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For tickets visit NationalWritersSeries.org

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THE NWS TEAM

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TICKET INFORMATION

City Opera House Box Office

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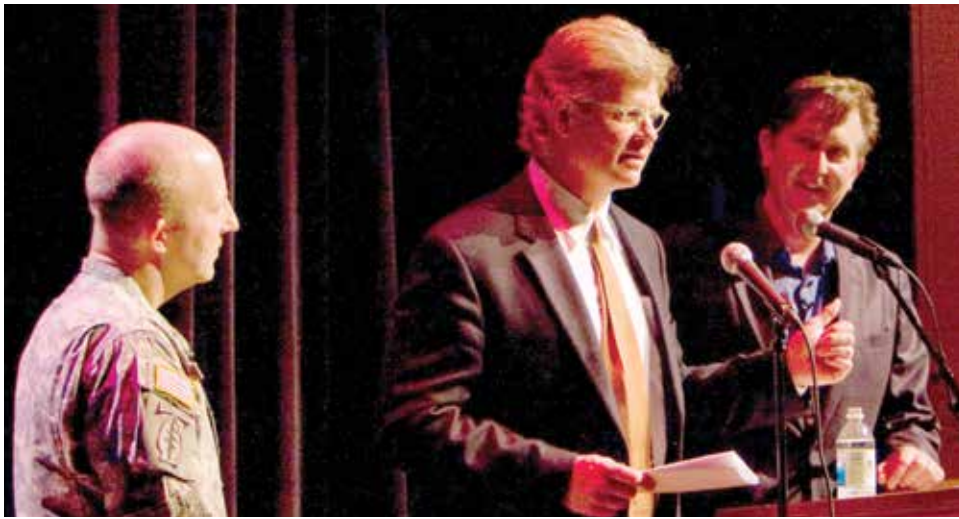
(231) 941-8082, ext. 201 CityOperaHouse.org

COVER PHOTOS:

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM:
Sebastian Junger, Alica Walker, Doug &
Anne Stanton, Margaret Atwood, Chasten
Buttigieg, Bonnie Garmus, Peter Heller

Jodi Picoult, Lee Child, Heather Cox
Richardson, Kaveh Akbar, Tom Brokaw,
Ann Patchett, Mitch Albom, Amy Tan,
Fredrik Backman, Jeannette Walls

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



WELCOME BOOK LOVERS!

It seems hard to believe, but we're celebrating 15 years of the National Writers Series this year.

It was actually sixteen years ago when my husband, Doug, and I, and friend Grant Parsons brainstormed the idea around our kitchen counter.

The idea for creating a special place for up-close, personal, intimate, smart, and surprising conversations with writers began in May 2009, when Doug was on a nationwide book tour for *Horse Soldiers*, the story of a dozen US Army Special Forces soldiers who went to Afghanistan in 2001, shortly after the Twin Towers, and America, were attacked. The story was retold in the movie *12 Strong*, adapted from Doug's book.

Horse Soldiers was an instant bestseller and would eventually spend about 3 months at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list, but the turnout at Doug's bookstore tour stops was often disappointing. The book tour, as it had existed for at least two decades, was



Top: Major Mark Mitchell with Grant Parsons and Doug Stanton at NWS's first unofficial event. Doug & Anne at the Traverse City screening of *12 Strong*.

no longer working, for a lot of reasons. He thought there must be a better way. On tour, he asked readers, bookstore owners, and event producers what

made events successful for them, and he brought what he learned back to Traverse City, and we crafted what we believe is the best book tour experience an author can have in the US. Our testimonials from NWS guests bear this to be true.

Meanwhile, while Doug was on this tour, Paulette Parsons and I organized an event for him at the City Opera House—a homecoming in his hometown, complete with Cook's House donated appetizers and live music. We put up a bunch of posters around town. The Opera House was packed to the rafters. Major Mark Mitchell, a key figure in *Horse Soldiers*, was on stage with Doug and Grant Parsons, and the conversation was stunning.

Doug's feeling, as a reporter with hundreds of interviews under his belt, was that NWS wouldn't feature facile Q&A's but dig into what it felt like for the writer, for all of us, to be alive at this very moment, right now, our hopes and dreams and fears, and to talk about the book as a record of this. We'd focus on these questions and the writer's craft. The event ended with a \$2,000 profit which was donated to a local school.

Doug was so excited that he immediately cold-called Elmore Leonard at his home. Elmore answered his Princess phone in his office and said "Yes" when Doug asked him and his son, Peter, also an author, to appear at NWS. When he introduced them on stage, Doug said, quite suddenly, "This is so much fun, let's do it again!" and announced the creation of something called the National Writers Series of Traverse City. Nobody had any idea what that was, or what it would be. That's how it was born. Out of unexpected joy. My artist friend Deb Sparks drew the logo, and the amazing



Elmore Leonard and his son Peter at the City Opera House, June 28, 2009.

Colleen Zanotti did all the graphics, and she's still with us!

Grant Parsons came up with the idea of awarding college scholarships (\$72,000 to date). In 2012, we created a youth literacy program with an eye toward raising generations of readers and writers. We officially formed the nonprofit in 2010 and Amy Alkon, the Advice Goddess columnist, was our first author. Wow, 280+ authors later, we're still going strong!

This is because, and only because, of you, of so many individuals, grantors and businesses who have given us the support to keep turning another page. And of course, there's our amazing staff and board.

All I can say is ... thank you. Thank you so much for letting us do this meaningful work.

Anne Stanton

NWS Executive Director and Co-founder





NWS Raising Writers does it all—from bringing mainstage authors to the classroom, getting students to write profiles of Cordia members, to getting kids to read all KINDS of books!

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WE'RE RAISING WRITERS!

It's a joy that this is too little space to describe all of the incredible impacts of our Raising Writers program.

Perhaps I should begin with our fall elementary poetry workshops, where fourth and fifth graders wrote about the most important aspects of their lives: their families, their love of Christmas, and pet lizards. Or maybe I should start with our College Essay class, in which juniors and seniors crafted acceptance-garnering personal statements for their college applications. And then there's our tenth annual Battle of the Books on the horizon, with teams already reading away in preparation for a day of fabulous, zany, book-based competition.

Truly, the best place to start is with what unifies these programs—the confidence they build. A fourth grade teacher motioned to me while one of her students read his poem in front of the class.

"He's always so shy," she whispered, "I'm amazed he's up there sharing!"

A high school student paused after we finished editing her college essay together. "You know," she said, "I don't think I would have applied to college this year without this class."

