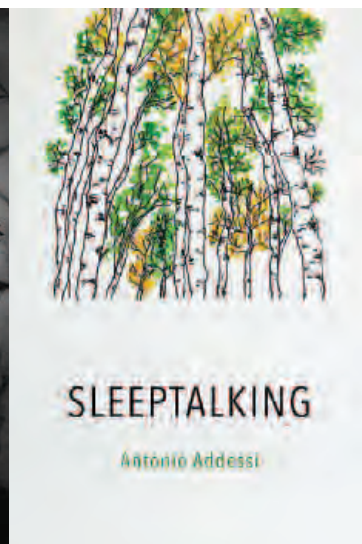


SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS

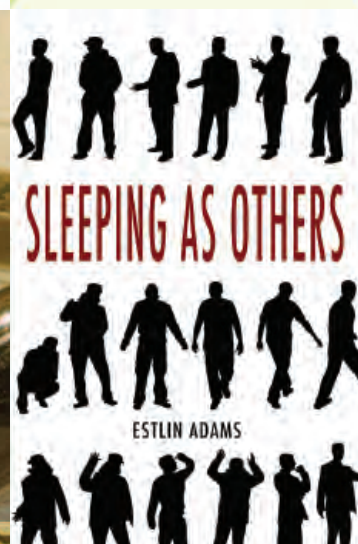
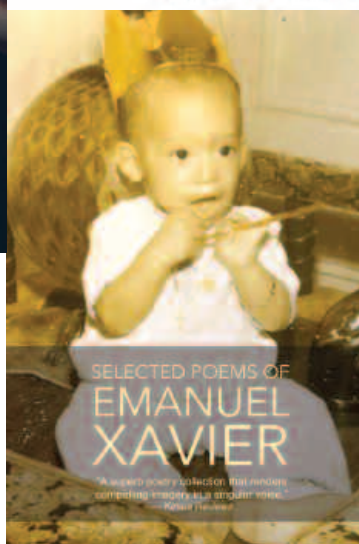
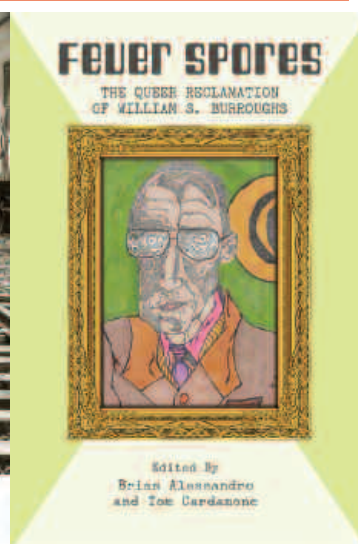
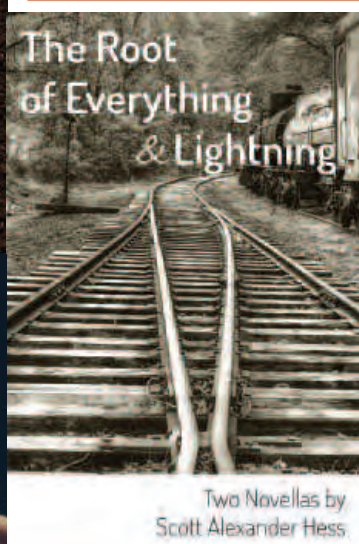


MARCH 25-27, 2022



REBEL SATORI AT TWENTY

*Celebrating Two Decades
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SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS

MARCH 25-27, 2022 • WWW.SASFEST.ORG

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Venues

Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street

Beauregard-Keyes House and Garden Museum
1113 Chartres Street

Save The Date

20th anniversary Saints + Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival celebration!
March 24 - 26, 2023.

SAINTS AND SINNERS LITERARY FESTIVAL COORDINATORS:

Paul J. Willis
Founder of SAS Fest & Executive Director
for the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival

Susan Larson & Martin Hyatt
Literary Program Consultants

Tracy Cunningham
Managing Director and 2022 Fiction Anthology Co-editor

PUBLICIST:
Taylor Bradley

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR:
Marian Hawk

SUPPORT FOR THE SAS LITERARY PROGRAM PROVIDED BY:
Julie R. Enszer, Ian Henzel, Michele Karlsberg, and Gregg Shapiro

BOOKSELLER:
Candice Huber, Tubby & Coo's Mid-City Book Shop

PROGRAM DESIGN:
Toan Nguyen

WEBSITE DESIGN:
Cherry Cappel

TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



Saints and Sinners is a program
of the Tennessee Williams &
New Orleans Literary Festival

About the Cover Painting

Donald Envisioned as Sissieretta Jones

by Timothy Cummings, Acrylic on panel, 2020

Sissieretta Jones was a gifted African-American soprano during the 19th century. Although largely forgotten, she was one of the most famous singers of her generation. She toured the world and was the first African-American to perform at Carnegie Hall. Inspired by her resilient story and glamorous persona, I reimagined my friend Donald all dolled up in Sissieretta Jones drag. The Show goes On... the performance continues!

Our Cover Artist

Timothy Cummings, represented by Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco and Nancy Hoffman Gallery in New York, journeyed to a French Quarter pied-à-terre overlooking Armstrong Park in the Fall of 2017 as part of a My Good Judy Residency. The My Good Judy Foundation provides residencies for artists seeking to produce a body of work or performance in New Orleans that address culture making from



Self-Portrait

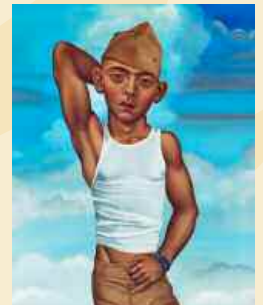
by Timothy Cummings, 2007

an LGBTQ perspective. The residency was established to also honor the work of author and activist Judy Grahn. The subjects of Cummings' work are often children and adolescents struggling with issues of sexuality and sexual orientation in an adult world. In 2013, he was an artist-in-residence and subject of a solo exhibition at Transarte in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His paintings are also part of the collections of Rufus Wainwright, Whoopi Goldberg, and Tomaso Bracco and Sara Davis in Milan, Italy.

Timothy enjoyed his time in New Orleans where he received inspiration from the spirits of his favorite writers Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote. "They shaped my early adolescence. They offer a magical telling of the spirit of this place. The darkness and humor of life and the queer Southern aesthetic shows up in my work as well. Williams' "garrulous grotesque", replacing the bleak mundane of the world with a lush queer poetic eye for the shadows is part of my focus," Cummings said.

Cummings resides in Corrales, New Mexico close to the Rio Grande.

You can see more of Timothy's work at: timothy-cummings.com or follow him on Instagram at: [timothyuntitled](https://www.instagram.com/timothyuntitled)



Angel

by Timothy Cummings, 2006



Welcome to the

19TH ANNUAL **SAINTS+SINNERS** LGBTQ LITERARY FESTIVAL

Dear Friends,

I am always filled with excitement as we approach the kickoff of this annual event. As it has been three years since we have been able to gather in person, this year feels even more special.

I am grateful for the opportunities last year's virtual festival allowed, including some successful, new approaches to panels, discussions, and readings. However, there is nothing like coming together in person in the historic French Quarter to maintain this nearly twenty-year literary tradition—Yes, next year, SAS turns 20! I hope that you will also consider returning then for a spectacular celebration of two decades of memories.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my role has always been getting to know some of today's most creative, unique, and important LGBTQ writers. I realize that the past two years have brought challenges, triumphs, changes, joys, and tragedies to many of you. That is why I want to send a special shout out to those who are returning and a warm welcome to new attendees. Your support and dedication are very much recognized and appreciated. In addition,



Moon Twin Ritual
by Timothy Cummings, 2019

this blend of established and emerging voices adds depth to all Festival activities. As always, this year we have an action-packed weekend of master classes, literary discussions, and interviews, which I believe you will find as diverse and thought-provoking as ever. I hope you will also join for our celebratory fiction contest reading and our Hall of Fame closing reception, both of which have become Festival staples.

Remember that some of the most transformative and powerful moments occur when one least expects them. Relationships built at weekends like this one often become part of the literary fabric of our lifetimes.

Let's continue to share some of those wonderful, unique moments that can only occur when fabulously talented writers meet in a creatively free city like New Orleans. No matter what the past few years have been like for you, I hope that you find yourself represented in some way during the festival weekend. Whether it is more self-awareness after a panel discussion, a creative breakthrough thanks to a master class, or spontaneous camaraderie with other writers, I wish you a truly rewarding Saints and Sinners experience.

I am grateful for everything each of you brings to our community gathering this year, and I look forward to seeing all the familiar and new faces. It has been way too long!

With Love and Respect,

Paul James Willis
Executive Director, SAS and TW&NOLF



WALKING TOURS

LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

March 24, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

March 25, 3:30 – 5 PM

March 27, 1 – 2:30 PM

This leisurely stroll through the French Quarter focuses on New Orleans' enchanting past with an emphasis on the neighborhood's queer history and its rich literary heritage. See where writers lived and wrote, and learn about the incredible contributions lesbians and gay men have made to the city over its 300-year-old history.

Other highlights include Jackson Square, Free People of Color, the French Market, the birth of jazz, Voodoo, and a wide diversity of architecture. The tour is guided by long-time French Quarter resident **Frank Perez**, a local historian and professional tour guide who has written four books about French Quarter history.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$25



HISTORY OF QUEER NIGHTLIFE IN NEW ORLEANS TOUR

March 24, 25, 26, and 27

1 – 3 PM

From drag queens to Storyville madams to the burlesque dancer, **Quinn LaRoux** teaches the fascinating history of the rebellious and dangerous women and queer people who built New Orleans! The tours are hilarious, entertaining, and deeply committed to historical accuracy and social responsibility. Tours emphasize the contributions and

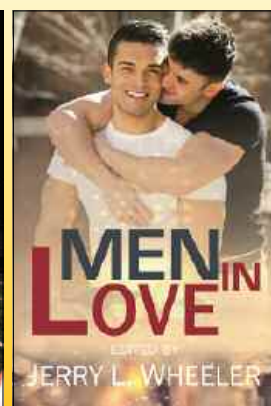
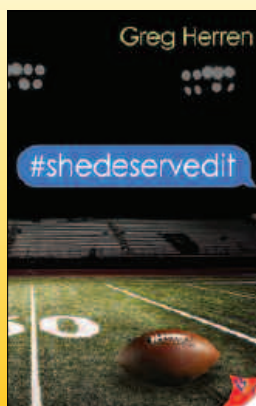
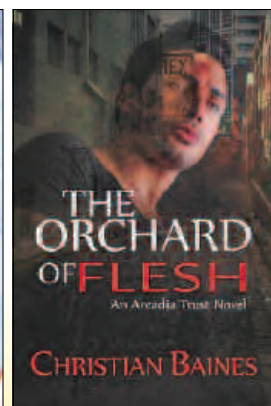
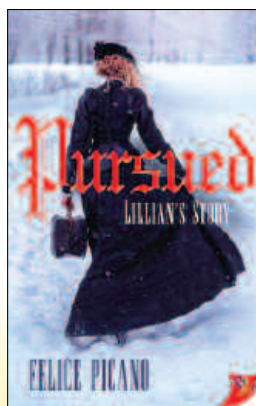
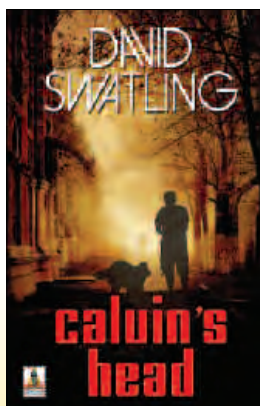
stories of the women and queer people most on the margins of society, and attendees can expect to learn much about the history of trans people, the sex industry, and famous LGBTQ figures. Total tour walking distance is just under 2 miles.

Betty's Bar, 700 Burgundy St., \$30



Use code **SINNER22** in our webstore for **20%** off current and backlist ebooks by these Saints+Sinners authors (through March 31)

Sign up for our free newsletter at **BoldStrokesBooks.com/signup**



The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans Presents
in partnership with the New Orleans Tourism and Cultural Fund

For Whom The SOUTHERN BELLE Tolls

by Christopher Durang

with

Desire, Desire, Desire
by Christopher Durang

and

Swamp Gothic
by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa

March 24-April 9
Lower Depths Theatre
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS



World Premiere Staged Reading

Tennessee Williams'

MOISE

THE WORLD
OF
REASON

adapted for the stage by Justin Maxwell



Saturday 3/26 2:30pm at the Hotel Monteleone



Tickets & Information at

www.TWTHEATRENOLA.com

in collaboration with the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival



theatre arts
and dance

THURSDAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Thursday's events are not included in the Saints and Sinners weekend pass

1:30 – 2:45 PM—Writer's Craft Session

JERICO BROWN: NONSENSE AND SENSELESSNESS

Pulitzer Prize-winning poet **Jericho Brown** takes us on a dive into what's going on when we read a poem and think, "That doesn't make sense." Former Poet Laureate Rita Dove says that "poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful," yet many readers still struggle to understand the meanings of poems. Looking at examples of sense and nonsense in the work of several poets, we'll explore the different techniques poets use to balance meaning and mystery, and we'll generate new work together through a set of unconventional exercises, drawing on the themes of sense and nonsense, engendering new ideas about writing. As there is a profound relationship between reading poetry and writing it, together we'll read, discuss, and even recite the work of several poets whose examples might lead us to a further honing of our craft.

