

# THE WRITERS GUILD at BLOOMINGTON PRESENTS

A community event showcasing local writing talent

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BLOOMINGTON'S LOCAL AUTHOR

# BOOK FAIR Author Catalog

Saturday, November 2, 2024

10am to 3pm  
Monroe County History Center  
202 E. 6th Street  
(entrance on Washington Street)

**The Writers Guild at Bloomington**

**Local Author Book Fair**

**Author Catalog**



Claire Arbogast

Contemporary Fiction

*If Not the Whole Truth*

*Leave the Dogs at Home: A Memoir*

**Book Blurbs**

**"If Not the Whole Truth"**

A young woman struggles to ferret out her place in the counterculture of the late 1960s era only to find in 2022 America that everything she holds dear, even her own life, is in jeopardy.

Connie Borders sees the changes coming down in 1969 and refuses to let them pass her by. Rejecting her parents' outdated lifestyle and the narrow, whitebread path prescribed for her, Connie leaves Indianapolis for California to stop the Vietnam War and reshape the country into the Woodstock Nation. Her course veers when Carlos, an older university student who is a first-generation, Black Puerto Rican American, persuades her that radical Chicago is where it's at.

During a whirlwind of protests and an acid-laced rock concert, electricity runs between Connie and Carlos. But when she witnesses a shooting in the wake of Black Panther Fred Hampton's murder, she is forced to leave Chicago. From the Midwest to Berkeley and back, Connie goes on a freewheeling search for her place in the fractured movement. Naïve and flawed but pure-hearted, she navigates the complexities of friendship and family, of unwanted pregnancy and illegal abortion, and of cultural and political divides, while untangling her desire for Carlos and his hardcore passion for Puerto Rican independence. Relying on inspiration from the writings of birth control advocate Margaret Sanger as a positive female revolutionary role model, Connie learns she must trust her instincts to seek out the whole story—which may not be the whole truth—as she defines who she is, what she thinks, and what happens to her body. Fifty years later, when Connie is a pro-choice activist in Chicago, her questioned convictions put her in chilling danger.

**"Leave the Dogs at Home, a Memoir"**

After the death of her friend, lover, enemy, and husband, Claire must discover a new self. Sustained by good dogs and gardening, she navigates daunting home repair, career disaster, unearthed family roots, and geezer dating with fierce humor and stubbornness to finally learn how to build a better life on the debris of an old one.

Delightfully confessional and insightful, "Leave the Dogs at Home" maps and plays with the stages of grief, as it challenges societal norms about relationships.

The book, published in 2015, is part of the Breakaway Books imprint of Indiana University Press. It won the 2016 AAUP Public and Secondary School Library Selection and was cited as an excellent choice by the Library Journal.

**Bio**

Claire Arbogast writes fiction, memoir, essay, and short story. She is a graduate of Indiana University and lives in Bloomington, Indiana. Visit [www.clairearbogast.com](http://www.clairearbogast.com) for more information and the latest irreverent musing in her blog, Inside Stories.



Merle Lyn Bachman

Poetry/Memoir

*Thank You for Being, a Poet's Memoir of Home*

BIO: Merle Lyn Bachman is a poet, scholar and memoirist who has published two full-length books of poetry; a work of cultural criticism and translation (*Recovering 'Yiddishland'*) as well as a book of translations of Yiddish poetry; and an anthology of poetry by the Scottish-Jewish poet, A. C. Jacobs. Further information about the author and her work is available at her website, <https://www.merlebachman.com>

BOOK BLURB: For *Thank You for Being, a Poet's Memoir of Home* (Wet Cement Press, 2022), Barbara Roether wrote: "This completely entertaining memoir is about found notebooks and lost houses, about old lovers and new husbands, about the place of words, and the words that live in places, how we find them, how we leave them. Time shifts. Experience accrues. The view out the window changes countries. In Bachman's hands the present becomes a rich palimpsest of past and future tense."



Kalynn Brower/K.H. Brower

Middle Grade Sci Fi Solar Punk

*Green Tara, Mission to Blue Grannus*

#### Book Blurb

The Bosque Family Adventure Series, Books 1 & 2

K. H. Brower's SolarPunk Science Fiction series, for ages 10 and up, follows a family of ecologists who travel the galaxy to put their family together again, restoring damaged biospheres everywhere they go. In Book 1 teenage cousins Virginia and Gordy rescue Virginia's mom and inherit the mission to reseed an ocean with single-cell plants and jumpstart the oxygen cycle of a desolate planet. In Book 2 the cousins track down Gordy's lost-in-space mom. Along the way they apply mushroom technology to detoxify the drinking water of a mining colony on a blue ice moon.

#### Bio

Brower writes SolarPunk novels for ages 10 and up under the pen name K. H. Brower. SolarPunk, a positive sub-genre of Science Fiction, imagines flourishing future worlds that spring from a dystopian backdrop, where humankind seeks to live in harmony with natural worlds. Brower's personal mission is to tell stories of heroes who actively regenerate damaged ecosystems across the galaxy.



