

2024



INDIANA AUTHORS AWARDS

AUTHOR BIOS

SPEAKER

PROGRAM



PAUL ALLOR, GENRE WINNER



Paul Allor is a comic book writer, editor and educator, known for balancing intensely character-driven stories with bombastic ideas and dynamic plotting. Their creator-owned books include *Hollow Heart* for Vault Comics, *Monstro Mechanica* for AfterShock Comics, *Tet* for IDW Publishing and *Past the Last Mountain* for CEX Publishing, among others.

Paul has written comics for some of the world's biggest properties, including *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Captain America* and other Marvel characters, *Star Trek*, *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*, *My Little Pony* and more. Their critically acclaimed run on *G.I. Joe* reinvented the franchise for a modern audience. One issue, which dealt with PTSD and mental health issues in

veterans, is used by veterans' mental health advocates across the country to further awareness and won the SAVE National Media Award for Excellence in Reporting on Suicide.

Paul is also known for their work in increasing queer representation in comics, and for co-creating some of the first queer characters in the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *G.I. Joe* franchises. They received national recognition for their work in developing the Death Ranger, a non-binary villain in the *Power Rangers* universe. *Hollow Heart*, the subject of this award, is a gay monster love story and an allegory for queer liberation.

Paul is currently the primary writing instructor at Comics Experience, an online school for comic book creators. They live in Indianapolis.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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JOHN DAVID ANDERSON, MIDDLE GRADE SHORTLIST HONOREE



John David Anderson is the best-selling and critically-acclaimed author of a dozen novels for young people, including *Ms. Bixby's Last Day*, *Posted, Granted, Stowaway*, *One Last Shot* and *The Greatest Kid in the World*. A lifelong resident of Indianapolis, he spends his days hiking, biking, building Lego, and encouraging young people to read and share their own stories. He fervently believes that chocolate is a vegetable and makes sure to get his daily recommended allowance.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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GABRIELLE BALKAN, CHILDREN'S SHORTLIST HONOREE



Gabrielle Balkan is best known for non-fiction books that delight readers ages 0-12 with curious and essential facts about the United States, animal record-breakers, ground-breaking artists, and foundational tools, like maps!

In a starred review, Kirkus declared *Whose Bones? An Animal Guessing Game* “An excellent and even playful introduction to the skeletal system of both human- and animalkind.” In another starred review, Kirkus heralded *What a Map Can Do* as “A standout picture book that both entertains and teaches.” Recommended by the National Council for the Social Studies-Children’s Book Council and International Literacy Association, Gabrielle’s conversational books include *Meet the Megafauna: Get to Know 20 of the Largest*

Animals to Ever Roam the Earth; *The 50 States: Explore the U.S. in 51 State Maps*; *Book of Dinosaurs: 10 Record-Breaking Prehistoric Animals*; and *Georgia O’Keefe: She Saw the World in a Flower*.

Her highly interactive classroom visits encourage students to engage with nonfiction books by: identifying the style and tone they would use to approach a topic; critiquing drafts of Gabrielle’s own work; workshopping how to turn straight forward facts into a captivating scene.

Educators say, Gabrielle “had our students so engaged with movement, discussion, drawing, learning, and having a really fun time! Her visit certainly inspired our students to want to be authors and illustrators!” Another visit organizer shared: “Gabrielle helped begin our school year on a strong note. Her connection with students just brings out their very best.”

Gabrielle grew up across from the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis with teacher parents. She now lives in New York’s Hudson Valley where she enjoys reading detective novels, cooking soup, and hiding geocaches for other outdoor enthusiasts to find. When she’s not puzzling over how to explain complex topics to readers, Gabrielle takes great joy in visiting classrooms to talk book shop with students. Visit her online at www.gabriellebalkan.com and chat with her on social media at [@gabriellebalkan](https://twitter.com/gabriellebalkan).

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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STEVE BEAVEN, NONFICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



Steve Beaven grew up in Evansville, three blocks from the University of Evansville. He attended Memorial High School, earned a degree in English from Indiana University and has worked for many years as a writer and journalist. His work has appeared in *The New York Times* and elsewhere. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife, two teenage sons and two irritating dogs.

Available for **virtual** and limited **in-person** events.

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RAY BOOMHOWER, NONFICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



Ray E. Boomhower is senior editor at the Indiana Historical Society Press, where he edits the popular history magazine *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. He has worked at the IHS for more than three decades.

