

2017 Southern Festival of Books: A Celebration of the Written Word
Confirmed Author List as of 8/10/2017

Brock Adams teaches English and creative writing at the University of South Carolina Upstate. He has published stories in *Sewanee Review*, *Best American Mystery Stories*, *Barrelhouse*, *Acapella Zoo*, and elsewhere. His book of stories, *Gulf*, was published by Pocol Press in 2010. He has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Central Florida. *Ember: A Novel*

Mark Wayne Adams is the illustrator of several books including *The Belly Button Fairy* and *The Fart Fairy*. He has worked for the Walt Disney Company both as a caricature artist and as a graphic designer. He lives in Longwood, FL. *Jilli, That's Silly!*

Steve Armour is a writer and composer. He wrote the screenplay for *All Saints*, a film based on a congregation in Smyrna.

Jami Attenberg is the *New York Times* bestselling author of five novels, including *The Middlesteins* and *Saint Mazie*. She has contributed essays about sex, urban life, and food to *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Guardian*, and Lenny Letter, among other publications. She divides her time between Brooklyn and New Orleans. *All Grown Up*

C. Morgan Babst studied writing at NOCCA, Yale, and N.Y.U. Her essays and short fiction have appeared in such journals as *The Oxford American*, *Guernica*, the *Harvard Review*, *LitHub*, the *New Orleans Review*, and her piece, 'Death Is a Way to Be,' was honored as a Notable Essay in Best American Essays 2016. She evacuated New Orleans one day before Hurricane Katrina made landfall. After eleven years in New York, she now lives in New Orleans with her husband and child. *The Floating World: A Novel*

Sybil Baker is the author of *The Life Plan*, *Talismans* and *Into This World*. She is a UC Foundation Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and teaches at the Yale Writer's Conference. She is fiction editor at Drunken Boat. *Immigration Essays*

Rosecrans Baldwin is the author of *You Lost Me There* and *Paris, I Love You but You're Bringing Me Down*. He lives in Los Angeles. *The Last Kid Left: A Novel*

Hannah Barnaby holds an MA in children's literature from Simmons College and an MFA in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College. Formerly a children's book editor, she also has worked as a bookseller and a writing instructor. Hannah was the first writer to earn the Children's Writer in Residency at the Boston Public Library. Ms. Barnaby lives in Charlottesville, VA with her family. *Bad Guy*

Johnathon Scott Barrett, is a seventh-generation Georgian with a deep appreciation for the history, foodways, and culture of the South. His first book, *Rise and Shine!*, is a food memoir spanning several decades of Southern farm-to-table traditions. In *Cook & Tell*, Barrett narrates another culinary sojourn across Dixie where he includes not only his own entertaining stories and meaningful recipes, but also those of friends met along the way. Some accounts highlight family and hometown cooks, while others are shared by award-winning chefs and authors.. *Cook & Tell: Recipes and Stories from Southern Kitchens*

Annie Barrows is the author of the children's series *Ivy and Bean*, as well as *The Magic Half*. *Nothing*

Chuck Beard is the founder of East Side Story (Nashville's first and only all-local bookstore), creator and host of the bimonthly East Side Storytelling series that pairs Nashville authors and musicians, and is also a

published writer with one out and a few on the way. Above all, he is the father of Avett Otis and lesser half to the beautiful artist epharper.

Cassie Beasley is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller *Circus Mirandus*. It's a story filled with powerful magic and family mysteries and invisible tigers, for ages nine and up. She lives in rural Georgia with her best friend (and younger sister) Kate Beasley. She earned her MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. *Tumble & Blue*

Ann Beattie has been included in four O. Henry Award Collections, in John Updike's *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, and in Jennifer Egan's *The Best American Short Stories 2014*. In 2000, she received the PEN/Malamud Award for achievement in the short story. In 2005, she received the Rea Award for the Short Story. She was the Edgar Allan Poe Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Virginia. She is a member of The American Academy of Arts and Letters and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She and her husband, Lincoln Perry, live in Maine and Key West, Florida. *Peter Taylor: Complete Stories*

Patricia Bell-Scott is professor emerita of women's studies and human development and family science at the University of Georgia. Her previous books include *Life Notes: Personal Writings by Contemporary Black Women*, *Flat-Footed Truths: Telling Black Women's Lives*, and *Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers & Daughters*, which won the Letitia Woods Brown Memorial Book Prize. She lives in Athens, Georgia, with her husband, Charles V. Underwood Jr. *The Firebrand and the First Lady: Portrait of a Friendship: Pauli Murray, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Struggle for Social Justice*

Chanelle Benz has published short stories in *The American Reader*, *Fence*, and *The Cupboard*, and on Granta.com, and is the recipient of an O. Henry Prize. She received her MFA at Syracuse University as well as a BFA in acting from Boston University. She is of British-Antiguan descent and currently lives in Houston. *The Man Who Shot Out My Eye is Dead*

Michael Bishop is a sales executive for a major healthcare learning company. In 1997, he accidentally came across a file containing information about the Paula Herring case. Realizing the potentially explosive nature of the contents, he launched a multi-decade private investigation and eventually consulted with top forensic experts while piecing together the new evidence. *A Murder in Music City: Corruption, Scandal, and the Framing of an Innocent Man*

Ashley Herring Blake lives in Nashville with her husband and two boys. She has worked as a songwriter and performer, substitute teacher, barista, ABA therapist, and a special education teacher in a private school for kids with autism. *How to Make a Wish*

Joyce Blaylock has taught English literature at both high school and university levels. Among her numerous awards are the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant for the Dante Institute, the Frist Foundation Grant to study Dante in Italy, and the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship. A lover of historical research and libraries, she serves on the board of the Giles County Public Library, where she enjoys her farm in Lynnville, Tennessee. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Steve, and Gabby, the cat. *Adelicia: Grace, Grit and Gumption*

Emily Blejwas grew up in Minnesota and now lives in Mobile, Alabama with her husband and four children. She directs the Gulf States Health Policy Center, has worked in the fields of community

development and victim advocacy, and holds degrees from Auburn University and Kenyon College. *Once You Know This*

Peter Bognanni is a writer currently based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. His first novel, *The House of Tomorrow*, was released by Amy Einhorn Books (Putnam). He attended the Iowa Writers' Workshop not long ago, and his short stories and humor pieces have appeared in various literary journals. He teaches Creative Writing at Macalester College and works (almost) every day on a new book. *Things I'm Seeing Without You*

Chris Bohjalian is the critically acclaimed author of nineteen books, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Guest Room*, *The Sandcastle Girls*, *The Light in the Ruins*, and *The Double Bind*. His novel *Midwives* was a number one *New York Times* bestseller and a selection of Oprah's Book Club. His work has been translated into more than thirty languages, and three of his novels have become movies (*Secrets of Eden*, *Midwives*, and *Past the Bleachers*). *The Sleepwalker*

Alysson Foti Bourque is the award-winning author of the *Rhyme or Reason Travel* series, and the *Alycat* series. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and a law degree from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge. After practicing law for six years, Alysson traded in writing trial briefs for writing children's books. She believes there is an Alycat in all of us, encouraging our imaginations to guide us to new opportunities and adventures. *Alycat and the Thursday Dessert Day*

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley is the author of several historical novels, including *For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy*, which received starred reviews in *Booklist* and *Kirkus Reviews* and was an IRA Teacher's Choice, a VOYA Top Shelf Fiction selection, a New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age, and a Bank Street Best Book. She lives with her husband and two children in Bristol, Tennessee. *The War I Finally Won*

Rick Bragg is the author of five books including the bestsellers *All Over But the Shoutin'*, *Ava's Man*, and *The Prince of Frogtown*. He was born and raised on the outskirts of Jacksonville, Alabama, the mill town that is the subject of *The Most They Ever Had*. A newspaper and magazine writer who was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1996, Bragg is currently a professor of writing at The University of Alabama. *My Southern Journey: True Stories from the Heart of the South*

Earl S. Braggs teaches creative writing, poetry, African American literature, and Russian literature. He is the author of several collections of poetry. His teaching awards include the UTNAA Outstanding Teacher Award and two Student Government Association Outstanding Professor awards. Other awards include a Tennessee Arts Commission Individual Artist Grant and a Chattanooga Allied Arts Individual Artist Grant. Supported by Summer Fellowships from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, he traveled and wrote in Russia in 1998, France on 2002, and Spain in 2005. He is a native of Wilmington, North Carolina. *Ugly Love (Notes from the Negro Side of the Moon)*

William Brown is the author of nine poetry collections and a textbook. Brown was awarded the Writer of the Year in 2011 by the Tennessee Writers Alliance. He is a scholar at Bread Loaf and has twice been awarded poetry fellowships from the Tennessee Arts Commission. *Morning Window*

Natalka Burian received an MA from Columbia University where she studied Eastern European literature with an emphasis on the work of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch. She is the co-owner of two bars,

Elsa and Ramona, and City of Daughters a line of specialty cocktail goods. She grew up on a farm in Maryland, and now lives in Brooklyn with her husband and daughters. This is her first novel. *Welcome to the Slipstream*

Julie Buxbaum is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Tell Me Three Things*, her young adult debut, and the critically acclaimed novels *The Opposite of Love* and *After You*. Her work has been translated into twenty-five languages. Julie's writing has appeared in various publications, including *The New York Times*. She is a former lawyer and graduate of Harvard Law School and lives in Los Angeles with her husband, two young children, and an immortal goldfish. *What to Say Next*

