

20 YEARS

SAINTS + SINNERS


LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS



MARCH 24 – 26, 2023

unboundededition.com

LITERARY DISSENT FROM FEARLESS WRITERS.

A person with long dark hair, wearing a patterned face mask and a dark jacket over a patterned shirt, is sitting on a cobblestone path. They are holding and reading an open book. In the background is a rough stone wall. The entire image has a dark red/maroon tint.

We are committed to exploring and illuminating the contemporary human condition through thoughtfully challenging collections of poetry, short fiction, and essays.

Peter Campion, Executive Editor | Distributed by Small Press Distribution

UNBOUND^{ed}
UNBOUND EDITION PRESS™

20 YEARS

SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS

MARCH 24 - 26, 2023 • WWW.SASFEST.ORG

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VENUES

Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street

AllWays Lounge and Cabaret/Twilight Room
2240 St. Claude Avenue

SAVE THE DATE

21st annual Saints + Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival
March 22 - 24, 2024

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
Literary Program Consultant

Tracy Cunningham
Managing Director and 2023 Fiction Anthology Co-editor

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SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR:
Nancy Gorman

SUPPORT FOR THE SAS LITERARY PROGRAM PROVIDED BY:
Jonathan Alexander, Greg Herren, Daniel M. Jaffe, Wes Jamison,
Michele Karlsberg, and Gregg Shapiro

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

PROGRAM DESIGN:
Toan Nguyen

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:
Karissa Kary

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

We're grateful to our artistic muse, Timothy Cummings, who graciously created an original painting for our SASFest 20th Anniversary Program Book Cover. The painting is titled "Incident at the Carousel Bar," and depicts a young Tennessee Williams with a mysterious masked companion at the Hotel Monteleone's iconic bar.

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 over-looking 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 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:
cclarkgallery.com/artists/series/timothy-cummings
& at nancyhoffmangallery.com/artist-timothy-cummings or follow him on Instagram at: [timothyuntitled](https://www.instagram.com/timothyuntitled)



Self Portrait
by Timothy Cummings, 2009



Portrait in the Tall Grass
by Timothy Cummings, 2020

Welcome to the

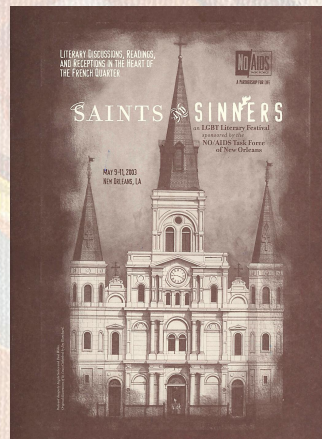
20TH ANNUAL SAINTS+SINNERS LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL

If you can't be yourself, what's the point of being anyone else?

—Tennessee Williams from *Memoirs*, 1975

Greetings and salutations!

It's hard to believe it's been twenty years since the first Saints & Sinners. It seems like just yesterday when we started battling around the idea, but the world—and New Orleans—have changed so much that sometimes it's hard to believe it's *only* been twenty years. The first Saints and Sinners happened in the year *Lawrence v. Texas* was decided; things like marriage equality, undetectable viral loads, and PrEP seemed but distant hopes and dreams. But despite all the progress we've made, there's also been regressive backlash, with mass shootings at gay clubs, the demonization of drag queens and their conflation with transpeople, and now attempts to censor and ban our existence out of libraries. Saints and Sinners was important in 2003, and it's just as important in 2023 with its mission of advocacy and education about our community—in times like these, our writers are even more important.



First Annual SAS Program

drinks conversation between myself, Jean Redmann, and my partner, Greg Herren. We were talking about how hard it was to build and establish a queer writing community because everyone is spread out all over the country, and wouldn't it be great to have a queer literary festival in New Orleans so we could invite all our friends and see them? From that gin-soaked conversation (okay, Jean was having sazeracs), the seed was planted

and the three of us decided to make it happen. We had no budget, no money, and no sponsors; those first years there was an element of "Let's put on a show in the barn!"

Produced on a shoestring (and a second-hand one at that) those first couple of years, the first panels and readings were held in various gay bars around the French Quarter because they were willing to donate their spaces for us. The now-notorious first closing reception—aka known as the Rain Party because Rain vodka donated cases for it, and the volunteer bartenders apparently decided there should be none left when the party ended—was the first held upstairs at the Bourbon Parade, and the party stayed there for years. We never dreamed that queer celebrities like Jake Shears and John Waters and Kyan Douglas



Looking back over the years, Saints and Sinners has come a long way. Saints and Sinners began as a dinner-and-



Paul and Karissa at Bourbon Parade, 2007



Artist Timothy Cummings and Paul
at Closing Reception, 2022

would come. We added the Hall of Fame to recognize giants in our community, who have worked hard and inspired so many.

We're excited that so many past SAS Hall of Fame Inductees are here to celebrate our 20th anniversary with us this weekend including: Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Rob Byrnes, Louis Flint Ceci, Timothy Cummings, Jameson Currier, Brenda Currin, Jewelle Gomez, Cheryl Head, Greg Herren, Andrew Holleran, Candice Huber, Michele Karlsberg, Judith Katz, Susan Larson, Michael Nava, Frank Perez, Felice Picano, J.M. Redmann, Carol Rosenfeld, William Christy Smith, Jack Sullivan, and Jess Wells.



Board President Lawrence Henry Gobble holding
The Imp, a painting he posed for in 1997 by JB Harter

And we're equally excited to see our returning participants, and to meet our first-time attendees. We're so glad you decided to join us this year to celebrate twenty years of fantastic conversations, readings, and community building. Here's to another twenty years!

With much love and respect,

Paul J. Willis
Executive Director, SAS and TW&NOLF



Acrobat
by Timothy Cummings, 2022

michele karlsberg
marketing and management

"I raise my glass to my colleague & friend Paul Willis, and his wonderful SAS FEST team. Thank you all for providing a space and an incredible program for LGBTQ+ literature to thrive. Happy 20th!"

As I enter my 34th year, I enjoy my role as a publicist more and more each day. Whether it's book publicity, production and event planning, or consulting, my clients make it fun. Thank you for that.

I am always here for you.

www.michelekarlsberg.com
917-359-2803

WALKING TOURS

LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

March 23, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

March 24, 3:30 – 5 PM

March 26, 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, \$30

HISTORY OF QUEER NIGHTLIFE IN NEW ORLEANS TOUR

March 23, 24, and 26

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.

Crossing, 439 Dauphine Street, \$30



The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents

from STREET to STAGE

A Tennessee Williams Walking Tour
through the French Quarter
Conducted by Marcus Shacknow

This tour will concentrate on Williams' experiences in the French Quarter neighborhood, the LGBTQ+ scene he inhabited, and how he reflected these in his plays, short stories, poems, and other writings.

A blend of history and humor will carry you through the famous and infamous places of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and other classics while fearlessly delving into New Orleans's queer history and storied night life!

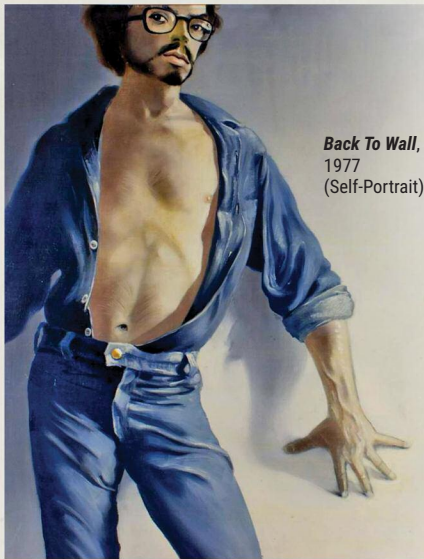


Tickets & Tour Times at

www.TWTHEATRENOLA.com



Adult themes. Not recommended for individuals under 17.



Back To Wall,
1977
(Self-Portrait)

JOHN BURTON HARTER FOUNDATION



EMPOWERING AWARENESS OF VISUAL AND QUEER ARTS THROUGH THE WORK OF JOHN BURTON HARTER

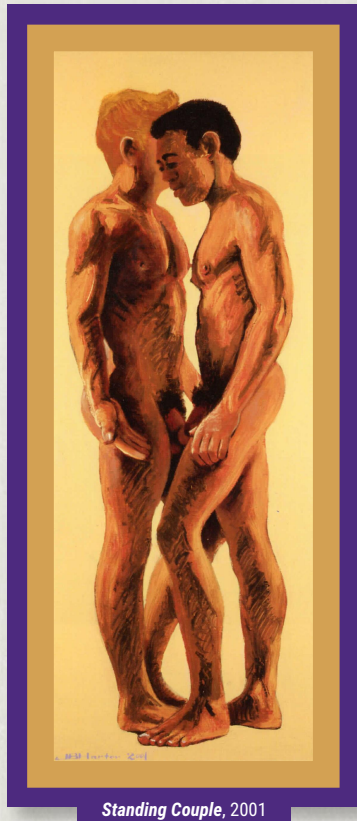
The John Burton Harter Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes John Burton Harter's art and the interests he cared about. For more information on the Foundation and to view more of Harter's portfolio, visit: jbharter.org

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.

"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."

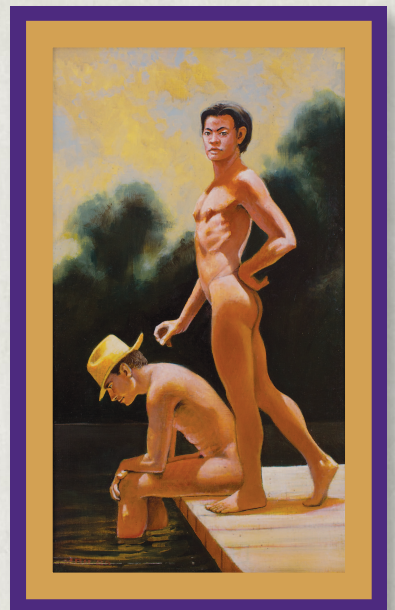
—J.B. Harter



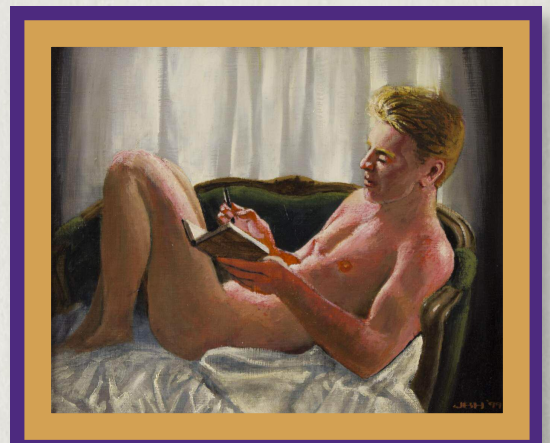
Standing Couple, 2001

"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



Men on Dock



Diarist, 1999



FRINGE FESTIVAL

THE LAST BOHEMIA FRINGE FESTIVAL MARCH 23–25, 2023

A new program of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival in conjunction with the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival.

All performances at The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue.

Tickets: cocktail table seating for \$35 and general admission seating for \$22.

Tickets available onsite or online at sasfest.org.

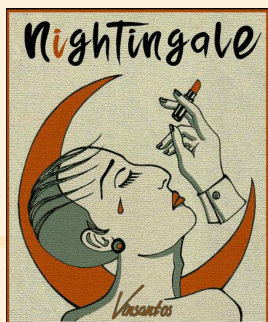
NIGHTLY HEADLINERS

Thursday, March 23

9:00 PM - *Nightingale*

Vinsantos

Post Punk/Post Queer cabaret legend, Vinsantos DeFonte presents the latest incarnation of his one-person original musical theater production of *Nightingale*. This work is inspired by DeFonte's affection and obsession with Tennessee Williams' famed character from Vieux Carré. Part play, part musical, *Nightingale* tells the tale of a struggling artist with delusions of grandeur, a character study of who they might have been before moving into a French Quarter flophouse. This viewing will be followed by post-show moderated discussion with the audience.



Friday, March 24

9:00 PM - *Notes on Faux*
Fauxnique

Fauxnique returns to New Orleans to unbox her brand-new show. For *Notes on Faux* the herstory-making first cis-lady crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen and alter ego of writer/artist Monique Jenkinson gathers reflective, shiny objects from her memoir *Faux Queen: A Life in Drag*—the treasured gems as well as the baubles she forgot in the back of the closet and left in the cab—and lays them out on the cabaret stage. The result, as with all of her work, is a surprisingly philosophical spectacle, a glam critique that takes on the slippery subjects of artifice and authenticity, examining the many facets of their rhinestone façades under a queer light. See why Fauxnique broke through the glass ceiling of the male-dominated world of drag to become a queen among queens, and why Cabaret legend Justin Vivian Bond calls Jenkinson "the Jane Goodall of drag, and as Fauxnique ... one of its most admired primates."

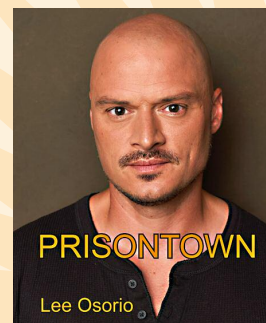


Saturday, March 25

9:00 PM - *Prisontown*

Lee Osorio

When the Writer is compelled by an unshakeable force to return to his hometown of Lumpkin, Georgia—a once-thriving community that is today kept alive by one of the nation's largest and most notorious federal immigration detention centers—he is forced to reckon with his own past as a queer, Latinx son of an immigrant and the costs of the extraction that is the foundation of our country. In this 90-minute, one-man performance, the Writer tells his origin story with powerful simplicity, using wit, nuance, humor, and compassion to reflect on the people trapped in this prison town, the past lives he could have lived, and the heartbreaking reality of the America we all live in today.



NIGHTLY PERFORMANCES

Thursday, March 23; Friday, March 24; and Saturday, March 25

6:00 PM - *It Was Never Just Sex*
Jovelyn Richards

You can't bury your secrets in sex without unearthing the secrets of your lover.

In the Jazz Age, Ro is driven by her past with roots going back to 1856 and a six-by-six slave cabin. Is there a different kind of intimacy that flourishes in the dark of oppression? Her married lovers are haunted by a secret; In the very end they don't know if Ro is a woman or a man. Or does it matter? Syndicated radio host and performance artist Jovelyn Richards uses live Jazz and storytelling to present what she calls "nappy-headed love stories that explore Black intimacy."



7:00 PM - *Water Always Wanders*

A cast of in person and virtual performers in the Romani tradition led by Ylva Mara Radziszewski.

"Water Always Wanders" is an embodiment of remembered futures; a ritual in the tradition of Romani storytelling from queer Romani artists **Tsarina Hellfire**, **Ylvadroma Marzanna Radziszewski**, and **Konstantin Polyakov**.



Join us for an evening of music, song, dance, and poetry as we join our voices in prayer with our queer and gender-expansive Romani ancestors. With multimedia installations from **Kiki Robinson** and **Baby Reckless**, as well as poetry & short stories from **Jezmina Von Thiele**. As the vernal equinox awakens us to new beginnings, we offer this performance as a blessing of Latcho Drom; a prayer for safe travels on the path unfurling before us all.

8:00 PM - *Bananas Burlesque (or, Are Straight People Okay?)*

Lefty Lucy

This show is a Tennessee Williams-inspired vaudeville that takes an unconventional peek at some of the accomplished author's favorite archetypes. Join host and playwright Lefty Lucy as she introduces our lovers—named simply HE and SHE—as they sing, dance, and joke their way through the traps of social expectation in an effort to defy fate and find freedom. Chock full of everything you'd expect from a Tennessee Williams drama, but with a bit more battiness, a side of striptease, a dash of drag, and absolutely too many banana jokes. Read more about it in Bess Rowen's article in 2023's *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, and don't miss this genre-busting late night delight—join us, and go Bananas!