Sponsored by a Louisiana Project Grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts.

The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25



Jericho Brown

3 – 5 PM—Walking Tour

HISTORIC STORYVILLE WALKING TOUR

Join **Dianne "Gumbo Marie" Honoré** on this unique, intriguing walk through parts of what was once the most notorious red-light district in the country, Storyville. Hear stories of cribs, chippies, the Tango Belt, and the last madam, along with the mayhem each night brought forth. Louis Armstrong referred to his childhood neighborhood of Black Storyville as the "worst" area in the city during Jim Crow-era New Orleans. It was also home to the beginnings of Jazz, popular music joints, second lines, the birth of the baby dolls Mardi Gras tradition, and Jelly Roll Morton's other profession. We stop along the way for a refreshing cocktail! Cocktail cost not included.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$25

7:30 – 9 PM—Preview Performance Theatre

FOR WHOM THE SOUTHERN BELLE TOLLS

Presented by the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans

Come to the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans's grand re-opening and be ready for a night of Tennessee Williams spoofs that range from wacky to noir, showcasing the flagship playwright's most iconic characters and plots in a completely different style. First, meet an all-new Blanche who's just as possessed by lust and desperation as ever in *Desire, Desire, Desire* by Christopher Durang. Next, it's over to the parlor of Amanda Wingfield in the titular comedy *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls* by Christopher Durang. Finally, sink your teeth into something spooky and mysterious with *Swamp Gothic* by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, a loving send up of *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Swamp Thing* comics! A versatile cast full of doubling and even tripling roles will have YOU doubled over and rolling in stitches as TWTC premieres its first night of live theatre since 2019!

Additional Performances: Fri-Sun at 7:30pm

90 minutes, no intermission.

All performances at Loyola University New Orleans

Tickets & More information at www.twtheatrenola.com

We are all stories.



Managing Editor Michael Nava



Managing Editor Fay Jacobs

For more information visit www.bywaterbooks.com



Saints + Sinners XIX

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Friday, March 25, 2022

10 – 11:15 AM—SAS Master Class

SPEAKING TONGUES: PAMELA SNEED

Speaking Tongues is a poetry/performance master class open to all levels. Foremost it is a weaving class learning how to weave memory, experience, history, and current events into poetic tapestries. Lastly, it is about finding and expressing one's inner truths/serving as medium and vessel and in turbulent times, a messenger.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$20



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—SAS Master Class

PLOTTING THE ARC OF A CAREER: FELICE PICANO

In the LGBTQ+ literary community, Felice Picano is an all-around utility player. He writes plays and memoirs, novels and journals. A lifelong activist, he has been an indie bookseller and is now an indie publisher and a beloved writing teacher. His career arc is a model for how to pivot in changing times, how to take on new challenges and successfully adapt. Do you feel stuck? Unsure of where your career is going? He can give you some advice and inspiration for these quickly changing times. How do you find your niche in the literary community, or make the literary community you need? Felice's insights will help you move onward.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$20

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—SAS Master Class

CHAPBOOK 101

Everything you ever wanted to know about publishing a chapbook, and then some! So you have some poems or several pieces of creative nonfiction? Maybe a few short-short stories? Not quite enough material to submit for publication as a full length book? Starting from scratch, how can your most polished work (poems, short fiction, or creative nonfiction) become a chapbook? In this workshop, we will describe what a chapbook is, explain how to put one together, discuss the most LGBTQ-friendly chapbook publishers, and explore methods of promoting your chapbook once it is published. There will be plenty of time for Q&A. The workshop facilitators are experienced in writing, editing, reviewing, and publishing chapbooks. Our goal is to help you step-by-step to get your chapbook out into the world.

Panelists: Allison Blevins, Cathleen Chitwood, Kim Roberts, and Julie Marie Wade.

Moderator: Gregg Shapiro.

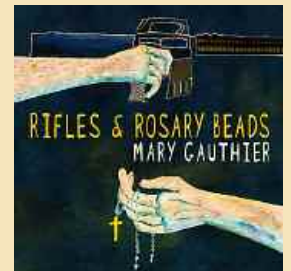
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$20

1 – 2:15 PM—SAS Master Class

SONGWRITING AS A HEALING ART WITH MARY GAUTHIER

Mary Gauthier's job as a songwriting instructor is to encourage courage. She gently guides songwriters to dig deep into their inner selves, push through firewalls of fear, confusion and self-doubt, and make peace with vulnerability to help them discover, uncover, and use their own unique voice. The beauty of this challenging work is the discovery that the deeply personal is universal. Once we understand this and become willing to be honest in our songs, they will start to connect us to ourselves, to others, and to the world in ways we never could have imagined. These new connections inevitably bring us joy. We are returned to our own hearts as we share our humanity with others. We go from feeling narrated, into narrating. We take a step back, observe, and become our own witness. The space created in this act offers an opportunity to discover, name, and abandon self-defeating patterns. The uncovering and revealing of oneself in our human brokenness can then become a source of transformative beauty, the creation of art.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$20



1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS: COLLABORATING WITH OTHER WRITERS

We think of writing as a solitary effort and often it is. But there are other ways to produce a written work, and that is through a team effort, otherwise known as collaboration. In this panel discussion, we'll explore how leveraging a team relationship can both enhance the writing experience and present an array of challenges and how our panelists have both been rewarded and navigated the sometimes stormy seas of collaboration.

Panelists: St Sukie de la Croix, Rick Karlin, Kim Roberts, Julie Marie Wade, and Jerry L. Wheeler.

Moderator: Ian Henzel.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration

2:30 – 3:45 PM—SAS Master Class

GREG HERREN: WRITING THE EROTIC

Writing about sex is more challenging than it appears. This master class will help writers produce erotic writing grounded in character, setting, and voice, with an eye on how erotica can contribute to,

build, and/or resolve story conflict. We'll explore how the implicit is often more effective than the explicit, and how to make explicit scenes compelling and authentic. With a focus on finding fresh imagery and an original approach, we'll also look at how humor, bad sex, or even problematic sex lend themselves to a fuller—and more erotic—interaction between two characters. Questions addressed include: How can we make use of the erotic to create more exciting fiction that better reflects the real life and aspects of a character? How can the erotic be the center of a story without being explicitly so? What do we do about hyperbole and how do we grapple with the often hyperbolic feelings around the erotic? How is erotica different from sex writing or porn? And, how can we ultimately make the erotic fit



Franky Canga
Performance Artist

naturally, as an integral part, into the flow of a good story. This workshop will encourage participants to take chances and experiment with building eroticism into their work mindfully and seamlessly, and/or give them the tools for creating a story that is primarily driven by the erotic, but that has a freshness and originality often lacking in the genre.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$20

2:30 – 3:45 PM—SAS Master Class

MORGAN HUFSTADER: 5 STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL BOOK LAUNCH

Put your book's best foot forward when you employ these tried and true tactics to unleash your book into the world. From building a core fan base to getting reviews out the door, we'll go over actionable steps to build an excited audience even before your release date.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$20

2:45 – 4:45 PM—*pre-registration was required

PITCH SESSIONS WITH RATTLING GOOD YARNS PRESS

Rattling Good Yarns Press managing publisher, **Ian Henzel**, will be meeting with authors at SAS2022. RGYP is looking for novels or story collections; no poetry or plays. They are most interested in unusual perspectives on topics of interest to the LGBTQ community. Pitches will be for possible 2023 publication. For more information about Rattling Good Yarns and online submission guidelines, visit: <https://rattlinggoodyarns.com/submissions/>

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

4 – 5 PM—BDP Book Launch Readings

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER READING HOUR—

Promotional Announcement below.

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon



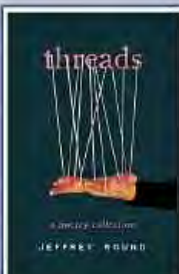
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Saints + Sinners master class series supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council.

Beautiful Dreamer Reading Hour

Friday March 25, 4-5 pm,
Royal Salon at the Hotel Monteleone



"Reminiscent of Cavafy, a journey through loves and losses, deaths and memories."

—Trebor Healey,
author of *A Horse Named Sorrow*

Threads:
A Poetry Collection

Jeffrey Round



"A love letter to Seattle. Wry, funny, tender, smart."

—Ruth Dickey,
Seattle Arts & Lectures

Seattle,
or In the Meantime

J.M. Parker



"Mesmerizing. Sexy, perilous, lost Hal in particular is a marvelous creation."

—Paul Russell,
author of *War Against the Animals*

Always There
by Leaving

Lou Dellaguzzo

www.BeautifulDreamerPress.com

Nightingale



Creator Vinsantos DeFonte and Director Dennis Monn
present selections from a new musical based on
Tennessee Williams' iconic character Mr. Nightingale
followed by a moderated conversation with David Kaplan.
Friday, March 25th 9:30pm 830 N. Rampart St., French Quarter
Tickets available at galerievinsantos.com

Saints ☕ Sinners XIX

WELCOME PARTY

Friday, March 25 • 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM



STROLL BACK INTO HISTORY...

Opposite the old Ursuline Convent on Chartres Street stands the Beauregard-Keyes House. The House is now owned by the Keyes Foundation, which was established by late resident Frances Parkinson Keyes, to ensure the preservation of the house and garden which she restored. Since the construction of the House in 1826, many different residents have contributed to the stories that make up the fabric of this unique historical site.

The house was built in 1826 by architect Francois Correjolle for a wealthy auctioneer by the name of Joseph Le Carpentier. In 1833 the house was sold to John Ami Merle who later became the Swiss Consul to New Orleans. His wife, Anais Merle designed the House's first *parterre* garden.



The last resident of the BK House, was the author Frances Parkinson Keyes. She was a bestselling novelist, world traveler, and wife of a U.S. Senator. She visited Louisiana in 1942 to research for her book about Mardi Gras, *Crescent Carnival*. She rented the house in 1944 and quickly made plans to restore it to its former state. Despite a hectic schedule, Francis spent much of the last 26 years of her life writing several of her 51 books from her study at BK House.

GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI Welcome Party

Beauregard-Keyes House and Garden Museum
1113 Chartres Street

Price: Included with Weekend Pass/Partner Party Pass

Come experience true Southern hospitality in the beautiful courtyard of the Beauregard-Keyes House. Mingle with fellow writers and avid readers as you begin your evening in the French Quarter at this historical landmark. We'll have hors d'oeuvres, spirits, and a specialty cocktail to get you started.



Tsarina Hellfire and Stanley Roy

The ambience will be enhanced by the New Orleans based singing duo, Tsarina Hellfire & Stanley Roy. They use their queer-clown antics and harmonies to entertain audiences all over the Big Easy and beyond. They co-produce the deliciously sexy and campy "Les Vampyre Cabaret" at the Allways Lounge that combines the macabre with the glamorously silly!



Historic House and Garden Tours

The tour explores two hundred years of French Quarter history through the lens of the diverse families and individuals who have called the BK House home. Visitors will be invited to tour inside the main house, built in 1826, and the *parterre* garden.

Tours run on the hour beginning at 10 AM until 3 PM
You can book online @ bkhouse.org



Beauty doesn't have a shape, size, or color. Beauty is about being you! Avita wants to empower everyone to discover, love, and care for your whole self, inside and out. You are beautiful, so **BE YOU.**



Avita, a provider of expert, affirming pharmacy care, partnered with award winning Brooklyn based street artist Jason Naylor to bring **BEYOUTIFUL** to life. Avita will be taking the **BEYOUTIFUL** campaign to Prides across the country in 2022. We hope to see you there!

Visit us online at [avitapharmacy.com](https://www.avitapharmacy.com).



COMMONALITY INSTITUTE

New Orleans Artist/Writer Residency
Now Accepting Applications
www.commonalityinstitute.org



The My Good Judy residency serves the community through literary, critical, educational and live performance programs; to support artists and academics seeking to make a contribution in the area of liberatory cultural studies; and to honor the work and legacy of pioneering poet/activist/thinker Judy Grahn.

Saints + Sinners XIX

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 26, 2022

Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

HOW DO YOU START A PLAY?

HOW DO YOU START A CAREER?

Former agent and publisher Peter Hagan speaks with three playwrights and novelists about the process of writing and the harder process of getting that writing in front of an audience.

Panelists: **James Magruder**, **Felice Picano**, and **Lance Ringel**.

Moderator: **Peter Hagan**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

BURSTS OF LIGHT: SPOTLIGHT ON WOMEN'S POETRY

Join us for a reading of new work by **Lisa Dordal**, author of *Water Lessons* and *Mosaic of the Dark*; **Julie Marie Wade**, author, most recently, of *P*R*I*D*E*; and **Allison Blevins**, author of *Slowly/Suddenly* and *Letters to Joan*, among others. A discussion of poetry, hybrid writing, creativity, inspiration, and the artistic process will follow. And even, perhaps, a wee bit of gossip and pet photography will be included. Moderated by poets **Jan Edwards Hemming** and **Julie R. Enszer**.

