

SAINTS + SINNERS

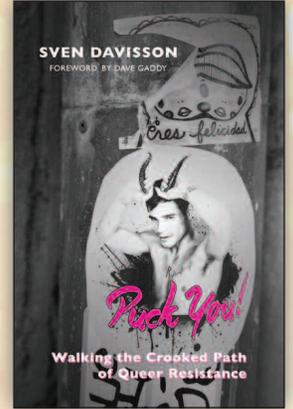
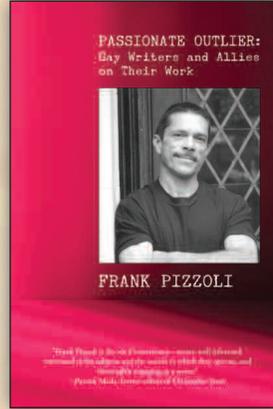
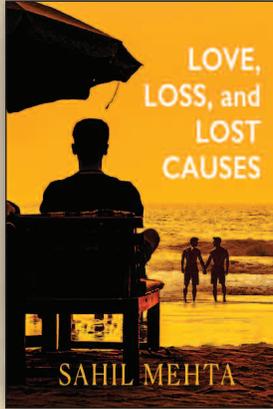
LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS



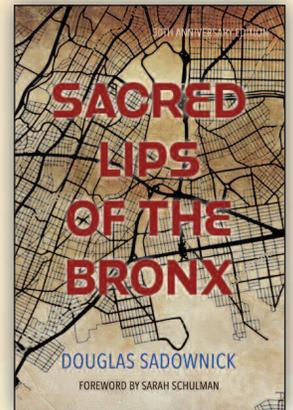
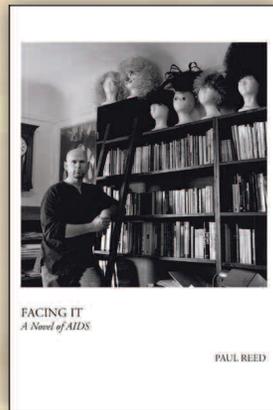
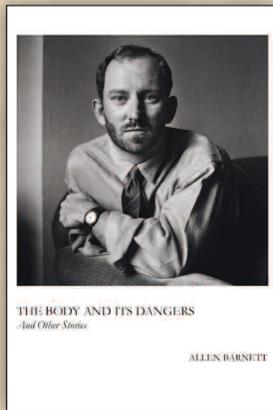
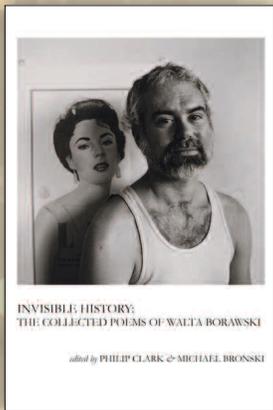
Jewelle Gomez, 2026, by Timothy Cummings

MARCH 27 - 29, 2026

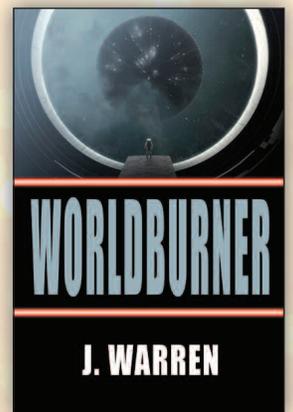
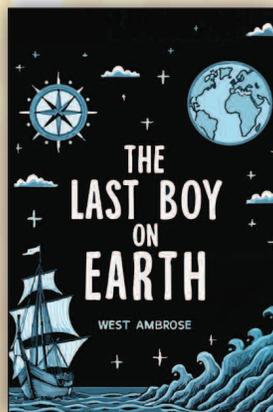
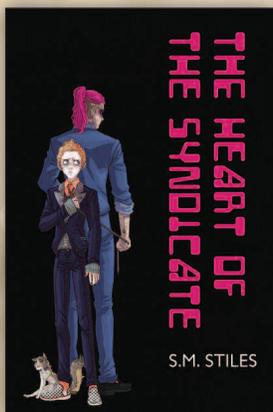
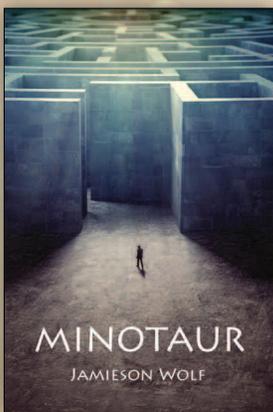
BEST SELLERS *from* REBEL SATORI



LIBRARY OF HOMOSEXUL CONGRESS



QUEER SPACE



REBEL SATORI PRESS

SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS

MARCH 27 - 29, 2026

TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



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

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VENUES

Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street

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

Mister Gregory's Shrimp Boil Cabaret
830 North Rampart Street

SAVE THE DATE

24th annual Saints + Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival
March 19 - 21, 2027

SAINTS AND SINNERS LITERARY FESTIVAL COORDINATORS:

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

Tracy Cunningham
Managing Director

PUBLICIST:
Reine Dugas

BOX OFFICE MANAGER & SAS PROGRAM ASSISTANT:
Norah Clifford

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR:
Nancy Gorman

**CREATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE SAS LITERARY PROGRAM
PROVIDED BY:**

Trebor Healey, Greg Herren, Morgan Hufstader, Michele
Karlsberg, Susan Larson, Daniel W.K. Lee, Gregg Shapiro

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

PROGRAM DESIGN:
Toan Nguyen

WEBSITE DESIGN:
Cherry Cappel



tubbyandcoos.com

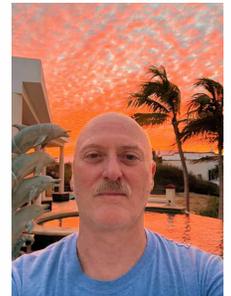


2026 COVER ART

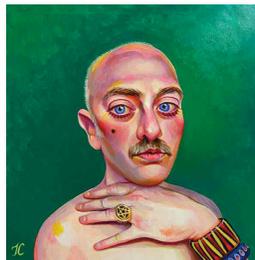
Jewelle Gomez, 2026
by Timothy Cummings

OUR COVER ARTIST

Timothy Cummings, represented by Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco and Nancy Hoffman Gallery in New York, journeyed to a French Quarter pied-à-terre overlooking Armstrong Park in the Fall of 2017 as part of a My Good Judy Residency. The My Good Judy Foundation provides residencies for artists seeking to produce a body of work or performance in New Orleans that address culture making from 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 singer, songwriter, and composer, Rufus Wainwright, Whoopi Goldberg in Los Angeles, CA and Tomaso Bracco and Sara Davis in Milan, Italy.



Timothy Cummings,
Mexico, 2025



Self Portrait, 2023

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 grotesques', replacing the bleak mundane of the world with a lush queer poetic eye for the shadows is part of my focus," Cummings said. He graciously created an original painting of Tennessee Williams to be used as the cover art for the COVID-cancelled 2020 Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival. For the 20th Anniversary of Saints and Sinners, Timothy created the original painting, *Incident at the Carousel Bar*, featuring a young Tennessee Williams and a mysterious masked companion. We are so proud to use his artwork on our Festival program book covers, and we thank Timothy for the generous donation of his paintings to the Festival's fundraising efforts. He resides in a tiny house in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Further Travels, 2008

You can see more of Timothy's work at:
www.cclarkgallery.com/artists/series/timothy-cummings and at
www.nancyhoffmangallery.com/artist-timothy-cummings

Welcome to the

SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS

Welcome!

Are you ready for a fun weekend of books, writing, and literary conversation? I know I am!

The world can seem like a dark place lately with everything that's been going on here and abroad, that sometimes it seems hard to find a light in that darkness. When Saints and Sinners was first held, the world seemed that way, too. The war on terror was in full throttle, and the administration of that time was doing its best to erase the queer community and our humanity. Whenever times have been tough, queer art and literature has lit the path, a shining lamp in the darkness, and has always been revolutionary by simply existing.

It's also so easy to surrender to despair, especially when the odds seem stacked against us. But let this weekend serve its purpose—shut the world off for a few days and immerse yourself in the literary arts. Let this weekend nurture and nourish your soul, your creative heart, and your brain. Drink from the fountain of creativity and replenish your energies.

Saints and Sinners was originally founded to help create and build a community to celebrate queer literature—both for established writers, those just starting out and of course, our readers. Discover some new voices! Go to panels and craft sessions and readings, and immerse yourself in the genius of our presenters; replenish, rebuild, and be inspired.

Sometimes, it's kind of fun to be in a bubble for a weekend.

Enjoy!

Paul J. Willis

Executive Director



PHOTO BY SABRINA HARPER

SAS Hall of Famers discussing the trade –
Michael Cunningham and Donna Minkowitz



PHOTO BY SABRINA HARPER

Two cuties at SAS '25 –
Trebor Healey and Jewelle Gomez

They Can't Silence What We Amplify

Strategic Grassroots and e-marketing for authors, organizers, and cultural storytellers keeps your voice loud and lasting. Helping you stay in the conversation. Your story, your audience, my strategy. Smart promotion. Real reach. Lasting impact. Literary resistance that lasts.



While They Erase, We Preserve.

ONLINE AUCTION

Starts Friday, March 20 at midnight
Ends at 2 PM on Sunday, March 29.

Artwork from our 2026 poetry cover artist, Zach Gear featuring Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, and Alice Dunbar Nelson along with gift certificates and book packages are also up for bid to support our 2027 Festival.



Jewelle Gomez
by Timothy Cummings

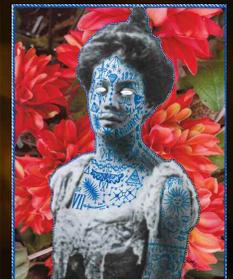
You can own our one of a kind painting of Jewelle Gomez by artist Timothy Cummings created for our 23rd annual SAS program cover.



Tennessee and Marlon
by Zach Gear, 2025



Truman Capote
by Zach Gear, 2025

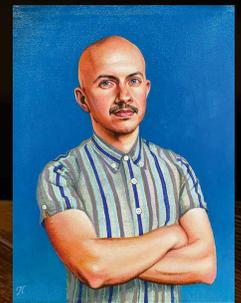


Alice Dunbar Nelson
by Zach Gear, 2025

You can also bid on having Timothy create a unique painting of you or a loved one!



Emanuel Xavier
by Timothy Cummings



Steven Reigns
by Timothy Cummings

WALKING TOURS

LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

Thursday, March 26, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Friday, March 27, 3:30 – 5 PM

Sunday, March 29, 11 AM - 12:30 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. The tour is guided by long-time French Quarter resident **Frank Perez**, a local historian and professional tour guide who has written six books about French Quarter history. Perez also serves as the executive director of the LGBTQ+ Archives Project of Louisiana.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$35 or VIP Pass.