11:00 PM - *The Sinking Opulence Show!*

Tsarina Hellfire and Stanley Roy

A Cabaret celebrating the sinking of the ship that we are all aboard! Like the legendary tale of The Titanic band playing as the ill-fated ocean liner sank into history's depths, **Tsarina Hellfire**, **Stanley Roy**, and their motley crew of maritime monsters will titillate your ears and tickle your imagination. It's the last big hurrah until the inevitable glug-glug! Live music, theater, burlesque, and a delightful devastation of all of your senses!



PERFORMER BIOS



Fauxnique is the alter-ego of artist/choreographer/writer Monique Jenkinson, whose work dwells at the intersection of contemporary dance and cabaret and considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable, and subversive act. Since making herstory as the first cis-woman crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen, she has performed her works in varied contexts, nationally and internationally. Her memoir *Faux Queen: A Life in Drag* (Amble Press) is out now.



Tsarina Hellfire is a chanteuse, comedian and cabaret force on New Orleans' performance art scene. A regular at the Double Dealer in the Orpheum Theater, Frenchmen Street live music clubs, and Shrimp Boil Cabaret, Tsarina is one of the most visible local cabaret performers. Her long-running Les Vampyres Cabaret is arguably the best night out in New Orleans.



Lefty Lucy is best known locally as the creator and host of her saucy and original game show, *Burlesque Bingo*—voted among the top five burlesque shows in NOLA by *Flame Magazine*. She holds the title of Miss Coney Island in perpetuity, and more recently, her critically acclaimed play, "A Peep Show Named Desire" premiered to full houses in Provincetown and New Orleans.



Lee Osorio (he/they) is a queer, Latinx, Atlanta-based actor, narrator, and playwright. His plays have been developed through the Alliance Theatre's Reiser Artist Lab (Rounds 4 and 6), The Graham Martin Unexpected Play Festival through Theatrical Outfit and Working Title Playwrights (WTP), WTP's Ethel Woolson Lab, Found Stages, Art on the Beltline, and with funding from Idea Capital Atlanta and the University of British Columbia. He has been a finalist for the Latinx Theater Commons Carnival (2018) and a semi-finalist for the O'Neill National Play Conference (2022).



Ylva Mara Radziszewski is Bimbo Yaga, the Trans MILF of your wet dreams. She is a traditional witch and artist of Romani and Eastern European heritage, residing in Bulbancha on Chitimacha land. Their ritual and art practice are interwoven; for them, magic is art and art is healing. Founder of the School of Traditional Magic, author of *A Practical Guide for Witches*, co-creator of The Living Altar, with writing featured in *Witchcraft*, an anthology of modern magical tradition published by Taschen in collaboration with the Library of Esoterica.



Jovelyn Richards is a writer, activist, solo performance artist, and radio host. Mz. Jovelyn's solo performances are created from what she calls "Nappy Headed Love Stories, Black Love and Intimacy." Her work has appeared at Afro Solo S.F. CA, LA Women's Theater Festival, The National Black Theater Festival, NC, San Francisco Theater Festival, and La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley, CA where Jovelyn is currently La Pena's artist in residence.



Stanley Roy is a singer-songwriter and comedic storyteller on the New Orleans' cabaret scene. Both a performer and producer, Roy is responsible for many of the most popular regular performance clubs in New Orleans for tourists and locals.



Vinsantos coins himself as a Drag Cabaret act. He takes a modern approach on the traditional style of the Weimar Cabaret scene from the 1920s. Blending original and classic songs, storytelling, comedy, costumes and visuals, a highly intimate relationship is built with his audiences worldwide. Recently, Vinsantos found himself on tour with Peter Murphy and David J of Bauhaus fame and continues to work with his legendary forefathers to push his story forward and present a unique and theatrical approach to your normal everyday rock and roll show.



The Last Bohemia Fringe Festival is made possible through a grant from **The Selley Foundation**. Thank you to our venue sponsor, **The AllWays Lounge!**

Additional support provided by **The Commonality Institute**.



COMMONALITY INSTITUTE



SAINTS+SINNERS XX

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

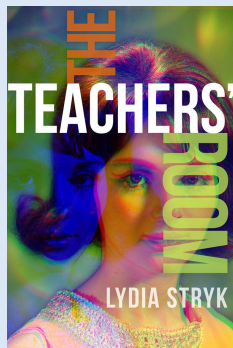
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023



10–11:15 AM—SAS Writer's Craft DIALOGUE FOR FICTION WRITERS: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ART OF LISTENING—LYDIA STRYK

As a playwright new to writing fiction, Lydia Stryk observed that dialogue was often neglected in the novels she was reading — its potential perhaps not fully understood. This workshop explores the playwright's primary tool. Listening exercises, including eavesdropping and interviewing, will be part of the workshop as participants are exposed to authentic speech and the way speech reveals and creates character, as does subtext and the unsaid. Finally, the poetry, humor and delight of spoken language will be observed, as well as the way in which the mundane nature of everyday speech can become something transcendent when deployed creatively in a scene. In preparation for the workshop, take a look at Stryk's essay on transitioning from playwriting to fiction.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25



11:30 AM–12:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft HOW TO PRODUCE YOUR OWN AUDIOBOOK—JESS WELLS

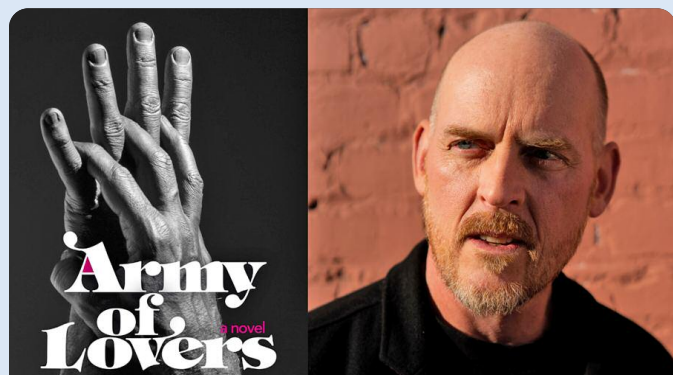
Audio books are one of the fastest growing segments of the book market and, thankfully, it's now easy and inexpensive to produce your own with wide distribution and larger profits. Author Jess Wells, who has narrated and produced three of her volumes, will take you through the equipment and software she uses, the changes to the manuscript required, the pitfalls of editing, and the opportunities to create your own audio book.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft BENDING GENRE: FROM CONFUSION TO FUSION IN PROSE & POETRY—CHIP LIVINGSTON

Chip Livingston leads a writer's craft session focusing on writing between established traditional genres, and how mixed-form narratives can add dimension, voice, surprise, and delight to both writer and reader. This master class looks at the history of "new" forms and the many varieties we can apply to our selected (or interpretive) genres, as well as how to teach your reader how to read your "hybrids."

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25



10–11:15 AM—SAS Writer's Craft TURNING YOUR LIFE INTO FICTION: FINDING THE STORY INSIDE THE FACTS—K.M. SOEHNLEIN

"Write what you know." "Tell your story." "Find your voice." Well-intended instructions like these can get us started, then comes the hard part: turning our personal experiences into the art of fiction. K.M. Soehnlein, who mined his activist past in ACT UP and Queer Nation for his highly-praised novel *Army of Lovers*, will open up his writing process and share the tips and tools that guide him. In writing fiction that springs from real life, how do we get beyond the facts to create characters that work for our stories?

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

11:45 AM–1:45 PM—*pre-registration was required PITCH SESSIONS WITH UNBOUND EDITION PRESS

Unbound Edition Press's publisher and editor in chief, **Patrick Davis**, and **Cory Firestine**, assistant editor, special projects, will be meeting with authors at SAS2023. The literary press has more than 30 titles in development and is home to best sellers and critically acclaimed works from queer authors. The editors are looking for thoughtfully challenging collections of poetry, short fiction, or essays from talented LGBTQ+ and BIPOC authors. Pitches will be for possible 2025 publication. For more information about Unbound Edition Press and online submission guidelines, visit: www.unboundedition.com

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

1–2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft WRITING HEARTBREAKING CHARACTERS: LUCY JANE BLEDSOE

Whether you're writing mysteries, romances, thrillers, sci fi, or literary fiction, good stories and novels need heartbreaking characters. They will make or break the success of your work. A brilliant plot, stunning setting, and beautiful prose all fall flat without meaningful people moving the story along. This workshop focuses on developing dynamic characterization. We will work on how to create realistic characters and avoid stereotype, the role of conflict in character development, the importance of dialogue, and the challenge of writing love and sex.

For queer characters, writing about rage is a unique and important tool, as well. Workshop participants will learn how to use the building blocks of desire, motivation, flaws, and surprise, to create characters who your readers will want to stay with until the last page.

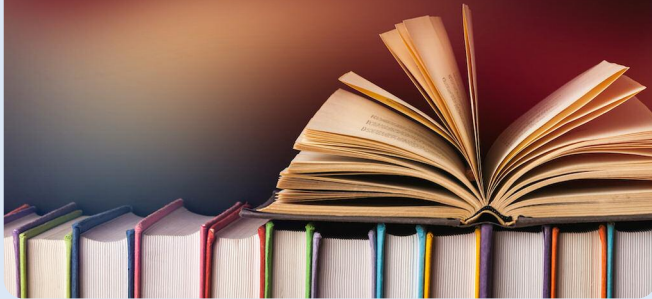
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

1–2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft

LET'S TALK ABOUT BOOKS WITH MICHELE KARLSBERG

Join Publicist Michele Karlsberg for a straightforward conversation on how to keep up the *how to* in publishing. Discuss strategies for getting the word out and creating more visibility for you as an author. In today's market we practically have unlimited power and reach. Let's value the practical/actionable over the big picture. Amongst some other things, we will discuss book covers, social networking trends, distribution, mistakes and utilizing various author platforms.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25



2:30–3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft

EROTICA LAID BARE:

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE KISS?—JERRY WHEELER

Join erotica anthologist and Lammy finalist Jerry L. Wheeler as he entices you to bump and grind out a full paragraph of hot erotica in a guided writing session that's sure to titillate and inform. If you're shy with sex scenes, you won't be after we give you some strategies and some prompts to pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Or whatever. For novices or anyone looking for a good time. Audience participation is key, so rev up your senses and bring your pencils. You'll love the homework.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25



LOUISIANA
OFFICE of CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

ARTS • ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORIC PRESERVATION • CODOFIL

Saints + Sinners Writer's Craft 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.

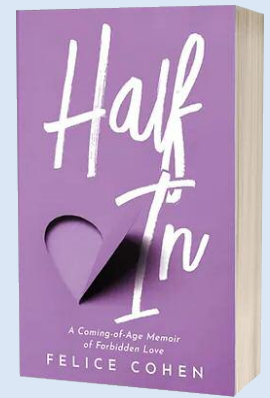
2:30–3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft

FROM PAIN TO PUBLISHED:

TURNING HEARTACHE INTO MEMOIR— FELICE COHEN

Have you dreamed of writing a memoir about a painful experience, but didn't know how or where to begin? Whether your dream is to publish your memoir, share it with family or just get it on paper, this workshop will help you narrow down your focus, outline and organize your story, and teach you numerous techniques using thought-provoking writing prompts to work through the discomfort that comes from writing about pain. Author Felice Cohen will touch upon examples from her own experience of heartache and loss and how she used writing to heal and create an award-winning memoir. Though we each have a unique experience; we can heal the same way: by writing down what hurts us.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25



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 SAS2023. 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 2024 publication. For more information about Rattling Good Yarns and online submission guidelines, visit: rattlinggoodyarns.com/submissions/

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

3:00 - 4:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

INTRODUCTION TO SCREENWRITING: DEVELOPING YOUR STORY FOR STAGE OR SCREEN with FELICE PICANO

Writing for feature films and television shows takes a great story and proper presentation to get the right attention. Author Felice Picano will go over all the elements to make your script the best it can be, with many visual examples and anecdotes from his experiences.

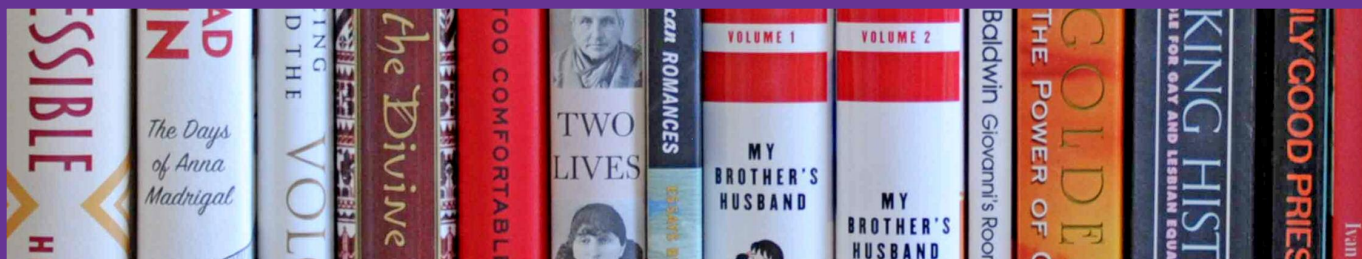
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

4 - 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

DON'T BAN OUR BOOKS: WRITING IN THE AGE OF CENSORSHIP

As book banning efforts grow and spread, with moves to suppress AP courses in African-American history and decrease access to LGBTQ materials, writers must become ever stronger champions of their work. How do we support libraries and bookstores that are right on the front lines of these efforts? This panel surveys the scene from a variety of perspectives. **Kerri Westenberg** has covered book banning for 64 *Parishes*. **Gregg Shapiro** is an entertainment journalist and published author, and **Sonnet Ireland**, has served as president of the Louisiana Library Association. **William Christy Smith**, director of adult programming at the Jefferson Parish Library moderates.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$10



What are you doing on Thursday evening, April 27, 2023?

Come to The Publishing Triangle Awards in the Auditorium at New York City's New School, 66 W. 12th Street! It's free and open to the public, and will be livestreamed. Free reception follows in Wollman Hall, 65 W. 11th Street, 5th floor.

Who will receive:

- The Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction
- The Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction
- The Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry
- The Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry
- The Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction
- ***NEW** The Joseph Hansen Award for LGBTQ Crime Writing
- The Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBTQ Fiction
(in conjunction with our longtime partner The Ferro-Grumley Foundation)
- The Publishing Triangle Trans and Gender-Variant Literature Award
- The Betty Berzon Emerging Writer Award
- The Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement
- The Michele Karlsberg Leadership Award
- ***NEW** The Publishing Triangle Torchbearer Award

Watch for the announcement of all finalists and the Whitehead, Leadership and Torchbearer winners the week of April 4.



The Publishing Triangle
the association of LGBTQ people in publishing
publishingtriangle.org

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Substacks



Masterdon

The purpose of the Publishing Triangle is to further the publication of books and other materials written by LGBTQ+ authors or with LGBTQ+ themes. Founded in 1988, The Publishing Triangle works to create support and a sense of community for lesbian and gay people in the publishing industry. We offer forums, as well as networking and social opportunities, for our members. In addition we sponsor programs to increase awareness of and appreciation for LGBTQ+ literature.

SAINTS+SINNERS XX WELCOME PARTY

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 • 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM



GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI

Welcome Party

Vieux Carré Room, Hotel Monteleone

214 Royal Street

Price: Included with Weekend Pass/Partner Party Pass

Come experience true Southern hospitality towards the rooftop of the Literary Landmark Hotel Monteleone. 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.

