

a year-round book festival



NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES

Writers Series of Traverse City™

and DOUG STANTON present the

2012 Summer ~ Fall Season



Great Stories
GREAT
Conversations

In support of the National Writers Series Scholarship Program
& the Front Street Writers Program

Welcome to the 2012 Season!

You're holding in your hands a list of great writers not to be found anywhere else for a thousand miles—or at least from Traverse City's Front Street to New York City!

So far in 2012, fans of intelligent, award-winning television got a rare chance to meet Vince Gilligan, creator of AMC's *Breaking Bad*. And philosopher and Harvard professor Michael Sandel led a packed Opera House in a fascinating discussion about life's daunting questions. New York Times best-selling authors Anna Quindlen, Susan Casey, Jodi Picoult, and Paula McLain thrilled sold-out audiences with stories about wolves, Hemingway, sharks, and life's triumphant second acts.

This summer and fall, don't miss one of the world's most popular thriller writers, Lee Child, creator of the "Jack Reacher" series. Mega-seller Janet Evanovich chose Traverse City for one of her few appearances to kick off her newest novel. And we're counting on her visit to make our "NWS Student Scholarship Fundraising Evening" the best ever. We're thrilled to host memoirist, actor and film director Benjamin Busch, whose debut book has earned rave reviews nationwide. And we're equally excited to showcase one of America's hottest and imaginative young adult authors, Maggie Stiefvater, author of the *Shiver* trilogy, as she debuts her next best-seller.

The success of these up-close and personal evenings with America's best storytellers has caught the attention of the national publishing industry. NWS was featured this year in three of the most highly respected and well-read magazines in publishing: *Publisher's Weekly*, *Poets & Writers* magazine, and *Publishing Perspectives*.

In fact, **Livability.com** named **Traverse City** on its list of "**Top 10 Cities for Book Lovers**," and *Publisher's Weekly* said this about NWS: "Some observers believe that Traverse City's growing reputation as a city of book lovers can also be attributed to the National Writers Series."

This national news coverage has helped

establish NWS as one of the "**preeminent authors series in the country**" (*Poets & Writers*), carrying the message of NWS and Traverse City to millions of readers nationwide. We are proud to be known nationwide as an event—and a city—that celebrates reading and great writing.

But the National Writers Series is more than a one-of-a-kind way to meet your favorite authors. We are also a nonprofit, supported by volunteers, business people, families, and book lovers. Each year, thanks to our generous donors, the **NWS Scholarship Program** provides support to high school students who love to write.

In May, at our sold-out evening with Anna Quindlen and Susan Casey, we awarded our 2012 scholarships to three area high school students, bringing the total NWS scholarships awarded to \$18,000.

Come this September 2012, we're kicking off our **Front Street Writers Program, an exciting partnership with Traverse City Area Public Schools**. This new creative writing program will bring together high school students with talented writing teachers (MFA graduates from America's best writing programs) in a first-class writing workshop setting. Our esteemed NWS guest authors will also visit the classroom to lead the students in master class discussions. We believe that learning how to write creatively and powerfully is the number one skill we can teach students, and that this shouldn't be expensive, and now—here in Traverse City—it isn't.

As we look back, we have a lot to be proud of. Authors tell us that NWS was the best stop on their national book tours. In three short years, we've brought thousands of people to downtown, drawing audiences from around the country—and even fans from overseas. All of this is a testament to *you*. We're thrilled that you're here.

Welcome to the conversation – and to the festival!

The National Writers Series Staff



When you put together **a community that cares deeply about reading** and a staff that cares deeply about writers, magic happens.

The National Writers Series was one of the highlights of my last book tour."

~ Jodi Picoult, *My Sister's Keeper*

A Special Gift to the Community

It is with great pleasure that the city welcomes all the guests, sponsors, and supporters to another season of the National Writers Series. We're encouraged that the City Opera House will again be filled with a delightful mix of writers bringing Traverse City yet another dose of sophisticated entertainment. Occasional wit, humor, and laughter come with at no additional cost!

Those who have gathered at the Opera House have been treated to an endless list of writing talent. We've enjoyed *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* as presented by Mitch Albom, met *The Greatest Generation* with Tom Brokaw, and been inspired by Gretchen Witt raising funds and awareness for pediatric research.

