



NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES

A year-round book festival

FALL SEASON 2025



KATE BAER



LANCE RICHARDSON



ANGELA FLOURNOY



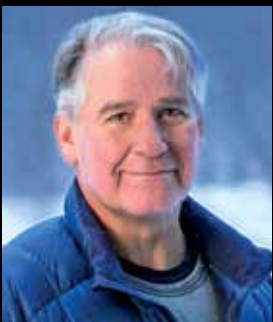
JOE HILL



MARY ROACH



TODD GODDARD



BRYAN GRULEY



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NationalWritersSeries.org

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AUDREY IRONTREE	Education Manager
KENDALL KOTCHER	Marketing Manager
HANNA LEE-KLEB	Events & Operations Manager
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TICKET INFORMATION

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

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

WELCOME BOOK LOVERS

Welcome to the National Writers Series and our 15-year celebration of bringing you the very best in storytelling, entertaining ideas, and surprising conversations with people from around the world.

I find it hard to remember that this all began as a talk around our kitchen table among friends, Grant Parsons, Anne Stanton, and me. Everyone, and we mean everyone, deserves a huge thank you for making that small moment into something this big, impacting so many people.

Authors and publishers think of NWS as a premiere book event, one of the very best in the US, for anyone on a national tour. That's because of you and your attention to the author and their art as a new story comes to life up there in the lights, onstage.

We discover maybe we aren't so different after all, or maybe we are. We're grateful to sit side by side as the night unfolds, as discoveries appear. Maybe these conversations are like one you might have on a train at night traveling through new country, the car rocking, the lights of houses beyond the cold window, blinking. Sometimes you can hear a pin drop; sometimes all you hear is your neighbor's laugh. That's our hope, that we catch **THAT** train, that we arrive in places we had not imagined. Storytelling is travel, it's departure and arrival. It's magic made from scratch.



Doug Stanton, age 14, explaining his poem to the poet and novelist Jim Harrison, who couldn't have been more gracious. Interlochen Arts Academy, creative writing program—aspiring writer, full-time nerd.

NWS is successful because Traverse City, my hometown, where I roamed as a nerd at 14 (I have the class picture, yes) up and down Front Street, wondering how in the world someone became a writer, is an accepting and encouraging place. It was then and still is. People move here from around the country with new ideas, changing the dynamic. The change we wanted is this: bring the world to our main street, into our lives. Let's put a book in every hand, a story in every ear.

The mission of the National Writers Series is twofold. The first is to bring the best writers we can find in the country to meet those, in an up-close way, who love to read, think, and be entertained.

The second mission is raising a new generation of readers.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF GREAT CONVERSATIONS!

We offer the amazing Battle of the Books, creative writing courses, college application tutoring, and poetry workshops in area elementary schools. We also bring mainstage authors to area classrooms so that the students can meet that famous author I was looking for at age 14.

And we do all this at no cost to students.

Raising Writers is delivering a huge gift to our entire community. Writing gives students a voice, and it hones their communication skills. There is no other professional skill more necessary than reading and writing.

This coming year, expect to see writing classes for adults!

“**Storytelling is TRAVEL, it's DEPARTURE and ARRIVAL. It's MAGIC made from scratch.**”

In the end, all of this is really about the transformative power of storytelling. Connecting with others who are figuring out their own story and what it all means. And it's amazing. Thank you for being part of it!

With warmest regards and gratitude,

DOUG STANTON,
Co-founder and #1
New York Times
bestselling author, *In*
Harm's Way, *Horse*
Soldiers, *The Odyssey*
of Echo Company



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.



For tickets visit NationalWritersSeries.org

WE ARE RAISING WRITERS!

Given my position as education director, it should be no surprise that fall is my favorite season. The chill in the morning air brings with it all the promise and possibility of the back-to-school season, and the memory of excitedly counting down the days to the start of each school year. What new friends might be made? What new things would be learned?

I felt that familiar excitement as I planned the National Writers Series Raising Writers fall classes this year. Students will have more opportunities than ever before to create lasting friendships through a shared love of writing. Our classes include a sequel to our twice-waitlisted (it was just that popular!) **screenwriting course** for middle schoolers, **Antrim County Language Lab** where students will conduct linguistic experiments and mad-science wordplay, a **collaborative storytelling class** for elementary school students, a **TTRPG character creation class** (think writing for games like Dungeons and Dragons,) and a **Once Upon A Boat Class**, where students will craft creative nonfiction essays about a sailing day they'll experience together (the most adventurous

of Raising Writers class yet!) We're also hosting a session of our life-changing **College Essay Class**, which gives high-school juniors and seniors the opportunity to get one-on-one coaching on how to write a competitive admissions essay.

But, that back-to-school buzz isn't the only fall feeling that makes this season wonderful. Halloween, with its explosion of creative costumes, happy haunts, and tantalizing treats is on the way, and Raising Writers is celebrating in style.

We're hosting a **Mystery Writing Class** and a **Spooky Super Short Story Class**, where young writers can learn the craft of frightening flash-fiction. And if you're the kind of adult who has already had their own Halloween costume planned for months (guilty,) don't feel left out. Join me for a **Horror Writing for Adults Class**, in collaboration with Tank Space, where we'll write our best scary stories and share them at an after-class community reading and Halloween party. Need an extra reason to dust off those fake teeth or monster claws? The winner of the costume contest will get a free



Lola Russell won the National Writers Series Robert and Marcy Branski Poetry Award in both her junior and senior years of high school. She is a recent graduate from the Greenspire High School and Career Tech Writers Studio and will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall of 2025 to pursue a major in film and television. In addition to her passion for stories and poetry, Lola enjoys going on small adventures outdoors wherever she can find them. The National Writers Series wishes Lola all the best as she begins her collegiate journey!