LGBTQ+ Archives Project

OF LOUISIANA

BIGGEST BEAT: THE EXCEPTIONAL MUSICAL HISTORY OF THE FRENCH QUARTER

Thursday, March 26, 10:30 AM - Noon

Friday, March 27, 3 - 4:30 PM

Saturday, March 28, 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Sunday, March 29, 11:30 AM - 1 PM

This lively tour takes guests on a stroll through the Vieux Carré's rich and varied musical past. The stroll includes historic sites spanning from the birth of Jazz to the African dances at Congo Square, and from the glamorous opera houses of the 1800s to the legends of rock 'n' roll. Highlights include the engaging experiences of great local artists such as Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino, Jelly Roll Morton, and Louis Moreau Gottschalk, as well as legendary visitors such as the Beatles, the Grateful Dead and Led Zeppelin. The tour is led by historian and musician **Charles Chamberlain**, author of *New Orleans: A Concise History of an Exceptional City* (LSU Press, 2025), and the forthcoming book *The Beat: A History of New Orleans Music and Dance* (LSU Press, 2026).

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$35 or VIP Pass.



J&M studios on N. Rampart – recording studio in the heyday of rock 'n roll.

FRENCH QUARTER GHOSTS AND LEGENDS TOUR

Thursday, March 26, 5:30 - 7:15 PM

Saturday, March 28, 7:30 - 9:15 PM

Sunday, March 29, 5:30 - 7:15 PM

Join acclaimed local author and storyteller **Ariadne Blayde** for an immersive twilight walk exploring the dark local history and lore of the historic French Quarter, considered one of the most haunted districts in America. Learn about true crime, yellow fever, pirates, ghosts, and the city's fascinating colonial history through visits to the Quarter's most haunted places, including the infamous LaLaurie Mansion, the historic Mississippi riverfront, New Orleans' oldest and most haunted bar, and more. Feel free to bring a drink!

Rodrigue Studios, 730 Royal Street, meet outside, \$30 or VIP Pass.

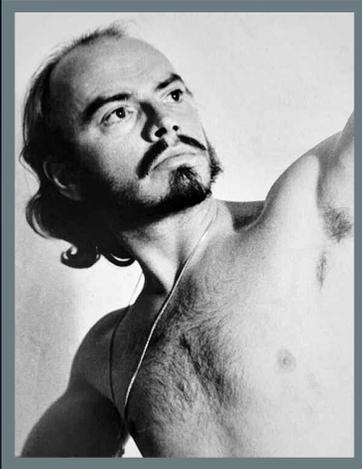
QUEER UNDERGROUND

Thursday, March 26, 1 – 3 PM

Saturday, March 28, 1 – 3 PM

A critically acclaimed deep dive into the queer underbelly of New Orleans from lesbian street gangs in the sex industry to drag queens under the direct employment of the mafia to the rise of modern gay nightclubs in open rejection of the laws. With no censorship and no shame, follow the stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who were instrumental in the creation of modern New Orleans, building whisper networks from the first days of the colony and eventually, taking over the streets. A radical challenge to mainstream queer history and New Orleans history, the tour is a love letter to the New Orleans queer community with equal parts joy and heartbreak. Tours will be led by **Quinn L Bishop**.

Crossing Bar, 439 Dauphine Street, \$35 or VIP Pass.



JOHN BURTON HARTER



FOUNDATION

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

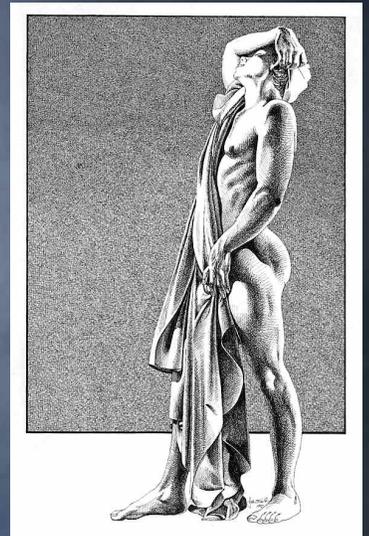
The John Burton Harter Foundation is a nonprofit organization that promotes John Burton Harter's art and the interests he cared about. For more information on the Foundation and to view more of Harter's portfolio, visit: jbharter.org

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.

“ 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



Draped Figure, Pen and Ink, date unknown

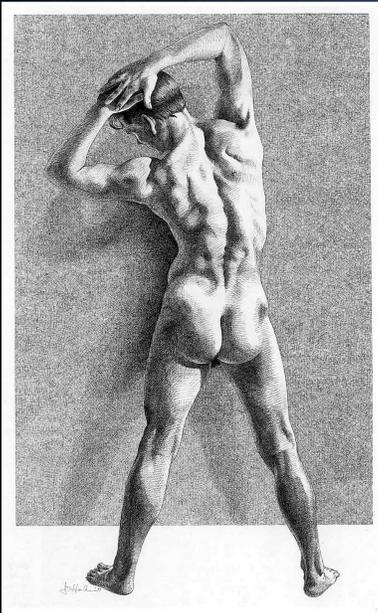


Plate 22, *Standing Figure*, Pen and Ink, 1993

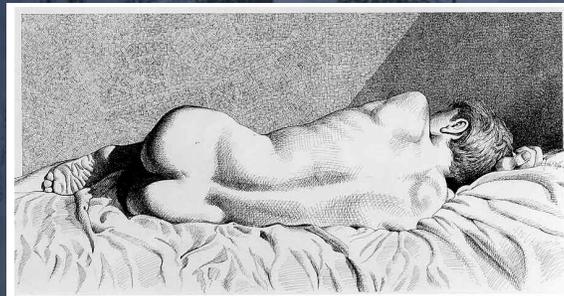


Plate 28, *Sleeping Figure*, Pen and Ink, 1995

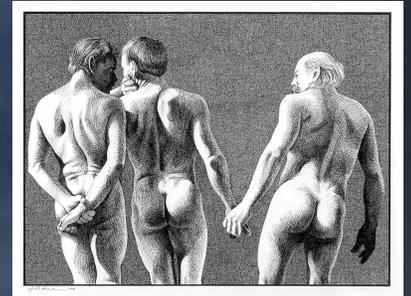


Plate 51, *Secrets*, Pen and Ink, 1999

“ 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

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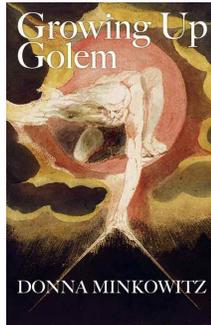
www.SistersInCrime.org/join-now

FRIDAY SCHEDULE • MARCH 27, 2026

10 - 11:15 AM—SAS Writer's Craft
CRAFTING BEAUTIFUL SENTENCES—DONNA MINKOWITZ

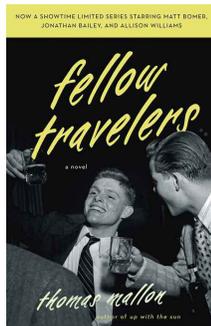
Fiction and memoir writing are just as dependent as poetry on beautiful and surprising arrangements of words. Yet prose writers often forget that the word, the sentence, and even the syllable are the basic units of their art. In this workshop, Donna Minkowitz, Lambda Literary Award-winning author of two memoirs and a novel, will show how prose writers can infuse their work with sound, rhythm, imagery, metaphor, and lyricism.

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

**10 - 11:15 AM**—SAS Writer's Craft
MAKING HISTORY INTO FICTION—THOMAS MALLON

It's said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat its mistakes. Historical fiction is a key genre to understanding our past and ultimately shaping our futures. How does one make it credible and vivid? This session hopes to provide lively discussion about the techniques and pitfalls of setting fiction in past eras, the ethics of incorporating actual events and individuals into a story, and the ways in which historical fiction can inspire readers to reflect on their own present-day circumstances.

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

**10 AM - 12 PM**—*pre-registration required
PITCH SESSIONS WITH BYWATER BOOKS & AMBLE PRESS

Publisher **Salem West** and two-time Lambda Literary Award-winning author **Ann McMan** will be meeting with writers at SAS2026. "We're seeking bold, engaging LGBTQ+ fiction—romance, mystery, sci-fi/spec fiction, literary fiction, genre-crossing work, and character-driven tales that hit hard and leave their mark. Bring us something fresh, smart, and unforgettable—we're listening." To set up your appointment, please email info@bywaterbooks.com with "SAS Pitch" in the subject line. Include a short bio and 100-word synopsis.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**—SAS Writer's Craft
GOthic LIT: ROMANTIC AND BLOODY—JEWELLE GOMEZ

Gothic literature has several key identifiable elements: an atmosphere of dread; fear of supernatural occurrences; the intrusion of the past on the present; terrifying events that often are emblematic of psychological or social conflicts; lost lovers; and anticipation of torture. Early stories featured bloody dismemberments (or the fear of them); think about Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum!" Also common were hauntings by ghostly dead lovers, mythical beasts, possession, and somnambulistic adventures.

This workshop will focus on elements in our society today that nurture the terrors abound in Gothic stories. What would we write using either a contemporary or historic setting that would tell us a moody, claustrophobic story filled with shadows and anxiety? We'll explore story ideas, each participant creating one or two-line descriptions. Then we'll talk in the session about how specifically such a story would develop. The hope is to leave each participant with the bones (pun intended) on which to build a complete story.

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

**11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**—SAS Writer's Craft
WRITING IN A WORLD OF APPS, PODCASTS AND AI—ANDREW FAYE & TREBOR HEALEY

Technology offers new and different ways to approach writing across three axes: our generative process, the actual narratives of our stories, and the distribution of our final work. Perhaps you use novel writing apps or software to organize characters, plot, and structure; or you might go further and turn to generative AI (such as ChatGPT) to help you work out kinks in a story or provide feedback akin to that of a developmental editor. Tech offers an ever-evolving palette of options for setting (e.g., virtual spaces like "dating" apps), character (e.g., the jilted AI lover), plot and conflict (e.g.



surveillance, a rogue AI therapist). In terms of getting our writing out there, we'll look at ePublishing, blogging, Substack, and hosting or creating a podcast, which can elevate less-represented voices and even create exposure that leads to publication. We'll look at how we can make use of and integrate these aspects of technology into our work, focusing primarily on the fun part: the story itself. We may want to write about how the "dating" apps have changed LGBTQ+ life, offering opportunities for story that didn't exist before, normalizing the blind date and the element of surprise – tragic, comedic or even downright dangerous. App dialog itself can be a literary form - often poetic - and can even include photos! If we want to tell a story via podcast, what stories work best in this format? We'll talk about all of this and do a writing exercise incorporating AI, podcasts and apps.