A native of Mishawaka, Indiana, and a former newspaper reporter for Indiana newspapers, Boomhower has written extensively on World War II media history, including biographies of such noted war correspondents as *Scripps-Howard* columnist Ernie Pyle and *Time* magazine reporter Robert L. Sherrod. Boomhower has also published biographies of President Benjamin Harrison, fighter ace Alex Vraciu, photographer John A. Bushemi, Original 7 astronaut Gus Grissom, longform journalist and political speechwriter John Bartlow

Martin, and educator and activist May Wright Sewall.

In addition to having numerous articles in *Traces* and the *Indiana Magazine of History*, Boomhower has had his work published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, the *Cleveland Review of Books*, and *Smithsonian*.

Boomhower received the Hoosier Historian award from the Indiana Historical Society and has won the 2009 Best Books of Indiana sponsored by the Indiana Center for the Book. He was a finalist in the annual Benjamin Franklin Awards from the Independent Book Publishers Association. In 2010 he was named as the winner of the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award in the regional category.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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MARIANNE BORUCH, POETRY SHORTLIST HONOREE



Marianne Boruch writes about what's strange in the ordinary, mostly poems but also essays (eleven and four collections, respectively, most recently *Bestiary Dark* and *Sing by the Burying Ground*) and memoir on occasion, a curious one about hitchhiking in the 70s, and a forthcoming set of field notes/meditations--*The Figure Going Imaginary*—assembled during the pandemic lockdown, well after attending the IU Medical School's so-called “cadaver lab” on the Purdue campus while taking a Life Drawing class there, an experience that fueled her 8th poetry collection, *Cadaver, Speak*. She will happily give a reading from any of this work in schools, colleges, libraries, community groups and centers—wherever writers, readers, dreamers gather.

A little more background music: Boruch was born in Chicago, attended parish schools there, and later the University of Illinois, Urbana and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where her MFA advisor was James Tate. Her poems and essays have appeared widely, and her work recognized by two Fulbright Scholarships (Scotland and Australia), a Guggenheim, two NEAs, several Pushcart Prizes, The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Writers Award (national division), the Kingsley-Tufts Poetry Award, artist residencies at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center and two national parks (Denali and Isle Royale). She went rogue and emeritus in 2018 from teaching at Purdue University where over three decades ago she established the MFA Program in Creative Writing. (Note: “retirement” is a vast misnomer!) She and her husband live in West Lafayette in what we think is a 1920s Sears & Roebuck DIY house where they raised their son.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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JOSH DYGERT, GENRE SHORTLIST HONOREE



Josh Dygert's short stories have appeared in a number of online magazines and anthologies, including in the #1 Amazon Bestselling Horror Anthology *Secret Stairs*. He is also the author of a middle-grade fantasy novel called *The Story Traveler*, which is available from Amazon. He studied English and Theater in college and now teaches high school English in Indianapolis, Indiana. He can be found online at joshdygert.com.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT, DEBUT SHORTLIST HONOREE



Christopher Elliott is a lifelong resident of Fort Wayne, Indiana where he works as a high school history teacher. He first developed a passion for history as an adolescent. Elliott is the author of two books. *Before the Dream*, published in 2021, focuses on Dr. Martin Luther King's visit to Fort Wayne in 1963 and its role in the Civil Rights movement. His second book *Hornets' Nest*, published in 2023, recounts controversy, violence, and tragedy that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017 following the proposed removal of a downtown Confederate monument. Elliott has also published multiple articles in area newspapers and magazines.

Elliott resides in Fort Wayne with his wife and teenage son. He is also the proud stepfather of three, and grandfather of two. Elliott remains politically active in his community and serves on the Board of Directors for the MLK Club of Fort Wayne. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, reading, sports and fitness.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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CRAIG FEHRMAN, NONFICTION WINNER



Craig Fehrman spent more than a decade writing and researching his first book, *Author in Chief*, which *The Wall Street Journal* called “one of the best books on the American presidency to appear in recent years.” He was born and raised in southern Indiana and currently lives in Bloomington with his wife and children. Fehrman is an adjunct lecturer at the Media School at Indiana University, Bloomington. In addition to *Author in Chief*, which was also a finalist for the Marfield Prize, Fehrman has edited an anthology, *The Best Presidential Writing*, and is currently finishing his next book, a revisionary look at the explorations of Lewis and Clark.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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TYRONE MCKINLEY FREEMAN, DEBUT SHORTLIST HONOREE



Tyrone McKinley Freeman, Ph.D., is the grandson, son, nephew and cousin of African American Baptist preachers and First Ladies. His experiences growing up in the Black Church influence his storytelling and writings about the history of African American philanthropy. He currently serves as the Glenn Family Chair in Philanthropy and Associate Professor of Philanthropic Studies at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at IUPUI where he writes about the history of philanthropy, African American philanthropy, and philanthropy and higher education.

