



VIRTUAL AUTHOR
SEASON • 2021

◆◆◆ NATIONAL ◆◆◆

WRITERS SERIES

⋮ | *A year-round book festival* | ⋮

Dwight Garner | Alan Lightman | Martha Teichner | Diane Rehm
Imbolo Mbue | Shelley Pearsall | Karla Cornejo Villavicencio
Chris Bohjalian | Rochelle Riley | Mary Doria Russell

WELCOME TO THE NWS 2021 VIRTUAL AUTHOR SEASON

I was just cross-country skiing with Tom, a good friend and a National Writers Series fan who, in non-Pandemic times, has attended a lot of our author events. We were out on Riley's Trail near the Vasa single track, and coming back, we chose a wrong turn and got lost. To take my mind off the waning sun and the prospect of humbly calling my husband to let him know I was trying to pick my way home in the dark, I struck up a conversation.

"So, Tom, have you been watching any of our virtual author events?"

"No, I haven't," he said. "I don't like to Zoom."

"Not even one? Why not?" I asked, maybe a tad bluntly.

Before he could respond, a kind person on a fat-tire bike came across our path and explained how we could get back to the parking lot—and, in

fact, he even led us most of the way there. Man, Traverse City people are nice. So, Tom, this letter is my attempt to persuade you to Zoom in.

First, some history.

As you know, we hosted our last live event at the City Opera House in March and switched over to virtual, Zoom events pretty quickly. In April to be exact, and that first event was a bit of a hot mess, at least in the first five minutes. The author froze up a nd we had to wait a few minutes for her to get back "on" while the guest host Rochelle Riley flashed her beautiful smile and quickly improvised once she realized it was going to take the author more than a few moments to return.

Once she got back on, all was still not well. The interview was fun and funny, but we kept hearing a random beep—I think it might have been someone's phone calls or maybe

Surprisingly, we actually have more eyes on these virtual events than we did with our live events.

messages coming in. Now we tell authors to keep their phones off and their zoom link handy in case of freezing.

Yep, we've learned a lot with Zoom. We know that people don't like looking at the same two faces for a complete hour, so we fill in with lots of personal photos and video whenever we can. And we take advantage of the fact that anyone can watch no matter where in the world they are. When author Yaa Gyasi (*The Transcendent Kingdom*) was zooming in from New York City, for example, her parents showed up from Huntsville, Alabama. We figured out how to bring them in the spotlight so everyone could see them. The guest host asked her mom, Sophia, if she had a question for Yaa.

"Yes—when is she coming down here? Baby, when are you coming to Huntsville?"

Yaa laughed.

"You need to ask the pandemic, I think, but as soon as we can."

Her father Kwaku, a professor of French at the University of Alabama, didn't say a word, but beamed with pride.

Her former high school teacher Janice Vaughn also made an appearance, saying how proud she was.

"I remember her sitting in that 11 AP classroom and I remember Yaa kicking off her shoes at her desk. Do you remember that Yaa?"

Yaa nodded her head, laughing.

"I remember that sparkle in her eyes that reveals she is truly an artistic genius."

These virtual events (in which no one can see you) are an excellent option for those who have gotten perhaps a little too comfortable during the pandemic in which dressing up and putting on make-up feel somehow like too much work. Yay! No one can see you. So relax, sip a glass of wine (or tea) and enjoy—maybe even wander off if need be!

Surprisingly, we actually have more eyes on these virtual events than we did with our live events. A total of 5800 people linked into our 16 virtual events... and we have thousands of viewers and listeners who are watching or listening to the recordings. Interlochen Public Radio and other NPR affiliates also re-broadcast our shows.

So, if you're like Tom, who has been avoiding Zoom since the pandemic started, I say this: It's not so bad. In fact, it's pretty darn entertaining. Good enough that we're considering continuing with our virtual events once we're back at the City Opera House, hopefully this summer!

Thanks to all of you who have so generously donated and allowed us to continue the conversation!