Claire Cameron's second novel, *The Bear*, was long listed for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction (formerly the Orange Prize), a number 1 bestseller in Canada and recently optioned for film. *The Line Painter* was published in 2007 by HarperCollins Canada. It won the Northern Lit Award from the Ontario Library Service and was nominated for an Arthur Ellis Crime Writing Award for best first novel. *The Last Neanderthal*

Eileen Campbell-Reed is an ordained minister, practical theologian, and co-director of the Learning Pastoral Imagination Project, a national, ecumenical, and longitudinal study of ministry. She is also associate professor of practical theology and coordinator of mentoring, coaching and internship for Central Tennessee, a satellite campus of Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, Kansas. *Anatomy of a Schism: How Clergywomen's Narratives Reinterpret the Fracturing of the Southern Baptist Convention*

Dana Chamblee Carpenter is the author of *Bohemian Gospel*, which *Publisher's Weekly* called "a deliciously creepy debut. In a starred review, Shelf Awareness says, "Carpenter expertly combines elements of gothic fantasy with historical details of 13th-century Bohemia." The book also won the 2014 Killer Nashville Claymore Award. Dana teaches creative writing at a private university in Nashville. *The Devil's Bible*

Greg Carpenter is a professor at Lipscomb University in Nashville. He is a contributor to Sequart organization, PopMatters, and RogerEbert.com. *The British Invasion: Alan Moore, Neil Gaiman, Grant Morrison, and the Invention of the Modern Comic Book Writer*

Wiley Cash is the award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Land More Kind Than Home*. A native of North Carolina, he has held residency positions at Yaddo and The MacDowell Colony and teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Southern New Hampshire University. He and his wife live in Wilmington, North Carolina. *The Last Ballad*

Bryn Chancellor is a fiction writer, whose awards include the Prairie Schooner Book Prize, the Poets & Writers Maureen Egen Writers Exchange Award in fiction, and literary fellowships from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the Arizona Commission on the Arts. Her short fiction has appeared in *Gulf Coast*, *Blackbird*, *Colorado Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Phoebe*, and elsewhere. A native of California who was raised in Arizona, she earned her M.F.A. in fiction from Vanderbilt University and is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. *Sycamore*

James Cherry is the author of three collections of poetry. His latest collection, *Loose Change*, was published by Stephen F Austin University Press. A fiction writer as well, he has written a collection of short fiction and two novels. His novel, *Edge of the Wind*, was a 2016 Foreword Indie Book of the Year Finalist for Literary Fiction. Cherry has an MFA in creative writing from the University of Texas at El Paso

and resides in Tennessee with his wife, Tammy, where he teaches poetry to At-Risk youth. *Edge of the Wind*

Cinda Williams Chima is a *New York Times* bestselling author who comes from a long line of fortune-tellers, musicians, and spinners of tales. She began writing romance novels in middle school, which were often confiscated by her teachers. She is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University and the University of Akron. She has been a workshop leader, panelist, and speaker at writing conferences, including the Northern Ohio SCBWI Conference, the Western Reserve Writers' Conference, and the World Fantasy Convention. She frequently speaks to young writers and readers at schools and libraries nationwide. *Shadowcaster*

Jordan Christy has been featured everywhere from NBC's *Today Show* to the *London Times*. She has spoken to thousands of women across the nation and continues to write books, travel, and blog. For more information, please visit www.jordanchristy.com. *How to Be a Hepburn in a Kardashian World: The Art of Living with Style, Class, and Grace*

Olivia Clare's fiction has appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *Granta*, *n+1*, *Boston Review*, *Kenyon Review*, among other publications, and she is the author of a book of poems, *The 26-Hour Day*. She holds master's degrees from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and the University of Southern California, and she was recently a Black Mountain Institute Ph.D. Fellow at University of Nevada. She teaches creative writing at Sam Houston State University. *Disasters in the First World: Stories*

Nicole Cooley is the author of *Breach*, *Milk Dress*, *The Afflicted Girls*, and *Resurrection*. She directs the MFA program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College-CUNY, where she is a professor of English. *Girl After Girl After Girl*

Peter Cooper is an award-winning musician and respected music journalist. He is the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum's Senior Director, Producer, and Writer, and a senior lecturer in country music at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. He is a Grammy-nominated music producer, and a songwriter whose works have been recorded by John Prine, Bobby Bare, Jim Lauderdale, and others. He has appeared on *The Tonight Show* and *The Late Show with David Letterman* and was, along with the like of the Kings of Leon and financial guru Dave Ramsey, named one of Nashville's "10 Most Interesting People" by Nashville Arts & Entertainment magazine. *Johnny's Cash and Charley's Pride: Lasting Legends and Untold Adventures in Country Music*

Vicki Covington's previous work includes the novels *Gathering Home*, *Bird of Paradise*, *Night Ride Home* and *The Last Hotel for Women* and the memoir *Cleaving: The Story of a Marriage*, coauthored with Dennis Covington. She has written for *The New Yorker* and *Oxford American*. The recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Alabama State Council for the Arts, she now resides in Lubbock, Texas. *Once in a Blue Moon*

Karen Cox is professor of history at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. She won the 2004 Julia Cherry Spruill Prize for the best book in southern women's history. Her books include *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Popular Culture*. *Goat Castle: A True Story of Murder, Race, and the Gothic South*

Susan Cushman is author of a novel, *Cherry Bomb* and a memoir, *Tangles and Plaques: A Mother and Daughter Face Alzheimer's*. She is editor of a collection of essays by twenty women authors, *A Second*

Blooming: Becoming the Women We Are Meant To Be. She is editing another anthology, *Southern Writers on Writing*, to be released in 2018 by University Press of Mississippi. She was Co-Director of the 2013 and 2010 Creative Nonfiction Conferences (Oxford, Mississippi) and Director of the 2011 Memphis Creative Nonfiction Workshop (Memphis, TN). A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Cushman has lived in Memphis since 1988. *Cherry Bomb*

DeLana R.A. Dameron is a writer and an arts and culture administrator living in Brooklyn, New York. Dameron's debut collection, *How God Ends Us* was selected by Elizabeth Alexander for the 2008 South Carolina Poetry Book Prize. Dameron holds an M.F.A. in poetry from New York University and a B.A. in history from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She has conducted readings, workshops, and lectures across the United States, Central America, and Europe. *weary Kingdom: Poems*

Julie Dao is a proud Vietnamese-American who was born in upstate New York. She studied medicine in college, but came to realize blood and needles were her Kryptonite. By day, she worked in science news and research; by night, she wrote books about heroines unafraid to fight for their dreams, which inspired her to follow her passion of becoming a published author. Julie lives in New England. *Forest of a Thousand Lanterns*

Jamie DeMent farms and cooks on Coon Rock Farm in Hillsborough, North Carolina. A well-known cooking teacher, she also owns, with her partner, Richard Holcomb, Piedmont Restaurant in Durham, North Carolina, and Bella Bean Organics. *The Farmhouse Chef: Recipes and Stories from My Carolina Farm*

Sarah Dessen is the highly acclaimed author of ten previous novels, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *What Happened to Goodbye*, *Along for the Ride*, *Lock and Key*, *Just Listen*, *The Truth About Forever*, and *This Lullaby*. Her first two books, *That Summer* and *Someone Like You* were the basis of the movie *How to Deal*, starring Mandy Moore. Sarah graduated with highest honors in Creative Writing from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She lives in Chapel Hill with her husband and her daughter. *Once and For All*

Heather Dobbins is a native of Memphis, Tennessee. She graduated from the College Scholars program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She earned a Master of Education degree from Holy Names University in Oakland, California, and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the Graduate Writing Seminars at Bennington College in Vermont. Her poems have been published in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Big Muddy*, *New Millennium Writings*, *The Southern Poetry Anthology* (Tennessee), and *TriQuarterly Review*, among others. She has been awarded scholarships and fellowships to the Indiana Writers' Conference, Napa Writers' Conference, Squaw Valley Community of Writers, Vermont Studio Center, and the Virginia Center for Creative Arts' workshop in Auvillar, France. She is an instructor at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. *River Mouth*

Trish Doller is the author of *Something Like Normal*, which was an ABC New Voices Pick and a finalist for NPR's Best Teen Books of All Time, among many other accolades; *Where the Stars Still Shine*, which was an Indie Next List Pick; *The Devil You Know*; and *In a Perfect World*. She has been a newspaper reporter, radio personalist, and bookseller, and lives with her family in Fort Meyers, Florida with a relentlessly optimistic Border collie and a pirate. *In a Perfect World*

Jack Driscoll is a two-time NEA Creative Writing Fellowship recipient and the author of eleven books. His stories have appeared widely in journals, including *The Georgia Review*, *The Southern Review*,

Ploughshares, and others. He currently teaches in Pacific University's low-residency MFA program in Oregon. *The Goat Fish and the Lover's Knot*

Lee Dugatkin, Ph.D., is a scientist, historian of science, and science writer. The *New York Times Book Review* calls his most recent work "How To Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog)," a "Sparkling new book...Part science, part Russian fairy tale and part spy thriller... It may serve - particularly now - as a parable of the lessons that emerge from unfettered science, if we have the courage to let it unfold." *How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog): Visionary Scientists and a Siberian Tale of Jump-Started Evolution*

Alexandra Duncan is the author of the award-winning YA sci-fi novel *Salvage* and its companion *Sound*. Her short stories have been published in the *Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction* and the *Year's Best Science Fiction and Fantasy*. She lives with her husband and two monstrous, furry cats in North Carolina. *Blight*