In his book, *Madam C.J. Walker's Gospel of Giving: Black Women's Philanthropy during Jim Crow* (University of Illinois Press, 2020), he reexamines the life and generosity of the adopted Hoosier entrepreneur who became known as America's first self-made female millionaire. He tells the story of the origins and motivations for her philanthropic giving and engagement in the early twentieth century fight against the racist and sexist American system of Jim Crow segregation. By embedding Walker within networks and communities of generous Black women, Tyrone identifies and elevates the long-standing cultural tradition of philanthropic giving that has existed among African Americans since the earliest days of slavery. Walker-descendant biographer and native Hoosier A'Leia Bundles said that Freeman's book “exceeded my expectations by exploring new dimensions of Walker as a philanthropist and as an educator. His work opens the doors for a more inclusive and more meaningful analysis so that Black philanthropy is a feature rather than a footnote of American philanthropy.”

The book won the Association of Fundraising Professionals' Skystone Partners Research Prize in Fundraising and Philanthropy and the Terry McAdam Book Award from the Alliance for Nonprofit Management. Recently, Tyrone was named a 2022 international laureate of the Dan David Prize, “the largest history prize in the world,” which recognizes his significant contributions to the study of African American philanthropy and the discipline of history. His work has appeared or been cited in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *TIME*, *Harvard Business Review*, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Black Perspectives*, and the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*.

Previously, Tyrone was a professional fundraiser in community development, youth and family social services, and higher education organizations in central Indiana. He was also Associate Director of The Fund Raising School where he trained nonprofit leaders in the United States, Asia, Africa, and Europe. Tyrone

grew up in South Orange, New Jersey, and is a proud graduate of a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). He earned a B.A. in English/Liberal Arts from Lincoln University (PA), a Master's of Urban and Regional Planning from Ball State University, an M.S. in Adult Education, and a Ph.D. in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University. He lives in central Indiana with his wife, Michelle; their two children, Alexander and Olivia; and their two dogs, Oscar and Callie.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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HELEN FROST, MIDDLE GRADE WINNER



Helen Frost was born in Brookings, South Dakota, the fifth of ten children, and lived there until moving to Massachusetts at age eleven. As an adult, she lived in many places prior to moving to Fort Wayne, where she and her family have made their home since 1991.

She graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Elementary Education and a concentration in English, and received her Masters degree in English from Indiana University. She has appreciated and contributed to the Indiana community of readers and writers in many ways, including participation in: Ropewalk, the Mary Anderson Center for the Arts, the Writers Center of Indiana, and the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Helen writes for readers of all ages. For younger readers, she has written eleven novels-in-poems, and seven nonfiction picture books. One of her picture books, *Hello, I'm Here*, was shortlisted for a 2020 Indiana Authors Award and her middle grade book, *All He Knew*, is the subject of this award. *All He Knew* also won the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction. Her work for adults includes two collections of poetry, two anthologies, and two plays. In 2009-2010 she received a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship in Poetry. Her latest book, *The Mighty Pollinators*, is due out in March 2024.

Helen has also been active in the larger Indiana arts and humanities community, participating and collaborating with Young Audiences of Indiana, the Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne Youtheatre and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

She is a frequent speaker throughout the state, as well as nationally and internationally. In 2016, she traveled to Freiburg University in Germany to see the performance of a play based on her novel *Crossing Stones*. She is an active member of Fort Wayne Sister Cities International, helping to build a Friendship City relationship with Mawlamyine, Myanmar. In 2019, she traveled to Mexico to see the overwintering grounds of the monarch butterflies that migrate there from Indiana.

