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Janja Lalich • Amy Tan • Chris Grabenstein • Kaveh Akbar



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NationalWritersSeries.org

### TICKET INFORMATION

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

Program guide note: Photos and book descriptions are generally provided by the authors' publishers.

# NWS Presents A New Year, New Authors, New Classes!

What a year it was for the National Writers Series, with a stunning line-up of 22 *New York Times* bestselling, Newbery Honor, and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors visiting Traverse City to talk about their newest books.

With a record of 10,000 in-person and livestream tickets sold this year, it's clear: the dreary isolation of 2020 and 2021 is over. But not our love of reading.

After such a stellar year, it was quite a nail-biter lining up the new season. But once again, we convinced some of America's top authors to weather our weather and bask in northern Michigan's passion for the written word.

We hope you love what we have to offer! Their amazing books revolve around the themes of adventure, historic harm, truth, and belonging. How are we to understand each other?

---

With a record of 10,000 in-person and livestream tickets sold this year, it's clear: the dreary isolation of 2020 and 2021 is over. But not our love of reading.

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This season's authors answer those question in fascinating ways.

In addition to unprecedented attendance at our author events, we received record support from grantors and donors, which allowed us to ramp up our Raising Writers program this year in new counties. Ari Mokdad, our education manager, is on fire! You can read about her efforts on page 8.



**Heather Cox Richardson and Neal Rubin surrounded by staff and volunteers at a sold-out event at Lars Hockstad Auditorium in October!**

# WELCOME TO AN AWESOME NEW SEASON!



Nita Prose on stage discussing Molly Gray's latest exploits. Chef and cookbook author Erin French dazzled the audience with cooking tips. Alvin Hall, author of *Driving the Green Book*, arrived in a snowstorm last February, and it was still a well attended event. Nearly all of NWS past events are available to watch on Youtube.

All of this takes a team, and if you're reading this program guide, consider yourself part of it. I hold immense gratitude for those who attend the events, write us a check, and/or sign their child up for a class or Battle of the Books. In the past year, we saw a couple of nonprofits close their doors for good, underscoring just how crucial support is to our very existence. We don't take it for granted.

I am also deeply fortunate for the NWS team (board, staffers, and contractors) who work so incredibly hard. Behind the scenes, there's Jenny and Joe at the City Opera House and Jinhee and Juan

at Horizon Books. There's Josh, our tech guy who live streams each event. The list to thank is huge, and not all their names start with a "J," lol.

Hope you enjoy our new season!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Stanton".



**ANNE STANTON**

NWS Co-Founder  
and Executive  
Director

## 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.





## Today a Reader. Tomorrow a Leader.

Since founding the National Writers Series in 2010, we spread our wings to support young readers and writers in all kinds of ways. We hope that someday, one of our young storytellers will return to the City Opera House to talk about their newest bestselling book and how their love of writing began right here in Traverse City.

### RAISING WRITERS

Starting in 2012, our Raising Writers program has been a home for passionate young writers. The classes and workshops are open to students across Michigan, from Manistee to Grand Traverse, and new in 2023, Antrim County. And that's important as most school districts don't offer creative writing classes. Students enrolled in our semester-long programs have the opportunity to publish their work in the *NWS Literary Journal* and recite their work at author events. This year, we will publish and celebrate their work at the Alluvion on May 22 from 4:30-6 PM. We hope you can join us in celebrating our young writers!

This spring, we are expanding our Raising Writers program to include a section for grades 3-6, *Writers Create!*, taught by NWS instructor Kelly Almer. The class will focus on creativity, imagination, and journaling for students to expand their skills in

reading, writing, and building stories. We are thrilled to pilot this class in an entirely online format.

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**All of the students enrolled in NWS Raising Writers classes have the opportunity to publish their work in the *NWS Literary Journal* each May.**

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We are welcoming back NWS instructor Karin Killian, who will teach a 10-week-long intensive in literary short story for high school students. This advanced course will focus on writing short stories and analyzing craft. Students will also have the opportunity to work one-on-one with the instructor.

NWS instructor David Hornibrook will teach our Antrim Raising Writers for middle school students in grades 5-8. Each week, students will focus on an area in poetry, such as meter, sound, and metaphor. This class is being offered in a hybrid format, meeting both in-person and online.

In addition, we are continuing to grow our Raising Writers program in the Manistee community. NWS instructor Lauren K. Carlson will teach students in grades 6-12 to discover new ways to use their distinct voices, practice reading their work aloud,



and experiment with form and meter throughout the 8-week-long course.

To learn more or to register for class, please visit: [www.NationalWritersSeries.org/raising-writers/writing-classes](http://www.NationalWritersSeries.org/raising-writers/writing-classes).

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

We host a Battle of the Books competition, which involves some 375 fourth and fifth graders in the Grand Traverse County area. Students have fun, learn teamwork, and closely read books in a wide range of genres. A best-selling author is always invited to serve as master of ceremonies, handing out awards, sharing wisdom about storytelling, and signing books.

This amazing program is truly a community effort with many volunteers making it possible. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer or support this program, please contact Ari Mokdad at [education@nwstc.org](mailto:education@nwstc.org)

## POETRY WORKSHOPS

In addition to our Raising Writers programs, we also engage fourth and fifth graders in a series of poetry workshops at Blair and Traverse Heights Elementary schools. NWS co-founder and bestselling author Doug Stanton attended Traverse Heights Elementary School where he got his first start in writing. He created and wrote for the school newspaper, the *Traverse Heights Traveler*, and in that spirit, we began to offer these poetry workshops several years ago as a way for students to express themselves.