Gladys DeVane

Poetry/Plays/Short Stories

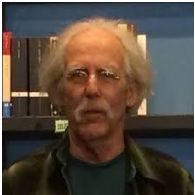
*Come Sit with Me: Life in Prose, Poetry, and Plays*

Book Blurb:

*Come Sit with Me: Life in Prose, Poetry, and Plays* is a collection of fictional stories, some based on historical events and others autobiographical. It is a book of stories, poems, and personal reflections. *Come Sit with Me...* is not really an anthology, but it looks like one. It's not a children's book, but it could be. And it does not fit neatly into any single category. It is unlike any other, with each story...poem...or play introduced by a short prologue that offers insight into its creation.

Bio:

Gladys DeVane—Professor Emerita, Indiana University—is a storyteller, actor, and writer. She has written four original plays, numerous one-person shows, and a book—*Come Sit with Me: Life in Poetry, Prose, and Plays*. Gladys is co-founder of Resilience Productions INC, a theatrical company that researches, writes, and produces plays—inspired by actual events---that tell the African American story.



James Dorr

Dark Fantasy/Horror/Sci Fi/Speculative Fiction

*The Tears of Isis*

*Tombs: A Chronicle of Latter-Day Times of Earth*

*Avoid Seeing a Mouse and Other Tales of the Real and Surreal*

Book Blurbs

The Tears of Isis

Genre -- Dark Fantasy/Horror

"Ghouls, insects, vampires, and gods. Tantalizing bits taken from Egyptian mythology and woven into highly original tales. These stories aren't for the fainthearted. ... It's not just in the gore or the odd characters, but the way he can twist the plot and shock you with the frightening truth. Dorr has a quirky style that makes this collection unlike any other." A 2013 Bram Stoker Award® nominee for Fiction Collection

Tombs: A Chronicle of Latter-Day Times of Earth

Genre -- Science Fiction/Horror

"Far in the future, when our sun grows ever larger, scorching the earth. When seas become poisonous and men are needed to guard the crypts from the scavengers of the dead. A ghoul-poet will share stories of love and loss, death and resurrection. ... Tombs is a beautifully written examination of the human condition of life, love, and death, through the prism of a dystopian apocalypse." A novel in stories

Avoid Seeing a Mouse and Other Tales of the Real and Surreal

Genre -- Speculative Fiction

"From the enigmatic landscapes of ancient Memphis to the mysterious dreams that blur the lines between waking and slumber ... Dorr's prose, rich with symbolism and mysticism, invites readers to explore the intricate dance between the tangible and the fantastical. In this collection, the ordinary becomes extraordinary, and the surreal whispers the hidden truths of existence." A shorter assortment, of one dozen stories

Bio

A short fiction writer and sometime poet, James Dorr currently harbors a Goth cat named Triana, and counts among his major influences Ray Bradbury, Edgar Allan Poe, Allen Ginsberg, and Bertolt Brecht. An Indiana resident, Dorr invites readers to visit his blog at

<http://jamesdorrwriter.wordpress.com>



Carol Edge/C.C. Edge

Mystery (amateur sleuth)

*Blood Terminal: Murder in the Magic City*

#### Book Blurb

*Blood Terminal: Murder in the Magic City*, set in 1931 Birmingham in the Southern Railways terminal environment, focuses in telling detail on the Jim Crow period as experienced by a diverse array of period characters, White and Black, rich and poor. When a murder takes place on a train, the head Pullman porter recruits the one railroad detective he hopes will handle the case fairly. As time passes, the porter and his wife, a domestic in the home of a railroad board member, assist the detective, but things look grim for people they care about when the city police take over.

Centering closely on the lives of Pullman porters, who so infrequently appear in fiction, *Blood Terminal* captures aspects of the racial interactions that existed both within the period's caste strictures and in spite of them. Glimpses of the Great Depression, Prohibition, and the glory of train travel enrich the novel's narrative.

As reviewed by Michael Radon: "The temporal undercurrents of racism and segregation in the South, the politics and logistics of rail travel, and the raucous Prohibition-era nightclubs dazzle on page after page and give tremendous life to every moment in the story. Details here work in great service to the story and never feel included purely for the sake of proving the author did their homework. The pace is snappy, and the narrative is free of bloat. ... This book is a phenomenal love letter to both the romance and warts of an era gone by, wrapped neatly around a suspenseful tale of murder that gives out enough clues to be engaging without watering down its dramatic finish."

A 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Award Grand Prize Short Listed book and the Mystery/Crime First Runner-Up; RECOMMENDED by the US Review of Books.

#### Bio

Carol Edge, born in Birmingham, Ala., was an editor with the IU Alumni Association and in PR for the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies. In addition to writing fiction and memoir, she plays bridge and computer games. *Blood Terminal* and *Crossing a Line* are her first mysteries.



Kim Evans

Memoir/ Middle Grade/YA Fiction

*What I Gave to the Fire* (2015)

*Young Witches: The Ghost of Hunter School* (forthcoming)

#### Book Blurb

*What I Gave to the Fire* breaks the barrier of silence surrounding miscarriage, a common yet rarely talked about experience in the lives of many women. An intimate account of the author's emotional and spiritual fallout following her second miscarriage, the story weaves a detailed narrative of her inner journey to express unspoken feelings, memorialize invisible loss, and recover her shattered faith.

