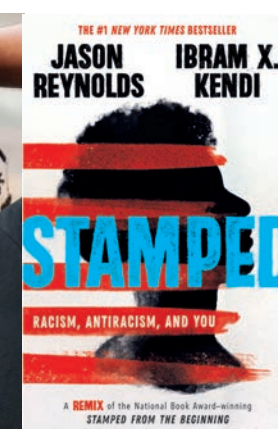
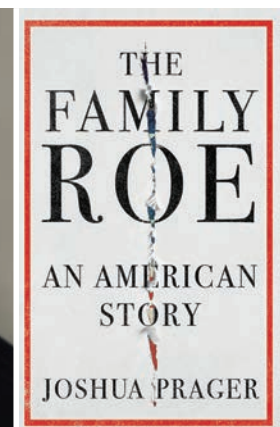
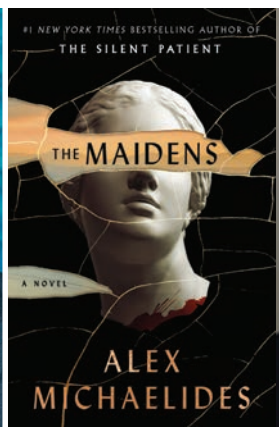
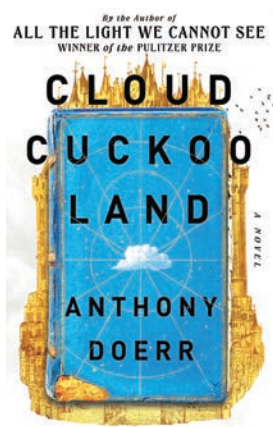
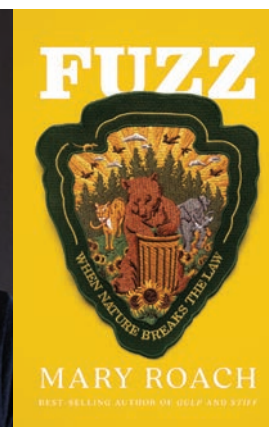
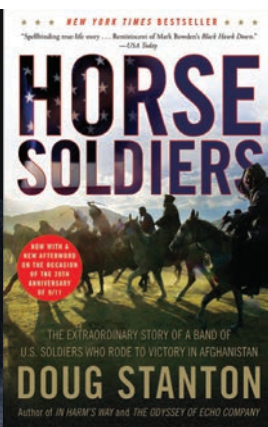


NOWS

NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES

A Year-Round Book Festival



A WORLD OF CHANGE ∞ FALL SEASON 2021
WHERE GREAT CONVERSATIONS BEGIN!

WELCOME TO THE NWS 2021 FALL AUTHOR SEASON.

A WORLD OF CHANGE

Dear NWS Friends,

During a brainstorming meeting, we kept coming back to a phrase that described this year's fall season: "a world of change." It's certainly been a world of change for us at the National Writers Series—in the last nine months we've welcomed a new executive director and communications manager, hosted 15 authors on Zoom, held an entirely virtual Battle of the Books, started a podcast, prepared for our return to live events, and launched a brand-new iteration of Front Street Writers (see RAISING WRITERS column for more!)

Phew!

We think this season is going to bring about a world of change as well. We'll be talking about mental health and healing, coexistence between humans and wildlife, the magic of books, Greek tragedy (with a side of murder), antiracism, the global refugee crisis, and Indigenous experiences.

As we read the books by the amazing authors headed to the City Opera House or Zoom screen, we know we're learning, growing,



and changing with every page.

But what hasn't changed after all this time is how we feel about you, our friends, fans, and supporters. You carried us through to this moment, where we can return to live events and celebrate great stories and great conversations at the City Opera House, our home. Thank you for every donation, encouraging email, and Zoom login you've made since March of 2020. The world changed, but you made sure NWS could keep doing what we love to do.

We hope you'll enjoy the fall season,

The National Writers Series Staff and Board

RAISING WRITERS

Front Street Writers is all new

While bringing amazing authors to northern Michigan is our honor and delight, it's only part of our mission. NWS also exists to create opportunities for young writers to find their voices, to experience what it feels like to make a life out of art, and—maybe—a living, too.

The pandemic taught us that we can reach more students than we ever dreamed possible, so we're dreaming bigger. This fall, Front Street Writers will be accessible via virtual and in-person classes, and for the first time, we'll have year-round creative writing opportunities for students in grades 7-12. Best of all, thanks to some amazing grantors and donors, we are able to offer all of our programs for **FREE!**

Here are three opportunities for aspiring writers across northern Michigan:

CREATIVE WRITING INTENSIVE:

High school 10th-12th grade can apply through September 15 to be part of the Front Street Writers Creative Writing Intensive, an

all-virtual, semester-long course modeled after a Master of Fine Arts that will dive into fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction.