This year, the NWS is expanding this program into Manistee and additional underserved schools in Grand Traverse County. Students will learn about poetry, write their own poems, and practice

revising their work with the guidance of an NWS teaching artist. Each year, we celebrate the students by publishing their work in a professionally designed poetry journal. We are excited to be expanding this program to include additional schools and more instruction days with students. This program is supported by outstanding volunteers who help guide students in their writing process. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to financially support Raising Writers, please contact Ari Mokdad at [education@nwstc.org](mailto:education@nwstc.org)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

In partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, we have awarded a total of \$64,000 in college scholarships to 46 seniors and juniors who are passionate about writing. Applications are available through the Community Foundation on January 15, 2024, and close at midnight on March 5, 2024.



Scholarship winners pose with author Geraldine Brooks at her event in the "green room".

### 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

**Robert & Marcy Branski Poetry Award**  
ELIJAH PSZCZOLKOWSKI

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## **BONNIE JO CAMPBELL**

**"The Waters" was chosen as the January 2024 selection for the Today Show book club.**

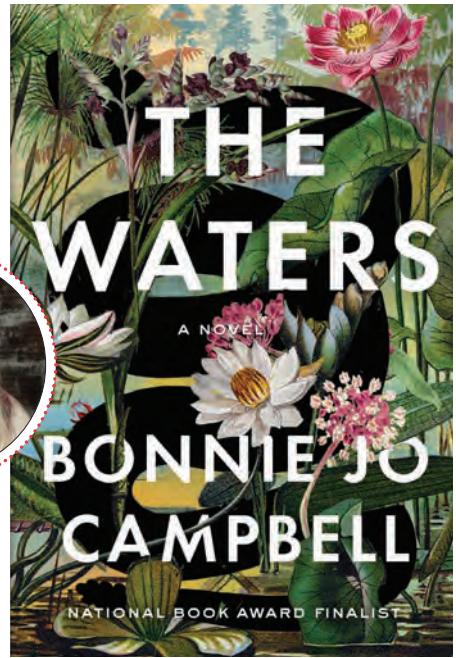
**B**onnie Jo Campbell, one of Michigan's most acclaimed authors, will talk about her highly anticipated novel, *The Waters*. Readers will meet the eccentric herbalist Hermine "Herself" Zook, who has healed local women of their ailments for generations on an island in the Great Massasauga swamp.



Over the years, Herself has inspired reverence and fear in the people of nearby Whiteheart, Michigan, and even in her own estranged three daughters. Her youngest is the beautiful Rose Thorn, who left her own daughter, eleven-year-old Dorothy "Donkey" Zook, to grow up wild in the swamp, known as "The Waters."

Donkey spends her days searching for truths in the lush landscape and in her math books, waiting for her wayward mother and longing for a father, unaware that family secrets, passionate love, and violent men will flood through the swamp and upend her idyllic childhood.

Bonnie Jo Campbell is the bestselling author of *Once Upon a River*, which was



made into an award-winning feature film.

Her work also includes *Q Road*; *American Salvage*, a finalist for the National Book Award; *Women and Other Animals*, winner of the AWP prize for short fiction; and a story collection, *Mothers, Tell Your Daughters*. She was awarded a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship and the 2009 Eudora Welty Prize from *Southern Review*. She and her husband live with their pet donkeys outside of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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**GUEST HOST ANNE-MARIE OOMEN** has won numerous awards for her writing, including the 2023 Author Award from the Library of Michigan for her lifelong achievements and the AWP Sue William Silverman Nonfiction Award for her newest memoir, *As Long as I Know You: The Mom Book*. She is the founding editor of *Dunes Review*, former president of Michigan Writers, Inc., and teaches at Lasell University and Interlochen College of Creative Arts.

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**“Only an educated  
and informed people  
will be a free people.”**

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JOHN F. KENNEDY

**Proud to support the National Writers Series  
in hosting Kaveh Akbar**

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~ Stephen King

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## KAVEH AKBAR

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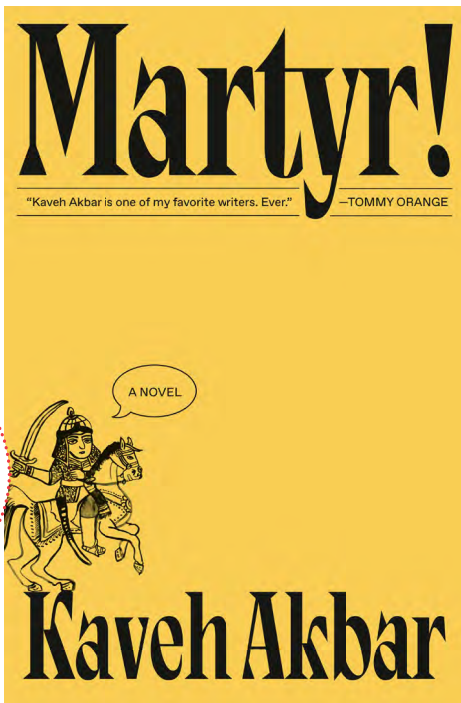
A paean to how we spend our  
lives seeking meaning—  
in faith, art, ourselves, others.

Few debut novelists have received the phenomenal praise heaped upon Kaveh Akbar's new book, *Martyr!*, including rave reviews by Mary Karr, John Greene, and Tommy Orange. *Time Magazine* chose it for its list of "The 25 Most Anticipated Books of 2024".



*Martyr!* is the story of Cyrus Shams, a newly sober, orphaned son of Iranian immigrants. He is a young man grappling with an inheritance of violence and loss: his mother's plane was shot down over the skies of the Persian Gulf in a senseless accident; and his father's life in America was circumscribed by his work killing chickens at a factory farm in the Midwest. He is a drunk, an addict, and a poet, whose obsession with martyrs leads him to examine the mysteries of his family's past.

Kaveh Akbar is the author of two poetry



collections: *Pilgrim Bell* and *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*, in addition to a chapbook, *Portrait of the Alcoholic*. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. He is also the editor of *The Penguin Book of Spiritual Verse: 110 Poets on the Divine* and the poetry editor for *The Nation*. He lives in Iowa City.

