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### THE NWS TEAM

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KEVIN FITTON	Front Street Writers Creative Writing Instructor
VALERIE KIRN-DUENSING	Grant Writer

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## CONNECT WITH US

### NWS OFFICE

PO Box 5833, Traverse City, MI 49696  
(231) 486-6868 • office@nwstc.org  
NationalWritersSeries.org

### TICKET INFORMATION

City Opera House Box Office  
106 E. Front Street, Traverse City 49684  
(231) 941-8082, ext. 201  
CityOperaHouse.org



Welcome. It's been 10 years and counting since a group of folks started NWS around the kitchen table in our house on a cold January night.

Well, 200 author events later, with 21,500 books (and counting) sold, and 75,000 tickets sold, and hundreds of hours of conversation under the lights of the City Opera House, and in the pixels of your Zoom screen, here we are with a new season. At a reflection point. What kind of stories have we been telling? Funny, sad, chilling, uplifting, page-turning, literary—it's hard to say, exactly. To tell the truth, the nights onstage are one long sunset—filled with voices, laughter, surprise, a red sky alight. I'm tempted to count down the greatest hits of the 200 shows, they come back in flashes—but I won't. There are too many. And practically every night was a different kind of experience. I wish I had a dollar every time someone has said, "Tonight's show was the best one yet." I'd have at least 200 dollars.

That's because of you. Our audiences. Our volunteers. Our donors. I'm not kidding. Our authors say you're some

of the best crowds they've bared their souls to. They mean it. They consistently say NWS is their favorite and best stop on a national book tour. They rarely see this kind of community support for programs like NWS's, striving to put a book in every hand on Main Street and the tools for success in the hearts of students.

NWS has long been committed to offering a diverse lineup of authors, genres, and voices. We're here to give a place for the untold story to be told. I ask our guests what "larger" story they might be telling in their books. There's never been a definitive answer, but I imagine it's an über-story, the collective actions and desires of a nation moving in one direction, then in another. What do you think that story is? I'm serious. I wish we were all together right now to answer that question—there'd be food and disagreement and laughter and more debate and perhaps more agreement.

NWS was formed to be a troop, a community, a neighborhood—collaborative, creative. Art is hard. It doesn't offer answers. It asks questions.

You come to a book, a painting, a story, a movie, music, to be moved, confused, mystified. You come to give up control. And that's hard to do, especially in an age when how we communicate is often routinized by algorithms.

The poet John Keats, at the age of 21 in 1817, wrote a letter to his brother that today we call the "Negative Capability" letter. Keats writes, *"I mean Negative Capability, that is, when a man is capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason..."*

He is describing the role of the artist and reader—to seek connections and oceans, not silos and deserts. A few years later, at age 25, Keats was dead, of tuberculosis. If we truly understood,

if we could feel the passing of time, like a wind past our faces, we wouldn't waste another minute with nonsense. We'd read, and dream, and we'd talk about we've seen.

With your help, and together, that's what we're trying to do here.

*D Stanton*

#### Doug Stanton

is a NWS co-founder, author, and a proud graduate of Traverse Heights Elementary School, grateful for the wonderful teachers there.



## 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.



Each year, the National Writers Series helps hundreds of students hone their writing and reading skills. We believe exceptional writing skills create a path forward to an amazing future.

## FRONT STREET WRITERS

Since 2012, Front Street Writers has been a home for passionate student writers. These FREE classes and workshops draw students from a five-county area—students who, in many cases, have no creative writing class in their home district. Aspiring writers in grades 7-12 can find monthly virtual Writing Workshops and special Author Masterclasses from visiting NWS authors, while high schoolers are eligible to apply for a spot in the semester-long Creative Writing Intensive. Students also publish their work in the annual NWS Literary Journal and recite their work at author events. Upcoming FSW programs can be found at [NationalWritersSeries.org](http://NationalWritersSeries.org).



## ELEMENTARY POETRY WORKSHOPS

Each spring, we host poetry workshops at Traverse Heights and Blair Elementary schools. We believe it's important for children to learn how to creatively use their voices to express their feelings, and we're so grateful to the Oleson Foundation for their support of this initiative!

## CREATIVE WRITING CLASSES

In addition to our Front Street Writers classes, we work with other organizations to put together creative writing workshops for students, often in partnership with Northwestern Michigan



Front Street Writers' Creative Writing Studio instructor Kevin Fitton

College and their College for Kids summer programs. The workshops are as fanciful as writing fan fiction and as serious as college essay writing.