Sponsored by the LGBTQ Fund of the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



10 – 11:15 AM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event

has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Christian Baines**, **St Sukie de la Croix**, **Wayne Hoffman**, **Fay Jacobs**, **Rick Karlin**, and **Eric Peterson** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

11 AM – 12:30 PM—Special Event

DRAW QUEEN BRUNCH WITH POPPY TOOKER

With three courses and three queens plus bottomless Mariposa Mimosas, a good time is guaranteed! Join **Poppy Tooker** and her band of rollicking drag queens for an authentic New Orleans drag brunch at **Sobou Restaurant**. Costumes, glitter, performances, plus a Chandon Garden Spritz giveaway combine for an unforgettable experience. Don't forget to bring your dollar bills to encourage incredible displays of artistry. Poppy Tooker, author of *Drag Queen Brunch* will be on hand with copies of her latest book. You'll want to get her autograph along with all the queens. Local favorite SoBou, the Louisiana street food-inspired and cocktail-centric sister of Commander's Palace, is located at the W Hotel in the French Quarter.

SoBou, 310 Chartres Street, \$95.

For tickets, go to: **SoBou's OPEN TABLE** page under "Experiences."

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

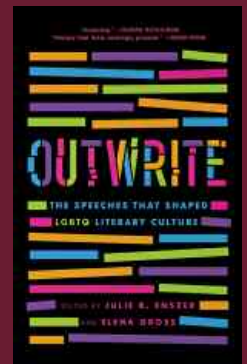
OUTWRITE: THE SPEECHES THAT SHAPED LGBTQ LITERARY CULTURE

From 1990 until 1999, thousands of LGBTQ writers gathered at the national OutWrite conferences held first in San Francisco and later in Boston. These gatherings featured keynote speeches, plenaries, panels, affinity groups, and massive dance parties where queer writers and readers gathered to debate, talk, share, mourn, and more. Now, editors **Julie R. Enszer** and **Elena Gross**

have gathered the sparkle of the conferences into a new collection, *OutWrite: The Speeches that Shaped LGBTQ Literary Culture*. Join the editors as well as contributors and participants in the conference to talk about OutWrite and its on-going legacies.

Panelists: **Gerard Cabrera**, **Felice Picano**, and **Carol Rosenfeld**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? THE INFLUENCE OF TRAVEL & PLACE ON WRITING

When writers typically discuss setting, they are often alluding to time and place in our fictional worlds. However, these pandemic years, have led many of us to see real-life settings, including our homes, neighborhoods, cities, and everyday geographic realities in new ways. Such times force us to consider where we are now, where we have been, and where we are going. Perhaps that is why towns where we previously resided, cities we have already visited, and countries we dream of traveling to have never seemed more vivid or essential. Whether our geographically-influenced experiences and adventures are exciting, surprising, or challenging, they are often creatively transformative. Join this well-traveled panel of writers for an exploration of how the personal, geographical, historical, cultural aspects of place have shaped their creative perspectives and stories.

Panelists: Christian Baines, Daniel M. Jaffe, Vincent Traughber Meis, and Gregg Shapiro.

Moderator: Jerry L. Wheeler.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation



Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Henry Alley, Elliott Foster, Hans M Hirschi, Martin Padgett, David Pevsner, and Timothy Schaffert** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

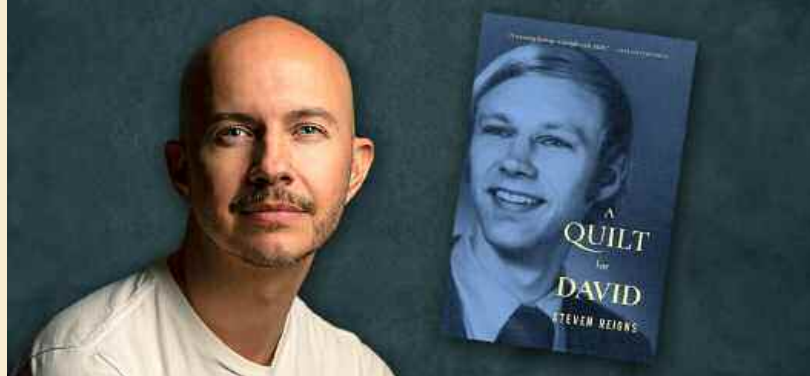
1 – 2:15 PM— SAS Master Class

POETRY AS MEMOIR: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP with STEVEN REIGNS

This informative and generative master class will discuss the process, pitfalls, and rewards of autobiographical poetry. Our queer lives are worthy of documenting and poetry's condensed storytelling and language allows us to convey our emotional experiences with efficiency and force. For over 20 years, poet and activist **Steven Reigns** has taught poetry writing workshops around the country to queer youth, LGBTQ+ seniors, and people living with HIV.

Sponsored by the LGBTQ Fund of the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon



Music from a Rooftop by Timothy Cummings, 2007

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

I CAN HEAR MUSIC:

WRITERS, MUSICIANS, AND INSPIRATION

What Duke Ellington once said about music is also often true of writing: "If it sounds good, it is good." In fact, music and writing have always shared a special, unique connection, and many writers find music to be crucial and essential to their work. This influence is sometimes evident in the use of imagery, tone, style, mood, and language. Other times, it is apparent in a writer's creative approach or artistic vision. Panelists will examine the powerful and sometimes surprising links between music and writing while also revealing their specific musical influences.

Panelists: Mary Gauthier, James Magruder, Carrie Smith, and Pamela Sneed.

Moderator: Martin Hyatt.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

UP ALL NIGHT: HOW TO MAKE YOUR READER KEEP READING

While thrillers and other genre works are often categorized as “unputdownable,” the goal of every author is to create characters and a story that connect with readers, make them care, and make them want to keep reading. How do you ramp up tension when the stakes aren’t life or death? **Marco Carocari**, award-winning author of *Blackout*; **Elliott Foster**, author of the thriller series *Panic River* and *Reckoning Waves*; **Jeffrey Round**, Lambda-winning author of the Dan Sharp PI mystery series; and **Ali Vali**, author of the Cain Casey “Devil” series and the Genesis Clan “Forces” series, discuss how they keep their readers engaged. Multi-genre writer and editor **Greg Herren** moderates.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

1 – 2:15 PM

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Ariadne Blayde**, **Gerard Cabrera**, **Anne-christine d’Adesky**, **Daniel M. Jaffe**, **Vincent Traughber Meis**, and “**Jack**” **Wilde** for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

2:30 – 3:45 PM

QUEER HISTORY IN FOCUS:

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO TRAGEDY AND DISCRIMINATION

This panel is a retrospective discussion of the LGBTQ+ Movement in the South from the 1960s to the 1990s. Focusing on three prominent eras—the fallout of the 1973 Upstairs Lounge fire, the persecution of queer New Orleanian Clay Shaw, and the rise and fall of the Sweet Gum Head club in queer Atlanta—this discussion will focus on how the community responded to each of these seismic shifts.

Panelists: **Alecia P. Long**, **Martin Padgett**, and **Frank Perez**.

Moderator: **Robert W. Fieseler**.

Sponsored by the LGBTQ Fund of the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

WRITING ABOUT SEX IN FICTION

The subject of sex is at the core of what binds LGBTQ+ writers as a community—issues of sexual orientation and expression, gender identity, and desire (whether one feels it or not). What are our options for writing about sexual experience in fiction? When does a piece of writing benefit from explicit renderings of our characters’ sexual activity? On the other hand, when is writing better served by casual reference to sex or mere allusion rather than by explicitness? Authors who’ve written about sex in their fiction—or who’ve consciously chosen not to—consider these questions.

Panelists: **Gerard Cabrera**, **Ken Harvey**, **Wayne Hoffman**, and **Lance Ringel**.

Moderator: **Daniel M. Jaffe**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Scott Bailey**, **Allison Blevins**, **Lisa Dordal**, **Julie R. Enszer**, **Cathleen Chitwood**, **Karisma Price**, and **Gregg Shapiro** for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



PHOTO BY PIERO RIBELLI

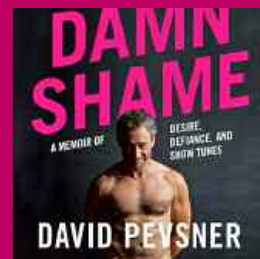
4 – 5:15 PM—Featured Conversation/Interview

I’LL BE YOUR MIRROR:

DAVID PEVSNER ON THE BODY, IN THE FLESH

What does pride *really* look like? Since the Puritans arrived on Plymouth Rock, shame has colored the way Americans think about our bodies: We’re too weak! Too fat! Too old! Too horny! **David Pevsner**, author of the raunchy and rewarding memoir-cum-manifesto *Damn Shame: A Memoir of Desire, Defiance, and Show Tunes*, is here to change that. During his 35-year career as a professional actor, with roles on Broadway and network TV, Pevsner has fought against cultural and internalized sex- and body-negativity and ageism to perform nude on stage, in front of photographers and cinematographers, and on Only Fans. “Not only do I have to fight for this ability to express myself this way,” Pevsner says, “I have to fight for anyone’s ability to express [themselves] this way.” Join Pevsner and playwright and drama critic **Brian Sands** for a joyful conversation about taking ownership of your sexuality and yourself.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon





Pamela Sneed

4 – 5:15 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation



Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **J.M. Redmann, Kim Roberts, Carrie Smith, Pamela Sneed, Ali Vali, and Julie Marie Wade** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

6:30 – 7:45 PM

SAS FICTION CONTEST READING

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

See page 16 for more details



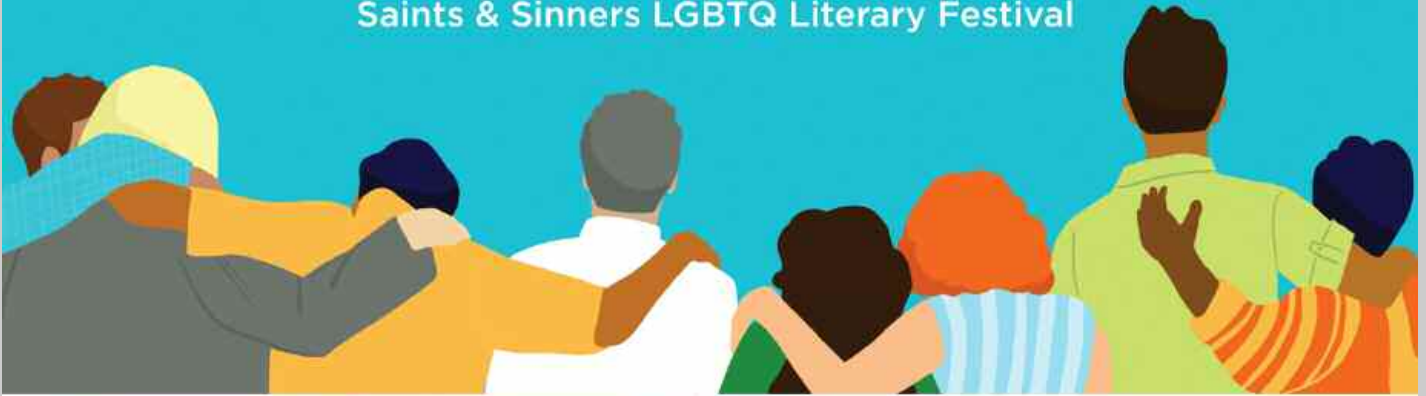
**THE
HELIS
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SAS Scholarship
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Helis Foundation.



We're In This Together

Community is a proud supporter of the
Saints & Sinners LGBTQ Literary Festival



OUT
THE NATIONAL
CANCER SURVEY

Logo design and social graphics for
National LGBT Cancer Network

 **Brand | Pride**

Pride products designed for lesbian-owned BrandPride™



We are an agency that pushes ourselves and our partners
to create a better world. Want to join us?

 **Community**

community.me | hello@community.me





13th Annual Saints + Sinners

SHORT FICTION CONTEST READING AND RECEPTION

Saturday, March 26 • 6:30 PM

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon

(lobby level; included in weekend pass, partner party pass, or \$25 individual ticket)

Join this year's contest runner-up **Carrie Smith** "Freaks of Nature" along with finalists **J.R. Greenwell**, **Gar McVey-Russell**, **Vincent Traugber Meis**, **Eric Peterson**, **Genevieve Rheams**, and **William Christy Smith** for an evening of cocktails and readings from the *Saints and Sinners 2022: New Fiction from the Festival* hosted by our finalist judge **Martin Hyatt**.



Martin Hyatt
Our Finalist Judge



Tracy Cunningham and Paul J. Willis
Co-editors



Special thanks to The John Burton Harter Foundation and Rebel Satori Press for their support of the Short Fiction Contest. Audience members receive a copy of the new anthology created from our 2022 Short Fiction Contest.



**REBEL
SATORI
PRESS**

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ON THE FRONTIERS OF LIMINAL SPACE





J. Duncan Davidson
Winner for the story *My Elijah*

2022 SAS Fiction Entries came from:
For our 2022 Short Fiction Contest, we received entries from 27 states + Washington, D.C., and the following countries: Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom.