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Literary Underwriter:

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**GUEST HOST ARI MOKDAD** is a Detroit-born choreographer, creative writer, and passionate educator. She received three Bachelor of Arts degrees from Grand Valley State University and completed her Master of Arts and doctoral studies at Wayne State University. In 2023, she received her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Warren Wilson College, where she was a former student of Kaveh Akbar. Ari is the education manager for the National Writers Series.





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~ George Orwell

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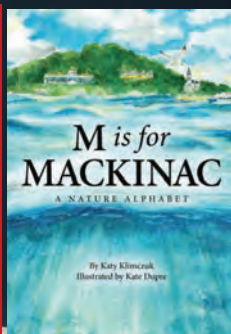
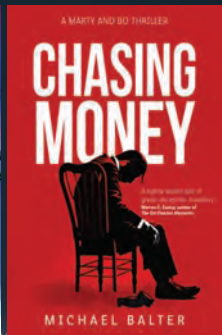
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## JANJA LALICH

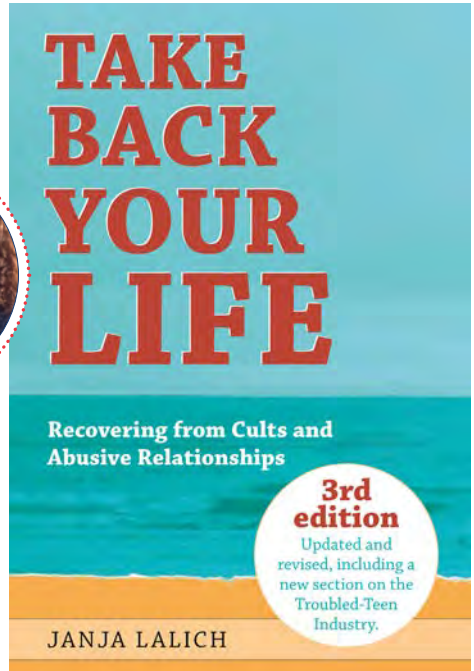
### Twin Flames Universe: Burned!

Northern Michiganders were stunned when two major documentaries appeared about Twin Flames Universe, a self-help and wellness cult, with its leaders stationed in Suttons Bay. The depth of emotional pain expressed by former members was hard to watch and raised more questions than it answered. What exactly is a cult? What is the seductive draw that entraps people? Can law enforcement play a role in helping those who voluntarily join and fork over their savings?



This event will feature Keely Griffin, a survivor of the Twin Flames Universe, and Dr. Janja Lalich, a cult expert. Both who were featured on the Netflix documentary, "Escaping Twin Flames."

Keely will talk about her journey into the online group with the goal of improving her life, relationships and finding her "twin flame," or divinely chosen soulmate. After three years, she left the cult, having lost everything, including her career, savings, and beloved sister, whom she encouraged to join the cult. Keely aspires to advocate for fellow survivors in the legal system and improve education and legislation around coercive control.



Dr. Janja Lalich the author of *Take Back Your Life: Recovering from Cults and Abusive Relationships*, will talk about the draw of cults, the different forms they take, and why they are so hard to escape.

Dr. Lalich is a renowned expert in the field of cults and coercion. She has written numerous books on the topic and appeared on national news programs. A former Fulbright scholar, Dr. Lalich is the founder and CEO of the nonprofit, Lalich Center for Cults and Coercion.



**GUEST HOST JACOB WHEELER** publishes the *Glen Arbor Sun* newspaper and works with student journalists at Northwestern Michigan College. His reporting has won awards from Project Censored and the Michigan Press Association. A native of Denmark, he has filed stories from five continents, and his work has appeared in *Utne Reader*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Detroit Free Press*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He lives in Traverse City, Michigan, with his wife, Sarah, and two children.

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**“In a time of deceit,  
telling the truth is a  
revolutionary act.”**

GEORGE ORWELL

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# BARBARA McQUADE

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Disinformation is seeping  
into all facets of our society.

America is under attack and the weapon is disinformation. So says Barbara McQuade, a legal analyst for NBC News and MSNBC, and a University of Michigan law professor.



Barbara writes about how authoritarians throughout history have manipulated the truth to advance their own agendas in her new book, *Attack From Within*—the psychological tactics they use, why they work, and how the digital age is making the threat more potent everyday. She also offers solutions and aims to inspire a national conversation about renewing this country to a democracy.

Barbara McQuade is a University of Michigan Law School professor, her alma mater, and teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, national security, and data privacy. She is also a legal analyst for NBC News and MSNBC, and a co-host of the podcast #SistersInLaw. From 2010 to 2017, she served as U.S. Attorney for the

HOW DISINFORMATION IS  
SABOTAGING AMERICA

# ATTACK FROM WITHIN

BARBARA MCQUADE

"A compelling work about a challenge that left unexamined and left unchecked—could undermine our democracy."  
—Eric H. Holder Jr., 22nd Attorney General of the United States

Eastern District of Michigan. McQuade was appointed by President Barack Obama, and was the first woman to serve in her position. She has also worked as a sports writer, copy editor, a judicial law clerk, an associate in private practice, and an assistant U.S. attorney. She and her husband, Dan Hurley, have four children and live in Ann Arbor.

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Event Underwriters:

**Pam & Harold Lassers**

Literary Underwriters:

**Annie & Mike DeVries**



**GUEST HOST JOHN U. BACON** has worked nearly three decades as a writer, a public speaker, and a college instructor. He has written 13 books, seven of which have been national bestsellers, including *The Great Halifax Explosion*, which is being adapted into a play. Good Morning America called his current book, *Let Them Lead: Unexpected Lessons in Leadership from America's Worst High School Hockey Team*, "The real Ted Lasso." His next book, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, will be published by Liveright/W.W. Norton in 2025.

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## DON WINSLOW

Sometimes you have to become what you hate to protect what you love.