ANNE STANTON
Co-founder and Executive Director
National Writers Series

RAISING WRITERS

Honing the skills of young, passionate readers and writers

The Writers Series uses proceeds from its author events to help support its several Raising Writers programs

FRONT STREET WRITERS

Created in 2012, Front Street Writers is a magnet program for area high school students passionate about writing. This intensive writers' workshop is taught at the Career-Tech Center, drawing students from the five-county area.



Authors Bob Giles, Christopher Haugh and Jordan Blashek virtually visited the classroom this past fall. This spring, Chasten Buttigieg, Karla Cornejo Villavicencio, Kate Walbert and children's author Shelley Pearsall are planning Zoom visits.

The FSW students' best work is

published in the annual NWS Literary Journal. FSW students have won dozens of awards from Scholastic, Poets Out Loud, Poets' Night Out, and the Young Playwrights Festival.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

In partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, NWS has awarded 34 students with \$52,000 in scholarship money. There are four \$1,000 scholarships available: journalism, creative nonfiction, short story and playwrighting. All students with permanent addresses in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties are eligible. Deadline for submissions is March 1st. For more information go to the NWS or GTRCF websites.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ERIN EVANS Senior - Bellaire High School Leslie Lee Nonfiction Award	OLIVIA JOHNSON Senior - Interlochen Center for the Arts Judith Lang Creative Writing Award	ATHENA GILLESPIE Senior - St. Francis High School Robert & Marcy Branski Poetry Award	MCKENNA LANDRUM Junior - Grand Traverse Academy William R. Montgomery Fiction Award
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CREATIVE WRITING CLASSES

This year we are teaching youth classes virtually. Coming soon are classes on writing children's books and pitching a magazing article. We're also offering a first-ever international cooking class for young children a) because it's fun and useful and b) because it will help strengthen reading and math skills along with enhancing knowledge of world cultures. See our website for more information.



Book Handout Day at Horizon Books. A dedicated group of volunteers coordinated the curbside book handout to each team's coach.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Guess what? When kids are excited about reading, they read more, and **Battle of the Books Grand Traverse** is proof. Launched in 2016, Battle of the Books is a free, book-based competition. Dozens of teams read books provided by NWS and then compete before judges to show what they know. This program has become wildly popular, filling up last year with 280 students in a matter of hours.



This year, Battle of the Books has gone virtual, and we have increased the number of teams from 48 to 63 teams and 355 students. It's a huge endeavor, made possible with a partnership with the Traverse Area District Library, dedicated volunteers, and the leadership of program coordinator Marcy Lindberg.

The championship battle will take place on March 14, with two of the 63 teams facing off. We are thrilled to have award-winning author Shelley Pearsall as the featured guest.

OUR MISSION

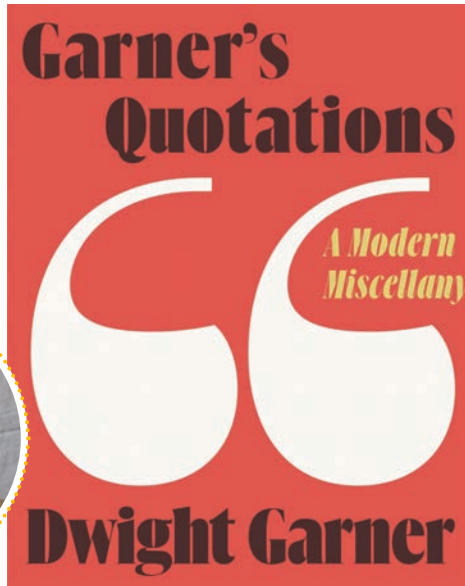
The National Writers Series of Traverse City is a nonprofit organization dedicated to holding great conversations with today's best authors and building the reading and writing skills of youth.

JANUARY 14, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

DWIGHT GARNER

“An uncommon commonplace book from a wide-ranging reader... A diverting trove of witty remarks.”