You can read Lola's winning entry at nationalwritersseries.org/anti-ode-to-starbucks-drive-thrus/

WE ARE RAISING WRITERS!

ticket to see Joe Hill at our mainstage author event!

If Halloween isn't your scene but you still want to write with us this season, we'll be hosting a **Holiday Picture Book Class** for adults as well. Join us in December to write your own "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," to share with any little loves in your life. All funds generated by our adult classes are donated back to the Raising Writers program, so you're not just having fun writing and meeting new people, you're doing something good.

Raising Writers classes are **FREE**, always, for young writers to participate. We're able to offer these free classes to our community thanks to the generous

support of our grantors and donors, and to the adults who join us for our creative writing classes. Thank you. You are helping us to keep the fall a season of learning and excitement for kids across Northern Michigan.

For more information on classes, to make a donation or to get involved, contact me, Audrey Irontree, at education@nwstc.org.

With gratitude,



Audrey
Audrey Irontree
NWS Education Director



2025 RAISING WRITERS HIGHLIGHTS



(clockwise from top left) Last fall's Sketch to Scene class gets zany. Gracie Gregory reads at the Lit Journal Launch Party. Marketing manager Kendall Kotcher and Limerick Jam winner Elena Edwardson at the Pit Spitters. The team "The Natural 20s" celebrate a correct answer at NWS Battle of the Books. Julius Baker reads his published poem at Traverse Heights. Grammar Grannies discuss their answer.

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 Michigan. Our Raising Writers program supporting young writers provides **FREE** creative writing classes, poetry workshops, and NWS Battle of the Books, a fun reading incentive program. Since 2010, we have awarded \$84,000 in college scholarships to 62 students. We invite you to become a Friend of NWS and help support all these endeavors. **THANK YOU!**

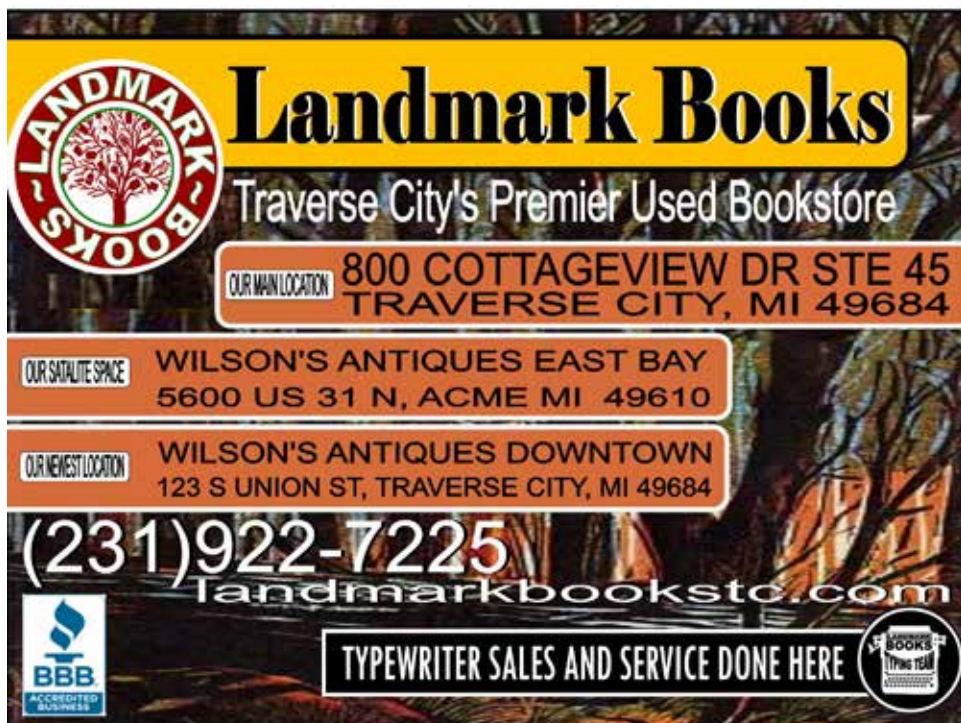
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$50/year

- 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
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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

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National Writers Series
on its 15-Year Anniversary.

Thank you for bringing
inspiring authors to
Traverse City and beyond!



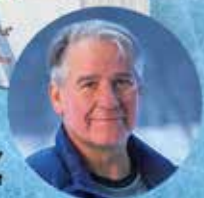
NANCY DAVY
NATIONAL WRITERS SERIES
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A disgraced hockey star
accused of a **brutal double
murder.**

A defense attorney and a
detective determined to
uncover the truth.

Welcome to
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severnhouse.com/bitterfrost



Author Bryan Gruley
Photo by Don Rutt

BRYAN GRULEY

National Writers Series is kicking off its fall season with Traverse City's own Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Bryan Gruley** and his brand-new crime thriller: ***Bitterfrost***.