WRITING WORKSHOPS:

Each month, NWS will offer a 1- or 2-day writing workshop across a variety of topics.

This fall, kids can sign up to learn more about college essay writing (September), screenwriting (October), playwriting (November), and poetry (December).

AUTHOR MASTERCLASSES:

Several authors visiting the NWS stage will also be making a stop to work with students.

Students in grades 9-12 can join Mary Roach, author of *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*, and Angeline Boulley, author of *Firekeeper's Daughter*, this fall to learn more about the craft of writing.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT:
NationalWritersSeries.org/
Front-Street-Writers

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.



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Battle of the Books is gearing up for the 2022 competition!

Registration opens in November for teams of fourth and fifth graders.



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

NWS is proud to work with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation to distribute four annual college scholarships in poetry, journalism, fiction, and non-fiction. Applications for the 2022 scholarships will open in January.

PAM HOUSTON

“THERE IS SO MUCH BEAUTY, WISDOM, AND TRUTH in this book... This is a book for all of us, right now.”

~ Cheryl Strayed, author of *Wild*

Livestream tickets are also available.

Pam Houston was originally scheduled to join the National Writers Series in April of 2020, and we're thrilled to be able to bring her back for a discussion of the book she originally planned to talk with us about: ***Deep Creek: Finding Hope In The High Country***.

Deep Creek is the winner of the 2020 Colorado Book Award for Creative Nonfiction as well as the 2020 Reading the West Advocacy Award. This gripping personal memoir shows us how Houston learns what it means to care for a piece of land and the creatures on it.

Alongside her devoted Irish wolfhounds and a spirited troupe of horses, donkeys, and Icelandic sheep, Houston makes her ranch into a sanctuary, a place where she discovers how the natural world has mothered and healed her after a childhood of horrific parental abuse and neglect.

Booklist says that the “always impressive” Houston “is in striking form here. Her talent remains remarkable and her words extraordinarily affecting and effective.”

Houston is the author of *Deep Creek* and *Air Mail*, *Letters of Politics, Pandemics, and Place*. She has written two novels, *Contents May Have Shifted* and *Sight Hound*, two collections of short stories, *Cowboys Are My Weakness* and *Waltzing the Cat*, and a collection



of essays, *A Little More About Me*, all published by W.W. Norton.

She teaches in the Low Rez MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, is Professor of English at UC Davis, and co-founder and creative director of the literary nonprofit Writing By Writers. She lives at 9,000 feet above sea level near the headwaters of the Rio Grande.

Guest Host CHRISTAL FROST

Frost is a popular media personality in northern Michigan, known for hosting “The Christal Frost Show” on NewsTalk 580 WTCM and being one half of “Mike and Christal in the Morning” on Today’s Country Music WTCM. She also hosts food and travel programs and is actively involved with many community groups, including the Traverse Bay Children’s Advocacy Center.

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Event Sponsor: **Grand Traverse Pie Company**

Community Partners: **Traverse Bay Children’s Advocacy Center;**
Grass River Natural Area



RAISING THE LITERARY BAR SINCE 2010

- NWS broadcasts author events on IPR, Traverse Area Community Media, YouTube, and makes them available to public radio stations around the country. The NWS virtual events are available on our website.
- More than 69,000 people have attended events since we started.
- Awarded \$56,000 in scholarships to 38 collegebound students.
- We’ve hosted more than 200 authors for onstage conversations over the past 11 years.
- Our Raising Writers programs offer creative writing opportunities that engage kids from ages 9-18 throughout northern Michigan.
- Sixty-two teams engaged in a creative and fun Battle of the Books this year. This year 355 students were quizzed on nine books.
- Each spring, we’ve hosted poetry workshops at Traverse Heights and Blair Elementary schools. This year, the poetry workshops were held virtually and offered to all area students.
- NWS creates and promotes youth creative writing classes in partnership with Northwestern Michigan College.
- Each spring, we publish the annual *National Writers Series Literary Journal*, which includes student writing from Front Street Writers, poetry workshops, and NMC creative writing classes

KUDOS FOR NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES

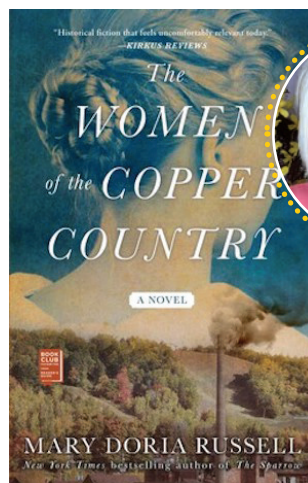
“My experience with the National Writers Series was a highlight of my book tour. From the lead up to event execution, everything about the series was first rate. The audience engaged with me and my work from a place of openness and curiosity. Every author should be fortunate enough to participate in the National Writers Series. I look forward to returning in the near future.”