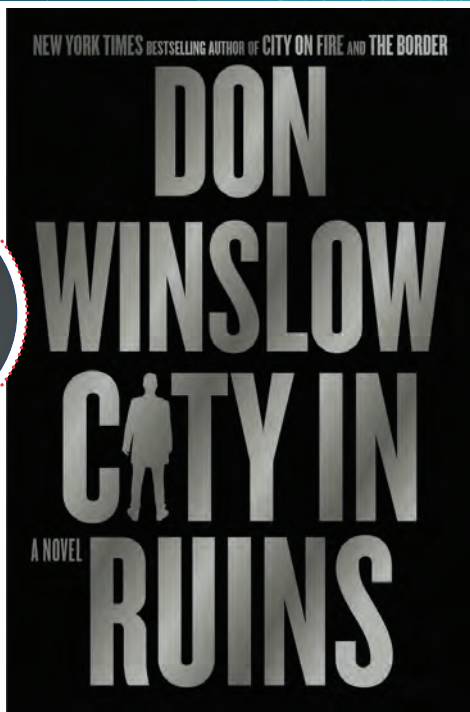
Legendary author Don Winslow will take the stage to promote *City in Ruins*—the explosive conclusion of his epic Danny Ryan trilogy. An international bestselling author, he has announced this will be the final novel of his extraordinary career.



*City in Ruins* tells the tale of Danny Ryan, who is beyond his wildest dreams rich. Once a dock worker, Irish mob soldier, and fugitive from the law, he is now a respectable businessman—a Las Vegas casino mogul and billionaire partner in a group that owns two lavish hotels. He finally has it all: a beautiful house, a child he adores, a woman he might even fall in love with.

But when he tries to buy an old hotel on a prime piece of real estate with plans to build his dream resort, he triggers a war against Las Vegas power brokers, an FBI agent bent on revenge, and a rival casino owner with dark connections of his own.

Danny thought he had buried his past, but now it reaches up to him from the grave to pull him down.



After publishing his first novels, Winslow branched into television and film with his friend Shane Salerno. Together they wrote *UC/Undercover* and collaborated on the screenplay of his novel, *Savages*, made into a feature film by Oliver Stone.

He has written 25 award-winning, international bestsellers. Many are destined for the small and big screen. He lives in California with his wife of 31 years.

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**GUEST HOST DOUG STANTON** is the #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *In Harm's Way* and *12 Strong*, made into a major motion picture by Jerry Bruckheimer, and *The Odyssey of Echo Company*. He has written for numerous major publications. He was awarded the 2021 Steven Ambrose Oral History award. Doug attended Interlochen Arts Academy, Hampshire College, and received an MFA from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. He announced the creation of the National Writers Series in 2009. His wife, Anne, and attorney Grant Parsons are co-founders. He and Anne have three children and live in Traverse City.

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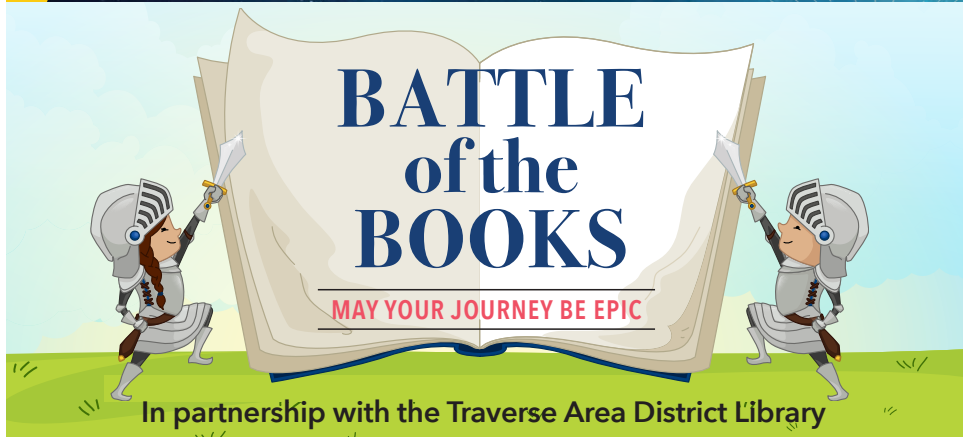
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## LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

During the winter months, the NWS Battle of the Books program engages hundreds of fourth and fifth graders in reading fun! Kids read incredible stories together, and learn book facts to prepare for an all-day, heart-pounding competition on April 13 at Traverse City West High School.

The Battle of the Books season begins in December when teams of 4-6 kids form under the leadership of a coach, usually a wonderful parent (thank you!). In January, there's the Book Handout—a special night when teams follow a series of fun activities that reveal their official battle books as they go. Hosted at Traverse Area District Library, the Book Handout sends off each team with a bag of eight books (provided by NWS free of charge) and new friendships.

With books in hand, teams meet weekly to read, discuss stories, and strategize. Months of preparation culminate in the Battle of the Books Tournament on April 13. At the Tournament, teams rotate through four events that challenge their book knowledge, creativity, and teamwork skills. At day's end, the kids gather to crown the top-scoring teams, celebrate the fun of reading together, and meet the best-selling author of a book they read.



**Battle of the Books makes reading fun, from creative team names and outfits to team problem-solving.**

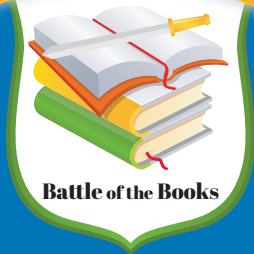
Battle of the Books creates a community-wide wave of reading enthusiasm that sweeps through the kids, siblings, friends, teachers, 100+ volunteers, and even bookstore patrons. We are so grateful to our sponsors, partner-in-battle Traverse Area District Library, volunteers, and a dedicated planning committee who make it happen each year.

To learn more about Battle of the Books and check out the amazing books on this year's reading list, visit [www.battleofthe-books.org](http://www.battleofthe-books.org).

(Not a Traverse City Area Public Schools event.)