And the work continues. This spring, our classes include Sensory Poems and Circle Stories for elementary students, Fractured Fairy Tales for middle schoolers and Fiction Inspired by Myth, Legend and History for high school students. Our Antrim program features Nature Writing for middle schoolers and Poetry for high schoolers, and our Manistee program will feature a class called Publish Me.



JJ Brudi reads his article about Harlan (Pete) Peterson's life and love of motorcycles for our Journalism class at Cordia.

And speaking of publishing, our annual NWS *Literary Journal* of student work will launch this spring!

All of this is made possible by our incredible teachers, volunteers, our major grantors and donors, whose gifts enable us to offer every single creative writing class completely free. If you are interested in volunteering or financially supporting young writers, please contact me at education@nwstc.org. To register for a class, visit our website and click "Raising Writers."

And again, thank you. We're able to educate, inspire, and grow the creative minds of all students, due to the generosity of our community members.



Audrey Fierberg
NWS Education Director

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GIVING BACK - VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

"I don't think I've ever missed an event."

By Anne Stanton

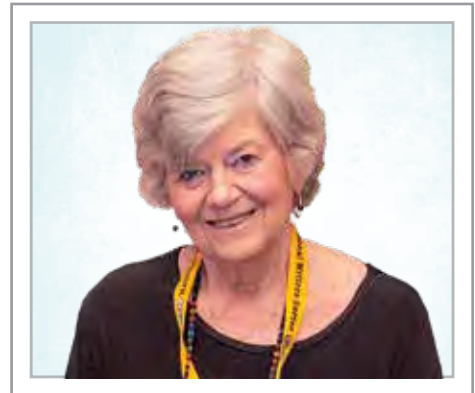
Back in the summer of 2009, Mary Ann Warner was scanning the paper to see what was going on in town. She read that Elmore Leonard and his son Peter were coming to the City Opera House to talk about a new book they'd written. She and her husband, Bob, immediately stepped up to volunteer.

"I remember getting there and talking to a man in one of the entryways going into the auditorium. Doug Stanton was in the lobby talking to the whole room of volunteers, and then he called out to welcome Elmer and Peter. Elmore raised his hand, and so did the man next to me. I thought, 'Oh god! Peter Elmore! That's who I've been talking to!' It was funny."

Doug spontaneously announced the National Writers Series at the Elmore Leonard event, and the nonprofit became official the next year.

Mary Ann was 60 that year, having retired from a 35-year career as a nurse. Since then, she believes she's been at every event, which is incredible especially considering there have been 281 events after Elmore Leonard's.

"I don't think I've ever missed an event. It's the first thing that goes into my calendar. It outweighs volunteering at Interlochen, it outweighs the Opera House. I love it!" she said. "I love being among people who enjoy books. I've read ever since I was a kid. I used to go to my grandmother's house up in Alpena. It was my grandpa, my grandma and me. Grandma would buy me two or three books each week, and by the end of the week, I'd have read them all."



Mary Ann arrives early at each event, part of a small book signing team. She usually "flaps" the books, which means using the flap of the book cover to mark the page that the author signs. Another volunteer puts on a Horizon Books discount sticker and another moves them to a pile.

"I've been doing this long enough that I know exactly what I should be doing. I don't ever say, 'I need to go to the restroom right now.' It doesn't work. Doug always calls me the best flapper around.

"Usually, we are pretty intent when we are there with the author. We try to keep them from talking to the guests because it's hard for them to talk and sign their books."

Over the years, Mary Ann has seen all kinds of authors, from an author who brought her own photographer to David Sedaris, who had a conversation with almost every person in the signing line. During it all, she has to keep an eye on the books.

"I'll never forget the time we had some appetizers in the lobby. Some people would pick up the food and then come over and put their drinks on the table and pick up a book with their greasy fingers. I had to tell them, ah, ah, ah!"



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on its 15 Year Anniversary.

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inspiring authors to
Traverse City and beyond!

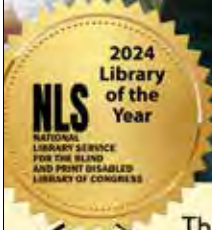


NANCY DAVY
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FEBRUARY 8, 7PM • LARS HOCKSTAD + LIVESTREAMED

GERALDINE BROOKS

A reckoning with grief & a search to find peace

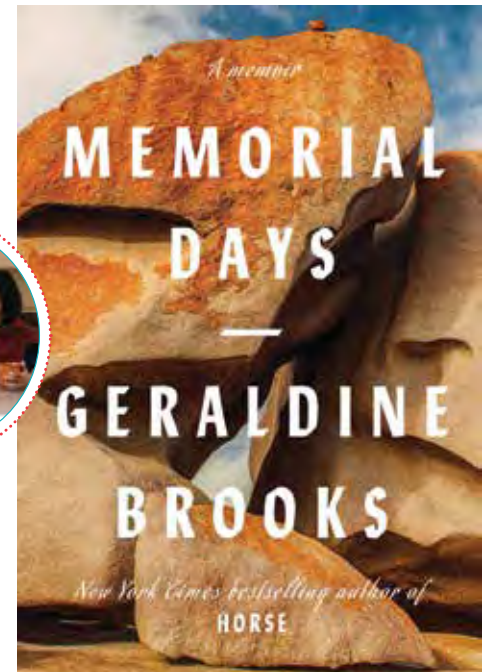
Join Geraldine Brooks for a talk about her heartrending memoir about the loss of her husband, Tony Horwitz, a larger-than-life man and their timeless love that was cut short.



In their early years together, Brooks and Horwitz were foreign correspondents reporting in conflict zones. They eventually settled down to raise two boys on Martha's Vineyard. The life they built was one of meaningful work, good humor, and tenderness. But all of this ended abruptly when, on Memorial Day 2019, Geraldine received the phone call we all dread. Tony - just 60 years old and, to her knowledge, vigorous and healthy - collapsed and died on a sidewalk while on book tour in Washington, D.C.

Three years later, she booked a flight to an island off the coast of Australia with the intention of giving herself time to mourn. There, she pondered how to rebuild her life around the void of Tony's death. And so the book began.

Geraldine Brooks is the author of six novels, including *Horse*, *People of the Book*, *Year of Wonders*, and the Pulitzer



Prize-winning *March*. Her writing has collectively sold millions of copies around the world. Born and raised in Australia, Brooks now divides her time between Sydney and Martha's Vineyard.