Helen is married and has two sons. In addition to travel, she enjoys hiking, baking, craft work, and maintaining a habitat to encourage pollinators. Learn more at www.helenfrost.net.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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ROB HARRELL, MIDDLE GRADE SHORTLIST HONOREE



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 recently 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*. His latest book is the graphic novel *Batpig: Go Pig or Go Home*, the third in the Batpig series after *Batpig: When Pigs Fly* and *Batpig: Too Pig to Fail*. His next book is a middle grade novel called *POPCORN*, which deals with a kid with anxiety, out in fall 2024 from Dial/Penguin.

Harrell lives in Zionsville, Indiana with his wife and their dog, Shepler.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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TAMARA WINFREY-HARRIS, YOUNG ADULT SHORTLIST HONOREE



Gary, Indiana, native **Tamara Winfrey-Harris** is a writer who specializes in the ever-evolving space where current events, politics and pop culture intersect with race and gender. She says, “I want to tell the stories of Black women and girls and deliver the truth to all those folks who got us twisted—tangled up in racist and sexist lies. I want my writing to advocate for my sisters. We are better than alright. We are amazing.”

Tamara is the author of the books *The Sisters Are Alright: Changing the Broken Narrative of Black Women in America* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers 2015) and *Dear Black Girl: Letters from Your Sisters on Stepping into Your Power* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers 2021). The award-winning *Sisters*, now in its second edition, was

optioned by Wise Entertainment and Gabrielle Union’s production company I’ll Have Another to be turned into a dramedy for television. Tamara’s third book, *A Black Woman’s Guide to Getting Free*, will be released in July 2024 by Berrett-Koehler Publishers.

Tamara’s work has been published in media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Cosmopolitan*, *New York Magazine* and *The Los Angeles Times*. And her essays appear in *The Lemonade Reader: Beyoncé, Black Feminism and Spirituality* (Routledge, 2019); *The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery* (Wayne State University Press, 2018); *Black in the Middle: An Anthology of the Black Midwest* (Black Belt Publishing, 2020); and other books.

Tamara is co-founder of Centering Sisters, LLC, an organization that unapologetically addresses the needs and issues of Black women and girls; and the Black Women’s Writing Society, a monthly virtual space for Black femme creatives. She is also a certified yoga teacher who focuses her work on the healing and well-being of her sisters.

She is a keynote speaker often called to discuss race, gender and social justice, including at colleges nationwide, such as The Ohio State University, Purdue University, Northern Arizona University, Frostburg

State University, Roosevelt University and Princeton University. In the winter semester of 2022, Tamara served as the first ever LiberateHer-in-Residence at Bennett College, a historically Black women's institution in Greensboro, NC.

Tamara is the president of the Women's Fund of Central Indiana, affiliated with the Central Indiana Community Foundation. She is a proud member of the Alpha Mu Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc., and the Circle City (IN) chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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KIM HOWARD, CHILDREN'S WINNER



Kim Howard is a children's book author and former teacher. Her debut picture book *Grace and Box* was published in 2021 by Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan. *Grace and Box* is a 2022 Indiana Authors Award winner, a 2022 Indiana Early Literacy Firefly Award nominee, a 2022 Panda Book Awards nominee, and was included on the 2021 Redbud Read Aloud Masterlist for Oklahoma. *The School Library Journal* called it "a surefire hit for story time."

Kim has wanted to be an author ever since she was little. Now, she enjoys doing author visits to preschools and elementary schools and inspiring future generations of writers. Her writing has appeared in publications such as *Her*

View from Home, *Nerdy Book Club*, *Imagination Soup*, and *Scary Mommy*. She has her Ph.D. in Curriculum Studies from Indiana University and taught sixth grade in Lafayette, Indiana. Born and raised in LaPorte, Indiana, she now lives in Bloomington, Indiana with her husband and their three children. Kim's next book [DO MOMMIES EVER SLEEP?](#) is available for preorder now. You can find out more about her at www.kimhowardbooks.com.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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ANGELA JACKSON-BROWN, FICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



Angela Jackson-Brown is an award-winning writer, poet and playwright who is an Associate Professor in the creative writing program at Indiana University in Bloomington. She also teaches in the graduate program at the Naslund-Mann Graduate School of Writing at Spalding University in Louisville, KY. She is a graduate of Troy University, Auburn University and the Naslund-Mann Graduate School of Writing at Spalding University. She has published her short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry in journals like *The Louisville Journal* and the *Appalachian Review*. She is the author of *Drinking From a Bitter Cup*, *House Repairs*, *When Stars Rain Down* and *The Light Always Breaks*. Her novels have received starred reviews from the Library