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Battle of the Books Underwriters

*Battle of the Books*

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**Cameron & Dan Farley**  
~ Battle of the Books Underwriters



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~ ANNE and ROBERT TUCKER  
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Programs.



# CHRIS GRABENSTEIN

“SO FUNNY I FELL OFF MY BED!”  
 —Izzy B., age 10

For this year’s Battle of the Books event, we are excited to welcome *New York Times* bestselling author Chris Grabenstein. Chris will help crown the top teams, give an inspiring talk, and field an always unpredictable mix of questions from the young readers. Chris has written multiple award-winning series such as *Mr. Lemoncello’s Library*, *The Smartest Kid in the Universe*, and *Welcome to Wonderland*.



After graduating from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Chris moved to New York City and started doing improvisational comedy in Greenwich Village. During those years, he also wrote for the Muppets and helped create the CBS holiday classic *The Christmas Gift*, starring John Denver. He then spent seventeen years writing radio and television commercials for brands such as KFC, Dr Pepper, Seven Up, and many others. The format of his most recent release is sure to thrill young fans: *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library: The Graphic Novel*.



For this year, we are thrilled to include *Home Sweet Motel* from the Welcome to Wonderland series as one of our Battle of the Books selections for 2024. His books have won numerous accolades, including

the Sid Fleischman Humor Award from the SCBWI and the Denise McCoy Legacy Award for Humor.

Chris lives with his wife, JJ, in New York City with two cats and lots of ideas.

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# CHEERS TO NWS VOLUNTEERS!



**Clockwise from top left:** Heather Shumaker and Barb Vinocur; Chuck Mueller; volunteers at the Mitch Albom event; Volunteers pose on the City Opera House stairway; Jinhee Scholtus, Mary Ann Warner, and Jean Sarasin.

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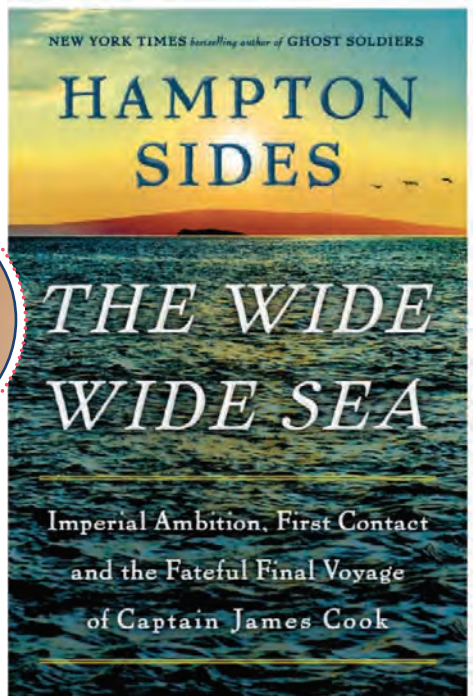
A ferociously-paced story of adventure and consequences in the Age of Exploration.

Hampton Sides is an award-winning author of several nonfiction books, including the bestselling histories *Hellhound on his Trial*, *Blood and Thunder*, and *Ghost Soldiers*. Now he tells the tale of Captain James Cook's last journey, a thrilling narrative of the constant danger of exploration in the 1700s.



Before embarking on his last voyage, Captain Cook was admired for his peerless seamanship, his humane leadership, and his dedication to science.

Yet on this last journey, Cook became hot-tempered, resorting to the lash to enforce discipline and leading his two vessels into danger time and again. Uncharacteristically, he ordered violent retaliation for perceived theft on the part of native peoples. This may have had something to do with the pressure he felt from secret orders—to chart and claim lands before Britain's rivals could—and to discover the fabled Northwest Passage. But the ultimate effects were catastrophic for Indigenous people around the world.



*The Wide Wide Sea* is a major work from one of our finest narrative nonfiction writers.

Hampton Sides is an award-winning editor of *Outside*. He lives in New Mexico with his wife, Anne, and their three sons.

### GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Event Underwriters:

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**GUEST HOST DOUG STANTON** is the #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *In Harm's Way* and *12 Strong*, made into a major motion picture by Jerry Bruckheimer, and *The Odyssey of Echo Company*. His writing has appeared in numerous major publications. He was awarded the 2021 Steven Ambrose Oral History award. Doug attended Interlochen Arts Academy, Hampshire College, and received an MFA from the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. He created the National Writers Series in 2009 with his wife, Anne, and attorney Grant Parsons. He and Anne have three children and live in Traverse City.

“An understanding of the natural world is a source of not only great curiosity, but great fulfillment.”

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Proud to support the National Writers Series and the Amy Tan author event

Karen & Clark Bunting 'Natural Wonders' Author Conversations

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## AMY TAN

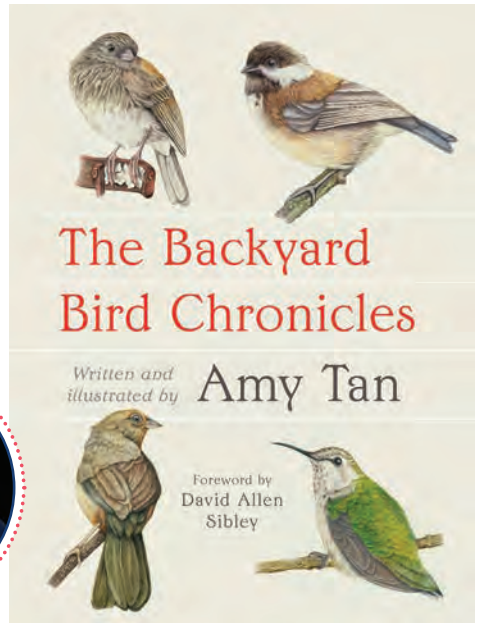
Supported by Karen & Clark  
Bunting 'Natural Wonders'  
Author Conversations

With boundless charm and wit, Amy Tan charts her foray into birding and the natural wonders of the world.