*Young Witches: The Ghost of Hunter School* is a supernatural mystery that takes place in the 1977. While experimenting with placing a friend in a hypnotic trance, three friends inadvertently discover their powers are real. Now they must undo an accidental curse before it's too late.



Gail Fairfield

Children's Stories

*The MOSTLY True Stories of Roly Poly's Great Lake Adventures*

Book Blurb

Open this book to find glorious artwork and seven delightful stories about a real dog named Roly Poly. With Granny Blue Jeans in tow, she tumbles into adventures in and around a Great Lake. These include encounters with big waves, a conversation with a monarch butterfly, and the discovery of mysterious yellow balls that fall from the sky! Roly Poly also tries to dig to the other side of the world, copes with a boring day, and searches for the “best, most perfect stick” to take home. Richly illustrated with alcohol ink and images of Roly Poly, this book captures the imagination of children and adults alike.

Bio

Gail Fairfield writes and illustrates children's stories about her dog, Roly Poly. Her images merge the rich colors and fluidity of alcohol ink with photographs of the real dog. The books are available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Morgenstern's, and [www.gailfairfieldinks.com](http://www.gailfairfieldinks.com). Follow Gail Fairfield Inks on Instagram and Facebook.



Kim Freeman

Children's Picture Book

*Ice Cream Man: How Augustus Jackson Made a Sweet Treat Better*

Book Blurb

Local Author Kim Freeman co-authored this inspirational picture book biography with fellow author Glenda Armand. Augustus Jackson was an African-American born free during the time of slavery. He dreamed of becoming a cook and left home at the age of 12 to work at the White House. After working under three presidents, Gus returned to his hometown of Philadelphia and opened one of the first ice cream parlors in American. He came up with the idea of adding rock salt to the ice when making ice cream, invented new flavors, and was the first person to ship ice cream. Augustus Jackson is known as the Father of Ice Cream. ICE CREAM MAN: HOW AUGUSTUS JACKSON MADE A SWEET TREAT BETTER is a 2024-2025 Texas Bluebonnet Nominee, a 2024-2025 Maine Chickadee Award Nominee, a 2024-2025 Pennsylvania Reader's Choice Award Nominee, and it was on the NYPL list of recommended picture book biographies for Black History Month.

Bio

Kim Freeman is a children's book writer who lives in Bloomington, Indiana. She enjoys writing books that inspire children to follow their dreams. *Ice Cream Man* was published by Crown Books for Young Readers on January 17, 2023 and it is her debut picture book. Kim holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Indiana University and is currently studying to obtain a teaching license. She likes to relax by visiting museums and discovering new ice cream shops. She is a triple-scoop fan of chocolate peanut butter. You can visit her online at [kimfreeman.us](http://kimfreeman.us).



Joan Hawkins

Creative Nonfiction, Memoir, Poetry

*School and Suicide*

**Book Blurb**

Joan Hawkins is cooing a noir memoir in your ear called "School and Suicide," starring girls and women who are trouble, a Catholic father bartender and a host of life-ruining demons and life-affirming angels. Tender warmth at the bottom of a cold shot, it's a disarming collection, equal parts worldly street lit and plainspoken slices of homelife. Stories straight out of the beauty parlor or shared over drinks at the corner bar, "School and Suicide" is a chronicle of dealing with it, barely. A voice on the other end of the line.

**Bio**

Joan Hawkins is Professor of Cinema and Media Studies at IU Bloomington. Her creative work and poetry have appeared in Sand, The Ryder, Avalanches of Poetry, Fevers of the Mind, Plath Profiles, n+1, and the Performing Arts Journal. Her book of short memoir pieces, School and Suicide, was published by Alien Buddha Press in 2022. With jazz-collage artist Kyle Quass, she released a spoken word and sound collage CD, Pragas. A chapbook of poetry, The Burroughs Hour, was published in 2023 by Grind Stone Press.



Todd Hosea

Science Fiction

*Steal the Reaper*  
*Hunt the Reaper*

**Book Blurbs**

**STEAL THE REAPER (The Reaper Series, Book 1)**

When a mysterious spacecraft crashes in a remote region of North Korea, it sets off a geopolitical firestorm. Advanced alien technology could shift the balance of global power, and it is only a matter of time before North Korea's Supreme Leader takes possession and uses this technology to bring the West to its knees. As global tensions rise, no one is aware the United States is harboring the spacecraft's lone survivor. Desperate to find his way home, the extra-terrestrial soon realizes the Americans have other plans for him. His only hope of regaining his freedom is a prototype vessel, known as the Reaper, which lies hidden in the wreckage of the downed spacecraft. But to get to it, he'll need the help of one brave pilot: Captain Ava Tan.

*Steal the Reaper* is a daring heist that calls for Ava to infiltrate North Korea—the Hermit Kingdom—avoid triggering World War III and pilot an alien vessel that is light years beyond anything she has ever flown. It is a mission that will test Ava's courage and force her to decide where her loyalties truly lie. Earth's fate hangs in the balance and the clock is ticking.