~ Kirkus Reviews



Dwight Garner, a book critic with the New York Times, is sharing other writers' words in his new book, **"Garner's Quotations: A Modern Miscellany."**

Garner is a no-holds barred quote collector, looking for the zing and sting. Like this one... "I have no enemies. But my friends don't like me." ~ Poet Philip Larkin He calls this new collection selections from his "commonplace book." "It's where I write down favorite sentences from novels, stories, poems and songs, from plays and movies, from overheard

conversations," he writes in the foreword. "Lines that made me sit up in my seat; lines that jolted me awake. About once a year, I'll say something I think is worthy of inclusion. I mostly end up deleting those entries."

He's admittedly not usually a big fan of books of quotations, but says *Garner's Quotations* "is an attempt to break with the convention." He has included just a

JANUARY 21, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

ALAN LIGHTMAN

“Lightman's best book since *Einstein's Dreams* . . . an important story of global women's rights.”

~ Annie Proulx



Alan Lightman is a novelist, essayist, physicist, and educator. Currently, he is Professor of the Practice of the Humanities at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

As both a distinguished physicist and an accomplished novelist, Lightman is one of only a small number of people who straddle the sciences and the

humanities. He has lectured at more than 100 universities nationwide about the similarities and differences in the ways that scientists and artists

small part of "the material I've hoarded" and has arranged them "by feel," not category. And the book is, he says with glee, a bit coarse, with more blasphemy than the usual books of quotations.

The book is a rollicking, irreverent, amazingly alive selection of unforgettable moments from forty years of wide and deep reading. *Garner's Quotations* is like no commonplace book you'll ever read.

Garner is an editor for the New York Times Book Review. His essays and criticism have appeared in The New Republic, Harper's, Slate and elsewhere. He is a founding editor of Salon.

While still a student at Middlebury College, Garner wrote book criticism for The Village Voice, music and theater criticism and was a stringer for the New York Times. He also is the author of Read Me: A Century of Classic American Book Advertisements. He began keeping his commonplace book while still in high school. "Into it I've poured verbal delicacies, 'the blast of

view the world.

Three Flames, Lightman's first work of fiction in seven years, portrays the struggles of one Cambodian farming family against the extreme patriarchal attitudes of their society and a cruel and dictatorial father. The tale is set in a rural community that is slowly being exposed to the modern world and its values. It will be up to Sreypov, the youngest daughter, to bravely challenge her father and strive for a better future. *Three Flames* is a vivid story of one family's yearning for freedom and of a young girl's courage to face down tradition.

Three Flames grows directly from Lightman's work as the founder of the Harpswell Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance a new generation of female leaders in Cambodia and all of Southeast Asia.

a trumpet,' as [Ralph Waldo] Emerson put it, and bits of scavenged wisdom from my life as a reader. Yea, for I am an underliner, a destroyer of books, and maybe you are, too."

GUEST HOST DOUG STANTON

Stanton is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *In Harm's Way*, *12 Strong* and *The Odyssey of Echo Company*. His writing has appeared in Esquire, The New York Times, TIME, the Washington Post, and other national publications where he has been a contributing editor. Stanton attended Interlochen Arts Academy, Hampshire College, and received an MFA from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. An NWS co-founder, he lives in Traverse City, his hometown.



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GUEST HOST KALYANEE MAM

Uprooted by war from her homeland in Cambodia, Mam's longing to "daohsray" or unravel what home means, has led her to work on films about war and refugees, about families threatened and displaced by the destruction of their land and their cultures. She is grateful to her mother and her family for teaching her that home lies in the jewels and wisdom of our ancestors. She now makes her home on the land of the Pomo and Coastal Miwok with her beloved David Mendez.



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FEBRUARY 4, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

MARTHA TEICHNER

“.. [A]n exquisite tale about heartbreak and healing.”

~ Jeannette Walls, bestselling author of *The Glass Castle*



Traverse City native Martha Teichner, now a correspondent for "CBS Sunday Morning," brings her heartwarming book, ***When Harry Met Minnie***, to the National Writers Series Feb. 4.



A chance encounter at the Union Square Farmer's Market changed Teichner's world forever. As fate would have it, her friend knew someone dying from the fall-out radiation of 9/11 and was desperate to find a new home for Harry, a bull terrier – the same breed as Teichner's dear Minnie. Would Teichner consider giving Harry a loving new home?