Tracking the natural beauty that surrounds us, Amy Tan's new book, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* maps the passage of time through daily entries, thoughtful questions, and beautiful original sketches.



In 2016, Amy Tan grew overwhelmed by the state of the world: Hatred and misinformation became a daily presence on social media, and the country felt more divisive than ever. In search of peace, Tan turned toward the natural world just beyond her window and, specifically, the birds visiting her yard. But what began as an attempt to find solace turned into something far greater—an opportunity to savor quiet moments during a volatile time, connect to nature in a meaningful way, and imagine the intricate lives of the birds she admired.



The result is a gorgeous, witty account of birding, nature, and the beauty around us that hides in plain sight, written and illustrated by the best-selling author of *The Joy Luck Club*. With a foreword by David Allen Sibley.

Amy Tan is the author of several novels, including *The Joy Luck Club* and *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. She is a co-producer and co-screenwriter of the film version of *The Joy Luck Club* and is on the board of American Bird Conservancy. She lives in Sausalito, California.

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**GUEST HOST ED RONCO** is the news director at Interlochen Public Radio. He moved back to his home state of Michigan after nine years in Seattle, where he was the local host of "All Things Considered" for public radio station KNKX. Before that, he worked as a reporter in Sitka, Alaska, and South Bend, Indiana. Ed and his partner, David, live just outside Traverse City.

---

**“A generation which  
ignores history has no  
past and no future.”**

ROBERT HEINLEIN

---

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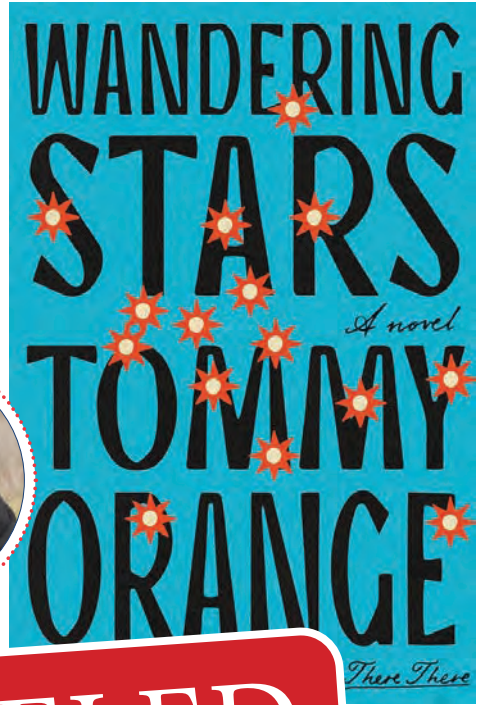
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# TOMMY ORANGE

Supported by Diana Milock  
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Author Conversations

Piercing in its poetry, sorrow,  
and rage—a devastating  
indictment of America's  
war on its own people.

A Pulitzer-Prize finalist and National Book Award winner of *There There*, Tommy Orange delivers another masterpiece in *Wandering Stars*. It was chosen by *Time Magazine* as one of the 25 Most Anticipated Books of 2024. It was also selected as one of the best books to read in 2024.



**CANCELED**

This powerful story of the Sand Creek Massacre of the 1860s, the Carlisle boarding school, and the nation's first boarding school) through three generations of a family.

In Colorado, 1864, Star, a young survivor of the Sand Creek Massacre, is brought to the Fort Marion Prison Castle, where he is forced to learn English and practice Christianity by an evangelical prison guard. A generation later, Star's son, Charles, is sent to the school, where he is also brutalized. Charles becomes friends with fellow student Opal Viola, as the two envision a future away from the institutional violence that follows their bloodlines.

In 2018, Oakland, California, Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield is barely holding her family together after the shooting that nearly took the life of her nephew Orvil.

of the MFA American Indian Studies Center, member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, he was born and raised in Oakland, California.

"For the sake of knowing, of understanding, *Wandering Stars* blew my heart into a thousand pieces and put it all back together again. This is a masterwork that will not be forgotten, a masterwork that will forever be part of you."

