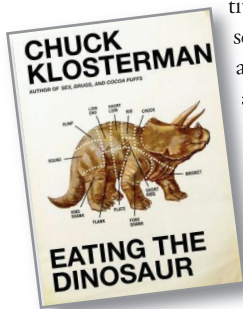
CITY OPERA HOUSE



“...Chuck Klosterman is one of the most engaging writers around, delivering obsessive and deeply personal ruminations on popular culture.”

– Washington Post

Best-selling humorist and pop culture writer Chuck Klosterman has attracted an enormous following for his clever, sardonic essays on American entertainment and life. A long time rock and sports reporter for magazines including Spin, GQ, Esquire, New York Times Magazine and the Washington Post, Klosterman first gained national attention in 2001 for his debut collection of essays entitled “*Fargo Rock City*.” His second book, “*Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs*,” became a national best-seller and earned Klosterman the title “the voice of his generation.” Subsequent essay collections including “*Killing Yourself to Live*,” “*Chuck Klosterman IV*” and “*Eating the Dinosaur*” cemented Klosterman’s status as one of the foremost pop culture writers of the twenty-first century.



In 2008, Klosterman’s first novel “*Downtown Owl*” was published to glowing reviews, with Entertainment Weekly calling the author “an entertaining guy, capable of real insight and artistry.” This October, Klosterman will release his highly anticipated second novel, “*The Visible Man*.” Kirkus Reviews has praised the novel for its daring and ambition, saying it’s “immersed as always in popular culture, but rises to the challenge of creative fiction.” Klosterman will join Doug Stanton for an entertaining conversation about his work, and views of American pop culture. This event will conclude with a reception and author book signing.



CITY OPERA HOUSE

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

NWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Traverse City National Writers Series supports Grand Traverse area high school students in the five-county region interested in writing by bringing on stage America’s best authors. Net proceeds from the Series are donated to a dedicated scholarship fund, which awards scholarships to high school students planning to study writing in college. The Series also provides mentorship workshops and master classes for students with visiting Series authors.

New York Times bestselling author James Bradley presented the first National Writers Scholarships in September 2010 to three students for non-fiction, fiction and poetry. This past April 2011, Abby Woughter, Kelly Clare and Leah Jodoin each received a \$2,000 college scholarship and had the opportunity to read their work on stage at the City Opera House.

The next scholarships will be awarded in Spring 2012, and

submissions will be accepted in early 2012. Watch for specific dates and application instructions in the coming months.

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:



Leah Jodoin



Kelly Clare



Abby Woughter

OUR MISSION

The Traverse City National Writers Series supports Grand Traverse area high school students interested in writing and audacious acts of imagination 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS



“To get out and and meet an audience is a thrilling thing for me. Doug is doing a great job at making this happen for us [writers].”

I think President Obama should appoint him as ‘Book Czar’ and he can make this happen all over America.”



– Alan Cheuse
Novelist, and
National Public
Radio’s longtime
“voice of books”

GREAT STORIES • GREAT CONVERSATIONS

For more information visit www.nationalwritersseries.org

TICKETS TO NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES EVENTS

There are three ways to purchase tickets for events:

1) Friends of National Writers

Series - For just \$50 a year (\$100 for a family), individuals can become a Friend of NWS. Friends are able to purchase tickets to each season and special events including David Sedaris, one week before the general public, receive first priority for tickets to private author receptions, and have their name included on the annual donor program. To become a Friend of NWS, complete and mail the form below, 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 events receive a 20% discount on tickets. Please note: Special scholarship fundraising events, An Evening with Elmore Leonard and the National Cherry Festival, and An Evening with David Sedaris, are not eligible for the subscriber package and there are no discounted tickets for these events.

See below for ticket purchasing information for these two events.

To purchase subscriber tickets, complete and mail the form below, visit the City Opera House box office or call 231-941-8082.

3) **Individual Events** - Tickets to individual events, excluding Elmore Leonard, 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.

NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES FUN FACTS

1) Doug Stanton dreamed up the idea of a book festival in his hometown of Traverse City over a decade ago, after having visited 100s of bookstores and attending 100s of readings as a student, author, and journalist. He wondered: Why can't we have here what people get to experience in New York? He had first thought this years earlier, while driving his Dad's AMC Pacer up and down main street listening to "The Wreck Of The Edmund Fitzgerald" and the Bee Gees, wondering how in the world anyone might become a writer. By the end of 2011, NWS will have hosted 30 events with over 40 best selling and internationally renowned authors, making it a world-class book event.

2) By the end of 2011 season, we will have attracted thousands of people to downtown through NWS events, where they shop, dine out, meet neighbors, make new friends, and read.

3) We have sold close to 5,000 books through bookstores during NWS events to date. Support your local bookstores! They are big business for any downtown, and are usually one of its anchors.

4) Our guest authors have sold literally millions of books and include #1 New York Times best sellers, National Book Award winners, Pulitzer Prize winners, PEN/Faulkner Award winners, Golden Globe winners, Emmy winners, Peabody Award winners, and Oscar nominees. We take them to area restaurants and shops and they go home to New York, LA, Chicago, and tell people what an amazing place this is. All of them say they plan to return.

5) Reminiscent of the visiting authors Doug was lucky enough to meet when he was a student at Traverse City Senior High and Interlochen Arts Academy, our guest authors have visited TC Central High School, TC West High School, St. Francis High School, Interlochen Center for the Arts and Northwestern Michigan College to speak with thousands of students about writing, reading, and the importance of the arts. Our on-going mission is to create transformative moments involving audacious acts of the imagination. Note to students: Doug was a just a struggling C student in math and he credits creative writing with saving his bacon when it came to getting into college.

6) We have hosted numerous public workshops and community master classes with visiting authors to help writers of all ages improve their craft. We have awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships for area high school students to study writing in college. As a high school student wishing to study writing, Doug received a gift of \$1000 from a gracious local benefactor, Helen Osterlin, and he has never forgotten this act of generosity.

For more information visit www.nationalwritersseries.org