Journal and glowing reviews from Alabama Public Library, BuzzFeed, *Parade Magazine*, and *Women's Weekly*, just to name a few. *When Stars Rain Down* was named a finalist for the 2021 David J. Langum, Sr. Prize in American Historical Fiction, longlisted for the Granum Foundation Award, and shortlisted for the 2022 Indiana Authors Award. In October of 2023, Angela's next novel, *Homeward*, a follow-up to *When Stars Rain Down*, will be published by Harper Muse.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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J.R. JAMISON, DEBUT SHORTLIST HONOREE



J.R. Jamison is an award-winning author and storyteller who hosts the NPR podcast and radio show *The Facing Project* (based on an organization of the same name that he co-founded). The Facing Project has helped over 7,000 people in 18 U.S. states and 11 countries tell their stories on tough topics such as homelessness, depression, gun violence, and more with a goal of creating a more understanding and empathetic world. J.R.'s nonfiction and fiction writing has appeared in the *The Huffington Post*, *Pangyrus*, *Beyond Words*, *Writer's Digest* and various other print and web publications, and his work has been covered by outlets such as *The Guardian*, *Harlem World Magazine*, PBS, *Runner's World*, and *The Statesider*, among others.

J.R.'s memoir, *Hillbilly Queer*, was a Libro.fm bestseller in LGBTQ nonfiction (audiobook, narrated by the author) and received starred reviews from *Library Journal* and *Foreword Reviews Magazine*, and was the silver winner of the 2022 Nautilus Book Award for Best Memoir and finalist for the 2022 Indiana Authors Award in the Debut Category.

J.R. lives in rural Indiana with his husband Cory and their dog J.J., and he can be found online at jrjamison.com.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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LEAH JOHNSON, YOUNG ADULT WINNER



Leah Johnson is an eternal midwesterner and author of award-winning books for children and young adults. Her bestselling debut YA novel, *You Should See Me in a Crown*, was a Stonewall Honor Book, and the inaugural Reese's Book Club YA pick. In 2021, *TIME* named *You Should See Me in a Crown* one of the 100 Best Young Adult Books of All Time. Leah's essays and cultural criticism can be found in *Teen Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Cosmopolitan* among others. She is also the author of the middle grade, *Ellie Engle Saves Herself*, from Disney-Hyperion.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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SOFI KEREN, GENRE SHORTLIST HONOREE



Sofi Keren is a writer in love with romance and her home city of Indianapolis. She writes stories that combine the two. She has published two novels: *False Starts & Artichoke Hearts* and *Painted Over*, both nominated for Indiana Authors Awards, as well as the short story collection *Heartlocked Witches of the Midwest*. She also writes short speculative fiction under the name Summer Jewel Keown, which has been published in the anthologies *Written With Pride*, *Bikes Not Rockets*, and *Kiss Your Darlings*, among others. She co-edited the anthology *Non-stalgia* with Ryan Everett Felton.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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KENNETH KRAEGEL, CHILDREN'S SHORTLIST HONOREE



Kenneth Kraegel grew up in Mishawaka, Indiana. He is a self-taught illustrator and the creator of picture books. His books have won awards from *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, The New York Public Library, The Chicago Public Library, the Parent's Choice Foundation, the Bank Street College of Education, the International Literacy Association, Amazon, and the Junior Library Guild. He is also a tutor for people with reading challenges, such as dyslexia. He now lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but still considers himself a Hoosier.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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JOSEPH LEE, GENRE SHORTLIST HONOREE



Joe Lee is a cartoonist, illustrator, and writer. Lee, a graduate of Indiana University with a BA in history and also a graduate of Ringling Bros Clown College (as a professional circus clown, he worked for Ringling's Circus World and traveled with King Bros-Cole and Hoxie Bros Circuses), is the author/illustrator of books on clowns, Dante, and Greek Mythology, and illustrator of thirteen other books in the ongoing *For Beginners* series. He took his knowledge of circus and created *LeGrande Circus & Sideshow Tarot* for U.S. Games in 2015. He is also the editorial cartoonist for the *Bloomington Herald-Times*, staff illustrator for *Our Brown County Magazine*, and frequent contributor to *Bloom Magazine*. October 2021 saw the publication of his graphic novel/bio *Forgiveness: The Story of Eva Kor, Survivor of the Auschwitz Twin Experiments* for Red Lightning Books.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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D.A. LOCKHART, FICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