William Dunlap has distinguished himself as an artist, arts commentator and educator, during a career that has spanned more than three decades. Dunlap has an M.F.A. from the University of Mississippi, and taught at Appalachian State University in North Carolina (1970-79) and Memphis State University (1979-80.) He currently maintains studios in McLean, Virginia; Mathiston, Mississippi and Coral Gables, Florida. *Short Mean Fiction*

Clyde Edgerton is the author of ten novels, including *The Bible Salesman* and *The Night Train*. Five of his novels have been *New York Times Notable Books*. He lives with his wife, Kristina, and their children in Wilmington, North Carolina, where he is a professor of creative writing at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. www.clydeedgerton.com *Raney; The Floatplane Notebooks*

Jennifer Egan is the author of five books of fiction, including *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, which won the Pulitzer Prize and National Books Critics Circle Award; *The Keep*, a national bestseller; the story collection *Emerald City*; *Look at Me*, a National Book Award Finalist; and *The Invisible Circus*, which was adapted into a major motion picture starring Cameron Diaz. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *Granta*, *McSweeney's*, *The New York Times Magazine* and many others. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two sons. *Manhattan Beach: A Novel*

Jonathan Eig is the author of four critically acclaimed books, two of them *New York Times* bestsellers. He was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Monsey, New York. Eig is a former staff writer for the *Wall Street Journal*, and he remains a contributing writer there. He has written for the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, the *Washington Post*, and other publications. He has appeared on Fresh Air with Terry Gross, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, and in two Ken Burns films for PBS. He is currently working with Burns to develop a documentary on Muhammad Ali. He lives in Chicago, IL. *Ali: A Life*

Omar El Akkad was born in Cairo, Egypt and grew up in Doha, Qatar until he moved to Canada with his family. He is an award-winning journalist and author who has traveled around the world to cover many of the most important news stories of the last decade. His reporting includes dispatches from the NATO-led war in Afghanistan, the military trials at Guantanamo Bay, the Arab Spring revolution in Egypt and the Black Lives Matter movement in Ferguson, Missouri. He is a recipient of Canada's National Newspaper Award for investigative reporting and the Goff Penny Memorial Prize for Young Canadian Journalists, as well as three National Magazine Award honorable mentions. He lives in Portland, Oregon. *American War*

Amy Engel is the author of the young adult series *The Book of Ivy*. A former criminal defense attorney, she lives in Missouri with her family. This is her first novel for adults. *The Roanoke Girls*

Erick Erickson is the popular host of Atlanta's Evening News on 95.5FM and AM750. The former Editor of RedState.com, he launched his website The Resurgent in early 2016. Erickson is also a Fox News contributor. He studied political science and history at Mercer University and earned a law degree at Walter F. George School of Law. Erickson lives with his family in Macon, Georgia. *Before You Wake: Life Lessons from a Father to His children (And a Few Recipes Too)*

Andrew Ervin is the author of *Extraordinary Renditions* and *Burning Down George Orwell's House*. He has written essays and reviews for the *New York Times Book Review*, *Chicago Tribune*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and others. He writes the "Geek Reads" column for Electric Literature, and lives with his wife in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. *Bit by Bit: How Video Games Transformed Our World*

Abby Fabiaschi is a human rights advocate on the board for Her Future Coalition, an international nonprofit organization with a unique prosperity model that uplifts victims from human trafficking and extreme abuse. In 2012 Abby resigned from her executive post in high tech to pursue a career in writing. *I Liked My Life* is her first novel. She and her family divide their time between West Hartford, Connecticut and Park City, Utah. *I Liked My Life: A Novel*

Andrew Farah serves as the chief of psychiatry at the High Point Division of the University of North Carolina Healthcare System. He is a native of Charleston, South Carolina, and a graduate of Clemson University and the Medical University of South Carolina. Farah completed his residency at Wake Forest University, and in 2014 he was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. *Hemingway's Brain*

Kathie Farnell received a B.A. from the University of Montevallo and a J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law. After serving as an attorney in the Alabama Office of the Attorney General, Farnell directed the University of Alabama's Office of Energy and Environmental Law and founded Farnell Legal Research. Bored out of her mind, she left law in 1995 to launch Artemis Media Project, a nonprofit organization that produces radio and television programs. She collaborated with Smithsonian Productions in 1998 on her first radio project, "Remembering Slavery," which won the Gabriel Award. Today she lives ten miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico with her husband, Jack Purser, and an assortment of cats. *Duck and Cover: A Nuclear Family*

Beth Ann Fennelly has published three full-length poetry books and a book of nonfiction. *The Tilted World*, the novel she co-authored with her husband, Tom Franklin, published in 2013, is an Indie Next pick and has been translated into five languages. She also writes essays on travel, culture, and design for *Country Living*, *Southern Living*, *AFAR*, *Garden and Gun*, *The Oxford American*, and others. *Heating and Cooling: 52 Micro-Memoirs*

Radney Foster is an award-winning and critically acclaimed songwriter and musician. He released several hits as part of Foster and Lloyd, and now makes music and tours as a solo act. He is frequently a performer on the Grand Ole Opry. *Johnny's Cash and Charley's Pride: Lasting Legends and Untold Adventures in Country Music*

Ke Francis is a narrative artist that has been actively producing artwork for more than forty years. He and his wife Mary are the co-owners of HOOPSNAKE PRESS, a fine art press that publishes artist books

and prints. His book works, paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures are in over thirty major public and private international collections including: The Getty Museum, National Gallery, National Museum of American Art, High Museum, New Orleans Museum of Fine Art, San Francisco Museum of Contemporary Art, Yale / Sterling Memorial Library, Van-Pelt Dietrich Collection, The Polaroid Collection, and the Ginsburg Collection in Johannesburg, South Africa among many others.

Kerri French is winner of the 2016 Moon City Poetry Prize. Her poetry has appeared in *Washington Square Review*, *Copper Nickel*, *The Journal*, *Mid-American Review*, and *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, among others. She holds degrees from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Boston University. She lives and writes outside of Nashville. *Every Room in the Body*

Mary Gauthier is a songwriter and musician based in Nashville. She has been awarded "New Artist of the Year" by The Americana Music Association. Her 2014 Album, *Trouble and Love*, was named one of the best albums of the year by *Rolling Stone* magazine.

Tim Gautreaux is the author of three novels and two earlier short story collections. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *GQ*. After teaching for thirty years at Southeastern Louisiana University, he now lives, with his wife, in Chattanooga, Tennessee. *Signals: New and Selected Stories*

Christian Anton Gerard work appears widely in national and international magazines. Gerard has received scholarships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and the Prague Summer Program, Pushcart Prize nominations, an Academy of American Poets Award, and the 2013 Iron Horse Literary Review Discovered Voices Award. Christian holds a B.A. from Miami University (OH), an M.F.A from Old Dominion University and a Ph.D in English from the University of Tennessee. He lives in Fort Smith, AR, where he's an Assistant Professor of English, Rhetoric, and Writing at the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith. *Holdfast*

Charles Ghigna-- Father Goose® lives in a treehouse in the middle of Alabama. He is the author of more than 100 books from Random House, Simon & Schuster, Time Inc., Disney, Hyperion, Scholastic, Abrams, Boyds Mills Press, Charlesbridge, Capstone, Orca and other publishers, and more than 5000 poems, many of which appear in textbooks, anthologies, newspapers, and magazines including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Village Voice*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as in *Highlights*, *Cricket* and numerous other magazines for children. He served as poet-in-residence and chair of creative writing at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, instructor of creative writing at Samford University, poetry editor of *English Journal* for the National Council of Teachers of English, and as a nationally syndicated poetry feature writer for Tribune Media Services. He speaks at schools, conferences, libraries, and literary events throughout the U.S. and overseas, and has read his poems at The Library of Congress, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the American Library in Paris, the American School in Paris, and the International Schools of South America. *First Times*

Bryan Giemza is director of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina Libraries. He is the author of *Irish Catholic Writers and the Invention of the American South*. *Images of Depression Era Louisiana: the FSA Photographs of Ben Shahn, Russell Lee, and Marion Post Wolcott*

Anne Gisleson's work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Oxford American*, *The Believer*, *Ecotone*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and has been selected for inclusion in several anthologies, including *Best American Non-Required Reading*. For years, Anne was chair of the Creative Writing Program at the internationally-

renowned New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. In 2005, she co-founded *Antenna* in New Orleans, where she lives. *The Futilitarians: Our Year of Thinking, Drinking, Grieving, and Reading*

Holly Gleason is a music critic, academic, and artist development consultant. Her work has appeared in *Rolling Stone*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *HITS*, *Musician*, *CREEM*, the *Oxford American*, *No Depression*, and *Paste*. *Woman Walk the Line: How the Women in Country Music Changed Our Lives*

Phyllis Gobbell co-authored *A Season of Darkness* with Douglas Jones and *An Unfinished Canvas* with Michael Glasgow. She is a contributor to the anthology, *Masters of True Crime*. In addition, she has been published in literary journals and has received awards in fiction, including Tennessee's Individual Artist Literary Award. *Secrets and Shamrocks*

John Gosslee edits PANK and Fjords Review, and directs C&R Press. *My Body is a System of Enlightenment*

Jonathan Gottschall is a Distinguished Fellow in the English Department at Washington & Jefferson College. His writing has been covered in outlets like *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Radiolab* and *Morning Edition*. He is the author or editor of seven books, including *The Professor in the Cage: Why Men Fight and Why We Like to Watch* and *The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human*, which was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice Selection and a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize. *The Storytelling Animal: How Stories Make Us Human*