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

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM—*pre-registration required
PITCH SESSION WITH MCFARLAND PUBLISHING

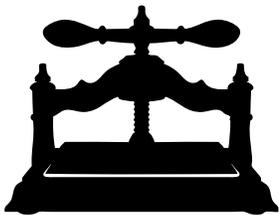
McFarland Publishing has partnered with **Clayton Delery**, the General Editor of a new nonfiction book series titled *Queer Life In America*. This series seeks to highlight the queer experience, with preference given to topics involving life outside of major east and west coast cities. Clayton will review pitches and proposals at SAS 2026 and forward promising ones to McFarland for recommended inclusion in the series. For more information on McFarland Publishing, visit mcfarlandbooks.com. Anyone wanting to schedule a pitch meeting with Clayton should email him at claytondelery@yahoo.com.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



McFarland

12:15 - 2:15 PM—*pre-registration required
PITCH SESSIONS WITH RATTLING GOOD YARNS PRESS



RATTLING GOOD YARNS
 PRESS

Rattling Good Yarns Press managing publisher, Ian Henzel, will be meeting with authors at SAS2026. RGYP is looking for fiction, novels, story collections, and nonfiction, including but not limited to history and memoirs. No poetry or plays. They are most interested in unusual perspectives on topics of interest to the LGBTQ+

community. To schedule a pitch appointment, contact **Ian Henzel** at ian.henzel@rattlinggoodyarns.com. Pitches will be for possible 2027 publication. For more information about Rattling Good Yarns and online submission guidelines, visit: rattlinggoodyarns.com/submissions/
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

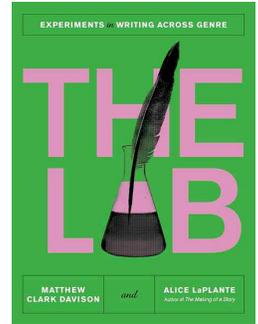
1 - 2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
THE LAB: EXPERIMENTS IN QUEERING FORM, VOICE, AND GENRE—MATTHEW CLARK DAVISON

This session will invite queer writers of all levels to experiment with crossing genres—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and hybrid forms—as a way of opening new artistic possibilities and deepening voice. Here's a passage from the book that captures the spirit of the session:

"We somehow have to balance three things when we write: 1. We should write about something we're personally interested in, preferably even obsessed by. 2. We should write about something that may eventually matter to the world outside our own head (but we don't worry about that when creating). 3. We should write about something that will surprise our readers by its beauty—and, in the best circumstances, move them through the power of its aesthetic force."

With examples from Jeanette Winterson, Justin Torres, and others, we'll look at how writers find something like beauty in its opposite. What's beautiful and what's ugly is completely up to you. In fact, if you see beauty where others don't, or ugliness where others don't, you may have an advantage. Through guided prompts and short bursts of writing, participants will explore how obsession, aesthetic force, and nonconforming oddities can help queer their work—creating art that is personally urgent, aesthetically bold, and resonant within and beyond LGBTQ+ communities.

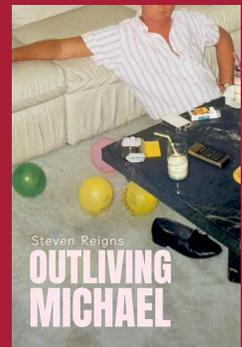
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B
Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25



1 - 2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
POETRY AS MEMOIR: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP—STEVEN REIGNS

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

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

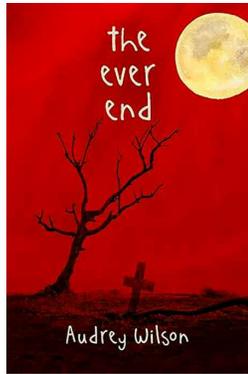


2:30 - 3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
HOW TO PERFECT YOUR QUERY LETTER—AUDREY WILSON

Drawing on her 10+ years of writing and publishing experience, Audrey Wilson will cover everything writers need to know about crafting a successful query letter. From sourcing the best agents and publishers for your genre, to shaping your logline, writing a killer synopsis, and picking comp titles, attendees will walk away with the tools needed to successfully pitch and publish their manuscript.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

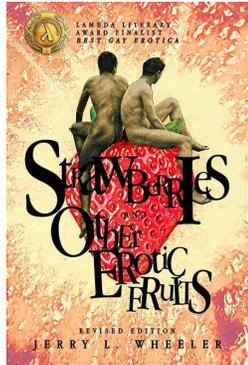


2:30 - 3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
EROTICA LAID BARE: WRITING SEX THEY WON'T FORGET—JERRY L. WHEELER

Are your characters looking to get lucky, but you can't get them to first base? Join award-winning erotica writer and editor Jerry L. Wheeler as he uses a series of guided writing prompts involving your senses guaranteed to put your creations in the mood for love. Bring your imaginations and something to write with, and you'll craft a perfect five-line paragraph of erotic prose. Anything goes and usually does, but be sure to leave your inhibitions at the door. 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, and he is the author of the BookFest Spring 2025 first place award-winner for LGBTQ+ Literary Fiction, *Mercedes General*.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25



2:30 - 4:30 PM—*pre-registration is required
PITCH SESSIONS WITH REBEL SATORI PRESS

Rebel Satori Press's publisher, **Sven Davisson**, and **Tom Cardamone**, LOHC imprint curator, will be meeting with authors at SAS2026. The press has been publishing for more than two decades and has more than 250 titles with many more in development. The editors are looking for book-length literary fiction, single-author collections of poetry, speculative fiction, or occult/ spiritual nonfiction from talented LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC authors. Contact publisher, Sven Davisson at: svendavisson@rebelsatori.com to schedule your pitch! Pitches will be for possible 2027 or 2028 publication. For more information about Rebel Satori Press visit:

<https://www.rebelsatori.com>

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A



**REBEL
SATORI
PRESS**

INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ON THE FRONTIERS OF LIMINAL SPACE

6:30 - 8:30 PM—Welcome Party

GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI

See page 11 for more details.



LOUISIANA
DIVISION of
THE ARTS



LOUISIANA
OFFICE of CULTURAL
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Arts New Orleans

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, as administered by Arts New Orleans. Funding has also been provided by the National Endowment of the Arts.

Doors 10 PM, Show 10:30 PM - 12:20 AM—Special Event

Le VAMPYRE CABARET & THE SPIRIT OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS!

A deviously campy and deliciously macabre theater show with New Orleans most infamous Vampires, Madame Tsarina Magdalena Hellfire & Stanley Roy! Featuring acclaimed marionette artist, Harry Mayronne, as the spirit of Tennessee Williams! Also featuring Simone Del Mar as a bloodthirsty burlesque beauty, and sideshow darling JuJu as our overly dramatic Human.

Le Vampyre Cabaret is a carnivorous coven of undead thespians who have traveled through centuries of debauchery, finally settling down in New Orleans! In The Big Easy, where the tourists roam free and the nightlife never sleeps, these Vaudevillian Vampires will glamor you with their live songs, lively storytelling, and good ole fashioned stripping!

TICKET LINK: <https://LeVampyreCabaretTWfest.eventbrite.com>

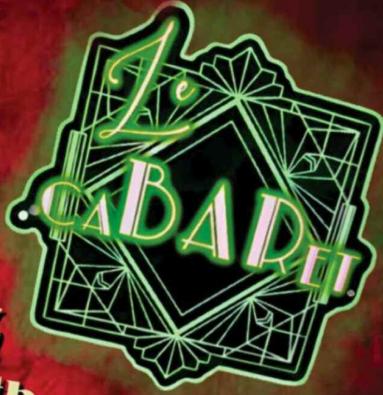
The AllWays Lounge & Cabaret (The Twilight Room), 2240 Saint Claude Avenue



*Tennessee Williams
Cigar and Bourbon Social*
834 N. Rampart St.

*March
25th - 29th*

*Flights of Bourbon and
Cigars Available*



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lmln.lit.nola@gmail.com
Join us for a reading, writing workshop, or book launch!
A community for New Orleans writers and artists to
learn, connect, and grow together. ?



SAINTS⊕SINNERS XXIII

WELCOME PARTY

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026 • 6:30 PM UNTIL 8:30 PM

GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI SAS WELCOME PARTY



Moonbear Aguilar

Mr. Gregory's Shrimp Boil Cabaret

834 N Rampart St.

Price: Included with Weekend Pass/
Partner Party Pass or \$25

Come experience true Southern hospitality in a beautiful courtyard tucked away in the Historic French Quarter. Mingle with fellow writers and avid readers while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, spirits, and a specialty cocktail. Delight in the musical stylings of the **Delta Revues** and get your burning questions answered with a Tarot reading from **Moonbear Aguilar** under the New Orleans stars and crescent moon.

Special thanks to party hostess **Ylva Mara Radziszewski** who can direct you next door to Le Cabaret with your complimentary drink tickets and listen to... (pianist) or welcome you to peek through Bloody Mary's Voodoo Shop. And don't miss your chance to mark your trip with a specially designed tattoo from Hell or High Water!



Ylva Mara Radziszewski



The Delta Revues

Saint Sinner



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON



SATURDAY SCHEDULE • MARCH 28, 2026

10—11:15 AM—Literary Discussion**WRITERS AND PUBLISHERS: LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS**

Have you ever noticed that some of your favorite queer writers have maintained a relationship with a particular publisher over the course of years? For example, Bloomsbury Publishing published 10 books by the late Edmund White between 2009 and 2025. Is there a secret or method to establishing and preserving that kind of mutually beneficial association? This panel of writers and publishers/editors, including **Kim Roberts Meikle** and **Mark Mones** (University of Virginia Press), **Rick Karlin** and **Ian Henzel** (Rattling Good Yarns Press), and **Gregg Shapiro** and **Dan Vera** (Souvenir Spoon Books), will discuss what it is that keeps their bond strong, and how others may learn from their experiences.

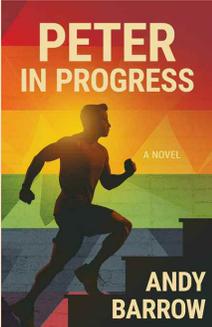
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B**10 - 11:15 AM**—Literary Discussion**FINDING TODAY IN THE PAST:
WRITING RELEVANT HISTORICAL FICTION**

For LGBTQ writers and readers, stories set in the past are mirrors and maps for today. Join five authors of historical fiction who will discuss how they wrote about long-ago eras. They discuss how to create characters, how to conduct research, and how much creative license is allowed. How do we preserve our past when others are trying to rewrite and erase it, and what kind of cultural translation is necessary for contemporary audiences? By illuminating pain and trauma, persistence and joy, queer historical fiction points the way to a brighter and queerer future.

Panelists: Elizabeth Costello, Cheryl A. Head, Timothy Schaffert, and Christopher Tradowsky**Moderator: K.M. Soehnlein****Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C**

10 - 11:15 AM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ
Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Christian Baines, Andy Barrow, Tom Cardamone, Ching-In Chen, Donna Minkowitz, Sean Patrick Mulroy, and Douglas Sadownick** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

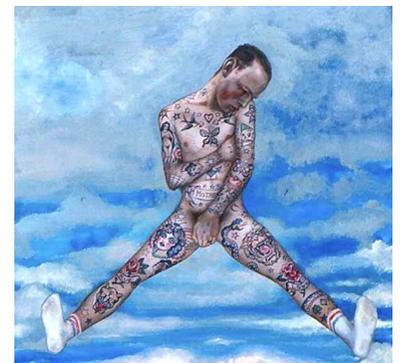


11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—Literary Discussion**MASTERING THE SHORT STORY: SAYING A LOT WITH A LITTLE**

Short story writing can be an essential way to build an author's repertoire and establish oneself in the publishing sphere. But are there challenges and benefits to writing short fiction over a novel? How can an author best use the succinctness and/or conciseness of the short fiction form to develop character and conflict? Queer authors can use the short story form to write an essential or urgent message concerning characters who are often outsiders and facing obstacles or dilemmas that don't exist in the heteronormative genre of short fiction. With some claiming that readers have shorter attention spans, short stories may open windows of opportunity to relay important themes and messages. In this panel, short fiction authors will discuss not only the craft of the short stories, but also how best to compile short stories into a collection for publication.