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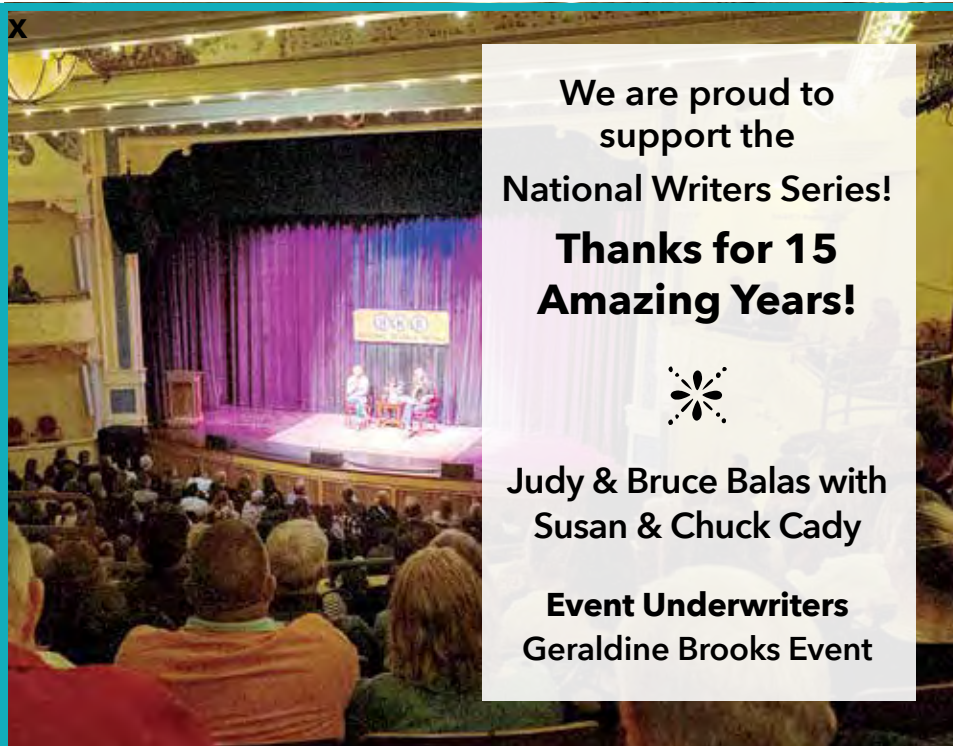
Event Underwriters: **Judy & Bruce Balas / Susan & Chuck Cady**

Literary Underwriter: **The Larry Gorton Talking Book Library at Traverse Area District Library**

Literary Sponsor: **Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home**

Literary Sponsor: **Michael's Place**

Livestream Underwriter: **Nancy Davy**



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**Thanks for 15
Amazing Years!**



**Judy & Bruce Balas with
Susan & Chuck Cady**

**Event Underwriters
Geraldine Brooks Event**



UEST HOST JACKI LYDEN is a host of *Weekend Edition* and *Weekend All Things Considered*. She was part of the award-winning NPR team that covered the Persian Gulf War. She wrote *Daughter of the Queen of Sheba: A Memoir*, which recounts her childhood of growing up with a mother who suffered from manic depression, and at times, believed she was the Queen of Sheba. She lives in Washington, D.C.



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Pictured from left to right: Dan Jonkhoff, Lindsey (Jonkhoff) Rogers, Chris Jonkhoff-Hater and Peg Jonkhoff

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FEBRUARY 27, 7PM • VIRTUAL EVENT ONLY

SCOTT TUROW

*Unputdownable courtroom
drama at its very best*

The National Writers Series is pleased to present Scott Turow, a writer and former practicing lawyer, who is the author of thirteen bestselling works of fiction, including *Presumed Innocent*.

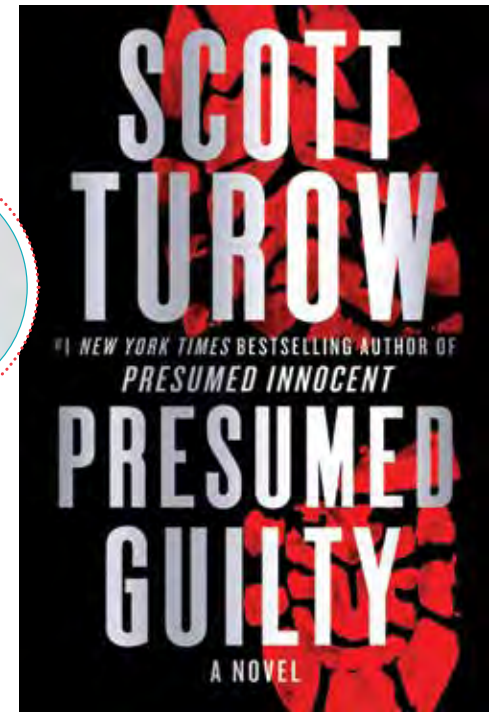


Turow's new book, *Presumed Guilty*, is a sequel to *Presumed Innocent*, the book that redefined the legal thriller and served as the basis for Apple TV+'s most-watched drama series ever.

Rusty is a retired judge attempting a third act in life with a loving soon-to-be wife. But the peace that's taken Rusty so long to find evaporates when Bea's young adult son, Aaron, living under their supervision while on probation for drug possession, disappears.

Aaron eventually turns up with a vague story about a camping trip with his troubled girlfriend, Mae. Days later, when she still hasn't returned, suspicion falls on Aaron, and when Mae is subsequently discovered dead, Aaron is arrested and set for trial on charges of first-degree murder.

Bea begs Rusty to return to court one last



time, to defend her son. For Rusty, the question is not whether to defend Aaron, or whether the boy is in fact innocent—it's whether the system to which he has devoted his life can ever provide true justice for those who are presumed guilty.

Turow's books have been translated into more than forty languages, sold more than thirty million copies worldwide, and have been adapted into movies and television projects.

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Livestream Underwriter: **Nancy Davy**



GUEST HOST DAVID BALDACCI is a global #1 bestselling author with over 150 million copies sold worldwide. His works have been adapted for both feature film and television. He is also the cofounder, along with his wife, of the Wish You Well Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting literacy efforts across America.

Books inspire us to think in new ways, explore different cultures, expand our world, increase our knowledge and provide us with unlimited entertainment.