Scott Gould's work has appeared in the *Kenyon Review*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *New Ohio Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, and *New Stories from the South*, among others. He is a past winner of the Literature Fellowship from the South Carolina Arts Commission and the Fiction Fellowship from the South Carolina Academy of Authors. *Strangers to Temptation: Stories*

Alan Gratz is the author of a number of books, including *Samurai Shortstop*, which was named one of the ALA's 2007 Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults, and *The Brooklyn Nine*, which was among *Booklist's* Top Ten Sports Books and Top Ten Historical Books for Youth in 2010. A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, Alan is now a full-time writer living in western North Carolina with his wife and daughter. *Refugee*

Rebecca Green is an illustrator, painter and self-proclaimed make-believe maker. She is the illustrator of *The Unicorn in the Barn*, *From Far Away* and *the Glass Town Game*. In addition to working as an illustrator for children's and young adult books, magazines, and galleries, she also helps run the Warren, a studio in Nashville that houses five working artists and hosts a variety of community events. Some of her clients include HarperCollins, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Flow Magazine*. This is her first picture book. *How to Make Friends With a Ghost*

Stephanie Elizondo Griest is author of the award-winning memoirs *Around the Bloc* and *Mexican Enough*. Assistant professor of creative nonfiction at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she has lectured across the world, including as U.S. State Department literary ambassador to Venezuela in 2015, and has been a Henry Luce Scholar in China, Hodder Fellow at Princeton, and winner of the Margolis Award for Social Justice Reporting. *All the Agents and Saints: Dispatches from the U.S. Borderlands*

Pamela Grundy is a historian, and activist who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. She pursues a variety of writing, teaching, and museum projects. Her previous books include the award-winning *Learning to Win: Sports, Education, and Social Change in Twentieth-Century North Carolina*. *Color and Character: West Charlotte High and the American Struggle Over Educational Equality*

James A. Grymes is an internationally respected musicologist and a critically acclaimed author. He is a professor of musicology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. *Violins of Hope: Violins of the Holocaust--Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour*

Michael Gunter, Tennessee Technological University, is author of nine books on the Kurds. In 1998, he received the "Service to the Kurds Award" from the Kurdish Human Rights Watch. *The Kurds: A Modern History*

Bill Haltom is chair of the Healthcare Law Practice Group at Lewis Thomason. He is a past president of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Memphis Bar Association, and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is the author of six books. *The Other Fellow May Be Right: The Civility of Howard Baker*

Caitlin Hamilton Summie earned an MFA with Distinction from Colorado State University, and her short stories have been published in *Beloit Fiction Journal*, *Wisconsin Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, *Mud Season Review*, and *Long Story, Short*. She spent many years in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Colorado before settling with her family in Knoxville, Tennessee. She co-owns the book marketing firm, Caitlin Hamilton Marketing & Publicity, founded in 2003. *To Lay Rest Our Ghosts*

Cathryn Hankla is the author of thirteen books of poetry and fiction. Her work has been awarded the James Boatwright III Poetry Prize, a PEN Syndicated Fiction Prize, Breakthrough prizes in poetry and fiction, a Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowship in poetry, and artist's fellowships here and abroad to Malta, Spain, and France. Her poetry is anthologized in *World English Poetry*, *The Nearest Poem Anthology*, *Shenandoah: 20 Years of Poetry*, *Mississippi Review Anthology*, among others. Currently, she serves as chairperson of the English & Creative Writing Department at Hollins and teaches undergraduate and graduate literature and writing. *Galaxies: Poems*

Andy Hardin is a retired attorney living in Nashville with his wife, Connie. Their East Tennessee family includes a son, daughter, and six grandchildren. *The Awakening of HK Derryberry*

Jeff Hardin teaches at Columbia State Community College and is the author of two chapbooks and one collection of poems, *Fall Sanctuary*, recipient of the Nicholas Roerich Prize. His poems appear in *The Southern Review*, *Hudson Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *North American Review*, and elsewhere. *No Other Kind of World*

A.G. Harmon's fiction, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Triquarterly*, *the Antioch Review*, *Shenandoah*, *the Bellingham Review*, *St. Katherine Review*, *Image*, and *Commonweal*, among others. His fiction won the 2001 Peter Taylor Prize (*A House All Stilled*, University of Tennessee Press, 2002) and was the runner-up for the 2007 William Faulkner Prize for the Novel. His academic work, *Eternal Bonds, True Contracts: Law and Nature in Shakespeare's Problem Plays* was published by SUNY Press. He was a 2003 Walter Dakin fellow at the Sewanee Writers' Conference. He grew up on horse-and-cattle farms in Mississippi and Tennessee. Currently, he teaches at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. *Some Bore Gifts: Stories*

Jordan Harper is the author of *Love and Other Wounds*. He has been a music journalist, film critic, and TV writer. Born and educated in Missouri, he now lives in Los Angeles. *She Rides Shotgun*

Derrick Harriell directs the Master of Fine Arts program at the University of Mississippi, where he is also assistant professor of English and African American studies. His poems have appeared in various literary

journals, anthologies, and he is the author of two previous poetry collections. Harriell also received the 2014 Poetry Award from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters. *Stripper in Wonderland: Poems*

Jeanne Walker Harvey is an award-winning children's book author. She hopes books will inspire children to realize the power and beauty of words. *Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines*

David Haskell's work integrates scientific, literary, and contemplative studies of the natural world. He is a professor of biology and environmental studies at the University of the South and a Guggenheim Fellow. His 2012 book *The Forest Unseen* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award, and won the 2013 Best Book Award from the National Academies, the National Outdoor Book Award, and the Reed Environmental Writing Award. Along with his scholarly research, he has published essays, op-eds, and poetry. *The Songs of Trees: Stories from Nature's Great Connectors*

Eleanor Henderson was born in Greece, grew up in Florida, and attended Middlebury College and the University of Virginia. Her debut novel, *Ten Thousand Saints*, was named one of the 10 Best Books of 2011 by the *New York Times* and a finalist for the Award for First Fiction from the *Los Angeles Times* and was adapted into a film in 2015. An associate professor at Ithaca College, she lives in Ithaca, New York, with her husband and two sons. *The Twelve-Mile Straight: A Novel*

Deron R. Hicks investigates mysteries as a lawyer, so it makes sense that he would write about William Shakespeare, one of literature's most puzzling people. The inspector general for the State of Georgia, he lives in Warm Springs, Georgia, with his wife and two children. *The Van Gogh Deception*

Roger Hodge is national editor of *The Intercept* and author of *The Mendacity of Hope: Barack Obama and the Betrayal of American Liberalism*. Formerly he was the editor of *the Oxford American* and *Harper's Magazine*. Hodge's writings have appeared in many publications, including *Texas Monthly*, the *London Review of Books*, *Popular Science*, *The New Republic*, and *Harper's*. His essay "Blood and Time: Cormac McCarthy and the Twilight of the West" was a finalist for the National Magazine Award for criticism. He lives in Brooklyn. *Texas Blood: Seven Generations Among the Outlaws, Ranchers, Indians, Missionaries, Soldiers, and Smugglers of the Borderlands*

Robert Hoge has done pretty much every kind of writing there is. He has worked as a journalist, a speechwriter, a science writer, and a political advisor. He's also written numerous short stories, articles, and interviews that have been published in Australia and overseas. When he's not writing, Robert enjoys photography and talking with people about looking different and being disabled. He lives in Brisbane, Australia and is married and has two amazing daughters. *Ugly: A Memoir*

Rebecca Gayle Howell is the author of *American Purgatory* and *Render/An Apocalypse* and the translator of Amal al-Jubouri's *Hagar Before the Occupation/Hagar After the Occupation*. Her work has received wide critical acclaim. Native to Kentucky, Howell is a senior editor for the *Oxford American*. *American Purgatory*

Linda Jackson is the owner of Jackson Publishing in Southaven, Mississippi. *Midnight Without a Moon*

Philip Jett is a former corporate attorney, now living in Nashville, who has represented corporations, hospitals, CEOs, celebrities from the music, television, and sports industries, and other noteworthy clients. Since 2007, he has ghost-written for business clients, contributed articles to a Nashville newspaper, and focused on writing narrative nonfiction for publication. He has two sons and volunteers

often for children's causes. *The Death of an Heir: Adolph Coors and the Murder that Rocked an American Dynasty*

Yvette Johnson is a writer, film producer, and speaker. She coproduced the documentary *Booker's Place: A Mississippi Story*, which premiered at the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival. *The Song and the Silence: A Story About Family, Race, and What Was Revealed in a Small Town in the Mississippi Delta While Searching for Booker Wright*

Ashley M. Jones received an MFA from Florida International University. Her work has been published by the Academy of American Poets, *Kinfolks Quarterly*, *Prelude*, and other journals. She received a 2015 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. She is an editor of *(Pank) Magazine*, and she teaches creative writing at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. *Magic City Gospel: Poems*

Rodney Jones is the author of eleven books of poems. His many honors include the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Harper Lee Award, and the Kingsley Tufts Award, and he has been a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award, the Griffin International Poetry Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize. He teaches in the low-residency MFA creative writing program at Warren Wilson College and lives in New Orleans and Southern Illinois. *Village Prodigies*