Panelists: Tom Cardamone, Jewelle Gomez, Vincent Traugher Meis, James Magruder, and Patrick Earl Ryan**Moderator: William Christy Smith****Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B****11:30 AM - 12:45 PM**—Literary Discussion**EROS ON THE TONGUE: SEXUAL EXPRESSION THROUGH THE WRITTEN WORD**

Writing about sex can be both exciting and challenging. In this panel, we'll discuss how to make it more authentic, more sensory, more a part of the story. In other words, how do we integrate our erotic writing and ground it in characters, settings, and voices? And how can we make use of the erotic and make it a part of a story that advances a narrative, whether via plot, character, or conflict? How do we use humor, bad sex, or even problematic sex to create a fuller—and more erotic—interaction between two characters; how do we make it fit naturally in the flow of a good story? How do we define erotic writing vs. sex writing vs. porn? Do we need to? How do we avoid clichés and tired diction? And how do we grapple with not just creating scenes of joyful, connecting, hot or fun sex, but finding ways to approach and write about problematic, even traumatic or abusive sex? In this panel, we'll look at erotic writing as both a genre and as an opportunity to seamlessly incorporate the sexual/sensual into other writing,

***Stinky Socks* by Timothy Cummings, 1997**

such as fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction and memoir.

Panelists: Drew Banks, Laurinda D. Brown, Michael Lowenthal, C. Russell Price, and Douglas Sadownick.

Moderator: Trebor Healey

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

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

**INSIDE THE WRITER'S STUDIO:
AMPLIFYING YOUR PODCAST EXPERIENCE**

Ever finish writing a book and think, "Okay... now what?" Podcasts are one of the most effective ways authors are reaching new readers right now. This panel dives into how to get booked on podcasts, share your work in a way that feels authentic, and turn an interview into meaningful traction through thoughtful social media follow-up and audience engagement.

Panelists: Reine Dugas, Rick Clifton, Ian Henzel, and Dan White

Moderator: Eric Andrews-Katz

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon



1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

MAUREEN SEATON TRIBUTE

In August of 2023, the queer literary world lost one of its brightest stars with the passing of Lambda Literary Award-winning poet and memoirist Maureen Seaton. An educator who left an enduring mark on all her students, Seaton was also renowned for her collaborations with other poets, including longtime ally Denise Duhamel with whom she co-wrote three chapbooks and full-length books. In 2025, two new Maureen Seaton collaborations with queer poets were published: "Tilt" with Aaron Smith and "Portals" with Samuel Ace. Additionally, "When I Was Straight: A Tribute to Maureen," edited by poet Dustin Brookshire, was published in 2024, and was nominated for a Lambda Literary Award in the LGBTQ+ Anthology category. This tribute to Seaton is a celebration of a brilliant, creative life that was well-lived and well-loved.

Panelists: Clayre Benzádon and Dustin Brookshire

Moderator: Gregg Shapiro

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

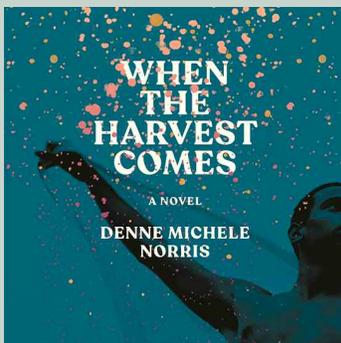
Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice.

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:

Ezra Adamo, Allison Blevins, Yoseli Castillo Fuertes, Ruben "Tih" Hayslett, Denne Michele Norris,

AJ Romriell, and Rodney Rhoda Taylor for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



1 - 2:15 PM—Writer's Craft Session

THE EKPHRASIC SELFIE: GENERATIVE WRITING FROM A PHOTOGRAPH—MAIA JEFFRA

This session explores ekphrasis—the practice of writing in response to visual art—as a powerful way to jumpstart creative thinking and generate new work. By engaging with our own photos, participants will practice translating what they see into language. Rather than simply describing an image, ekphrasis invites writers to interpret, imagine, and expand beyond the frame, using visual stimuli to spark narrative, voice, and reflection. Through guided exercises and discussion, participants will experiment with techniques for moving from observation to invention, discovering how images can unlock memory, sharpen attention, and open unexpected pathways into writing. The workshop is suitable for writers of all genres who want new strategies for overcoming creative blocks and generating fresh material.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

Included in SAS Weekend Pass or \$25

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

**PLAYING WITH FIRE:
THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES OF THE MEMOIR**

People love to read memoirs, but writing them involves challenges unique to the genre. Sometimes, if you're too honest, you risk alienating friends and family. If you soft-pedal the conflicts in the interest of preserving relationships (and avoiding lawsuits), you also run the risk of losing dramatic tension. Then there are endless questions of selection and presentation that aren't at issue when fiction writers invent their own world. How can a memoirist give shape to a life when life is often rambling and amorphous? What goes into making decisions about which events to include, and which to leave out? What are the best ways to handle explosive or difficult material? These are some of the issues this session will address.

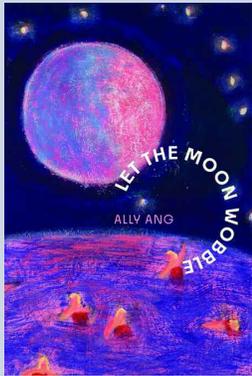
Panelists: Gil Z. Hochberg, Steve Majors, Geoffrey Newman, and AJ Romriell

Moderator: Clayton Delery

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: **Ally Ang, Vinny Cusenza, Samuel Ernest,**

Bradley Firchow, Liza Flum, Trebor Healey, and Ann McMan for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

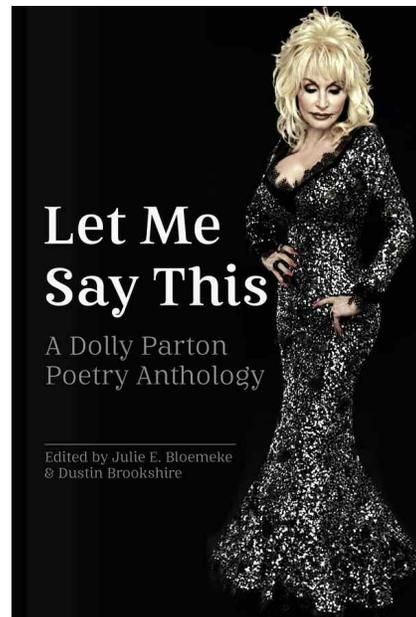
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

2:30 - 3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft

THE GRASS IS BLUE: A DOLLY PARTON POETRY WORKSHOP—DUSTIN BROOKSHIRE

What could the songs of legendary singer-songwriter Dolly Parton teach us about writing, craft, and perspectives in poetry? In this in-person workshop, poet and co-editor of *Let Me Say This: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology*, Dustin Brookshire guides participants through exploring the discography and cultural impact of Dolly Parton while using her songs as inspiration for writing new poems via thematic prompts.

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



2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

WRITING IN THIS MOMENT: CURRENT EVENTS, CAUTIONARY TALES & CATHARSIS

How do you sit down to write when politics and social events weigh heavily on your mind? Some writers choose to use their craft to address the issues at hand in our world. In this panel, we'll consider how current events inform our fiction writing, and look at how the current state of the world affects our craft – in terms of character building, setting and conflict, as well as tone and mood. How can we tackle the horrors and injustices we are witnessing either directly or indirectly? Should we? While it can be cathartic and revolutionary, it can also lead to narrowing your audience and sensationalizing your material. How do we avoid the polemical? How might we inspire hope? Our panelists take on real world issues in their writing and have tips and tricks to creating fiery, powerful, and inspirational pieces. We'll look at queer books that have done just that in past decades, and then we'll finish with what will certainly be a dynamic Q&A with our audience.

Panelists: Gaar Adams, Willie Carver Jr., Vinny Cusenza, Ann McMan, and Glen P. Vecchione

Moderator: Jerry L. Wheeler

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

QUEER STORYTELLING ACROSS BORDERS: LATINX WRITERS IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

Queer resistance and joy is in Inglés y Español. Come join this exciting group of writers and artists as they share their bilingual prose and poetry and discuss the impact of their work on comunidad in today's literary landscape.

Panelists: Yoseli Castillo Fuertes, Russ Lopez, Justin Torres, Viento Izquierdo Ugaz, and Dan Vera

Moderator: Gerard Cabrera

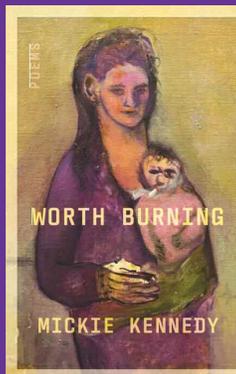
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Sponsored by the Publishing Triangle.

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: **Gaar Adams, Elizabeth Costello, St Sukie de la Croix, Matthew Clark Davison, Mickie Kennedy, Martin**

Padgett, and K.M. Soehnlein for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

4 - 5:15 PM—Conversation

CONVERSATION WITH THOMAS MALLON & MARTIN SHERMAN LED BY MAUREEN CORRIGAN

When fact is stranger than fiction, how do you tell a story that's compelling, empathetic, and true? **Maureen Corrigan** leads in a discussion of interweaving humanity and history. **Thomas Mallon** is

the author of *The Very Heart of It*, a New Yorker Best Book of the Year that chronicles his journal entries around New York City in the 80s and 90s, a gay coming of age story that takes readers through the AIDs crisis and beyond. He is also the author of nonfiction works about diaries, plagiarism, and letters, as well as a substantial body of work in historical fiction, from the Reagan years to Hurricane Katrina. **Martin Sherman** is the author of *On the Boardwalk*, a memoir that takes the reader on a darkly humorous journey of the author's life growing up in a Jewish immigrant family and ending with his success on Broadway as the writer of the play *BENT*. Sherman is also known for his stage adaptations of Tennessee Williams's *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* and E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom

4 - 5:15 PM—Poetry Reading and Discussion

THE HUMAN SIGNATURE: POETRY AS THE ANTIDOTE TO AUTOPILOT

As AI and algorithms attempt to mimic style and soul, queer poets are doubling down on the *human* signature—the specific, the weird, the unclassifiable, the mortal, the uncontainable, the multitudinous, the unreplicable. Our panel explores how we're protecting creative autonomy via poetic praxes and tapping into lyric power to assert our presence in an increasingly scattered world. (A world that's become a little too fond of delete keys.) Join us for a vital and dynamic conversation.

Panelists: Ally Ang, Allison Blevins, Ching-In Chen, and Liza Flum
Moderator: Margot Douaihy

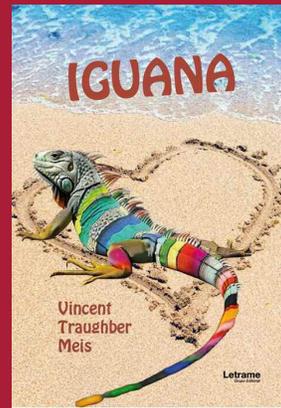
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



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: **Eric Andrews-Katz, Alfred P. Doblin, Russ López, Kim Roberts Meikle, Genevieve Rheams, Vincent Traughber Meis,** and

Audrey Wilson 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, Riverview Room, Rooftop Iberville elevator, Push (R)

See page 16 for more details



Nikki Ummel



SATURDAY, MARCH 28 8 PM – 10 PMish

Come join us in the **Riverview Room**—Rooftop (R) of the Hotel Montelone for our annual Queer AF reading! This special event pairs local and out-of-town writers from all writing stages and genres. This year, we are thrilled to announce that our featured readers are Rickey Laurentiis, Brad Richard, Chin-Sun Lee, Casey Dawson, Ben Fluet, Katie Gilmartin, Birch Wiley, Sean Patrick Mulroy, and Miah Jeffra. Open mic to follow, and sign ups will be first come, first served. There will be booze, there will be panache, there will be an afterparty!

