IOWA CITY UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE PRESENTS

IOWA CITY Book Festival

Oct. 1-6, 2019

IOWACITYBOOKFESTIVAL.ORG
I recently ran into someone who told me the annual Iowa City Book Festival is her “happy place.” She recounted events she had attended over the past few years, reciting specific details from the sessions. “I just learn so much!” she said.

As we embark on the 11th annual Iowa City Book Festival, feedback like that is energizing. Providing those types of experiences is the driving force behind the festival. We hope our attendees come away entertained and enlightened.

I am often asked in the lead-up to each year’s festival, “Who do you have?” These well-meaning queries are in search of a name that will spark recognition, and each year we certainly offer authors with names familiar to those who peruse the New York Times Book Review. But we also schedule many authors whose names might not be familiar, whose works haven’t hit your radar… yet.

Iowa City, the third city in the world to earn the City of Literature designation, is now one of 28 in the world and one of 180 members of UNESCO’s multi-art form Creative Cities Network. We were recognized for many reasons: The word-renowned writing programs at the University of Iowa, including the Writers’ Workshop and International Writing Program, our small presses and magazines, our wonderful libraries, our bookstores, and amenities like the Iowa Avenue Literary Walk. While you are here, we encourage you to explore all of this and more, to fully immerse yourself in our rich literary culture.

One of the joys of being in a City of Literature is not just the opportunity to be around well-known authors, but to be around people who are toiling away on their first novel, perfecting a poem that may never see publication, interviewing someone for a groundbreaking essay or piece of nonfiction. Literature is all around us here, and the Iowa City Book Festival is our small way of illuminating a portion of it. Sometimes that means shining a spotlight, while other times we are attempting to brighten the corners a bit.

Each year, the City of Literature staff is aided in that task by many people. In addition to the dozens of volunteers who make this possible, I would like to give special thanks to Anna Barker, Hugh Ferrer, Kathleen Johnson, Jordan Sellergren, and Jan Weissmiller.

In addition, I would like to thank Ina Loewenberg, Mara Cole, Beth Fisher, Maeva Clark, the Iowa City Public Library, Prairie Lights, Joe Tiefenthaler and Rebecca Fons and the staff at FilmScene, the International Writing Program, M.C. Ginsberg, the City of Coralville, the Coralville Public Library, Alison Ames Galstad, United Way of Johnson County, Little Village, the Iowa Writers’ House, University of Iowa Libraries, and Iowa Public Radio.

John Kenyon

Nearly all Book Festival events are offered without charge. But they are not free. Your financial support gives us the ability to continue working toward our mission to celebrate and support literature on a local, regional, national, and international level, connecting readers and writers through the power of story. Please donate to the Book Festival by visiting www.iowacitybookfestival.org/support or calling (319) 887-6100.
WAR & PEACE

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All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Public Reading of War and Peace
Sept. 30-Oct. 3, 9 a.m.–9 p.m. / Oct. 4, 9 a.m. until it is finished, Weatherdance Fountain Stage, Pedestrian Mall (Graduate Hotel in inclement weather)

Each year, the Book Festival features the public reading of a classic work of literature with supporting programming throughout the week. From Monday, Sept. 30, through Friday, Oct. 4, volunteers will read Leo Tolstoy’s War & Peace aloud in its entirety. This will be the 10th year Anna Barker has led this program, and the second time it has involved Tolstoy’s classic. The reading will take place from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the Pedestrian Mall stage outside the Graduate hotel. Other programming, including partnerships with the Stanley Museum of Art, Special Collections at the UI Main Library, a screening of the classic 1966-67 film at FilmScene, and more will be a part of the celebration throughout the festival and beyond. Free and open to the public.

Goya’s Disasters of War prints at the Stanley

2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the book publication of War and Peace. The Stanley Museum of Art has joined with Special Collections to mark this occasion to pair the presentation of Leo Tolstoy’s novel in conversation with Francisco Goya’s Disasters of War prints.

