

A YEAR-ROUND BOOK FESTIVAL



GREAT
STORIES
GREAT
CONVERSATIONS



celebrating
5 YEARS!



National Writers Series
Writers Series of Traverse City™

2014 FALL SEASON

GREAT STORIES GREAT CONVERSATIONS

LOOK WHO'S BEEN HERE...

2009

Elmore Leonard
& Peter Leonard

2010

Amy Alkon
Rhoda Janzen
Tom Brokaw
Thomas Lynch
Audrey Niffenegger
Walter Kirn
Mario Batali
James Bradley
Peter Matthiessen
Karl Marlantes &
Phil Caputo

2011

Janet Leahy & Lisa
Albert
Sara Brokaw
Mitch Albom
Paula McLain
Bonnie Jo Campbell

Jack Driscoll
Michael Zadoorian
Roy Blount, Jr.
Sebastian Junger
Richard Ford
Elmore Leonard
Daniel Silva
Gretchen Holt Witt
Tom Perrotta
Jeffrey Eugenides
David Sedaris
Chuck Klosterman

2012

Vince Gilligan
Jodi Picoult
Elizabeth Kostova
Alan Cheuse
Geraldine Brooks
Michael Sandel
Anna Quindlen
Susan Casey
Natalie Bakopoulos
Janet Evanovich

Lee Child
Maggie Stiefvater
Ayaan Hirsi Ali
Benjamin Busch
Michael Connelly
Bryan Gruley

2013

Chip Johannessen
Buzz Bissinger
Blaine Harden
Gillian Flynn
Nathaniel Philbrick
Jason Matthews
Colum McCann
Temple Grandin
Mitch Albom
Benjamin Percy
Michael Paterniti
Jamie Ford
David Finkel
Nikki Giovanni
Sara Paretsky

2014

Kelly Corrigan
George Packer
Steve Luxenberg
Mardi Link
Anchee Min
Ron Hogan
Emily Giffin
Daniel James
Brown
Lucas Wittmann
Karin Slaughter
Elizabeth Buzzelli
Diana Gabaldon



eee Welcome to the 2014 Season! eee

In its five years of hosting funny, poignant and sometimes outrageous conversation onstage, NWS has become one of America's must-stops for authors on national book tours. The tradition of great stories and great conversation continues with our fifth anniversary season.

Since it began in 2009, the National Writers Series has presented more than sixty events featuring some of the world's most celebrated and bestselling authors, including eight Pulitzer Prize winners; six National Book Award winners; winners of Emmys and Oscars; two of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world; and bestselling authors who are also recipients of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Navy Cross. An equally impressive list of guest hosts for these events include bestselling authors, regional and national journalists, and publishing professionals.

This season is no exception. It features another blockbuster list of authors including an Oxford educated financial journalist turned novelist who has bestsellers under two different names; a fox hunting, Emmy-nominated, classic novelist who was kicked out of NOW by Betty Friedan; an American poet and Iraq War veteran who was featured in a documentary that was nominated for

an Academy Award, and a middle school English teacher who became one of America's favorite book club authors upon publication of her first novel. And that's just four of seven authors featured during our fifth anniversary season – a season in which we'll hear stories about second chances, redemption and homecoming, among many laughs and a few quiet moments of reflection.

On behalf of all of us here at the National Writers Series we want to say thank you for coming and thank you for your continued support. We hope you enjoy the 2014 fall season.



Doug Stanton
Founder



Jill Tewsley
Executive Director

Co-founders:
Anne Stanton and Grant Parsons



OUR MISSION

We're an author event stage and nonprofit writing center dedicated to great conversations with today's best authors, thereby transforming individuals of all ages and enriching communities through the power of storytelling.

A CULTURAL *and* ECONOMIC RESOURCE

The Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce—on behalf of its more than 2,000 business members—would like to thank the National Writers Series as it embarks on another season that will feature some of America’s most prestigious and popular writers.

The National Writers Series has been an incredible resource, making a significant economic and cultural impact to our region. The Series draws thousands to our downtown through its year-round efforts that include monthly author events, writing workshops for all ages, and its creation of the Front Street Writers program. This program, offered in collaboration with Traverse City Area Public Schools, exposes our area high school students to some of the nation’s most talented writers and master teachers.