In short order, boy dog meets girl dog. But there is so much more to this book. After Teichner agrees to meet Harry and his owner Carol, what begins as a transaction involving a dog becomes a deep and meaningful friendship between two women with complicated lives and a love of bull terriers in common. Through the heartbreak and grief of Carol's illness, the bond that develops changes Teichner's life, Carol's life, Minnie's life, Harry's life; it changes Carol's death as well.

In this touching narrative, Teichner considers the ways our stories are shaped by the people we meet, and the profound love we can find by opening our hearts to unexpected encounters.

Martha Teichner has been a correspondent for "CBS Sunday Morning" since December 1993. Since joining CBS News in 1977, Teichner has earned multiple national awards for her original reporting, including 11

Emmy Awards and five James Beard Foundation Awards. Teichner was also part of the team coverage of the Newtown, Conn., elementary school shooting which earned CBS News a 2014 duPont-Columbia Award. Teichner was born in Traverse City and graduated from Wellesley College in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in economics. She attended the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business Administration. She lives in New York City.

GUEST HOST CYNTHIA CANTY

Canty was the host of *Stateside on Michigan Radio* since the show began in 2012, retiring in 2019. A lifelong resident of metro Detroit, she has been a television news anchor, producer and reporter. Her reporting and writing have earned her many awards, including an Emmy and honors from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, the Associated Press and the Detroit Press Club.



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Al & Susan Cogswell

RAISING THE LITERARY BAR SINCE 2010

- NWS broadcasts author events on IPR, Community Access Television, YouTube, and makes them available to public radio stations around the country. The NWS virtual events are all available on our website

- More than 69,000 people have attended 181 events since we started.

- Awarded \$52,000 in scholarships to 34 collegebound students.

- We've hosted more than 180 authors for onstage conversations over the past 10 years.

- Our Front Street Writers program, in partnership with Traverse Bay Area ISD and held at the Career-Tech Center, draws students from a five-county area who love to learn about writing.

- Sixty-three teams are engaged in a creative and fun Battle of the Books this year. This year 355 students will be quizzed on nine books.

- Each spring, we've hosted poetry workshops at Traverse Heights and Blair Elementary schools. This year, the poetry workshops will be held virtually and offered to all area students.

- NWS creates and promotes youth creative writing classes in partnership with Northwestern Michigan College.

- Publishes student writing of Front Street Writers, Blair and Traverse Heights poetry workshops, and NMC creative writing classes in the annual *NWS Literary Journal*.

- Co-founder Doug Stanton is the 2020 Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award winner and past Michiganiaan of the Year.

- Traverse City has been a "Book City" since 2015.



Traverse Heights poetry workshop



Bestselling author Marie Benedict meets with FSW students



Battle of the Books 2020 team finalist



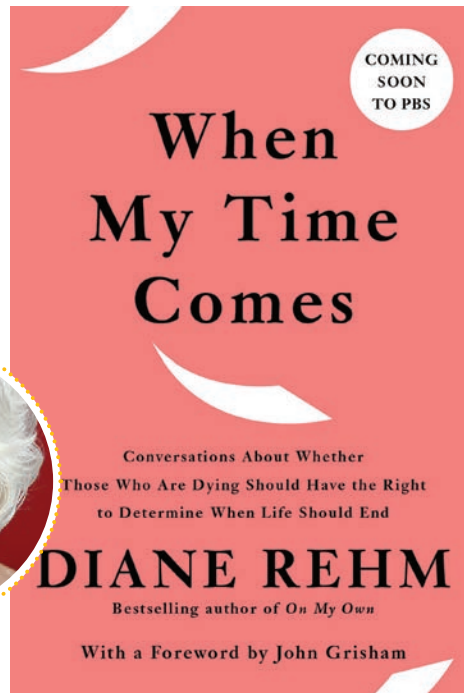
Margaret Atwood signing books after her 2019 author event

FEBRUARY 25, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

DIANE REHM

“A book of candor and compassion, addressing the cause of the Right-to-Die movement, of which she is one of our most inspiring champions.”