2022 CONTEST FINALISTS



Colby Byrne



Lewis DeSimone



J. Marshall Freeman



J.R. Greenwell



Colin Lacy



Kat Lewis



Gar McVey-Russell



Vincent Traugher Meis



Eric Peterson



Genevieve Rheams



Carrie Smith



Gary Smith



William Christy Smith



Wren Wilson



Saints + Sinners XIX

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 27, 2022

Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

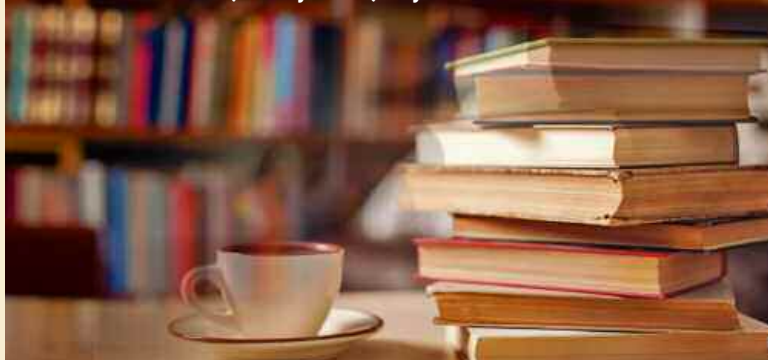
10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

NEW DIRECTIONS IN PUBLISHING

For decades, LGBTQ-focused publishers have been vital to the queer community and an integral part of the literary world. That is why it is exciting to see several new LGBTQ imprints dedicated to discovering emerging writers and committed to sustaining already established voices. Editors and publishers from these new ventures along with established veteran small presses will discuss their mission and explore the challenging yet exciting job of bringing LGBTQ literature to the world. Join moderator **Martin Hyatt** as he speaks with **Louis Flint Ceci** (Beautiful Dreamer Press), **Sven Davisson** (Rebel Satori Press), **Ian Henzel** (Rattling Good Yarns), and **Timothy Schaffert** (Zero Street Fiction—Nebraska Press).

Sponsored by the LGBTQ+ Fund of the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES: HOW TO CREATE POWERFUL SHORT PIECES

Writing powerful short stories, essays, or other concise works requires techniques and skills distinct from creating longer works. Key elements such as structure, point-of-view, and pacing require unique approaches. In addition, many writers find the immediacy, urgency, and smaller short-form space to be intimidating. This panel will explore original strategies and challenges of creating shorter works while highlighting the exciting freedom possibilities. Whether it is fiction, non-fiction, political, or personal, this panel will help you make short pieces that have a lasting impact on readers.

Panelists: **Gar McVey-Russell**, **Vincent Traugher Meis**, **Eric Peterson**, and **Genevieve Rheams**.

Moderator: **William Christy Smith**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



You Are a Flower
by Timothy Cummings, 2014, Acrylic on board

10 – 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

TRUE TO LIFE: TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE INTO ART

How does life become literature? Four authors map the borders of the real and the written on this cross-genre panel. In *The End of Her: Racing Against Alzheimer's to Solve a Murder*, novelist and journalist **Wayne Hoffman** makes his true-crime debut, investigating his grandmother's 1913 murder while caring for his ailing mother. Critically acclaimed author **Eric Nguyen** turns the immigrant experience into a tender novel of displacement and desire in *Things We Lost to the Water*. Ten years of research into the life of wrongfully accused dentist, David Acer, become poetry in *A Quilt for David*, the new collection by Los Angeles poet **Steven Reigns**. Poet, performer, and visual artist **Pamela Sneed** writes of lesbian leadership, love, and the AIDS epidemic in *Funeral Diva*, a blend of poetry and memoir. Prize-winning novelist **Matthew Griffin** moderates the discussion.

Sponsored by the Bruce J. Heim Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

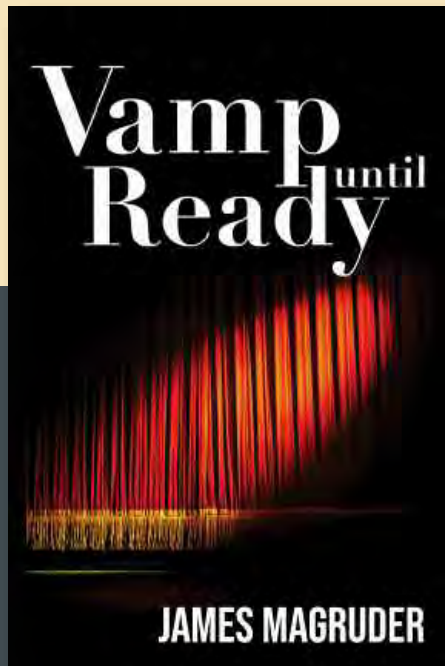
THE TRUEST VOICE YOU KNOW

What makes your work recognizably yours? And is having an idiosyncratic voice a good thing? How do you develop the voices of your characters and how do you let them speak through you? These accomplished writers talk about how they get out of their own way and let the characters speak.

Panelists: Elliott Foster, Hans M Hirschi, Martin Hyatt, and J.M. Redmann.

Moderator: Carol Rosenfeld.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Daniel W.K. Lee, Robert W. Fieseler, Elizabeth Gross, Jan Edwards Hemming, James Magruder, Eric Nguyen, and Felice Picano** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

WHO GETS TO TELL THE STORY

Who speaks for you? Who do you *not* represent? How do you liberate your imagination and creative voice to tell stories that may exist outside of your personal experience? Can you speak for others without silencing or appropriating their voices or truths? What kind of stories can you—and can't you—tell? How do cis writers contend with presenting non-cis characters? Do we apply a different critical lens to memoir than reporting or fiction? How and where does the imagination fit into our shifting cultural and moral world? As LGBTQ and BIPOC writers gain greater visibility and access to the publishing world, they face the challenges of the present moment, including issues of authenticity, appropriation, gender representation, racism, misogyny, transphobia, class and faith issues in this era of cancel culture, #metoo, #BlackLivesMatter and other political flashpoints. Panelists working in different genres will discuss how they personally grapple with these issues, followed by audience discussion. Panelists include **Elizabeth Miki Brina**, who writes about her Okinawan mother; **Maurice Carlos Ruffin**, whose latest story collection portrays New Orleanians of many different orientations; and **Elena Gross**, a non-binary independent writer, curator and culture critic living in Oakland, CA. Moderated by **Anne-christine d'Adesky**, journalist and author (*The Pox Lover*).

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW ABOUT NARRATIVE STRUCTURE, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

Structure is often considered to be the skeleton of a piece of writing, as it is made from the very bones of the story. Whether we write instinctively and spontaneously or create and follow a well-defined outline, some type of structure ultimately emerges. Understanding this structure can lead to new insights regarding organization, storytelling, and chronological order in fiction. Panelists will reveal their own structure-focused writing experiences, approaches, and preferences. They will also discuss how and if certain structures work best for specific types of stories.

Panelists: Matthew Griffin, J.M. Redmann, Timothy Schaffert, and Lindsay Sproul.

Moderator: Felice Picano.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

1 – 2:15 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Marco Carocari, Louis Flint Ceci, Ken Harvey, David Pratt, Jeffrey Round, and Lance Ringel** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

THE PLAGUE YEARS: AIDS, COVID, AND ILLNESS AS METAPHOR

Mark Doty asks in his AIDS-related memoir, *Heaven's Coast*, "When the world shatters, what does a writer do?" For many, the answer is obvious: we write. However, some writers might be hesitant or overwhelmed when sharing certain physical and personal truths. Why and how do we write about AIDS, COVID, or other illnesses? What language do we use? Does our generation, culture, gender, and sexuality impact such writing? Panelists from various genres will discuss approaches, strategies, and tips for writing about these personal and often emotional moments.

Panelists: Ken Harvey, Hans M Hirschi, Daniel W.K. Lee, and Gar McVey-Russell.

Moderator: David Pratt.

Sponsored by the Bruce J. Heim Foundation.

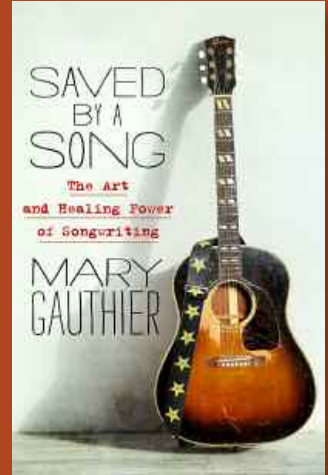
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Featured Interview/Music RICKIE LEE JONES AND MARY GAUTHIER IN CONVERSATION

Gwendolyn Thompkins of *Music Inside Out* moderates a conversation between two of our most beloved singer/songwriters. Rickie Lee Jones has made New Orleans her adopted home; Mary Gauthier was born here. Both have devoted followings for their idiosyncratic music. These women talk about the reckoning with their lives that came with writing recent memoirs, *Last Chance Texaco: Chronicles of an American Troubadour*, by Jones, and *Saved by a Song: The Art and Healing Power of Songwriting*, by Gauthier. They also talk about what's next for them in music and writing.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: Rob Byrnes, Elena Gross, Carol Rosenfeld, Steven Reigns, Traci Taylor, Mat Wenzel and Jerry L. Wheeler for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

4 – 6 PM—Special Event

CLOSING RECEPTION

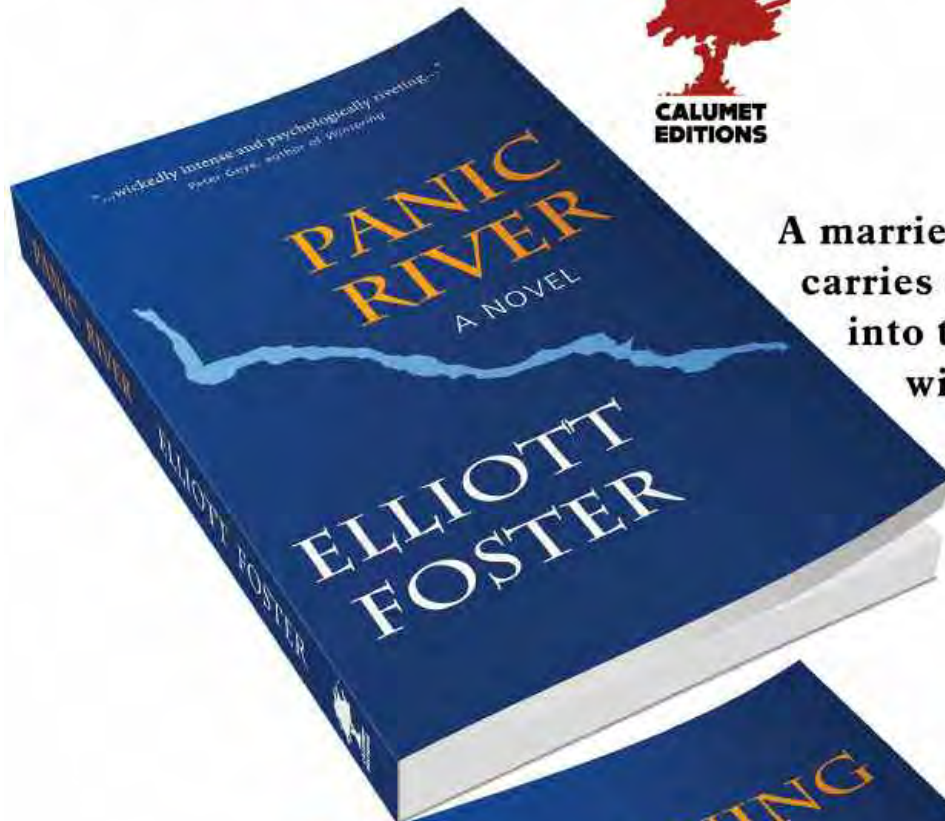
We'll induct our 2022 SAS Hall of Fame members and announce our 8th annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award, sponsored by Rob Byrnes.

See page 22 for more details.