At a time when talent attraction is among the top priorities for employers and communities throughout Michigan and the nation, programs like NWS are even more important. Your support and participation help ensure that this wonderful cultural amenity continues to thrive, keeping this the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Douglas R. Luciani
President & CEO
Traverse City Area
Chamber of Commerce
Traverse Bay Economic
Development
Corporation



see NWS is PURE MICHIGAN see

The National Writers Series is one of those organizations that you just feel good about. NWS takes all the things that we love about northern Michigan—tourism, our special places, our special people and the arts—it brings them all together as a showcase for what we love and do. I have been fortunate enough to attend some of the NWS events. Each time I leave, I feel as if I am a better person. At one particular event I was able to bring a dear friend who was suffering through the final stages of cancer—we were able to share a special time with an author we both had enjoyed over the years. It is a memory I will treasure forever.

NWS provides great opportunities for us

all in Pure Michigan to unite with some of our most cherished authors. It also introduces and fuels creative writing within our northern Michigan community through its one-on-one learning and scholarship programs.

If you have not been able to attend a NWS event, you are missing one of our great treasures here in northern Michigan. Please join us this season as we celebrate a variety of authors.

Barry Owens
Co-Chairman of Promotions, Marketing,
& Communications Committee
Pure Michigan

PURE MICHIGAN®



“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 Sisters Keeper*

WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YEARS OF GREAT STORIES & GREAT CONVERSATIONS.

Smith Haughey is a proud sponsor of the National Writers Series and its mission of promoting students' writing excellence and connecting communities with national writers to advance appreciation of the written word.

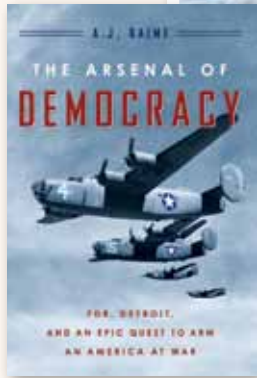
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FIND US ON:    

A conversation with

A.J. BAIME and BRYCE HOFFMAN

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

FORD: A WAR on TWO FRONTS



A.J. BAIME'S first book *Go Like Hell: Ford, Ferrari, and their Battle for Speed and Glory at Le Mans*, is currently in development for a major motion picture by 20th Century Fox, starring Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt. Baime is a regular contributor to the *Wall Street Journal* and an editor-at-large at *Playboy*.

In Baime's latest book *Arsenal of Democracy: FDR, Detroit, and an Epic Quest to Arm an America at War*, the Ford Motor Company and its production of the B-24 Liberator heavy bomber take center stage. He focuses on Ford's

B-24 bomber plant outside Detroit in Willow Run, where for the first time engineers attempted to mass-produce airplanes the way they did cars.

It's an engrossing story that Baime described as an opportunity to "tell a rich story about the most important collective achievement of any city in the nation's history, and that's Detroit during World War II."

HOFFMAN is an award-winning journalist who has spent two decades covering major companies in the automotive, technology and biotechnology industries. His new book *American Icon* was a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller that the paper named one of the best business books of 2012.

At the end of 2008 Ford Motor Company was in the fight of its life but when Congress threw it a taxpayer lifeline Ford ignored it.

Instead, the iconic company under the leadership of Alan Mulally, pulled off one of the biggest comebacks in business



history. It would become one of the great management narratives of our time. While the rest of Detroit collapsed, Ford went from the brink of bankruptcy to being the most profitable automaker in the world.

From his front row seat as the Ford beat reporter for the *Detroit News*, Hoffman

conducted hundreds of interviews and gleaned topsecret documents, memos and archives to craft compelling narrative nonfiction that reads like a high stakes drama.

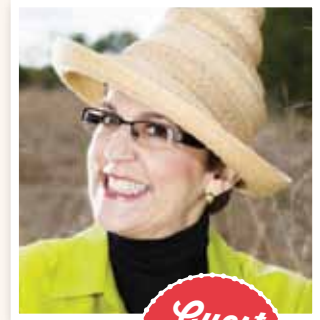
How Detroit helped save a world at war, and how in turn an iconic company saved itself.

Jean Jennings

JEAN Jennings has been writing about the car business for 30 years. She's also been a cab owner/operator, a test driver, welder, and mechanic. She was a writer at *Car and Driver* and established *Automobile Magazine* with David E. Davis, Jr., was the magazine's first Executive Editor, became Editor in Chief in 2000, and added the title of President of *Automobile Magazine* in 2006.