The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art, “The Disasters of War”
Stanley Visual Classroom, third floor IMU, July 30–December 8, 2019

University of Iowa’s Main Library, Special Collections Reading Room.
“Goya’s ‘Disasters of War’ and Tolstoy’s ‘War and Peace’: A Dialogue Between Art and Literature”
September 9–December 19, 2019

Recasting Tolstoy for World War II: Sergei Prokofiev’s Opera War and Peace and the Russian Epic Tradition

Tuesday, October 15, 6:30-10:30 p.m., The University of Iowa School of Music Voxman Building, Stark Opera Studio (151)

War and Peace opera screening with an introduction by Professor Nathan Platte.

“Uncle Vanya” by Anton Chekhov

Iowa premiere of a new translation by Richard Nelson, Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky

Riverside Theatre
(213 N. Gilbert Street, Iowa City IA 52245)
Thursday, October 3, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, October 4, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 5, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 6, 2 p.m.

Following the performance on Saturday, Oct. 5, will be a discussion with University of Iowa professor Anna Barker and the cast of “Uncle Vanya.”

Anton Chekhov’s “scenes from a country life” tells the story of Vanya and his niece Sonya, who devoted their rural lives to support the academic work of Sonya’s father, a retired professor. But when the professor’s new, young wife appears on the scene, bucolic harmony is thrown into discord. A new version by celebrated playwright Richard Nelson and preeminent Russian translators Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky.

Directed by Adam Knight and featuring Tim Budd, Eric Forsythe, Joshua Fryvecind, Katy Hahn, Rachel Lindhart, Jessica Link, and Krista Neumann.

Tickets and more info about show dates before the festival can be found at www.riversidetheatre.org or 319-338-7672.

War and Peace
at FilmScene

In collaboration with the Iowa City Book Festival, and in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Leo Tolstoy’s epic, FilmScene presents a new digital restoration of Sergei Bondarchuk’s eight-hour masterpiece.

Sun. Oct. 6
1:30 p.m. Introduction by Anna Barker, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Russian Literature
2 p.m. Chapter I, Andrei Bolkonsky
4:45 p.m. Chapter II, Natasha Rostova
6:30 p.m. Chapter III, The Year 1812
8 p.m. Chapter IV, Pierre Bezukhov
$20 members / $25 non members

5:30 p.m. Encore introduction by Anna Barker on Monday, Oct. 7
6 p.m. Chapter I, Andrei Bolkonsky
8:45 p.m. Chapter II, Natasha Rostova
Regular ticketing

Tue. Oct. 8, Thurs. Oct. 10
5:30 p.m. Chapter III, The Year 1812
7 p.m. Chapter IV, Pierre Bezukhov
Regular ticketing
Paul Engle Prize ceremony
for Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady
7 p.m., Coralville Public Library, 1401 5th St, Coralville

Toi Derricotte and Cornelius Eady have been named recipients of the Paul Engle Prize, presented by the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature organization.

The prize, established in 2011, honors an individual who, like Paul Engle, represents a pioneering spirit in the world of literature through writing, editing, publishing, or teaching, and whose active participation in the larger issues of the day has contributed to the betterment of the world through the literary arts.

Derricotte and Eady become the eighth and ninth winners of the award. This is the first time the award has been presented to two people in one year. Each will be presented with a one-of-a-kind work of art and $10,000 during a special ceremony as part of the Iowa City Book Festival on Tuesday, Oct. 1. The event is at 7 p.m. at the Coralville Public Library, and is free and open to the public.

Derricotte and Eady co-founded Cave Canem in 1996 to remedy the under-representation and isolation of African American poets in the literary landscape. What started as a gathering of 26 poets is now an influential movement with a renowned faculty, high-achieving national fellowship of over 400 and a workshop community of 900.