D.A. Lockhart is the author of multiple collections of poetry and short fiction books, including *Breaking Right* (Porcupine's Quill, 2021), *Bearmen Descend Upon Gimli* (Frontenac House, 2021), and *This City at the Crossroads* (Black Moss Press 2017). His work has been shortlisted for the Raymond Souster Award, Indiana Author's Awards, First Nations Communities READ Award, and has been a finalist for the ReLit Award. His work has appeared widely throughout Turtle Island including, *The Malahat Review*, *Grain*, *CV2*, *TriQuarterly*, *The Fiddlehead*, *ARC Poetry Magazine*, *Best Canadian Poetry*, *Best New Poetry from the Midwest*, and *Belt*. Along the way his work has garnered numerous Pushcart Prize nominations, National Magazine Award nominations, and Best of the Net nominations. He is a graduate of the

Indiana University – Bloomington MFA in Creative Writing program where he held a Neal-Marshall Graduate Fellowship in Creative Writing. He is a Turtle Clan member of Eelünaapéewi Lahnkéeewiit (Lenape), a registered member of the Moravian of the Thames First Nation. His turtle clan ancestors left their Opèksipu (White River) homelands of Central Indiana for their current Ontario home. As a former resident of the Irvington neighborhood of Indianapolis, his work continues to focus on Hoosier history, themes, and places alongside the land's Indigenous roots. Lockhart currently resides at Waawiyataanong (Windsor, ON-Detroit, MI) where he is the publisher at Urban Farmhouse Press.

For his most recent publications and news visit www.wazhashkpoetry.com.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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DR. JAMES H. MADISON, LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT WINNER, NONFICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



Dr. James H. Madison is the Thomas and Kathryn Miller Professor Emeritus of History at Indiana University. An award-winning teacher, Jim is the author of several books, including *Eli Lilly: A Life*; *Slinging Doughnuts for the Boys: An American Woman in World War II*; *Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana*; *A Lynching in the Heartland: Race and Memory in America*, and *The Ku Klux Klan in the Heartland*.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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MICHELLA M. MARINO, NONFICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



Michella M. Marino is the author of *Roller Derby: The History of An American Sport*. She grew up in Morristown, Indiana, a small town located on Highway 52 in Shelby County that has a surprising number of restaurants specializing in fried chicken. Being an athlete has always been a key part of her identity, and she played multiple sports at Morristown High School (as one often does in rural communities), prior to graduating in 2000. She then earned a B.A. in History from Hanover College, a M.A. in History from the University of Louisville, and a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

A lifelong basketball player, Marino began playing roller derby as the everclassy Coors Lightning while in grad school in Massachusetts. She moved half-way across the country to teach American History at a small liberal arts college in Nebraska before returning to her home state to work for the Indiana Historical Bureau division of the Indiana State Library.

As Deputy Director, she oversees IHB's public history programming. She resides in the Butler Tarkington neighborhood of Indianapolis with her 9-year-old son, husband (a history teacher at Shortridge High School), and super ornery dog.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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LAURA MARTIN, MIDDLE GRADE SHORTLIST HONOREE



Laura Martin is a mom by day and a middle grade author by night, although in her heart she will always be a seventh-grade language arts teacher. After spending six years teaching the fine art of dream chasing as a teacher, she is enjoying every minute of this lifelong dream of being an author. Her middle grade book, *Glitch*, was shortlisted for a 2022 Indiana Authors Award. She lives in the Indianapolis area with her husband and four kids. You can connect with her on Instagram @LauraMartinBooks or at www.lauramartinbooks.com.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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MICHAEL MARTONE, FICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



Michael Martone's book, *The Complete Writings of Art Smith, The Bird Boy of Fort Wayne*, edited by Michael Martone was published by BOA Editions Ltd. In October of 2020. His book, *Plain Air: Sketches from Winesburg, Indiana*, was published in September of 2022 by Baobab Press. His newest book, *Table Talk and Second Thoughts*, was published by BOOTH magazine in 2023. Other recent books are *The Moon Over Wapakoneta*; *Brooding*; *Memoranda*; *Winesburg, Indiana*; *Four for a Quarter*; *Not Normal, Illinois: Peculiar Fiction from the Flyover*; *Racing in Place: Collages, Fragments, Postcards, Ruins*, a collection of essays; and *Double-wide*, his collected early stories. *Michael Martone*, is a memoir in contributor's notes. *Unconventions: Writing on Writing* and *Rules of Thumb*, edited with Susan Neville, are craft books. He is also the author of *The Blue Guide to Indiana*.