The Writers Series has assisted in placing

Traverse City on the national radar and provided an on-going event delighting those who gather for these greatly entertaining experiences. Make it an evening or an afternoon in Traverse City, visiting with a nationally acclaimed author at the historic Opera House, then delighting in one of our outstanding city restaurants.

Have a wonderful and entertaining 2012 and enjoy yourself as you hear the personal stories behind our great books!

Michael Estes, Mayor
Traverse City



NWS MISSION: To spark students' writing excellence and to connect communities with nationally renowned writers to encourage appreciation of the written word.

There is no greater measure of a culture's worth than the articulate voices of its writers. Books offer our best and worst thoughts, embed our collective memory, and create worlds that dazzle gods and monsters. The Grand Traverse Region is blessed with an abundance of successful authors. They have come together to form the National Writers Series with the goal of giving each of us an intimate view of the author's perspective. This conversation is not a small gift to our community; it is creating a legacy through scholarship and mentorship that will resonate through generations.

With this in mind, the Traverse City Area Public Schools and the National Writers Series are partnering to offer a unique opportunity to our students. Beginning in the fall of 2012 the Front Street Writer's Program will immerse TCAPS high

school students in creative writing through the mentorship of National Writers Series members and professional creative writers in residence. Our hope is that we will inspire the next generation of writers and nurture an art form that so often is the very measure of what good we have left behind.

I urge you to support the National Writers Series by becoming a Friend of NWS, attending the NWS events, or by making a donation.

Stephen E. Cousins,
Superintendent
Traverse City Area
Public Schools



“Traverse is French for ‘cross.’ Not as in, ‘I think I can cross the National Writers Series off my list,’ but rather, **‘I’d cross the U.S. on my knees for another fine day at the National Writers Series.’**”

~ David Sedaris, New York Times Best-Selling Author

For more information, visit www.nationalwritersseries.org

An evening with
**JANET
EVANOVICH**

Student Scholarship Fundraiser

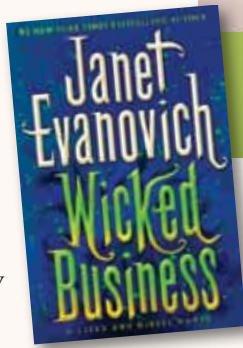
July 9, 2012 • 7 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE



Talk about sizzling summer reads, no one does it better than #1 New York Times best-selling author Janet Evanovich! Kicking off the National Cherry Festival, Janet will take the stage with NWS founder and best-selling author Doug Stanton to talk about her life and hot-off-the-press novel, *Wicked Business: A Lizzy and Diesel Novel* (release date: June 19, 2012).

A prolific writer, Janet packs her novels with a sassy heroine, sexy men, quirky characters, and plots that marvelously twist until the very end. Her newest *Wicked* series book features a new heroine, cupcake maker Lizzy Tucker, whose ordinary life gets turned upside down by Diesel, a strong, handsome, and not entirely human kind of guy. Together they take up a quest of finding an ancient relic that's thought to possess the power of lust, leaving a trail of robbed graves and general mayhem behind them.

Janet began her writing career as a romance writer, but gained rock-star status with her 1994 Stephanie Plum novel, *One for the Money*, which kicked off an 18-book series that has sold more than 76 million copies. And who couldn't love Stephanie Plum? Laid off from her job as a lingerie buyer, she decides to become a bounty hunter armed with nothing more than pluck,



Creator of the #1 New York Times Best-Selling Stephanie Plum Series and Lizzy and Diesel Series

pepper spray, and a deep desire to get her car out of hock. *One for the Money* was recently made into a hit feature film, starring Katherine Heigl.

Janet is making her first appearance in Traverse City, thanks to a partnership between the National Writers Series and the National Cherry Festival, along with a sponsorship from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. It's a particularly important event, as a portion of the proceeds will support the NWS Scholarship Fund.

And we are thrilled to have her: **Janet is an amazing, captivating, page-turning storyteller — and laugh-out-loud hilarious.**

Don't miss this supernatural summer beach read event!

“What a place! What an audience! What a series! I'm not given to the use of exclamation points, but sometimes radical punctuation is called for. This is such a time.”