**HUNT THE REAPER (The Reaper Series, Book 2)**

In *Steal the Reaper*, Captain Ava Tan pulled off the boldest heist in history, but her success has created a whole new set of problems. Escorting Prince Kypa and Dr. Neil Garrett to Aiwa has exposed the Reaper's potential to the galaxy. Now, the hunt is on to seize her ship. Ava and her crew must face enemies on multiple fronts. Whoever commands the Reaper will control the galaxy's most powerful weapon and determine the fates of Earth and Aiwa.

Meanwhile, the race to harvest newfound crystals on Earth is underway. Edmund Mathias, billionaire entrepreneur, is fast at work staking his claim on Challenger Deep's vast deposits. However, he soon discovers a second survivor from Kypa's ill-fated mission to Earth. Knowledge of this being's existence could jeopardize Mathias's plans to corner the crystal market on Earth. And with the threat of intergalactic harvesters looming large, Mathias must accelerate his plans to seize this opportunity before competition arrives. Failure is not an option, and no one will stand in Edmund's path to domination.

**Bio**

Todd Hosea is a Hoosier native, graduate of Indiana University, and U.S. Air Force veteran. Influenced by Tom Clancy and Michael Crichton, he has seamlessly combined his passion for techno thrillers and science fiction into The Reaper Series, a gripping saga characterized by political intrigue, compelling characters, and unexpected plot twists.



Merrill Hatlen

Historical Fiction/Humor

The Bard and the Barman

#### Book Blurb

The Bard and the Barman is a marked departure from humdrum explanations for Shakespeare's "lost years". Scholars have looked too close to home, failing to see that the Bard was a Francophile at heart, as is evident in one of his early plays, Love's Labour's Lost, obviously based on "Good King Henri" of France.

Due to the journal of a barman at London's Bayside Inn, where Shakespeare stayed during his apprenticeship as a playwright, we now know the scoop. Not only does the barman shed light on Shakespeare's coming-of-age in France, but he reveals why the Bard had to destroy the sequel to his first attempt at comedy, leaving a batch of lovesick characters frozen in time.

Thank goodness that the rather foolish but observant barman took it upon himself to follow in the footsteps of Plutarch, recording the Bard's confessions for posterity. Perhaps the barman's greatest revelation is that Shakespeare was no armchair traveler, but spent as much time as possible in France, where the climate and cuisine were more conducive to his tastes. His travels also help account for his encounters with Henri IV and Miguel de Cervantes (who died the day before Shakespeare).

In short, the Bard didn't just write drama, he lived it.

#### Bio

Merrill Hatlen is an award-winning filmmaker, photographer and writer; he paid his dues by typing his first novel on a manual Smith Corona. The course of his life was altered by spending three years in France, inspiring five novels, two screenplays, and a stage play. His most recent novel is The Bard & The Barman: An Account of Shakespeare's Lost Years, published by Burton Mayers Books (UK).



Christine Howser

Nonfiction

*A Different Kind of Mother*

#### Bio/Book Blurb

**Christine Howser** (born 1965) is an author from Indiana, United States. After a prolonged hospitalization, she gave birth prematurely to twin sons named Steven and Timothy in October 1999, after 26 weeks of pregnancy.<sup>[1]</sup> Both infants died shortly after. She used the experience to write her first book, *A Different Kind of Mother*, for bereaved parents, published in 2002. She holds an Associate's degree (1996) from Indiana University and a Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership from the University of Indianapolis (2007). She has a Master of Social Work from Indiana University.<sup>1</sup>





Peter Kaczmarczyk Poetry

*Distant Yet Always Heard*

Book Blurb

My chapbook, *Distant Yet Always Heard*, is poems of love and loss, family and friends. They tell short tales in poetic form based largely on my own personal experience in nearly 60 years of living.

These poems are rooted in universal experience and all will resonate with anyone who has lived and experienced life and the many joys and traumas that go with navigating the world we all live in.

One reviewer describes the book such: “The way Kaczmarczyk captures the raw emotions surrounding loss is nothing short of extraordinary, exuding a blend of nostalgia and wisdom. A soul-stirring collection that weaves together original narratives and evocative imagery to create an emotional tapestry that lingers long after the pages are turned.”

Another reader wrote “This is an incredibly poignant and profound book of poems. To be art [in any] form a work must evoke a visceral response that transcends thought and analysis. Peter’s work touches one at the deepest emotional levels. Simple words evoking images and emotions that left me close to tears at times. I shall reread this book countless times.”

I know you will not be disappointed with the poems contained within these pages.

Bio

Peter Kaczmarczyk is a lifelong writer who only started seriously pursuing poetry in the last few years.

Raised in Massachusetts, Peter was willing to leave the comfort of Red Sox country when he learned there were Dunkin Donuts in Indiana.

He writes short stories in poetic form with perspectives that come with age. His poems are accessible and will appeal to poetry fans and those who may not be.

His writing is assisted by cats, who think they can do better than him by walking across the keyboard.

Peter has been published in several dozen journals and anthologies.



Bruce Kell Fiction

*The Prophet and the Goddess*  
*Lucky’s Misfortune*

Book Blurb

The goddess is interested in the prophet as an asset to help her pull off a quick heist.

The unwitting prophet, Bruno, is content as a grocery store clerk, but he wants to help the pretty lady, so he does some things he knows are wrong. Things get progressively more complicated until leaving the state seems like a good idea.