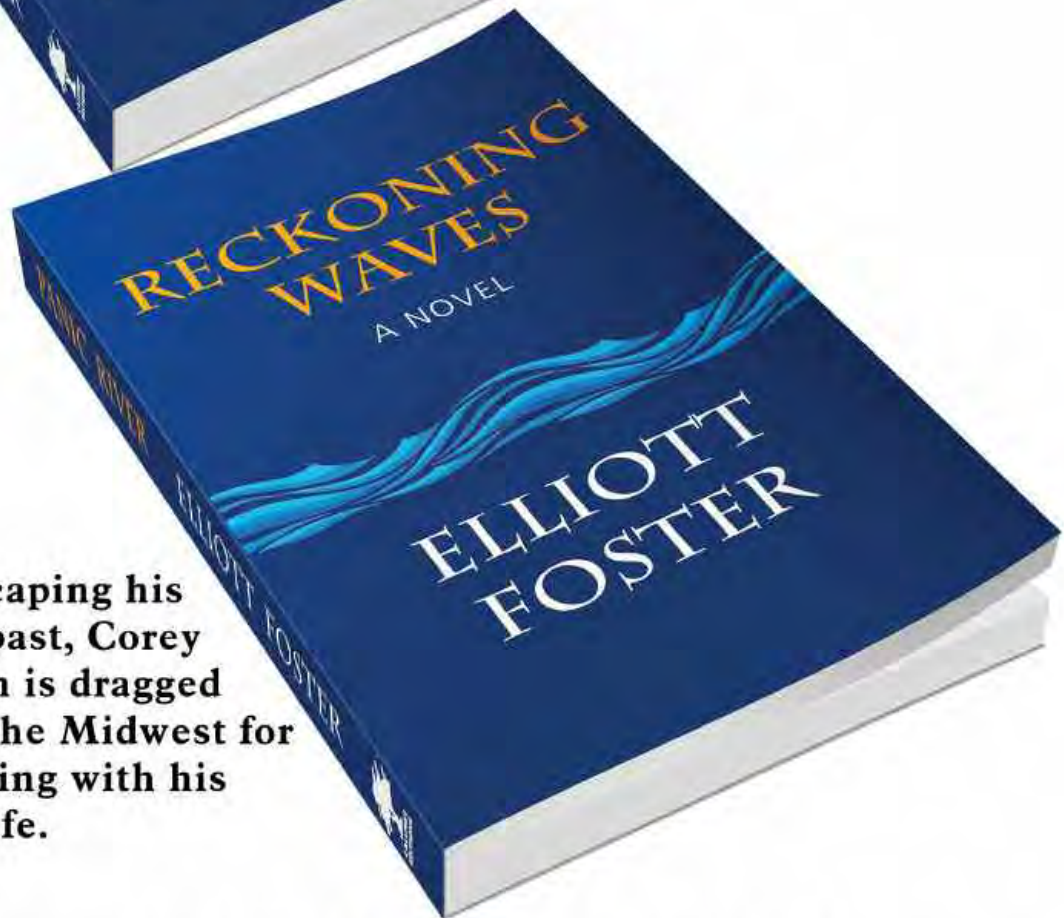
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon
Included in SAS Weekend Registration and Partner Pass.



CALUMET EDITIONS PRESENTS



A married gay couple
carries deep resentments
into the Wisconsin woods
with deadly results.



After escaping his
fraught past, Corey
Flanagan is dragged
back to the Midwest for
a reckoning with his
former life.

Thriller series by Elliott Foster available now.



Saints ☕ Sinners XIX

CLOSING RECEPTION

Sunday, March 27 • 4-6 PM

*Hosted by SAS Hall of Famer Brenda Currin
Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon*

*Support Provided by Avita Pharmacy
(Admission included in Weekend Pass/Partner Pass)*



Brenda Currin
Actor & Activist

Finish out the Festival by joining us as we honor outstanding members of our literary community. Wrap up the weekend with old and new friends, and pass one more good time at the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ Literary Festival.

We'll introduce the honoree of our eighth annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award generously sponsored by **Rob Byrnes**. This award acknowledges an exceptional debut work or an author establishing a body of work propelling them to the next stage of their literary career. We'd like to congratulate and recognize **Eric Nguyen** for his novel *Things We Lost to the Water*.



Rob Byrnes



Eric Nguyen



We'll hear two of our 2022 Poetry Finalists read from their winning poetry, and we'll have copies of our very 1st Saints and Sinners Poetry Contest Anthology available.



Ezra Adamo



Scott Bailey

We'll induct this year's members into the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame. We'd like to congratulate them and acknowledge their dedication to LGBTQ literature. They have all shown their passion for our literary community through various avenues including writing, performing, promotion, publishing, editing, teaching, bookselling, and volunteerism. Through their work, they have all helped to ensure that the written work from the LGBTQ community will continue to have an outlet, and that people will have access to books and plays that will help dispel stereotypes, alleviate isolation, and provide resources for personal wellness.

PAST EMERGING WRITER HONOREES

2013: **William Sterling Walker**

2016: **Alexander Chee**

2019: **Bryan Washington**

2014: **Juliann Rich**

2017: **Libby Ware & Matthew Griffin**

2022: **Eric Nguyen**

2015: **Saeed Jones**

2018: **Cassie Pruyn**

2022 SAINTS + SINNERS HALL OF FAME



Timothy Cummings



Mary Gauthier



William Christy Smith



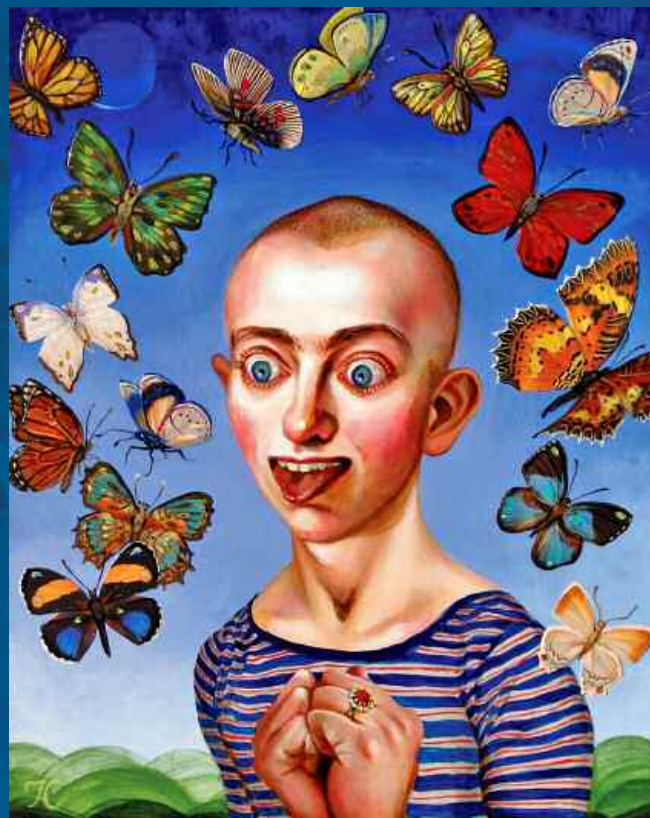
Pamela Sneed

MEMBERS OF THE SAINTS + SINNERS HALL OF FAME

Dorothy Allison, Carol Anshaw, Ann Bannon, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Maureen Brady, Jericho Brown, Rob Byrnes, Patrick Califia, Louis Flint Ceci, Bernard Cooper, Michael Cunningham, Jameson Currier, Brenda Currin, Mark Doty, Mark Drake, Jim Duggins, Elana Dykewomon, Amie M. Evans, Otis Fennell, Michael Thomas Ford, Katherine V. Forrest, Nancy Garden, Jewelle Gomez, Judy Grahn, Jim Grimsley, Tara Hardy, Ellen Hart, Cheryl Head, Greg Herren, Kenneth Holditch, Andrew Holleran, Candice Huber, Fay Jacobs, Saeed Jones, Irena Klepfisz, G. Winston James, Raphael Kadushin, Michele Karlsberg, Judith Katz, Moises Kaufman, Joan Larkin, Susan Larson, Lee Lynch, Jeff Mann, William J. Mann, Marianne K. Martin, Paula Martinac, Stephen McCauley, Val McDermid, Mark Merlis, Tim Miller, Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, Michael Nava, Achy Obejas, Frank Perez, Felice Picano, Radclyffe, J.M. Redmann, David Rosen, Carol Rosenfeld, Steven Saylor, Carol Seajay, Martin Sherman, Kelly Smith, Jack Sullivan, Carsen Taite, Cecilia Tan, Noel Twilbeck, Jr., Patricia Nell Warren, Don Weise, Jess Wells, Edmund White, and Paul J. Willis.



Thinking of Death by Timothy Cummings, 2013



The Engagement Ring by Timothy Cummings, 2020



Saints + Sinners XIX

2022 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS & FINALISTS



We'd like to congratulate our 2022 Poetry Contest Winners & Finalists!

Our 2022 Winner:



Michael Montlack
for the poem "Phantom Rain"

Two Runners-Up:



Julie R. Enszer
Our 2022 Finalist Judge



Jeffrey Perkins
for the poem
"The Wreck"



Noel Quinones
for poem
"The Cost"



Spirit of Eden by Timothy Cummings

Thanks to the generosity of **Scovern Law**, we were able to publish a poetry anthology this year that includes all of our finalists from our 2021 contest on the theme of **Love**, and our 2022 contest on the topic of **Rain**.



Jewelle Gomez
Our 2021 Finalist Judge

2022 Poetry Contest Finalists



Ezra Adamo



Scott Bailey



Stacey Balkun



Danielle Bero



Jeremy Halinen



Jamie Kim-Worthington



Jen Rouse



Gary Smith



Susan Zeni



SCOVERN LAW

Saints + Sinners XIX FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Henry Alley is a Professor Emeritus of Literature at the University of Oregon's Honors College. Over 60 of his stories have been published over the past 50 years. His collection, *The Dahlia Field*, appeared in 2017. He has five novels: *Through Glass*, *The Lattice*, *Umbrella of Glass*, *Precincts of Light*, and *Men Touching*. His latest novel, *Galen's Legacy*, is forthcoming from

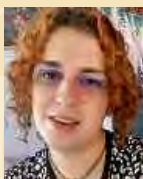
Rattling Good Yarns. He lives in Eugene, Oregon, with his husband, Austin Gray.



Scott Bailey is the author of *Thus Spake Gigolo*. His poems have appeared in *Epiphany*, *Jabberwock Review*, *Meridian*, *New York Quarterly*, *Sand Hills*, *Subtropics*, *The Journal*, *The Ocean State Review*, *The Southeast Review*, and *Verse Daily*, among others. He received an MFA from New York University and a PhD from Florida State University. Born and raised in Mississippi, he lives in the French Quarter.



Christian Baines is an awkward-nerd turned slightly-less-awkward travel-writer, screenwriter, cinephile, and lover of dark fiction that breaks down doors for queer characters across genres. His novels include the urban-fantasy series *The Arcadia Trust*, *Puppet Boy*, and *Skin*. When he doesn't have to isolate due to a global pandemic, he likes to travel the world whenever possible. Born in Australia, he now lives, writes, and shivers in Toronto, Canada.



Quinn Laroux Bishop has been offering queer history walking tours since 2019 where she first combined her love of history and performance through NOLA Drag Tours. After finally transitioning and becoming the best version of herself, she is back offering the same tour with less makeup and more focus. When she is not offering tours, she spends her time organizing

for climate justice, writing, performing, and turning her grandmother's least favorite chores into hobbies. She is proud trans and bisexual woman.



Ariadne Bayle is an award-winning playwright and fiction writer. Her play *The Other Room*, won the VSA Playwright Discovery Award and has been produced around the world; her fiction has been published in various anthologies. Her work has been recognized by the Tennessee Williams Festival, the Saints and Sinners Festival, and other prestigious contests and

fests. Her debut novel, *Ash Tuesday*, is due out from April Gloaming Publishing on March 22. Ariadne moonlights as a ghost tour guide in the French Quarter.



Allison Blevins is the author of four chapbooks and the collection *Slowly/Suddenly* (Vegetarian Alcohol Press, 2021). Her books *Handbook for the Newly Disabled* (BlazeVox, 2022) and *Cataloging Pain* (YesYes Books, 2022) are forthcoming. Her work has appeared in such journals as *Mid-American Review*, *the minnesota review*, and *Raleigh Review*. She is the Director of

Small Harbor Publishing and the Executive Editor at *the museum of americana*. She lives in Missouri with her partner and three children.



Jericho Brown is the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Arts. His first book, *Please*, won the American Book Award. His second book, *The New Testament*, won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best of the year by

Library Journal, *Coldfront*, and the *Academy of American Poets*. He is also the author of the collection, *The Tradition*, which was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award and the winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. His poems have appeared in *Buzzfeed*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Time*, and *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and several volumes of *The Best American Poetry* anthologies. He is the Charles Howard Candler Professor of Creative Writing and the Director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University in Atlanta.



Rob Byrnes is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of six novels, including *When the Stars Come Out*, *The Night We Met*, and the Grant Lambert/Chase LaMarca series of crime capers, and his short stories and essays have been included in several anthologies. He was inducted into the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame in 2016, and is also active with The Publishing Triangle and Lambda Literary. A native

of Rochester, NY, he now lives in Jersey City, NJ, with his partner, Brady Allen.



Gerard Cabrera's fiction has appeared in *Acentos Review*, *JONATHAN*, *Kweli*, and *Apricity*; poetry in the chapbooks *Indefeasible Coinage* and *The Knock-Off Artist*; and other writing in *Gay Community News* and *Gay City News*. He has attended Bread Loaf Writers Conference, The Writers Studio, and has been a Bread Loaf Camargo Foundation Fellow in

Cassis, France, where he finished the manuscript for his soon-to-be-released novel, *Homo Novus*, the story of a Catholic priest and the boy he seduces and ruins, forthcoming from Rattling Good Yarns Press. Gerard earned a degree in English and American Literature at Brandeis University, a Master's in Public Health from Hunter College, and a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law. He has worked in non-profits, universities, and has represented indigent people in housing, civil, and probate courts. Gerard is from Springfield, Massachusetts and lives and works in New York City.