## 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS



Leslie Lee Nonfiction Award

**BROOKE ESSENBERG**

Ellsworth Community Schools, Senior

*For the Love of All Things Good and Holy Girl, Don't Squash the Squash*



Robert & Marcy Branski Poetry Award

**KALLIE CROUCH**

Mancelona High School / Front Street Writers, Senior

*Atlas Revisited*



Judith Lang Journalism Award

**DEUCALION SHETLER**

North Central Academy Front Street Writers, Senior

*America Divided*



William R. Montgomery Fiction Award

**SONJA DANIELS-MOEHLER**

Homeschool, Junior

*The Thrum*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS AND PARTICIPANTS

We have awarded \$56,000 in college scholarships—now up to four each year—to 38 seniors and juniors who are passionate about writing. Scholarship applications are available through the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

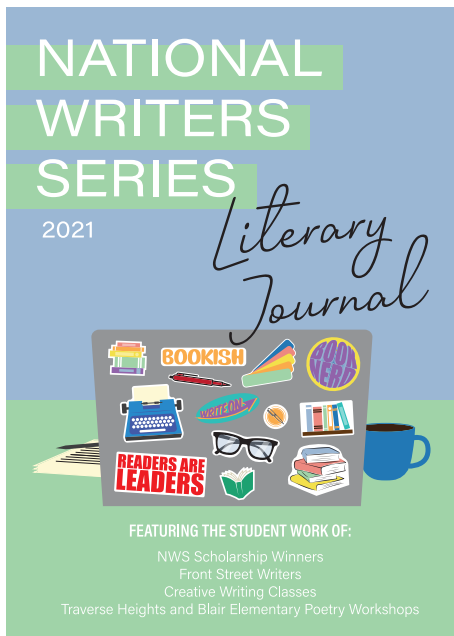
The 2021 Bob and Marcy Branski Poetry winner, Kallie Crouch, wrote a stunning piece titled "Where the Trees and River Meet," and we want to leave you with this thought from her:

*The trees are old but still stand strong.*

*She wants to be like them, she says, stretching chubby fingers to the cloud-streaked sky.*

*Time marches ever and ever on.*

Find Kallie's full poem, plus the work of our other scholarship winners, poetry workshop students, and more in the 2021 National Writers Series Literary Journal, available at Horizon Books or on our website at [NationalWritersSeries.org](http://NationalWritersSeries.org).





- NWS broadcasts select author events on IPR, Traverse Area Community Media (Channel 189), and YouTube, and makes them available to public radio stations around the country.
- More than 75,000 people have attended 200 writer events since we started in 2009.
- Awarded \$56,000 in scholarships to 38 college-bound students.
- We've hosted 200 author events for onstage conversations over the past 12 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.
- 59 teams are engaged in a creative and fun Battle of the Books. Over 300 fourth- and fifth-graders are reading and being quizzed on nine books.
- Each spring, we host poetry workshops at Traverse Heights and Blair elementary schools.
- NWS creates and promotes youth creative writing classes in partnership with Northwestern Michigan College.
- Annually publish student writing of Front Street Writers, Blair and Traverse Heights poetry workshops, and NMC creative writing classes in the annual *NWS Literary Journal*. You can find it at Horizon Books and on the NWS website.
- 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.



*Applauding, connecting and promoting the people, places and talents that bring arts, culture and creativity to our communities.*

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**JANUARY 21, 7PM • VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT**

## DANIEL LIEBERMAN

Start the New Year out right...  
embrace a healthy lifestyle

**N**WS is excited to partner with the Traverse City Track Club to bring the perfect book to help us all keep our New Year's resolution fitness goals.



If exercise is healthy (so good for you!), why do many people dislike or avoid it? In this myth-busting book, Daniel Lieberman, professor of human evolutionary biology at Harvard University and a pioneering researcher on the evolution of human physical activity, tells the story of how we never evolved to exercise—to do voluntary physical activity for the sake of health.

The book's engaging stories and explanations will revolutionize the way you think about exercising—not to mention sitting, sleeping, sprinting, weight lifting, playing, fighting, walking, jogging, and even dancing.

Drawing on insights from evolutionary biology and anthropology, Lieberman suggests how we can make exercise more enjoyable, rather than shaming and blaming people for avoiding it. He also tackles the question of whether

### Exercised

Why Something We Never Evolved to Do Is Healthy and Rewarding



**Daniel E. Lieberman**

Author of *The Story of the Human Body*

"Endlessly fascinating . . . Lieberman strikes a perfect balance of scholarship, wit, and enthusiasm . . . This is easily one of my favorite books of the year."  
—Bill Bryson

you can exercise too much, even as he explains why exercise can reduce our vulnerability to the diseases most likely to make us sick and kill us.

Daniel E. Lieberman is Edwin M. Lerner Professor of Biological Sciences at Harvard University. He is the author of the national best seller *The Story of the Human Body: Evolution, Health, and Disease* and *Exercised: Why Something We Never Evolved to Do Is Healthy and Rewarding*.

### GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Literary Sponsor: **Traverse City Track Club**



**Guest host LISA TAYLOR** Is the Executive Director of the Traverse City Track Club (TCTC), the largest track club in the state of Michigan. She is a 35+ year veteran runner and a 25+ year coach. In 2021, she received the Michigan High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach for her achievements.