Melodic stylings of harpist **Luke Brechtelsbauer** will add to the ambience.



LITERARY HISTORY

Hotel Monteleone, a historic New Orleans hotel, has long been a favorite haunt of distinguished Southern authors. Many of them immortalized the Grand Dame of the French Quarter in their works. Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, and William Faulkner always made 214 Royal Street their address while in the Crescent City. While at The Carousel Bar, Truman Capote used to boast that he was born in the Monteleone. (He wasn't – though his mother lived at the historic hotel during her pregnancy, she safely made it to the hospital in time for Truman's debut.)

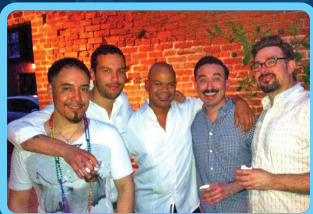
The list doesn't stop there; Anne Rice, Stephen Ambrose, and John Grisham also joined the ranks of literary guests over the years. In June of 1999, due to Hotel Monteleone's distinction among the literary elite, the hotel was designated an official literary landmark by the Friends of the Library Association. (The Plaza and Algonquin in New York are the only other hotels in the United States that share this honor.) Whether truth or fiction, the Hotel Monteleone's history is rich in stories.



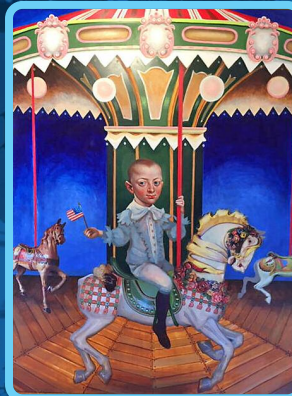
Luke Brechtelsbauer



**Saints and Sinners
welcome reception, 2008
W Hotel**



**Saints and Sinners
welcome reception, 2013
Hermann-Grima House**



American Twilight
by Timothy Cummings, 2020



SAINTS+SINNERS XX

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023



Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

10–11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

YA FICTION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

In the 2020s, young queers still find themselves isolated and oppressed. More than ever they need the comfort and wisdom of books directed to them, with characters whose struggles they can recognize and with whom they can identify. Queer YA books can show these young readers the way to becoming fully realized people. Today, though, the authors of these books face not only the task of crafting useful, engrossing narratives. They face the possibilities of censorship and of having to defend their works to conservative parents, teachers, librarians, and school administrators. This panel addresses the complex issues facing queer YA authors in an age of unprecedented political polarization and a great expansion of sexual and gender identity.

Panelists: Chris Clarkson, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Greg Herren, Gary Eldon Peter, and David Valdes.

Moderator: David Pratt.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

10–11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

POTENTIALS IN QUEER PUBLISHING

So much has changed in the last few decades in LGBTQ+ publishing. Queer writers and queer characters and content are less marginalized. There are more LGBTQ+ books and stories and films being published and produced than ever before, yet at least in the United States, conservative backlashes against queer stories (and their writers and readers) are rapidly threatening inclusion and limiting access to our stories. With growing representation of sexually diverse characters in mainstream media, especially in the area of Young Adult literature, panelists will address current publishing trends, new platforms, expanding opportunities, and the changing landscape of LGBTQ+ publishing and editing, and how these changes affect specialty (niche) publishers and potential avenues for reaching more readers.

Panelists: Samiya Bashir, David Groff, Brad Richard, and Carol Rosenfeld.

Moderator: Chip Livingston.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

10–11:15 AM—Reading Series

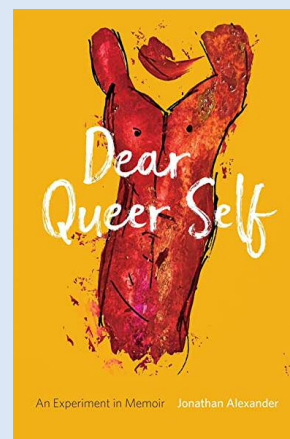
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

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: Jonathan Alexander, Chris Belcher, Jameson Currier, Daniel M. Jaffe, Guy Mark Foster, Jess Wells, and Emanuel Xavier for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



11 AM – 12:15 PM—Special Event

A DRAG BRUNCH NAMED DESIRE

Poppy Tooker returns with Drag Queen Brunch! We are thrilled to welcome New Orleans' most desirable drag queens to entertain you while you nosh on a 3-Course Brunch from Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House! And bottomless mimosas of course! Every delectable dish comes from the Poppy Tooker's Drag Queen Brunch cookbook and can be signed on-site by this beloved New Orleanian Cheerleader.

Dickie Brennan's Bourbon House, 144 Bourbon Street, \$100

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

SONG OF MYSELF: WRITING AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FICTION/POETRY AND MEMOIR

In his seminal poem, “Song of Myself,” Walt Whitman explored the notion of self, as Audre Lorde did a century later in her “biomythography,” *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*. Many LGBTQ+ writers have continued self-exploration through autobiographical fiction and poetry as well as memoir. What’s the appeal of these forms of writing? Why are they especially important for LGBTQ+ writers? How is the process of writing memoir similar to that of writing autobiographical fiction and poetry? How is it different? Panelists will explore these and other questions.

Panelists: Chris Belcher, Guy Mark Foster, Cheryl A. Head, and Steven Reigns.

Moderator: Daniel M. Jaffe.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

GAY CITIES: FINDING A SPIRITUAL HOME

We hear it all the time here in New Orleans: “I came for Mardi Gras (or Jazzfest or Southern Decadence) and I never left.” Some cities just function as gay meccas, offering a warm and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ arrivals seeking sanctuary or a sense of home. These writers—Rick Karlin (Chicago), Jewelle Gomez (San Francisco) Felice Picano (New York and Los Angeles) and Frank Perez (New Orleans)—talk about their home places and why they’ve endured as central to the gay experience.

Moderator: John Magill.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

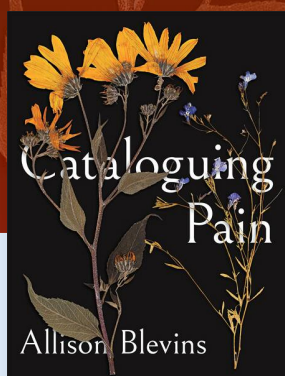
11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Reading Series

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: Allison Blevins, Todd Boss, Felice Cohen, Michael Montlack, James K. Moran, Jen Rouse, and David Swatling for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

QUEER WRITING AS RESISTANCE

In today’s volatile political climate, the importance of queer writing and storytelling is a crucial tool in the push for queer equality. It is more important than ever for authors to write powerful assertions of LGBTQ+ identity in poetry, fiction, and memoir. These assertions can take the form of powerful poetry about living in a gay body, resistance to gay conversion therapy, or matter-of-fact references to gay marriage as the norm. Join five masters of writing resistance as we discuss the ongoing struggle and how they use their work to make room for everyone at the table—making sure that LGBTQ+ characters are seen, known, loved, and understood.

Panelists: Allison Blevins, K.M. Soehnlein, De’Shawn Charles Winslow, and Emanuel Xavier.

Moderator: Judith Katz.

Sponsored by The Publishing Triangle.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

SEX WORK AND STORYTELLING:

TODAY’S VOICES ON THE WORLD’S OLDEST PROFESSION

Stories about sex work reveal the complexity, diversity, and humanity of sex working communities. Portrayed on page and screen, the lived experiences of sex workers explode stereotypes and stigma with personal histories, regional specificities, and intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. This panel will discuss the world of sex work and questions for society showcased in memoir, documentary, and cultural observation.

Panelists: Matthew Cullen, Patrick David, Mark S. King, and Delaney McLemore.

Moderator: Alan Williams.

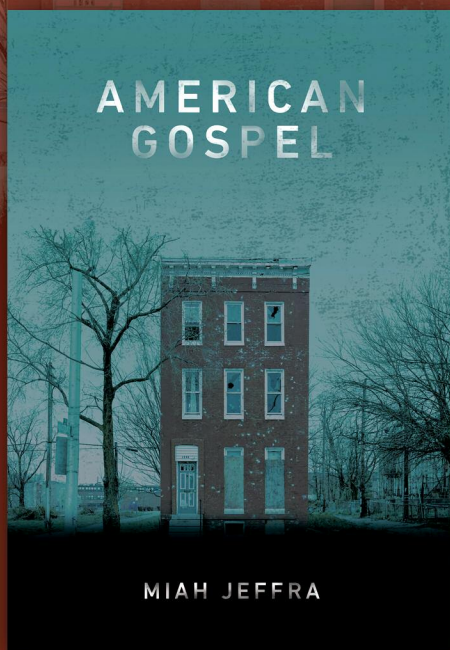
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

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: **Henry Alley, St Sukie de la Croix, Sheri Reynolds, Wes Jamison, Miah Jeffra, Jessica Jopp, and Jerry Wheeler** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



2:30–3:45 PM

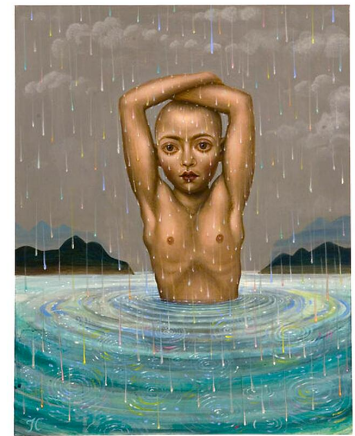
—Literary Discussion
**CREATING CREDIBLE WORLDS:
 SETTINGS THAT WORK HARD
 FOR YOUR STORY**

Setting is not a simple backdrop, like a green screen on which a film is shot, or something that you invent at the last minute. Setting in fiction plays an important role in theme, plot, genre, and even characterization. Our panel will discuss eight key ways that setting works in fiction; when and how they develop a landscape for their story; and how their settings challenge protagonists while helping you control the movement of your characters.

Panelists: **Margot Douaihy, Miah Jeffra, Gary Eldon Peter, and Timothy Schaffert.**

Moderator: **Jess Wells.**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



Alchemy from a Cloud,
 by Timothy Cummings, 2011

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:

Leone Beasley, Chris Clarkson, Marco Carocari, John Copenhaver, Joel Lafayette Fletcher III, Kelly J. Ford, and Lance Ringel for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

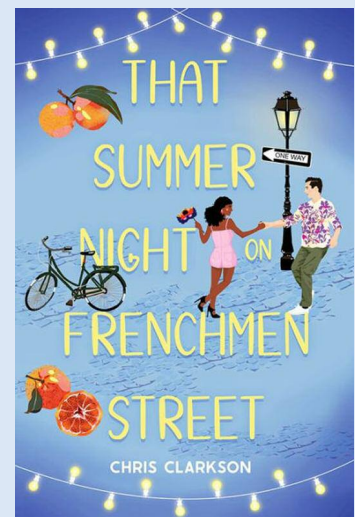
2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
**FROM THE EROTIC TO THE DIVINE:
 POETRY AS SACRED SONG OF SEXUALITY (C. 2003)**

As song, as public incantation, as witness, ritual and testimony, poetry has always been a sacred expression—more often than not forged and propagated by queer people, whether they be shamans, healers, witches, bards or oracles. This tradition, though often overlooked in our modern scientific world, is as vital and essential today as it has been for millennia. Such poetry is a gift we as queers have a natural inclination for, and it is a gift we all have within us, whether we are aware of it or not. This panel will explore ways in which we can all participate in this most communal of art forms and share our unique gift with a confused and dualistic world that needs queer voices now more than ever.

Panelists: **Flower Conroy, Lisa Dordal, Daniel W.K. Lee, Chip Livingston, and Michael Montlack.**

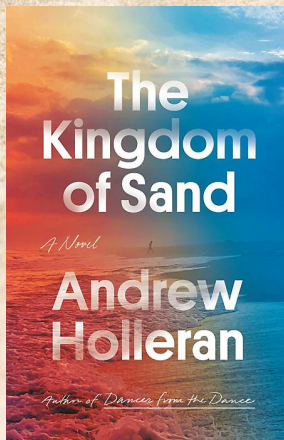
Moderator: **Brad Richard.**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



2:30–3:45 PM—Featured Conversation

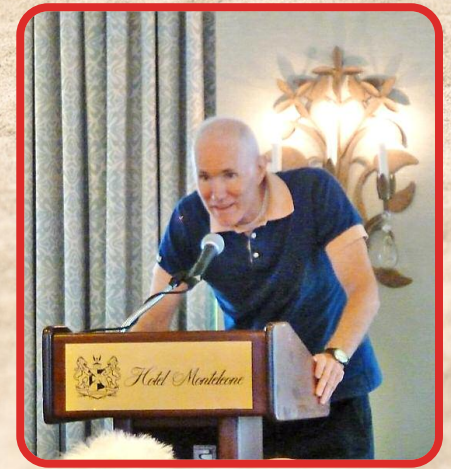
ANDREW HOLLERAN interviewed by **Thomas Keith**



Distinguished American novelist, essayist, and short story writer Andrew Holleran was born and raised partly in Aruba in the Dutch Caribbean, served in the US military, graduated from Harvard and went on to become one of the most distinguished American writers of the last fifty years. *Dancer from the Dance*, Holleran's first novel, has sold millions of copies since it was published in 1978 and is considered the first classic of post-Stonewall LGBTQ+ literature. He went on to write the novels *Nights in Aruba*, *The Beauty of Men*, *Grief*, the short story collection *In September, the Light Changes*, and the essay collections *Ground Zero* and *Chronicle of a Plague Revisited*. Holleran has also written essays, articles, and reviews for *Christopher Street* and *The Gay & Lesbian Review* for forty years. His fifth and most recent novel, *Kingdom of Sand*, was published last year to great acclaim. In conversation

with editor Thomas Keith, Holleran will talk about the new novel, his influences, his reading, and his life right now.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon



Andrew Holleran inducted to SAS Hall of Fame, 2013.

4–5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

KINDS OF LOVE:

FORGING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE FACE OF HISTORY

At the heart of most LGBTQ+ literature is the challenge of forging new loves, new forms of family, in the face of a society that is sometimes welcoming, sometimes combative. History is often told through love stories—grand passions, or doomed love affairs, or dutiful arrangements—that inspire our identification with historical figures. These writers have all wrestled with forms of love—whether it's love after loss, re-establishing broken family bonds, transcending differences of belief, having the courage to reach out for love in the face of fear, or even making the choice to love again after a bitter breakup. All these stories are set against the backdrop of contemporary history and its currents of acceptance or rejection or political reality, giving context to individual struggles. These novelists are all also playwrights and can discuss the choice of genre for maximum power and immediacy.

Panelists: **Eric Peterson**, **Sheri Reynolds**, **Lance Ringel**, and **Lydia Stryk**.
Moderator: **Williams Christy Smith**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

4–5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME:

THE BAR AS COMMUNITY CENTER

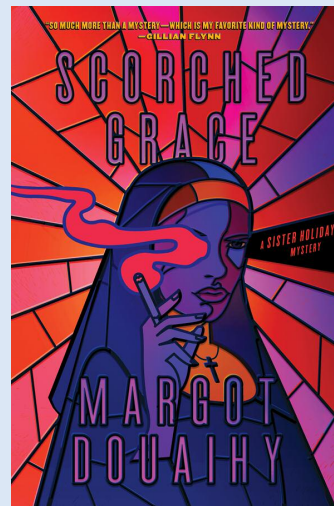
In the past bars functioned as de facto community centers hosting organizational meetings, supporting sports groups, holding fundraisers and benefits as well as serving as a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community, and of course, a place to meet people and get laid. What will the future hold for bars as the LGBTQ+ community gains widespread acceptance from the mainstream? And what effect will social media and various apps have on the bars? Group discussion led by **St Sukie de la Croix** and **Rick Karlin**, authors of *Last Call Chicago: 1001 LGBT Friendly Taverns, Haunts and Hangouts* (Rattling Good Yarns Press).