Derricotte is a poet and memoirist who is a professor emerita of writing at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of six volumes of poetry. She won a 2012 PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry. More than 1,000 of her poems have been published in magazines and journals Her latest book is I: New and Selected Poems.

Eady is the author of eight books of poetry. His second book, Victims of the Latest Dance Craze, won the Lamont Prize from the Academy of American Poets in 1985; in 2001, Brutal Imagination was a finalist for the National Book Award. He has taught at Notre Dame University and the University of Missouri.

The Paul Engle Prize is made possible through the generous support of the City of Coralville, which is home to 11 permanent sculptures with artistic and literary ties to Iowa. The sculptures all have ties to work found in The Iowa Writers' Library, housed in the Coralville Marriott, which features about 800 books written by former students, graduates and faculty of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop.
When John Sanford first walked the streets of Iowa City, he was known as John Camp, an aspiring journalist who was attending the journalism program at the University of Iowa. He returns as a Pulitzer Prize-winner and a New York Times bestselling mystery author. The Cedar Rapids native is the author of 40 novels, including 29 in the Lucas Davenport “Prey” series, and 11 in the Virgil Flowers series. Sanford will discuss the latest in the Flowers series, *Bloody Genius*, in conversation with City of Literature Executive Director John Kenyon.

**John Sandford**  
7 p.m., Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library

**Raj Patel**  
7 p.m., Englert Theatre  
Presented by the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust

Writer, activist and academic Raj Patel, best-known for the book *Stuffed and Starved, the Hidden Battle for the World’s Food System*, returns to discuss his latest work, *History of the World in 7 Cheap Things*. He also will show rough cuts from his latest documentary film, a story of community activists from one of the world’s poorest countries traveling the U.S. to talk to farmers, advocates and policymakers about climate change. Patel’s talk is presented by the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust.

**Rising Together | Protest in Print**  
UI Main Library Gallery open hours: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday

This exhibit features artist books, prints, and zines with social justice themes drawn from the University of Iowa Libraries Special Collections and the College Book Art Association juried traveling exhibition Rising Together. Through contemporary and historical examples, the exhibit demonstrates how this work can give activism a visual voice and can serve as a powerful agent in effecting social change on issues encompassing power, politics, war, immigration, the environment and more.

**Gallery talk**  
4 p.m., University of Iowa Main Library Gallery  
Join co-curators of Rising Together | Protest in Print for a conversation about book arts and print in social and political movements.
James Geary
5:15 p.m.,
Shambaugh Auditorium,
UI Main Library
(125 W Washington St.)

James Geary, deputy curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard and editor of Nieman Reports, will present “Juggling Aphorisms,” based on his latest book, Wit’s End: What Wit Is, How It Works, and Why We Need It.

Geary also will read at the UI’s English-Philosophy Building at 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4.

Literary Kiosk Writing Workshop
5:30 p.m., Meeting Room C,
Iowa City Public Library

This workshop will help you turn your literary ambitions into 8,000-character submissions for the new Literary Kiosks.

Screening of “My Life with Rosie,” by Dr. Angela Williamson
7 p.m., FilmScene’s Chauncey space (404 E. College St.)

Kei Miller
7 p.m., Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library

Jamaican poet and novelist Kei Miller, an Ida Beam scholar visiting the UI’s International Writing Program. Miller is the author of three novels, several poetry collections, and Fear of Stones and Other Stories, which was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize for Best First Book.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4

Drop-in zine-making workshop
1-4 p.m.,
University of Iowa Main Library

In conjunction with the Rising Together | Protest in Print exhibition at the University of Iowa Main Library

James Geary
4 p.m.,
UI’s English-Philosophy Building

Reading from his book, Wit’s End: What Wit Is, How It Works, and Why We Need It

IWP Panel: Speaking Freely?
12 p.m., Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library

By definition, being a writer depends on having speech be free. Yet freedom of speech is understood and valued very differently across historical moments, cultures, and contexts; the concept of “hate speech” stands in sharp contradiction to that of “freedom of expression.” What is a writer’s responsibility in the domain between these two poles?