Marco Carocari grew up in Switzerland, where over the past fifty-odd years, he traveled the globe working for airlines and later as an internationally published photographer, and frequently worked as a waiter, hotel receptionist, or manager of a professional photo studio. In 2016 he swapped snow-capped mountains, lakes, and lush, green pastures for the charm of the dry California desert, where he lives with his

husband. *Blackout* is his first novel.



Louis Flint Ceci's poetry is published in *The Colorado-North Review* and *Impossible Archetype*. His short stories have appeared in *Diseased Pariah News*, *Jonathan*, and *Trikone Magazine*, and in several anthologies, including two Saints+Sinners *New Fiction from the Festival* collections. He is the owner, publisher, and editor at Beautiful Dreamer Press and its imprint, Les Croyens Press. He is an avid

swimmer and won two gold and three silver medals at the 2020 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics World Championships in Melbourne, Australia.



Cathleen Chitwood (she/they) is a 30-year-old trans writer living in Atlanta who spends her time pretending to be a dragon named Dev. She earned her BA and JD from University of Miami, her MFA from Florida International University, and should (fingers crossed) be done with a PhD at Georgia State University this summer. She is also the winner of the 2019 Stonewall Press Queer Chapbook contest, with her chapbook *Furry Slut* published under her birth name.



Brenda Currin was Nancy Clutter in the film of *In Cold Blood*, Pooh Percy in *The World According to Garp*, among other film roles. Brenda's stage credits span decades including an OBIE Award for Wendy Kesselman's *My Sister in this House*. She's acclaimed for her shows based on Eudora Welty's work in collaboration with David Kaplan. Recently she played Amanda in the celebrated production of *The Glass Menagerie* for the Tennessee Williams Festival St. Louis. Brenda is devoted to the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and to Paul J. Willis for his year-in year-out welcome.



Anne-christine (AC) d'Adesky has reported on the global AIDS epidemic for *New York Native*, *OUT*, *The Nation*, and *The Village Voice*. She was an early member of ACT UP, co-founder of the Lesbian Avengers, and founder of the Bay Area Queer Anti-Fascist Network after the 2016 election. She launched and is site administrator of the 4,000+ member Act Up-Fight Covid 19! Facebook group to mobilize informed advocacy against the pandemic. She is the author of *The Pox Lover: An Activist's Decade in New York and Paris*, *Beyond Shock: Charting the Landscape of Sexual Violence in Post-Quake Haiti*, *Moving Mountains: The Race to Treat Global AIDS*, and *Under the Bone*, set in post-Duvalier Haiti. d'Adesky works as a documentary filmmaker, freelance health writer, editor, and copy editor, and her latest book is about LGBTQ lives under ISIS. She splits her time between Brooklyn and New Orleans.



Sven Davisson is a New Orleans based author, photographer, and publisher. Sven's *Rebel Satori Press*, and its imprints *Queer Mojo*, *Queer Space*, & *Arabi Manor*, have been publishing cutting edge titles since 2002. Sven has a degree in Queer Theory from Hampshire College. His own work includes *The Desire Line: Memory and Impermanence*, *The Star Set Matrix*, and the essay "Queering Chaos" in the upcoming anthology *Fever Spores: The Queer Reclamation of William S. Burroughs*.



St Sukie de la Croix is an award-winning reporter, events photographer, and historian. He has written several books on LGBT history, including *Chicago Whispers: A History of LGBT Chicago Before Stonewall*, *Out of the Underground: Homosexuals, the Radical Press, and the Rise and Fall of the Gay Liberation Front*, and *Chicago After Stonewall: Gay Lib to Gay Life*. He is also a short-story writer, playwright, and novelist. His novels include *The Memoir of a Groucho Marxist*, *The Blue Spong* and the *Flight from Mediocrity*, *The Orange Spong at the Vamp-Art Café*, and *Twilight Manors in Palm Springs*, *God's Waiting Room*. In 2012 he was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.



Lisa Dordal is the author of *Mosaic of the Dark*, which was a finalist for the 2019 Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry, and the forthcoming *Water Lessons*. She is a Pushcart Prize and Best-of-the-Net nominee, and the recipient of an Academy of American Poets University Prize, the Robert Watson Poetry Prize, and the Betty Gabehart Poetry Prize. Her poetry has appeared in *Narrative*, *RHINO*, *The Sun*, *The New Ohio Review*, *Best New Poets*, *Greensboro Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and *CALYX*.



Julie R. Enszer, PhD, is the author of four poetry collections, including *Avowed*, and the editor of *OutWrite: The Speeches that Shaped LGBTQ Literary Culture*, *Fire-Rimmed Eden: Selected Poems by Lynn Lonidier*, *The Complete Works of Pat Parker*, and *Sister Love: The Letters of Audre Lorde and Pat Parker 1974-1989*. Enszer edits and publishes *Sinister Wisdom*, a multicultural lesbian literary and art journal.



Robert W. Fieseler is a National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association "Journalist of the Year" and the acclaimed debut author of *Tinderbox*, winner of the Edgar Award, the Louisiana Literary Award, and a finalist for the Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction. Fieseler is currently working on his second queer history book about an anti-queer purge in 1950s Florida, for which he received a Silvers WIP Grant. He lives with his husband and two kittens in New Orleans.



Elliott Foster is the award-winning author of *Panic River*, the first volume in a trilogy, followed by *Reckoning Waves*. His other works include *Retrieving Isaac & Jason* and *Whispering Pines: Tales From a Northwoods Cabin*—a 2016 Indie Next finalist for Best Fiction. Elliott's short stories, poems, and essays have been published in a variety of journals and other media. He lives in Minnesota with his family.



Mary Gauthier's debut book: *Saved by a Song*, has received great praise from industry peers and fans. Her songs have been recorded by dozens of artists, including Jimmy Buffett, Boy George, Blake Shelton, Tim McGraw, Bettye Lavette, Mike Farris, Kathy Mattea, among others. The Associated Press named Mary one of the best songwriters of her generation. Her most recent release, *Riffles & Rosary Beads*, was nominated at the 61st GRAMMY Awards for "Best Folk Album," and for "Album of the Year" by the Americana Music Association. The record was recognized as "Album of the Year" by Folk Alliance International. Simultaneously, Mary was crowned "International Artist of the Year" by The Americana Association UK.



J.R. (John) Greenwell is a writer and playwright from Louisville, Kentucky, whose works include the books, *Who the Hell is Rachel Wells?* and *In a Whirl of Delusion*, published by Chelsea Station Editions. His newest story, *Buck Tooth Becky*, is from his current work in progress, *The Boy Who Sewed: Tales of an Appalachian Sissy Boy*. An account of his early days as a female impersonator in Atlanta, Georgia, and ultimately being crowned Miss Gay America 1979, has recently been chronicled in Martin Padgett's new book, *A Night at the Sweet Gum Head*.



Matthew Griffin's first novel *Hide* was the winner of the 2017 Crook's Corner Book Prize and an ALA Stonewall Honor Book. It was longlisted for the PEN/Bingham Prize for debut fiction, a semifinalist for the VCU/Cabell First Novelist award, and a finalist for both a Lambda Literary Award and a Publishing Triangle Award. He was born and raised in North Carolina and now lives with his husband in New Orleans where he teaches at Tulane University and Loyola University.



Elena Gross is an independent writer, curator, and culture critic living in Oakland, California. Her research specializes in conceptual and material abstractions of the body and representations of identity in fine art, photography, and popular media. She received an MA in Visual & Critical Studies from the California College of the Arts in 2016, and her BA in Art History and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 2012. She has presented her writing and research at institutions and conferences across the U.S., including Nook Gallery, Southern Exposure, KADIST, Harvard College, YBCA, California College of the Arts, and the GLBT History Museum.



Elizabeth Gross is the author of *this body/that lightning show*, selected by Jericho Brown for the Hilary Tham Capital Collection of The Word Works Press, and *DEAR ESCAPE ARTIST, ARTIST*, a chapbook in collaboration with artist Sara White. Their poem, "Ghazal at the end of the world", was selected by Beth Ann Fennelly as the Poetry Contest Winner for the Words and Music Festival in 2020 and appeared in the *Peauxdunque Review*. Other poems have appeared in *Green Mountains Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, and *Fairy Tale Review*, among others. In 2015, they co-translated and produced an interdisciplinary adaptation of Euripides' *Bakkhai* at the Marigny Opera House. They teach creative writing at New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and co-organize The Waves Reading Series, which showcases the voices of LGBTQ+ writers.



Peter Hagan represented theatre artists for many years. His clients included such notable writers as Alan Ball, Ariel Dorfman, Jules Feiffer, Harvey Fierstein, Horton Foote, Katori Hall, Beth Henley, David Ives, Romulus Linney, and Lynn Nottage. He became the president of the publisher and licensor Dramatists Play Service in 2013. He retired to New Orleans in 2020, where he enjoys playing traditional jazz on the piano and working one day a week at Faulkner House Bookshop.



Ken Harvey is the author of two award-winning books: a short story collection *If You Were With Me Everything Would Be All Right* and a memoir *A Passionate Engagement*. He's been published in over twenty U.S. and international literary magazines, including The Massachusetts Review, Consequence, and The Buenos Aires Review. He's been granted writing residencies at the Wurlitzer Foundation and the Millay Colony. A book reviewer for Lambda Literary, Ken holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Bennington College. Ken's novel *The Book of Casey Adair* is forthcoming from the University of Wisconsin Press in December 2021.



Jan Edwards Hemming holds an MFA in Poetry from NYU and a BA in English from LSU. Her work has appeared in McSweeney's Internet Tendency, the Los Angeles Review of Books Blog, and elsewhere; her poems "Bird" and "Oven" were each nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She teaches creative writing in New Orleans, where she lives with her wife and four cats.



Ian Henzel reinvented himself after retiring from a 42-year career in corporate-technology marketing in Asia, Europe and North America to start a new life as a publisher. In 2019 he founded Rattling Good Yarns Press, as a means of bringing overlooked LGBTQ+ voices to light. He is thrilled that his college years focusing on classic and modern comparative literature is finally being put to good use.



Greg Herren is the award-winning author of over thirty-five novels, more than fifty short stories, and editor of twenty-three anthologies. He has been short-listed for numerous awards, including the Macavity and Shirley Jackson awards; and the winner of two Lambdas, and an Anthony, among others. His most recent work, *#shedeservedit*, was released in January.



Hans M Hirschi writes hopeful character-driven stories that expose ordinary people to unexpected situations while illuminating the spectrum of queer lives to a wider public. There's a reason why he's been dubbed: "The Queen of Unconventional Happy Endings." He lives in Sweden with his husband, son, and pets. When not writing, he's working as a learning & development executive and VIP tour guide in his hometown. His coming novel, *Michel - Fallen Angel of Paris*, is due in the spring of 2022 from Beaten Track Publishing, UK.



Wayne Hoffman is the author of the true-crime memoir, *The End of Her: Racing Against Alzheimer's to Solve a Murder*; and the novels, *Hard*, *An Older Man* and *Sweet Like Sugar*. His essays appear in such collections as *Mama's Boy: Gay Men Write About Their Mothers*, and *Crashing Cathedrals: Edmund White by the Book*. He has written about LGBT and Jewish issues for the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Village Voice, Out, The Advocate, Washington Blade, The Forward, Tablet, and dozens of other publications. He lives in New York City and the Catskills.



Candice Huber (they/them) owns New Orleans' premier geeky, queer, progressive, and genre-focused bookstore, Tubby & Co's Mid-City Book Shop, named after their grandparents. They are also a writing, editing, publishing, and virtual event consultant and established TALES Publishing in 2018. Candice serves on the board for the Southern Independent Booksellers Association and on the national Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee for the American Booksellers Association, among other committees. They are also an instructor for the national Professional Bookseller Certification program.



A spider riddle holds the code to unleash the most lethal weapon on earth and one person knows it: a gifted 9 year-old girl. Icy operative Zoe abducts her to get the code, but soon is in a race to save the child she's grown to care about—while battling the demons of her addiction.

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Morgan Hufstader is a book marketer, author, and 2020 SAS fiction finalist! She's worked with promotional and creative companies such as BookSweeps, My Romance Reads, and Plottr. In addition, she put her marketing expertise to the test and became a USAT bestselling indie author of queer romance. She strives to help other authors discover their own brand of success.



Martin Hyatt, a Louisiana native, received the ALA Stonewall Honor Book Award for his novels *A Scarecrow's Bible* and *Beautiful Gravity*. He is also the recipient of the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction and an Edward Albee Fellowship. He has been a finalist for the Ferro-Grumley, the Violet Quill, and two Lambda Literary Awards. His shorter works have appeared in various anthologies, *New York Magazine*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Electric Literature*. He currently lives in New York City.



Fay Jacobs has authored five collections of humorous/activist essays with Bywater Books, and was named a 2019 Champion of Pride by The Advocate Magazine. She has won an International Rainbow Award, an American Library Association Award, an IPPY Award, and Goldie awards, among others. She's written for The Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, The Advocate, Philadelphia Gay News, Washington Blade, and more. She's been performing her solo comedy show *Aging Gracelessly: 50 Shades of Fay* all over the country for the past six years. Her motto is "nothing is so bad if it's worth the story you can tell."