~ Geraldine Brooks, *March*



An evening with

LEE CHILD

September 18, 2012 • 7 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE

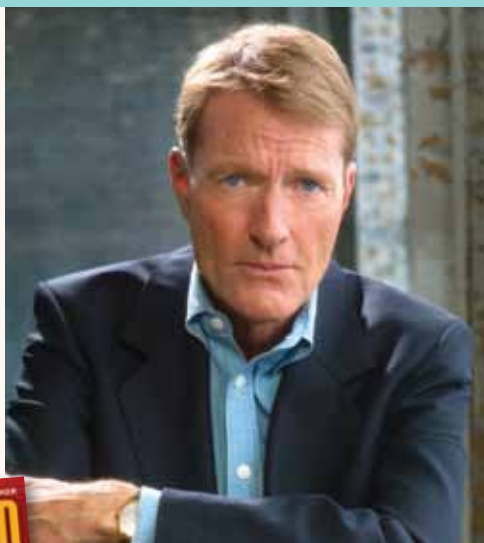
A tall, mysterious, blues-loving drifter makes his way across America, hitchhiking and taking the bus from city to small town, carrying a toothbrush, some money, an expired passport. He is a man adrift, set free. He often uses an alias, usually that of a past President or professional baseball player, and for good reason: There are a lot of people looking for Jack Reacher.

And what is Jack Reacher looking for? Justice? Freedom? A perfect cup of coffee in a perfect diner at the edge of a town lit by the summer dusk...

That's Reacher - poet, wanderer, chronicler of American life, about whom New York Times Book Review critic Janet Maslin has said, "The truth about Reacher gets better and better."

Thriller writer Lee Child has become an international sensation and regular fixture atop the New York Times Best-Sellers List. Lee also consistently reaches #1 on the Wall Street Journal, Publishers Weekly, and IndieBound lists. He is published in ninety-five countries and in forty languages, with more than thirteen million books in print in the United States.

His hero, Jack Reacher, finds himself in all kinds of interesting jams, which Reacher handles with a wary eye, dry humor, and good manners. Lee's spare, musical prose is unstoppable - once you start a Reacher novel, you finish that



#1 Best-Selling Author and Creator of the Jack Reacher Series

night. Called "the best thriller writer in the business" by The Boston Globe, Lee is looking forward to none other than Tom Cruise depicting Jack Reacher in the Paramount film series, launching 2012.

At this special National Writers Series event, Lee will take the City Opera House stage with New York Times best-selling author and host Doug Stanton for a fascinating discussion on his life and work, including the eagerly anticipated new novel *A Wanted Man* (published September 2012).

Don't miss this rare evening with one of the country's most renowned thriller writers!

"Child's tough but humane 'Jack Reacher' is the coolest... series character now on offer."
~ Stephen King



“The National Writers Series has become an important stop for writers on book tour because it's a literate, intelligent audience that loves books. Writing and reading are what enlarge our lives. That ability to live inside someone else's skin enlarges the world for each of us.”

~ Anna Quindlen, *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*

An evening with **MAGGIE** **STIEFVATER**

September 27, 2012 • 7 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE

We are incredibly excited to welcome critically acclaimed and best-selling author Maggie Stiefvater, a wildly popular writer with teens—and families!

Maggie's books have premiered to overwhelming critical and commercial success, and garnered special attention from the movie industry hoping to replicate the box office triumphs of *The Hunger Games* and the *Twilight* franchise. Warner Brothers is now producing *The Scorpio Races*, a thrilling adventure story that follows a young woman who enters her first horse race on the tiny island of Thisby. The twist? The heroine's big challenge is to finish the race alive. Booklist hailed this utterly original novel as a "YA (young adult) blockbuster."

Warner Brothers has also optioned Maggie's best-selling *Wolves of Mercy Falls* trilogy, which includes *Shiver*, *Linger*, and *Forever*. The trilogy is a darkly compelling Romeo & Juliet love story between a young girl and a boy hiding a terrible secret.

All three books debuted as New York Times best-sellers and were named as Best Books for Young Adults by the American Library Association.