You may have seen her on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno or chatting with Oprah. She's a regular contributor to Fox Business Network; CNBC's *Closing Bell*, *Squawk Box*, *Behind the Wheel*, and *Power Lunch*; MSNBC; CBS *This Morning* and *Evening News*; and CNN's *American Morning* and *Headline News*. Jennings has won awards for feature writing, car reviews, and her monthly *Automobile Magazine* column, "Vile Gossip," including the 2007 Ken Purdy Award for Excellence in Automotive Journalism.

These days you can read what Jean is up to at her website JeanKnowsCars.com.



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APPLAUSE FOR NWS

BY ANNA CLARK • MAY 1, 2012

PUBLISHINGPERSPECTIVES

"... 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.'**"

INCREDIBLE EDIBLES!

Morsels Espresso + Edibles, located in downtown Traverse City opened their doors in 2008. Since then, they have won many accolades for their original bite-sized baked goods. The tasty treats have become an important part of the National Writers Series experience. Each event features a morsel cleverly named for the author. The treats are served to event guests during the pre-event reception and a gift box filled with a variety of morsels (including the author's specially named delectable) are given to the author and event guest host in welcome bags upon their arrival in Traverse City, to their surprise and delight.

The NWS staff has fun trying to guess what each treat might be named. Misha



Niedolfer, Morsels owner, always has the upper hand when it comes to originality and cleverness in naming and creating the unique treat. We have not once been able to guess correctly. You can get a taste of her treat-naming savvy from the list below.

- david cideris** (David Sedaris)
- brokawffe toffee** (Tom Brokaw)
- almond roy** (Roy Blount, Jr.)
- the silva bullet** (Daniel Silva)
- hotta perotta** (Tom Perotta)
- jeffkey lime eugenides** (Jeffrey Eugenides)
- bana quindlen** (Anna Quindlen)
- jodie piquant** (Jodi Picoult)
- janet baconovich** (Janet Evanovich)
- alan chews** (Alan Cheuse)
- lee chai-ld** (Lee Child)

- michael bon-bonnely** (Michael Connelly)
- gillian mint** (Gillian Flynn)
- lemony giffin** (Emily Giffin)
- banana gabaldon** (Diana Gabaldon)
- madam mclain's meringue** (Paula McLain)
- niffenegger fluffernutter** (Audrey Niffenegger)
- bit o'bradley** (James Bradley)
- batali finale** (Mario Batali)
- richurd ford** (Richard Ford)
- mitch alcrumble cake** (Mitch Albom)
- steve nutsenber** (Steve Luxenberg)

“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*



“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*



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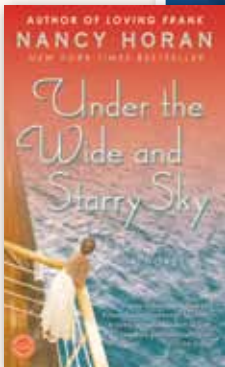
A conversation with

NANCY HORAN

OCTOBER 8, 2014

ONE BOOK. ONE CITY.

ANNOUNCING the INAUGURAL
NWS and TC READS PARTNERSHIP



AT THE AGE of thirty-five, Fanny Van de Grift Osbourne left her philandering husband in San Francisco to set sail for Belgium—with her three children and nanny in tow—to study art. Not long after her arrival, however, tragedy strikes, and Fanny and her children repair to a quiet artists' colony in France where she can recuperate. Emerging from a deep sorrow, she meets a lively Scot, Robert Louis Stevenson, ten years her junior, who falls instantly in love with the “belle Americaine.” In this much-anticipated second novel *Under the Wide and Starry Sky*, Horan beautifully depicts the improbable love story of Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson and his tempestuous American wife, Fanny.

As in her bestselling first novel, *Loving Frank*, Horan once more mines the true story of a famous man and equally remarkable, woman of history.

Jenie Altruda

JENIE Altruda is Vice President of Communications and Engagement for Interlochen Center for the Arts. She is also co-founder of Speech Craft, a consulting company that provides public presentation and communications training for executives.

A lifelong champion of the arts, Jenie has served on the boards of directors for the University of Michigan Museum of Art and North Coast Repertory Theatre. She lives in Traverse City with her husband and their two young sons.



Guest Host

Horan's 2007 novel *Loving Frank*, which chronicles a little-known chapter in the life of legendary American architect Frank Lloyd Wright, and his client, Mamah Borthwick Cheney, has been translated into sixteen languages and won the 2009 James Fenimore Cooper Prize for Best Historical Fiction, awarded by the Society of American

Historians.

Horan was a teacher and journalist before turning to fiction writing. She lived for 25 years in Oak Park, Illinois, where she raised her two sons. She now lives with her husband in Puget Sound.