Heather Kaczynski writes books for teenagers and other people who like books about teenagers. They're usually about teenagers saving the world, because she really believes they can. Heather never got to go to space camp, so she had to settle for writing about it. After graduating cum laude with a degree in biology, she returned to her first love of books, and now works in a library near NASA. She lives with her husband, their daughter, and way too many books. She's not nearly brave enough to go into space, but she did twirl a fire baton in high school. *Dare Mighty Things*

Sheba Karim is a graduate of New York University School of Law and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *580 Split*, *Asia Literary Review*, *Barn Owl Review*, *EGO*, *Kartika Review*, *Off Assignment*, *Shenandoah*, *South Asian Review*, *Time Out Delhi* and in several anthologies in the United States and India, including *Cornered*, *Electric Feather* and *Venus Fly Trap*. She is the editor of *Alchemy: The Second Tranquebar Book of Erotic Short Stories*. *That Thing We Call a Heart*

Denise Kiernan's previous book, *The Girls of Atomic City*, is a *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and NPR bestseller, and was named one of Amazon's Top 100 Best Books of 2013. Kiernan has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Village Voice*, *Ms. Magazine*, and many more publications. She has also worked in television, serving as head writer for ABC's *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire* during its Emmy award-winning first season and producing for media outlets such as ESPN and MSNBC. She has been a featured guest on NPR's "Weekend Edition," PBS NewsHour, MSNBC's Morning Joe, and "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart". *The Last Castle: The Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation's Largest Home*

SJ Kincaid originally wanted to be an astronaut, but a dearth of mathematical skills turned her interest to science fiction instead. Her debut novel, *Insignia*, was shortlisted for the Waterstones prize. Its sequels, *Vortex* and *Catalyst*, have received starred reviews from *Kirkus Reviews* and *Booklist*. She's chronically restless and has lived in California, Alabama, New Hampshire, Oregon, Chicago, and Scotland with no signs of staying in one place anytime soon. *The Empress*

Michael Knight is the author of the novels *The Typist* and *Divining Rod*, the short story collections *Goodnight, Nobody* and *Dogfight and Other Stories*, and the book of novellas *The Holiday Season*. Knight teaches creative writing at the University of Tennessee and lives in Knoxville with his family. *Eveningland: Stories*

Nicole Krauss is the internationally bestselling author of three novels: *Man Walks Into a Room*, a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book of the Year; *The History of Love*, a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the Saroyan Prize for International Literature; and *Great House*, a *New York Times* bestseller and finalist for the National Book Award. In 2007 she was selected as one of *Granta's* Best Young American Novelists, and in 2010 she was chosen for the *New Yorker's* 'Twenty Under Forty' list. Her fiction has been published in the *New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Esquire* and *Best American Short Stories*, and her books have been translated into more than thirty-five languages. Nicole Krauss lives in New York. *Forest Dark*

CANCELED: Hari Kunzru is the author of four previous novels. His work has been translated into twenty-one languages, and his short stories and journalism have appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The New Yorker*. He is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, The New York Public Library, and the American Academy in Berlin. He lives in Brooklyn. *White Tears*

Nina LaCour is the author of the award-winning *Hold Still* and widely acclaimed *The Disenchantments*. Formerly a bookseller and high school English teacher, she now writes and parents full time. A San Francisco Bay Area native, Nina lives with her family in Oakland, Ca. *We Are Ok*

John Lane is Associate Professor of English and Environmental Studies and Director of the Glendale Shoals Environmental Studies Center at Wofford College. Lane's writings on nature and the environment have been published widely. *Anthropocene Blues: Poems*

M.A. Larson is a film and television writer who lives with his wife, daughter, and two dogs in a California canyon. Larson is the author of *Pennyroyal Academy*, and the *Shadow Cadets of Pennyroyal Academy*, and has written for Cartoon Network, Disney Channel, Disney XD, Disney UK, Discovery Kids Channel, The Hub, and Nickelodeon. As a writer on the cult sensation *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic*, he has been a guest at "brony" fan conventions from Paris, France to Dallas, Texas. *The Warrior Princess of Pennyroyal Academy*

Janet Lee is an artist, award-winning illustrator, an cat-tamer who may or may not have been raised by gypsies in the Black Forest. *Return of the Dapper Man*

Odie Lindsey's stories have appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *The Iowa Review*, *Columbia*, and the anthology *Forty Stories*, among others. A veteran, he lives in Nashville. *We Come to Our Senses: Stories*

Ronni Lundy has been a frequent contributor to *Food & Wine*, *Gourmet*, and *Esquire*. She is the author of eight books, including *Shuck Beans*, *Stack Cakes*, and *Honest Fried Chicken* and *Cornbread Nation 3: Foods of the Mountain South*. *Woman Walk the Line: How the Women in Country Music Changed Our Lives*

Richard Lyons has taught literature and creative writing for more than two decades at Mississippi State University. He is a former winner of the Discovery Award from *The Nation* and the Lavan Younger Poet's Prize from the chancellors of the Academy of American Poets in New York City. Born in Boston, he hails from the Mid-South where he lives with his wife and cats. *Un Poco Loco*

Nancy K. MacLean is the award-winning author of *Behind the Mask of Chivalry* (a *New York Times* "noteworthy" book of the year) and *Freedom is Not Enough*, which was called by the *Chicago Tribune* "contemporary history at its best." The William Chafe Professor of History and Public Policy at Duke University, she lives in Durham, North Carolina. *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*

Robert Macomber is an award-winning and internationally recognized author, lecturer, and TV commentator. He is best known for his novels in the Honors series and for his lectures around the world. *An Honorable War: The Spanish American War Begins*

David Madden is the author of twelve novels, known for his innovative style and technique in crafting fiction. His work is praised by critics and fans alike as complex yet lyrical and always masterfully done. He lives in Black Mountain, North Carolina. *Marble Goddesses and Mortal Flesh*

Andrew Maraniss is formerly the associate director of media relations at the Vanderbilt athletic department and the first-ever media relations manager for the Tampa Bay Rays. Maraniss was also a partner at McNeely Pigott & Fox Public Relations. Andrew, the son of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist David Maraniss, attended Vanderbilt on the Fred Russell-Grantland Rice sportswriting scholarship. As a sophomore, he first interviewed Wallace in 1989 for a black history class. *Strong Inside (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of How Perry Wallace Broke College Basketball's Color Line*

Cassidy Martin is the youth poet laureate of Nashville.

Lisa Maxwell is the author of *Sweet Unrest* and *The Gathering Deep*. She grew up in Akron, Oh and has a PhD in English. She's worked as a teacher, scholar, bookseller, editor, and writer. When she's not writing books, she's a professor at a local college. She now lives near Washington, DC, with her husband and two sons. *Last Magician*

Stacy McNulty is the author of *Mr. Fuzz Buster Knows He's the Favorite*, *101 Reasons Why I'm Not Taking a Bath*, *Excellent Ed*, and *Beautiful*. She lives in Kernersville, North Carolina, with her family. *Brave*

Bren McClain is a two-time winner of the South Carolina Fiction Project and the recipient of the 2005 Fiction Fellowship from the South Carolina Arts Commission. McClain won the 2016 William Faulkner-William Wisdom Novel-in-Progress for "Took" and was a finalist in the 2012 Pirate's Alley Faulkner Award for "One Good Mama Bone." This is her first novel. *One Good Mama Bone*

Mary McCoy lives in Los Angeles with her husband and son. She works as a librarian at the Los Angeles Public Library. *Camp So and So*

Tiffany McDaniel is an Ohio native whose writing is inspired by the rolling hills and buckeye woods of the land she knows. This is her debut novel. *The Summer that Melted Everything*

Gary McDowell is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Mysteries in a World That Thinks There Are None*, winner of the 2014 Burnside Review Press Book Award; *Weeping at a Stranger's Funeral*; and *American Amen*, winner of the 2009 Orphic Prize in Poetry His poems and essays have appeared in journals such as *American Poetry Review*, *The Nation*, *Gulf Coast*, *New England Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Colorado Review*. He lives in Nashville with his family where he's an assistant professor of English at Belmont University. *Caesura: Essays*

Erin McGill was born in New York City. She spent most of her childhood at the Bronx Zoo hooting like a barn owl and at the NY Botanical Gardens growing basil. She realized zoology and botany required too much science so she went to art school. Erin received a BFA in illustration from the Pratt Institute where she discovered her love of patterns and textures. For the past decade, she has created a line of products for children based on her drawings. Her work has appeared in the *Village Voice*, *Daily Candy*, and *Time Out NY*. She is the recipient of two portfolio awards from SCBWI and the "Ezra Jack Keats Memorial Fellowship". *I Do Not Like Al's Hat*

Nicole McInnes is the author of the contemporary young adult novels *100 Days* and *Brianna on the Brink*. *100 Days*

Anna-Marie McLemore was born in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, raised in the same town as the world's largest wisteria vine, and taught by her family to hear la llorona in the Santa Ana winds. Her debut novel, *The Weight of Feathers*, was a Junior Library Guild Selection, a YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults book, and a finalist for the Willaim C. Morris Debut Award. Her second novel, *When the Moon Was Ours*, was longlisted for the National Book Award in Young People's Literature, and was a 2017 Stonewall Honor Book. *Wild Beauty*

Sandhya Menon currently lives in Colorado, where she's on a mission to (gently) coerce her family to watch all 3,221 Bollywood movies she claims as her favorite. She has a second YA contemporary novel coming in summer 2018. *When Dimple Met Rishi*