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

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: **Christian Baines**, **Margot Douaihy**, **Patricia Grayhall**, **Cheryl A. Head**, **Greg Herren**, **J.M. Redmann**, and **De'Shawn Charles Winslow** 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

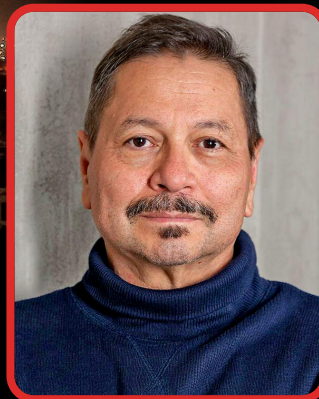
14th Annual Saints + Sinners SHORT FICTION CONTEST READING AND RECEPTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023 ▸ 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 winner **Ariadne Blayde** "Minor Difficulties in BigEasyWorld," our runner-up **C.A. Munn** "The Mantis," along with finalists **Powell Burke**, **Marco Carocari**, **Judith Katz**, **Joshua Randal Leonard**, and **Eric Peterson** for an evening of cocktails and readings from the *Saints and Sinners 2023: New Fiction from the Festival* hosted by Co-editor Tracy Cunningham with comments from our finalist judge **Michael Nava**.



Michael Nava
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 2023 Short Fiction Contest.



**REBEL
SATORI
PRESS**

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ON THE FRONTIERS OF LUMINAL SPACE





Ariadne Blayde
Winner, from New Orleans

2023 FICTION CONTEST ENTRIES RECEIVED FROM:

For our 2023 Short Fiction Contest, we received a record number of entries from 35 states + Washington, D.C., and the following countries: Argentina, Canada, England, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Switzerland, and Turkey.

2023 CONTEST FINALISTS



Jamey Baumgardt



Powell Burke



Marco Carocari



Anil Classen



John Copenhaver



J. Duncan Davidson



Mary Fox



Philip Gambone



Spencer George



J.R. Greenwell



Judith Katz



Joshua Randal Leonard



James McCoyne



Kendal McGinnis



C.A. Munn



Eric Peterson



Carrie Smith



William Christy Smith



John Whittier Treat

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book sales, we've got you.**

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Bold Strokes Books
Quality and Diversity in LGBTQ Literature
BoldStrokesBooks.com

Invisible History
The Collected Poems of Walta Borawski
edited by Philip Clark & Michael Bronski

"The poems are truthful, snappy, plenty of low life & local detail, sparky mind of the young poet sassing & observing his environment, gay & grim, still romantic. Who doesn't love romance? Lots of intelligence in the line, mindful measure of spoken speech music." —*Allen Ginsberg*

Introducing Rebel Satori's Newest Imprint
Curated by Tom Cardamone & Sven Davisson

**THE LIBRARY OF
HOMOSEXUAL CONGRESS**

<https://rebelsatori.com/lohc/>

INVISIBLE HISTORY:
THE COLLECTED POEMS OF WALTA BORAWSKI
edited by PHILIP CLARK & MICHAEL BRONSKI



SAINTS+SINNERS XX

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023



Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

10–11:15 AM—Literary Discussion LAMBDA LITERARY FOUNDATION

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the initial event in the history of the Lambda Literary Foundation – the publication of the first Lambda Book Report in 1987. From that beginning, Lambda has built an organization with programs to support and elevate LGBTQ+ writing and writers. Whether it's the fellowship program, which has nurtured such promising writers as ***John Copenhaver**, ***Miah Jeffra**, Justin Torres, Chen Chen, and Tommy Pico, or the annual Lambda Literary Awards, which recognize the best work produced by writers (and attendees at this year's SAS) such as ***Rob Byrnes**, ***Jewelle Gomez**, David Groff, Judith Katz, ***Michael Nava**, ***J.M. Redmann**, and K.M. Soehnlein. **Moderated by Samiya Bashir**, (she/her), a poet, artist, writer, performer, educator, and advocate and the new director of Lambda Literary, who will share her vision for the organization's future. ***Authors in bold joining Samiya for the discussion.** Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

10–11:15—Literary Discussion

COMING OF AGE IN TIME OF HIV & AIDS brings together a range of authors to reflect on the experience of growing up at the height of the AIDS epidemic, and how such experiences have shaped our creative practices. We also invite others, perhaps even younger folks who didn't grow up at the time, to reflect on the felt legacies of the time as a crucial turning point – both in our personal lives, within queer community, and for the country as a whole. One important goal of the panel is to consider what needs to be written now – about the time of the epidemic, its many legacies, and our community's ongoing grappling with living with HIV. This conversation will be facilitated by writer & podcaster **Jonathan Alexander**. **Participants: Jobert E. Abueva, Gerard Cabrera, Wes Jamison, Mark S. King, and Daniel W.K. Lee.** So bring yourself, your ideas, and your creativity!

Sponsored by the Bruce J. Heim Foundation.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

WRITING THE BODY IS WRITING EVERYTHING

When we write about or against the body—what attracts and repels us, our feelings about our own and others'—we are writing the most fundamental issues and basic emotions human beings face. But what have we been taught about the body, and what must we unlearn to move beyond gender, size, color? Is it even possible to consider the body as separate from identity? Do we trust it, and who controls it—especially in our contemporary politic? These writers—non-binary, queer, or trans—talk about the ways the body informs their work.

Panelists: Leone Beasley, AJ Dolman, Wes Jamison, and emma x lirette engage with moderator **Delaney McLemore**. Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



Ornaments

by Timothy Cummings, 2020

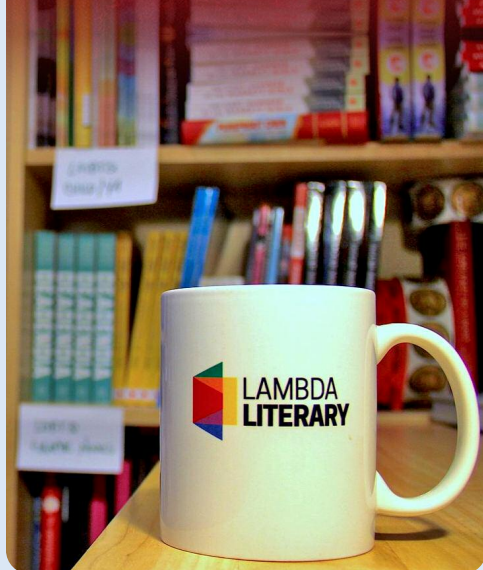
11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

GETTING THE WORD OUT: DEVELOPING A GOOD BOOK PROMOTION STRATEGY

What makes a book reviewer or a show producer decide to cover a book? Hear from folks on both sides of the desk about what works and what doesn't. In this electronic age, advance publicity starts earlier and earlier with carefully planned social media posts and artfully executed book trailers. And even before that, authors need to develop reasonable expectations about what publishers (indie, university, commercial, special interest houses) will do for a book (we all know big splashy tours are things of the past) and what they won't. This panel will offer tips on approaching members of the media, preparing for interviews (print and video), and organizing readings and signings with fellow authors, as well as working with booksellers.

Panelists: Mark Chesnut, Ian Henzel, Morgan Hufstader, and Gregg Shapiro. **Moderator: Daniel M. Jaffe.**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



11:30 AM–12:45 PM—Reading Series

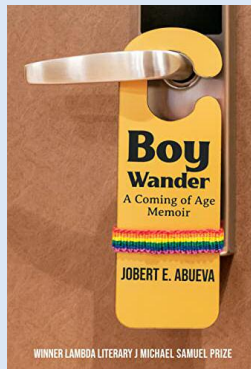
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

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special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Jobert E. Abueva, Tom Cardamone, Sven Davisson, Jack Bumgardner, Jan Edwards Hemming, Chip Livingston, and John Whittier Treat** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

IF TIME IS A BURNING LIBRARY, THEN WE ARE ALL FIREMEN: BRINGING GAY BOOKS BACK INTO PRINT

2022 saw the successful launch of the Rebel Satori reprint imprint The Library of Homosexual Congress with its first title *Invisible History: The Collected Poems of Walta Borawski*, edited by Philip Clark and Michael Bronski. With a particular aspect of its mission to return works of authors lost to AIDS into print, and joining other small presses, particularly ReQueered Tales and Valancourt Books with a similar focus, editor **Tom Cardamone** and publisher **Sven Davisson** will explore this archeology involved in resurrecting and preserving our literary heritage for future generations. Also joining this discussion are four LGBTQ+ literary icons—**Jewelle Gomez, Andrew Holleran, Felice Picano, and Michael Nava**.

Moderator: **Tom Cardamone**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

UNRAVEL AND RE-WIND: HOW TO WRITE A MEMOIR

There are few genres more compelling than the memoir: the true stories of our challenging journeys and our culture. Our panelists will consider three aspects of writing the memoir: the emotional demands, tradecraft, and legal issues raised by this truth telling.

Panelists include: **Jonathan Alexander, Felice Cohen, Joel Lafayette Fletcher III, Patricia Grayhall, and Lori Horvitz**.

Moderator: **Jess Wells**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

1–2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

SINS OF THE FATHERS

William Faulkner wrote “the past is never dead. It’s not even past.” Santayana said “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” In crime fiction, it’s often things that have happened in the past that must be uncovered to get to the solution of the crime—or carried such an impact on those who lived through it that it affects their present. Join us for a lively conversation about the perils and pitfalls of writing about another time and/or the past’s impact on the present—whether it’s actually set in the past, goes back and forth between past and present, or the present looking into the past.

Panelists: **Marco Corocari, John Copenhaver and Kelly J. Ford**.

Moderator: **Greg Herren**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

1–2:15 PM—Reading Series

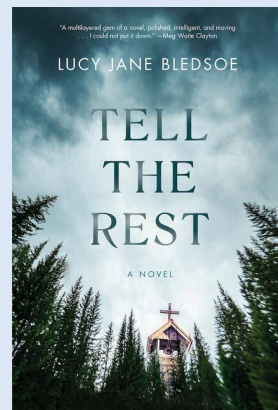
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ



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: **Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Gerard Cabrera, Louis Flint Ceci, AJ Dolman, Ian Henzel, Steven Reigns, and David Valdes** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

OTHER WORLDLY: WRITING THE FANTASTICAL

Building worlds for horror, fantasy, and other speculative fiction is a different type of construction altogether. It requires skill, technique, an intimate knowledge of the genre in which you’re working, and a whole lot of sweat equity in terms of plot, character, and structure. Join **Ariadne Blayde, Christian Baines, James K. Moran, and David Swatling** as they discuss the unique challenges and ultimate rewards of writing the paranormal.

Moderated by **Jerry L. Wheeler**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

POETRY AS LIFE SUPPORT

Poetry is there in moments of pleasure, need, ceremony, grief, and love. Come hear a discussion of professional poets who are dedicated to poetry, keep it alive, and are sustained by the form. What is their drive and reason for persisting? Does poetry save and from what? What happens when the muse isn't there? We'll discuss poetry's part in immortalizing love, bearing witness, pain, and homage. Is poetry on life support or does it support our lives?

Panelists: Samiya Bashir, Jewelle Gomez, David Groff, and Emanuel Xavier.

Moderator: Steven Reigns.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



Jewelle Gomez with maternal grandmother, Lydia, 1984.

2:30–3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

AN EYE FOR AN EYE: JUSTICE V. REVENGE

The crime novel has always scrutinized how the justice system works, either by shining an unflinching light on its pitfalls, biases and injustices or by showing it running as smoothly as a Swiss watch. With more and more public scrutiny on crime and policing, does the crime writer have a responsibility to show the system working or to expose its inconsistencies and flaws? When does justice cross the line into vengeance? Is taking the law into one's own hands ever justified, or is it merely vigilantism? Join us as five amazing crime writers discuss writing about crime, the justice system, and how their work explores and reflects those fine lines between personal morality and human justice.

Panelists: S.A. Cosby, Margot Douaihy, Genevieve Essig, and Michael Nava.

Moderator: J.M. Redmann.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

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: **Robert P. Graves, Lori Horvitz, Andrew Holleran, Mark S. King, Delaney McLemore, K.M. Soehnlein, and Lydia Stryk** 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 2023 SAS Hall of Fame members and present our 9th annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award—sponsored by Rob Byrnes.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

See page 24 for more details.



Four previous Hall of Famers gather in the Monteleone lobby in 2018. (Left to right) Louis Flint Ceci, Carol Rosenfeld, Michele Karlsberg, and Rob Byrnes.

The Complete Croy Cycle

Louis Flint Ceci

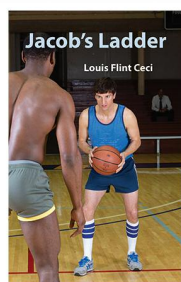


Leave Me Not Alone

Book 4

"A defiant cry that small-town America has always included POC and queer people despite the forces that seek to exclude them."

—J. Marshall Freeman,
author of *The Dubious Gift of Dragon's Blood*

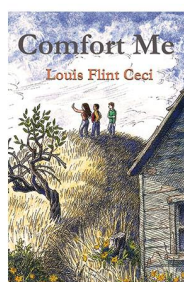


Jacob's Ladder

Book 3

"Ceci's skillful, empathic examination of sexuality, youth culture, and religion is not just welcome but necessary in any time of upheaval."

—Booklife

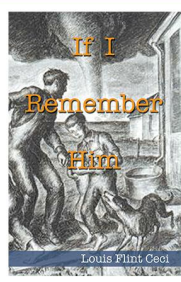


Comfort Me

Book 2

"A tale about the strength of the human spirit challenged by painful histories and unspoken truths, and the powerful glue of friendship."

—Grady Harp,
Poets and Artists review



If I Remember Him

Book 1

"Ceci's prose is sharp and wonderfully evocative of the time and place."

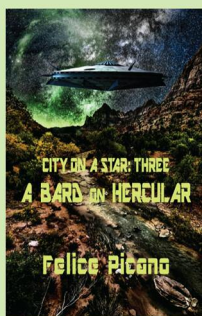
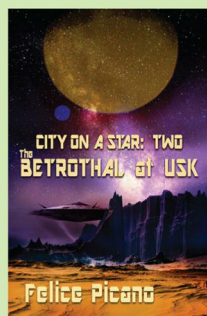
—Kirkus Reviews

"This portrait of the many forms and shades of grief will leave readers breathless."

—Booklife

www.BeautifulDreamerPress.com

Felice Picano: CITY ON A STAR trilogy now complete!



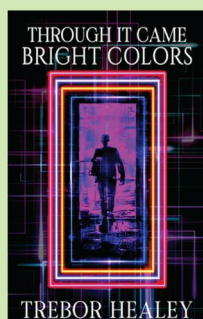
"In full-fledged sci-fi form, Picano has created entirely new civilizations, species, even new language forms for his society. A phenomenally well-written book."