~Morgan Talty, bestselling author of *Night of the Living Rez*

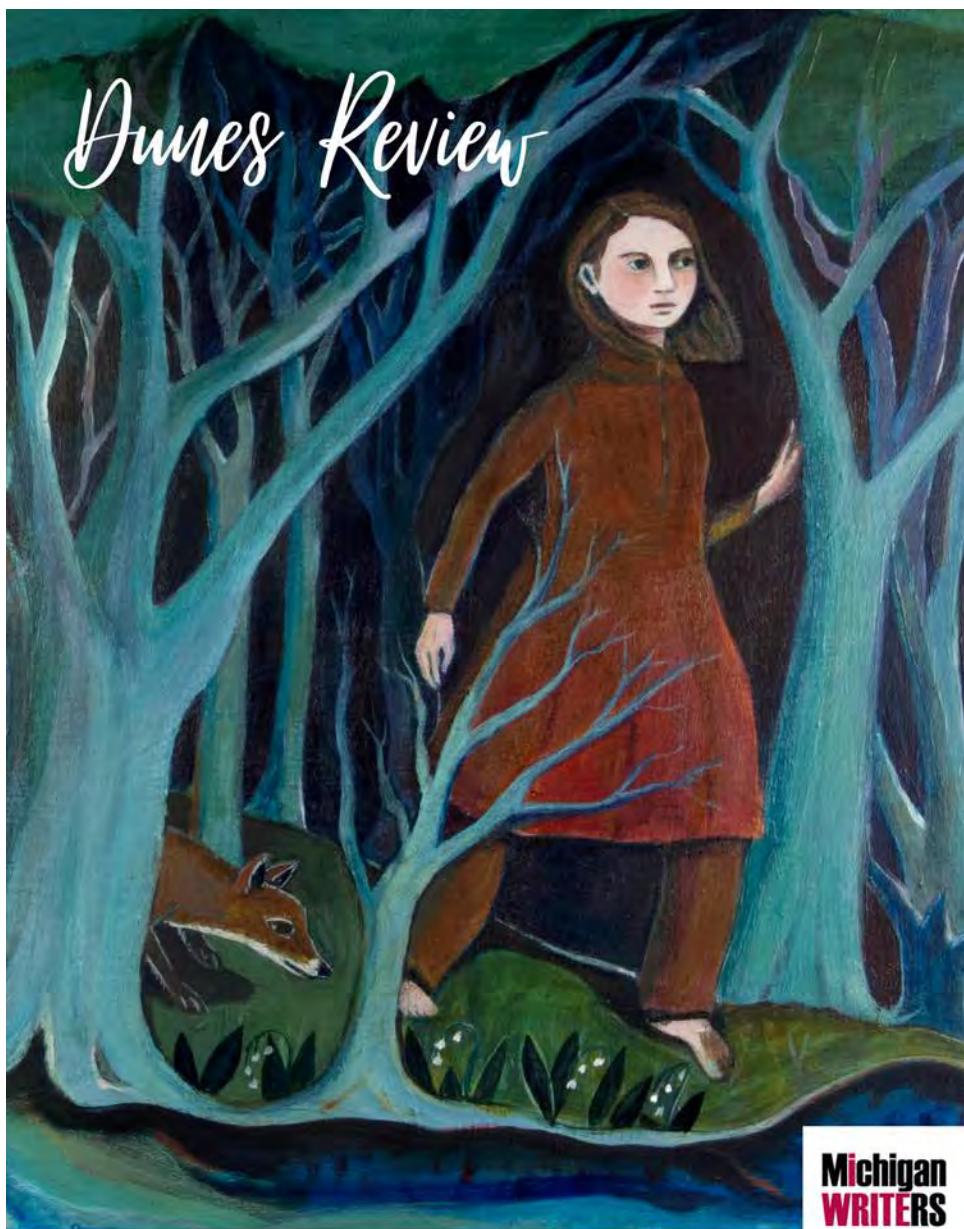
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Our guest host for this event will be announced soon!

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*Pictured above: "Off the Path," DR 27.1 cover art by Ann Willey*



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ICA SINGER-SONGWRITER SHOWCASE  
FRI, FEB 9, 2024 - 8PM

BROADWAY BOUND: FUNNY GIRL  
SAT, FEB 10, 2024 - 2PM

THE STEP CREW  
SUN, MARCH 10, 2024 - 7PM

ARTRAGEOUS  
SAT, APRIL 20, 2024 - 8PM

ICA SPOKEN WORD SHOWCASE  
THUR, APRIL 25, 2024 - 7:30PM

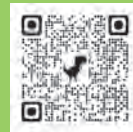
THE MOTH  
FRI, APRIL 26, 2024 - 8PM

BROADWAY BOUND: SIX THE MUSICAL  
SAT, MAY 18, 2024 - 2PM

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WINTERPALOOZA  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEN'S GLEE CLUB  
FRI, JAN 19, 2024 - 8PM

COMEDIAN  
ORNY ADAMS  
SAT, JAN 20, 2024 - 8PM



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# LOOK WHO'S BEEN HERE!

- |   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>2009</b><br/>Elmore Leonard<br/>Peter Leonard<br/>Doug Stanton</p> <p><b>2010</b><br/>Amy Alkon<br/>Rhoda Janzen<br/>Tom Brokaw<br/>Thomas Lynch<br/>Mary Karr<br/>Audrey Niffenegger<br/>Mario Batali<br/>James Bradley<br/>Peter Matthiessen<br/>Karl Marlantes</p> <p><b>2011</b><br/>Janet Leahy /<br/>Lisa Albert<br/>Sara Brokaw<br/>Mitch Albom<br/>Paula McLain<br/>Bonnie Jo Campbell/<br/>Jack Driscoll/<br/>Michael Zadoorian<br/>Roy Blount, Jr.<br/>Sebastian Junger<br/>Richard Ford<br/>Elmore Leonard<br/>Daniel Silva<br/>Gretchen Holt Witt<br/>Tom Perrotta<br/>Jeffrey Eugenides<br/>David Sedaris<br/>Chuck Klosterman</p> | <p><b>2012</b><br/>Vince Gilligan<br/>Jodi Picoult<br/>Geraldine Brooks<br/>Michael Sandel<br/>Anna Quindlen<br/>Natalie Bakopoulos<br/>Janet Evanovich<br/>Lee Child<br/>Maggie Stiefvater<br/>Ayaan Hirsi Ali<br/>Benjamin Busch<br/>Michael Connelly</p> <p><b>2013</b><br/>Chip Johannessen<br/>Buzz Bissinger<br/>Blaine Harden<br/>Gillian Flynn<br/>Nathaniel Philbrick<br/>Jason Matthews<br/>Colum McCann<br/>Temple Grandin<br/>Mitch Albom<br/>Benjamin Percy<br/>Michael Paterniti<br/>Jamie Ford<br/>David Finkel<br/>Nikki Giovanni<br/>Sara Paretsky</p> <p><b>2014</b><br/>Kelly Corrigan<br/>George Packer<br/>Steve Luxenberg<br/>Anchee Min<br/>Emily Giffin<br/>Daniel James Brown<br/>Karin Slaughter</p> | <p>Greg Holmes/<br/>Katherine Roth<br/>Diana Gabaldon<br/>A.J. Baime/<br/>Bryce Hoffman<br/>Nancy Horan<br/>Sophie Kinsella<br/>Rita Mae Brown<br/>Brian Castner/<br/>Brian Turner</p> <p><b>2015</b><br/>Tess Gerritsen<br/>Garth Stein<br/>Debbie Macomber<br/>Jeff Shaara<br/>Harlan Coben<br/>Hampton Sides<br/>Mardi Link<br/>Vanessa Diffenbaugh<br/>Ben Sidran<br/>Bonnie Jo Campbell<br/>Paula McLain<br/>Sarah Chayes<br/>Susan Casey<br/>John U. Bacon</p> <p><b>2016</b><br/>James Rollins<br/>James Tobin<br/>Tui Sutherland<br/>Laurie R. King<br/>Brian Castner<br/>David Ebershoff<br/>Lucy Kalanithi<br/>Jim &amp; Lynn Kouf<br/>Paola Gianturco<br/>David Maraniss<br/>Margaret Atwood</p> | <p>Ann Patchett<br/>Jodi Picoult<br/>Kyle Mills<br/>Daniel Bergner</p> <p><b>2017</b><br/>John Donvan<br/>Beth Macy<br/>Gordon Korman<br/>Greg Illes<br/>Eric Fair<br/>Elizabeth Strout<br/>Andrea Petersen<br/>Mary Roach<br/>Julia Glass<br/>W. Bruce Cameron<br/>Sarah Shoemaker<br/>Doug Stanton<br/>Alice Waters<br/>Terry McDonell<br/>Dan Gerber<br/>Murray Howe<br/>Sebastian Junger/<br/>Phil Caputo</p> <p><b>2018</b><br/>Doug Stanton<br/>Peter Heller<br/>Nikki Giovanni<br/>Peter Brown<br/>Anna Quindlen<br/>Drew Philp<br/>Eileen McNamara<br/>Samantha Irby<br/>David Grann<br/>Richard Russo<br/>Adriana Trigiani<br/>Annie Spence<br/>Beth Macy</p> | <p>Mona Hanna-Attisha<br/>Joe Hill<br/>Amy Goldstein<br/>Tayari Jones<br/>Alice Walker<br/>Richard Clarke<br/>John U. Bacon</p> <p><b>2019</b><br/>Jen Sincero<br/>Tommy Tomlinson<br/>Keith Gave<br/>Grace Lin<br/>Lisa Scottoline<br/>Elizabeth Berg/<br/>Elizabeth Letts/<br/>Lynne Olson<br/>Marie Benedict<br/>Daniel Pink<br/>Bryan Gruley<br/>Steve Hamilton<br/>Douglas Brinkley<br/>Tanya Anne Crosby<br/>Karl Marlantes<br/>David Maraniss<br/>Aarti Shahani<br/>Randall Sullivan<br/>Susan Orlean<br/>Mitch Albom<br/>Nelson &amp; Alex Demille</p> <p><b>2020</b><br/>Nicholas Kristof/<br/>Sheryl Wudunn<br/>Steve Luxenberg<br/>Peter Heller<br/>Terry McMillan<br/>Bob Giles</p> |
|---|--|---|--|---|