Hosted by poet and LMNL Lit executive director, Nikki Ummel.



Willie Carver, Jr.



Casey Dawson



Chin-Sun Lee



Ben Fluet



Katie Gilmartin



Miah Jeffra



Rickey Laurentiis



Sean Patrick Mulroy



Brad Richard



Birch Wiley

17th Annual Saints + Sinners SHORT FICTION CONTEST READING AND RECEPTION SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026 • 6:30 PM

Hotel Monteleone, Riverview Room

Iberville elevator, Push (R)

Included in SAS Weekend Pass, Partner Pass, or \$25



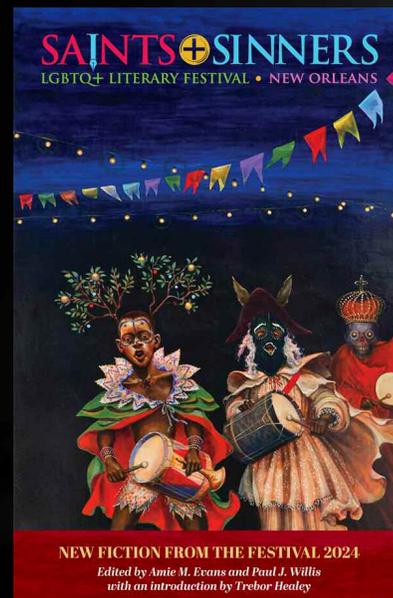
Join this year's contest winner **Cheryl A. Head** "By Any Other Name," along with finalists **Ariadne Blayde**, **J. Michael Norris**, **Patrick Earl Ryan**, **Richard Compson Sater**, and **Jerry L. Wheeler** for an evening of cocktails and readings from the *Saints and Sinners 2026: New Fiction from the Festival* hosted by Co-editor Morgan Hufstader with comments from our finalist judge **Justin Torres**.



Justin Torres
Our Finalist Judge

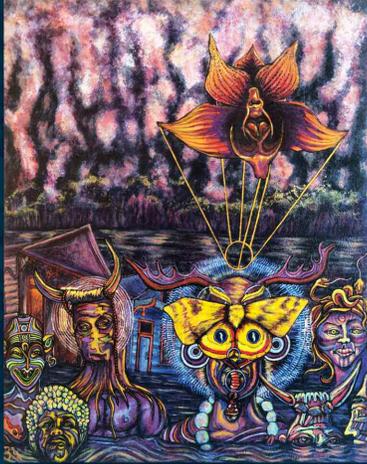


Paul J. Willis and Morgan Hufstader
Co-editors



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 2026 Short Fiction Contest.



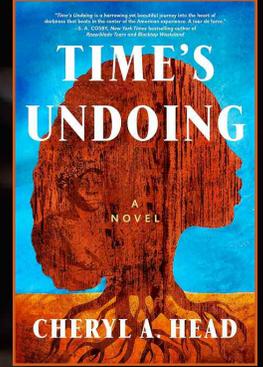


NEW FICTION FROM THE FESTIVAL 2026
Edited by Morgan Hufstader and Paul J. Willis
with an introduction by Justin Torres

Winner—Cheryl A. Head



Cheryl A. Head's writing often explores Black life. Her *Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries*, whose female private eye is queer and Black, was featured in 2025 on Jeopardy! Head's 2023 crime fiction novel, *Time's Undoing*, was shortlisted for the LA Times Book Award, the Hurston Wright Legacy Award, and the Anthony, Macavity, Agatha and Strand Critics Awards.



Our Four Runners-Up



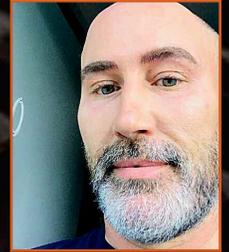
David Egan



Sandra Gail Lambert



Dan McDermott



Jeff Walt

2026 Fiction Contest Finalists



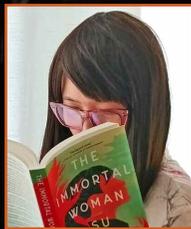
Kyle Alderdice



Jeza Belle



Ariadne Blayde



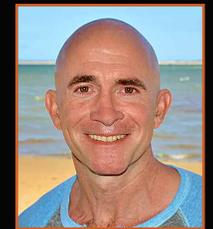
Su Chang



Anil Classen



Michael J. Norris



Scott Pomfret



Steph Rantz



Patrick Earl Ryan



Richard Compson Sater



Subraj Singh



Mary Switalski



Jerry L. Wheeler

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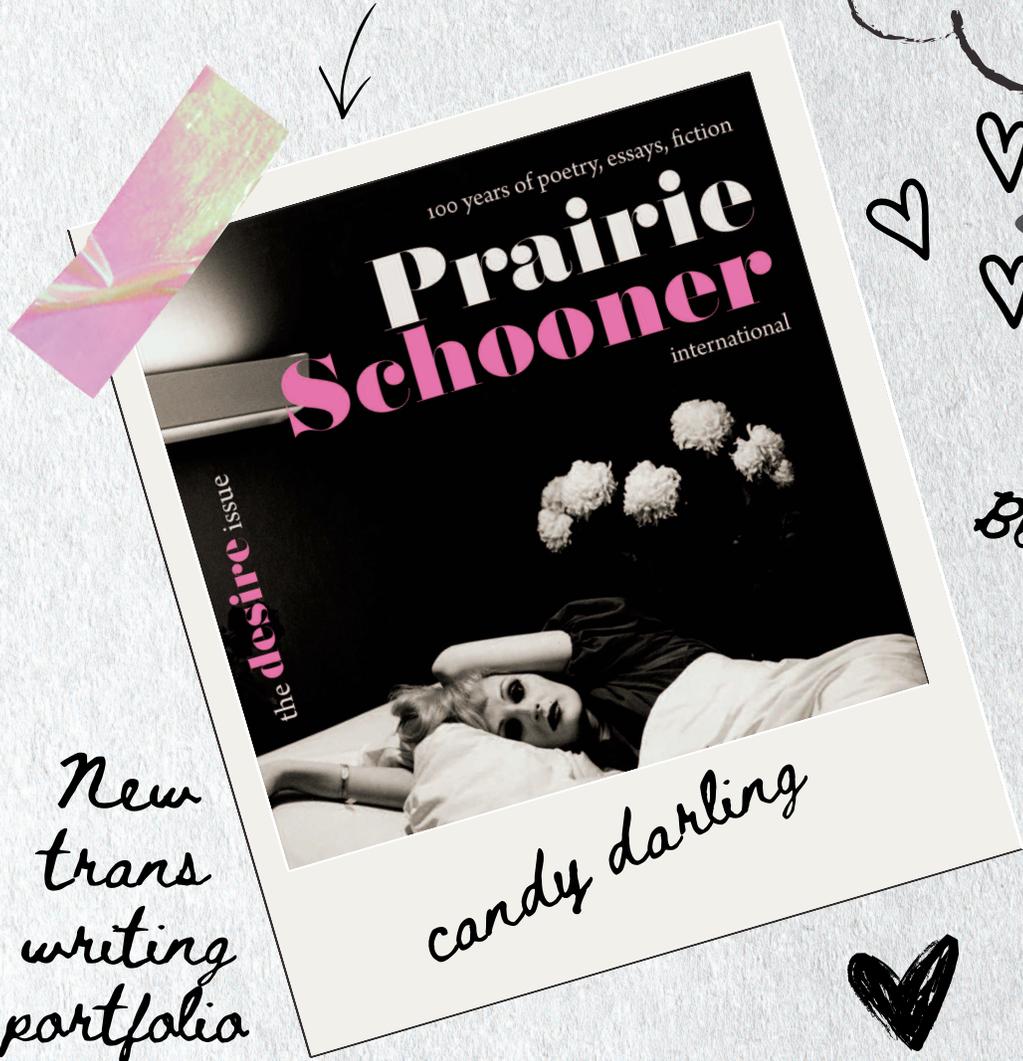
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IN THE PS STORE



*Ell Peck
on becoming
Blanche DuBois*

*Cruising
with
Tennessee
Williams &
Oliver Evans*



*New
trans
writing
portfolios*

candy darling



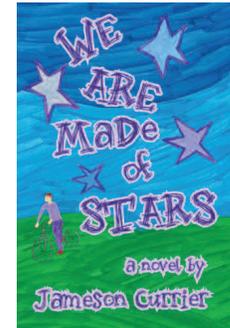
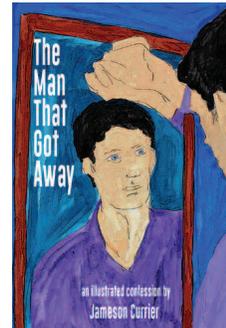
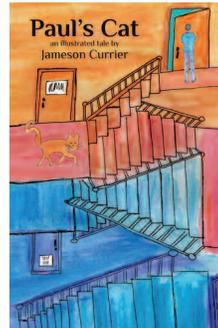
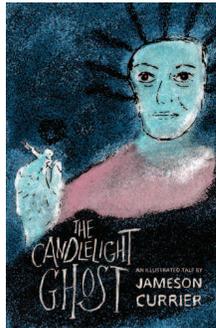
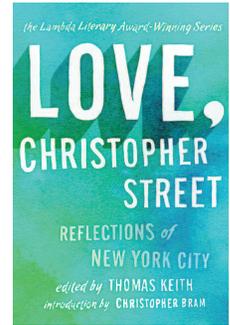
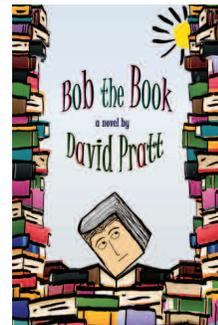
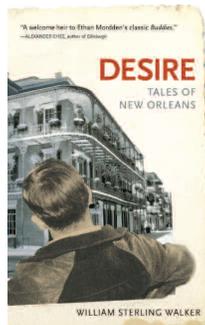
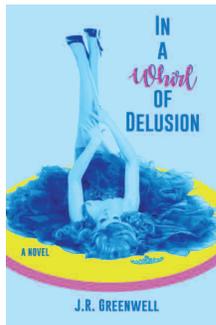
VINSANTOS ART DOLLS

New Orleans Based artist, Vinsantos creates breathtaking, handcrafted assemblage sculptures that blur the line between fine art and personal legacy. Each doll is meticulously sculpted from polymer clay, hand-painted with cosmetics and acrylics, and adorned with a curated collection of vintage and antique treasures, giving each piece its own rich personality and story. Vinsantos specializes in bespoke commissioned pieces, where your own collection of sentimental heirlooms, ephemera, and treasured mementos are incorporated into a unique, deeply intimate work of art that captures the essence of your life, loves and memories.