Virginia Gazette on Dryland's End

Dryland's End: 568 pgs • 978-1-951092-37-5 • \$24.95
The Betrothal at Usk: 408 pgs • 978-1-951092-40-5 • \$19.95
A Bard on Hercular: 288 pgs • 978-1-951092-70-2 • \$19.95

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SAINTS⊕SINNERS XX

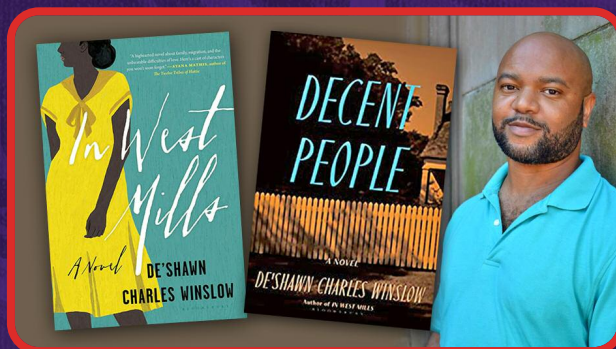
CLOSING RECEPTION

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 ▸ 4-6 PM

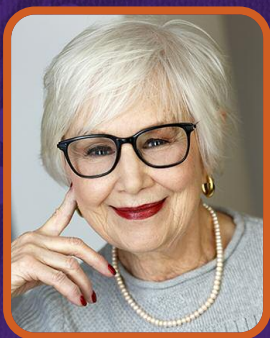
Hosted by SAS Hall of Famer Brenda Currin
Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon
Support provided by Keith Fox and Tom Keyes
(Admission included in Weekend Pass/Partner Pass)

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 ninth 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 **De'Shawn Charles Winslow** for his novels *In West Mills* and *Decent People*.



We'll hear our winner and two runners-up from our 2023 Poetry Contest read from their winning entries, and we'll have copies of our 2nd Saints and Sinners Poetry Contest Anthology available as a gift to everyone at the closing reception.



Brenda Currin
Actor & Activist



Rob Byrnes



Isobel A. Burke
Winner



Brandon Blue
Runner-Up



Iain Grinbergs
Runner-Up

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**

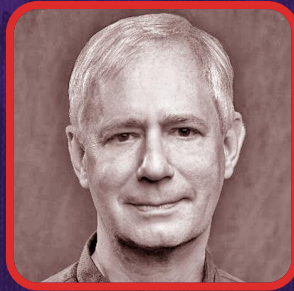
2018: **Cassie Pruyn**

2023: **De'Shawn Charles Winslow**

2023 SAINTS AND SINNERS HALL OF FAME CLASS:



Samiya Bashir



David Groff



Lance Ringel



Emanuel Xavier

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, Timothy Cummings, 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, Mary Gauthier, 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, William Christy Smith, Pamela Sneed, Jack Sullivan, Carsen Taite, Cecilia Tan, Noel Twilbeck, Jr., Patricia Nell Warren, Don Weise, Jess Wells, Edmund White, and Paul J. Willis.

PAST HALL OF FAMERS



Left: Dorothy Allison and Paul J. Willis, 2013

Bottom left: Susan Larson and Jericho Brown, 2017

Bottom right: Martin Sherman and Jewelle Gomez with Thomas Keith, 2018



Butterfly Boy by Timothy Cummings, 2020



SAINTS+SINNERS XX

2023 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS & FINALISTS

We'd like to congratulate our 2023 Poetry Contest Winners & Finalists!

Our 2023 Winner:



Isobel A. Burke
for the collection titled "Inheritance"

Three Runners-Up:



Danielle Bero



Brandon Blue



Iain Grinbergs

2023 Poetry Contest Finalists:



Emanuel Xavier



Jan Edwards Hemming

And a very special "Thank You" to Emanuel Xavier our 2023 Finalist Judge, all our preliminary judges, and to Jan Edwards Hemming for her editing expertise and help with organizing our 2023 poetry anthology.



Kathleen Archambeau



Ian Spenser Bell



Joy Belonger



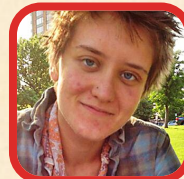
Suri Chan



Casey Charles



William Demaree



Freesia McKee



Anya Morgan



Em Palughi



James Penha



Emily Portillo



Ruben Quesada



Jessica Sampley



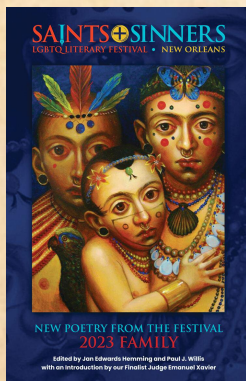
Hunt Scarritt

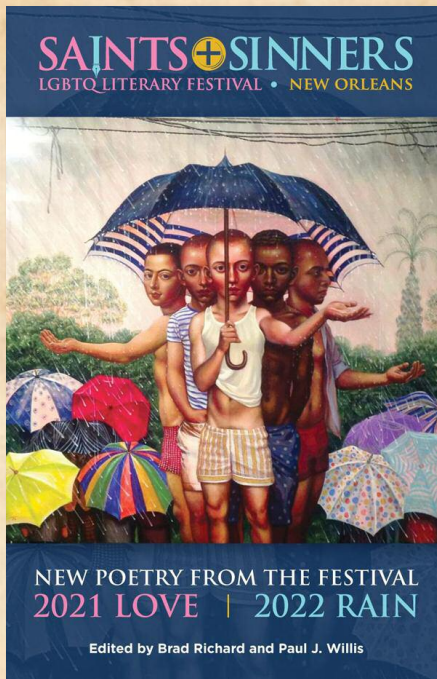


T.A. Thomas



Sami H. Tripp

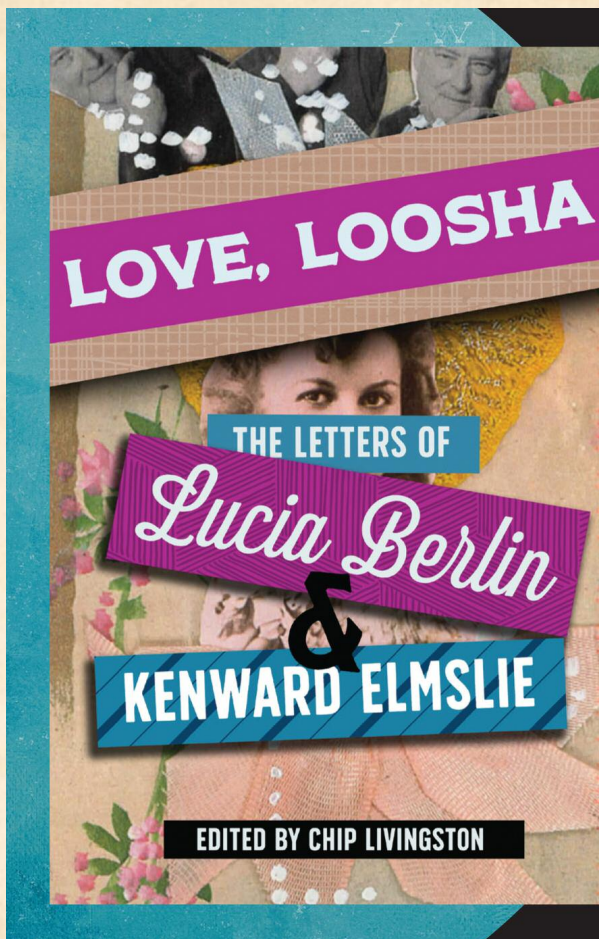




Thanks to the generosity of **Susanne Scovern** and **Scovern Law**, we were able to publish our first ever poetry anthology combining the poetry entries from the finalists from the first two years of our contest established in 2020-2021. Our theme for 2021 was LOVE and for 2022 the theme was Rain. Susanne continued her support enabling us to produce our 2nd anthology from the 2023 contest on the theme of FAMILY. We selected 20 finalists to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival.



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PAM HOUSTON, author of
Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country

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SAINTS & SINNERS XX

FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Jobert E. Abueva is the winner of the 2022 Lambda Literary J. Michael Samuel Prize. He is also the recipient of the Arch and Bruce Brown Foundation Literary Award for historical LGBTQ short fiction and two National Arts Club literary scholarships. Credits include *The New York Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Beyond Queer Words*, *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly*, and *Poetry Nippon*. His first book, *Boy Wander – A Coming of Age Memoir*, will be released by Rattling Good Yarns Press this spring, 2023. A global marketer by day, Jobert hails from Manila, Philippines and resides in New Hope, PA.



Jonathan Alexander, originally from New Orleans, is a writer and podcaster living in Southern California. His recent work includes *Dear Queer Self: An Experiment in Memoir*, which concludes his Creep Trilogy that began with the Lambda Lit finalist book *Creep: A Life, a Theory, an Apology* and the IPPY award-winning *Bullied: The Story of an Abuse*.



Henry Alley is a Professor Emeritus of Literature at the University of Oregon's Honors College. Over sixty of his stories have been published over the past fifty years. His collection, *The Dahlia Field*, appeared in 2017. He has five novels: *Through Glass* (*Iris*, 1979), *The Lattice* (*Ariadne* 1986), *Umbrella of Glass* (*Breitenbush*, 1988), *Precincts of Light* (*Inkwater*, 2010), *Men Touching* (*Chelsea Station*, 2019), and *Galen's Legacy* (*Rattling Good Yarns*, 2022). He lives in Eugene, Oregon, with his husband, Austin Gray.



Christian Baines is an awkward nerd turned slightly less awkward author of weird and dark fiction. His work includes the gay paranormal series *The Arcadia Trust*, the novella *Skin*, and *Puppet Boy*, a finalist for the 2016 Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award. Born in Australia, he travels the world whenever possible, living, writing, and shivering in Toronto, Canada, on the occasions he can't find his passport.



Samiya Bashir is a writer, performer, librettist, and multimedia poetry maker. Author of three poetry collections, most recently the Oregon Book Award-winning *Field Theories*, her honors include the Rome Prize, Pushcart Prize, Oregon's Arts & Culture Council Individual Artist Fellowship, Hopwood Poetry Awards, and fellowships from MacDowell and the Virginia Center of Creative Arts. Formerly an Associate Professor at Reed College, Bashir is currently completing a short-form opera with the Saint Louis Opera Theatre. Bashir serves as Executive Director of Lambda Literary, the nationwide advocacy organization for LGBTQ+ literary arts. She lives in Harlem.



Leona Beasley, (they/them, prefers to be called Leone, pronounced lee-OWN) is a non-binary writer, born and raised in Atlanta, and spending most of their adult life living between California and New York. They like to write about all types of queers, and eccentric, funny, criminally active characters from the regions they have lived. Their debut novel, *Something Better than Home*, was a 2018 Lambda Literary Award finalist in Lesbian Fiction. It depicts the life of a soft butch, young, and adventurous black girl, coming of age while coming out in the 1970s South. They are presently working on a novel about travel, moonshine, and queer identities.



Chris Belcher is a writer, professor, and former sex worker. She completed a Ph.D. in English at the University of Southern California, where she is now an assistant professor of writing and gender studies. Under her working name, Natalie West, she edited the acclaimed anthology *We Too: Essays on Sex Work and Survival*. Born and raised in West Virginia, she now lives in Los Angeles. Her latest book is a memoir, *Pretty Baby*.



Ariadne Blayde is an award-winning author and playwright. Her work has appeared in *Parhelion Literary Magazine*, the *Fountain Magazine*, and various anthologies, and her plays have been produced around the world. Her debut novel *Ash Tuesday*, about the ghosts of New Orleans' French Quarter and the strange souls who tell their stories for a living, is out now from indie press April Gloaming Publishing and is available wherever books are sold. Ariadne lives in New Orleans and moonlights as a tour guide in the French Quarter.



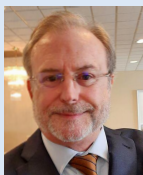
Lucy Jane Bledsoe's newest novel, *Tell the Rest* (March 2023), features two queer characters who use their rage and creativity to take on the Christian Right. Her autobiographical young adult novel, *No Stopping Us Now* (April 2022), features young queer love, basketball, and activism. Her fiction has won a Yaddo Fellowship, California Arts Council Fellowship in Literature, an American Library Association Stonewall Award, the Devil's Kitchen Fiction Award, and two National Science Foundation Artists & Writers Fellowships. Lucy Jane's fiction was also a Lambda Literary Finalist six times and a Ferro-Grumley Finalist three times.



Allison Blevins is a queer, disabled writer and the author of *Cataloguing Pain* (YesYes Books, 2023), *Handbook for the Newly Disabled, A Lyric Memoir* (BlazeVox, 2022), and *Slowly/Suddenly* (Vegetarian Alcoholic Press, 2021). She is also the author of four chapbooks and the 2022 Laux/Millar Poetry Prize winner from *Raleigh Review*. Allison works as the Director of Small Harbor Publishing and the Executive Editor at the Museum of Americana, where she lives in Minnesota with her partner and three children.



Todd Boss is a poet, public artist, inventor, librettist, and film producer in Minneapolis. His four poetry collections, all from W. W. Norton & Co., include *Yellowrocket* (2008), *Pitch* (2012), *Tough Luck* (2017) and *Someday the Plan of a Town* (2022). His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, and NPR. His first children's book, *The Boy Who Said Wow*, is due in 2023 from Simon & Schuster's Beach Lane imprint. His lyrics have been performed at Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. He is the founding Artistic Director of Motionpoems, a production company that has turned more than 150 contemporary poems into short films. In 2018, he sold all his possessions and circled the globe in a series of 30+ house-sits.



Jack Bumgardner is a southerner by birth and a westerner by choice. Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, he graduated from Stetson University in Florida. He now calls Denver, Colorado, his home.



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 the literary journals *Acentos Review*, *JONATHAN*, *Kweli*, *Angel Rust*, and *Apricity*. *Homo Novus* is his first novel. He has attended the Bread Loaf Writers Conference and The Writers Studio. Gerard has also been a Bread Loaf/Bakeless Foundation Fellow at the Camargo Foundation in Cassis, France. He grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, the birthplace of Dr. Seuss, basketball, and the first American dictionary. He now lives and works in New York City.



Tom Cardamone is the editor of *Crashing Cathedrals: Edmund White by the Book*. Tom is also the author of the Lambda Literary Award-winning speculative novella *Green Thumb* and the erotic fantasy *The Lurid Sea*. His other works of fiction include two short story collections. Additionally, he has edited *The Lost Library: Gay Fiction Rediscovered* and co-edited *Fever Spores: The Queer Reclamation of William S. Burroughs*. Tom is currently curating a new reprint imprint at Rebel Satori Press: *The Library of Homosexual Congress*.



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a contribution in the area of
liberatory cultural studies;
and to honor the work and
legacy of pioneering
poet/activist/thinker
Judy Grahm.



Marco Carocari, award-winning author, originally hails from Switzerland, where he worked in numerous capacities, including slinging food for the masses at 10,000 feet and enjoying five seconds of fame in a gratifying career as a photographer of erotic art. His debut, *Blackout*, was nominated for a Lefty and won The NYC Big Book Award and Independent Press Award for Best LGBTQ Novel. His short story "All In The Planning" appears in *Malice Domestic 16: Mystery Most Diabolical*. Marco lives in the Californian desert with his exceptionally sweet, supportive, and patient husband.



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.



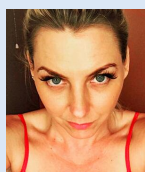
Mark Chesnut is a New York City-based writer, editor, and public speaker. The winner of the 2019 NLGJA Excellence in Travel Writing Award, he's the author of the new memoir *Prepare for Departure: Notes on a Single Mother, a Misfit Son, Inevitable Mortality and the Enduring Allure of Frequent Flyer Miles* (Vine Leaves Press, 2022). His travel writing has appeared in media, including *Fodor's*, *Forbes Travel Guide*, *HuffPost*, the *Miami Herald*, and the *New York Times* bestseller *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*, and in his travel lifestyle blog, *LatinFlyer*.



Chris Clarkson, debut author, lives in New Orleans. When he isn't creating fictional characters and worlds, he is exploring. You can find him in local coffee shops, finding inspiration in his third cup of coffee, and in old bookstores. One day, he hopes to travel the world with a notebook, pen, and an offbeat dream.