FEB 17



CHINA: IS DÉTENTE POSSIBLE

**KENNETH JARRETT**

Fmr. Director of Asian Affairs,  
National Security Council

MAR 17



THE RISE OF POPULISM

**JEFF RATHKE**

Fmr. Deputy Director of European Security  
& Political Affairs, U.S. State Department

APR 21



CLIMATE CHANGE

**ALICE C. HILL**

Senior Fellow for Energy & Environment,  
Council on Foreign Relations

MAY 19



CYBERSECURITY

**JOSHUA LAROCCA**

Fmr. Counterterrorism Section,  
U.S. Department of Justice

JUNE 16



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FEBRUARY 4, 7PM • VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT

**MICHAEL SCHUR**

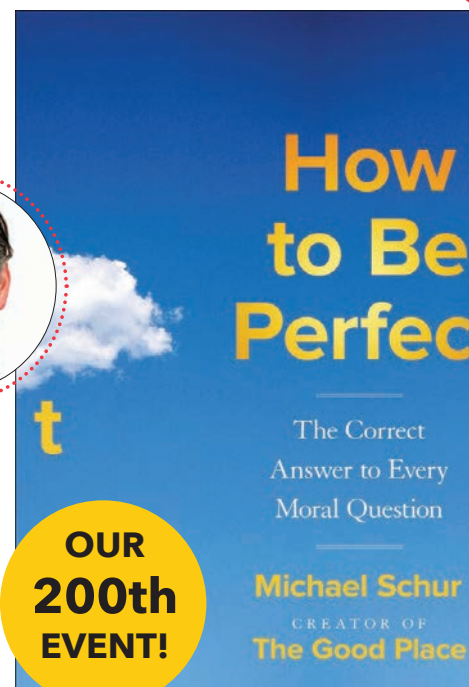
A blueprint on how to  
live your best life

From the creator of  
*The Good Place* and  
the co-creator of *Parks  
and Recreation*, comes  
a hilarious, thought-  
provoking guide to living  
an ethical life, drawing  
on 2,500 years of deep  
thinking from around the world.



Most people think of themselves as  
“good,” but it’s not always easy to  
determine what’s “good” or “bad”—  
especially in a world filled with  
complicated choices and pitfalls and  
booby traps and bad advice. With bright  
wit and deep insight, *How to Be Perfect*  
explains concepts like deontology,  
utilitarianism, existentialism, ubuntu, and  
more so we can sound cool at parties  
and become better people.

Schur starts off with easy ethical questions  
like “Should I punch my friend in the face  
for no reason?” (No.) and works his way  
up to the most complex moral issues we  
all face. By the time the book is done,  
we’ll know exactly how to act in every  
conceivable situation, so as to produce a  
verifiably maximal amount of moral good.  
We will be perfect, and all our friends will  
be jealous. OK, not quite. Instead, we’ll  
gain fresh, funny, inspiring wisdom on the  
toughest issues we face every day.



Michael Schur is a television  
writer and producer who has worked on  
shows like *The Office*, *Master of None*,  
*The Comeback*, and *Hacks*, and created  
or co-created *Parks and Recreation*,  
*Brooklyn 99*, *The Good Place*, and  
*Rutherford Falls*. He lives in Los Angeles  
with his wife and their two kids.

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**Guest host ED HELMS** is an actor, writer, producer, and comedian  
who had his start on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and *The  
Office*. He also starred in *The Hangover* trilogy and has since  
launched his own production company with producer Mike  
Falbo called Pacific Electric Picture Company. Outside of  
entertainment, Helms is on the board for Represent Us and sits  
on the Oberlin College Board of Trustees. A lifelong musician, he  
plays a mean banjo in his bluegrass band, The Lonesome Trio.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH PANEL

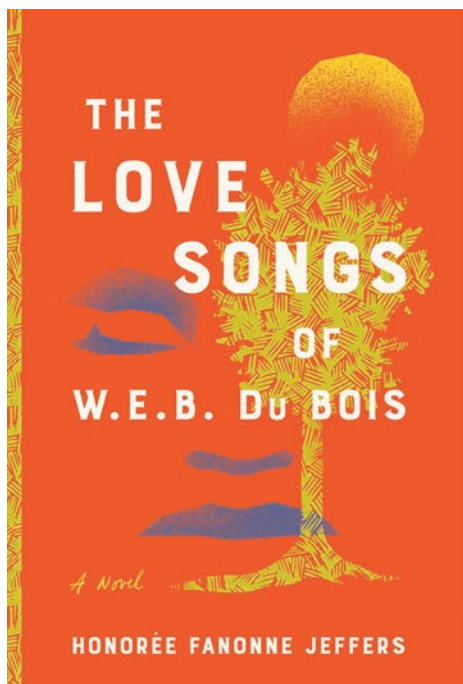
Three authors. Two hundred years of history.  
One special evening.

Join three bestselling and award-winning authors—Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Wanda M. Morris, and Vanessa Riley—for a special Black History Month panel. Their three books—*The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois*, *All Her Little Secrets*, and *Island Queen*—bridge generations of women's stories across three different genres. Together, they will discuss the joys and struggles of their Black heroines from the 1800s to today, as well as dive into their writing processes, inspirations, and favorite stories.

### HONORÉE FANONNE JEFFERS

A journey that is the story—  
and the song—of America

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers is a poet, essayist, and novelist. She's the author of five critically acclaimed books of poetry—including *The Age of Phillis*, which won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry—and the bestselling novel *The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois*. Her work has been longlisted for the National Book Award for Poetry and Fiction as well as the PEN/Voelcker Award.



of *Homegoing*; *Sing, Unburied, Sing*; and *The Water Dancer* that chronicles the journey of one American family, from the centuries of the colonial slave trade through the Civil War to our own tumultuous era.