~ Amazon Books



talks with clergy, lawmakers, doctors and close friends about their views on legalizing life ending medicines.

Rehm gives voice to a broad range of people who are personally linked to the realities of medical aid in

Through personal stories about her mother's death and her late husband's battle with Parkinson's Disease, Rehm examines patient autonomy, personal choice and physician aid in dying. She

dying. The book presents the fervent arguments – both for and against – that are propelling the current debates across the nation about whether to adopt laws allowing those who are dying to put an end to their suffering. With characteristic even-handedness, Rehm skillfully shows both sides of the argument, providing the full context for this highly divisive issue.

With a highly personal foreword by John Grisham, *When My Time Comes* is a response to many misconceptions of end-of-life care; it is a call to action – and to conscience – and it is an attempt to heal and soothe our hearts, reminding us that death, too, is an integral part of life.

Rehm hosted *The Diane Rehm Show*, distributed by NPR, from 1979 to 2016, when it had a weekly listening audience of 2.5 million. She now hosts a weekly podcast for NPR, *On My Mind*. She began her radio career in 1973 as a volunteer for WAMU 88.5, the NPR member station in

Washington, D.C. In 2014, President Barack Obama presented Rehm with the National Humanities Medal. She lives in Washington, D.C.

GUEST HOST CYNTHIA CANTY

Canty was the host of Stateside on Michigan Radio since the show began in 2012, retiring in 2019.

A lifelong resident of metro Detroit, she has been a television news anchor, producer and reporter. Her reporting and writing have earned her many awards, including an Emmy and honors from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, the Associated Press and the Detroit Press Club.



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Mission Point Press

taken of a young boy. Alone at recess, he was lying on the playground in the middle of a large picture that he'd drawn in the dirt.

Shelley Pearsall is the author of seven acclaimed books for middle grade and teen readers. Her inspiring and thought-provoking novels are used in classrooms nationwide, and she is a popular school speaker. Prior to becoming a full-time author, Shelley was a classroom teacher. She has also worked in the education departments of several parks and history museums where she created museum theater events and led public programs. She has a B.A. from The College of Wooster and a Master's in Education, M. Ed., from John Carroll University.

Shelley's first book, *Trouble Don't Last*, was published in 2002 and received the prestigious Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. *All of the Above*

and *The Seventh Most Important Thing* were named American Library Association Notable Books. Her newest novel is *Things Seen From Above* (February 2020). Shelley's books have appeared on numerous state reading award lists and received other honors.

We are thrilled to have award-winning author Shelley Pearsall as the featured guest of Battle of the Books.

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MARCH 19, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

IMBOLO MBUE

“The unforgettable story of a community on the wrong end of Western greed... a masterful novel by a spellbinding writer.”

~ David Eberschoff, author of *The Danish Girl*

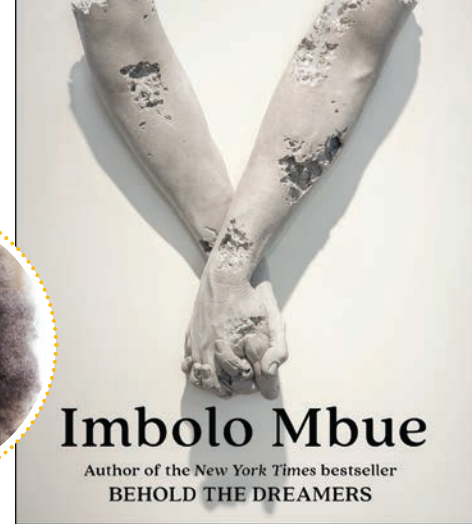
Imbolo Mbue is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Behold the Dreamers*, which won the PEN/ Faulkner Award for Fiction and the Blue Metropolis Words to Change Prize and was an Oprah's Book Club selection. Named a notable book of the year by The New York Times and The Washington Post and a best book of the year by close to a dozen publications, the novel has been translated into eleven languages, adapted into an opera and a stage play, and optioned for a movie. A native of Limbe, Cameroon, and a graduate of Rutgers and Columbia Universities, Mbue lives in New York City.