Felice Cohen is the award-winning author of the bestselling books *Half In: A Coming-of-Age Memoir of Forbidden Love*, about an age-gap affair she had at 23 with a 57-year-old woman; *90 Lessons for Living Large in 90 Square Feet (...or More)*, inspired by the YouTube video of her tiny NYC studio; and *What Papa Told Me*, about her grandfather's life before, during, and after the Holocaust. Felice has been featured on *Good Morning America*, *NBC*, *NPR*, and in *Time*, *Globe & Mail*, *New York Daily News*, the *Daily Mail*, and more. Felice has been a professional organizer for over 25 years. She splits her time between NYC and Cape Cod, MA.



Flower Conroy, LGBTQ+ writer, NEA and MacDowell Fellow, and former Key West Poet Laureate, is the author of *Snake Breaking Medusa Disorder* (winner of the Stevens Manuscript Competition) and *A Sentimental Hairpin* (a Small Press Distribution Bestseller). Her third collection, *Greenest Grass (or You Can't Keep Killing Yourself & Not Expect to Die)*, has won the Blue Lynx Poetry Prize and will be published later in 2023. Her poetry has, or is forthcoming, from *American Poetry Review*, *American Literary Review*, *New England Review*, *Prairie Schooner* and others.



John Copenhaver's historical crime novel, *Dodging and Burning* (Pegasus), won the 2019 Macavity Award for Best First Mystery Novel. His second novel, *The Savage Kind*, won the 2021 Lambda Literary Award for Best LGBTQ Mystery. He co-hosts on the *House of Mystery Radio Show* and wrote a crime fiction review column for Lambda Literary called "Blacklight" for years. He's a faculty mentor in the University of Nebraska's Low-Residency MFA program and teaches literature and creative writing at VCU in Richmond, VA. His forthcoming third novel, *Hall of Mirrors*, is the sequel to *The Savage Kind*.



Matt Cullen is a journalist and documentarian with a digital docu-series called *Our Queer Life* that shines a light on the stories of people in the queer community. From a street hustler who's been in and out of jail since 1992, to TS Madison, the first Black trans woman to executive produce her own reality television show, the series aims to show the world how complex, unique, vast, strong, and beautiful the queer community truly is.



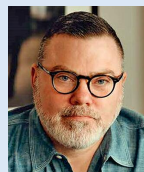
Jameson Currier is the author of seven novels, five collections of short fiction, and a memoir. His most recent publications are his illustrated tales, *Paul's Cat*, *The Candlelight Ghost*, and *Mr. Darcy's Pride*. He is the founder and publisher of *Chelsea Station Editions*.



Brenda Currin, an Obie Award winner, has worked extensively in the NY theater. More recent films include *Daughter of the Bride* and *Gossamer Folds*. Earlier films include *In Cold Blood*, *The World According to Garp*, *Reds*, *Taps*, *C.H.U.D.*, and *Out of Blue*. TV work includes *Gossip Girl*, *Claws*, and *Wu-Tang, An American Saga*. New Orleans theater performances have included roles in *Confederacy of Dunces*, *Dividing the Estate*, *Orpheus Descending*, and *Suddenly Last Summer*, and at the St. Louis TW Festival, *The Glass Menagerie*. With David Kaplan, she adapted and performed Eudora Welty's work for the stage. Brenda co-founded What Girls Know, a theater program for the healthy development of adolescent girls.



St Sukie de la Croix is an award-winning author, historian, fiction writer, and playwright.



Patrick Davis writes poetry, essays, literary criticism, and reviews. He serves as publisher and editor in chief of Unbound Edition Press and is a lifetime voting member of the National Book Critics Circle. His most recent work has been featured in *Kenyon Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Salamander*, *Rain Taxi Review of Books*, *Gertrude Press*, *Great River Review*, and *Provincetown Arts*. He also has developed and ghost-written five books for major publishing houses. Under the generous mentorship of William H. Gass, he conducted his doctoral research in American literature at Washington University in St. Louis.



AJ Dolman (she/they) is the author of *Lost Enough: A Collection of Short Stories* and three poetry chapbooks. AJ also co-edited *Motherhood in Precarious Times*. Her poetry, fiction, and essays have recently appeared in magazines and anthologies, including *Canthius*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *QT Literary Magazine*, and *The Quarantine Review*. Their first full-length poetry manuscript, *Crazy/Mad*, is forthcoming in the spring of 2024. They are a bi/pant+ rights advocate living on unceded Anishinabe Algonquin territory.



Lisa Dordal is a Writer-in-Residence at Vanderbilt University. She is the author of *Mosaic of the Dark*, which was a finalist for the 2019 Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry. Lambda Literary listed her book *Water Lessons* as one of their most anticipated books for 2022. Lisa's latest book *Next Time You Come Home* is forthcoming in 2023.



Margot Douaihy is the author of *Scorched Grace* (Gillian Flynn Books, 2023), which has already been named a Barnes & Noble Bookseller Favorite, an Amazon Editors' Pick, and a Most Anticipated debut of 2023 by *Autostraddle*, *Goodreads*, *Crime Reads*, *LGBTQ Reads*, *BookPage*, *Book Riot*, *Electric Lit*, *Novel Suspects*, *Verve Books*, *them*, and *The Lineup*. The audiobook has been narrated by Mara Wilson, writer/actor of *MATILDA* fame. Douaihy received her Ph.D. in Creative Writing (University of Lancaster) and a BA in English (University of Pittsburgh). She is also the author of the poetry collections *Bandit/Queen: The Runaway Story of Belle Starr*, *Scranton Lace*, and *Girls Like You* (Clemson University Press). She is a founding member of the Creative Writing Studies Organization and an active member of Sisters in Crime and the Radius of Arab American Writers. Her writing has been featured in *Colorado Review*, *The Florida Review*, *North American Review*, *PBS NewsHour*, *Portland Review*, *Queer Life*, *Queer Love*, *Wisconsin Review*, and elsewhere.



Joel Lafayette Fletcher, III was born in Lafayette, Louisiana and graduated from Tulane University. He served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, co-owned a private language school in Florence, Italy, and worked in Paris and London in international educational exchange. In 1975, he began another career as an art dealer. In 1993, Fletcher and John Alden Copenhaver established Fletcher/Copenhaver Fine Art, dealing in 19th through 21st century American and European fine art. Now retired and living in Fredericksburg, Virginia, he is the author of the memoir *Ken & Thelma: The Story of a Confederacy of Dunces*. His new memoir, *With Hawks & Angels: Episodes from a Southern Life*, is forthcoming this spring from University Press of Mississippi.

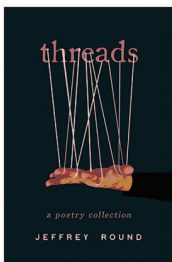


Kelly J. Ford is the author of *Real Bad Things* and *Cottonmouths*, named one of 2017's best books of the year by the *Los Angeles Review*. An Arkansas native, Kelly writes crime fiction set in the Ozarks and Arkansas River Valley.



Guy Mark Foster has published short stories in *Shadows of Love: American Gay Fiction*, *Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men*, *Ancestral House: The Black Short Story in the Americas and Europe*, and *Icarus 14: The Magazine of Gay Speculative Fiction*. He teaches at Bowdoin College in Southern Maine. His story collection, *The Rest of Us*, was published in 2013 by Lethe Press.

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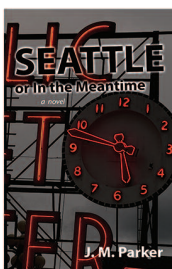


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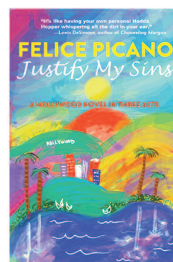


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Jewelle Gomez (Cabo Verdean/Wampanoag/loway; she/her), is a novelist, poet, and playwright. Her eight books include the first Black lesbian vampire novel, *THE GILDA STORIES*. It was recently optioned by Cheryl Dunye (*Lovecraft Country*) for a TV mini-series. Her new collection of poetry is *STILL WATER*. Her plays, *Waiting for Giovanni* (about James Baldwin), and *Leaving the Blues* (about Alberta Hunter), were produced in San Francisco and in New York City. *Unpacking in Ptown*, will premiere at New Conservatory Theatre in 2024.



Robert P. Graves, a successful professional by day, is an openly gay man living in Buffalo, NY. His book, *I, Rob Graves*, details his diagnosis of chronic clinical depression at 16. As he was coming out, his depression morphed into bipolar depression disorder, which went untreated and undiagnosed until he was 44. The untreated mania manifested as an anonymous sex addiction that lasted over 20 years, enduring through the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Only after addressing his sex addiction with his therapist did his bipolar disorder come to light. His treatment with therapy and pharmacology helped him end his addiction.



Patricia Grayhall is a medical doctor of nearly 40 years and debut author of *Making the Rounds; Defying Norms in Love and Medicine*, a very frank memoir about coming out as a lesbian in the late 1960s and training to become a doctor when society disapproved of both for a woman. She has also published articles in *Queer Forty*, *The Gay and Lesbian Review*, *The Millions*, *Lesbian Game Changers*, *The Seattle Lesbian*, and *Seattle Magazine*. Patricia lives with the love of her life on an island in the Pacific Northwest, where she enjoys other people's dogs and wildlife.



David Groff is the author most recently of the poetry collection *Live in Suspense*. His book *Clay* was chosen by Michael Waters for the Louise Bogan Award. Both are published by Trio House Press. His book *Theory of Devolution* was selected by Mark Doty for the National Poetry Series. With Philip Clark, he edited *Persistent Voices: Poetry by Writers Lost to AIDS*. With Jim Elledge, he edited *Who's Yer Daddy?: Gay Writers Celebrate Their Mentors and Forerunners*, which was the winner of a Lambda Literary Award. An independent book editor, he teaches in the MFA program at the City College of New York.



Cheryl A. Head writes the Anthony Award-nominated book series *Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries*. Head is a two-time Lambda Literary Award finalist and the GCLS Ann Bannon Popular Choice Award winner. In 2022, Cheryl was awarded the Alice B. Reader's Appreciation Medal and a Silver medal from the Independent Publisher Book Awards. Her books are included in the Special Collections of the Library of Michigan. *Time's Undoing*, a crime novel based on her family's personal tragedy, will be published by Dutton Books in February 2023. Cheryl lives in Washington, DC, with her partner, Teresa, and canine supervisors, Abby and Frisby.



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*, *Los Angeles Review of Books Blog*, and elsewhere, and her poems "Bird" and "Oven" were each nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She teaches English and creative writing in New Orleans, where she lives with her wife and four cats.



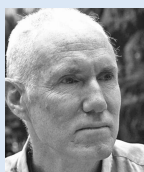
Ian Henzel reinvented himself after retiring from a 42-year career in corporate-technology marketing in Asia, Europe and North America to start a new life as a publisher. In 2019 he founded Rattling Good Yarns Press, as a means of bringing overlooked LGBTQ+ voices to light. He is thrilled that his college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



Greg Herren is the award-winning author of over 40 novels and over 50 short stories. He is also an award-winning anthology editor, and his most recent anthology was *Land of 10000 Thrills: The 2022 Bouchercon Anthology*. His latest young adult novel, *#shedeservedit*, is nominated for the 2023 Agatha Award for Best Children's/Young Adult. Greg's newest mystery (as T. G. Herren), *A Streetcar Named Murder*, is a finalist for the Lefty Award for Best Humorous Mystery. His ninth Scotty Bradley adventure, *Mississippi River Mischief*, will be released in September 2023. He lives quietly in New Orleans with his partner of 27 years.



Hans M Hirschi writes hopeful character-driven stories where ordinary people have to deal with unexpected situations making the spectrum of queer lives visible to a wider public. There's a reason why he's been dubbed "The Queen of Unconventional Happy Endings." He lives in the Gothenburg archipelago with his husband, son & pets. When not writing, he works as a learning & development executive and VIP tour guide.



Andrew Holleran is an American novelist, essayist, and short story writer, born and partly raised in Aruba, in the Dutch Caribbean. He is a prominent novelist of post-Stonewall gay literature. His latest novel, *The Kingdom of Sand*, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux on June 7, 2022.



Lori Horvitz' collection of memoir-essays, *The Girls of Usually*, won the 2016 Gold Medal IPPY Book Award in Autobiography/Memoir. Her new collection, *Collect Call to My Mother: Essays on Love, Grief, and Getting a Good Night's Sleep*, is just out from New Meridian Arts. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Under the Sun*, *Hobart*, *Epiphany*, *South Dakota Review*, *The Laurel Review*, *The Guardian*, and *Hotel Amerika*, among others. Professor of English at UNC Asheville, Horvitz has been awarded fellowships from Yaddo, Cottages at Hedgebrook, VCCA, Ragdale, Blue Mountain Center, and Brush Creek.



Morgan Hufstader is an expert in digital book marketing and indie publishing. After 10+ years working as both author, marketer, and publisher, she's dipped her toes in all aspects of publishing! She's worked at My Romance Reads (a romance newsletter site) and Plottr (a plot writing app).



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

look at contemporary gay pornography, murder mysteries, and reality TV shows, was also published by Rattling Good Yarns Press.



Wes Jamison is a Chicago writer whose work has appeared in *DIAGRAM*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. Their collection of essays, *Carrión*, received the Quill Prose Award and is forthcoming from Red Hen Press (2024). Their essay, *and Melancholia*, was selected as a winner of Essay

Press's 2015 chapbook contest, and their second chapbook, *On Making a Golem*, is forthcoming from *swallow::tale press*. They earned an MFA in nonfiction from Columbia College Chicago and a PhD in English from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. They currently teach at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, TX.



Miah Jeffra is author of four books, most recently *The Violence Almanac* (finalist for several awards, including the Grace Paley and St. Lawrence Book Prizes) and the forthcoming novel *American Gospel*. Miah's work can be seen in *StoryQuarterly*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The North American Review*, *Barrelhouse*,

DIAGRAM, *jubilat* and many others. Miah is the co-founder of the Whiting Award-winning queer and trans literary collaborative: *Foglifter Press*. And teaches writing and decolonial studies at Santa Clara University and Sonoma State University.



Jessica Jopp's novel, *From the Longing Orchard*, won the Quill Prose Award from Red Hen Press. It will be published in June of 2023. Also a poet, Jopp's collection *The History of a Voice*, the recipient of the Baxter Hathaway Prize in Poetry, is available from Headmistress Press. She teaches at Slippery

Rock University in Pennsylvania.



Rick Karlin has been a freelance journalist and editor for the past 40+ years. In recognition of his years as an LGBT community activist, he was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 1997. He now serves as co-chair of the organization. He is currently the food & travel editor for South Florida Gay News.

His memoir, *Paper Cuts: My Life in Chicago's Volatile LGBT Press* was published in 2019. He lives in Fort Lauderdale, FL, with his husband, poet and journalist Gregg Shapiro, and their fur baby Miss Coco.