Daniel M. Jaffe is a prize-winning, internationally published author, whose newest novel, *The Grand Sex Tour Murders*, just released by Rattling Good Yarns Press. His most recent short-story collection, *Foreign Affairs: Male Tales of Lust & Love*, also published by Rattling Good Yarns Press, was selected as one of Kirkus Reviews' 100 Best Indie Books of 2020.



Rick Karlin managed to work for almost every LGBT publication in the area, starting with GayLife Newspaper in the 1970s, during his tenure in Chicago's LGBT Press. In 1997 he was inducted into The Chicago's LGBT Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to LGBT journalism in Chicago and his charity work with a number of community groups. Rattling Good Yarns Press recently published his memoir, *Paper Cuts: My Life in Chicago's Volatile LGBT Press*. He lives in South Florida with his husband Gregg Shapiro, where he works as a freelance journalist.



Daniel W.K. Lee is a third-generation refugee, queer, Cantonese American born in Kuching, Malaysia. He earned his MFA in creative writing at The New School, and his debut collection of poetry, *Anatomy of Want*, was published by QueerMojo/Rebel Satori Press. Daniel lives in New Orleans with this whippet Camden.

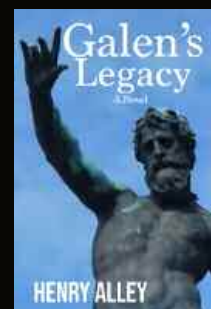


Alecia P. Long is the author of *Cruising for Conspirators: How a New Orleans D.A. Prosecuted the Kennedy Assassination as a Sex Crime*, and the prize-winning book *The Great Southern Babylon: Sex, Race, and Respectability in New Orleans, 1865-1920*. She's a Professor of History at LSU where she teaches courses on Louisiana, New Orleans, and sexuality.



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James Magruder is the author of four books of fiction: the Lammy-nominated *Sugarless*; the linked story collection, *Let Me See It*; *Love Slaves of Helen Hadley Hall*; and the summer stock novel, *Vamp Until Ready*, released in September 2021. His work for the stage includes writing the novelization of the Broadway musical, *Triumph of Love*, and co-writing, in blank verse, the book for *Head Over Heels*, the Philip Sidney Go-Go's mashup of 2018. A five-time MacDowell Fellow, he has made Baltimore his home for thirty years.



Gar McVey-Russell's first novel, *Sin Against the Race*, was listed on The Advocate's "Best Books We Read in 2018: LGBTQ Novels." His short story, *Tom of Boalt Hall*, was a finalist in the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ Festival and appears in their 2020 anthology. His fiction has also been featured in *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* and other publications. Gar is married and lives in Oakland, California, where he listens to a lot of jazz.



Vincent Traugher Meis has published six novels: *Eddie's Desert Rose*, *Tio Jorge*, *Down in Cuba*, *Deluge*, *Four calling Burds*, and *The Mayor of Oak Street*; *Tio Jorge*, *Down in Cuba*, and *Deluge* have all won Rainbow Awards. His short stories have been appeared in several collections both in print and online, including *WITH: New Gay Fiction*, *Best Gay Erotica* 2015, and *Best Gay Erotica of the Year, Volume 1*. A collection of short stories, *Far from Home*, was published in October 2021. He lives in San Leandro, California.



Eric Nguyen earned an MFA in Creative Writing from McNeese State University. He has been awarded fellowships from *Lambda Literary*, *Voices of Our Nation Arts*, and the *Tin House Writers Workshop*. He is the editor-in-chief of *diaCRITICS*. He lives in Washington, D.C. *Things We Lost to the Water* is his first novel.



Martin Padgett has written for *Bitter Southerner*, *Oxford American*, *Gravy*, and *The Paris Review*. He earned his MFA in narrative nonfiction writing from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. He was named a 2019 Lambda Literary Fellow. He is pursuing a PhD in History at Georgia State University. His recent book, *A Night at the Sweet Gum Head*, was hailed by the *New York Times* as an "audacious" retelling of 1970s queer history: "When stories such as these get told, it is a cause for celebration." His next book will tell the story of the life of Michael Hardwick, who fought for sexual privacy at the Supreme Court in the 1986 case *Bowers v. Hardwick*.



Frank Perez serves as president of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He is a columnist for *Ambush Magazine* and *French Quarter Journal*, and has authored several books on New Orleans queer history. As a licensed tour guide, Perez developed "The Rainbow Fleur de Lis," a walking tour of the French Quarter focusing on LGBT+ history which has earned national and local critical praise.

Perez teaches part-time at Loyola University. He, his partner, and their dog live in the French Quarter.



Eric Peterson is a novelist and playwright. His plays include an adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*, *Seven Strangers in a Circle* (nominee, Best Play, Washington Theatre Festival), and *Afterglow*, which has been performed throughout the US and Europe and was made into a short film. He has been a regular contributor to *Letters from CAMP* Rehoboth and *NBC Out*, and co-hosts *The Rewind Project*, a podcast about old movies and modern times. For the past two decades, he's been an organizational Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) practitioner. *Loyalty, Love, & Vermouth* is his first novel.



David Pevsner is an LA-based actor, writer, model, and personal organizer. His diverse stage career ranges from regional theatre to Broadway, and he has appeared in many network TV shows and films. His original songs have been heard in the global hit show *Naked Boys Singing!*; his album *Most Versatile*, and two one-man musicals, including *Musical Comedy Whore* are currently available on DVD and streaming. He continues his anti-shame, anti-ageism, pro-nudity, and sexuality mission with his work in erotic photos, videos, and writings, including his recent memoir, *Damn Shame: A Memoir of Desire, Defiance, and Show Tunes*.



Felice Picano's stories, novellas, and novels are translated into seventeen languages, and include national and international bestsellers. He's published four plays as well. He's received awards for poetry, drama, short stories, novels, and memoirs. His newest books are *Songs & Poems*, *Pursuit: A Victorian Entertainment*, and the second book in his *City on a Star Trilogy*, *The Betrothal at Usk*. Several new stories and novelettes appeared in 2021 anthologies and magazines in the U.S., U.K., and India. He has two forthcoming books in 2022, *Pursued: Lillian's Story*, and the third volume of the *City on a Star Trilogy*, *A Bard on Hercular*. Picano lectures on Vintage Hollywood and screenwriting.



David Pratt is the author of *Bob the Book*, *Wallaçonia*, *Todd Sweeney*, *The Fiend of Fleet High*, *Looking After Joey*, and a short-story collection, *My Movie*. His stories have appeared in several periodicals and anthologies. He has performed work for the theater at venues in New York City and Michigan. He recently published two plays, *The Snow Queen* and *November Door*; and *The Book of Humiliation*, an "anti-novel" published as a series of zines.



Karisma Price is the author of the forthcoming poetry collection, *I'm Always so Serious*. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Four Way Review*, *Wildness*, *The Adroit Journal*, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from Cave Canem and New York University; she was a finalist for the 2019 Manchester Poetry Prize, and awarded The 2020 J. Howard and Barbara M.J. Wood Prize from The Poetry Foundation. She is from New Orleans, LA, and holds an MFA in poetry from New York University. She is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Poetry at Tulane University.



J.M. Redmann has published ten novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her latest is *Not Dead Enough*. Her first book was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detective novels. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards. *The Intersection of Law & Desire* was an Editor's Choice of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and a recommended book by Maureen Corrigan of NPR's *Fresh Air*. She is the co-editor with Greg Herren of three anthologies, *Night Shadows: Queer Horror*, *Women of the Mean Streets: Lesbian Noir*, and *Men of the Mean Streets: Gay Noir*. Her books have been translated into German, Spanish, Dutch, Hebrew and Norwegian. She lives in New Orleans.



Steven Reigns is a Los Angeles' poet and the first Poet Laureate of West Hollywood. Alongside over a dozen chapbooks, he has published the collections *Inheritance* and *Your Dead Body is My Welcome Mat*. He edited *My Life is Poetry*, showcasing his students' work from the first-ever autobiographical poetry workshop for LGBT seniors. Currently he is touring *The Gay Rub*, an exhibition of rubbings from LGBT landmarks. His newest collection, *A Quilt for David*, came out in September and is the product of ten years of research regarding dentist David Acer's life.



Genevieve Rheams writes LGBTQ+ romance, comedy, literature, and personal essays. She received her MFA in fiction from the University of New Orleans and currently teaches writing classes at Delgado Community College. You can find her telling stories onstage at *The Moth*, or *Greetings, From Queer Mountain*. She lives with her wife in New Orleans where they are greatly outnumbered by three cats, two dogs, and their teenaged son.



Lance Ringel's debut novel *Flower of Iowa*, an epic love story between two soldiers in the First World War, won book awards spanning multiple categories. His recently published second novel, *Floridian Nights*, is a generation-gap gay romance set against the backdrop of the 1980s AIDS epidemic. His work for the theater includes the plays, *In Love with the Arrow Collar Man*, based on the true story of famed illustrator J.C. Leyendecker and his lover Charles Beach, and the current production, *Flash/Frozen*, also based on true historical events.



Kim Roberts is the editor of the anthology, *By Broad Potomac's Shore: Great Poems from the Early Days of our Nation's Capital*, selected by the East Coast Centers for the Book for the 2021 Route 1 Reads program as the book that "best illuminates important aspects" of the culture of Washington, DC. She is the author of five books of poems, most recently *The Scientific Method*.



Carol Rosenfeld is a New York City-based writer and poet. Her debut novel, *The One That Got Away*, was published by Bywater Books. She is currently working on her second novel, *Table for One*, as well as a memoir about her mother and dementia, and a collection of her poetry. Carol is proud to be in the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame. She is the chair of the Publishing Triangle and the coordinator for the Triangle's annual Thom Gunn and Audre Lorde poetry awards as well as the Trans & Gender-Variant Literature award.



Jeffrey Round is an award-winning author, filmmaker, and songwriter. His breakout novel, *A Cage of Bones*, was listed on AfterElton's 50 Best Gay Books. *Lake on the Mountain*, first of the seven Dan Sharp mysteries, won a Lambda Award in 2013. His short film, *My Heart Belongs to Daddy*, won prizes for Best Canadian Director and Best Use of Music. In 2021 he took top juried awards for his music video, *Don't You Think I Know*. *Threads*, is his second poetry collection.



Brian Sands is an award-winning playwright who has had works produced by Southern Rep Theater, the Contemporary Arts Center, See 'Em On Stage: A Production Company, and Dillard University, among others. Since 2002, he has been the Theater/Performing Arts critic for *Ambush Magazine*, the largest and oldest LGBTQ publication in the Gulf South, covering local theater, opera, and dance performances as well as Broadway, off-Broadway, West End, and other international productions.



Timothy Schaffert is the author of six novels, the most recent being, *The Perfume Thief*, which was an ABA bestseller and a #1 Amazon.com bestseller in the category of LGBTQ+ Historical Fiction; it was named a best book of summer by the LA Times, Oprah Daily, Publishers Weekly, and other outlets; and a "most anticipated" read by Lambda Literary. Schaffert is the director of creative writing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and is the co-editor of *Zero Street*, the LGBTQ+ fiction series of the University of Nebraska Press.



Gregg Shapiro is the author of eight books, including the forthcoming poetry collection, *Fear of Muses*. He's an entertainment journalist, whose interviews and reviews run in a variety of regional LGBTQ+ and mainstream publications and websites. He lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with his husband Rick and their dog Coco.



SJ Sindu is the author of the novels, *Blue-Skinned Gods*, and *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, which won the Publishing Triangle Edmund White Debut Fiction Award, was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award, and was an ALA Stonewall Honor Book. She's also the author of the hybrid-fiction and nonfiction chapbook, *I Once Met You But You Were Dead*. She holds an MA in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a PhD in English and Creative Writing from Florida State University. She teaches at the University of Toronto Scarborough.



Carrie Smith is author of the Claire Codella mysteries (*Silent City*, *Forgotten City*, *Unholy City*) and the literary novel, *Forget Harry*. Her articles have appeared in *Writer's Digest*, *Daily Beast*, *Criminal Element*, and *Career Authors*. She is a recipient of Killer Nashville's Reader's Choice Award; a finalist in *Nimrod's* Katherine Anne Porter Prize and the 2021 Saints and Sinners Fiction Contest; a winner of three Hopwood Awards; and a former fellow of the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. Carrie lives in Manhattan with her wife and adult twins.



William Christy Smith's first novel, a collection of 18 inter-related short stories titled "Skylark," was shortlisted for 2020 Faulkner Wisdom Literary Contest – novel category. Skylark also was a finalist in the 2021 Flannery O'Connor Award for the Short Story. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in English from Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, master of liberal arts degree from the University of Chicago, and master of arts administration degree from the University of New Orleans. He is a library and museum professional and lives in New Orleans.