The University of Georgia Press published his book of essays, *The Flatness and Other Landscapes*, winner of the AWP Award for Nonfiction, in 2000. With Robin Hemley, he edited *Extreme Fiction*. With Lex Williford, he edited *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction* and *The Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Creative Nonfiction*. Martone is the author of five other books of short fiction including *Seeing Eye*; *Pensées: The Thoughts of Dan Quayle*; *Fort Wayne Is Seventh on Hitler's List*; *Safety Patrol*; and *Alive and Dead in Indiana*. He has edited two collections of essays about the Midwest: *A Place of Sense: Essays in Search of the Midwest* and *Townships: Pieces of the Midwest*. His stories and essays have appeared in *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *Story*, *Antaeus*, *North American Review*, *Benzene*, *Epoch*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Iowa Review*, *Third Coast*, *Shenandoah*, *Bomb*, *Story Quarterly*, *American Short Fiction* and other magazines.

Martone was born and grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He attended Butler University and graduated from Indiana University. He holds the MA from The Writing Seminars of The Johns Hopkins University. Martone has won two Fellowships from the NEA and a grant from the Ingram Merrill Foundation. His stories have won awards in the *Italian Americana* fiction contest, the *Florida Review* Short Story Contest, the *Story* magazine Short, Short Story Contest, the Margaret Jones Fiction Prize of *Black Ice Magazine*, and the first World's Best Short, Short Story Contest. His stories and essays have appeared and been cited in the *Pushcart Prize*, *The Best American Stories* and *The Best American Essays* anthologies. In 2013 he received the national Indiana Authors Award, and in 2016, the Mark Twain Award for Distinguished Contribution to Midwestern Literature from the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature.

Michael Martone recently retired as a Professor at the University of Alabama where he had been teaching since 1996. He has taught creative writing classes for 40 years. He has been a faculty member of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College since 1988. He also taught at Iowa State University, Harvard University, and Syracuse University.

Available for **virtual** and limited **in-person** events.

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REBECCA MULLIN, CHILDREN'S SHORTLIST HONOREE



Rebecca Mullin is an avid gardener, bookseller, and mother of four young girls. Rebecca wrote *One Tomato: A Garden Counting Book* to recreate the joy of picking home-grown vegetables and to teach her children to identify the vegetables they grow and eat. She worked at Kids Ink Children's Bookstore in Indianapolis, IN for eleven years, and was a Board Member of the Great Lakes Independent Bookseller Association for three years. Rebecca's second book, *Purple Carrot*, was released in Summer of 2023.

Available for **virtual** and **in-person** events.

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MARK NEELY, POETRY SHORTLIST HONOREE



Mark Neely is the author of *Beasts of the Hill*, and *Dirty Bomb*, both from Oberlin College Press. His third book, *Ticker*, won the Idaho Prize for Poetry and was published by Lost Horse Press in 2021. His other awards include an NEA Poetry Fellowship, an Indiana Individual Artist Grant, the FIELD Poetry Prize, and the Concrete Wolf Chapbook Award for *Four of a Kind*. He is a professor of English at Ball State University, and a senior editor at *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*.

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SUSAN NEVILLE, FICTION WINNER



Susan Neville is the author of essays and stories inspired by the history, culture, and people of Indiana. Her first collection of short fiction, *Invention of Flight*, won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction from the University of Georgia and her second collection, *In the House of Blue Lights*, won the Richard Sullivan Prize from Notre Dame University Press. It was named one of the best books of 1998 by *The Chicago Tribune*. *The Town of Whispering Dolls* won the Catherine Doctorow Award for Short Fiction from Fiction Collective 2. *Kirkus Reviews* calls the book “haunted and haunting,” “searing,” and “Rust Belt stories that reject the label ‘flyover country’ with arresting strangeness.” Novelist Antonya Nelson writes that “The voices in these stories are eloquent and profound, personal and national, serving as a chorus, singing the complex song of loss and praise, the elegy.” All 19 stories take place in a mythical town somewhere south of Indianapolis.