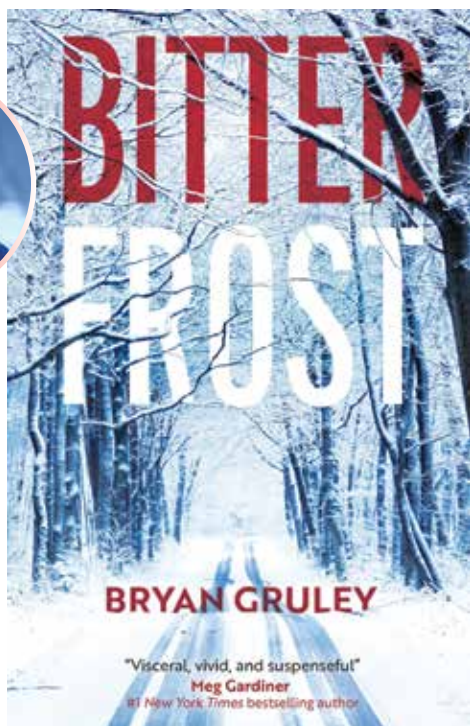


Thirteen years ago, former ice hockey star Jimmy Baker quit the game after almost killing an opponent. Now, as the Zamboni driver for the amateur team in his hometown of Bitterfrost, Michigan, he's living his penance. Until the morning when he awakens to the smell of blood...

Jimmy soon finds himself arrested for a brutal double murder. The kicker? He has no memory of the night in question. And as the evidence racks up against him, Jimmy's case is skating on thin ice. Could he have committed such a gruesome crime?

As his defense attorney, Devyn Payne, and the prosecuting detective, Garth Klimmek, race to uncover the truth, time is running out for Jimmy. Because all he can really be sure of is that he is capable of taking a life. The question is, in his blacked-out state, did he take two?

Bryan Gruley is the Edgar-nominated author of six novels – *Purgatory Bay*, *Bleak Harbor*, *The Starvation Lake Trilogy*, and his most recent, *Bitterfrost* – and one award-winning work of nonfiction. A lifelong journalist, he shared in *The Wall Street Journal*'s Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the September 11 terrorist attacks. He lives in



Traverse City with his wife, Pamela, where he can be found playing hockey, singing in his band, or spending time with his children and grandchildren.

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Livestream Underwriter: Nancy Davy

"As biting and relentless as an Arctic wind, this is the best 'Northern Noir' I've read in many years"

~ Steve Hamilton, *New York Times* bestseller



GUEST HOST JOHN U. BACON has worked nearly three decades as a writer, a public speaker, and a college instructor, winning awards for all three. He has authored twelve books on sports, business, health, and history, five of which are *New York Times* bestsellers. He appears often on TV, including HBO, ESPN, Fox Business, MSNBC, and the Big Ten Network.

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

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and the Mary Roach event**

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MARY ROACH

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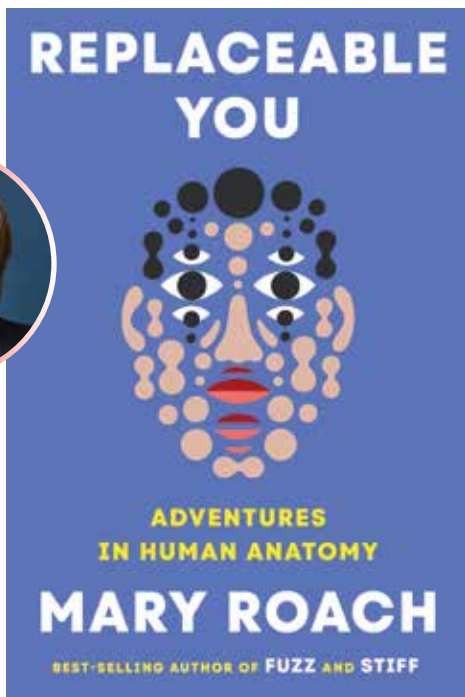
Author Conversations

Please welcome back **MARY ROACH** with her latest book—*Replaceable You: Adventures in Human Anatomy*, a rollicking exploration of cutting-edge regenerative medicine. With characteristic humor and detail, Roach orients readers in a field that brims with medical solutions to meet some of the most daunting challenges posed by the unpredictable experience of inhabiting a human body.



From cataract surgeries to gender-affirming procedures, Roach charts the impressive expansion of medical possibility and celebrates how far we've come exploring the questions we still face today. Through interviews with patients, physicians, pathologists, engineers, and scientists, Roach immerses readers in the wondrous quest to build a new you.

Mary Roach is the author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Stiff*, *Spook*, *Bonk*, *Gulp*, *Grunt*, and *Packing For Mars*. She has written for *National Geographic*, *Wired*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, among others, and her TED talk made the TED 20 Most Watched list. She has been a guest editor for *Best American Science* and *Nature Writing*, a finalist for the Royal



Society's Winton Prize, and a winner of the American Engineering Societies' journalism award, in a category for which, let's be honest, she was the sole entrant.

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Literary Sponsor: **Great Lakes
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Livestream Underwriter: **Nancy Davy**

"We are all replaceable to some degree or another . . . with the exception of Mary Roach."

~ Jason Alexander, actor/director



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*. His writing has appeared in numerous publications, including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. He attended Interlochen Arts Academy, Hampshire College, and received an MFA from the Writers' Workshop. He created the National Writers Series with his wife, Anne, and attorney Grant Parsons. He and Anne have three children and live in Traverse City.

— “

**The best gift anyone
can give, I believe, is the gift
of sharing themselves.**

OPRAH WINFREY

” —

**Proud to support the National Writers Series
and the Angela Flournoy event**

**Lola Jackson & Dilys Tosteson García
“Community Building” Author Conversations**



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for 15 wonderful years of
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.....

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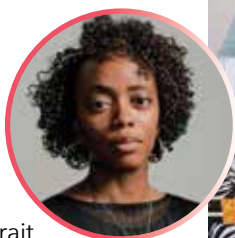
DIANA MILOCK

**EVENT SPONSOR FOR THE
ANGELA FLOURNOY AUTHOR EVENT**

ANGELA FLOURNOY

Supported by Dilys Tosteson Garcia & Lola Jackson "Community Building"
Author Conversations

Angela Flournoy, National Book Award finalist and author of *The Turner House*, shares her stunning and long-awaited second novel, *The Wilderness*—an, emotionally resonant portrait of friendship, identity, and adulthood.