Named one of the *New York Times* Best Books of 2021 and an Oprah Book Club selection, *The Love Songs of W.E.B. DuBois* was an instant bestseller. It is an intimate yet sweeping novel with all the luminescence and force

### VANESSA RILEY

A life worth telling—riveting  
and inspiring

Vanessa Riley is an award-winning author of historical fiction and historical romance, showcasing the hidden histories of women of color and emphasizing strong sisterhoods and dazzling multicultural communities.



*Island Queen* is a remarkable, historical novel based on the incredible true life story of Dorothy Kirwan Thomas, a free woman of color who rose from slavery to become one of the wealthiest and most powerful landowners in the colonial West Indies. *The New York Times* hailed the book as “riveting and transformative, evocative and immersive...a singular pleasure.”



### WANDA M. MORRIS

Everyone has something  
to hide...

As a corporate attorney, Wanda M. Morris has worked in the legal departments of some of America's top Fortune 100 companies. She is an alumna of the Yale Writers Workshop and Robert McKee's Story Seminar. Wanda is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America and Crime Writers of Color. *All Her Little Secrets* is her debut novel.



Called “a brilliantly nuanced but powerhouse exploration of race, the legal system, and the crushing pressure of keeping secrets” by bestselling author Karin Slaughter, the book is a fast-paced thriller about a Black lawyer who gets caught in a dangerous conspiracy after the sudden death of her boss.

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**Guest host ROCHELLE 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 and is 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*. Rochelle Riley is also a past NWS author herself, a former NWS board member, and is one of our most requested guest hosts!

## Battle of the Books

### FAIRE DIVISION

New for the first time this year, Battle of the Books introduced the Faire Division. While the Tournament Division reads nine books, the Faire Division reads four and participates in fun activities by completing four quests:

1. A quest for knowledge with quizzes based on the books
2. A quest for identity by designing their own special Coat of Arms
3. A quest for strategy through the creation of their very own board game
4. A quest for ingenuity, a top-secret quest revealed at the Team Faire!

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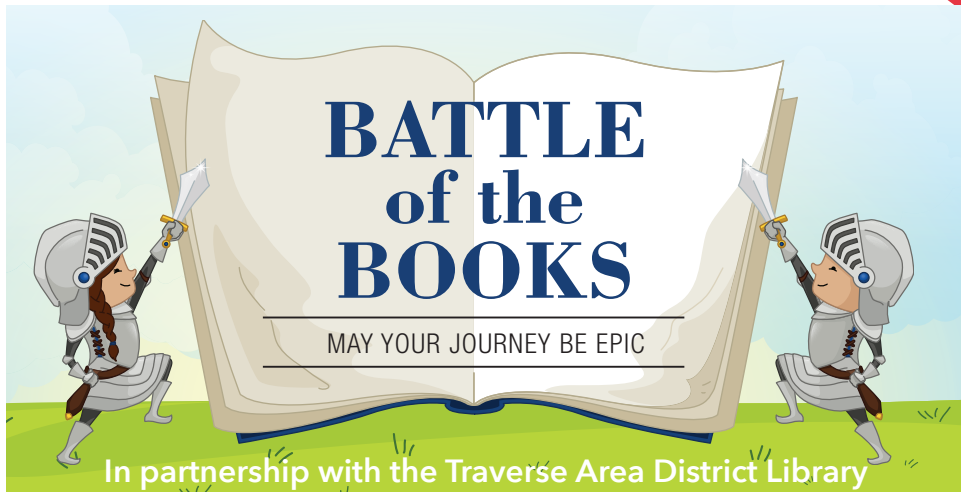
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## LET THE GAMES BEGIN

*Battle of the Books is back for 2022!*

**B**attle of the Books is a free book-based quiz competition for fourth and fifth graders in the Grand Traverse community. Kids read incredible stories together and then experience heart-pounding moments in competition.

The Battle of the Books "season" begins in the fall, when teams of four to six students are formed. Each has a coach (thank you!), usually a wonderful parent.

In early winter, there's the official Book Handout, which is really a fun party, generously hosted by the Traverse Area District Library, our official partner-in-battle. At the Book Handout, teams reveal their names and take part in activities related to the booklist. The students find out that day what the 9 books are and each team goes home with a bag of books (provided by NWS free of charge).

Then they read. And discuss. And comprehend. And memorize. There are mock battles, held at Northwestern Michigan College in

February, so the readers can get an idea what's in store for them. The first official battle takes place in early March and the top two teams then proceed to the championship.

This year, the championship battle will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 13, at the City Opera House.

This is a huge undertaking that involves an amazing planning committee, and a dedicated group of volunteers, coaches, and parents. Thank you to our volunteer program coordinator Marcy Lindberg for expertly pulling it all together and to our partner, the Traverse Area District Library.

To learn more about Battle of the Books and to see all the amazing books on this year's reading list, visit [BattleOfTheBooksGT.com](http://BattleOfTheBooksGT.com).



Excited young readers pick up their Battle of the Books titles!

## JACK CHENG

A stellar read about hope, love, and family

**O**n the day of the Championship Battle and All-Team Finale, we will be joined by award-winning author Jack Cheng.



Jack is the author of *See You in the Cosmos*, the winner of the 2017 Golden Kite and Great Lakes, Great Reads awards for Best Middle Grade Fiction. This is Jack's first novel for young readers and is about an eleven-year-old boy who's trying to launch his iPod into space. But it's also about road trips, families, and finding love and truth and courage in the universe. There's also a dog named Carl Sagan.