While on the road, Bruno rides a magic carousel and his mind is overloaded with dopamine, oxytocin, and anandamides. His altered consciousness creates a rupture in the wall between this world and a parallel reality. Bruno is stuck in the leak, keeping it open. This causes him to experience a transformative connection to everything in both worlds. It’s very beautiful and he can’t stop drying. People are drawn into a sympathetic joining with him, and through him to the dual existences. This is spiritual cocaine and they want more.

Cletus, a New Age con man decides to monetize the phenomenon.  
Lily, the reluctant goddess, is caught in the action and must find the strength to refuse the fate others have chosen for her.  
The Guardian of the Lavender Gate waits impatiently.  
Far away in her palace, Frigg, Head Goddess of All, hears rumors.

#### Bio

Bruce is a long-time resident of Bloomington and a graduate of Indiana University. In addition to writing, he paints, draws, cooks, sings and plays guitar and flute. He and his wife, Ann, love to travel and call San Miguel de Allende in Mexico their second home.



Joseph Kerschbaum

Poetry

*Midnight Sunrise/ Mirror Box/ Distant Shores of a Split Second/ Ken/ and others.*

#### Book Blurb

A beautiful creation of song and scar, of emotional complexity and simple witness, *Midnight Sunrise* mingles the natural and human worlds in a series of compelling, remarkably honest poems. From bountiful harvest to decay, the landscapes he presents us with are deeply intertwined with and impacted by our identities. Brimming with both linguistic precision and intimate grace, these vibrant poems remain grounded in a universal familiarity that opens us up to something much greater.

~John Sibley Williams, author of *Scale Model of a Country at Dawn* and *The Drowning House*

#### Bio

Joseph Kerschbaum's most recent publications include *Midnight Sunrise* (Main Street Rag Press, 2024), *Mirror Box* (Main St Rag Press, 2020), and *Distant Shores of a Split Second* (Louisiana Literature Press, 2018). His recent work has appeared in *Reunion: The Dallas Review*, *Hamilton Stone Review*, *The Inflectionist Review*, and *Main Street Rag*. Joseph lives in Bloomington, Indiana with his family.



Kel McBride

Non-Fiction, Self Help

*The Death Changing Experience : An Oddball's Guide to Creating a Life and Death Plan*

#### Book Blurb

Get the information you need for values-based healthcare, a unique funeral, family security, and an ethical legacy.

Designed for younger, healthier people who like a lil humor with the facts. This essential, end-of-life planner clearly explains your wishes, a precious gift for your family when they want you most.

You are an oddball. This book is written for you and like you: personable, lively, and yet a little quirky. You live a wild and full life and deserve an end as unique as you.

You know death doesn't only happen to older people. You get that you need more than a DNR. You have seen what a "bad death" looks like, and you know you want better. But you've avoided the issue because it felt morose. Or maybe you were worried about DIY mistakes or tales of corrupt players that exploit with underhanded lies.

This death planner is full of eye-opening details so you can connect with family, find inexpensive solutions, and continue your commitment to the environment. Helpful little known-known facts from death experts (healthcare providers, funeral professionals, lawyers, and estate auctioneers) give you insider tips to make educated decisions.

All you need is the courage to do it. The Death Changing Experience can support and guide you, with a lively and humorous tone.

#### Bio

Kel McBride helps people consider options, get their wishes in writing, and communicate with those who will handle arrangements. Her clients value her ability to make hard conversations easier and connect people with options that match their values – all with a dose of humor.



Heidi Michelle

Poetry

*Phoenix in December*  
*Violet Tendencies*

#### Book Blurb

Let me lead you on a journey through seasons of life. Let the words resonate within your soul. Connect with your spirit and with the natural world. Learn that the transformative power comes from within, even in your darkest of moments there is a chance for rebirth, to start again. Give yourself a chance to observe what is around you, and introspectively reveal layers in your own life that invite you to think about what you can change. *Phoenix In December* is more than a poetic collection; it's a profound exploration of emotional expression.

Heidi's second book, *Violet Tendencies*, continues to explore themes of human connection, love, and resilience. This collection of poems delves into the complexities of emotions, weaving together stories of growth and the beauty found in life's imperfections.

#### Bio

I am a Bloomington native, born and raised watching basketball, and always wondering why I was happier writing about what watching the game felt like, the emotions it would bring up, rather than actually playing the game myself. I am a mother of 2 and grandmother of 2, happily married to my husband Sean and loved writing since I was a girl. I am living my dream now!



Patsy Rahn

Poetry

*The Grainy Wet Soul*

#### Book Blurb

"Patsy Rahn's extraordinary poems, intense, lyrical, and precise, guide us from the various darkneses we inhabit into the clear light of self-awareness, a balm for our minds in troubled times." Christoph Irmischer, author of *The Poetics of Natural History* and *Longfell ow Redux*.