Spanning two decades in the lives of five Black women—Desiree, Danielle, January, Monique, and Nakia—*The Wilderness* traces their journeys through young adulthood and into midlife as they navigate motherhood, ambition, estrangement, viral fame, and the trials of building lives in rapidly shifting cities like New York and Los Angeles. Flournoy captures with disarming wit and electric language how the most profound connections over a lifetime can lie in the tangled, uncertain thicket of friendship. You'll be tempted to read this amazing novel all in one gulp!

Flournoy is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a writer whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Paris Review*. She brings extraordinary nuance to the complexities of contemporary womanhood and the

The Wilderness



Angela Flournoy FEMINIST FOR THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD

connections that sustain us.

Don't miss this unforgettable evening with one of the most gifted voices in American literature today.

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Event Sponsor: Diana Milock

Livestream Underwriter: Nancy Davy

Book Angels: Elizabeth Mostrom & Herm Triesenberg

"Expansive yet intimate, humorous yet devastating. I loved this book."

~ Brit Bennett, author of *The Vanishing Half*

GUEST HOST AUDREY Irontree is a fiction writer, developmental editor, ghostwriter and educator. She received her Master of Fine Arts in Fiction degree from Northwestern University, her Bachelor of Arts from Brown University and her associate degree from The Bard College at Simon's Rock. Her short story, "The Toad," recently appeared in the *Portland Review*, and her short story, "Koan," was featured in *Meridian*, University of Virginia's literary journal. She is also the editor-in-chief of Muse Literary, an award-winning small, independent publisher.



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THU 10/16

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SAT 10/25

MAKING MOVIES



FRI 10/31

**FRANC
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SAT 11/1

**HELLO DARKNESS
MY OLD FRIEND**



SUN 11/16

**GUTHRIE &
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SAT 11/29

**ADA TWIST,
SCIENTIST**



SAT 12/6

HOLIDAY GALA



FRI 1/30

INVOKE



THU 2/5

**INTERLOCHEN
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SUN 2/22

PUPPY PALS



TUE 3/31

**WOMEN OF
AMERICANA**



SAT 4/11

MAGIC ROCKS

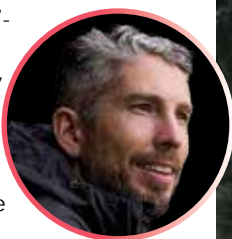


THU 4/16

**INTERLOCHEN
JAZZ**

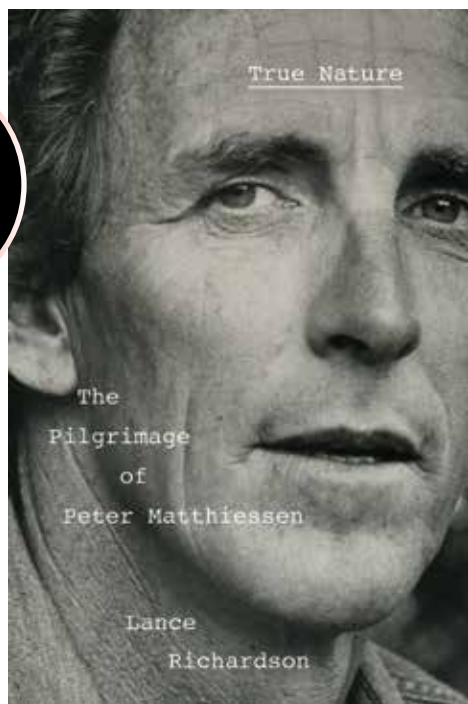
LANCE RICHARDSON

Peter Matthiessen (1927-2014) is a towering figure of twentieth-century American letters, who achieved so much during his lifetime, in so many different areas, that people have struggled to pin him down. While ambivalent about his WASP privilege—as a teenager he demanded that his name be removed from the New York Social Register—he attended Yale and cut his teeth in postwar Paris, co-founding *The Paris Review* as he worked undercover for the CIA. But then, after a rebellious stint as a Long Island fisherman, he escaped into a series of wild expeditions: floating through the Amazon to recover a prehistorical fossil; embedding with a tribe in Netherlands New Guinea; swimming with sharks off the coast of Australia. His novels, were unclassifiable meditations. His nonfiction became legendary: nature books like *Wildlife in America* as well as advocacy journalism supporting Cesar Chavez, Leonard Peltier, and Native American land claims.



Underlying all Matthiessen's disparate pursuits was the same existential search—to find a cure for "deep restlessness." This was most profoundly articulated in *The Snow Leopard*, his famous account of a 250-mile wildlife survey across the Himalayas.

In *True Nature*, Lance Richardson reconstructs the full scope of a spiritual quest that ultimately led Matthiessen, even as he inflicted great pain on his family, to the highest ranks of Zen. Richardson illuminates how the writer's uncanny gifts enabled him to sense connections between ecological decline, racism, and labor exploitation—to express, eloquently and presciently, that "in a damaged



human habitat, all problems merge."

Richardson previously published *House of Nutter: The Rebel Tailor of Savile Row*, a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and a 2018 notable title selected by *The Sunday Times*, *The Mail on Sunday*, *Esquire*, and the American Library Association. He teaches in the MFA in Writing program at Bennington College, Vermont.

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
Livestream Underwriter: Nancy Davy

"A stunning, formidable achievement by a brilliant biographer. Lance Richardson takes his readers on a wild ride with Peter Matthiessen."