~ Dax-Devlon Ross, *Letters to My White Male Friends*



LETTERS
TO MY
WHITE
MALE
FRIENDS

DAX-DEVLON ROSS



“The NWS team is made up of passionate readers who want to share their genuine enthusiasm for your work with equally passionate readers reached by excellent publicity. The interviewer (who actually reads the book before the event!) will have fresh, insightful, and interesting questions. So if you're invited to be a part of their program? Relax and say yes. It will be a great experience.”

~ Mary Doria Russell, *The Women of the Copper Country*

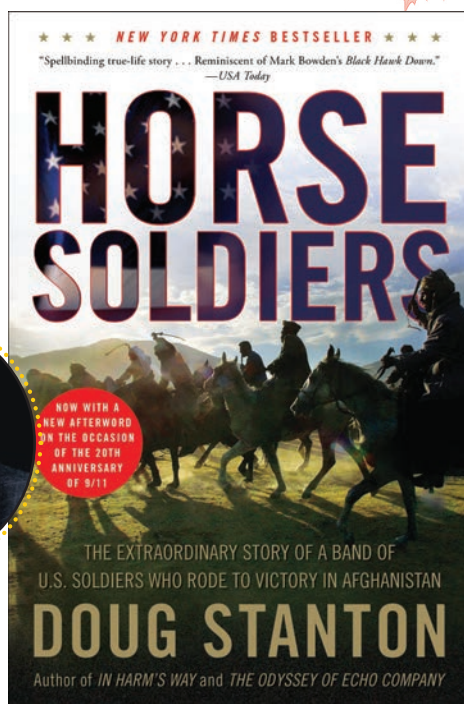
SEPTEMBER 23, 5:30 PM • Live at the City Opera House

AFGHANISTAN: A PANEL AND Q&A HOSTED BY DOUG STANTON

A limited number of in-person seats available at the City Opera House for this special event. Livestream tickets are also available.

After a 20-year war, the United States left Afghanistan. Political turmoil and civil unrest followed, leaving Americans wondering: what did we lose, what did we gain, and what was the cost?

In a new, updated edition of Doug Stanton's bestselling book *Horse Soldiers*, published for the 20th anniversary of 9/11, he talks with the four panelists NWS is bringing to the City Opera House stage: Jack Segal,



retired US diplomat; Rahela Sidiqi, founder of an NGO for Afghan women's rights; and Shannon Spann DeBruyn, former intelligence officer; and Edris Fana, an Afghan community

member. Together, they will attempt to answer those pivotal questions, shining a light on history, global and local, as it unfolds before us. Panel discussion begins at 6:30 p.m. EST.

Join the conversation early from 5:30-6:15 for a "then to now" prelude lecture from Jack Segal, who made 40 visits to Afghanistan between 2002 and 2010 during his time with NATO.

INTERNATIONAL PANEL

DOUG STANTON is a #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author and co-founder of the National Writers Series. Stanton is the author of *In Harm's Way*, *Odyssey of Echo Company*, and *Horse Soldiers*. His writing has appeared in numerous national publications where he has been a contributing editor.

RAHELA HASHIM SIDIQI is the Founding Director of Rahela Trust for Afghan Women's Education. She is the former Senior Advisor of Afghanistan Civil Service Commission and Senior Social Development Advisor of UN-Habitat Afghanistan.

SHANNON SPANN DEBRUYN is a lawyer and former intelligence officer with extensive operational and analytical security and counter-terrorism experience both in the U.S. and overseas. She currently serves as Vice President of ADVANCE Resources and Consulting.

JACK SEGAL is a former senior U.S. diplomat who advised NATO generals and influenced NATO civilian policy makers during the Afghanistan conflict, and served on the National Security Council and at the US Embassy in Tel-Aviv.

EDRIS FANA, a local NMC graduate from Afghanistan who fled the Taliban as a child in 1994. He went on to get his undergraduate degree in business from Ferris State University. Edris continues to pursue his dream, begun while flying kites in Afghanistan, of becoming a pilot and now has his commercial pilots license.

Presenting Partner: International Affairs Forum

OCTOBER 7, 7PM • VIRTUAL EVENT

MARY ROACH

"ROACH'S BOOKS ARE BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN, and disturbingly funny...(her) prose is a triumph."

~ Emily Rapp Black, *Boston Globe*

Mary Roach last graced the National Writers Series stage in June 2017 when she joined us to discuss *Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War*. Her next book is such a perfect continuation of that discussion we couldn't help but bring her back to talk about *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*.

Join us as "America's funniest science writer" (Peter Carlson, *Washington Post*), takes us on an irresistible



investigation into the unpredictable world where wildlife and humans meet.