To learn more, visit
vinsantos.com



Chelsea Station Editions



connecting books and readers

SUNDAY SCHEDULE • MARCH 29, 2026

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

**POETRY AND THE WORD:
A DISCUSSION OF THE POETRY VOICE**

In this panel, we'll discuss the unique power of the poetic voice, and how poetry can express truths and beauties that prose often cannot. Panelists will discuss ideas such as: What draws us to expressing ourselves through poetry? Is it a different space than the idea of story, and/or how can they align? In other words, what is best expressed poetically, and what conversely through prose? Then again, if everything is a narrative of a kind, what story, in other words, is best told through poetry? Is it about the present, a moment and the now versus a linear or time-determined narrative, or can it be a little of both? As well, we'll look at poetic forms like villanelles, sonnets, and pantoums, along with rhyme, meter, and poetic structure. We'll also discuss poesy, or the idea of poetic prose, as many of us write both prose and poetry, but are drawn strongly toward the poetic and poetic forms, even in our prose. Finally, we'll wrap up with a Q&A and invite audience members to participate.

Panelists: Ramón Garcia, Michael Montlack, Jerome Ellison Murphy, Steven Reigns, and Brad Vogel

Moderator: Trebor Healey

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

**MAKE 'EM LAUGH:
RECLAIMING JOY WITH HUMOR WRITING**

While "great writing" often conjures images of enduring and profound tragedy, gay actor Edmund Gwenn (Kris Kingle, Miracle on 34th Street) got it right when he said that dying is easy - comedy is hard. But good comedy can offer escape, comfort, and a sense of community in an isolated and tense world. So what makes something funny? Is it something that can be taught? How can humor help tell your story, make your characters richer, or engage your readers? Finally, is there such a thing as "gay" humor and is it possible to define? Let's talk about all things funny with a group of funny writers who write funny books.

Panelists: St Sukie de la Croix, Ann McMan, Eric Peterson, and Genevieve Rheams

Moderator: Fay Jacobs

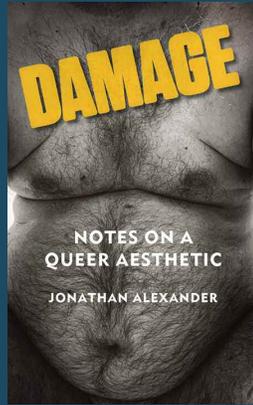
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



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, Gerard Cabrera, Louis Flint Ceci, Daniel Meltz, Geoffrey Newman, Christopher Tradowsky, and Jerry L. Wheeler** and for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

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

TURNING THE SCREWS: HOW TO HEIGHTEN TENSION

One of the best experiences for a reader is to get so caught up in a novel that they have a physical reaction—dilated pupils, increased heart rate, and an inability to put the book down until the final page. Whether the dramatic tension comes from an internal, psychological source or from exterior forces, authors are masters at turning the screws and torturing their audience by creating unbearable suspense. Join us for a lively discussion on tricks of the trade and ways to keep people on tenterhooks until they can think of nothing else!

Panelists: Christopher Castellani, Greg Herren, J.M. Redmann, and Audrey Wilson

Moderator: Salem West

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Literary Discussion

APPROACHING 50 YEARS OF AIDS LITERATURE

Collectively explores how creative writing, memoir and nonfiction has and continues to document and inform our communities' definition of resistance and resilience. Featuring writers, activists, and publishers, the discussion highlights AIDS literature's role in advocacy, memorialization, and community. Panelists will discuss their own efforts and experiences within the context of historical events—while addressing ongoing issues of cultural backlash and diminished political capital. Storytelling is an act of preservation and preparation for the queer community.

Panelists: Sven Davissón, Thomas Mallon, Steven Reigns, AJ Romriell, and Douglas Sadownick

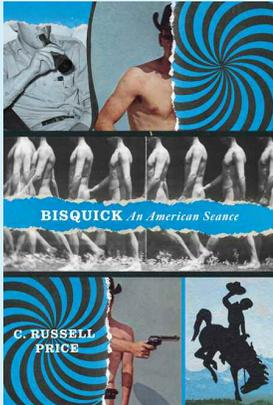
Moderator: Tom Cardamone

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Sponsored by the Bruce J. Heim Foundation.



11:30 AM—12:45 PM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ
 Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation



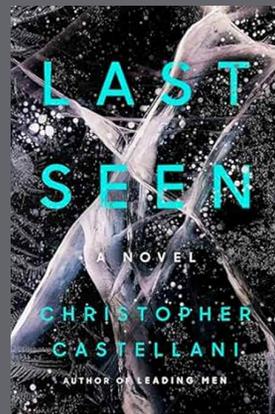
Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Ben Fluet, Sonny Gray, Bracken LeClair, James Magruder, C. Russell Price, Richard Compson Sater, and Glen P. Vecchione** for this year's mix of established and

exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion
NEW ORLEANS POETS PUT ON THAT SEASONING!
 Featuring Brad Richard, Rickey Laurentiis, Polly Sawabini, and Les Patin, this line up of new(er) to more “seasoned” New Orleans poets in their literary and publishing journey will read some of their work and then share their experiences and reflections on what it has meant—in practice and “in business”—to reach audiences through readings, publishing, social media, etc. Conversation and audience Q&A moderated by Daniel W.K. Lee.
Panelists: Rickey Laurentiis, Les Patin, Brad Richard, and Polly Sawabini
Moderator: Daniel W.K. Lee
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: **Christopher Castellani, Zach Gear, Jewelle Gomez, Joby Mire, Patrick Earl Ryan, Gregg Shaprio, and Martin**

Sherman for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

1 - 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion
WRITING QUEER HISTORIES
 Queer and trans folk have frequently been erased from “official” histories and, indeed, we are living at a moment in which multiple governmental offices in this country are ignoring or actively suppressing knowledge and information about LGBTQ people and communities. For instance, type in “gay,” “lesbian,” “bisexual,” “trans,” or “queer” into the US National Park Service website, and you will find *absolutely no* references to national historical monuments commemorating LGBTQ history; they have largely been removed. Within this context, writing focused on exploring, understanding, and disseminating information about queer and trans histories and events is crucial. This panel presents four contemporary writers who are helping us understand—and preserve—our histories.
Panelists: Daniel Brook, Robert W. Fieseler, Martin Padgett, and Frank Perez
Moderator: Jonathan Alexander
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

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- 2. Unitudes: one writer on one thing in one little book
- 3. new writing in all genres

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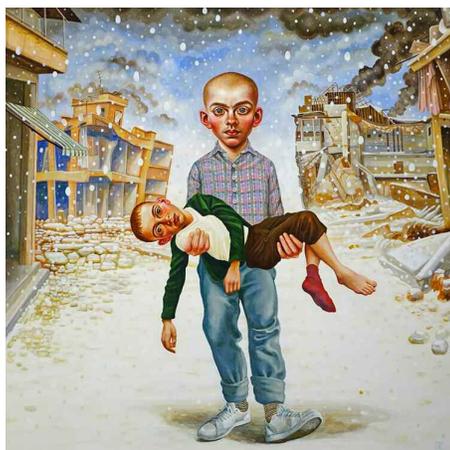
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homodoxy.com
 P.O. Box 8746 New Haven, CT 06511



2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
SPECULATIVE FICTION AND OUR TOMORROWS

“In order to make a new world we must first imagine a new world.”
How do we use our imaginations to create the future and how does it help us write creatively? Writers of speculative fiction will talk about how they enter the process, what are some of the challenges of imagining things that aren't there and what are the rewards? Is the future always bleak? How much can we change our vision of the future?



Family Crisis by Timothy Cummings, 2024

Writers of speculative fiction will talk about how they enter the process, what are some of the challenges of imagining things that aren't there and what are the rewards? Is the future always bleak? How much can we change our vision of the future?

Panelists: Christian Baines, Michael Cunningham, Reuben “Tihi” Hayslett, and K.M. Soehnlein
Moderator: Jewelle Gomez
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

2:30 - 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion
BUILDING LITERARY COMMUNITY IN REPRESSIVE TIMES

Our country desperately needs true community right now—social spaces that are safe and welcoming to individuals and their creativity. How can LGBTQIA writers build literary communities that help us thrive, and in the process, create a bulwark against the anti-democratic forces that threaten us all? **Donna Minkowitz**, a longtime queer writer and activist and the founder of Lit Lit, a five-year-old open mic for writers in Beacon, New York will moderate this discussion.

Panelists: Betsy Carswell (Golden Crown Literary Society), Samuel Ernest (founding publisher of the new press Homodoxy), Katie Gilmartin (the Queer Ancestors Project), Carol Rosenfeld (Publishing Triangle), and Denne Michele Norris (Electric Literature)
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

7 - 9 PM—Culinary
BIBI'S KITCHEN: A ROMANI CULINARY RITUAL

Join your slutty, stoner Aunties Bimbo Yaga and Moonbear as they lovingly share their kitchen witchery with you. This four-course family style meal will feature inspired dishes of Eastern European and Balkan Romani family food traditions with slight variations to accommodate gluten free and vegetarian guests. Following dinner, your favorite aunties will guide you through a brief tea-leaf reading session. With live music & storytelling, this ritual of food is curated to nourish your spirits & fill your hearts with comfort. Our menu for this event is subject to change. **1st Course:** Gluten-free kimmel soup with rye toast and horseradish cream cheese. **2nd Course:** Delicious beef and veal or vegetarian buckwheat sarmas with cucumber & labneh salad. **3rd Course:** A choice of vegetarian goulash with roasted eggplant & chickpeas or braised lamb goulash. Served over baked herbed rice and garnished with whipped feta & lemon crème. **4th Course:** Homemade rose & cardamom ice cream over a gluten free apple & oat crumble served with tea. **Beverages:** Iced Herbal Tea, Herb Infused Rose. When purchasing your ticket, please indicate vegetarian or meat. **Note:** dishes prepared with butter, onions, garlic, tomatoes, peppers. Because this is a family style dinner, we are not able to accommodate serious food allergies or make substitutions for dietary sensitivities.

Mister Gregory's Shrimp Boil Cabaret, 830 North Rampart Street, \$100. *Not available with Weekend Registration/VIP Pass.

2:30 - 3:45 PM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ
Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Rob Byrnes, Laurinda D. Brown, Drew Banks, Andrew Faye, Greg Herren, Thomas Mallon, Steve Majors, and J.M. Redmann** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

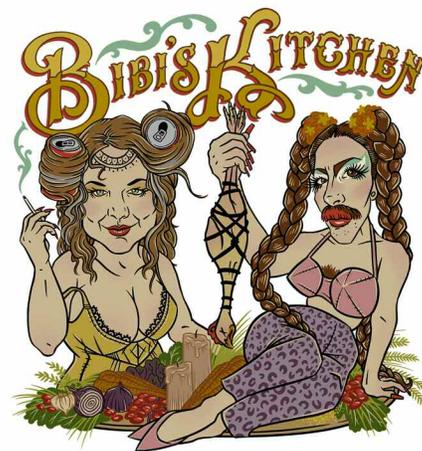
THE VERY HEART OF IT
New York Diaries, 1983-1994
THOMAS MALLON
Author of Fellow Travelers



Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

4 - 6 PM—Special Event
CLOSING RECEPTION

We'll induct our 2026 SAS Hall of Fame members and present our 12th annual Saints and Sinners Dorothy Allison & Felice Picano Emerging Writer Award—sponsored by Rob Byrnes.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon
See page 24 for more details.