NWS and TC Reads partner to present a blockbuster night with one of America's favorite book club authors.

NWS LITERARY JOURNAL

Last year we introduced the Front Street Writers Literary Review featuring the creative writing of students who were part of the Front Street Writers program. As we were making plans for the 2014 literary journal we realized that we needed to expand the journal to also include writers that participated in the numerous programs and workshops offered by the National Writers Series.

The 2014 NWS Literary Journal features writers from seven to 70 and includes something for everyone. There's a great story about super heroes and wicked parents penned by an elementary student, a lovely lyric essay by a high schooler, and a poem about unrequited love by one our Front Street Writers alum.

It is a celebration of writers and writing.

Copies of the journal are available for purchase at Horizon Books in Traverse City, at any NWS event, or by emailing Cymbre Foster at cfoster@nwstc.org.



STAMPS ARE EXPENSIVE

By Stephanie Petroskey
(FSW alumni)

To my dearest soul mate,
I've read some believe soul mates are connected,
and that we dream the same dreams
and feel the same feelings

But I pray to all the gods I'm not
confident I believe in,
that you don't suffer the way I suffer
that you don't cry as much as I cry

I wish upon all the first stars I see at night,
you are as content as can be
you are as lovely as can be

Trust me when I say,
I cannot wait to hold you
I cannot wait to be held

My desire is incandescent, and for that
I thank you.

FRONT STREET WRITERS PROGRAM

The National Writers Series and Traverse City Public Schools launched Front Street Writers, tuition free creative writing intensive for Grand Traverse area high school students in 2012.

Led by writers-in-residence, enthusiastic Traverse City Area Public School teachers, and nationally renowned NWS guest authors who conduct master classes with the students, the program treats the young writer as a serious artist and as a working professional.

Throughout the year the Front Street Writers program also conducts free and low cost writing workshops for individuals ages seven to adult.

The Front Street Writers studio is located in



one-of-a-kind
creative writing
workshops

downtown Traverse City. Thanks to a generous donation from Steelcase and

Jonathan and Marissa Wege, the stylish studio is equipped to accommodate classroom style teaching, in-the-round workshops, formal readings, and interactive story editing.

A conversation with
SOPHIE KINSELLA

OCTOBER 22, 2014
READING, WRITING & SHOPPING



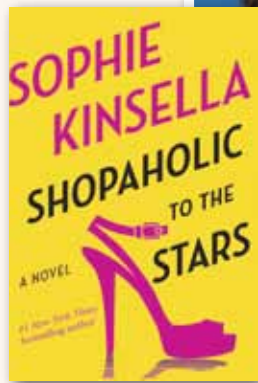
SOPHIE Kinsella wrote her first novel under her real name, Madeleine Wickham, at the tender age of 24, while working as a financial journalist.

The Tennis Party was immediately hailed as a success by critics and the public alike and became a top ten bestseller. She went on to publish six more novels as Madeleine Wickham.

She submitted her first 'Sophie Kinsella' novel anonymously to her existing publishers and it was snapped up without her editors knowing that she was already one of their authors. It wasn't until the appropriately titled *Can You Keep a Secret?* was published that Sophie revealed her true identity for the first time.

Kinsella raced onto the UK bestseller lists in September 2000 with her first novel in the *Shopaholic* series — *The Secret Dreamworld of a Shopaholic* (also published as *Confessions of a Shopaholic*). The book's heroine, Becky Bloomwood — a fun and feisty financial journalist who loves shopping but is hopeless with money — captured the hearts of readers worldwide and she has since been featured in five further adventures.

Kinsella is also the author of five stand-alone



novels and *Confessions of a Shopaholic* was made into a movie starring Hugh Dancy and Isla Fisher.

Her latest *Shopaholic* novel *Shopaholic to the Stars*, starring Becky Bloomwood is set in Hollywood.

Kinsella was born in London. She studied music at New College, Oxford, but after a year switched to Politics, Philosophy and Economics. She now lives in London, UK, with her husband and family.

A gift for comic writing and flare for everything fashionable, the international bestselling author makes her first trip to the U.S. in more than four years.

A big thank you to RELISH for the SHOPAHOLIC GIVEAWAY in conjunction with this event.



“ Thank you for a **fabulous, memorable evening** in Traverse City! I was so honored to be part of the National Writers Series —and the fact that it was such a good time was a bonus.