#1 Best-Selling Author of the Wolves of Mercy Falls Trilogy – 40 Weeks on the New York Times Best-Seller List!

At this special event, Maggie will sit down with renowned book reviewer Lynn Rutan to discuss her work and unusual path to success, which included stints as a musician, calligraphy instructor, waitress, and technical editor before breaking through as a novelist. She'll also debut her highly anticipated new series, *The Raven Boys*, a supernatural romance about a boy on the hunt for a vanished Welsh king.

Maggie writes her YA books with a sophistication that appeals to teens and adults alike. **Her imaginative wit, intelligence, and daring style are guaranteed to make her a hit with audiences of all ages!**

**ONE OF
AMERICA'S
HOTTEST
YA AUTHORS**



LYNN RUTAN coauthor of the must-read literary blog Bookends

**Guest
Host
Spotlight**

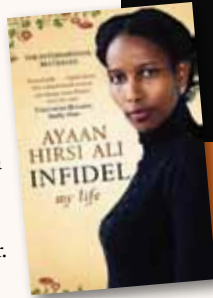
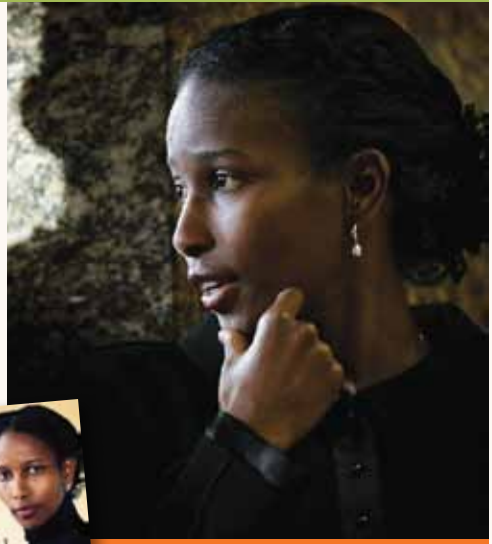
NWS loves bookstores and librarians— what is more essential to a great city than smart, passionate people who guide you to great books! Which is why we're thrilled to welcome one of America's premier reviewers of the best Young Adult (YA) and children's literature being written today, the wonderfully enthusiastic Lynn Rutan. A retired middle-school librarian, Lynn-- with her close friend and fellow librarian Cindy Dobrez-- launched Bookends, a wildly popular and influential blog on Booklist Online. These clever, heartfelt, and wise reviews have earned Lynn and Cindy a nation of devoted readers. Lynn has chaired the American Library Association's "Best Books for Young Adults" and the "Michael L. Printz Award for YA Literature," and she claims that her passion for teen lit is "almost older than the genre itself!"

An evening with **AYAAN HIRSI ALI**

October 11, 2012 • 7 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE

As one of today's most admired and controversial political figures, Ayaan Hirsi Ali burst into international headlines following the 2004 murder of her colleague, Theo van Gogh, at the hands of a religious fundamentalist. Ayaan was immediately forced into hiding, having written the screenplay for Theo's *Submission*, a fierce, 11-minute critique of Islam. The treatment of women in the Islamic religion has been a clarion call for the Somalia-born Ayaan. At age 22, she fled to the Netherlands to escape an arranged marriage to a stranger. Her move to this secular, democratic country proved a pivotal turning point in her life. She began advocating for downtrodden women, attended college, and was elected to the Dutch Parliament.

Ayaan's memoir *Infidel* was an international best-seller, praised by The New York Times as "brave, inspiring and beautifully written." A second book, *Nomad*, follows Ayaan as she leaves behind the emotional roller coaster of her life in Europe and takes on the new challenge of fostering debate about radical Islam. Now a U.S. resident with her husband, well-known British historian Niall Ferguson, Ayaan is the



Author of International Best-Sellers *Infidel* and *Nomad*



founder of the AHA Foundation, which works to "protect and defend the rights of women and girls in the West from oppression justified by religion and culture."