Jim Minick is the author of five books, including *The Blueberry Years*, winner of the Best Nonfiction Book of the Year from the Southern Independent Booksellers Association. His work has appeared in *Oxford American*, *Shenandoah*, *Orion*, *The Sun*, and elsewhere. He teaches at Augusta University and Converse College. *Fire is Your Water*

Rosalie Moffett is a writer and teacher from Eastern Washington. She received her MFA in poetry from Purdue University and has been awarded the discovery/ boston review prize, and the Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University. Her poems and essays have appeared in *Tin House*, *The Believer*, *FIELD*, *Narrative* magazine, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Indiana Review* and other magazines, as well as the anthology "Gathered: Contemporary Quaker Poets." She lives in Athens, Georgia. *June in Eden*

Kamilah Moon is a Pushcart Prize winner and finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and the Audre Lord Award from the Publishing Triangle. Her work has been featured widely in journals and anthologies, including *Harvard Review* and Poem-A-Day for Academy of American Poets. A native of Nashville, she currently lives in Brooklyn, and holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College. *Starshine and Clay*

Amanda K. Morgan lives in Nashville. She is the author of *After Hours* under the name Claire Kennedy as well as *Secrets, Lies, and Scandals* and *Such a Good Girl*. *Such a Good Girl*

Liza Mundy is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Richer Sex: How the New Majority of Female Breadwinners Is Transforming Sex, Love and Family* and *Michelle: A Biography*. She has worked as a reporter at the *Washington Post* and contributed to numerous publications including *The Atlantic*, *TIME*, *The New Republic*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, and *The Guardian*. She is a frequent commentator on countless prominent national television, radio, and online news outlets and has positioned herself at the prestigious

New America Foundation as one of the nation's foremost experts on women and work issues. *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II*

Daniel Jose Older is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Salsa Nocturna*, the *Bone Street Rumba* urban fantasy series from Penguin's Roc Books and the Young Adult novel *Shadowshaper*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of 2015, which won the International Latino Book Award and was shortlisted for the Kirkus Prize in Young Readers' Literature, the Andre Norton Award, the Locus, the Mythopoeic Award, and named one of *Esquire's* 80 Books Every Person should read. *Shadowhouse Fall*

Robert Olmstead is the author of eight books. *The Coldest Night* was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2012, a *Kirkus Reviews* Top 25 Fiction Book of 2012, and an Amazon Best Book of 2012. *Coal Black Horse* was the winner of the Heartland Prize for Fiction and the Ohioana Award and was a #1 Book Sense pick. *Far Bright Star* was the winner of the Western Writers of America Spur Award. Olmstead is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and an NEA grant and is a professor at Ohio Wesleyan University. *Savage Country*

Joanne O'Sullivan introduces fascinating people and places to readers through books, articles, and blog posts. Her award-winning science, sustainability and travel books for kids include *Migration Nation*. She lives in Asheville, North Carolina with her family *Between Two Skies*

Kathryn Ormsbee is a ginger girl who writes stories about magical worlds and morbid teens and Tolstoy-inspired webseries. *Tash Hearts Tolstoy*

Hannah Palmer works as an urban designer in Atlanta. Her writing explores the intersection of Southern stories and urban landscapes, and has appeared on CNN.com, *ArtPapers*, *Atlanta Magazine*, and in masterplans for urban design projects around the world. She earned an MFA in creative writing from The University of the South and now lives near the Atlanta airport with her husband and sons. *Flight Path: A Search for Roots Beneath the World's Busiest Airport*

Stella Parks is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and a James Beard Award nominated writer for *Serious Eats*. She was named one of America's Best New Pastry Chefs by *Food & Wine*. When not at home in Lexington, Kentucky, Stella can be found at the Serious Eats test kitchen in Brooklyn, New York. *BraveTart: Iconic American Desserts*

Peggy O'Neal Peden grew up in Middle Tennessee and has lived in and around Nashville for most of her life. She has taught English at high school and college levels, owned a travel agency, been published in regional magazines, and written award-winning advertising copy. She is a member of the Nashville Artist Guild and lives in Nashville. This is her first novel. *Your Killin' Heart*

Lydia Peelle was born in Boston. Her short stories have appeared in numerous publications and have won two Pushcart Prizes, an O. Henry Award, and been twice featured in *Best New American Voices*. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee. *The Midnight Cool: A Novel*

Michele Poulos has been anthologized in *Best New Poets* and *The Southern Poetry Anthology*, and she has published poetry and fiction in *The Southern Review*, *Orchard Review*, and others. She holds an MFA in poetry from Arizona State University and an MFA in Fiction from Virginia Commonwealth University. She produced and directed a documentary film about the poet Larry Levis. *Black Laurel*

Kristen Radtke is the managing editor of Sarabande Books and the film and video editor of *TriQuarterly* magazine. She lives in New York. *Imagine Only Wanting This*

Ron Rash is the John Parris Chair in Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University, author of six novels, four collections of short stories, and four collections of poetry. Rash is the winner of the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, the Sherwood Anderson Prize, the James Still Award of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, the Weatherford Award for Best Novel, and the Fiction Book of the Year Award of the Southern Book Critics Circle. He is a two-time finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Prize and twice winner of the O. Henry Prize. *The Risen*

Jonathan Rattner is an intermedia artist who primarily produces experimental nonfiction films and videos. He holds M.F.A.'s in Film and Video Production and in Intermedia Art from the University of Iowa and a B.F.A. in Film and Television from Tisch School for the Arts, N.Y.U. Currently, he is an active member of Wildland Urban Interface Artist Collective and holds the position of Assistant Director/Assistant Professor in Film Studies and Assistant Professor of Art at Vanderbilt University.

Jean Reagan was born in Alabama but spent most of her childhood in Japan. She now lives in Salt Lake City with her husband. In the summers, they serve as backcountry volunteers in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. *How to Get Your Teacher Ready*

Jared Reck lives in Hanover, Pennsylvania with his wife and two daughters. He teaches 8th grade Language Arts, where he has been reading awesome books and writing alongside his students for the past twelve years. *A Short History of the Girl Next Door*

Catherine Reef is the author of more than forty nonfiction books for young people and adults, many of them award winners. She lives in College Park, Maryland. *Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse*

Brendan Reichs was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina. He graduated from Wake Forest University in 2000 and the George Washington University School of Law in 2006. After three long years working as a litigation attorney, he abandoned the trade to write full time. He lives in Charlotte with his wife, son, daughter, and a herd of animals that tear up everything. *Nemesis*

Scott Rentgen has spent his career as a teacher of English and creative writing in diverse urban communities in North Carolina. The hardest lesson he learned was that inspiration isn't equally accessible for everyone. So he set out to write a novel for the front-row sleepers and back-row dreamers of his classrooms. He hopes that his former students can see themselves, vibrant and on the page, in characters like Emmett. *NYXIA*

Susan Rivers was awarded the Julie Harris Playwriting Award for *Overnight Lows* and the New York Drama League Award for *Understatements*. She is also the recipient of two playwriting grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and has had short fiction published in the *Santa Monica Review*. In 2007 she earned an MFA in fiction writing from Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina, where she was also awarded a Regional Artist Grant from the Arts and Sciences Council. She currently lives and writes in a small town in upstate South Carolina. *The Second Mrs. Hockaday*

Kristin Robertson's poetry appears or is forthcoming in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *TriQuarterly*, and other journals. She holds degrees from the University of Tennessee, the University of New Orleans, and Georgia State University. She lives in Nashville. *Surgical Wing*

Kathleen Rooney is a founding editor of Rose Metal Press and a founding member of Poems While You Wait. She has been recognized as one of Newcity Lit's "Lit 50: Who Really Books in Chicago 2016." Her previous work includes poetry as well as both fiction and nonfiction, and has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Allure*, *Salon*, *The Rumpus*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. She works as a senior lecturer in English and Creative Writing at DePaul University where she teaches, among other things, a workshop on The Writer as Urban Walker. Kathleen is married to the novelist Martin Seay. *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*

Otis Sanford holds the Hardin Chair of Excellence in Economic and Managerial Journalism at the University of Memphis. He currently teaches Media Writing, Mass Media, Diversity & Society, Survey of Mass Communication and Reporting. He continues to write the weekly Viewpoint column for *The Commercial Appeal* and does daily political commentary for WREG-TV Channel 3 in the Memphis. He also serves as a panelist and co-host of Informed Sources, a weekly public affairs show on Channel 3. *From Boss Crump to King Willie: How Race Changed Memphis Politics*

Fred Sauceman is senior writer and Associate Professor of Appalachian Studies at East Tennessee State University. *The Proffitts of Ridgewood: An Appalachian Family's Life in Barbecue*

Anna Schachner has published short fiction in many journals and magazines, including *Puerto del Sol*, *Ontario Review*, and *The Sun*, and she contributes articles about books and literary culture to publications such as *The Guardian* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Originally from North Carolina, Schachner lives in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is the editor of *The Chattahoochee Review*. *You and I and Someone Else*

Judy Schachner is best know for her *Skippyjon Jones* series. She has illustrated many of her own stories, including the much-loved *Grannyman* and its companion book, *Bits & Pieces*. A #1 *New York Times* Bestseller, Judy is also known for her spirited reading of the *Skippyjon* stories, for which she won the first E.B. White Read Aloud Award. She lives in Swathmore, Pennsylvania. *Sarabella's Thinking Cap*