~ Kai Bird, Pulitzer Prize-winning author

WITH GUEST HOST DOUG STANTON
#1 *New York Times* bestselling author and co-founder of NWS.

“

The future is ours to win.
But to get there we can't
just stand still.

~ Barack Obama

”

LITERARY UNDERWRITER

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MITCH ALBOM

The National Writers Series welcomes back Michigan author **Mitch Albom** for his latest novel: *Twice* which takes readers on an unforgettable emotional journey through love, second chances, and the choices that define our lives.

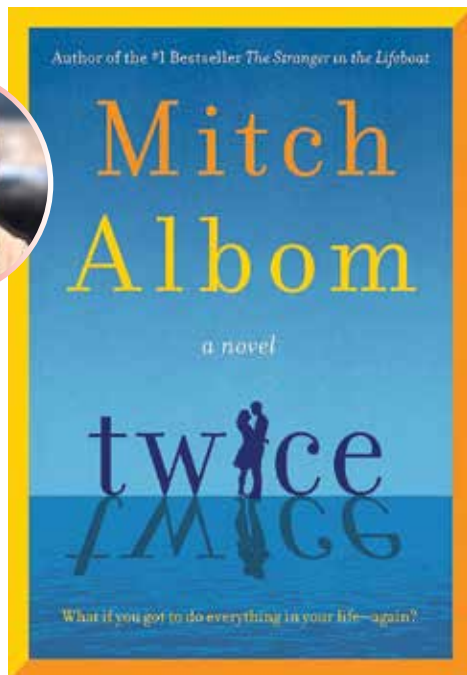


When he is eight-years-old, Alfie Logan discovers the magical ability to get a second chance at everything. He can undo any moment and live it again. The only catch is, he must accept the consequences of his second try – for better or worse. He grows up correcting his mistakes and saving himself from adolescent embarrassments.

Eventually, Alfie turns his gift to his love life, studying his crushes and going back to make himself more appealing. In time, he falls deeply in love with Gianna, the woman he believes is the one. He seems to find contentment. But as the years pass, Alfie's eye begins to wander. Which is when he learns a lone caveat to his power: once he undoes a love, that person can never fall in love with him again.

In this latest tale from America's favorite storyteller, Mitch Albom is at the top of his powers, *Twice* will make you think, weep, and burst with love from beginning to end.

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author and journalist. His books have collectively sold



42 million copies worldwide; and have been made into Emmy Award-winning television movies. In 2006, he founded the nonprofit SAY Detroit, which provides pathways to success for Detroiters in need. Albom operates Have Faith Haiti, a home and school for impoverished children and orphans in Port-au-Prince. He lives with his wife, Janine, in Michigan.

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"Think of Mitch Albom as the Babe Ruth of popular literature, hitting the ball out of the park every time he's at bat." ~ *Time*



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 is the co-founder of the National Writers Series with his wife, Anne, and attorney Grant Parsons.



**ART IS AN EXPRESSION
OF JOY & AWE.**

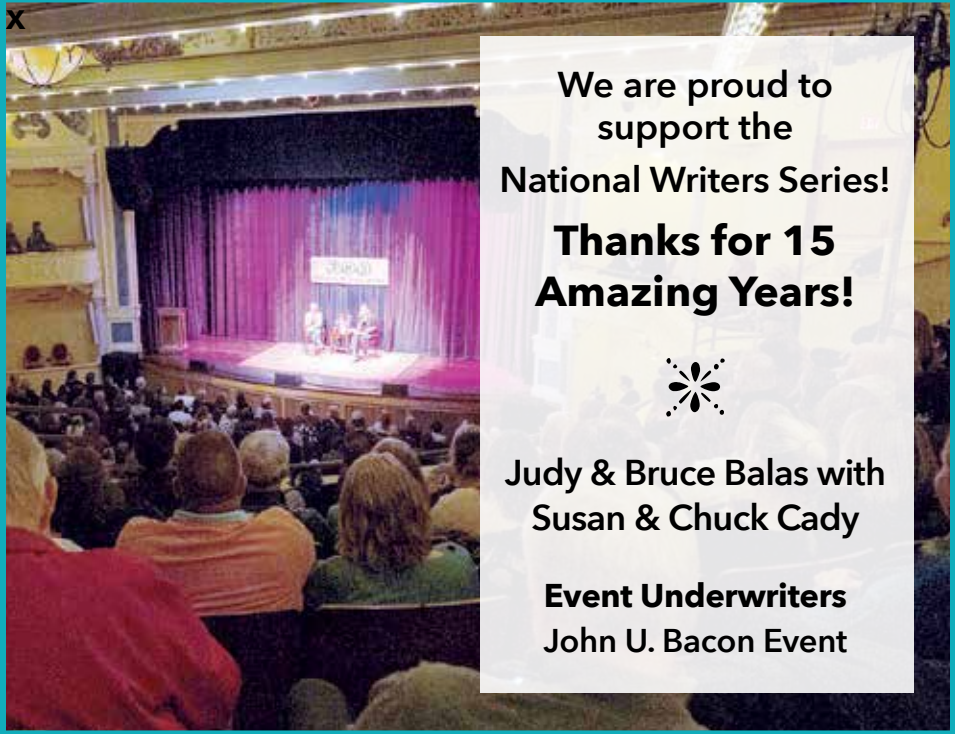
~ DAVID MAMET

Applauding the many
artists, culture bearers and
organizations that infuse
arts and culture throughout
Northern Michigan.

BRAVO AND THANK YOU!