What's to be done about a jaywalking moose? A bear caught breaking and entering? A murderous tree? Three hundred years ago, animals that broke

the law would be assigned legal representation and put on trial. These days, as Roach discovers, the answers are best found not in jurisprudence but in science: the curious science of human-wildlife conflict, a discipline at the crossroads of human behavior and wildlife biology.

When it comes to "problem" wildlife, Roach finds, humans are more often the problem—and the solution. Fascinating, witty, and humane, *Fuzz* offers hope for compassionate coexistence in our ever-expanding human habitat.

Roach is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Stiff*, *Spook*, *Bonk*, *Gulp*, *Grunt*, and *Packing for Mars*. Mary has written for *National Geographic*, *Wired*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, among others. She has been a guest editor for *Best American Science and Nature Writing*, a finalist for the Royal Society's Winton Prize, and a winner of the American Engineering Societies' journalism award, in a category for which, let's be honest, she was the sole entrant.

Guest Host

KENDRA CARR

Carr is the host of Interlochen Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and *Our Global Neighborhood*. Carr grew up surrounded by the Manistee National Forest and the aisles of her parents' convenience store.

A graduate of Cottey College and Western Michigan University, she started her career at an Oceana county housing agency working in eviction prevention and re-housing. She then transitioned to radio, first working for a top 40 radio station in Ludington before starting at IPR. She has performed on stages in West Michigan and Traverse City and enjoys reading at home with her boyfriend and cats.



GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
Literary Sponsor:
Becky Thatcher Designs

OCTOBER 14, 7PM • VIRTUAL EVENT*

ANTHONY DOERR

"THIS IS A GLORY OF A BOOK.

Impossible to put down...

lifechanging... a masterpiece."

~ Betsy Burton, *The Kings English Bookshop*

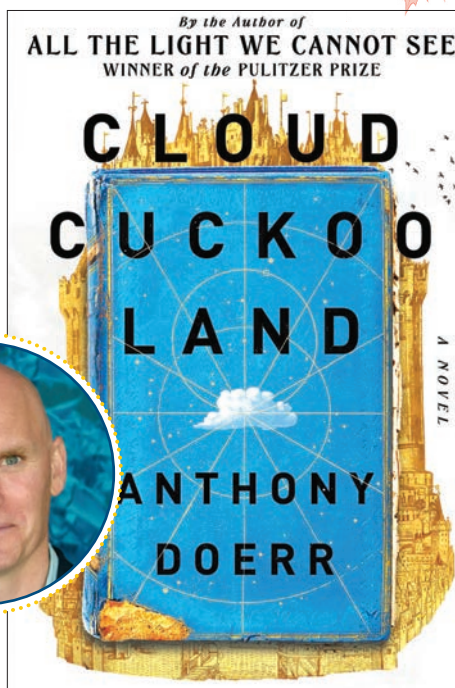
*This event includes a ticket to the virtual event and a hardcover copy of *Cloud Cuckoo Land* (\$32 total).

From Anthony Doerr, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *All the Light We Cannot See*, perhaps the most bestselling and beloved literary fiction of our time, comes Doerr's highly anticipated followup novel: ***Cloud Cuckoo Land***.

Set in Constantinople in the fifteenth century, in a small town in present-day Idaho, and on an interstellar ship decades from now, Doerr's gorgeous third novel is a triumph of imagination and compassion, a soaring story about children on the cusp of adulthood in worlds in peril, who find resilience, hope—and a book. In *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, Doerr has created a magnificent tapestry of times and places that reflects our vast interconnectedness—with other species, with each other, with those who lived before us, and with those who will be here after we're gone.

Doerr's dazzling imagination transports us to worlds so dramatic and immersive that we forget, for a time, our own. Dedicated to "the librarians then, now, and in the years to come," *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is a beautiful and redemptive novel about stewardship—of the book, of the Earth, of the human heart.

Doerr is the author of *All the Light We Cannot See*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the Carnegie Medal, the Alex Award, and a #1 *New York Times* bestseller. He is also the author of the story collections *Memory Wall* and *The Shell Collector*, the novel *About Grace*, and the memoir *Four Seasons in Rome*. He has won five



O. Henry Prizes, the Rome Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award, the National Magazine Award for fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Story Prize.

All the Light We Cannot See was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, remained on the Bestseller List for over 200 weeks, and is being adapted as a limited series by Netflix.

Guest Host LYSLEY TENORIO

Tenorio is the author of the novel *The Son of Good Fortune* and the story collection *Monstress*, which was named a book of the year by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, a Whiting Award, a Stegner fellowship, the Edmund White Award, and the Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Born in the Philippines, he lives in San Francisco, and is a professor at Saint Mary's College of California.



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LOOK WHO'S BEEN HERE!