“We should have known the end was near.” So begins Imbolo Mbue's powerful second novel, *How Beautiful We Were*. Set in the fictional African village of Kosawa, it tells of a people living in fear amid environmental degradation wrought by an American oil company. Pipeline spills have rendered farmlands infertile. Children are dying from drinking toxic water. Promises of cleanup and financial reparations to the villagers are made—and ignored. The country's government, led by a brazen dictator, exists to serve its own interests. Left with few choices, the people of Kosawa decide to fight back. Their struggle will last for decades and come at a steep price.

Told from the perspective of a generation of children and the family

How Beautiful We Were

A Novel



of a girl named Thula who grows up to become a revolutionary, *How Beautiful We Were* is a masterful exploration of what happens when the reckless drive for profit, coupled with the ghost of colonialism, comes up against one community's determination to hold on to its ancestral land and a young woman's willingness to sacrifice everything for the sake of her people's freedom.

GUEST HOST ROCHELLE RILEY

Rochelle Riley is the Director of Arts and Culture for the city of Detroit. She is a former award-winning columnist for the Detroit Free Press. She's written two books and tours the country with *The Burden*, speaking about the burden that America bears because it refuses to deal with the aftermath of slavery. She's bringing her latest book, *That They Lived*, to the National Writers Series May 13.



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Literary Sponsor:
Michigan Writers

Kudos to the National Writers Series

“The Stantons and everyone else behind the National Writers Series have done something miraculous in Traverse City: They have created an event with more community support, more local media, more pure excitement than in any other event I've ever seen.

Believe me, I've done more events than I can count – big and small, literally all over the world – but if I could only do one more for the rest of my life, it would be the National Writers Series.”

~ STEVE HAMILTON, award-winning author



LOOKING BACK - SOME AMAZING MOMENTS



Elizabeth Strout: 2017



Janet Evanovitch & Doug Stanton: 2012



Doug & Anne Stanton: 2018



Anne Patchett: 2016



Tom Brokaw: 2010



Mary Karr: 2010



John Bacon speaks to TC Central High School students: 2015



Karl Marlantes: 2019



Alice Walker: 2018



WE WILL BE BACK!

MARCH 14, 2PM • BATTLE OF THE BOOKS CHAMPIONSHIP

SHELLEY PEARSALL

“Readers will think about this novel after they've closed the book. It's full of heart ... encourages looking at the world through a new lens.”

~ School Library Journal



through the dirt. What is the purpose of the mysterious lines he's drawing? Are they really as random as they seem?

Pearsall based her tale on a photo

April is desperately looking for an escape from all the gossip and drama of the sixth grade lunch hour, so she signs up to be a Buddy Bench monitor for the fourth grade recess.

Joey Byrd is a fourth grade outcast who just wants to be left alone. He's a boy on the fringes, who wanders the playground alone, dragging his feet



APRIL 8, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

KARLA CORNEJO VILLAVICENCIO

“Memorable... compelling... heart-wrenching... a welcome addition to the literature on immigration told by an author who understands the issue like few others.”

~ Kirkus Reviews

Karla Cornejo Villavicencio brings to light remarkable stories of hope and resilience in her searing debut, *The Undocumented Americans*.

Cornejo Villavicencio has read a vast



amount of books about immigrant life in America and has hated almost all of them. She could not

see herself or her friends in the sad, “pull yourself up by the bootstraps” memoirs that permeated much of the existing literature.

Using a combination of reporting and personal memoir, Cornejo Villavicencio travels the country at the risk of arrest and deportation to tell of the interior, hidden lives of undocumented immigrants in the United States. Looking well beyond the flashpoints of the border or the activism of the Dreamers, Cornejo Villavicencio explores the lives of the undocumented as rarely seen in our daily headlines.