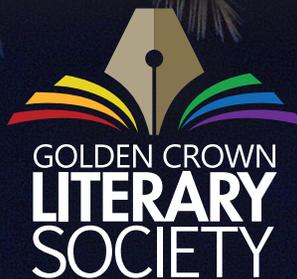


LOUD AND PROUD GCLS **ORLANDO** 26

ANNUAL CONFERENCE | AUGUST 5-9, 2026

WE ARE THE
GOLDEN CROWN LITERARY SOCIETY

A nonprofit organization supporting an international community of readers, writers, publishers, editors, audiobook narrators, and fans devoted to increasing the diversity, accessibility, quality, and visibility of sapphic literature.



SAINTS+SINNERS XXIII

CLOSING RECEPTION

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 • 4-6 PM

Hosted by **Fay Jacobs**

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon

(Admission included in Weekend Pass/Partner Pass)



Fay Jacobs
Author, Activist and Performer

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 honorees of our annual **Dorothy Allison / Felice Picano 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 two writers this year! **Rickey Laurentiis'** poetry has received fellowships and recognition from organizations including the Whiting Foundation, the National Endowment

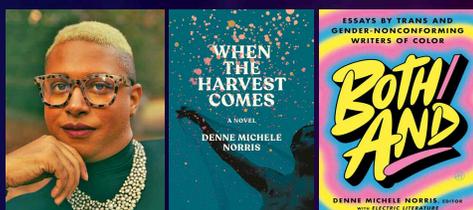


Rob Byrnes

for the Arts, and the Cave Canem Foundation. Their 2025 collection *Death of the First Idea: Poems* was longlisted for the National Book Award. **Denne Michele Norris** is the first Black, openly trans woman to helm a major literary publication—*Electric Literature*. Her debut novel, *When the Harvest Comes*, was published by Random House in April 2025.



Rickey Laurentiis



Denne Michele Norris

PAST EMERGING WRITER HONOREES

2025: **KB Brookins & Emma Copley Eisenberg**

2024: **Margot Douaihy**

2023: **De'Shawn Charles Winslow**

2022: **Eric Nguyen**

2019: **Bryan Washington**

2018: **Cassie Pruyn**

2017: **Libby Ware & Matthew Griffin**

2016: **Alexander Chee**

2015: **Saeed Jones**

2014: **Juliann Rich**

2013: **William Sterling Walker**

We'll hear from three of our finalists from the 2026 Poetry Contest read from their winning entries, and we'll have copies of our 2026 Saints and Sinners Poetry Contest Anthology available as a gift to everyone at the closing reception.



Andy Barrow



Marya Hornbacher



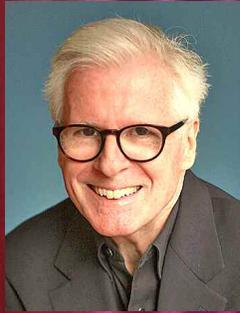
Peter McLaughlin

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.

2026 SAINTS + SINNERS HALL OF FAME CLASS



Trebor Healey



Thomas Mallon



Ann McMan



Douglas Sadowick



Salem West

MEMBERS OF THE SAINTS + SINNERS HALL OF FAME

Dorothy Allison, Carol Anshaw, Larry Bagneris, Ann Bannon, Samiya Bashir, Nancy K. Bereano, David Bergman, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Maureen Brady, Jericho Brown, Rob Byrnes, Patrick Califia, Louis Flint Ceci, Bernard Cooper, Timothy Cummings, Michael Cunningham, Jameson Currier, Brenda Currin, Sven Davisson, Mark Doty, Mark Drake, Jim Duggins, Elana Dykewomon, Amie M. Evans, Otis Fennell, Michael Thomas Ford, Katherine V. Forrest, Nancy Garden, Mary Gauthier, Lawrence Henry Gobble, Jewelle Gomez, Judy Grahn, Jim Grimsley, David Groff, 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, Donna Minkowitz, Kay Murphy, Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, Michael Nava, Achy Obejas, Frank Perez, Felice Picano, Radclyffe, J.M. Redmann, Lance Ringel, David Rosen, Carol Rosenfeld, Steven Saylor, Carol Seajay, Martin Sherman, Kelly Smith, William Christy Smith, Pamela Sneed, Jack Sullivan, Carsen Taite, Cecilia Tan, Justin Torres, Noel Twilbeck, Jr., Patricia Nell Warren, Don Weise, Jess Wells, Edmund White, Paul J. Willis, and Emanuel Xavier.



2025 Poetry Finalist Victoria Sosa

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON



2025 Emerging Writer award winner, KB Brookins

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON



2025 Hall of Famers Donna Minkowitz and Sven Davisson

PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

SAINTS + SINNERS XXIII

2026 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS & FINALISTS

We'd like to congratulate our 2026 Poetry Contest Winners & Finalists!

OUR 2026 WINNER:



Marya Hornbacher

TWO RUNNERS-UP:

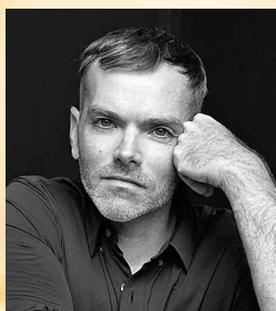


Kit Evans



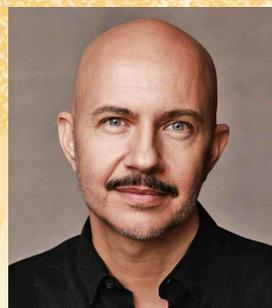
Peter McLaughlin

HONORABLE MENTION:



Andy Barrow

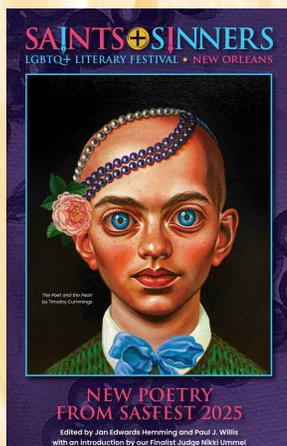
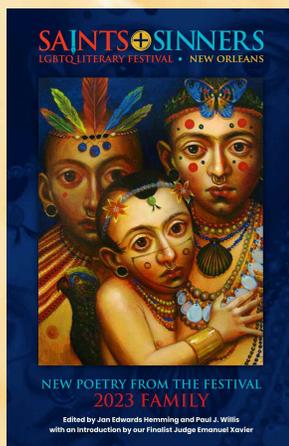
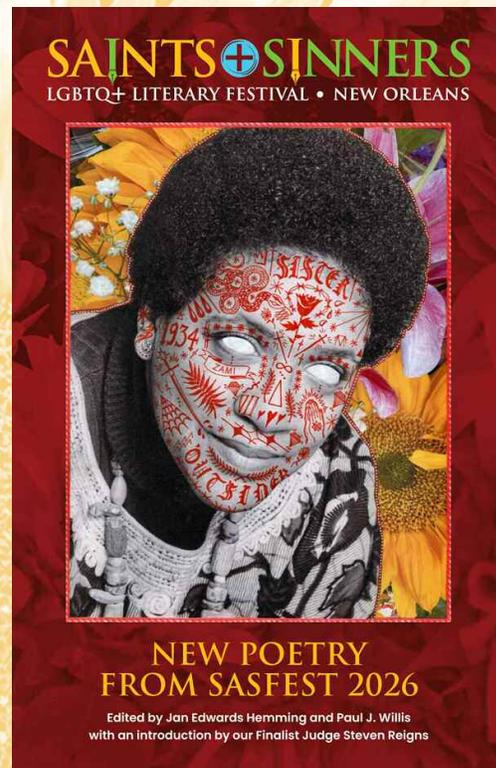
And a very special "Thank You" to **Steven Reigns** our 2026 Finalist Judge, all our preliminary judges, and to **Jan Edwards Hemming** for her editing expertise and help with organizing our 2026 poetry anthology.



Steven Reigns



Jan Edwards Hemming



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR OUR 2026 SAS POETRY CONTEST
Contact Paul J. Willis at paul@tennesseewilliams.net

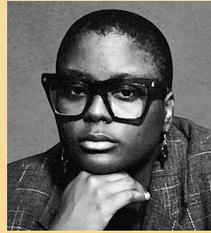
2026 POETRY CONTEST FINALISTS:



Amberlee Clark



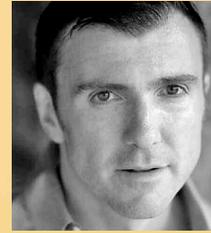
John Del Peschio



Jay Délise



Mae Gesser



Bosch Jones



Deborah Ketai



Blair Law



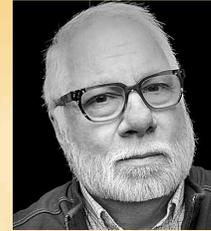
Jude Marx



Maria Ingrande Moyra



Les Patin



David J.S. Pickering



Casey Gabriellea Ramos



Liza Rose



Jackson D. Smith



Emily Van Kley



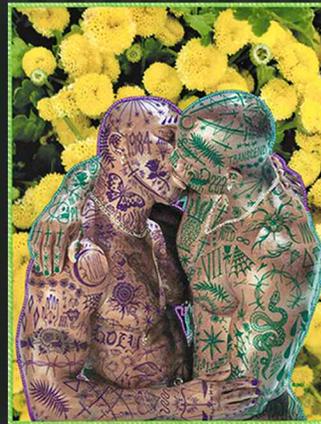
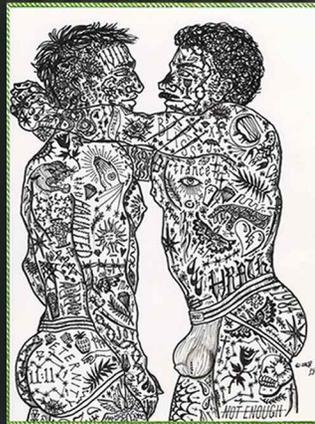
Glen Vecchione



Holly Lyn Walrath



Birch Wiley



zachgrear.com
[@zachgrear](https://twitter.com/zachgrear)

SAINTS + SINNERS XXIII

FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Ezra Adamo is a student from New Orleans and a past finalist in the Saints and Sinners writing contests.



Gaar Adams is the author of *Guest Privileges: Queer Lives and Finding Home in the Middle East*, longlisted for the Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize. His reportage from the Middle East and South Asia has been featured in publications including *The Atlantic*, *Foreign Policy*, *Al Jazeera*, *Slate* and *Rolling Stone*. He received his doctorate from the University of Glasgow and teaches creative writing at Falmouth University. He lives in London, UK.



Jonathan Alexander is a writer and podcaster living in Southern California. His previous creative nonfiction includes *Creep: A Life, a Theory, an Apology*, a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award in 2018; *Bullied: The Story of an Abuse*; and *Stroke Book: The Diary of a Blindspot*. His forthcoming book, out summer 2026, is *Damage: Notes on a Queer Aesthetic* (Fordham University Press). He is Chancellor's Professor of English at the University of California, Irvine. For more information, see his website: www.the-blank-page.com.