In addition to books of fiction, she is the author of seven works of creative nonfiction and hybrid prose including *Fabrication*, a collection of lyric essays about Indiana factories; *Into the Fire*, an e-book about women in the Ku Klux Klan, published as a *Ploughshares Solo*; and *Indiana Winter*. She won the inaugural Glick Authors Award in the regional author category in 2009, and her collection of essays *Sailing the Inland Sea* was named the Best Book of Indiana in the nonfiction category from the Indiana Center for the Book in 2008. She is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships and the winner of two Pushcart Prize awards. Neville graduated from North Central High School in Indianapolis, DePauw University, Bowling Green State University, and in 2021 retired from teaching at Butler University after 38 years. She has not retired from writing, and recent essays and stories have appeared in the *North American Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Image*, *Diagram*, *Southwest Review*, and other journals. She lives in Indianapolis with her husband and two large dogs. Her brother, children, grandchildren, several cousins, and their families live nearby.

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RUTH D. REICHARD, NONFICTION SHORTLIST HONOREE



Ruth Reichard, author of *Blood and Steel: Ryan White, the AIDS Crisis and Deindustrialization in Kokomo, Indiana*, published by McFarland in 2021, has worked as a public servant for most of her adult life. Over a span of 30 years, from 1991 through 2019, Ruth served as a Judge and Senior Judge; her caseload in Indianapolis/Marion County included major felonies, criminal family violence cases, and civil protection order cases. Prior to Governor Evan Bayh's appointment of her to the bench, Ruth worked as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Indianapolis/Marion County. She has recently pivoted to academia and is Assistant Teaching Professor and Director of the Legal Studies Program in the Political Science Department at Ball State University. Ruth holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from Indiana

University in Bloomington; a Master of Arts (MA) degree from IU in Indianapolis; a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from the IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis; and a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University. *Blood and Steel* is an urban and social history based on Ruth's doctoral dissertation in US

History and is her first book. A child of the 1960s, Ruth is passionate about social justice, the humanities, education, and fine arts. She enjoys her family, traveling, gardening, reading, and writing.

Available for **virtual** and limited **in-person** events.

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JUDITH L. ROTH, CHILDREN'S SHORTLIST HONOREE



Judith L. Roth has lived half of her life in a beach town in Southern California and the so-far second-half of her life in northern Indiana. She's been a piano teacher, a youth minister, an editor, and an ASL interpreter—but through it all, she was a writer. Now she writes almost full-time.

From earlier days, she has writing credits in far-flung genres (poetry, articles, curriculum, songs), but writing for children was always the goal. She now has six published picture books. Her last four are *Goodnight, Dragons*; *Venetian Lullaby*; *Hiding Baby Moses* (a JLG selection); and *Cadence and Kittenfish: A Mermaid Tale*, released in September 2022. Her middle grade verse novel is *Serendipity & Me*.

Judy spends her free time reading, traveling, kayaking, cat-wrangling, and enjoying music and nature and family (especially those two wild granddaughters). She lives on a riverbank with her husband and three cats in Elkhart, Indiana.

Available for **virtual** and limited **in-person** events.

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LARRY D. SWEAZY, GENRE SHORTLIST HONOREE



Born and raised in Anderson, Indiana, author **Larry D. Sweazy** is a multiple-award winning, critically acclaimed author of 19 novels, 1 short story collection, 39 short stories, and over 60 non-fiction articles and book reviews.

An early reader, he was raised in a home filled with paperback books brought home from the factory and watched a lot of 1960s westerns and 1970s detective shows on television. Larry was 49 when his first novel, *The Rattlesnake Season* (2009), was published.

Since then, he has been awarded 10 national writing awards, including the Western Writers of America (WWA) Spur Award (2), Best Books of Indiana Award (1), the Will Rogers Medallion Award (4), the Elmer Kelton Book Award (1), the Willa Award (1), and the WF (Western Fictioneers) Peacemaker Award (1). He has also been short-listed and been a finalist for several awards, and his books have received starred reviews in *Publisher's Weekly* and the *Library Journal*. His books have been translated in Italy and Turkey. He has served on the faculty and board of directors for the Midwest Writers Workshop, the faculty for the Indiana Writers Center, and teaches writing workshops in Indiana and around the country.

Larry lives in Noblesville, Indiana with his wife, Rose, and is hard at work on his next writing project. More information can be found at www.larrydsweazy.com.

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