Victoria Schwab is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of more than a dozen books for children, teens, and adults, including *Vicious*, the *Shades of Magic* series, and most recently *This Savage Song*. When she's not wandering Scottish hills or tucked into French cafes she can be found right here in Nashville. *A Conjuring of Light*

Martin Seay's debut novel *The Mirror Thief* was listed among the best books of 2016 by *Publishers Weekly* and National Public Radio, and was included among the year's notable books by the *New York Times Book Review*. Other writing has appeared in *The Believer*, *MAKE*, *Joyland*, *Gargoyle*, and the *Gettysburg Review*. Originally from Texas, Martin currently lives in Chicago with his spouse, the writer Kathleen Rooney. *The Mirror Thief*

Jared Yates Sexton was one of the first journalists to attend and report from the 2016 Donald Trump rallies. He is a writer whose political writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, *Salon*, and elsewhere. He is the author of three collections of fiction and a crime-novel. Currently he serves as an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Georgia Southern University. *The People Are Going to Rise Like Waters on Your Shore: A Story of American Rage*

Daniel Sharfstein is a professor of law and history at Vanderbilt University and a 2013 Guggenheim Fellow. His first book, *The Invisible Line: A Secret History of Race in America*, received the J. Anthony Lukas Prize. He lives in Nashville. *Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard, and the Nez Perce War*

Bill Shillady has served as Executive Director of the United Methodist City Society since September 2008. Before taking this position, he served as a pastor for 29 years. Over the years, Shillady has served on a variety of United Methodist and community-based boards and committees. He is a member of the cabinet of the New York Annual Conference and has been a delegate to the last two UMC general conferences. Shillady serves on the Wespeth Benefits and Investments board of directors as well as the Mayor's Faith Leaders Advisory Council for the City of New York. *Strong for a Moment Like This: The Daily Devotions of Hillary Rodham Clinton*

Corabel Shofner is a wife, mother, former attorney, and author. She graduated from Columbia University and was on law review at Vanderbilt University Law School. Her shorter work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Willow Review*, *Word Riot*, *Hawai'i Review*, *Sou'wester*, *South Carolina Review*, *South Dakota Review*, and *Xavier Review*. This is her first novel.

Michael Sims is the author of *The Story of Charlotte's Web*, which the *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, and other venues chose as a Best Book of the year; *Adam's Navel*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a *Library Journal* Best Science Book; *The Adventures of Henry Thoreau*; and other books. He edits *The Connoisseur's Collection* series of Victorian anthologies, including *The Dead Witness* (detective stories), and also edited *The Penguin Book of Victorian Women in Crime* and *The Penguin Book of Gaslight Crime*. His Sherlockian pastiche "The Memoirs of Silver Blaze" appears in the Anthony Award-winning anthology *In the Company of Sherlock Holmes*. He lives in western Pennsylvania with his wife and son. *Arthur and Sherlock: Conan Doyle and the Creation of Holmes*

Ganesh Sitaraman is an Assistant Professor of Law at Vanderbilt Law School and a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. From 2011 to 2013, he served as Policy Director to Elizabeth Warren during her successful Senate campaign, and then as her Senior Counsel in the United States Senate. An Eagle Scout and a Truman Scholar, he earned his A.B. in government magna cum laude at Harvard, a master's degree in political thought and intellectual history from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, where he was the Lionel de Jersey Harvard Scholar, and his J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor on the *Harvard Law Review*. He is a principal of the Truman National Security Project and a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. *The Crisis of the Middle Class Constitution: Why Economic Inequality Threatens our Republic*

Carter F. Smith, PhD, is a Lecturer in the Department of Criminal Justice at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Carter is a retired Army Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Command Special Agent, and was the inaugural team chief for the Army's first and most consistently operating Gang & Extremist investigations team. He has been interviewed about gangs by several national as well as regional and local television, print, internet and radio news sources, and has appeared twice in the History Channel's *Gangland* series. He was a founding, and still serving, board member of the Tennessee Gang Investigators Association, a member organization of the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations. *Gangs and the Military: Gangsters, Bikers, and Terrorists with Military Training*

Michael Farris Smith is the award-winning author of several novels, including *Desperation Road* (Amazon Best Books, Barnes & Noble Discover pick, Indie Next selection), *Rivers* (2014 Mississippi Author Award for Fiction), and *The Hands of Strangers*. He has been awarded the Mississippi Arts Commission Literary Arts Fellowship, the Transatlantic Review Award for Fiction, and the Alabama Arts Council Fellowship Award for Literature. His short fiction has twice been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and his essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Catfish Alley*, *Deep South* magazine, and more. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his wife and two daughters. *Desperation Road*

Minton Sparks is a renowned spoken word artist based in Nashville.

Nathan Spoon is a bookseller at Parnassus Books. He is recipient of a Tennessee Williams Scholarship to the Sewanee Writer's Conference and has been published in *Oxford Poetry*, *Mantis*, and *Reflections*. He is the Associate Editor of *X-Peri* and a faculty member for the 2017 Modernist Social Network seminar series at the University of Pennsylvania. *My Name is Gretchen Merryweather*

Britt Stadig has over eighteen years of experience in the field and has worked for fine edition binderies, collection care at The Philadelphia Free Library, and as a book technician and custom enclosure specialist at the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia, PA before starting her own studio in Nashville. She has an MFA in book arts and printmaking from the University of the Arts. *Manuel, George, Hank and Me*

Ian Stansel is the author of the collection of stories *Everybody's Irish*, a finalist for the PEN/Bingham prize for debut fiction. His fiction has appeared in numerous literary journals, including *Ploughshares*, *Joyland*, *Ecotone*, and *Cincinnati Review*. His nonfiction has appeared in *Salon*, *CutBank*, and *The Good Men Project*. He holds an MFA in fiction writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a PhD in literature and creative writing from the University of Houston, where he was the editor of *Gulf Coast*. He currently serves as assistant professor of creative writing at the University of Louisville. *The Last Cowboys of San Geronimo*

Javaka Steptoe is a Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Illustrator award-winning artist, designer, and illustrator. His debut picture book, *In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall*, won the Coretta Scott King Award, and *Jimi: Sounds Like a Rainbow* (written by Gary Golio) received a Coretta Scott King Honor. He has also illustrated *Do You Know What I'll Do?* by Nikki Grimes, *Amiri and Odette: A Love Story* by Walter Dean Myers, *Rain Play* by Cynthia Cotten, and *Hot Day on Abbott Avenue* by Karen English, which received the Jane Adams Children's Book Award. He is also the author and illustrator of the *Jones Family Express*, as well as the Caldecott award-winning *Radiant Child*. *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*

Courtney C. Stevens grew up in Kentucky and lives in Nashville. She is an adjunct professor and a former youth minister. Her other skills include playing hide-and-seek, climbing trees, and being an Olympic torchbearer. She is also the author of the e-novella *The Blue-Haired Boy* and the novel is *The Lies about Truth*. *Dress Codes for Small Towns*

Michel Stone is the author of *The Iguana Tree*, and has published more than a dozen stories and essays in various journals and magazines. Her work has appeared numerous times in the *Raleigh News & Observer's* Emerging Southern Writers series. Stone is a 2011 recipient of the South Carolina Fiction Project Award. She lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina. *Border Child*

Nic Stone was born and raised in a suburb of Atlanta, and the only thing she loves more than an adventure is a good story about one. After graduating from Spelman College, she worked extensively in teen mentoring and lived in Israel for a few years before returning to the U.S. to write full-time. Growing up with a wide range of cultures, religions, and backgrounds, Stone Strives to bring these diverse voices and stories to her works. *Dear Martin*

Christopher Swann is chair of the English Department at Holy Innocents' Episcopal School in Atlanta, where he has taught English for twenty-one years. He attended Woodberry Forest School, an all male boarding school in Virginia, for all four years of high school. He has a BA with honors from Washington and Lee University, an MA in English/creative writing from the University of Missouri Columbia, and a PhD in creative writing from Georgia State University. He now lives in Sandy Springs, Georgia, with his wife and two sons. *Shadow of the Lions*

Thomas Swick is the author of the travel memoir *Unquiet Days: At Home in Poland*, and a collection of travel stories, *A Way to See the World: From Texas to Transylvania with a Maverick Traveler*. For nearly two decades, Swick was the travel editor of the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. He has traveled to more than sixty countries, chronicling his experiences in work that has appeared in the *American Scholar*, *North American Review*, *Oxford American*, *Missouri Review*, *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Afar*, *New York Times Book Review*, and six editions of *The Best American Travel Writing*. He lives with his wife, Hania, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. *The Joys of Travel: And Stories That Illuminate Them*

Jessica Taylor adores atmospheric settings, dangerous girls, and characters who sneak out late at night. She lives in Northern California, not far from San Francisco, with a law degree she's not using, one dog, and many teetering towers of books. *A Map for Wrecked Girls*

Maggie Thrash grew up in the South. She is the author of the graphic memoir *Honor Girl*, and a contributor to the online teen magazine *Rookie*. She attended Hampshire College and the Sewanee School of Letters. She now lives in Delaware. *Strange Lies*

Richard Tillinghast is the author of three recent books of poetry: *Sewanee Poems*, *Selected Poems*, and *Wayfaring Stranger*. Among his nonfiction books are *Finding Ireland*, and *An Armchair Traveller's History of Istanbul*. *Journeys Into the Mind of the World: A Book of Places*

Lol Tolhurst formed The Cure with Robert Smith in 1978. The Cure would go on to chart an impressive selection of achievements that includes selling more than 27 million units worldwide and earning forty platinum and gold records. Lol, who continues to write and perform, makes his home in Los Angeles. *Cured: The Tale of Two Imaginary Boys*