TOM BROKAW



ALICE WALKER



MITCH ALBOM



AARTI SHAHANI



GREG ILES



ANN PATCHETT

2009

Elmore Leonard
Peter Leonard

2010

Amy Alkon
Rhoda Janzen
Tom Brokaw
Thomas Lynch
Mary Karr
Audrey Niffenegger
Mario Batali
James Bradley
Peter Matthiessen
Karl Marlantes

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
Geraldine Brooks
Michael Sandel
Anna Quindlen
Susan Casey
Natalie Bakopoulos
Janet Evanovich
Lee Child
Maggie Stiefvater
Ayaan Hirsi Ali
Benjamin Busch
Michael Connelly

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
Anchee Min
Emily Giffin
Daniel James Brown
Karin Slaughter
Greg Holmes/
Katherine Roth
Diana Gabaldon
A.J. Baime/
Bryce Hoffman
Nancy Horan
Sophie Kinsella
Rita Mae Brown
Brian Castner
Brian Turner

2015

Tess Gerritsen
Garth Stein
Debbie Macomber
Jeff Shaara
Harlan Coben
Hampton Sides
Mardi Link
Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Ben Sidran
Bonnie Jo Campbell
Paula McLain
Sarah Chayes
Susan Casey
John U. Bacon

2016

James Rollins
James Tobin
Tui Sutherland
Laurie R. King
Brian Castner
David Ebershoff
Lucy Kalanithi
Jim and Lynn Kouf
Paola Gianturco
David Maraniss
Margaret Atwood
Ann Patchett
Jodi Picoult
Kyle Mills

Daniel Bergner

2017

John Donvan
Beth Macy
Gordon Korman
Greg Iles
Eric Fair
Elizabeth Strout
Andrea Petersen
Mary Roach
Julia Glass
W. Bruce Cameron
Doug Stanton
Alice Waters
Terry McDonnell
Dan Gerber
Murray Howe
Sebastian Junger
Phil Caputo

2018

Doug Stanton
Peter Heller
Nikki Giovanni
Peter Brown
Anna Quindlen
Drew Philp
Eileen McNamara
Samantha Irby
David Grann
Richard Russo
Adriana Trigiani
Annie Spence
Beth Macy
Mona Hanna-Attisha
Joe Hill
Amy Goldstein
Tayari Jones
Alice Walker
Richard Clarke
John U. Bacon

2019

Jen Sincero
Tommy Tomlinson
Keith Gave
Grace Lin
Lisa Scottoline
Elizabeth Berg
Elizabeth Letts

Lynne Olson
Marie Benedict
Daniel Pink
Bryan Gruley
Steve Hamilton
Douglas Brinkley
Tanya Anne Crosby
Karl Marlantes
David Maraniss
Aarti Shahani
Randall Sullivan
Susan Orlean
Mitch Albom

2020

Nicholas Kristof
Sheryl Wudunn
Steve Luxenberg
Peter Heller
Terry McMillan
Scott Turow
Elaine Weiss
Chasten Buttigieg
Ruth Ware
Yaa Gyasi
Kate Walberg
Jordan Blashek
Christopher Haugh
Alice Hoffman
Bob Giles
Larissa FastHorse
Albert Woodfox

2021

Dwight Garner
Alan Lightman
Martha Teichner
Diane Rehm
Imbolo Mbue
Shelley Pearsall
Karla Cornejo
Villavicencio
Chris Bohjalian
Rochelle Riley
Mary Doria Russell
Robin Wall Kimmerer
Emily Henry
Dax-Devlon Ross
Megan Miranda
Susie Yang
John U. Bacon

**YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHO'S
COMING NEXT!**

For a complete list of guests and
guest hosts visit:

NationalWritersSeries.org

OCTOBER 18, 7PM • Watch Party at City Opera House*

ALEX MICHAELIDES

"A DELICIOUSLY DARK, ELEGANT, utterly compulsive read with a twist that blew my mind."

~ Lucy Foley, author of *The Guest List*

*Alex will join us virtually on the big screen at COH, interviewed by Beth in front of a live audience.



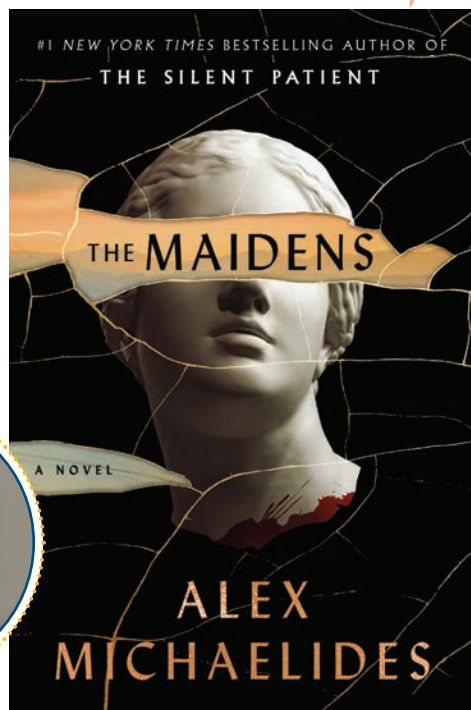
From the author of the breakout global bestseller *The Silent Patient* comes the highly-anticipated second thriller from Alex Michaelides: ***The Maidens***.