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National Writers Series.
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**JOHN U. BACON
LITERARY UNDERWRITERS**



**We are proud to
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National Writers Series!**

**Thanks for 15
Amazing Years!**



**Judy & Bruce Balas with
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**Event Underwriters
John U. Bacon Event**

JOHN U. BACON

On the fiftieth anniversary of the Edmund Fitzgerald's sinking, the bestselling author of *The Great Halifax Explosion* tells the definitive story of the "Mighty Fitz."

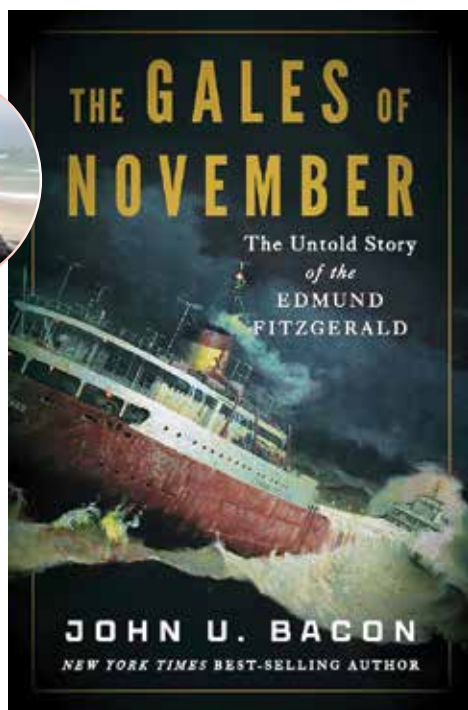


Few endeavors have bound time so mercilessly to money as Great Lakes shipping did at its peak, and no vessel had been more perfectly designed to maximize both than the S. S. Edmund Fitzgerald. The Fitzgerald at the time of her launch was the largest ship on the lakes, and she repeatedly broke her own records for the largest loads, the fastest runs, and the biggest season hauls.

But on November 10, 1975, when the "storm of the century" threw 100 mile-per-hour winds and 50-foot waves on Lake Superior, the Mighty Fitz found itself at the worst possible place, at the worst possible time. When she sank, she took all 29 men onboard down with her, leaving the tragedy shrouded in mystery for a half century.

In *The Gales of November*, award-winning journalist **John U. Bacon** presents the definitive account of the disaster, drawing on more than 100 interviews with the families, friends, and former crew mates of those lost. Bacon explores the vital role Great Lakes shipping played in America's economic boom, the uncommon lives the sailors led, the sinking's most likely causes, and the heartbreaking aftermath for those left behind—"the wives, the sons, and the daughters" as Gordon Lightfoot sang in his unforgettable ballad.

The Gales of November is both an emotional tribute to the Fitzgerald's captain and crew and a propulsive,



page-turning narrative history of America's most-mourned shipwreck.

John U. Bacon has authored fourteen books on sports, business, and history, the last seven of which are critically acclaimed national bestsellers, including five *New York Times* bestsellers. He lives in Ann Arbor and Northern Michigan with his wife and son.

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Evans Gillett

Livestream Underwriter: **Nancy Davy**

"John Bacon has done it again! Bacon has rendered a huge monument to those lost and a great gift to the rest of us."

~ Ken Burns, award-winning filmmaker

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"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,
radiology oncologist

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JOE HILL

From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author **JOE HILL** comes a chilling tale of modern-world dangers, dark academia, and the unexpected consequences of revenge as six friends dabble in the occult and are tragically, horrifyingly successful.



Arthur Oakes is a reader, a dreamer, and a student at Rackham College, Maine, renowned for its frosty winters, exceptional library, and beautiful buildings. But his idyll—and burgeoning romance with Gwen Underfoot—is shattered when a local drug dealer and her partner corner him into one of the worst crimes he can imagine: stealing rare books from the college library.

Trapped and desperate, Arthur turns to his closest friends for comfort and help. Together they dream up a wild, fantastical scheme to free Arthur from the cruel trap in which he finds himself. Wealthy, irrepressible Colin Wren suggests using the unnerving Crane journal (bound in the skin of its author) to summon a dragon to do their bidding. The others—brave, beautiful Alison Shiner; the battling twins Donna and Donovan McBride; and brainy, bold Gwen—don't hesitate to join Colin in an effort to smash reality and bring a creature of the impossible into our world.

But there's nothing simple about dealing with dragons, and their pact to save Arthur becomes a terrifying bargain.



Joe Hill is the #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of the novels *The Fireman*, *NOS4A2*, *Horns*, and *Heart-Shaped Box*; *Strange Weather*, a collection of novellas; and the acclaimed story collections *Full Throttle* and *20th Century Ghosts*. He is also the Eisner Award-winning writer of a seven-volume comic book series, *Locke & Key*.

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Event Sponsor: Traverse Area District Library
Livestream Underwriter: Nancy Davy

"Joe Hill walks the tightrope between horror and fantasy with grace and menace. This is a tale infused with terror and hope."

~Robin Hobb, *New York Times* bestseller



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 is the co-founder of the National Writers Series with his wife, Anne, and attorney Grant Parsons.

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KATE BAER

Renowned poet **Kate Baer** returns with ***How About Now*** (on-sale: November 4, 2025), a bold and compassionate collection that confronts the march of time in a shifting world.



With her trademark candor and curiosity, Baer explores what it means to grow older, to release children into the wildness of their own lives, and to reclaim the ever-evolving self. Raw, luminous, and urgent, this collection channels Baer's own journey to middle age into poems that are profoundly intimate yet resound universally, identifying the beauty, resilience, and fragility that arrive in every stage of life.

How About Now is a striking declaration of ongoing transformation and self-discovery. From the poet who has captured the heartbeat of the modern woman, this collection reaffirms Kate Baer's place among the most vital voices of our era.