Daniel Poppick and Jessica Laser
5:30 p.m., Prairie Lights

Poppick and Laser read from their latest poetry collections. Poppick is the author of Fear of Description, while Laser’s latest is Sergei Kuzmich from All Sides.
One Community One Book: Lauren Markham
7 p.m., 240 Art Building West

This year’s selection in the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights One Community One Book program is Lauren Markham’s *The Far Away Brothers*. Markham will speak about her book in this special Book Festival event.

This year’s selection tells the story of identical twin brothers who are forced to leave their home in El Salvador under the brutal conditions of war and violence. They make their way to Oakland, California where they must adjust to their new lives.

Markham’s storytelling captures rich and nuanced insight into the migrant experience. Of the book, *The New York Times*’ Jennifer Senior writes, “*The Far Away Brothers* is impeccably timed, intimately reported and beautifully expressed. Markham brings people and places to rumbling life; she has that rare ability to recreate elusive, subjective experiences...without taking undue liberties.”
All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Nearly all Book Festival events are offered without charge. But they are not free. Please donate to the Book Festival by visiting www.iowacitybookfestival.org/support or calling (319) 887-6100.
Here in the Midwest, we are all too familiar with the phrase “Jell-O salad.” While we may laugh at some of these wobbly concoctions, how many of us can say that we’ve thought about where these recipes originated?

Join the University of Iowa Libraries and the Iowa City Book Festival in welcoming Christina Ward, author of *American Advertising Cookbooks: How Corporations Taught Us to Love Bananas, Spam, and Jell-O*, as she explores the messy history behind some of our most popular foods. This talk will start at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, in Shambaugh Auditorium on the first floor of the Main Library. Following the talk, local Iowa City group Historic Foodies will be serving up some of these infamous recipes, and Special Collections will be showcasing several great pieces from the beloved Szathmary Culinary Collection, leaving you with plenty of food for thought, but hungry for more.

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The Iowa City community, along with hundreds of Iowa Writers’ Workshop students and alumni, will join speakers including Marilynne Robinson, Francine Prose, James Galvin, Chris Adrian, and Lan Samantha Chang to celebrate Connie Brothers on the occasion of her retirement as administrator of the Writers’ Workshop after 45 years.
Reading Aloud
1-2 p.m., Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library

Reading Aloud, a poetry reading group based at the Iowa City Senior Center, will read a selection of poems from *American Journal*, edited by Tracy K. Smith, and Robert Hayden’s *American Journal*, the inspiration for Smith’s anthology. Reading Aloud has been bringing the joy of poetry to audiences in the community since 2005. Readers are Michael Chan, Chuck Felling, Mary Gutmann, Nancy Lynch, Cari Malone, Kathy Mitchell, Connie Peterson, Jim Piper, Judy Trpka, Jeff Young and Sally Young.

The Terrain of No Words: An Elegy for Refugees
A Reading of Bejan Matur’s *Sea of Fate*
2:30 p.m., Meeting Room A, Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn St.

The world renowned Turkish poet Bejan Matur wrote her *Sea of Fate* in 2009, in the span of a three-week long “near-trance,” an almost mystical outpouring of words and lines. The poem cycle is a meditation on the fateful passage across the Mediterranean Sea that untold number of refugees have braved for centuries, in search of sanctuary.

Bejan Matur’s work has only gained greater valence and urgency since the Syrian refugee odyssey. Join us for a multi-media dramatic reading of *Sea of Fate*, newly translated into English by Aron Aji and Leigh Marshall.

Leigh Marshall, who voices the reading, is a director and actor completing her MFA in Playwriting at the University of Iowa. Aron Aji, is a translator from Turkish, and Director of the MFA in Literary Translation at the University of Iowa. The performance will also feature Turkish painter Mehmet Gunyeli’s artwork inspired by Matur’s poem.