Edward Fosca is a murderer. Of this Mariana is certain. But Fosca is untouchable. A handsome and charismatic Greek tragedy professor at Cambridge University, Fosca is adored by staff and students alike—particularly by the members of a secret society of female students known as The Maidens.

Mariana Andros is a brilliant but troubled group therapist who becomes fixated on The Maidens when one member, a friend of Mariana's niece Zoe, is found murdered in Cambridge. Mariana, who was once herself a student at the university, becomes convinced that, despite his alibi, Edward Fosca is guilty of the murder. When another body is found, Mariana is determined to stop this killer, even if it costs her everything—including her own life.

The *New York Times* calls ***The Maidens*** "irresistible" and *The Guardian* calls it "intelligent and propulsive ..." while *Newsweek* raved that *The Maidens* "permanently cements [Michaelides] as a top modern author with this new work, a masterful, slow burn blend of Greek mythology and a knife-edged plot."

Michaelides was born and raised in



Cyprus. He has an M.A. in English Literature from Trinity College, Cambridge University, and an M.A. in Screenwriting from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. *The Silent Patient* was his first novel. It spent more than a year on the *New York Times* bestseller list and sold in a record-breaking fifty countries. He lives in London.

Guest Host

BETH MILLIGAN

Milligan is a journalist and head writer for the Traverse City Ticker, an online daily news outlet in Traverse City. She recently served as marketing chair on the board of directors for LGBTQ+ advocacy group Up North Pride and has worked in marketing and PR roles for numerous community organizations. Beth currently co-hosts a podcast called *Breaking the Surface* that is part of the Boardman Review Podcast Collective and is dedicated to thoughtful deep-dive discussions on politics, pop culture, philosophy, and current events.

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
Event Sponsor: Amical



OCTOBER 28, 7PM • VIRTUAL EVENT

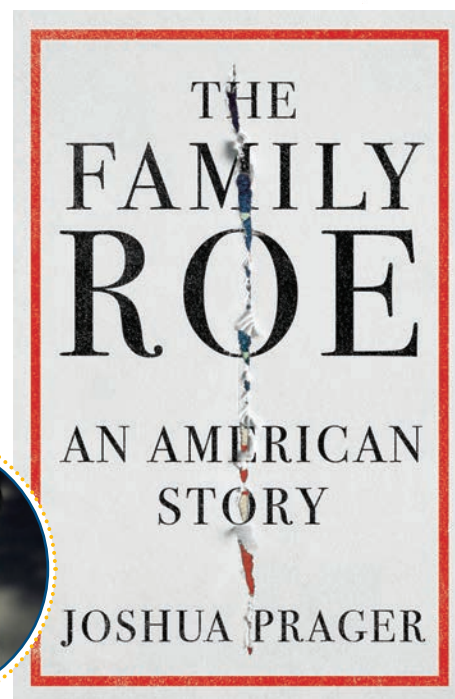
JOSHUA PRAGER

"A NUANCED, DEEPLY REPORTED portrait of Norma McCorvey, known to most Americans as Jane Roe."

~ *The New York Times Book Review*

Despite her famous pseudonym, "Jane Roe," no one knows the truth about Norma McCorvey (1947–2017), whose unwanted pregnancy in 1969 opened a great fracture in American life. Journalist Joshua Prager spent hundreds of hours with Norma, discovered her personal papers—a previously unseen trove—and witnessed her final moments. ***The Family Roe*** presents her life in full. Propelled by the crosscurrents of sex and religion, gender and class, it is a life that tells the story of abortion in America.

Drawing on a decade of research, Prager reveals the woman behind the pseudonym, writing in novelistic detail of her unknown life from her time as a sex worker in Dallas, to her private thoughts on family and abortion, to her dealings with feminist and Christian leaders, to the three daughters she placed for adoption.



Prager found those women, including the youngest—Baby Roe—now fifty years old. She shares her story in ***The Family Roe*** for the first time, from her tortured interactions with her birth mother, to her emotional first meeting with her sisters, to the burden that was uniquely hers from conception.

An epic work spanning fifty years of American history, ***The Family Roe*** will change the way you think about our enduring American divide: the right to choose or the right to life.

Guest Host To Be Determined

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
Event Sponsor: A Generous Friend of NWS

"THIS FOUNDATION IS FANTASTIC. What you're supporting here is the future of our children, and it's important work."