Kate Baer is the three-time *New York Times* bestselling author of *What Kind of Woman*, *I Hope This Finds You Well*, and *And Yet*. Her work has also been published in *The New Yorker*, *Literary Hub*, *Huffington Post*, and the *New York Times*.



For more about Kate and her work, visit: KateBaer.com/

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Livestream Underwriter: **Nancy Davy**

"Baer's poems are beautifully distilled and compressed, but they're enormous inside; they hold our world. *How About Now* is her best book yet."

~ Maggie Smith, *New York Times* bestselling author of *You Could Make This Place Beautiful*



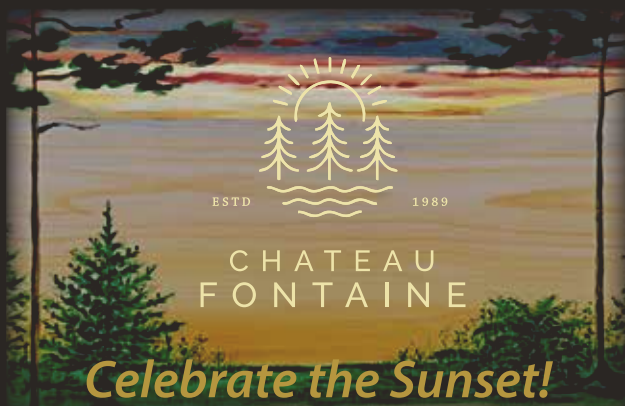
GUEST HOST BETH MILLIGAN is a journalist and head writer for the *Traverse City Ticker*, and a frequent guest host of NWS. She has worked in marketing and PR roles for numerous community organizations including Up North Pride, the Traverse City Film Festival, Traverse Connect, National Writers Series. Beth is the co-host of *Currently with Christal Frost*, a weekly podcast featuring local journalists discussing the region's top news stories. Beth lives on a small hobby farm on Old Mission Peninsula with her partner, Joe Beyer.

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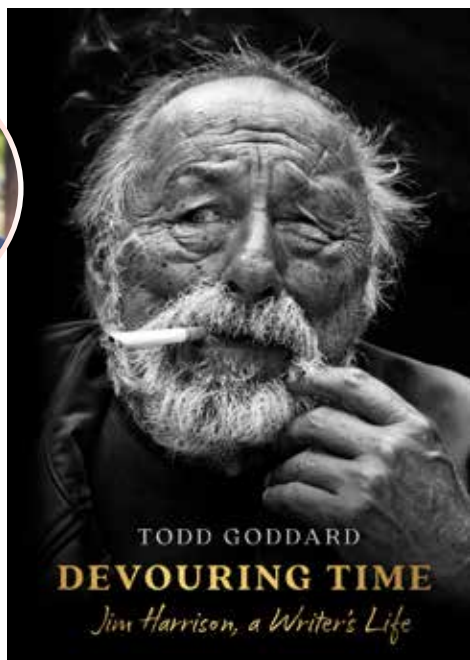
TODD GODDARD

Join us in welcoming **Todd Goddard**, who explores the complicated life of Jim Harrison in a powerful new biography. Jim Harrison (1937-2016) was widely considered one of the finest voices of his generation and helped shape the course of contemporary American literature, influencing a generation of writers.



For all his notoriety as a writer of prose, however, poetry remained his first and longest-abiding love. He cherished his geographic remoteness from what he called the "dream coasts" of New York City and Los Angeles, preferring to hunt, fish, and drink in the backwoods bars of Michigan, Arizona, and Montana. Based on more than one hundred original interviews and drawing upon Harrison's collected papers, *Devouring Time* is the first and only literary biography of this beloved author, whose playful, irreverent, and spiritual work continues to find and delight new readers.

Todd Goddard is an associate professor of literary studies at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. He received his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His work has been funded by the Mellon Foundation and a Bordin-Gillette Fellowship from the University of Michigan. He lives in Salt Lake City.



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"Raw and revealing, yet with a sensitive eye for both the pain and the talent that made Jim one of modern America's most intriguing poets and novelists."

~ Carl Hiaasen, *New York Times*
bestselling author of *Fever Beach*



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 is the co-founder of the National Writers Series with his wife, Anne, and attorney Grant Parsons.



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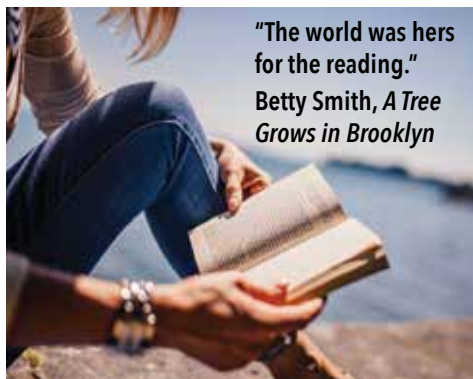
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AND WRITERS.

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~ LORRAINE BEERS

"When I get a little money
I buy books; and if any is left
I buy food and clothes."