The Political Season: A community workshop
2:30 p.m., Meeting Room D, Iowa City Public Library, 123 S. Linn St.

A reflective community workshop that will use writing as a teaching and learning tool to get participants to think critically about how to create an atmosphere for civil discourse during the political season. Presented by the Center for Teaching in the University of Iowa Office of Teaching, Learning and Technology in collaboration with the Iowa City Book Festival. Sign up at https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9N8N7cAFa2z4mYB

The Roast of Iowa City
Oct. 6, 5:30 p.m., The Mill (120 E Burlington St.)

Year after year, some of the area’s most treasured comics and writers gather together to relentlessly burn and mock everything sacred and dear about our town. It’s the 10th annual Roast of Iowa City, the exclamation point on the Iowa City Book Festival! Hosted by Audrey Brock. Doors open at 5 p.m.
**FEATURED AUTHORS**

Kendra Allen is the author of the essay collection *When You Learn The Alphabet* and the winner of the 2018 Iowa Prize for Literary Nonfiction from the University of Iowa Press. She has published in *brevity, december,* and *The Rumpus,* among others. Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Allen is an MFA candidate at the University of Alabama where she is working on her thesis and leading freshman students astray.


Toi Derricotte is the author of *I: New & Selected Poems, The Undertaker’s Daughter,* and four earlier collections of poetry, including *Tender,* winner of the 1998 Paterson Poetry Prize. Her literary memoir, *The Black Notebooks,* received the 1998 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Non-Fiction and was a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year. Her honors include, among many others, the 2012 Paterson Poetry Prize for Sustained Literary Achievement, the 2012 PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry, the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, three Pushcart Prizes, and the Distinguished Pioneering of the Arts Award from the United Black Artists. Professor Emerita at the University of Pittsburgh, Derricotte co-founded Cave Canem Foundation with Cornelius Eady.

Joseph Dobrian is the author of the novels *Willie Wilden, Ambitions, Hard-Wind,* and *Feldy’s Girl.* He is the CEO of Dobrian, Frances, Bowie & Long, an editorial services firm, and the publisher of Rex Imperator, an independent publishing house. He lives in Iowa City with four cats.

John Domini’s fourth novel, *Color Inside a Melon,* appeared this summer. Blurs came from Salman Rushdie and Marlon James, and the Washington Post praised the book as “sagely genre-tweaking” and “spry.” Set in Naples, Italy, the novel completes a loose trilogy. Domini also has three books of stories, the latest is *MOVIEOLA!* His criticism has appeared in *The New York Times* and elsewhere, and is collected in *The Sea-God’s Herb.*

Andy Douglas is the author of *Redemption Songs: A Year in the Life of a Community Prison Choir,* based on his experience as a volunteer singing in a choir with prisoners, and *The Curse of the World: Into the Spiritual Heart of Yoga.* His essays, stories and translations have appeared in *Mary, New Renaissance, J Journal, Fogged Clarity, Nimrod, Pisgah Review, Bayou,* and *The Examined Life.* He’s active in peace, economic justice and prison issues.


Sarah Elgatian is a second-generation Armenian American with a lot of questions. Her paternal grandparents came to the United States through Ellis Island, barely escaping the Armenian genocide. She was born and raised in the Quad Cities and later moved to Chicago and Seattle before returning to Iowa. As a writer, she primarily writes nonfiction and lyrical essays focusing on survival. Her writing has been published in *Beholder Magazine,*
Crab Fat, and more. She lives in Iowa City, with her partner and works at the Midwest Writing Center and with the International Writing Program.

Lori Erickson, an Episcopal deacon, is one of America’s top travel writers specializing in spiritual journeys. She’s the author of the memoir Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God, which was a finalist for the 2017 Travel Book of the Year INDIES Award from Foreword Reviews. She lives in Iowa City with her husband.