Emily Giffin ~ *The One and Only*



2014-15 CONCERT SEASON

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A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



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A conversation with

RITA MAE BROWN

NOVEMBER 6, 2014

FARMER, FEMINIST & FELINE FAN



IT'S NO SECRET that Rita Mae Brown prefers the company of animals to people, a penchant that is reflected in her work. From her memoirs, to her Mrs. Murphy mysteries (co-authored by her cat Sneaky Pie) and her series of Sister Jane fox hunting thrillers, Brown is a tried and true animal lover.

She is also a gay rights activist and feminist pioneer as well as a prolific author. Brown's first novel *Rubyfruit Jungle* written in 1973, about growing up a lesbian in America and living happily ever after was an unprecedented blockbuster. She was an early member of the National Organization of Women (NOW) but was thrown out after a fall-out concerning the group's homophobia.

Brown has published nearly a book a year since the 1970s. She has written novels, essays, screenplays, volumes of poetry, cookbooks, a memoir, and most famously, mysteries. She worked with Norman Lear on several TV shows, winning an Emmy, and has written some 40 books, many of them bestsellers. She even became a tabloid star during her three-year relationship with tennis su-

perstar Martina Navratilova.

Her latest book, *Let Sleeping Dogs Lie* is a gripping new foxhunting mystery, featuring the irrepressible "Sister" Jane Arnold and the wily antics of her four-legged friends. In this book a century-old crime reawakens bad will—and stirs up a scandal that chills Sister to the bone. It's a rollicking, riveting mystery full of

colorful characters, gorgeous country landscapes, and the breathtaking thrill of the hunt.

Brown lives on a farm in Afton, Virginia with a slew of cats and dogs, a stable of horses, and a pack of foxhounds.

Always funny. Sometimes Outrageous. The New York Times bestselling author and literary icon makes a rare appearance in Traverse City.



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

~ PETER MATTHIESSEN, *Shadow Country*

NWS AUTHORS LOVE TC!

Chip Johannessen stopped by North Peak for a beer and a bite on a very snowy evening in February.



Nikki Giovanni indulged in a hard cider from Northern Natural Cider House.

Leigh Haber, the books editor from *O, The Oprah Magazine* purchased the outfit she wore on the City Opera House stage at Cali's.

Jamie Ford and his wife Leesha enjoyed a meal at Stella and loved hearing about the history of the former State Hospital.

Sara Paretzky raved about the boots she purchased from Robert Frost.

Anchee Min, a vegetarian, enjoyed lunch at Om Cafe.

Buzz Bissinger made a quick trip to Peteryl Drug & Gift Center for toothpaste and left with a bag full of goodies.

Grand Traverse Pie Company gives a cherry pie to each of our author guests. They all rave about the pie.



Anna Quindlen didn't have silverware, but the pie was so tempting that she ate it with her fingers in her hotel room.

Colum McCann was hungry when he arrived in town and grabbed a Gobbler from Mary's Kitchen Port.



Blaine Harden enjoyed a late-night burger at U&I.

Diana Gabaldon dined on the roof at the Franklin after her event. Toward the end of the meal it began to rain and the lovely staff made sure everyone was moved inside quickly!

“ 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*



“ 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.”

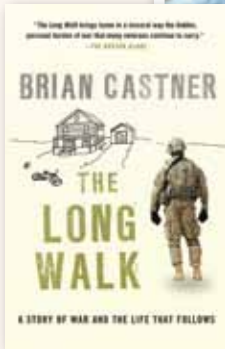
Anna Quindlen ~ *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*

A conversation with

BRIAN CASTNER and BRIAN TURNER

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

THE STORY of WAR, THE LANGUAGE of BEING HUMAN



BRIAN Castner served as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer in the US Air Force from 1999 to 2007, deploying to Iraq to command bomb disposal units in Balad and Kirkuk in 2005 and 2006. He and his team disrupted roadside improvised explosive devices, investigated the aftermath of car bombs, and searched house-to-house to find bomb makers. After leaving the active military, he became a consultant and contractor, training soldiers and Marines prior to their tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. When Castner returned home and was alone with nothing but his thoughts, he couldn't put the war aside and move on.

In his book *The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life That Follows*, he examines his struggles with confronting the new person who returned home.

"The first thing you should know about me is

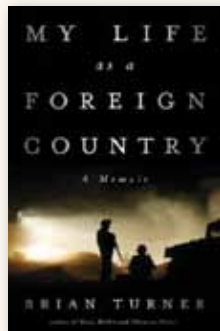
that I'm Crazy," he writes.