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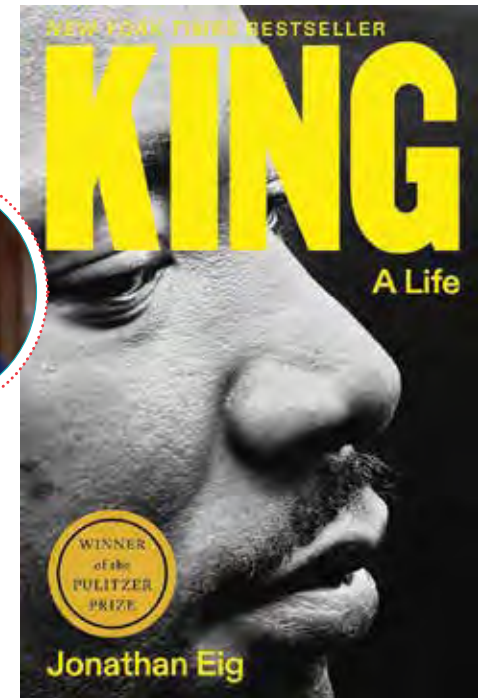


MARCH 13, 7PM • CITY OPERA HOUSE + LIVESTREAMED

JONATHAN EIG

Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for biography

Please welcome Jonathan Eig as he takes the stage to talk about his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, *King: A Life*, the first major biography written in decades about civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. An intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled human being who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself. Eig casts fresh light on his family's origins as well as his complex relationships with his wife, father, and fellow activists. In this landmark biography that draws from recently declassified FBI documents, Eig gives us an MLK whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime.



in a *Jeopardy* question (which was solved correctly for \$200).

He lives in Chicago with his wife and children and shares office space with the laundry machines.

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Literary Underwriters: Isiah & Marlene Smith

Literary Sponsor: Bay Books

Livestream Underwriter: Nancy Davy

Jonathan is a former senior writer for *The Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ali: A Life*, *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig*, and *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*. Ken Burns calls him "a master storyteller."

He's appeared on the *Today Show*, NPR's *Fresh Air*, and *The Daily Show*. But his greatest claim to fame, according to his parents, is that his name once appeared

**Together we can do so much
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a better place for everyone!**

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GUEST HOST IS ROCHELLE RILEY, Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Detroit. She formerly worked as an award-winning, nationally syndicated columnist for 20 years and has been inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame, North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame, and the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame. Her books include *That They Lived: African Americans Who Changed The World* and *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery*.



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ISIAH & MARLENE SMITH

APRIL 9, 7PM • CITY OPERA HOUSE + LIVESTREAMED

JENNIFER WEINER

*Stirring & soul-bearing novel
celebrating the power of love*

The National Writers Series
welcomes #1 *New York Times*
bestselling author
Jennifer Weiner to the City
Opera House stage.



She is known for her moving, humorous, and emotionally gripping novels about friendship, love and family bonds—especially those between sisters. Two of Weiner's most beloved and bestselling novels, *Mrs. Everything* and *In Her Shoes*, delve into sisterhood like none other, and now with *The Griffin Sisters' Greatest Hits* she may have written her best yet.



It's the story of two sisters, close in age, and to each other, but seemingly worlds apart: Zoe—charming, beautiful, hungry for fame; Cassie—a musical prodigy whose insecurities have driven her to retreat inward. On the brink of adulthood, destiny intervenes, catapulting the sisters into the spotlight for a brief shining moment. But after a whirlwind year in the public eye, the band abruptly breaks up. Fast forward two decades and the sisters—once inseparable—haven't spoken in 20 years. But when Zoe's teenage daughter decides to follow the path to pop stardom, it sets in motion a journey that may reunite the sisters—if secrets from the past don't break their bond forever.

The book is a powerful and moving story about sisterhood, and the relationship between mothers and daughters: the identities we forge and carry from childhood, the competitiveness, the bonds that get tested, the hurt we inflict on each other and the tremendous love and loyalty that can overcome all odds.

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UEST HOST DR. AMANDA SEWELL has served as music director at Interlochen Public Radio since 2019, and oversees the staff and programming at Classical IPR. She has overseen the addition of archival recordings of Interlochen student performances to IPR's broadcast library. She also hosts and produces *The Interlochen Collection*, a weekly program featuring those archival recordings.

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Kevin Rhodes piano
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Kevin Rhodes, Conductor
SYMPHONIC | OCT 20

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Ralph Votapek, Piano
Suren Bagratuni, Cello
MAESTRO | NOV 9/10

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POPS | DEC 21/22

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POPS | JAN 19

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TC Phil with IAA Dancers
SYMPHONIC | FEB 16

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Dr Dorothy Vogel, Piano
Gary Gatzke Jr, Double Bass
Dr Matthew Cochran, Guitar
SYMPHONIC | MAR 16

Rhodes + Stagnitta
Nancy Stagnitta, Flute
Kevin Rhodes, Piano
MAESTRO | MAR 29/30

For the Love of Nature
Kevin Rhodes, Conductor
SYMPHONIC | APR 13

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TC Jazz with 3 NMC Choirs
POPS | MAY 11

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PATRICE GOPO

Seeing beyond the empty spaces

Patrice Gopo is an award-winning essayist and the author of *Autumn Song: Essays on Absence, All the Colors We Will See, and All the Places We Call Home*.



Patrice is the debut winner of Interlochen's inaugural Patis Family Foundation Creative Arts Book Award. The \$25,000 prize recognizes the best literature in the creative arts field.

This free event is a partnership between Interlochen and the National Writers Series.



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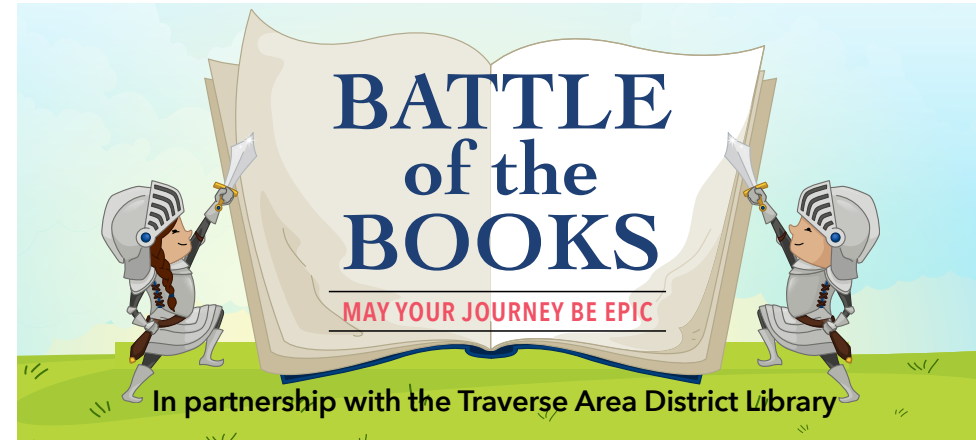
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APRIL 12 • BATTLE OF THE BOOKS • TC WEST HIGH SCHOOL



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 12 at Traverse City West High School.