#### Bio

Patsy Rahn's poetry and prose have been published in various journals and anthologies. Her first book of poetry, *The Grainy Wet Soul*, was self-published in 2018. Book reviews and further information can be found at her author website: [www.patsyrah.com](http://www.patsyrah.com). The website provides recordings and videos of public readings as well as her sound works. In 2021 Patsy Rahn received the People's Choice Award from the 5th Open Eurasian Literary Festival of Festivals "LIFT". She continues to give public readings and has read for festivals, literary events, and with the Bloomington Symphony Orchestra. She is a Founding member and Chairperson emeritus of the Writers Guild at Bloomington. Her photography has been exhibited in various galleries including Backspace and the Monroe County Convention Center.



Shana Ritter

Historical Fiction

*In the Time of Leaving*

Book Blurb

"Exile after exile has taught us to love things that are small. Things that can be concealed or carried, and to love words and stories most of all." Spain, 1492, The Reconquest, the journey of Columbus, the Inquisition. Esther and her daughters Chava and Sarah are part of a prominent family with close ties to the royal court. But then the Inquisition gains force, the Edict of Expulsion is made law and Spain's Jewish community is ordered to convert or face exile. There is only a short time to decide whether to relinquish their home and all they have known or stay and forsake everything they believe.

Bio

Shana Ritter writes poetry, prose and pieces in between. Her chapbook, *Stairs of Separation*, was published by Finishing Line Press. *In the Time of Leaving*, a novel of exile and resilience, is set in late 15th century Spain. Shana has been nominated for a Pushcart and awarded the Indiana Individual Artist Grant on multiple occasions. <https://www.shana-ritter.com>



Barbara Schwegman

Poetry

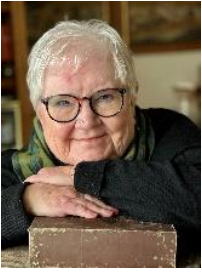
"Nightwalking"  
Poems of Central America

Book Blurb

This poetry is personal experiences of family and from a trip to Central America.

Bio

Barb Schwegman has made Bloomington her home for over 40 years. She has been writing poetry and short stories during that time. She has self-published two books of poetry in the past five years. She appreciates any interest in her writing.



Rebekah Spivey

Fiction

*Marigolds in Boxes*

Book Blurb

For the most part, the citizens of Chanceville lived in peace until 1950 five years after World War II had ended in 1945. That is where our story begins. This does not mean all was as sunny as the brightly colored marigolds in boxes dotted all over town. As you will discover, even the smallest towns can have their dark underbellies. There are silly feuds, secret agendas, and even murders that may come to light as our story unfolds.

Bio

Rebekah Spivey studied creative writing and sociology at Indiana University. She has lived and worked on the Isle of Mull in Scotland. She is a lifelong writer and lover of words who has co-created and led a group called Poetry Detectives, an informal group that discusses poetry in a non-academic way in order to make the genre more approachable. She has a seventeen-year association with Women Writing for (a) Change, Bloomington, a group that supports giving every person a voice through writing. Rebekah has been a certified facilitator with Women Writing since 2013 and currently facilitates a semester-long virtual class. She has coordinated a Women Writing for (a) Change retreat on the Isle of Iona off the west coast of Scotland. And facilitates winter writing retreats for Women Writing. Rebekah retired in 2012 from the Indiana Daily Student newspaper at IU after seventeen years as part of the professional staff. She has been a part-time senior editor for a self-publishing company since 2019. And is an editor for private clients. Rebekah retired in 2012 from the Indiana Daily Student newspaper at IU after seventeen years as part of the professional staff. Rebekah will be publishing her first novel in 2024.



Jacob Surface

Poetry

“Something Dark” and Others

Bio:

J.W. Surface is a preacher, teacher and writer. He is the faculty advisor of Franklin Community High School’s literary magazine, *Bear Attack*. His poetry and fiction have appeared in *Etchings Magazine*, *The Bangor Literary Journal* and on the *Radio FreeWrite* podcast. His first book of poetry and short fiction, "Something Dark and Others" is now available on all major bookseller sites. He lives in the Hoosier state with his wife, daughter, and two cats.

Book Blurb:

The title story in, “Something Dark and Others” follows three friends on a hiking trip that find a cave. Once they start exploring though, it becomes clear that there is something in the cave with them, and they cannot get out.

There are ghosts, witches, killer mermaids and more in this collection of short stories and poetry from author, J.W. Surface.



Wendy Teller

Historical Fiction

*Becoming Mia*  
*Hungarian Rhapsody*

Book Blurb

*Becoming Mia:*

The 1960's are in full swing. The sexual revolution is under way, and old assumptions and stereotypes are changing. But women still aren't welcome in technical fields, and many women go to college for a husband, not a career.

Mia Brower will have no part of it. She will have a career. She will be independent. She will become the woman she wants to be. But can she find real love in a culture whose values are shifting under her feet?

*Hungarian Rhapsody:*

It is 1905 in Nagykanizsa, Hungary. Eighteen-year-old Ella is determined to break from the traditional woman's role of wife and subordinate and find a path to economic and sexual independence. Her childhood friend Ede is writing a women's rights manifesto that would still be considered radical in the United States of the 1960s. Together, they could change the world -- if they can just find a way to be together.

Bio

Wendy Teller writes fiction, memoir, and history. Wendy's novels include *Becoming Mia*, a story of coming of age in the turbulent 1960s, and the *Hungarian trilogy*, (*Hungarian Rhapsody*, *Hungarian Elegy*, and *Hungarian Legacy*), which follows Ella from the Hungarian golden early 1900s to the stormy post-World War 1 years.