PJ Tracy is the pseudonym of mother-daughter writing duo P.J. and Traci Lambrecht, winners of the Anthony, Barry, Gumshoe, and Minnesota Book Awards. Their seven novels have become national and international bestsellers. *Nothing Stays Buried*

Deno Trakas is the Laura and Winston Hoy Professor of English and director of the writing center at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He has published fiction and poetry in journals and anthologies, two chapbooks of poems, and a memoir entitled *Because Memory Isn't Eternal: A Story of Greeks in Upstate South Carolina*. Trakas is a five-time winner of the South Carolina Fiction Project Prize and a recipient of the South Carolina Academy of Authors Fellowship in Fiction. *Messenger from Mystery: A Novel*

Kristin O'Donnell Tubb's novel, *Selling Hope*, garnered terrific reviews. A star from *Booklist* said, "Tubb deftly ingrains a thoughtful ethical question into the story, but never overdoes it in this bouncy tale populated by a terrific cast of characters." Kristin lives in Tennessee with her family. E.F. Abbott is a pseudonym for her. *A Dog Like Daisy*

CANCELED: Holly Tucker is a professor in the Department of French and Italian as well as in the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of *Blood Work: A Tale of Medicine and Murder in the Scientific Revolution*, which was a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist and a Best Book of the *Times Literary Supplement* and *Seattle Times*. She lives in Nashville and Aix-en-Provence, France. *City of Light, City of Poison: Murder, Magic, and the First Police Chief of Paris*

Catherynne M. Valente began September's adventures in installments on the Web; the project won legions of fans and also the CultureGeek Best Web Fiction of the Decade award. She lives with her husband off the coast of Maine. *The Glass Town Game*

Sally Van Doren has published two previous poetry collections, *Sex at Noon Taxes* and *Possessive*. Her poems have appeared in many literary journals, including *American Poet*, the *New Republic*, and *Southern Review*. She teaches poetry at the 92nd Street Y in New York and curates the Sunday Poetry Workshops for the St. Louis Poetry Center. *Promise: Poems*

Sue Walker is the Alabama Poet Laureate. She chairs the department of English at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, where she taught for 23 years. Her publications include books of poetry and criticism, a play, book reviews, and critical essays. *It's Good Weather for Fudge: Conversations with Carson McCullers*

Daren Wang is the Founding Executive Director of the Decatur Book Festival. Before launching the festival, he had a twenty-year career in public radio, both national and local. Wang has written for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Paste Magazine*, *Five Points* magazine, among others. This is his first novel. *The Hidden Light of Northern Fires*

Stephanie Powell Watts is an associate professor of English at Lehigh University, and has won numerous awards, including a Whiting Award, a Pushcart Prize, the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, and the Southern Women's Writers Award for Emerging Writer of the Year. She was also a PEN/Hemingway finalist for her short-story collection *We Are Taking Only What We Need*. *No One is Coming to Save Us*

Carole Boston Weatherford earned a Master of Arts in publications design from the University of Baltimore and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She teaches at Fayetteville State University and lives in High Point, N.C. with her husband Ronald and their son and daughter. *Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library*

Amnon Weinstein has spent the last two decades locating and restoring violins that were played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust. He dedicates this important work to 400 relatives he never knew. These grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins stayed behind in Eastern Europe when Amnon's parents, Moshe and Golda, immigrated in 1938 to Palestine, where Moshe opened a violin shop. After the war, Moshe learned that his entire family—400 in all—had been murdered during the Holocaust.

Leah Weiss retired in 2015 from a twenty-four-year career as executive assistant to the headmaster at a private school in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she resides. She has written many short stories that have appeared in literary magazines. This is her debut novel. *If the Creek Don't Rise*

Marybeth Whalen is the author of several novels. She speaks to women's groups around the states and is the cofounder of the popular women's site shereads.org. Married for twenty six years, she and her husband, Curt, live in North Carolina with their six children, ranging from young adulthood to elementary age. Although Marybeth spends most of her time in the grocery store, she occasionally escapes to scribble some words and work on her next novel. *When We Were Worthy*

Kayla Rae Whitaker's work has appeared in *Buzzfeed, Literary Hub, Joyland, Split Lip Magazine, Bodega,* and others. She has an MFA from New York University. This is her first novel. *The Animators*

Alana White is the author of historical mystery fiction set in Renaissance Italy ("The Sign of the Weeping Virgin") and the newly released 25th Anniversary edition of *Come Next Spring*, a coming-of-age novel set in the 1940s in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. A Nashville native, Alana is a member of Sisters In Crime, Mystery Writers of America, & the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators. She is also the lead for the Middle TN/KY Chapter of the Historical Novel Society. *Come Next Spring*

Nick White is an Assistant Professor of English at Ohio State University. A native of Mississippi, he earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. His short stories have been published in a variety of places, including *The Kenyon Review, Guernica, Indiana Review, Day One, The Hopkins Review,* and elsewhere. *How to Survive a Summer: A Novel*

Allen Wier has received an NEA grant, Guggenheim and Dobie-Paisano Fellowships, the Fellowship of Southern Writers' Robert Penn Warren Award, and the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature. He's taught at Carnegie-Mellon, Hollins, the University of Alabama, University of New Orleans's Edinburg Workshop, Florida International, the University of Texas, and the University of Tennessee. Currently the visiting writer at Murray State University, Allen Wier lives with his artist wife, Donnie, overlooking Lake Guntersville in Alabama. *Late Night, Early Morning: Stories*

Michael E. Williams serves as Poet/Storyteller-in-Residence at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. He served as senior pastor of West End United Methodist Church and has served in the Tennessee Conference for more than forty years. He is the author of numerous stories, plays, poems, and books, and has been a featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival. He lives in Nashville with his wife and has two adult daughters. *Spoken Into Being: Divine Encounters Through Story*

Emily Herring Wilson resides in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is author of *No One Gardens Alone: A Life of Elizabeth Lawrence* and coauthor of *North Carolina Women: Making History. The Three Graces of Val-Kill: Eleanor Roosevelt, Marion Dickerman, and Nancy Cook in the Place They Made Their Own*

Kevin Wilson is the author of *The New York Times* bestseller *The Family Fang*, named a best book of the year by *Time, People, Salon,* and *Esquire*. His story collection, *Tunneling to the Center of the Earth*, received an Alex Award from the American Library Association as well as the Shirley Jackson Award. He has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, and the KHN Center for the Arts. He teaches fiction at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, where he lives with his wife and two sons. *Perfect Little World*

Don Winston grew up in Nashville and graduated from Princeton University. After a stint at Ralph Lauren headquarters in New York, he moved to Los Angeles to work in entertainment. He lives in Hollywood. *Our Family Trouble*

CANCELED: Ben Winters is the author of, most recently, *World of Trouble*, the concluding book in the Last Policeman trilogy. The second book, *Countdown City*, was an NPR Best Book of 2013 and the winner of the Philip K. Dick Award for Distinguished Science Fiction. *The Last Policeman* was the recipient of the 2012 Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America; it was also named one of the Best Books of 2012 by Amazon.com and Slate. *Underground Airlines*

Steven Womack is the Edgar and Shamus-Awarding winning author of eleven novels, including *Dead Folks Blues*, *By Blood Written*, and *The New York Times* Notable Book *Murphy's Fault*. A screenwriter as well, Womack co-wrote the CableAce-nominated *Proudheart* and the ABC-Television movie *Volcano: Fire On The Mountain*. He lives in Nashville and teaches screenwriting at the Watkins College of Art and Design. *Resurrection Bay*

Ron York graduated from Belmont University with studies in voice and piano. He spent the next two decades in the field of interior design before opening his first art gallery. When not in the gallery, York can be found in his studio painting, at his piano composing, or assisting numerous nonprofit agencies with fundraising. He currently resides in Nashville with his cat, Miss Trixie Delight. *Kept in the Dark*

Jessica Young is an elementary/middle-school art teacher and author who grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. The same things make her happy now as when she was a kid: dancing, painting, music, digging in the dirt, picnics, reading, and writing. Her debut picture book, *My Blue is Happy*, was a 2014 Charlotte Zolotow Highly Commended Title and was featured on multiple best-book lists. She lives with her family in Nashville. *Haggis and Tank Unleashed*

Karen Spears Zacharias is a Georgia-raised Gold Star daughter and impromptu leader of the rebellion. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *CNN*, National Public Radio, and Good Morning America. Her 2013 novel, *Mother Of Rain*, received the Weatherford Award for Best in Appalachian Fiction and was adapted for the stage in 2016 by Georgia's Historic State Theater. *Christian Bend: A Novel*

Jeff Zentner is a singer-songwriter and guitarist who has recorded with Iggy Pop, Nick Cave, and Debbie Harry. In addition to writing and recording his own music, Zentner works with young musicians at Tennessee Teen Rock Camp, which inspired him to write a novel for young adults. *The Serpent King* was published in March 2016 and is Jeff's first novel. He lives in Nashville with his wife and son. *Goodbye Days*

Gabrielle Zevin is a *New York Times* bestselling author whose books have been translated into more than thirty languages. Her eighth novel, *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*, spent more than four months on the *New York Times* Bestseller list, reached #1 on the National Indie Bestseller list, and has been a bestseller all around the world. She has also written books for children and young adults, including the award-winning *Elsewhere*. *Young Jane Young: A Novel*