Battle of the Books makes reading a fun, team building, friendship forming, and problem-solving activity

fun of reading together, and meet the best-selling author of a book they read.

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.battleofthebooksgt.org.

(Not a Traverse City Area Public Schools event.)

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 12. 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

PROUD TO SUPPORT

National Writers Series



Battle of the Books

*Today's readers,
tomorrow's leaders.*

Richard & Susan
Bingham

Battle of the Books Underwriters

National Writers Series
thanks the following
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Battle of the Books
and all of the Raising
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- Dragonfly Fund
- Oleson Foundation
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**READING IS YOUR
TICKET TO ADVENTURE!**




JUDY & BRUCE BALAS
in memory of Irene & Andrew Balas

Proud to support Battle of the Books
and the enjoyment of reading

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of the
BOOKS**

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We're honored to support the work of Battle of the Books and National Writers Series in helping readers dream.



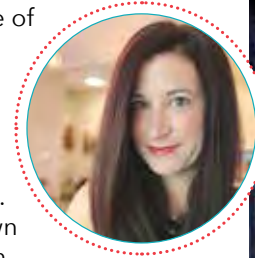
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APRIL 12 • BATTLE OF THE BOOKS • TC WEST HIGH SCHOOL

LINDSAY CURRIE

*Stirring & soul-bearing novel
celebrating the power of love*

For this year's Battle of the Books event, we are excited to welcome *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author Lindsay Currie. Lindsay will help crown the top teams, give an inspiring talk, and field an always unpredictable mix of questions from the young readers.



Lindsay is the bestselling author of mysteries for young readers. Students will read her award-winning book **Scratch Scratch** a chilling ghost story based on real Chicago history about a malevolent spirit, an unlucky girl, and a haunting mystery that will tie the two together.

She is the author of The Delta Games series, and six standalone mystery novels, including *The Girl in White*, and *It's Watching!* Her most recent title, *The Mystery of Locked Rooms*, which was the #1 Indie Next pick for May/June 2024 and a Read with Jenna Jr. pick!

Lindsay grew up on Nancy Drew and loves a good twisty tale. When she's not writing, Lindsay can generally be found looking for an adventure of her own. She loves researching forgotten history and recently relocated from Chicago to a 220 acre farm in downstate Illinois where she finally gets to see stars every night, and take hikes every day.

Coming soon: *It's Watching* (February 4, 2025 Delacorte/Penguin Random



House) and *The House With No Keys* (Fall 2025!) For more details on Lindsay's upcoming books, please visit lindsaycurrie.com.

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Congratulations!

and thanks to National Writers Series for 15 years of amazing storytelling!

THE ONLY THING YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO KNOW IS THE LOCATION OF THE LIBRARY.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

**Dick & Sue Campbell Event Underwriters
LEIF ENGER EVENT**

APRIL 22, 7PM • CITY OPERA HOUSE + LIVESTREAMED

LEIF ENGER

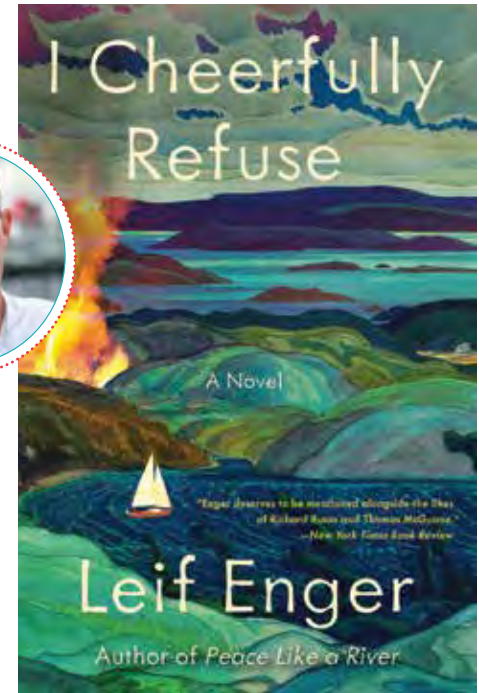
A symphony against despair

Please welcome Leif Enger, who will take the stage to talk about *I Cheerfully Refuse*, his newest book praised by author Kristin Hannah as “my favorite novel of the year.” It is a national bestseller and Amazon’s #9 “Top 20 Book Pick” of the year.



Set in a climate-ravaged, not-too-distant America, the novel tells the tale of Rainy, who sets sail on Lake Superior in search of his departed, deeply beloved, bookselling wife. On the water, he encounters lunatic storms and rising corpses from the warming depths. On land, he finds increasingly desperate and illiterate people, a malignant billionaire ruling class, crumbled infrastructure, and a lawless society. Despite the unrelenting danger at sea and land, he is buoyed by physical beauty, generous strangers, and a young companion who unexpectedly comes aboard.

Leif Enger grew up in Osakis, Minnesota, and worked as a reporter for Minnesota Public Radio before writing his debut novel *Peace Like a River*, which sold more than a million copies and was named one of the Year’s Best Books by *Time Magazine* and the *Los Angeles Times*. His second novel, *So Brave, Young, and Handsome*, was also



an award-winning national bestseller. His third novel *Virgil Wander* was longlisted for the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and was named a best book of the year by Amazon, Library Journal, Bookpage, and Chicago Public Library. He lives with his wife in Duluth, Minnesota.

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Event Underwriters: Dick & Sue Campbell

Livestream Underwriter: Nancy Davy



GUEST HOST DOUG STANTON is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *In Harm’s Way* & *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, & attorney Grant Parsons are co-founders. He & Anne have three children & live in Traverse City.

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And Charley
Had Visited Traverse City
They Would Have Stopped At
Landmark Books*

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MAP of JOHN STEINBECK'S Travels with Charley

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LANDMARK BOOKS TRING TEAM

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease...”

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Proud to Support the National Writers Series and the Alua Arthur author event

Herm Triezenberg & Elizabeth Mostrom 'Health & Wellness' Author Conversations

BECOME A FRIEND OF NWS

The National Writers Series is best known for bringing great authors to the City Opera House, which has helped make Traverse City a cultural hotspot of the North. Our Raising Writers program supporting young writers provides **FREE** creative writing classes, poetry workshops, and Battle of the Books, a fun reading incentive program. In addition we award \$8,000 a year in scholarships to college-bound students. We invite you to become a Friend of NWS & help support all these endeavors. **THANK YOU!**

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$50/year

- Purchase up to two (2) tickets/per event during advance purchase weeks

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP - \$100/year

- Purchase up to four (4) tickets/per event during advance purchase weeks

To become a friend, please go to **NationalWritersSeries.org**, call 231-486-6868, or mail a check made out to the **Writers Series of Traverse City** at 3301 Veterans Drive, Suite 214, Traverse City, MI 49684

MAY 1, 7PM • CITY OPERA HOUSE + LIVESTREAMED

Supported by Herm Triezenberg and Elizabeth Mostrom 'Health & Wellness' Author Conversations

ALUA ARTHUR

Meeting a friend in search of peace

New York Times bestselling author Alua Arthur's deeply transformative memoir *Briefly Perfectly Human* reframes how we think about death and how it can help us lead better, more fulfilling, and authentic lives.