J.M. Williger

Fantasy/YA Fiction

*The Trials of Gnash Book One: The Rites of Iron*

Book Blurb

The Rushali Desert is many things--a swirling tempest of red sand, an arid landscape scoured by incredible heat, and a breeding ground for dangerous beasts. But for Gnash, a young warrior raised in a tribe of wandering nomads, the desert is simply home.

Through the Rites of Iron, a coming-of-age ceremony for young warriors in his tribe, Gnash discovers what it means to be truly strong as he fights through the perils of his desolate homeland.

Bio

JM Williger has always loved telling stories. From the intricate dramas of the Stuffed Animal Theater to Doritos-fueled games of Dungeons and Dragons, he's always been taken by the world of fantasy. Now making his debut, JM hopes to share his love of adventure through *The Rites of Iron*.



Karen Wyle

Science Fiction, Fantasy, Historical Romance, Historical Fiction, Children’s Picture Books

*Water to Water/Who/Far From Mortal Realms/What Heals the Heart/The Decision: A Novel of Germany/You Can't Kiss A Bubble and/or Where Do Fireflies Sleep/A Boy Who Made Music: The Extraordinary Life of Joaquin Rodrigo/ Closest to the Fire: A Guide to American Law and Lawyers*

Book Blurb

Wyle writes thoughtful and compassionate fiction in several genres. She also collaborates with illustrators on lyrical picture books celebrating the extraordinary in the everyday

Bio

Besides being an author, Wyle is a quasi-retired appellate attorney, a dormant photographer, and the mother of two wildly creative offspring. Her personal history has led her to focus on often-intertwined themes of family, communication, the impossibility of controlling events, and the persistence of unfinished business.



Charlotte Zietlow

Memoir

*How We Won: 1971*

Book Blurb

This is the story of one small town, deep in the Hoosier State, that rallied to an internal cry for change, and made it happen. It is a story of citizens claiming their community to meet its real needs. It succeeded faster and more completely than we could have ever imagined, and is still reverberating Bloomington, Indiana, today.

I have written this book as a chronicle of something that really happened and changed the nature of our community forever. While it’s about Democrats and Republicans, my overall message is for the people of whatever party can change their community for the better if they welcome and listen to those who have similar ideas even though they have different backgrounds. Listening is the key to building successful partnerships. I hope this book encourages people to reach out to their neighbors to solve problems and create healthy and enduring communities.

Bio

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1934, She was then raised in Wisconsin and Minnesota during her younger years. She has lived and studied in Switzerland and Germany. Graduated from Valparaiso University in 1957 and married her childhood sweetheart, and she and her husband both received their PhD from the University of Michigan. She got hers in Linguistics, having taught German at the University of Michigan and Indiana University, she then left linguistics after being rejected due to being a faculty wife. After living in Czechoslovakia, under a totalitarian regime, she got involved in local politics in Bloomington, Indiana. She was then the first elected female city council president in 1971, in a transformative election in Bloomington. During this time of being a city council president, she opened her store, Goods for Cooks in 1973 with Marilyn Schulz, the state representative from Bloomington. She ran unsuccessfully for congress in 1978 but was elected the first women county commissioner in 1980 in Monroe County, as a democrat in the regime landslide. As a county commissioner, she preceded over the restoration of the courthouse in Monroe County, reelected as commissioner in 1984, she worked tirelessly to defeat the construction of potentially dangerous PCB incinerator, following jobs included being community organizer for Planned Parenthood in southern Indiana, executive director of United Way, and economic developer for

Middle Way House, a shelter for abused women, aiding in the construction of a new shelter and businesses'. From 1988 to 2006, she served as a university trustee at Indiana State. She has two children, Rebecca and Nathan Zietlow, two very successful lawyers, and three wonderful granddaughters and a grandson who passed in 2019, in a tragic accident. Her wonderful husband Paul passed in 2015. She still currently resides in Bloomington Indiana, still being a very active member of the community.



## Featured Authors



Rob Harrell

Graphic Novel/Middle Grade

*Popcorn*  
*Wink*  
*Monster on the Hill*  
*Life of Zarf*

### Bio

Rob Harrell is the author of the middle grade novel *Wink*, the *Life of Zarf* series and the graphic novel *Monster on the Hill*, which was adapted into the animated film *Rumble*. In addition, Harrell created the comic strip *Big Top* and now writes and draws the daily strip *Adam@Home*. Harrell recently wrote and illustrated the graphic novels *Batpig: When Pigs Fly*, *Batpig: Too Pig To Fail*, and *Batpig: Go Pig or Go Home*. His latest middle grade novel, *Popcorn*, will be released on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Harrell lives in Zionsville, Indiana with his dog, Shepler.



Keiko Kasza

Children's Picture Books

*Finders, Keepers!*  
*My Lucky Birthday*  
*My Lucky Day*

### Bio

Keiko was born on a small island in the Inland Sea of Japan. She grew up in a typical Japanese extended family with her parents, two brothers, and grandparents. Uncles, aunts, and cousins also lived nearby. She came to the United States in 1973 to continue her education, and in 1976 she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in graphic arts from California State University at Northridge.