During this evening, co-sponsored with the International Affairs Forum, Ayaan will be in conversation with foreign policy expert Jack Segal. This is sure to be a night during which the world's headlines come to life on the NWS stage. **Be prepared for a riveting conversation on faith, women, politics, religion, and culture in a changing century.**



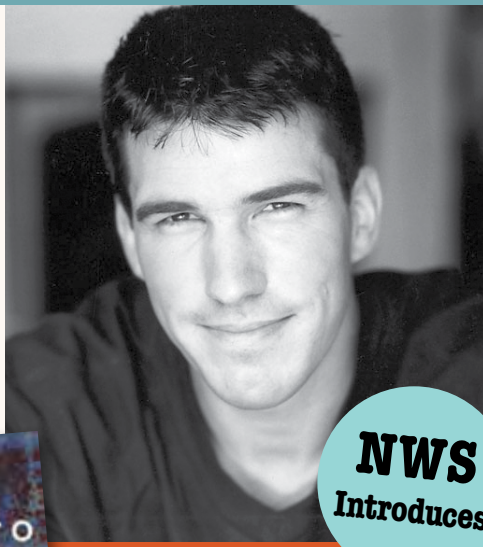
Guest
Host
Spotlight

JACK SEGAL columnist and lecturer on International affairs

Diplomat, columnist, lecturer, Jack Segal's career on the world stage has spanned nearly 50 years and as many countries, placing him at the crossroads of today's most pressing, and dramatic, events. Jack, with Karen Puschel, his wife and a former State Department Soviet expert, is a host of Northwestern Michigan College's esteemed International Affairs Forum, which features some of the world's most interesting policy makers. From 2002 to 2010, Jack was the senior political adviser to the NATO Commander overseeing the Afghanistan conflict. He also played a critical role in the opening of Russia to the west after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He is presently a senior fellow at the U.S. National Defense University in Washington D.C.

An evening with **BENJAMIN BUSCH**

November 8, 2012 • 7 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE



NWS
Introduces

**Actor, Photographer and
Acclaimed Author of *Dust to Dust***



The chapters of author, actor, and photographer Benjamin Busch's life have circled back and folded in on themselves in mysterious and moving ways. A former U.S. Marine Corps officer who served two combat tours in Iraq, Ben returned to the U.S. to play a Marine in HBO's *Generation Kill*, where he pretended to invade towns he had actually invaded in the line of duty. The intersection of combat and art continued to play a pivotal role in Ben's career; he produced multiple photo exhibits of Iraq that have toured the U.S., and he played narcotics officer Anthony Coliccio on *The Wire*, David Simon's masterful HBO series on the U.S.'s war on drugs. Ben also appeared on *Homicide* and *The West Wing*.

Ben's searing new memoir, *Dust to Dust*, reflects a complicated relationship between destruction and creation. In themed chapters such as "Water," "Metal," "Bone," and "Blood," Ben reflects on his rural upbringing, his combat training, his relationship with his father—acclaimed novelist Frederick Busch—and, most poignantly, his own mortality, his family, and the natural world. Others have compared *Dust to Dust* to Annie Dillard's

Tinker at Pilgrim Creek, and former NWS guests and best-selling authors Mary Karr and Karl Marlantes have both raved about the memoir.

Ben lives in Reed City, Michigan, with his wife, historian Tracy Busch, and two young daughters. His appearance will conclude an incredible, and perhaps unprecedented, 50-state book tour in 2012 and marks both the launch of a promising new career and a celebratory homecoming.

"It's impossible to read any part of this book and not be moved," wrote The New York Journal of Books. **And we believe you'll agree that this evening will move you to think in new ways about the world around you.**



“ I want to say how much I admire Doug Stanton and the entire community who have created this institution which is not only a gift to this place, but already, **increasingly, becoming a national treasure.**”

~ Michael Sandel, *What Money Can't Buy*

“ **This program is fantastic.** What you're supporting here is the future of our children, and it's important work.

~ Mitch Albom, *Tuesdays with Morrie*



An evening with **MICHAEL CONNELLY**

**November 29, 2012 • 7 PM
CITY OPERA HOUSE**

International best-selling author Michael Connelly—whom *Publisher's Weekly* calls “today’s Dostoevsky of crime literature”—is making just a few stops on his nationwide book tour for his newest novel, *The Black Box* (published November 26, 2012). And his evening’s conversation at NWS is a

rare chance to be up close and personal with the creator of one of modern fiction’s most enigmatic detectives, the jazz-loving, tattooed Harry Bosch.