~ DESIDERIUS ERASMUS

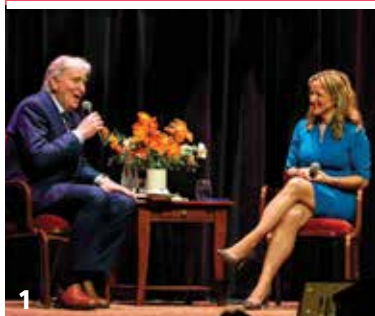


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SUPER SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



- 1 Guest host Doug Stanton interviews Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson about her memoir.
- 2 The Outpost's Tyler Smith-Terhaar and his husband, Dustin, with Antoni Porowski in the Green Room.
- 3 Carl Hiaasen and a full City Opera house on May 29!
- 4 Guest host Matthew Fletcher with Robin Wall Kimmerer.
- 5 Top Chefs were "Dishing it Out" with Mei Lin, Sarah Welch, Reality TV producer Jim Berger and guest host Matt Rodbard (far left).
- 6 *Ticker's* head writer Beth Milligan in conversation with Jeanine Cummins.
- 7 Elk Rapids own debut author Lt. Kegan "SMURF" Gill.
- 8 Adriana Trigiani shared a few hilarious stories!
- 9 Miriam Pico with sweet fan Olivia entertaining us all.
- 10 IPR's Ellie Katz in conversation with debut author Katie Yee.



JEANINE CUMMINS



KAVEH AKBAR



BONNIE GARMUS

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

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2020

Nicholas Kristoff/
Sheryl Wudunn
Steve Luxenberg
Peter Heller
Terry McMillan
Bob Giles
Scott Turow
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 Kross
Kimberly Brubaker
Bradley
Bill Morris

2025

Geraldine Brooks
Scott Turow
Jonathan Eig
Jennifer Weiner
Patrice Gopo
Lyndsay Currie
Leif Enger
Alua Arthur
Rick Atkinson
Jeanine Cummins
Carl Hiaasen
Jocelyn Benson
Kegan Gill
Adriana Trigiani
Katie Yee
Robin Wall
Kimmerer
Antoni Porowski
Top Chefs Panel
Chefs Mei Lin,
Sarah Welch
TV Producer,
Jim Berger

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Jenie Altruda
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April Baer
Nancy Baker
David Baldacci
Sarah Bearup-Neal
Holly T. Bird
Dana Black
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
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Laura Hohnhold
Rose Hollander
Jean Jennings
Ron Jolly
Bronwyn Jones
Karl Klockars
Walter Kirn
Shannon H. Kleiber
Elizabeth Kostova

Major General
Michael Lehnert
Deb Leonard
Chad Lindsey
Mardi Link
Pat Livingston
Jacki Lyden
Thomas Lynch
Cara McDonald
Paula McLain
Beth Milligan
Megan Miranda
Ari Mokdad
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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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AUGUST 10, 2025

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With special guest
Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer



Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer



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David Tabolt, Lisa Genesen & NWS co-founder Grant Parsons



Laura Asiala & Lynne Elmore



Glen Chown, Exec. Dir. of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy



Lola Jackson, Terry Griffin & Dilys Tosteson Garcia



Robin Wall Kimmerer, Mike & Jeanne Haynes



Karin & David Summers



Lisa Thauvette & Brian Thelen



The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy generously hosted the gala at its Three Mile headquarters.



Doug Stanton, NWS co-founder



GTRLC staff and guests



Audrey Irontree, Tess Tarchak-Hiss, Lisa Tarchak

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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 eight 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!

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WHAT AUTHORS ARE SAYING...



“ If every stop on a book tour was as much fun as the National Writers Series in Traverse City, no author would ever complain about going on the road. I'm telling all my writer friends -- the well-behaved ones, at least -- to put this event at the top of their list. Also, it's the only time that any of us will get invited on stage at an opera house.

~ **Carl Hiaasen**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fever Beach*



The National Writers Series is a wonderful meeting ground for authors and readers. Doug and Anne Stanton have found a sweet spot for those who cherish the written word.

~ **Rick Atkinson**, three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Fate of the Day*



Look What We've Done - Celebrating 15 Years!

- * 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 \$78,000 in scholarships to 62 college-bound students in partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.
- * We've hosted 290 author events for onstage conversations over the past 15 years.
- * Our Raising Writers program engages some 1,000 students each year from a six-county area and beyond.
- * Every year dozens of teams are engaged in a creative and fun Battle of the Books. Fourth- and fifth-graders enjoy reading and being quizzed on eight books.
- * Each spring, we host poetry workshops at Traverse Heights and Blair elementary schools. Last 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 publish an annual *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 the NWS website.
- * Co-founder Doug Stanton a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author, is a Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award winner and past Michiganiaan of the Year.
- * Traverse City has been a "Book City" since 2015.



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HOW CHINA WON & LOST AMERICA

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SHAMBAUGH**

PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS & DIRECTOR OF THE
CHINA POLICY PROGRAM, GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED VISITING FELLOW, THE HOOVER INSTITUTION,
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OCTOBER 23

PUTTING THE GLOBAL ORDER BACK TOGETHER

**CHRISTOPHER
PREBLE**

SENIOR FELLOW & DIRECTOR, REIMAGINING U.S. GRAND STRATEGY PROGRAM,
STIMSON CENTER

PARTNERSHIP W/ THE QUINCY INSTITUTE BETTER ORDER PROJECT
& THE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCILS OF AMERICA ENGAGE AMERICA SERIES



NOVEMBER 12

FIGHTING FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION: CREATING A FUTURE WHERE GIRLS ARE FREE TO LEARN & LEAD

**ZIAUDDIN
YOUSAFZAI**

EDUCATOR & ACTIVIST, CO-FOUNDER OF MALALA FUND,
FATHER OF NOBEL LAUREATE, MALALA YOUSAFZAI



**SUE GUNAWARDENA
-VAUGHN**

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OCTOBER 8

SOLVING PERIOD POVERTY

DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING W/
FOUNDER OF PADMAD, WORKING IN
KENYA, SOMALILAND, MALAWI

MADHVI DALAL



**COMMUNITY
NIGHTS**

NOVEMBER 5

HE NAMED ME MALALA

DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING

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