As our country's leading "death doula," she's spreading a transformative message with her own personal story: thinking about your death—whether imminent or not—will breathe wild, new potential into your life.

Warm, generous, and funny, Arthur supports and helps manage end-of-life care on many levels. The business matters, medical directives, memorial planning; but also honoring the quiet moments, when monitors are beeping and loved ones have stepped out to get some air and her clients become deeply contemplative. They want to say aloud to her their aching, unfinished business—regrets, fears, secret joys, hidden affairs, and dim realities. When this happens, Arthur focuses her attention at the pulsing



center of her clients' anguish and creates space for them, and sometimes their loved ones, to find peace.

Arthur combines intimate storytelling with a passionate appeal for loving, courageous end-of-life care—what she calls "death embrace."

Praised by author Jodi Picoult who called it "a truly unique, inspiring perspective on how we let go of this world."

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
Livestream Underwriter: **Nancy Davy**



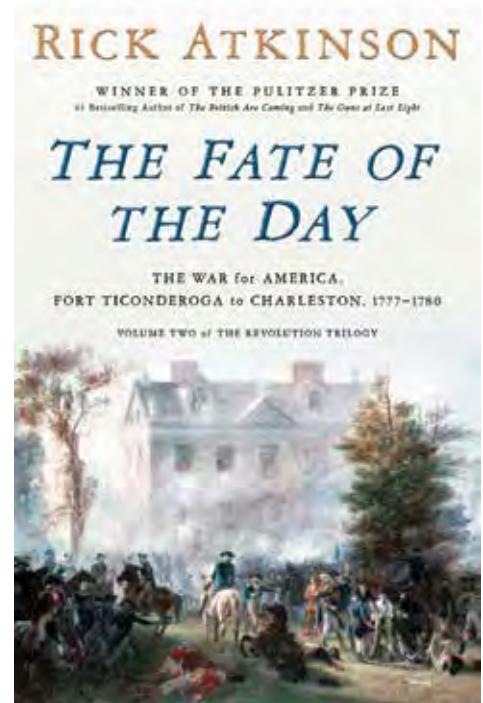
GUEST HOST DANA BLACK is an executive public speaking coach, moderator, storyteller, emcee, podcast host and creator of *I Swear on My Mother's Grave*, and a SAG-AFTRA TV/film/voiceover actor for over 15 years. For the last three years, Dana has been a speaker delivery coach for TEDxChicago, and coaches local business leaders and entrepreneurs right here in Traverse City.

RICK ATKINSON

Supported by Lola Jackson
and Dilys Tosteson Garcia
'Community Building'
Author Conversations

*Washington's army fights
between victory & defeat*

Join the National Writers Series for an inspiring conversation with #1 *New York Times* bestselling and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Atkinson. He will talk about his latest book, *The Fate of the Day*, with *New York Times* bestselling author **Doug Stanton**.



A riveting narrative exploring the pivotal middle years of the American Revolutionary War, the publication of *Fate of the Day* marks the 250th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolution. Atkinson's brilliant account of the lethal conflict between the Americans & the British offers not only deeply researched and spectacularly dramatic history, but also a new perspective on the demands that a democracy makes on its citizens. It is the second volume of his American Revolution Trilogy.

Atkinson is the author of seven previous works of history, including *The British Are Coming*, the first volume of his American Revolution Trilogy. He is also the author of *The Long Gray Line*, the Liberation Trilogy (*An Army at Dawn*, *The Day of Battle*, and *The Guns at Last Light*).

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY

Literary Underwriter: **A GENEROUS FRIEND OF NWS**

Livestream Underwriter: **Nancy Davy**

GUEST HOST DOUG STANTON is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling 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 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.



“Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.”
~ Charles W. Eliot



LITERARY UNDERWRITER

A GENEROUS FRIEND OF NWS

“I love the NWS ... and I consider sponsorship a privilege!”

“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”

MAYA ANGELOU

Congratulations NWS on 15 years supporting writers and readers!

**Lola Jackson & Dilys Tosteson García
'Community Building' Author Conversations**

SENSORY-FRIENDLY ROOM

The City Opera House and the National Writers Series have joined forces to create a sensory-friendly space for guests who require a soothing and comfortable environment during our author events.

Please see a National Writers Series volunteer for assistance.

NWS works with The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards as a designated Certified Autism Center™ (CAC).



“I had a wonderful time in Traverse City with the National Writers Series. The audience was warm and receptive—with a great sense of humor. And Doug and Anne Stanton make marvelous, obliging hosts. Can’t recommend it enough.”

~ Erik Larson, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

CHEERS TO OUR NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES VOLUNTEERS! We are so grateful for all you do.



From the top left to right: Volunteers ready to usher guests to their seats; Posing before the Bill Morris event in Lions garb; Jinhee Scholtus, Mary Ann Warner, and Jean Sarasin; Battle of the Books volunteers Marcy Lindberg, Betsy Moore and Yvonne Sage. The evenings all start here; Heather Shumaker & Affaf Arabbo; Holiday season at the City Opera House; Perks of volunteering - cookie samples; Photo shoot with Jodi Picoult; Michelle and friends; So many books!