The book was published jointly by Dial Books for Young Readers (US) and Puffin (UK). It's available now in translation from other publishers in over thirty countries. There's an audiobook, too, complete with sound design and an ensemble cast (it's great).

At the Finale, Jack will help crown the 2022 Champions and give an inspiring author talk to the young readers in attendance.

Jack Cheng is a Shanghai-born, Detroit-based author of critically acclaimed fiction for young readers. He has visited schools around the world speaking with students about finding their paths as writers and artists. He is a 2019 Kresge Artist Fellow.




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**MARCH 24, 7 PM • CITY OPERA HOUSE + LIVESTREAMED**

## ELLEN AIRGOOD

**A heartfelt bond between  
mother and daughter**

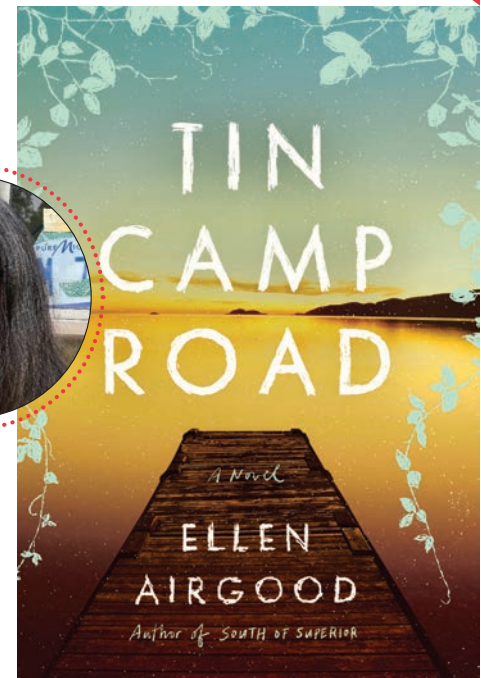
Set against the wide open beauty of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, this wise, big hearted novel follows a young single mother and her ten-year-old daughter as they stand up to the trials of rural poverty and find the community they need in order to survive.



Laurel Hill and her precocious daughter Skye have always been each other's everything. Though they live frugally, eking out a living with Laurel's patchwork of jobs, their deep love for each other feels like it can warm them even on the coldest of nights. What more do they need?

One otherwise normal afternoon, their landlord decides to evict them in favor of a more profitable summer rental, and, without any warning, they are pushed farther to the margins. And when a dangerous incident threatens to separate them, Laurel and Skye must forever choose—will they leave the place they love and the hardscrabble life they've built, or risk everything to embrace the emptiness and wildness that has defined them?

What follows is an uplifting, profoundly moving story about a mother and daughter fighting for each other,



against all odds, as they learn to build community and foster the resilience that will keep them alive.

Ellen Airgood runs a diner in Grand Marais, Michigan, where all kinds of people come from all kinds of places, and she gets to meet them and hear their stories. She is the author of *South of Superior*.

### GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Literary Sponsors:

**Michigan Technological University  
Michigan Writers**



**Guest Host SUSAN ODGERS** is past chair of the Keweenaw Storytelling Center in Calumet, and since 1989, she's taught psychology at Northwestern MI College. Susan is on the boards of the TC Human Rights Commission, MI Writers, Traverse Area District Library, and others. A recipient of the Sara Hardy Humanitarian of the Year award, Susan was recognized as one of the 2021 Influential Women of Northern Michigan.

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# let's go! TSO

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APRIL 7, 7PM • VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT

## BRAD MELTZER

Trouble always finds her...  
lightning strikes again!

The reviews are in:  
*The Lightning Rod*

is "a one-of-a-kind thrill ride" (James Patterson). In the hugely entertaining, highly anticipated follow-up to Brad Meltzer's #1 *New York Times* bestselling thriller *The Escape Artist*, Zig and Nola are back. And if you haven't met them yet, A. J. Finn says "Nola is the most accomplished kicker of a\*\* since Lisbeth Salander in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*."



Archie Mint has led a charmed life, but when he's killed while trying to stop a robbery in his own home, his family is shattered—and then shocked when the other shoe drops. Mint's charmed life, so perfect on the surface, held criminal secrets none of them could have imagined.

While working on Mint's body before his funeral, mortician "Zig" Zigarowski discovers something he was never meant to see. That telling detail leads him to Dover Air Force Base, where he uncovers Mint's involvement in a top-secret military unit and his connection to military artist and Sergeant First Class Nola Brown. Two years ago, Nola saved Zig's life—so he knows that she's as volatile and dangerous as a bolt of lightning.

Zig teams up with Nola's long missing brother, who's just as combustible as she is to follow Nola's trail. Along the way, they discover one of the U.S.



government's most intensely guarded secrets—an undisclosed military facility that dates back to the Cold War and holds the key to something far more sinister: a hidden group willing to compromise the very safety and security of America itself.

Brad Meltzer is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Inner Circle*, *The Book of Fate*, and ten other bestselling thrillers. He is also the host of Brad Meltzer's *Lost History* and Brad Meltzer's *Decoded* on the History Channel.

Guest Host to be announced.