Melissa Febos is the author of the acclaimed memoir, Whip Smart, and the essay collection, Abandon Me, which was a LAMBDA Literary Award finalist, a Publishing Triangle Award finalist, an Indie Next Pick, and was widely named a best book of 2017. Her third book, Girlhood, is forthcoming from Bloomsbury in 2021. The recipient of an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and an associate professor and graduate director at Monmouth University, her work has recently appeared in Tin House, Granta, The Believer, The Sexes Review, and The New York Times.


Josh Gondelman is a comedian and a writer/producer for “Desus & Mero” on Showtime. Previously, he earned two Peabody Awards and three Emmys for his work on “Last Week Tonight with John Oliver.” Gondelman’s writing has appeared in the New York Times, New York Magazine, and the New Yorker, as well as some places without “New York” in the name. He has performed standup on “CONAN,” “Late Night with Seth Meyers,” and “The Late Late Show with James Corden.” Gondelman lives in New York City with his wife, Maris, and their pug. His debut essay collection is Nice Try.

David Hamilton was a member of the English Department at the University of Iowa for 37 years, teaching both literature and writing courses. Through most of those years he edited The Iowa Review. His new book is A Certain Arc: Essays of Finding My Way.

Donika Kelly is the author of the chapbook Aviarium and the full-length collection Bestiary, which won the 2015 Cave Canem Poetry Prize, the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and was long listed for the National Book Award. Her second book, The Renunciations is forthcoming from Graywolf in 2021. Kelly is a founding member of Poets at the End of the World, a poetry collective dedicated to service and social justice and works as an Assistant Professor at Baruch College. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Poetry, The New Yorker, and The Paris Review.

Amanda Lee Koe, born in Singapore and based in New York, was the youngest winner of the Singapore Literature Prize for her first short story collection, Ministry of Moral Panic. She was a 2014 honorary fellow of the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program. Her debut novel is Delayed Rays of A Star.

Jessica Laser’s first full-length collection, Sergei Kuzmich from All Sides, was released in March 2019. A graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Laser has taught at Brown University, the University of Iowa, Manhattanville College, Parsons School of Design and SUNY Purchase. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in English at The University of California, Berkeley.
Lyz Lenz’s writing has appeared in the Huffington Post, The Washington Post, The New York Times, Pacific Standard, and others. Her book, God Land was released this fall through Indiana University Press. Her second book, Belabored, is due out from Bold Type Books in Spring 2020. Lenz’s essay “All the Angry Women” was also included in the anthology Not that Bad edited by Roxane Gay. She received her MFA in creative writing from Lesley University. She lives in Iowa with her two kids and two cats and is a contributing writer to the Columbia Journalism Review and a columnist for the Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Lauren Markham is a writer and reporter based in Northern California. She writes fiction, essays and journalism – mostly about migration, youth, the environment, and her home state of California, though about other things, too. Her book, The Far Away Brothers, is the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights’ One Community One Book choice for 2019.

Joe Michaud grew up in Portland, Maine. He has been writing since high school when he wrote lyrics for some 50 rock and country songs for a small band of friends. He has been writing off and on ever since. He has self-published nine books of poetry, two memoirs and a book about the writing scene in Iowa City.

Kei Miller is the author of three novels, several poetry collections, and Fear of Stones and Other Stories, which was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize for Best First Book. In 2014, he won the Forward Prize for Best Poetry Collection for The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion. Born in Jamaica, he lives in London and teaches creative writing at Royal Holloway, University of London.

Kassandra Montag grew up in rural Nebraska and now lives in Omaha with her husband and two sons. She holds a master’s degree in English literature and her award-winning poetry and short fiction has appeared in journals and anthologies, including Midwestern Gothic, Nebraska Poetry, Prairie Schooner, and Mystery Weekly Magazine. After the Flood is her first novel.

Raj Patel is an award-winning writer, activist and academic. He is a research professor in the Lyndon B Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, Austin, and a senior research associate at the unit for the humanities at the university currently known as Rhodes University (UHURU), South Africa. His first book was Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System. His second, The Value of Nothing, was a New York Times and international best-seller. His latest, co-written with Jason W. Moore, is A History of the World in Seven Cheap Things.