Fresh

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HAMPTON SIDES



AMY TAN



KEVIN KWAN

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
Difffenbaugh
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
Brian Castner/
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 Tomlinosn
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 Fasthose
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

2024

Bonnie Jo
Campbell
Kaveh Akbar
Twin Flames
Burned!
Barbara McQuade
Don Winslow
Chris Grabenstein
Hampton Sides
Amy Tan
Kevin Kwan
Jane Smiley
Erik Larson
Peter Heller
Gretchen Whitmer
Jodi Picoult
Timothy Snyder
Shelby Van Pelt
Paula Hawkins
Aphrodite Jones
Ethan Cross
Kimberly Brubaker
Bradley
Bill Morris

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Jenie Altruda
John U. Bacon
April Baer

Nancy Baker
Sarah Bearup-Neal
Holly T. Bird
Kate Botello
Jennifer Blakeslee
Geraldine Brooks
Fleda Brown
Benjamin Busch
Elizabeth Buzzelli
Elon Cameron
Cynthia Canty
Phil Caputo
Kendra Carr
Susan Casey
Brittany Cavallaro
Jeremiah
Chamberlin
Coco Champagne
Alan Cheuse
Rick Coates
Michael Delp
Tony Demin
Jerry Dennis
Michael Dow
Nick Edson
David Ebershoff
Loren Estleman
Rich Fahle
Christal Frost
Bob Giles
David Griffith
Bryan Gruley
Jeff Haas
Leigh Haber
Colin Harrison
Ed Helms
Ron Hogan
Peter Heller
Gretchen Whitmer
Jodi Picoult
Timothy Snyder
Shelby Van Pelt
Paula Hawkins
Aphrodite Jones
Ethan Cross
Kimberly Brubaker
Bradley
Bill Morris

Chad Lindsey
Mardi Link
Pat Livingston
Thomas Lynch
Cara McDonald
Paula McLain
Beth Milligan
Megan Miranda
Ari Mokdad
Angie Morgan
Stefanie Murray
Cari Noga
Susan Odgers
Anne-Marie
Oomen
Eric Patterson
Peter Payette
Nate Payne
Leonard Pitts, Jr.
Nargis Hakim
Rahman
Megan Raphael
Troy Reimink
Rochelle Riley
Ed Ronco
Neal Rubin
Lynn Rutan
Paul Saginaw
John Searles
Jack Segal
Arti Shahani
Patrick Shea
Morgan Springer
Anne Stanton
Doug Stanton
Paige St. John
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Bob Sutherland
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LIVESTREAM UNDERWRITER

Nancy Davy

SCOTT TUROW

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BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

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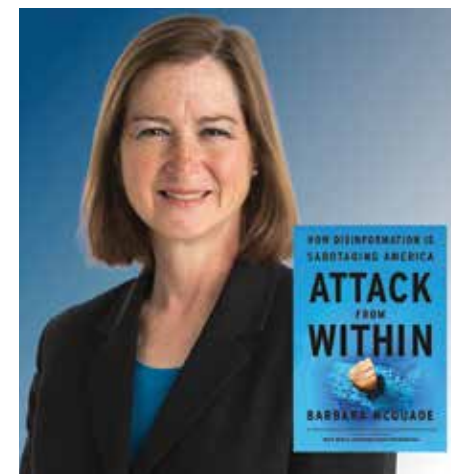
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KUDOS FOR NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES

“The National Writers Series provides an incredible opportunity for students in northern Michigan to meet with authors and learn not only about their craft, but about a pathway to a career that might otherwise be a mystery to them. I was deeply impressed with the questions the students asked and their level of engagement as we discussed the topic of my book as well as my background. I think that when students can meet authors in person, the experience opens their eyes and removes imagined roadblocks. Students realize that writing, publishing, creating or otherwise making their mark in the world is something that they can do, too.”



~BARBARA McQUADE, author of *New York Times* bestseller *Attack from Within*

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SUMMER GALA HOSTS, who underwrite NWS's biggest fundraiser of the year.

2024

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Traverse Commons

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Biederman
Susie & Bill Janis
With Support from
Rota Bump in memory
of David Bump
Wayne & Terry Lobdell
Steve Baumgartner &
Danielle Beauvais

2022

West Shore Bank
The Bump Family

2021

West Shore Bank
Aurora Cellars

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

2015

Anne & Robert Tucker

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\$10,000/year for 3 years

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Aubrey Adelle Bliss
Rota & David Bump
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Anonymous
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Karen & Roger Edgley
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Teresa Olson
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Beverly Cuthbert
Rebecca D'Agostino & David Faling
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Nancy Davy
Michael & Brenda Earl
Marilyn Elliott
Mike & Mary Forness
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DONATION PERIOD 12 MONTHS ~ FROM 1-18-24 THRU 1-18-25

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Jeanne & Michael Haynes
Tom Hazelton
Stephen Hennessy
Bette Jackson
Karin Jacobson & Robert Seeman
Bill & Susie Janis
Jill & Jerome Jelinek
Ed & Ann Kalat
Ruthanne Kladder
Kima Kraimer
Judith & Charles Kraus
Karen Lappin
Leslie Lee
Paul Lerg
Lisa Thauvette
Laurie & Paul Madison
Larry Mawby & Lois Bahle
Suzanne McCarthy
Meredith McComb
Susan Michener
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Betsy & Dave Olson
Mary Oosterhouse
Stephen & Raenette Palmer
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Christina Pryde
Kathleen Quist
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Rehmann Financial
Beedy Ritchie & Bruce Neiner
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Sumit Sengupta & Cassie Brooks
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Sally Grady
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Sally Backofen
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THANK YOU! WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

DONATION PERIOD 12 MONTHS ~ FROM 9-18-23 THRU 9-18-24

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Kim Clarke
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Anne Cooper
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Renee and Don Fedrigo
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Charla Gordon
Joseph Heyd
Mary Jane Johnson
Mary Kropp
Darrell & Sue Milner
Nancy Navarre
Deborah Pahssen
Peter Putnam
Jeanine Rossbach
Bonnie Spanier &
Steve Brown
Jim Verville
Corey Wagner
Annette Weaver
Susan Wheadon
Desiree Worthington
Anne Yurik

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!

The incredible support from our community is both amazing and humbling. We are able to continue these conversations with world-renowned authors, provide creative writing and poetry classes to area youth, award four annual college scholarships, in partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, and engage hundreds of students every year in Battle of the Books because of you!

For the most up-to-date list of
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please visit the NWS website:
NationalWritersSeries.org

City Opera House congratulates our longtime partner the National Writers Series of Traverse City on **15 spectacular years** of authors, artistry, and innovation.

HERE'S TO 15 MORE!

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2024 - IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!

A LOOK BACK

- 1 True crime author Aphrodite Jones & Clark Bunting, NWS Board president.
- 2 Ticket line for Jodi Picoult event.
- 3 A Twin Flames survivor & cult expert.
- 4 Doug & Anne speak to the audience
- 5 Barbara McQuade & John Bacon.
- 6 NWS Tech team packs it up.
- 7 Governor Whitmer & Bob Sutherland.
- 8 Peter Heller signs books.
- 9 An enthusiastic Kaveh Akbar.
- 10 Jodi Picoult & Rochelle Riley.