Michele Karlsberg is a publicist, producer, publisher, literary executor, speaker, event planner, advocate, and author, one of the founders/publishers of Amethyst Press. and a former publisher at Bywater Books. She has been instrumental in planning events such as Outwrite, Saints & Sinners Literary Fest, San Francisco

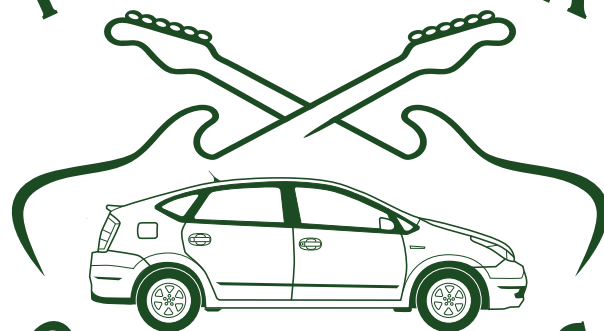
Book Festival, and the Gay Games Cultural Festival. Michele's "Words" column appears monthly in the *San Francisco Bay Times*, and she is the co-editor of the Lambda Literary Award finalist *To Be Continued and To Be Continued: Take Two* (Firebrand Books). Her essay "The Isle of Staten" appears in the book *Love, Christopher Street* (Chelsea House Editions). Michele has won the Publishing Triangle Leadership Award, Community Health Action Advocacy Award, Lambda Literary Foundation Publishing Professional Award, One Island/One Pride Award, and has been inducted into the Saints and Sinners Literary Hall Of Fame. As literary executor for Assotto Saint, Roy Gonsalves, and Stan Leventhal, Michele manages their creative works for publication today.



Judith Katz is the author of two novels: *The Escape Artist* and *Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound*, which won the 1992 Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Fiction. In 2020, she edited *Sinister Wisdom 119* and *To Be A Jewish Dyke in the 21st Century* with Elana Dykewomon, of blessed memory. She lives in

Minneapolis with her wife, Paula Forman, dog Lucy and cat Newton.

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I wrote *Come Back to New Orleans* in 1995 after meeting this beautiful man on Bourbon Street and we had a connection that continued for months via letters and videos. I would write songs about how I felt, record them in my French Quarter Courtyard at 825 Dauphine Street and mail them to him. His name is Marc Hulett and we are still dear friends to this day. This was the first love song I wrote, and it has been performed by me hundreds of times at piano bars, parties, and private homes from New Orleans, New Mexico, Chicago and New York. In 2018 I was thrilled when my dear friend, Bryan Batt, agreed to record a jazz version, and it is amazing. This year another dear friend Arsène DeLay agreed to create & record a disco dance version which is epic! I am proud of what we created and both versions are available for download or streaming on all music platforms. Please listen and share in the magic.

—Lawrence Henry Gobble, TW&NOLF Board President



Thomas Keith has edited the Tennessee Williams titles for New Directions since 2002, over 20 volumes, and wrote the introductions for *A House Not Meant to Stand* and *Now the Cats with Jeweled Claws*. Co-editor of *Letters of Tennessee Williams and James Laughlin*, Keith edited *Love, Christopher Street—LGBTQ Essays about NYC* by Jewelle Gomez, Michele Karlsberg, Ocean Vuong, Felice Picano, Martin Hyatt, and others. His writing has appeared in *American Theater Magazine*, *Gay & Lesbian Review*, and *Studies in Scottish Literature*. He has served as dramaturge for Sundance Institute Theater Lab and teaches theater at Pace University.



Mark S. King has been writing as a queer man living with HIV since he tested positive in 1985. His site, *My Fabulous Disease*, has been nominated for seven GLAAD Media Awards; and won for Outstanding Blog in 2020, the same year King was named LGBTQ Journalist of the Year by the *Association of LGBTQ Journalists*. His anthology, *My Fabulous Disease: Chronicles of a Gay Survivor*, will be released in late 2023 with a foreword by Greg Louganis. King's 2008 memoir, *A Place Like This*, recounts his life in West Hollywood during the dawn of the AIDS epidemic.



Daniel W.K. Lee (李華強) is a third-generation refugee, queer, Cantonese American born in Kuching, Malaysia. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at The New School, and his debut collection of poetry, *Anatomy of Want*, was published by QueerMojo/Rebel Satori Press in 2019. Daniel makes New Orleans his home with his head-turning whippet Camden. He is currently working on two new poetry manuscripts.



emma x lirette is a writer and researcher in Atlanta. She is the author of *Last Stand of Louisiana Shrimpers* (UPress Mississippi 2022). You can find her poetry in *Prismatica*, *Drunken Boat*, *jubilat*, *PANK*, *The Southern Review*, and other journals—mostly under her deadname. Emma X holds an MFA and a Ph.D. She taught at Cornell and Emory before transitioning to work in social media in the creator space. She lives with her partners and children in Atlanta.



Chip Livingston is a southern, queer/two-spirit, mixed-blood Creek writer and author of the poetry collection *Saints of the Republic* (2023) and editor of *Love, Loosha: The Letters of Lucia Berlin and Kenward Elmslie* (2022). He has published two other books of poetry, a novel, and a story/essay collection. Chip's writing has recently appeared in *Poem A Day*, *Ploughshares*, *Juked*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Cincinnati Review*, *LitHub*, and other journals and anthologies. He teaches in the low-res MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and lives in Montevideo, Uruguay.



John Magill is a retired curator/historian from The Historic New Orleans Collection. A graduate of the University of New Orleans, his studies have included the urban and physical development of New Orleans in the 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly its infrastructure at the time, and its social and demographic history. He has written and lectured extensively on these subjects.



Delaney McLemore is a non-binary writer, but you know that means they can't pick anything, genre or gender. Their work centers on Appalachia, mental health, and family dynamics.



Michael Montlack is author of two poetry collections—most recently *Daddy* (NYQ Books)—and editor of the Lambda Finalist essay anthology *My Diva: 65 Gay Men on the Women Who Inspire Them* (University of Wisconsin Press). Recently, his poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*,

North American Review, *december*, *The Offing*, *Cincinnati Review*, and *Phoebe*. This year his poem won the Saints & Sinners Poetry Award. He lives in NYC.



James K. Moran's speculative fiction and poetry have appeared in Canadian, American, and British publications, including *Burly Tales: Fairy Tales for the Hirsute and Hefty Gay Man*, *bywords.ca*, *Glitterwolf*, *Icarus*, and *On Spec: The Canadian Magazine of the Fantastic*. James' articles and reviews have appeared via *CBC Radio*, *Xtra Magazine*, and *Rue Morgue*. He also runs *Queer Speculations*, which workshops LGBTQIA or queer-themed stories from far and wide. Lethe Press published his first horror novel, *Town & Train*. Moran's debut short-story collection, *Fear Itself*, was also just published by Lethe Press. He lives and dreams in Ottawa.



Michael Nava is the author of the acclaimed Henry Rios mystery series. He is the recipient of seven Lambda Literary Awards, the Bill Whitehead award for lifetime achievement in LGBTQ literature and was inducted into Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame.



Frank Perez serves as Executive Director of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He has authored several books on New Orleans history and is also a columnist for *Ambush Magazine* and *French Quarter Journal*. His most recent book is *Political Animal: The Life and Times of Stewart Butler*. In 2012, Frank created the "Rainbow Fleur de Lis Walking Tour," a leisurely sashay through the French Quarter's rich queer history. He also teaches part-time at Loyola University. Frank is a sought-after public speaker specializing in New Orleans LGBT+ history.



Gary Eldon Peter is the author of two works of fiction: the story collection *Oranges*, which received the Gold Medal for LGBTQ+ fiction in the Independent Publisher Book Awards, and the novel *The Complicated Calculus (and Cows)* of *Carl Paulsen*, winner of the Achevean Book Prize for Young Adult Fiction and named one of the best Young Adult books of 2022 by National Public Radio. His work has been published widely and performed on the public radio program *Selected Shorts*. He earned an MFA in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College and is a faculty member at the University of Minnesota.



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 *Smoke & Mirrors*. 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. He has been a finalist in the Saints + Sinners Short Fiction Contest. His first novel, *Loyalty, Love, & Vermouth*, was published by Bold Strokes Books in 2021.



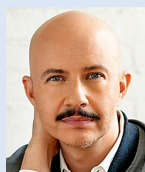
Felice Picano has published novels, story collections, poetry, essays, memoirs, non-fiction, and four produced plays. He taught Literature at Antioch University, L.A., and founded the Writing Workshops at the West Hollywood Library. He lectures internationally on Vintage Hollywood, script writing, and GLBT Literature. His most recently published books are the duology *Pursuit: A Victorian Entertainment*, *Pursued: Lilian's Story*, and the sci-fi trilogy *City on a Star*.



David Pratt is the author of the Lambda-winning *Bob the Book* (Chelsea Station) *Wallaçonia* (Beautiful Dreamer Press), *Todd Sweeney, the Fiend of Fleet High* (Hosta Press), *Looking After Joey* (Lethe Press), and a story collection, *My Movie* (Chelsea Station). His stories have appeared in several periodicals and anthologies. David has performed work for the theater at venues in New York City and Michigan and published *Two Plays: The Snow Queen and November Door*. In 2020-2021 he published *The Book of Humiliation*, an "anti-novel" in 16 zines designed by Ann Arbor, MI artist Nicholas Williams.



J.M. Redmann has published ten novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her first book was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detectives. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards. *The Intersection of Law and 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, one *Night Shadows*, was shortlisted for a Shirley Jackson award. Her books have been translated into German, Spanish, Dutch, Hebrew and Norwegian.



Steven Reigns is a Los Angeles poet and educator and was appointed 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*. Reigns holds a BA in Creative Writing, a Master of Clinical Psychology, and is a fourteen-time recipient of The Los Angeles County's Department of Cultural Affairs' Artist in Residency Grant. He edited *My Life is Poetry*, showcasing his students' work from the first-ever autobiographical poetry workshop for LGBT seniors. Reigns has lectured and taught writing workshops around the country to LGBT youth and people living with HIV. Currently he is touring *The Gay Rub*, an exhibition of rubbings from LGBT landmarks, facilitates the monthly Lambda Lit Book Club. His newest collection *A Quilt for David*, published by City Lights, is the product of ten years of research regarding dentist David Acer's life.



Sheri Reynolds is the author of the novel *The Tender Grave*, published in 2021 by Bywater Books, along with six other novels, including the *New York Times* bestselling *The Rapture of Canaan* and the full-length play *Orabelle's Wheelbarrow*. A graduate of Davidson College and Virginia Commonwealth University, Sheri teaches creative writing and literature courses at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, where she serves as Cobb Chair of Humanities. She and her wife, Barbara, divide their time between South Carolina and their home in Cape Charles on Virginia's eastern shore.



Brad Richard's most recent full-length collection is *Parasite Kingdom* (The Word Works, 2018— winner of the Tenth Gate Prize). He has taught creative writing at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, The Willow School (whose creative writing program he founded and directed), Louisiana State University, and Tulane University, and for New Orleans Writers Workshop. Series editor of the Hilary Tham Capital Collection from The Word Works, he lives, writes, and gardens in New Orleans.



Lance Ringel's novels, *Flower of Iowa*, about an American soldier and a British soldier who fall in love during World War 1, and *Floridian Nights*, about a gay widower who finds but resists new love with a younger man, were Finalists in consecutive years for the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Romance. His plays, *In Love with the Arrow Collar Man*, about illustrator J.C. Leyendecker and his model/lover Charles Beach, and *Flash/Frozen*, about champion skaters whose lives fatefully intersect around the 1961 plane crash that killed the entire U.S. Figure Skating World Team, both have had successful New York runs.



Carol Rosenfeld (she/her) is the author of *The One That Got Away* (Bywater Books, 2015). Her short stories have appeared in several anthologies, including *SAS New Fiction from the Festival*. She has a second novel in progress, a poetry collection compiled, and a memoir in development. Carol is the multi-tasking chair of The Publishing Triangle. She is delighted to celebrate the 20th anniversary of SAS! Only the festival is 20 years older; the rest of us haven't aged a bit.



Jen Rouse directs the Center for Teaching and Learning at Cornell College. She lives in Iowa City with her wife, teenage daughter, and two crazy wheaten terriers. *A Trickle of Bloom Becomes You* is Jen's latest collection with *Headmistress Press*. Her other works with *Headmistress* include *Acid and Tender*, *CAKE*, and *Riding with Anne Sexton*. Her poems have appeared in *Lavender Review*, *Sinister Wisdom*, *SWWIM*, *Sweet Literary*, and elsewhere. She also masquerades as a playwright, with plays published in *Shoutflower* and *Another Chicago Magazine* and produced in the Midwest by SPT Theatre and Theatre Cedar Rapids.



Timothy Schaffert is the author of six novels, most recently *The Perfume Thief*, an *LA Times* Top 10 Best Book of Summer, and a CrimeReads Best Historical Fiction Novel of the Year. His work has been a Barnes and Noble Discover New Writers selection, a *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice, and an IndieNext pick. He is the co-editor of *Zero Street Fiction* and teaches at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He writes the column "The Eccentricities of Gentlemen" for *Enchanted Living* magazine.



Gregg Shapiro is the author of eight books, including the poetry chapbook *Fear of Muses* (Souvenir Spoon Books, 2022). Recent and forthcoming lit-mag publications include *The Penn Review*, *RFD*, *Gargoyle*, *Limp Wrist*, *Mollyhouse*, *Impossible Archetype*, and *Panoplyzine*, as well as the anthology *Let Me Say This: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology* (Madville, 2023). An entertainment journalist whose interviews and reviews run in various regional LGBTQ+ and mainstream publications and websites, Shapiro lives in South Florida with his husband Rick and their dog Coco.



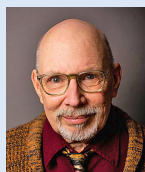
William Christy Smith is a museum and library professional who has lived in New Orleans for more than 20 years, having previously lived in Chicago. He is working on his second book and has been published in *Saints and Sinners: New Fiction from the Festival* six times, as well as *Louisiana Literature*, *Arkansas Review* and *Deep South*.



K.M. Soehnlein (he/him) is the author of the novels *Army of Lovers* (2022), based on his time in New York City at the height of the AIDS epidemic amid the activist groups ACT UP and Queer Nation, *The World of Normal Boys* (2000, Lambda Award for Gay Fiction), *You Can Say You Knew Me When* (2005), and *Robin and Ruby* (2010). Soehnlein has been awarded a Henfield Prize in short fiction and a Rainin Filmmaking Grant for screenwriting. He received an MFA from San Francisco State University and teaches at the University of San Francisco.



Lydia Stryk's award-winning plays have been produced across the country and beyond. *The Teachers' Room* is her first novel, a process she describes in her essay, "A Playwright Crosses the Border Into Fiction."



David Swatling was a 2015 Lambda Literary Award finalist for his debut thriller *Calvin's Head*. The sequel, *Corpus Calvin*, was released in November 2022. He grew up in New York, studied theater, and moved to Amsterdam in 1985. He produced arts and culture programs for Radio Netherlands and won the NLGJA Excellence in Journalism Award three times. His work has appeared in *Chelsea Station*, *The Big Thrill*, and other online publications.



John Whittier Treat has published Pushcart Prize-nominated short stories in *A&U Magazine*, *Jonathan*, and *QDA: Queer Disability Anthology*. His 2015 novel about the AIDS pandemic in Seattle, *The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House*, was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Gay Fiction award. In 2022, Jaded Ibis Press published his novel about stuttering, *First Consonants*, and his essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Huffington Post*, *Out*, and *LitHub*. Treat is now at work on a third novel, *The Sixth City of Refuge*, a story of the survivalist subculture in rural Washington State.



David Valdes is the author of the young adult novels *Spin Me Right Round* (Indie Next pick, Junior Library Guild selection, New York Public Library Best Book for Teens), *Brighter Than the Moon*, and the forthcoming *Finding My Elf*, as well as three nonfiction books, including *A Little Fruitcake*, a *Today Show* "Top 10 Holiday Books" pick. His plays have been produced coast to coast and abroad. As a columnist, he has written for the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, and *HuffPost*. He lives outside Boston with his teenage daughter.