~ MITCH ALBOM, *Tuesdays with Morrie*; *Finding Chika*



NOVEMBER 4, 7PM • VIRTUAL EVENT*

JASON REYNOLDS

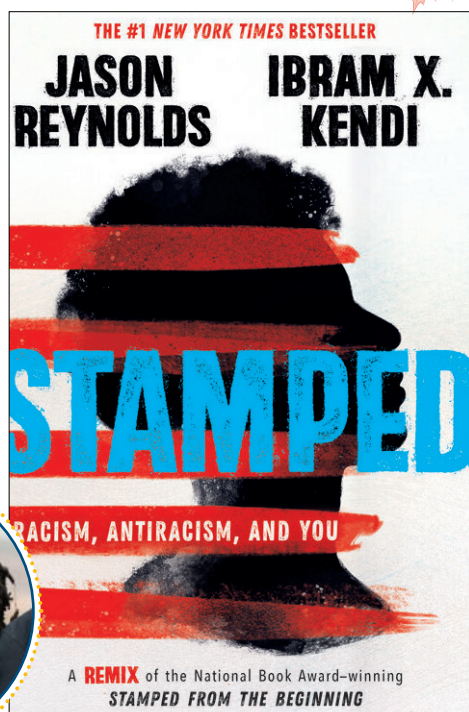
"THE MUST-READ BOOK of the moment...potent and provocative."

~ *San Francisco Chronicle*

*This event includes a ticket to the virtual event and a copy of the book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* (total of \$21).

When it comes to race, the conversation starts at home. Jason Reynolds, the 2020-2021 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, is bringing the conversation to all of us in northern Michigan with a special virtual event.

This remarkable reimagining of



Dr. Ibram X. Kendi's National Book Award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning* reveals the history of racist ideas in America, and inspires hope for an antiracist future. It takes you on a race journey from then to now,

shows you why we feel how we feel, and why the poison of racism lingers. It also proves that while racist ideas have always been easy to fabricate and distribute, they can also be discredited.

Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas—and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.

Jason Reynolds is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, a two-time National Book Award finalist, a Kirkus Award winner, a Carnegie Medal winner, a two-time Walter Dean Myers Award winner, an NAACP Image Award Winner, and the recipient of multiple Coretta Scott King honors.

His many books include *All American Boys* (cowritten with Brendan Kiely), *When I Was the Greatest*, *The Boy in the Black Suit*, *Stamped*, *As Brave as You*, *For Every One*, the *Track* series (*Ghost*, *Patina*, *Sunny*, and *Lu*), *Look Both Ways*, and *Long Way Down*, which

received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor. He lives in Washington, DC.

Guest Host
ROCHELLE RILEY

Riley is the 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 to serve the City of Detroit. She is the author of five books, including *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery* and *That They Lived: African Americans Who Changed the World*.



GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Event Sponsors: **Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation; Traverse Area District Library**
Community Partner: **Northern Michigan E3**

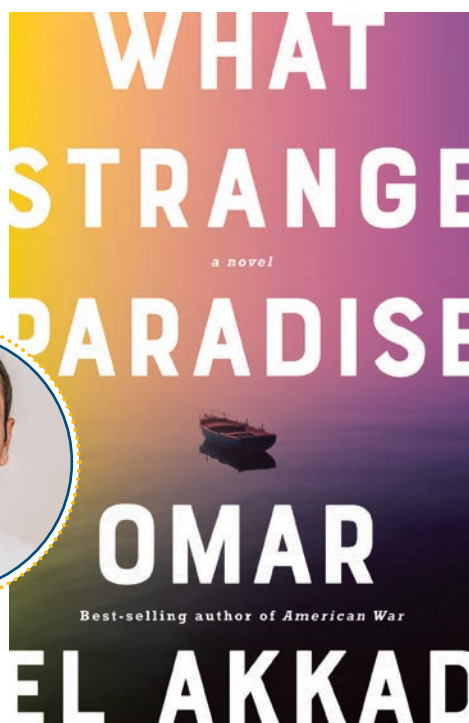
NOVEMBER 18, 7PM • VIRTUAL EVENT

OMAR EL AKKAD

"SEARING, LYRICAL... A BEGUILING parable of dispossessed peoples and the burning desire for HOME."

~ *Oprah Daily*

From Omar El Akkad, the widely acclaimed, best-selling author of *American War*, comes *What Strange Paradise*: a beautifully written, unrelentingly dramatic, and profoundly moving new novel that looks at the global refugee crisis through the eyes of a child.



More bodies have washed up on the shores of a small island. Another overfilled, ill-equipped, dilapidated ship has sunk under the weight of its too many passengers: Syrians, Ethiopians, Egyptians, Lebanese,

Palestinians, all of them desperate to escape untenable lives back in their homelands. Miraculously, someone has survived the passage: nine-year-old Amir, a Syrian boy who is soon rescued

by Vänna, a teenage girl, who, despite being native to the island, experiences her own sense of homelessness among people she has come to disdain. Though Vänna and Amir are complete strangers, and don't speak a common language, Vänna is determined to do whatever it takes to save the boy.