Karla Cornejo Villavicencio has written about immigration, music, beauty, and mental illness for The New York Times, The Atlantic, The New Republic, Glamour, Elle, Vogue, n+1, and The New Inquiry, among others. She lives in New Haven with her partner and

their dog.

Cornejo Villavicencio was born in 1989 in Ecuador. When she was 18 months old, her parents left her behind when they immigrated to the US. When she was four or five, her parents brought her to the United States; they lived in the New York borough of Queens. She graduated from Harvard in 2011 and believes she is one of the first undocumented immigrants to do so. She is a PhD candidate in the American Studies program at Yale. She was an Emerson Collective fellow. Cornejo Villavicencio's book is now a National Book Award finalist.

GUEST HOST TO BE ANNOUNCED

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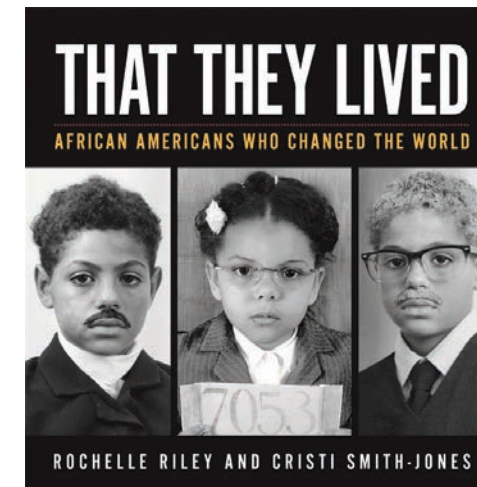
MAY 13, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

ROCHELLE RILEY

“The moment my son begins to read, I will give him this fascinating book.”

~ Qasim Basir, filmmaker

Every famous person was once a child who, in some cases, overcame great obstacles to achieve success. That's the enduring lesson of *That They Lived*, which features the biographies and photographs of famous African Americans, starting with the stories of their youth and how small experiences can help shape their



entire lives.

For example: Muhammad Ali's bike was stolen when he was just a twelve-year-old kid in Louisville named Cassius Clay. What did the police officer who took the theft report suggest he do before catching up with the thief? Learn

how to fight. And thus, a life – and the world – was changed.

Other stories featured in *That They Lived* include Bessie Coleman, the first African American female aviator, collected and washed her neighbors' dirty laundry to raise enough money for college. Readers will also learn about famed musician Duke Ellington, who at the age of seven years old preferred (like many kids) playing baseball to attending piano lessons.

The book also features charming black-and-white photos of children dressed in the likeness of each story's famous subject, so children can learn they can be anything they aspire to be and that every famous person was once a child who, in some cases, overcame great obstacles to achieve success.

Written for young readers, this is a

book that will also charm and inspire their parents.

Rochelle Riley is Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit. She spent nearly 25 years as an award-winning Detroit Free Press columnist before leaving in 2019 to serve the City. She is also the author of four other books, including *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery*.

GUEST HOST TO BE ANNOUNCED

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Event Underwriter:
Anne Montgomery

APRIL 22, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

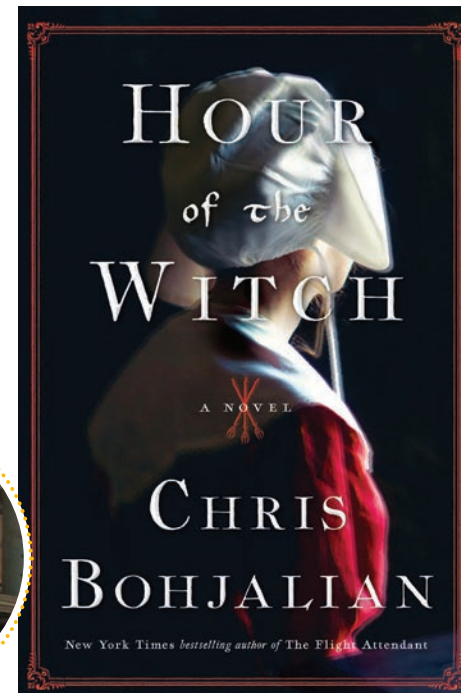
CHRIS BOHJALIAN

“*Hour of the Witch*, a horror-inflected thriller by Chris Bohjalian. . .[is] a ‘cry against the paternalistic culture and the persecution of outsiders’—in other words, very 2020.”