While working as a graphic designer, Keiko read Leo Lionni's masterful work, *Frederick*, and she became interested in picture books. She began experimenting with picture books in her free time. Her first book was published in 1981 in Japan and thereafter she continued to publish in her native language. *The Wolf's Chicken Stew*, a 1987 ALA notable book and the winner of the 1989 Kentucky Bluegrass Award, was her first work to be published in the United States. She has now published 22 books and her work is translated into 16 languages.

Keiko compares the process of creating a book to acting on stage under the lights: "I become the character that I'm working on at that moment. I pretend that I'm a bird looking for a mother, or a pig trying to impress his girlfriend. When I'm acting, I'm a child myself." Her ambition is not to create a hundred books but to create one really good book that will be kept on the bookshelves for generations (although a hundred good books would be even better, of course!)

Keiko Kasza lives in Bloomington, Indiana with her husband, a professor of Japanese politics at Indiana University, and they have two sons.



Tanya Konerman

Children's Books

*The Haunted States of America*  
*Mud to the Rescue!*  
*Danger in the Dunes*

Bio

Tanya Konerman is a children's author, writing fiction and nonfiction in both prose and verse for kids ages 0-12. Her debut picture book, *Mud to the Rescue!*, is a lyrical nonfiction look at the ingenious ways animals use mud to survive and thrive. It is forthcoming in the spring of 2025 from Web of Life Children's Books.

Tanya's ghost story for 9-12 year-olds, *Danger in the Dunes*, was chosen to represent Indiana in the anthology for middle graders, *The Haunted States of America*, to be published by Macmillan's Laura Godwin Books in July of 2024.



Nate Powell

Graphic Novels

*Fall Through*  
*Lies My Teacher Told Me*  
*March*

Bio

Nate Powell is a National Book Award-winning cartoonist who began self-publishing comics as an Arkansas teenager in 1992. His work includes the new graphic novel *Fall Through* and a comics adaptation of James Loewen's *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, as well as *Save It For Later*, civil rights icon John Lewis' *March* trilogy and its follow-up *Run*, viral comics essay *About Face*, and graphic novels *Come Again*, *Two Dead*, *Any Empire*, and *Swallow Me Whole*. He has published nonfiction comics and written for *The Washington Post*, *The Nib*, *Popula*, *Booklist*, *CNN*, and *The Weather Channel*.

Powell's work has also received a Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, multiple Eisner and Ignatz Awards, ALA and YALSA distinctions, the Comic-Con International Inkpot Award, and the CXC Transformative Work Award. He has discussed his work at the United Nations, as well as on MSNBC's *The Rachel Maddow Show*, *CNN*, *NPR*, *PBS*, and *Free Speech TV*.

From 1992 to 2010, he performed and toured in multiple underground punk bands including *Soophie Nun Squad* and *Universe*, and managed DIY label *Harlan Records*.

Powell is currently drawing *Diana*, a character-centered prequel to *Fall Through* to be released in 2026. He lives in Bloomington, Indiana.



Teresa Robeson

Children's Picture Books

*Clouds in Space: Nebulae, Stardust, and Us*

*Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom*  
*Two Bicycles in Beijing*

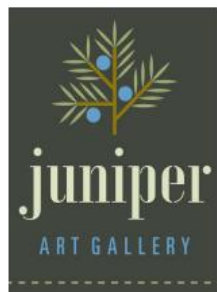
#### Bio

Teresa Robeson is the (APALA) American Library Association's Youth Media Picture Book Award-winning author of *QUEEN OF PHYSICS: HOW WU CHIEN SHIUNG HELPED UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE ATOM* (Sterling/Union Square; illus. Rebecca Huang); *TWO BICYCLES IN BEIJING* (Albert Whitman; illus. Junyi Wu); and the graphic biography, *WHO IS TIBET'S EXILED LEADER? THE 14TH DALAI LAMA* (Penguin Workshop; illus. Angela Poon). She's a part of the anthologies *NONFICTION AUTHORS DIG DEEP* (NCTE; ed. Melissa Stewart) and *NO WORLD TOO BIG: YOUNG PEOPLE FIGHTING GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE* (Charlesbridge; ed. Lindsay Metcalf, Keila Dawson, Jeanette Bradley).

Her upcoming works include *CLOUDS IN SPACE: STARDUST, NEBULAE, AND US* (MIT Kids/Candlewick; illus. Diana Renjina), *WHO SMASHED HOLLYWOOD BARRIERS WITH GUNG FU? BRUCE LEE* (Penguin Workshop; illus. Ryan Inzana), *CLEAR AND BRIGHT: THE CHING MING STORY* (Astra Young Readers; illus. William Low) and a couple more yet-to-be-announced books. Besides writing, she has served as a mentor to Queer Kidlit and often donates critiques to kid lit writing contests for newer writers.

Teresa lives with her family on 27-acres in rural Indiana where they grow and forage much of their own food. She relaxes by birding, creating art, keeping up with science, making marmalade and jellies, knitting, baking, and trying to impress the chickens with her bilingualism. Learn more about her at [teresarobeson.com](http://teresarobeson.com).

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