What Strange Paradise is the story of two children finding their way through a hostile world. But it is also a story of empathy and indifference, of hope and despair—and about the way each of those things can blind us to reality.

Omar El Akkad is an author and a journalist. He has reported from Afghanistan, Guantánamo Bay, and many other locations around the world. His work earned Canada's National Newspaper Award for Investigative Journalism and the Goff Penny Award for young journalists.

His debut novel, *American War*, is an international bestseller, translated into thirteen languages. It won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award, the Oregon Book Award for fiction, and the Kobo Emerging Writer

Prize, and has been nominated for more than ten other awards. It was listed as one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *GQ*, *NPR*, and *Esquire*, and was selected by the BBC as one of 100 Novels That Shaped Our World.

Guest Host
NARGIS HAKIM RAHMAN

Nargis is an award-winning Bangladeshi American Muslim writer. She works as a reporter at WDET 101.9 FM. Rahman graduated from Wayne State University, where she was a part of the Journalism Institute of Media Diversity. She is passionate about community journalism in the Greater Detroit area. She hopes to give American Muslims and minorities a voice in the press.



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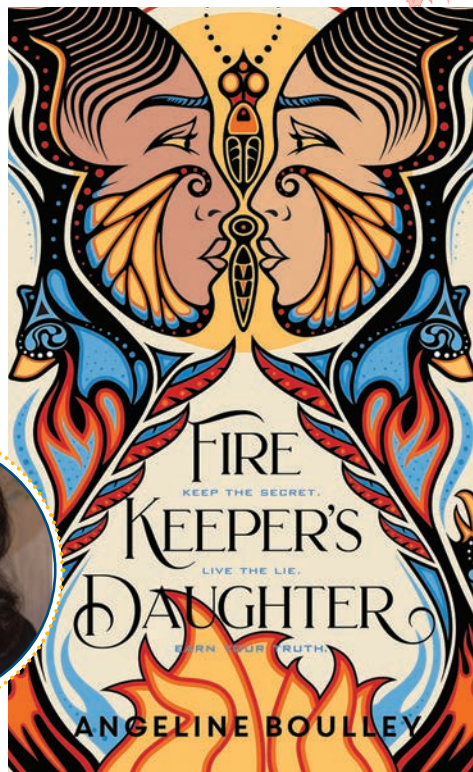
ANGELINE BOULLEY

"INTRICATE AND MOVING. Boulley takes the reader on an incredible journey."

~ Tochi Onyebuchi,
award-winning author

We're closing our fall season in a big way, with an appearance from perhaps the breakout Michigan author of the decade: Angeline Boulley.

Boulley's stunning debut novel, *Firekeeper's Daughter*—a book that took her a decade to write—was an instant bestseller when it was released in March of this year. NPR



called the book "[an] absolute powerhouse of a debut" and *Booklist* calls it "an incredible thriller, not to

be missed." It's also set to be adapted for Netflix by Higher Grounds, the production company run by Barack and Michelle Obama.

As a biracial, unenrolled tribal member and the product of a scandal, Daunis Fontaine has never quite fit in—both in her hometown and on the nearby Ojibwe reservation. When her family is struck by tragedy, Daunis puts her dreams on hold to care for her fragile mother. The only bright spot is meeting Jamie, the charming new recruit on her brother's hockey team.

After Daunis witnesses a shocking murder that thrusts her into a criminal investigation, she agrees to go undercover. But the deceptions—and deaths—keep piling up and soon the threat strikes too close to home. How far will she go to protect her community if it means tearing apart the only world she's ever known?

Angeline Boulley, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe

of Chippewa Indians, is a storyteller who writes about her Ojibwe community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She is a former Director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education. Angeline lives in southwest Michigan, but her home will always be on Sugar Island. *Firekeeper's Daughter* is her debut novel.

Guest Host

HOLLY T. BIRD

Holly is the Co-Executive Director of Title Track, a nonprofit with focus on engaging creative practice to build resilient social-ecological systems that support clean water, racial equity, and youth empowerment.



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National Writers Series Summer Gala - 2021

This year the 7th Annual NWS Summer Gala sponsored by West Shore Bank was held at Aurora Cellars. A beautiful vineyard and winery and the perfect venue for this year's outdoor gathering.

Some 100 generous guests enjoyed a lovely afternoon filled with delicious food, amazing music by the Plumville Project, inspiring words, and of course, excellent wine. Our featured guest, John U. Bacon delighted us all with a conversation about his newest book *Let Them Lead*.



Author John U. Bacon



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A few of the NWS authors on Zoom from the summer season. Clockwise from top left are Robin Wall Kimmerer, Dax-Devlon Ross, Megan Miranda, Susie Yang, and Emily Henry. You can watch these authors – and more – on our YouTube Channel. Subscribe while you're there so you don't miss another one!



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