~ Publishers Weekly

Chris Bohjalian is on a roll. He's the bestselling author of *The Flight Attendant*, the hit HBO Max series and his fifth book adapted to the screen. And he isn't slowing down. On April 22, he'll Zoom in to talk about his new historic thriller, *Hour of the Witch*.

Set in 17th century New England, this



is the twisting story of a young Puritan wife Mary Deerfield, who petitions for divorce from her cruel and abusive husband—only to end up on trial for witchcraft. His tale is inspired by the

first divorce filed in North America on grounds of domestic violence.

As a harsh winter descends and mass hysteria sweeps the New England coastline, Mary must race against the clock to convince a suspicious town ruled by the Puritanical fist of the Church to save her from her husband, or, more pressingly, the noose.

It's a timely historical novel about love, fear, feminine power, and the distrust of those in positions of power. And, because it is Chris Bohjalian, the book wouldn't be complete without an audacious, high-stakes twist at the end.

Bohjalian is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of 21 books. His most recent novel (just released), *The Red Lotus*, is a twisting story of love and deceit that debuted as a national bestseller. An American man vanishes on a rural road in Vietnam and his girlfriend, an emergency room doctor

trained to ask questions, follows a path that leads her home to the very hospital where they met. It is in development for a TV series.

His books have been chosen as Best Books of the Year by the Washington Post, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Hartford Courant, the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, Kirkus Reviews, Bookpage, and Salon.

Chris graduated from Amherst College. He lives in Vermont with his wife, the photographer Victoria Blewer.

GUEST HOST TO BE ANNOUNCED

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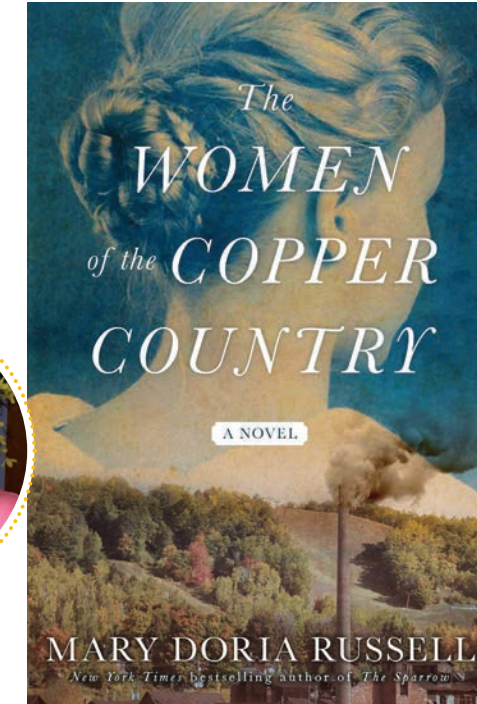
MAY 26, 7PM • VIRTUAL WINTER/SPRING SEASON

MARY DORIA RUSSELL

“Historical fiction that feels uncomfortably relevant today.”

~ Kirkus Reviews

An inspiring historical novel about “America's Joan of Arc.” In *The Women of the Copper Country* you will meet Annie Clements, the courageous woman who started a rebellion by leading a strike against the largest copper mining company in the world.



life in the copper-mining town of Calumet, Michigan, where men risked their lives for meager salaries while their wives cleaned the houses of the

elite, dreading the fateful news of a deadly mine accident. When Annie—in July of 1913—decides to stand up for herself and the entire town of Calumet, she touches off a violent, turbulent reaction that feels startlingly relevant to today.

Widely praised for her meticulous research, fine prose, and compelling narrative drive, Mary Doria Russell is the New York Times bestselling and award-winning author of *The Sparrow*, *Children of God*, *A Thread of Grace*, *Dreamers of the Day*, *Doc*, and *Epitaph*. Dr. Russell holds a PhD in biological anthropology. She lives in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

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