Pamela Sneed is a New York based poet, performer, and visual artist. She is the author of *Funeral Diva*, featured in the New York Times and Publishers Weekly, and the winner of the 2021 Lambda Lesbian Poetry Award. Additionally in 2021, she was a finalist for the New York Theater Workshops Golden Harris Award, the winner of the 2021 Black Queer Art Mentorship award for her leadership and literary talent, and a panelist for The David Zwirner Gallery's *More Life* exhibition. She's spoken at the Bard Center for Humanities, The Ford Foundation, The Gordon Parks Foundation, Columbia University, The New School, and NYU's Center For Humanities. She currently has work on view at the Leslie Lohman Museum.



Lindsay Sproul's debut novel, *We Were Promised Spotlights*, was published in 2020 by Putnam/Penguin. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *The Massachusetts Review*, *Epoch*, *Glimmer Train*, *Witness*, *Hayden's Ferry Review* and elsewhere, and she has received fellowships from MacDowell, VCCA and Columbia University. She teaches at Loyola University New Orleans and serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the *New Orleans Review*.



Traci Taylor is currently dividing her time between New Orleans and Split, Croatia as she travels the globe searching for new adventures. She earned a Bachelors of Arts from Bowling Green State University after studying Art History in Florence, Italy and worked as an *au pair* in Sopron, Hungary. Traci completed her graduate degree in Museum Studies from HBCU Southern University at New Orleans while living in the South of France (Nice). Traci aspires to have her novel *And I You* turned into a mini-series as she writes the next book in the series.



Ali Vali is the author of the long-running Cain Casey "Devil" series and the Genesis Clan "forces" series, as well as numerous standalone romances including two lambda literary Award finalists, *Calling the Dead* and *Love Match*, and her 2020 release, *The Inheritance*. Originally from Cuba, Ali has retained much of her family's traditions and language and uses them frequently in her stories. Ali has discovered that living in Louisiana provides plenty of material to draw from in creating her novels and short stories.



Julie Marie Wade is a member of the creative writing faculty at Florida International University in Miami. A winner of the Marie Alexander Poetry Series and the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Memoir; her collections of poetry and prose include *Wishbone: A Memoir in Fractures*, *Small Fires: Essays*, *Postage Due: Poems & Prose Poems*, *When I Was Straight, Same-Sexy Marriage: A Novella in Poems*, *Just an Ordinary Woman Breathing*, and *Skirted*. Her collaborative titles include *The Unrhymables: Collaborations in Prose*, written with Denise Duhamel, and *Telephone: Essays in Two Voices*, written with Brenda Miller. Wade reviews regularly for *Lambda Literary Review* and *The Rumpus* and makes her home in Dania Beach with her spouse Angie Griffin and their two cats.



Mat Wenzel has 37 stamps in his National Parks Passport, collects squished pennies, and writes poetry and zines. He was a 2015 Lambda Literary Fellow, and his work has appeared in *Homology Lit*, *Crab Fat Magazine*, *Glitterwolf Magazine*, and other journals online and in print. Mat currently teaches writing at TCU in Fort Worth, TX.



Jerry L. Wheeler is the editor of seven anthologies of gay erotica. His collection of short fiction, *Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits*, was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award in 2012. He's also been Lammy-shortlisted for *Tented: Gay Erotic Tales from Under the Big Top*, and *The Bears of Winter*. He lives and writes in Denver maintaining his review blog, *Out in Print: Queer Book Reviews*, and his own editing business, *Write and Shine*. *Pangs* is his first novel.



"Jack" Wilde is a San Francisco-based author relatively new at writing fiction. His debut LGBTQ romance novel published as an eBook, *The Stranger with the Umbrella*, earned a high rating on Goodreads. His most recent LGBTQ+ romance, *After Katrina: First Healing Then Love!* is highlighted in this year's reading series. (Available from Amazon as an eBook or in softcover. With a background as an academic who has written textbooks and research articles in disability rehabilitation, he took the switch to fiction in stride and as a fun new approach to advocating for marginalized populations. Contact him at nevergiveup12346@gmail.com



Paul J. Willis has over 26 years of experience in nonprofit management. He earned a B.S. degree in Psychology and a M.S. degree in Communication. He started his administrative work in 1992 as the co-director of the Holo Foundation in Minneapolis. The Foundation operated an alternative high school program for at-risk youth. Willis has been the executive director of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival since 2004. He is the founder of the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival (established in 2003). Willis received the Publishing Triangle Award for Leadership (2019). Current fascinations include *Reacher* with Alan Ritchson, tattoos, LSU Gymnastics, and watching the Academy Awards with Brenda Currin.

IN MEMORIAM

Michael H. Ward

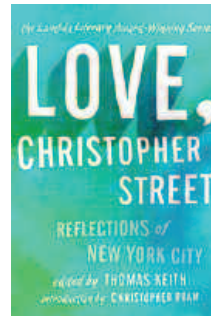
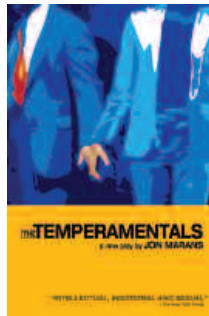
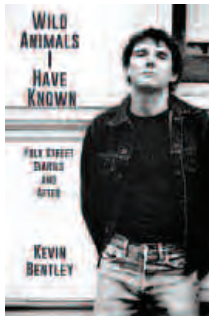
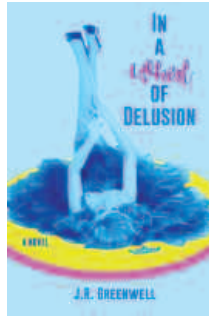
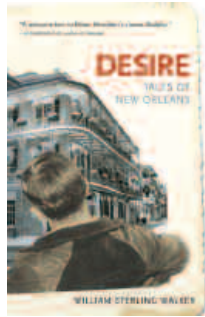
Kind, gentle and loving. A storyteller and friend.

He loved the SAS Fest and we loved him.

The Sea Is Quiet Tonight

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Saints + Sinners XIX

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After the Reign by Timothy Cummings, acrylic on panel, 2021



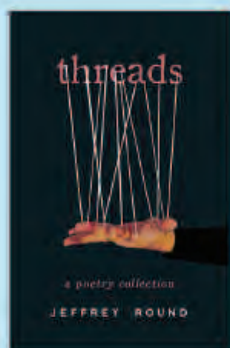
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—Kirkus Reviews

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2023 SHORT FICTION CONTEST

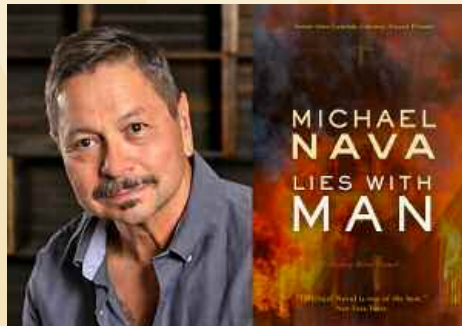
Opens May 1, 2022

Be sure to enter the 14th annual Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest and be part of our 2023 anthology produced by Rebel Satori Press. We're pleased to announce that **Michael Nava** will be our finalist judge. Guidelines and deadlines at: sasfest.org

Michael Nava is the author of an acclaimed series of eight novels featuring gay, Latino criminal defense lawyer Henry Rios who *The New Yorker*, called "a detective unlike any previous protagonist in American noir." He is the recipient of seven Lambda Literary Awards in the gay mystery category and the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement in LGBT Literature.

His most recent Rios novel, *Lies With Man*, was published in April 2021 by Amble Press, an LGBTQ press of which he is also managing editor. The Washington Post review of the novel called Nava "a master of the genre."

In addition, he is the author of *The City of Palaces*, a historical novel set in Mexico City against the background of the 1910 Mexican Revolution. His next book will be a sequel to *The City of Palaces* called *A Village in Babel*, set two border towns at the Arizona/Mexican border.



Michael Nava

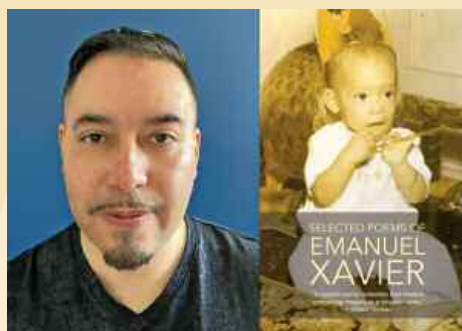
2023 POETRY CONTEST

Opens May 1, 2022

The winner of our 3rd annual poetry contest will be selected from submissions of original unpublished poems by LGBTQ+ writers on the general theme of "family"—those we....

Our contest will open on May 1, 2022 and our Finalist Judge will be **Emanuel Xavier**. For more information and submission guidelines visit our website: sasfest.org

Poet and activist, **Emanuel Xavier** was named an LGBTQ Icon by The Equality Forum and presented a New York City Council Citation Award for his many contributions to NYC arts and culture throughout the years. Xavier has received International Latino Book Awards, Lambda Literary Award nominations and American Library Association Over the Rainbow Books selections for his collections which include: *Pier Queen*, *Americano*, *If Jesus Were Gay*, *Nefarious*, *Radiance* and *Selected Poems of Emanuel Xavier*. He is recipient of a Gay City Impact Award and The Marsha A. Gomez Cultural Heritage Award.



Emanuel Xavier
Photo by Brian Berger

PAST SHORT FICTION WINNERS

2022
J. Duncan Davidson "My Elijah"

2021
Colby Byrne "The Fog House"

2020
Matthew Cherry "Big House"

2019
J. Marshall Freeman "The Grove of Mohini"

2018
Jeremy Schnotala "Sand Angels"

2017
J. Marshall Freeman "Curo the Filthmonger"

2016
Jerry Rabushka "Trumpet in D"

2015
Maureen Brady "Basketball Fever"

2014
Sally Bellerose "Corset"

2013
Sandra Gail Lambert "In a Chamber of My Heart"

2012
Jerry Rabushka "Wasted Courage"

2011
Sally Bellerose "Fishwives"

2010
Wayne Lee Gay "Ondine"

PAST POETRY WINNERS

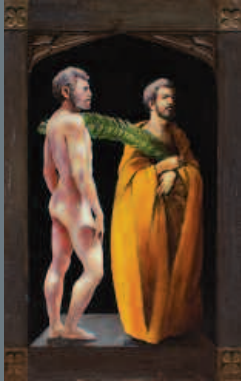
2022
Michael Montlack

2021
Danielle Bero

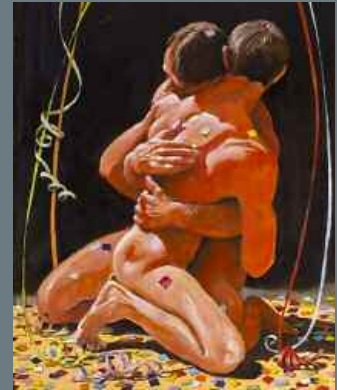


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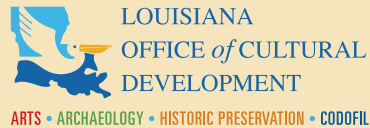


Two Saints
by John Burton Harter, 1973



Celebration
by John Burton Harter, 1994

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The John Burton Harter Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes John Burton Harter's art and the interests he cared about. For more information on the Foundation and to view more of Harter's portfolio, visit: jbharter.org



Self-Portrait, 1974

John Burton Harter (1940-2002) documented the richness of gay experience through his prolific artwork. Harter is most known for exquisite figure studies, especially fine compositions of the male body.

These works range from classical studio drawings to completed paintings and self-portraits. He created over 3,000 works of art during his life largely based in New Orleans. His paintings have received acclaim at showings in New York, Baton Rouge, and San Francisco.

"I am an Artist first and a gay artist incidentally, but a large part of my work reflects a gay orientation. It isn't an agenda especially, but it is a representative of imagery I feel important both to me and to viewers of my work. Because of the Religious Right it is most at risk, as I have written before, and most in need of the safeguards of publication and dissemination."

—J.B. Harter



Harlequin, 1978, Acrylic

"The development of my art has paralleled my homoerotic exploration and as I discovered aspects of the gay world I incorporated them into my paintings and drawings. My translation of the gay world into imagery, to art, defined what I was learning to myself, and each—art and lifestyle—became a part of the other."

—J.B. Harter



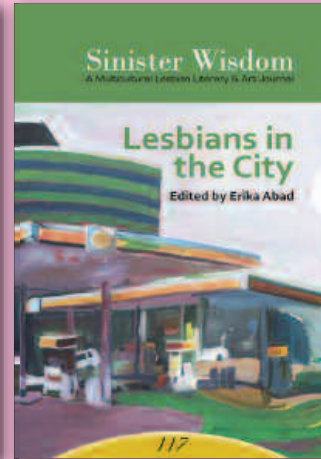
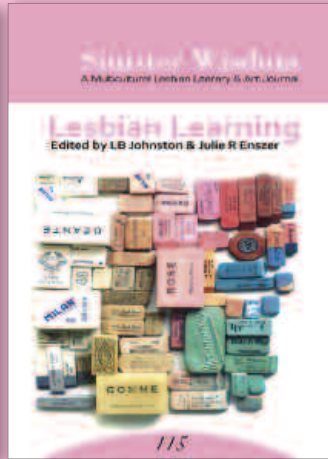
Recumbent Back, Odd Nauseam, 1999, Oil



Recamier, 2000, Oil

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