Michael Connelly’s vivid, literate novels are about—to paraphrase novelist William Faulkner—“the human heart in conflict with itself,” and they are as dramatic as today’s most surprising headlines.

Harry Bosch is a veteran homicide detective at work on Los Angeles’ sun-drenched streets and in its haunted canyons, driven by an unusual personal mantra in the pursuit of justice: “Everybody counts or nobody counts.” That’s Harry: tough, lovable, unstoppable. Michael launched the Bosch series in 1992 with *The Black Echo*, which won the Edgar Award for Best First Novel by the Mystery Writers of America, and gained national attention in 1994 when President Clinton was photographed holding a copy of the third Bosch novel, *The Concrete*

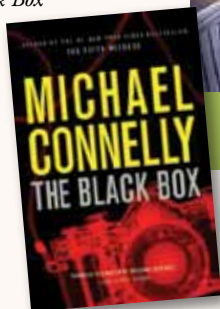


**New York Times Best-Selling Author
of the Harry Bosch Series**

Blonde. Subsequent novels in the series have consistently landed on the New York Times Best-Sellers List, with Michael also enjoying major success with non-series novels like *The Lincoln Lawyer*, which was adapted into a hit film starring Matthew McConaughey in 2011.

A crime reporter-turned-novelist, Michael has sold over 45 million copies of his books and has won every major mystery writing award available. Michael can often be seen on the hit ABC television show *Castle*, playing himself as one of the fictional *Castle*’s recurring poker buddies.

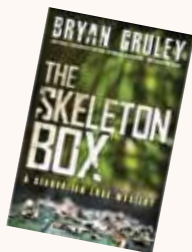
At this special NWS event, Michael Connelly will take the stage with acclaimed author Bryan Gruley for a fascinating conversation about Michael’s new novel, *The Black Box*. **Michael Connelly loves meeting his readers, and our conversation is sure to be filled with surprises—mysteries will be revealed, secrets of the heart uncovered...**



BRYAN GRULEY award winning author and reporter-at-large

**Guest
Host
Spotlight**

We’re thrilled to welcome Bryan Gruley, author of the critically acclaimed Starvation Lake Trilogy (set in northern Michigan). His 2009 debut novel, *Starvation Lake*, won coveted Strand, Anthony, and Barry awards. He was also nominated for an Edgar Award for Best First Novel by the Mystery Writers of America. Bryan’s 2010 *The Hanging Tree*, and his 2012 *The Skeleton Box*, received rave reviews from a growing nation of fans.



FRONT STREET WRITERS

A one-of-a-kind creative writing workshop

We have some great news. This fall, 2012, we're kicking off a first-of-its-kind writing workshop, the **Front Street Writers program**, in an exciting partnership with Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS).

Writing creatively, imaginatively, and powerfully is the number one skill we can teach students, who will tell the stories of the 21st century.

But we don't think art should be expensive. **This program provides – for free – opportunities for high school students to engage with NWS and practice their writing craft** under the master class tutelage of some of the literary world's most talented writers, our NWS guests. Regular writing workshops are led by nationally published authors who've been carefully selected as FSW Writers-In-Residence.

TCAPS high school juniors and seniors will earn school credit towards graduation, and they will be challenged to write, critique, and revise their manuscripts; create and edit a student literary magazine; and give a public reading. At the Front Street Writers program, published writers and teachers will treat the students as

artists, and the students will, we believe, blossom as poets, novelists, and essayists.

"Having such a writing workshop experience when I was a teenager," says Doug Stanton, "literally changed my life. I've never forgotten how fortunate I was to be taken seriously by practicing writers at such a young age. What we do on the City Opera House stage a couple of times every month, feels like the Oscars and NPR rolled into one. The Front Street Writers program will be a legacy program that we hope shapes the creative economy and our students' futures."

It's our hope that **one of these students will be our guest at NWS in another ten years, as a published author!**

Both the NWS Scholarship Awards and Front Street Writers have been made possible by generous donors and the success of our author events.

The Front Street Writers new workshop studio is at 123 W. Front Street. Stay tuned for more FSW news and events!

MORE THAN 50 NWS AUTHORS TO DATE!