Eileen Pollack is the author of the novels The Professor of Immortality, The Bible of Dirty Jokes and A Perfect Life. Her essay, “Pigeons,” was selected by Cheryl Strayed for the 2013 edition of the Best American Essays. A longtime faculty member and former director of the Helen Zell MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Michigan, Pollack now lives and works in Manhattan.

Daniel Poppick is the author of Fear of Description and The Police. His poetry appears in BOMB, The New Republic, Fence, Bennington Review, the PEN Poetry Series, and other journals. The recipient of awards from the MacDowell Colony and the Corporation of Yaddo and a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, he has taught at the University of Iowa, Victoria University (New Zealand), Coe College, and the Parsons School of Design. He currently lives in Brooklyn, where he works as a copywriter and coedits the Catenary Press.

John Sandford is the pseudonym for the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist John Camp. He is the author of 29 Lucas Davenport “Prey” novels, most recently Neon Prey; four Kidd novels; twelve Virgil Flowers novels; and
six other books, including three young-adult novels coauthored with his wife, Michele Cook. His latest is *Bloody Genius*, a Flowers novel.

**William Steele** grew up in Washington Court House, Ohio. He is a professor of English at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, who wrote his master’s thesis and doctoral dissertation on W.P. Kinsella’s baseball stories. His new book is *Going the Distance*, an authorized biography of Kinsella.


**Novuyo Rosa Tshuma** is a Zimbabwean writer. She debuted with her 2013 collection, *Shadows*, which included a novella and short stories. Her first novel is *House of Stone*. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

**Christina Ward** is an award-winning writer and editor with experience writing compelling books, articles, and reviews. She is a featured contributor to *Serious Eats, Edible Milwaukee, The Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel, Remedy Quarterly,* and *Runcible Spoon* magazines. Ward’s love of history comes from her father who instilled the idea that we are all manifestations of our ancestors. Her love of cooking comes from her mother who was a terrible cook; which gave her the inspiration to learn how to cook for herself and siblings. She prides herself on having a hungry mind interested in learning about people, the foods they eat, and the stories that rise from that convergence.

**Don Waters** is the author of *These Boys and Their Fathers*, a memoir, *Sunland*, a novel, and two story collections, *The Saints of Rattlesnake Mountain* and *Desert Gothic*. His fiction has been widely published and anthologized in the *Pushcart Prize*, *Best of the West*, and *New Stories from the Southwest*. A frequent contributor to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, he also has written for *The New York Times, Outside, The Believer, Tin House,* and *Slate*, among other publications. Waters is a graduate of the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, teaches at Lewis & Clark College, and lives in Portland, Oregon, with his partner, the writer Robin Romm, and their daughters.

**Dr. Angela Sadler Williamson** is an award-winning independent filmmaker, speaker, and adjunct instructor in the Communication Studies Department at Concordia University Irvine. Dr. Williamson has over 25 years of experience in the broadcast television, cable advertising, healthcare, financial, municipal government, and higher education industries. Her former roles include producer and copywriter for the Orange County NewsChannel, Fox 11 Television, Fox Sports West, and Prime Ticket. In December 2018, she released her award-winning documentary about her cousin, Rosa Parks, “My Life with Rosie,” on Amazon Prime. She contributed to the new essay anthology, *Women Who Illuminate*.

**Andrea Wilson** is the editor of *We the Interwoven* and the director of the Iowa Writers’ House’s Bicultural Iowa Writers’ Fellowship and the series. She grew up in Columbus Junction, a small Iowa farming community experiencing a cultural shift from the meat-packing industry and seasonal agricultural work. In her early adulthood, she lived in Toronto, Canada, and began to write cultural stories. She traveled and lived throughout Latin America before returning to Iowa City and founding the Writers’ House.
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