And so begins *The Long Walk*, an unapologetic memoir that alternates between the terror, excitement and camaraderie of combat, and the lonely battle against the fear, anxiety and survivor guilt once he returns home to his family.

The Long Walk received an Amazon Best Book of 2012 and Chautauqua Scientific & Literary Circle selection for 2013. His writing has appeared in a number of national and regional publications, including *Wired*, *The New York Times*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Foreign Policy*, and Garry Trudeau's *The Sandbox* anthology. Castner lives outside of Buffalo, New York with his wife and four sons.

BRIAN Turner, a pre-eminent American poet, served for seven years in the U.S. Army. He was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999-2000 with the 10th Mountain Division. Then in November 2003 he was an infantry team leader for a year in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

In 2003, Turner crossed the line of departure with a convoy of soldiers headed into the Iraqi desert. Now he lies awake each night beside his sleeping wife, imagining himself as a drone aircraft, hovering over the terrains of Bosnia and Vietnam, Iraq and Northern Ireland, the killing fields of Cambodia and the death camps of Europe.



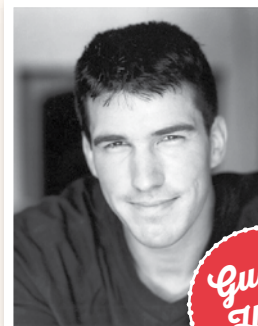
In his memoir *My Life as a Foreign Country*, Turner, also an award-winning poet, retraces his war experience—pre-deployment to combat zone, homecoming to aftermath. Turner also sees through the eyes of the enemy, imagining his way into the experience of the "other." Through it all, he paints a devastating portrait of what it means to be a soldier and a human being.

His first book, *Here, Bullet*, chronicles his time in Iraq. His poetry and essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Poetry Daily*, *The Georgia Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review* and other journals. Turner was featured in the documentary film "Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience," which was nominated for an Academy Award. He received a USA Hillcrest Fellowship in Literature, an NEA Literature Fellowship in Poetry, the Amy Lowell Traveling Fellowship, a US-Japan Friendship Commission Fellowship, the Poets' Prize, and a Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation. His most recent book of poetry, *Phantom Noise*, was short-listed for the T.S. Eliot Prize in England. His work has appeared on National Public Radio, BBC, Newshour with Jim Lehrer, *Here and Now*, and on *Weekend America*, among others. Turner is the director of the MFA program at Sierra Nevada College and the prize-winning author of two poetry collections about his years in the U.S. Army. He is also the author of the acclaimed poem



"The Hurt Locker." He serves as a contributing editor at *The Normal School*. He is married and lives in Orlando, Florida.

Three veterans of the war in the Middle East, all acclaimed authors, come together on the NWS stage to tell their stories as literature and as a record of an epochal event.



Benjamin Busch

BENJAMIN Busch is the author of the award-winning memoir *Dust to Dust* and a regular contributor to *Harper's Magazine*. A former U.S. Marine Corps officer who served two combat tours in Iraq, Busch returned to the U.S. to play a Marine in HBO's *Generation Kill*. As an actor, he is best known for his appearances in *Homicide*, *The Wire*, *Generation Kill*, and *The Beast*. Busch received a Purple Heart in 2005 for combat wounds sustained in Ramadi, Iraq. Ben lives in Reed City, MI, with his wife, historian Tracy Busch, and two young daughters.



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

Elmore Leonard ~ *Get Shorty*



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see NWS FUN FACTS! see

- 1 2012 guest Benjamin Busch entered the stage on roller skates and kept them on for the duration of his NWS appearance.
- 2 Every NWS guest receives a gift bag that includes a complimentary cherry pie from Grand Traverse Pie Company and a gift box of treats from Morsels bakery.
- 3 Two of our past NWS guests thought Traverse City was in the Upper Peninsula.
- 4 Doug Stanton's mom Bonnie delivers event posters to businesses all over town and makes sure that we have flowers for each event.
- 5 More than 25,000 people have attended National Writers Series events since 2009.
- 6 NWS has hosted events with two of Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World:" Temple Grandin and Ayaan Hirsi Ali.
- 7 NWS volunteers donated nearly 1,000 hours of their time at events during 2013.
- 8 The NWS has awarded over \$25,000 in scholarships to 12 students over the last 4 years.
- 9 Videos of all of the past NWS events are available to view on UpNorth Media Center's YouTube channel.
- 10 Visiting National Writers Series guests often visit the Front Street Writers studio to teach master classes to students.

see TUNE IN see



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“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”

~ Sylvia Plath



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