# CELEBRATING 14 YEARS & 260+ AUTHORS!

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  
Mary Doria Russell  
Robin Wall  
Kimmerer  
Emily Henry  
Megan Miranda  
Dax-Devlon Ross  
Susie Yang  
John U. Bacon  
Pam Houston  
Afghanistan Today  
International Panel

Mary Roach  
Anthony Doerr  
Alex Michaelides  
Joshua Prager  
Jason Reynolds  
Omar El Akkad  
Angeline Boulley

## 2022

Daniel Lieberman  
Michael Schur  
Honorée Fanonne  
Jeffers  
Vanessa Riley  
Wanda M. Morris  
Jack Cheng  
Ellen Airgood  
Brad Meltzer  
Joy Harjo  
George Saunders  
Paul Holes  
Daniel Bergner  
Angie Morgan  
Jerry Dennis /  
Dave Dempsey  
Benjamin Gilmer  
Fredrik Backman  
Margo Price  
David Sedaris  
Alice Wong /  
Stephanie Foo  
Pete Souza  
Anna Quindlen

## 2023

Keith Gave/  
Tim Rappleye  
Nina Totenberg  
Alvin Hall  
Dan Egan  
Ross Gay

Jasmine Warga  
Jeannette Walls  
Bonnie Garmus  
Chasten Buttigieg  
Geraldine Brooks  
Ruth Ware  
Nedra Glover Tawwab  
Ann Patchett  
Jack Driscoll  
Ed Yong  
Cameron McWhirter/  
Zusha Elinson  
Ken Follett  
V.E. Schwab  
Heather Cox  
Richardson  
Erin French  
Nita Prose  
Mitch Albom

## GUEST HOSTS

Jenie Altruda  
John U. Bacon  
April Baer  
Nancy Baker  
Sarah Bearup-Neal  
Holly T. Bird  
Kate Botello  
Jennifer Blakeslee  
Geraldine Brooks  
Fleda Brown  
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Anne-Marie Oomen

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Rahman  
Megan Raphael  
Troy Reimink  
Rochelle Riley  
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Neal Rubin  
Lynn Rutan  
Paul Saginaw  
John Searles  
Jack Segal  
Arti Shahani  
Patrick Shea  
Morgan Springer  
Anne Stanton  
Doug Stanton  
Paige St. John  
Anne Strainchamps  
Lisa Taylor  
Lysley Tenorio  
Ed Tracy  
Jerome Vaughn  
Colleen Wares  
Courtney Wiggins  
Peter Whorf  
Lucas Wittmann  
Kerrey Woughter

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

## “ KUDOS TO NWS! ”

“To me, one of the biggest charms of the series is how genuine and authentic it is. I have really enjoyed the authors and moderators sharing of themselves in such a personal way. When guests are such "real" people and share practical tips

as Mitch Albom did regarding his actual "how I do it" with number of hours writing a day and why that works for him, it's inspiring yet less daunting all at the same time!”

~ JANNIFER STROMBERG

# A COMMUNITY OF READERS AND WRITERS!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1) Ed Yong and Ed Ronco 2) Erin French 3) A fan of NWS 4) Heather Cox Richardson and Neal Rubin 5) Mitch Albom 6) Cameron McWhirter and Zusha Elinson 7) Nita Prose 8) Jack Driscoll. Center photos are 9) Ruth Queens and Deora Hoag and 10) Anne Stanton.



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