2009 & 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, Jerry Dennis, Bryan Gruley, and Amy Alkon.

2011 AUTHORS

Mitch Albom, David Sedaris, Elmore Leonard, Jeremy Chamberlin, Jeffrey Eugenides, Paula McLain, Janet Leahy and Lisa Albert (producers and TV writers for *Mad Men*), Roy Blount, Richard Ford, Sebastian Junger, Gretchen Witt, 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.

2012 AUTHORS

Vince Gilligan, Jodi Picoult, Paula McLain, Alan Cheuse, Geraldine Brooks, Michael Sandel, Anna Quindlen, Susan Casey, Natalie Bakopoulos, Elizabeth Kostova, Janet Evanovich, Lee Child, Maggie Stiefvater, Lynn Rutan, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Jack Segal, Benjamin Busch, Michael Connelly, and Bryan Gruley.



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NWS is a one-of-a-kind literary event, and an

innovative, fun way for writers to meet their readers. I'd come back anytime."

~ Mary Karr,
Liar's Club



National Writers Series BUZZ!

“Author Tour Revolution” Poets&Writers

By Jeremy Chamberlain -- May/June 2012

“The National Writers Series has become one of the preeminent authors’ series in the country...”

“There’s something that Stanton and his cofounders have struck upon that’s making these must-attend evenings: the promise of an analog experience in a digital cultural landscape. Stanton realized that audiences no longer want to hear authors simply read... **They’re looking for a conversation.**”

“[Stanton’s] vision for the Series is that of a great dinner party – stimulating, provocative, entertaining, and communal – in an evocative space, Traverse City’s historic opera house... **The series is a place where art – and being passionate about art – matters.**”



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

~ PETER MATTHIESSEN, *Shadow Country*

“Writing for TV is rarely seen as a literary endeavor. That’s what I so appreciate about **the inclusivity of the National Writers Series**—to rub shoulders with great writers of all stripes. Also, Northern Michigan is beautiful and the people couldn’t have been more warm and welcoming. It was a wonderful weekend I’ll always remember!”

~ Vince Gilligan, creator of AMC TV’s *Breaking Bad*



PUBLISHING PERSPECTIVES

By Anna Clark -- May 1, 2012

“... One of the nation’s leading literary series...”

“As an NWS author,’ said Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford, **you get to feel useful in a way writers rarely get to feel useful.** It humanizes writers to the reading public. And there’s a very rich reading public in Traverse City.”



“Marlena Bittner, publicity director at Little, Brown, sent David Sedaris to NWS (‘he adored it’). Bittner said NWS is revealing a market that publishers haven’t been connecting to... ‘It feels like a joyous movement (in Traverse City), it’s exciting.’ Bittner says **not only is NWS offering a new possibility for readers, writers, and publishers to intersect, it’s doing so in a big way. ‘They’re thinking in a bigger way.’**”

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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. The Series also provides mentorship workshops and master classes for students with visiting Series authors.

This past May, 2012, scholarship awards were presented by best-selling authors Anna Quindlen

& Susan Casey. Recipients were students Kelly Clare, Emily Hittner-Cunningham, and Whitney Hubbell. Each student was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to the college of their choice.

The next scholarships will be awarded in spring 2013, and submissions will be accepted early in the year.

For more information on the National Writers Series Scholarship Program, including application dates and instructions, and how to donate, visit www.nationalwritersseries.org.



Kelly Clare



Emily Hittner-Cunningham



Whitney Hubbell



The National Writers Series Scholarship Program is provided in partnership with the Community Foundation.

"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*



"It's hard to describe the National Writers Series without overusing superlatives. It is **the most delightful event, in a spectacular environment, with fantastic people** who are crazy about the written word. My experience there was both enlightening and ridiculously fun."

~ Susan Casey, New York Times best-selling author of *The Wave* and editor-in-chief, Oprah magazine



Tickets to NWS 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 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, visit the City Opera House box office, or call 231-941-8082.

2) **Subscribers** - Patrons who purchase tickets to four or five events in a NWS season receive a 10% discount on tickets. To purchase subscriber tickets, complete and mail the form below, visit the City Opera House box office or call 231-941-8082.

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