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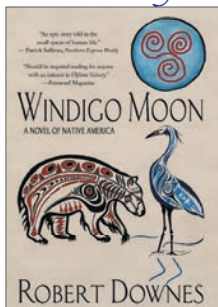
## NEW!

The prequel to  
*Windigo Moon*  
from Bob Downes

### Readers say:

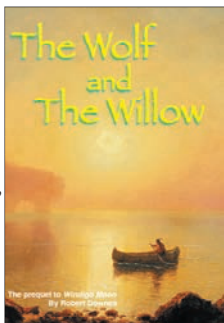
- "One of the best books I've ever read."
- "I couldn't stop reading..."
- "Didn't want it to end!"

## The Ojibwe Saga



"A simply brilliant work of historical fiction." - *Midwest Book Review*

"One of the best books of 2017." - *Marquette Monthly, & Petoskey News-Review*



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## JOY HARJO

A bestselling volume of  
wise and powerful poetry

**A**n *American Sunrise* is a stunning volume from the first Native American Poet Laureate of the United States, informed by her tribal history and connection to the land.



In the early 1800s, the Mvskoke people were forcibly removed from their original lands east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory, which is now part of Oklahoma. Two hundred years later, Joy Harjo returns to her family's lands and opens a dialogue with history. In *An American Sunrise*, Harjo finds blessings in the abundance of her homeland and confronts the site where her people, and other indigenous families, essentially disappeared.

From her memory of her mother's death, to her beginnings in the native rights movement, to the road with her beloved, Harjo's personal life intertwines with tribal histories to create a space for renewed beginnings. Her poems sing of beauty and survival, illuminating a spirituality that connects her to her ancestors and thrums with the quiet anger of living in the ruins of injustice.

Joy Harjo is an internationally renowned performer and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. She is serving her second term as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States. The author of nine books of poetry, several plays and children's books, and two memoirs, her many honors include the Ruth Lily Prize for Lifetime Achievement from

AN  
AMERICAN  
SUNRISE  
POEMS  
JOY HARJO  
POET LAUREATE  
OF THE UNITED STATES

the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets Wallace Stevens Award, two NEA fellowships, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

*This event is made possible, in part, through partnerships with the Traverse Area District Library, the Dennon Museum Center, and an NEA Big Read grant. NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.*

Guest host to be announced.

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**BROADWAY: BEYOND THE CHANDELIER**  
 Friday, October 15 | 8:00 PM

**ASSISTED LIVING: THE MUSICAL**  
 Friday, October 29 | 8:00 PM

**HOT CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO: COOL YULE**  
 Friday, December 10 | 8:00 PM

**BROADWAY BOUND: HADESTOWN**  
 Saturday, December 11 | 2:00 PM

**2ND ANNUAL INTERLOCHEN ARTS ACADEMY SINGER-SONGWRITERS**  
 Thursday, February 3 | 7:30 PM

**DINOSAUR WORLD LIVE**  
 Friday, February 4 | 7:00 PM

**AN EVENING WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS**  
 Thursday, February 24 | 7:30 PM

**ALICIA OLATUJA**  
**INTUITION: SONGS FROM THE MINDS OF WOMEN**  
 Thursday, March 3 | 7:30 PM

**BROADWAY BOUND: MEAN GIRLS**  
 Saturday, March 5 | 2:00 PM

**NATALIE MACMASTER & DONNELL LEAHY**  
 Thursday, March 10 | 7:30 PM

**THE MOTH MAINSTAGE**  
 Friday, April 29 | 8:00 PM

**BROADWAY BOUND: DEAR EVAN HANSEN**  
 Saturday, May 21 | 2:00 PM

**BROADWAY BOUND: AIN'T TOO PROUD**  
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**MAY 5, 7PM • VIRTUAL AUTHOR EVENT**

## GEORGE SAUNDERS

The secret to good writing and reading

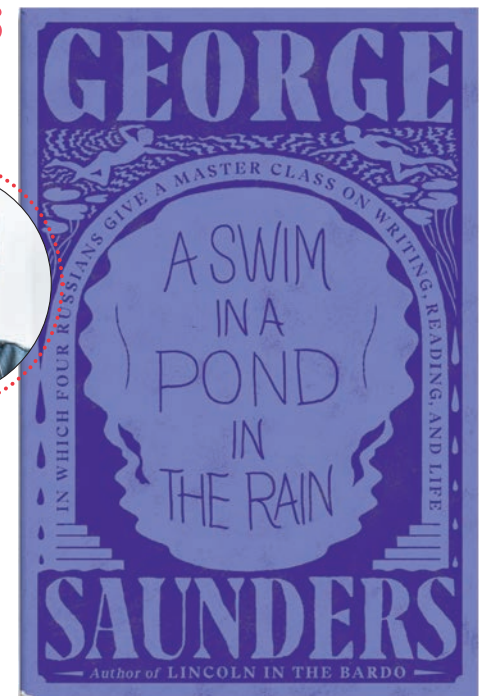
From the Booker Prize-winning author of *Lincoln in the Bardo* and *Tenth of December* comes a literary master class on what makes great stories work and what they can tell us about ourselves—and our world today.