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RAISING THE LITERARY BAR SINCE 2009



Aphrodite Jones meets with students

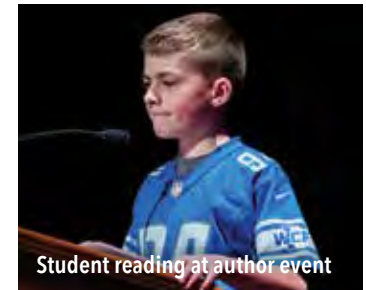


Noelle & Joelle - best wishes!

- NWS proudly broadcasts select author events on IPR and YouTube, and makes them available to public radio stations around the country.
- We are honored to have awarded \$72,000 in scholarships to 54 college-bound students.
- We've hosted 281 author events for onstage conversations over the past 14 years.
- Our Raising Writers program, draws students from a six-county area who love to learn about writing.
- Every year dozens of teams are engaged in a creative and fun Battle of the Books. Last year NWS had 370 fourth-and fifth-graders reading and being quizzed on eight books.
- Each spring, we host poetry workshops at Traverse Heights and Blair elementary schools. This past academic year we added Courtade and Cherry Knoll elementary plus Manistee County.
- NWS staff are all certified in autism training, and Traverse City is now a Certified Autism Destination by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards.
- We annually publish a *Literary Journal* of student writing from our Raising Writers programs, including poetry workshops, creative writing classes, and more. You can find it at Horizon Books and on the NWS website.
- Co-founder Doug Stanton is a Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award winner & past Michigianian of the Year.
- Traverse City has been a "Book City" since 2015.



Author Bill Morris with Paula Jo & Jamie Kemler.



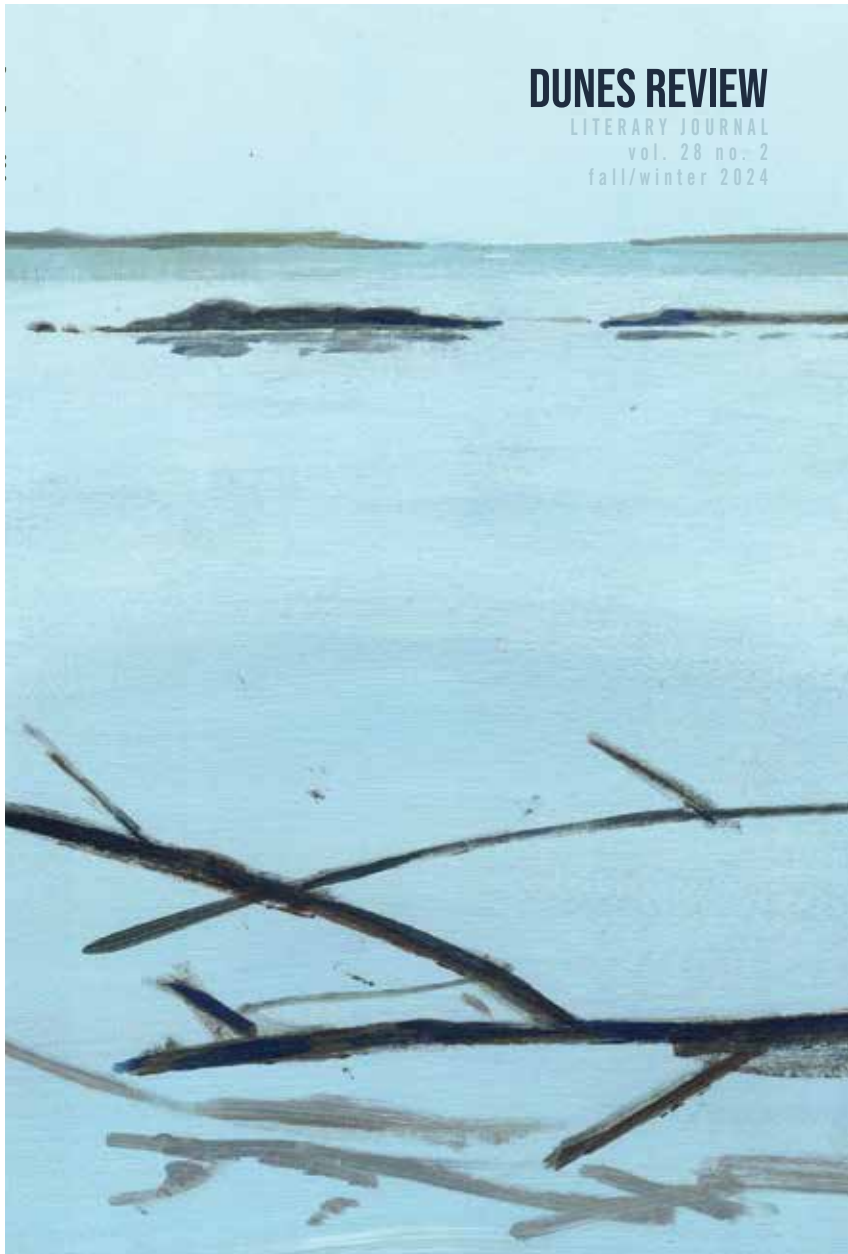
Student reading at author event



Shelby Van Pelt fan!



Book handout day



DUNES REVIEW

LITERARY JOURNAL
vol. 28 no. 2
fall/winter 2024

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FEBRUARY 20

HAITI: CRISIS IN CONTEXT

MONIQUE CLESCA
(REMOTE)

WRITER, JOURNALIST, ADVOCATE
MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE SEARCH FOR A HAITIAN SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS
FORMER ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATION OFFICER FOR UNICEF IN HAITI



JAKE JOHNSTON

DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH
AUTHOR OF *AID STATE: ELITE PANIC, DISASTER CAPITALISM, AND THE BATTLE TO CONTROL HAITI*



MARCH 20

THE BLUE ECONOMY: MICHIGAN'S GLOBAL ROLE

JOHN AUSTIN

SENIOR NON-RESIDENT FELLOW, BROOKINGS INSTITUTION
DIRECTOR OF THE MICHIGAN ECONOMIC CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
CREATOR OF THE 'GROWING MICHIGAN'S BLUE ECONOMY' INITIATIVE



APRIL 17

ECHOES OF CHANGE: THE LEGACY OF STUDENT ACTIVISM

A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND EVENT, CONCEIVED BY NMC STUDENTS ON IAF'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM. MORE INFO AT TCIAF.COM



MAY 15

ON JOURNALISM, MEDIA & INFORMATION LITERACY

MORE INFO AT TCIAF.COM EVENT PARTNER



JUNE 12

NORTH AMERICA 2.0

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