Jess Wells is the author of six novels and five books of short stories, as well as the editor of anthologies of social commentary. She is the winner of the Nautilus Prize for Small Press Fiction with a Social Impact, Bronze Winner of the Foreword Indies Awards, a four-time finalist for the national Lambda Literary Awards, a member of the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival Hall of Fame, and a recipient of a San Francisco Arts Commission Grant for Literature. Her work has been included in over three dozen anthologies and literary journals, reprinted in the United Kingdom and translated into Italian and Dutch.



Jerry L. Wheeler is the editor of seven anthologies of gay erotica for Bold Strokes Books, Wilde City Press, and other publishers. His collection of short fiction and essays, "Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits," was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award in 2012. He has also been Lammy-shortlisted for "Tented: Gay Erotic Tales From Under the Big Top" (2010) and "The Bears of Winter" (2014). He lives and writes in Denver, CO, maintaining his review blog, "Out In Print: Queer Book Reviews," and his own editing business, Write And Shine. His first novel, *Pangs*, was published by Queer Space/Rebel Satori Press in September 2022.

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Alan Williams is a communications consultant, writer, editor, and speaker. He's worked with numerous federal agencies, state governments, non-profits, and universities to ensure that health education programs, campaigns, and resources are affirming, inclusive, equitable, tailored, and innovative for LGBTQ+ groups. He serves as advisor to the John Burton Harter Foundation that makes possible queer art exhibitions, initiatives, and publications, including *A Tale of Two Cities: Patrick Angus* in New York and *J. B. Harter* in New Orleans. His writing has appeared in the *New Orleans Review*, the long-running column "Between the Covers" in *The Simon*, and a variety of media outlets.



De'Shawn Charles Winslow is the author of *In West Mills*, a Center for Fiction First Novel Prize winner, an American Book Award recipient, and a Willie Morris Award for Southern Fiction winner. He is also a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book, Lambda Literary, and Publishing Triangle awards. De'Shawn was born and raised in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and graduated from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia.



Emanuel Xavier is a poet and activist and was named an LGBTQ Icon by The Equality Forum. He was 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 the recipient of a Gay City Impact Award and The Marsha A. Gomez Cultural Heritage Award.



The Performers by Timothy Cummings, 2017



Top left:
William J. Mann,
Nancy Garden, W. Kenneth
Holditch, Tara Hardy
at the SAS 2007 Hall of Fame
Ceremony.



Top right:
Otis Fennell, Jameson Currier,
Paul J. Willis, Kelly Smith,
Michele Karlsberg, Achy Obejas
at the SAS 2011 Hall of Fame
Ceremony.

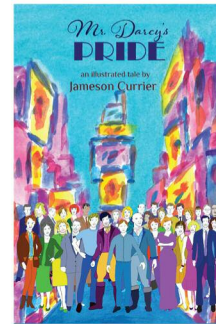
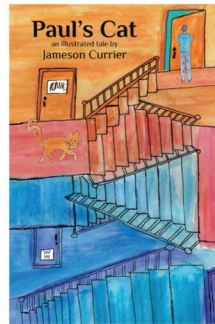
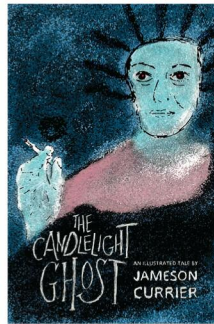
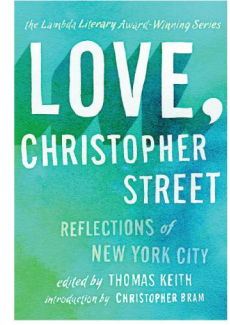
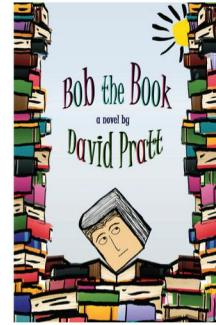
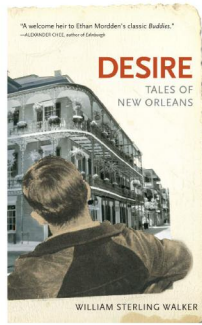
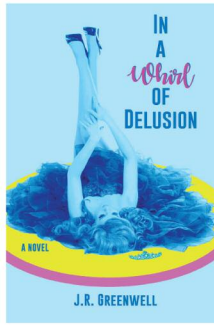
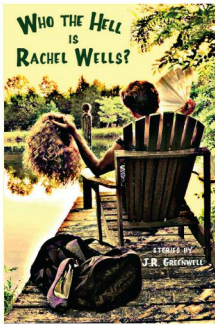


Patricia Nell Warren, 2007.



SAS Fiction Contest Book Launch, 2012.

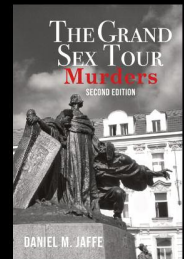
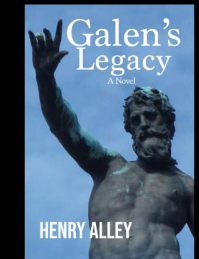
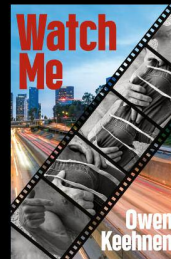
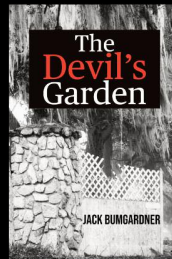
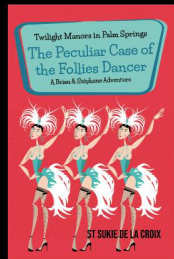
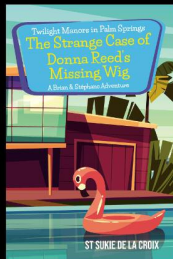
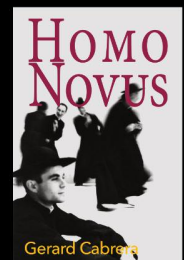
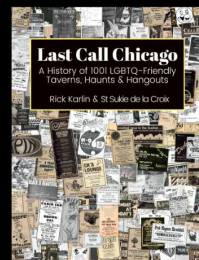
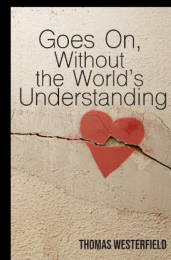
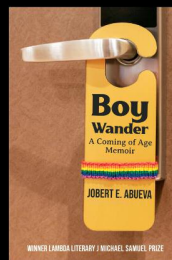
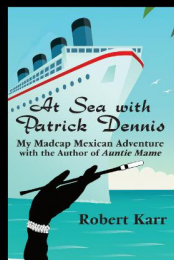
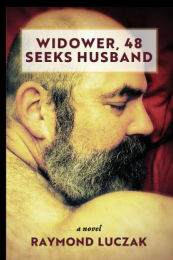
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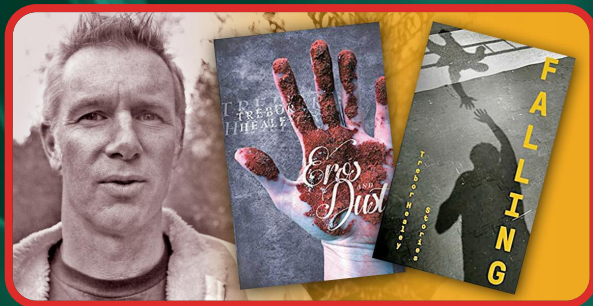
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2024 SHORT FICTION CONTEST

Opens May 1, 2023

Be sure to enter the 15th annual Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest and be part of our 2024 anthology made possible by the John Burton Harter Foundation. We're pleased to announce that **Trebor Healey** will be our finalist judge. Guidelines and deadlines at: sasfest.org

Recipient of a Lambda Literary award, two Publishing Triangle awards and a Violet Quill award, **Trebor Healey** is the author of the novels *A Horse Named Sorrow*, *Faun* and *Through It Came Bright Colors*, a poetry collection, *Sweet Son of Pan*, and three collections of stories — *A Perfect Scar*, *Eros & Dust* and *Falling*. He co-edited (with Marci Blackman) *Beyond Definition: New Writing from Gay and Lesbian San Francisco* and co-edited (with Amie M. Evans) *Queer & Catholic*.



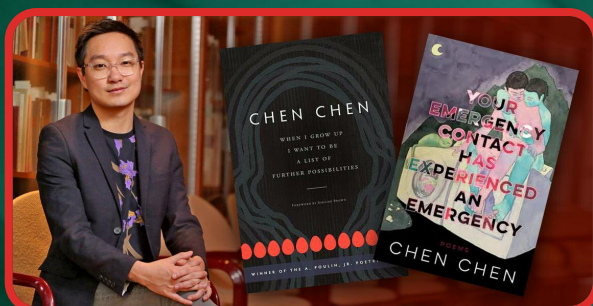
2024 POETRY CONTEST

Opens May 1, 2023

The winner of our 4th annual poetry contest will be selected from submissions of original unpublished poems by LGBTQ+ writers on the general theme of transformation.

Our contest will open on May 1, 2023 and our Finalist Judge will be **Chen Chen**. For more information and submission guidelines visit our website: sasfest.org.

Chen Chen is the author of two books of poetry, *Your Emergency Contact Has Experienced an Emergency* (BOA Editions, 2022) and *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities* (BOA Editions, 2017), which was longlisted for the National Book Award and won the Thom Gunn Award, among other honors. His work appears in many publications, including *Poetry* and three editions of *The Best American Poetry*. He has received two Pushcart Prizes and fellowships from Kundiman, the National Endowment for the Arts, and United States Artists. He was the 2018-2022 Jacob Ziskind Poet-in-Residence at Brandeis University and currently teaches for the low-residency MFA programs at New England College and Stonecoast. He lives with his partner, Jeff Gilbert, and their pug, Mr. Rupert Giles.



PAST SHORT FICTION WINNERS

2023
Ariadne Blayde "Minor Difficulties in BigEasyWorld"
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

2023
Isobel A. Burke
2022
Michael Montlack
2021
Danielle Bero



SAINTS+SINNERS XX ARCHANGEL FESTIVAL MEMBERS



(As of March 7, 2023)

Thank you to the individuals and organizations that supported our 20th anniversary event through our SAS Festival membership program.

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Ostara by Timothy Cummings, 2019



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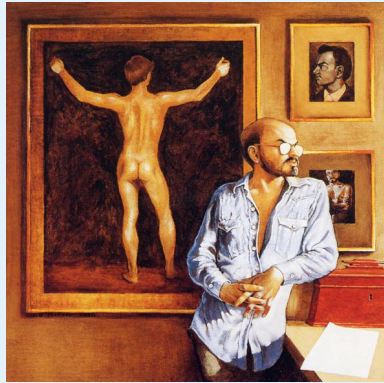
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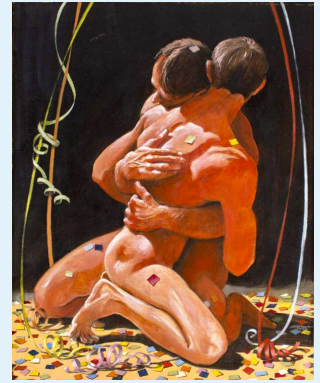
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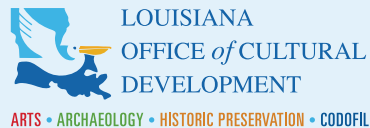


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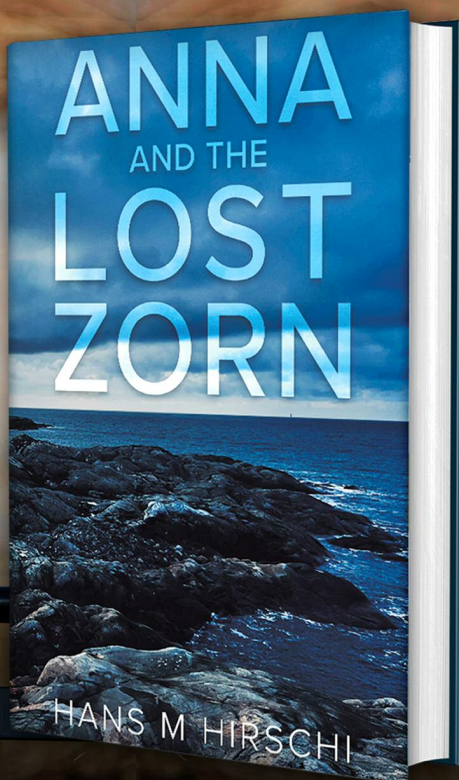


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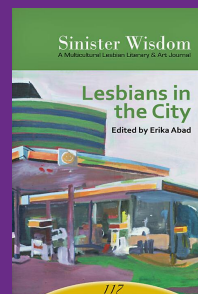
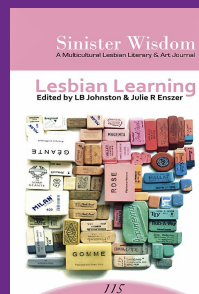
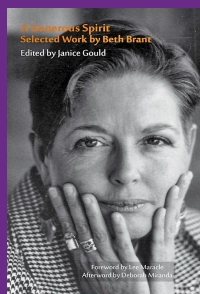
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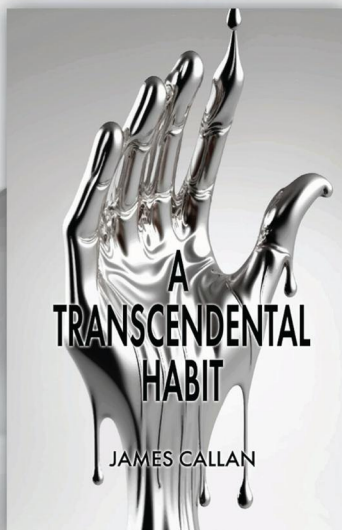
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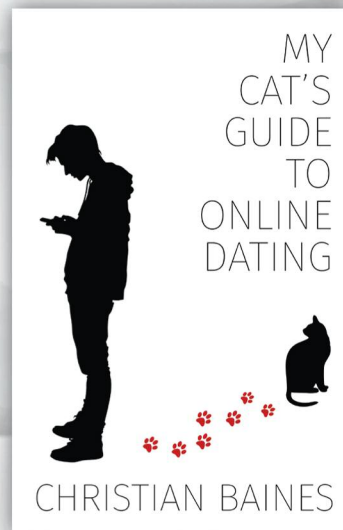
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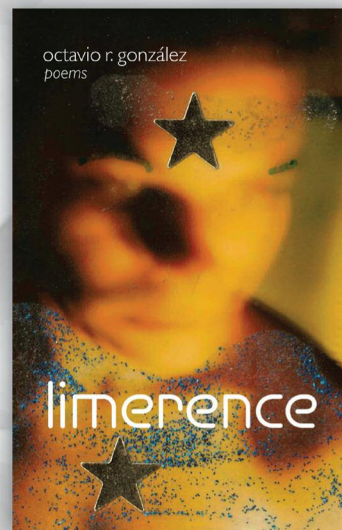
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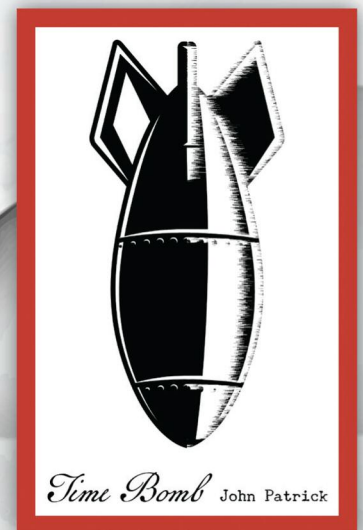
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