For the last twenty years, George Saunders has been teaching a class on the Russian short story to his MFA students at Syracuse University. In *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*, he shares a version of that class with us. Paired with iconic short stories by Chekhov, Turgenev, Tolstoy, and Gogol, the seven essays in this book are intended for anyone interested in how fiction works and why it's more relevant than ever in these turbulent times.

*A Swim in a Pond in the Rain* is a deep exploration not just of how great writing works, but of how the mind itself works while reading, and of how the reading and writing of stories make genuine connection possible.

George Saunders is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of ten books, including *Lincoln in the Bardo*, which won



the Man Booker Prize; *Congratulations, by the way*; *Tenth of December*, a finalist for the National Book Award; *The Braindead Megaphone*; and the critically acclaimed short story collections *CivilWarLand in Bad Decline*, *Pastoralia*, and *In Persuasion Nation*. He teaches in the creative writing program at Syracuse University.

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**Guest Host DOUG STANTON** is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author whose writing has appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, *Washington Post*, *TIME*, *Newsweek*, and *Esquire*, where he's been a contributing editor. He received an MFA from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa, graduating with coursework in fiction and poetry workshops. He's worked as a creative writing teacher, a caretaker of Robert Frost's house, and once took an acting lesson from Harrison Ford in a restaurant. His award-winning books have been named *New York Times*, *Publisher's Weekly*, and *Amazon Notable/Best* books. His book *Horse Soldiers* was the basis for the Chris Hemsworth movie *12 Strong*.

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR AMAZING AUTHORS!

The most powerful way to thank our NWS authors for sharing their stories is to buy their book. The fact is, nearly all of our authors are on a national book tour, doing one or more book signing events per day for a week or even months. Publishers always choose to send their authors to a "reporting" bookstore—one that reports its sales to the *New York Times* Bestselling List. That's exactly true of Horizon Books. No one knows just how many books it takes to get on the *NYT* Bestseller List, but we do know that Traverse City makes a vital difference to more than a dozen authors each year!

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GEORGE SAUNDERS: *A Swim in a Pond in the Rain*

PAUL HOLES: *Unmasked* - Available April 26

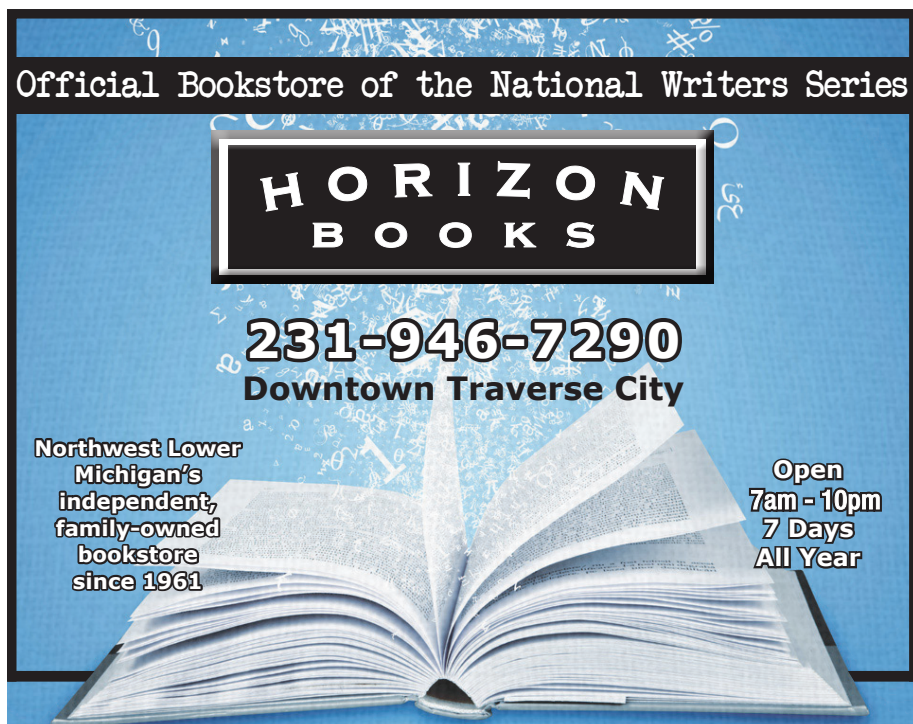
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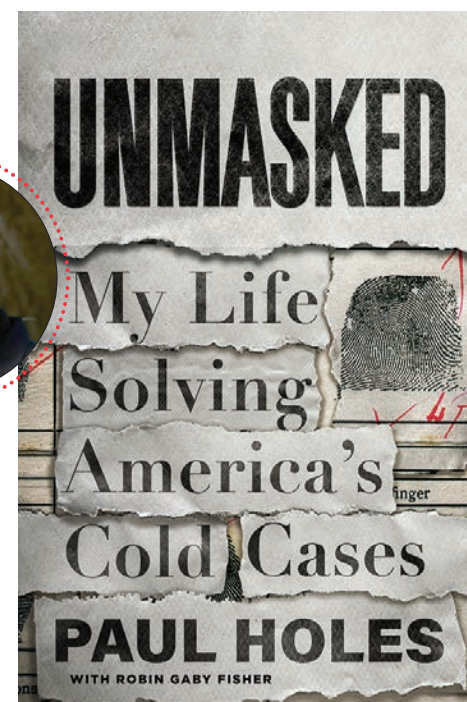


MAY 10, 7PM • CITY OPERA HOUSE + LIVESTREAMED

## PAUL HOLES

### A fascinating look at the life of a cold case investigator

For a decade, The Golden State Killer stalked and murdered Californians in the dead of night, leaving entire communities afraid to turn out the lights. In 1994, when cold case investigator Paul Holes came across the old file, he swore he would unmask the Golden State Killer and finally give these families some closure. Twenty four years later, Holes fulfilled that promise, identifying a 73-year-old former cop named Joseph J. DeAngelo. Headlines blasted from the U.S. to Europe: one of America's most prolific serial killers was in custody.



That case launched Holes's career into the stratosphere, turning him into an icon in the true crime world. In this memoir, Holes takes us through his memories of a storied career and provides an insider account of some of the most notorious cases in contemporary American history, including the hunt for the Golden State Killer, Laci Peterson's murder and Jaycee Dugard's kidnapping. This is a story about the gritty truth of crime solving when there are no flashbulbs and "case closed" headlines. It is the story of a man and his commitment to cases and people who might have otherwise been forgotten.

investigator after spending more than twenty-seven years working in Contra Costa County, in the San Francisco Bay Area. Paul specialized in cold case and serial predator crimes, lending his expertise to notable cases. Since the arrest of the Golden State Killer, Holes has been very involved on the media side, continuing to assist law enforcement and victims' families with their unsolved cases through the television shows *The DNA of Murder with Paul Holes* and *America's Most Wanted* and the podcast *Jensen & Holes: The Murder Squad*.

In 2018, Paul Holes retired as a cold case

Guest host to be announced.

"A great program, one of the best of its kind. The setting, the city, the interviews—but mostly, the audience—make it a wonderful stop. Highly recommended."

~ Harlan Coben, #1 *New York Times* bestseller



## CHEERS TO THE NWS VOLUNTEERS!



**SIMPLY THE BEST!** 1. Horizon Books' Juan & Christian team up with NWS volunteers to sell John U. Bacon's books in 2021. 2. Volunteer Mary Harmeson welcomes NWS attendees in 2019. 3. Volunteers Debbie Pascoe & Judy Ellis greet guests. 4. Volunteers prepare for the doors to open. 5. Community partner Grass River Natural Area display at Pam Houston's event in 2021.



### LOOK WHO'S BEEN HERE!

#### 2009

Elmore Leonard  
Peter Leonard  
Doug Stanton

#### 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  
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 & 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  
Sarah Shoemaker  
Doug Stanton  
Alice Waters  
Terry McDonell  
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  
Nelson & Alex Demille

#### 2020

Nicholas Kristof/  
Sheryl Wudunn  
Steve Luxenberg  
Peter Heller  
Terry McMillan  
Bob Giles  
Scott Turov  
Elaine Weiss  
William Kent Krueger  
David Blight  
Miles Harvey

Brad Thor  
Karen Dionne  
Molly Wizenberg  
Susan Goldberg  
Chasten Buttigieg  
Ruth Ware  
Yaa Gyasi  
Kate Walbert  
Christopher Haugh &  
Jordan Blashek  
Alice Hoffman  
Larissa Fasthorse  
Albert Woodfox

#### 2021

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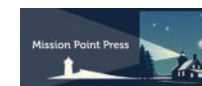


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**West Shore Bank  
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**2020**

**Virtual gala with Susan  
Goldberg editor of  
National Geographic**

**2019**

**Mission Table Restaurant  
with Hosts Terry &  
Wayne Lobdell**

**2018**

**Olivia & Marty Lagina**

**2017**

**Dana & Casey Cowell**

**2016**

**Brenda & Ross Biederman  
Susie & Bill Janis  
Susie & Bob Kuras  
Diana & Richard Milock**

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Anonymous  
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Janet Wolf

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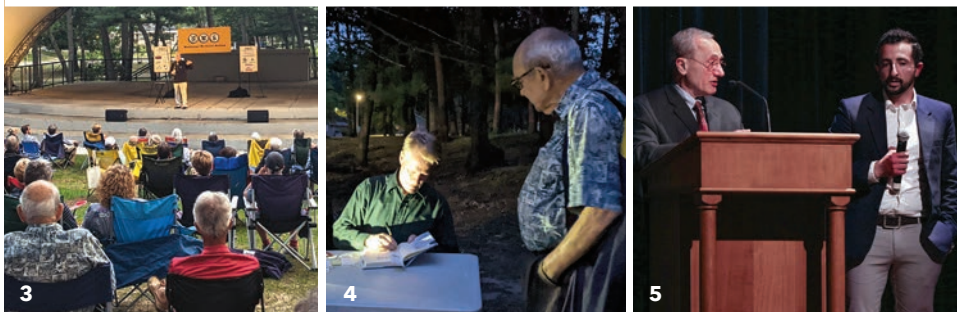
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- 1 Jillian Manning introduces NWS's first live event of 2021
- 2 John U. Bacon lights up the stage
- 3-4 Scenes from John U. Bacon's event and signing
- 5-7 Scenes from the Afghanistan Panel
- 8-9 Author Angeline Boulley and Holly T. Bird in conversation
- 10 Participants pick up their 2021-22 Battle of the Books titles



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