Before **Eric Andrews-Katz** moved to Seattle in 1994, nothing much happened. Since then, he has authored the "Agent Buck 98" spy-series (*The Jesus Injection* and *Balls & Chain*), and the award-winning gay fantasy *Tartarus*. His work can be found in over seventeen anthologies, including *Best Gay Love Stories 2015*, *Classics Remixed (1 & 2)*, *Zombiality (A Queer Bent on the Undead)*, *Darker Than Night*, *Horror USA: Washington*, and the *Saints & Sinners Fiction Anthologies* (2014 & 2015). Eric also conducts celebrity interviews and theatre reviews in Seattle. An expanded list of his work can be found at www.EricAndrewsKatz.com.



Ally Ang is a gaysian poet and editor based in Seattle. They are the author of *Let the Moon Wobble* (Alice James Books 2025), hailed as one of the most anticipated debut books of 2025 by *Electric Literature* and *Debutiful* and one of the best poetry collections of 2024 and 2025 by *Ms. Magazine*. Their work has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-Day*, *The Seattle Met*, and elsewhere. Ally has received fellowships and support from the National Endowment for the Arts, MacDowell, Artist Trust, and the Jack Straw Writers Program. Find them at allysonang.com or [@TheOceanIsGay](https://www.instagram.com/TheOceanIsGay).



Christian Baines is the author of nine books including the Arcadia Trust paranormal mystery series, *My Cat's Guide to Online Dating*, and *Andalusia Dogs*, part of the Haunted Hearts collection of romantic supernatural stories by and about queer and trans men. Born in Australia, he now travels and writes about the world whenever possible, haunting Toronto, Canada between trips.



Drew Banks is a Memphis-raised, San Francisco-based novelist who has written and published four books, including two business books with Jossey-Bass/Wiley. His novels, *Able Was I* (2005) and *Ere I Saw Elba* (2009), are the first two books of a trilogy exploring issues of physical and emotional exile. In December, 2025, after a fifteen-year hiatus, Drew published the trilogy's third novel, *I Before E*, in which a young Italian-American immigrant's struggle to understand his family's past precipitates a confusing, traumatic bisexual awakening, ultimately leading him back to Italy to unravel the family mysteries he's grappled with his entire life.



Andy Barrow is a New York-based writer whose debut novel, *Peter in Progress*, draws inspiration from his own later-in-life gay awakening. When he's not writing, Andy is likely perfecting his backhand, chasing his next cold brew, or making up for lost time on the dance floor—preferably with '90s icons (Crystal, CeCe, Whitney...) on rotation. While embracing life as a gay man and author, Andy somehow manages to maintain a day job; he's a proud educator who recently earned a doctorate in curriculum, instruction, and innovation.



Clayre Benžadón (she/they) is a queer (bi/pan) Sephardi-Ashkenazi poet, educator, and activist. Her manuscript, *Moon as Salted Lemon*, was recently named an honorable mention for Miami Book Fair's 2025 Emerging Writer's Fellowship and was published by Driftwood Press in 2025. She has been published in places including *Jet Fuel Review*, *Libre*, and *SWWIM*. Find more about her here: <https://www.clayrebenzadon.com>.



Allison Blevins (she/her) is a queer disabled writer. She is the author of *Where Will We Live if the House Burns Down?*, *Cataloguing Pain*, *Handbook for the Newly Disabled: A Lyric Memoir*, *Slowly/Suddenly*, and six chapbooks. Winner of the 2024 Barthelme Prize, the 2023 Lexi Rudnitsky Editor's Choice Award, and the 2022 Laux/Millar Poetry Prize, Allison serves as the Publisher of Small Harbor Publishing and lives in Minnesota with her spouse and three children. allisonblevins.com.



Daniel Brook (he/him) is a journalist and author whose writing has appeared in *Harper's*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and *The Nation*. His second book, *A History of Future Cities*, was longlisted for the Lionel Gelber Prize and selected as one of the ten favorite books of the year by the *Washington Post*. His newest book, *The Einstein of Sex: Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, Visionary of Weimar Berlin*, was shortlisted for the Wingate Prize and named one of the best books of the year by *The New Yorker*. Brook has received numerous research and writing grants including a Kluge Fellowship at the Library of Congress and a Robert and Ina Caro Research/Travel Fellowship from the Biographers International Organization. Born in Brooklyn, raised on Long Island, and educated at Yale, Brook lives in New Orleans.



Dustin Brookshire (he/him) is the author of five chapbooks and the forthcoming full-length poetry collection *For All Of Us Faggots* (Iron Oak Editions, 2027). He's the editor of the 2025 Lammy finalist *When I Was Straight: A Tribute to Maureen Seaton* (Harbor Editions, 2024) and co-editor of *Let Me Say This: A Dolly Parton Poetry Anthology* (Madville Publishing, 2023). Curator of the Wild & Precious Life Series, find him online at dustinbrookshire.com.



Dr. Laurinda D. Brown-Johnson is an award-winning author, playwright, and scholar whose work explores Black cultural production, identity, and community across genres. A Memphis native and Howard University graduate, she is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of multiple novels and stage works. She

currently serves as English Program Coordinator and Writing Center Director at Dillard University. Laurinda is proud to participate in the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival and is currently co-directing and executive producing *Score: Walk Like a Man at 20*, a commemorative staging celebrating two decades of her groundbreaking theatrical work.



Rob Byrnes is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of six novels and several short stories and essays. He is a member of The Publishing Triangle Board of Directors, where he currently serves as Treasurer, and has been inducted into the Saints + Sinners Literary Festival Hall of Fame. In spring, 2026,

Bold Strokes Books will publish *A Streetcar Named Shenanigans*, a novella he co-wrote with J. M. Redmann.



Gerard Cabrera hails from the Puerto Rican diasporic community of Springfield, Massachusetts, the birthplace of the first American dictionary, Dr. Seuss, and basketball. He serves on the board of The Publishing Triangle. His debut novel, *Homo Novus*, was published in October 2022 by Rattling Good Yarns Press. Other

writing has appeared in *Gay Community News*, *Acentos Review*, *Angel Rust*, *Apricity*, *JONATHAN*, *Kweli*, and *Digging Press*. An attorney, he lives and works in New York City. Visit him at www.gerardcabrera.com.



Tom Cardamone is the author of the short story collection *Momentary Aberrations* as well as several other works of fiction, including the Lambda award-winning novella, *Green Thumb*. He edited *Crashing Cathedrals: Edmund White by the Book*, *The Lost Library: Gay Fiction Rediscovered* and co-edited *Fever*

Spores: The Queer Reclamation of William S. Burroughs. He curates The Library of Homosexual Congress, an imprint of Rebel Satori Press, which preserves and promotes classic and provocative works of gay literature and nonfiction, with focuses on the AIDS crisis, the nascent gay rights movement as well as irreverent works of sexual culture and groundbreaking titles that deserve renewed attention.



Betsy Carswell leads the nonprofit Golden Crown Literary Society, supporting an international community devoted to increasing the diversity, accessibility, and visibility of sapphic literature. She brings strategic insight and care-centered leadership to her work, grounded in the belief that literature is a powerful

tool for connection and change. A retired senior manager in the U.S. Intelligence Community, Betsy spent 32 years as a cartographer and geospatial intelligence analyst. She holds a B.A. in Geography and Religion, an M.S. in Pastoral Counseling, and a graduate certificate in Conflict Resolution and Negotiation (Creighton University).



Willie Carver Jr. is a youth advocate, Kentucky Teacher of the Year, and the author of *Gay Poems for Red States*, a recipient of awards from Stonewall, American Library Association, World Pride, Read Appalachia, Whippoorwill, and Book Riot. His fragmented novel, *Tore All to Pieces*, arrives March 2026 (University

Press of Kentucky). Willie's writing has been published in textbooks, anthologies, and journals, including *Testament*, *Discarded*, *Rural and Outrooted*, *Appalachian Journal*, *Southern Humanities*, *Louisville Review*, *Another Chicago*, *Harbor*, *Smoky Blue Literary*, *Miracle Monocle*, *Good River Review*, *Salvation South*, and *Gay & Lesbian Review*. Willie believes everyone deserves to feel that they matter.



Christopher Castellani is the author of four novels, most recently *Leading Men*, which is currently being adapted for film. His book of essays on narration, *The Art of Perspective: Who Tells the Story*, is taught in many writing workshops. Christopher is the current

Writer-in-Residence at Brandeis University and a longtime member of the faculty of the Warren Wilson MFA program and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. For his new novel, *Last Seen* (Feb 2025), he was awarded a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives in Boston and Provincetown.



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 the anthologies *Queer and Catholic*, and *Gay City Volume 4: At Second Glance*. He has twice been a finalist in the *Saints+Sinners: New Stories* from the Festival short fiction contest. He is an avid U.S.

Masters swimmer and won four silver medals and one gold at the 2024 International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics World Championships in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His most recent book was *Leave Me Not Alone*, the final book in The Croy Cycle quartet. His newest novel, *The Cross Quarter Mysteries*, will be published by Rattling Good Yarns Press this fall.



Ching-In Chen is a genderqueer Chinese American writer, community organizer and teacher. They are author of *Shiny City, recombinant* (2018 Lambda Literary Award for Transgender Poetry), and *The Heart's Traffic: A Novel in Poems*; as well as chapbooks to make *black paper sing* and *Kundiman for Kin :: Information Retrieval for Monsters* (Leslie Scalapino Finalist). Chen is co-editor of *The*

Revolution Starts at Home: Confronting Intimate Violence Within Activist Communities. They are a Kelsey Street Press collective member, Airlie Press editor, nonfiction coordinator for Best of the Net and serve on the board of Seattle City of Literature. They received fellowships from Kundiman, Lambda, Watering Hole, Can Serrat, Imagining America, Jack Straw Cultural Center, EmergeNYC, Intercultural Leadership Institute and the Academy of American Poets Laureate Fellowship, as well as the Judith A. Markowitz Award for Exceptional New LGBTQ Writers. They collaborate with Cassie Mira on *Breathing in a Time of Disaster*, a performance, installation, and speculative writing project exploring breath through meditation and environmental justice.



Rick Clifton is a creative executive and storyteller with over a decade of experience shaping global marketing campaigns and content. As VP of Creative Marketing at DreamWorks, he leads key art, trailers, promos, and digital initiatives for television and corporate projects. His work has earned three Daytime Emmys, multiple Clio and Golden Trailer Awards, and numerous nominations.

Beyond DreamWorks, Rick is an award-winning filmmaker and podcaster. His projects include *Queer Magnolias*, a witty roundtable on queer life and culture; *Quills & Chills*, spotlighting horror writers and filmmakers; and *Old Cove*, a scripted audio drama inspired by classic primetime soaps. Across all platforms, he champions bold, emotionally resonant storytelling and collaboration that drives meaningful creative impact.



Elizabeth Costello is a writer living in Portland, Oregon. She works (remotely) as an editor for UC Berkeley and co-founded ekphraestivalpdx, a generative exchange among visual artists and poets that culminates in readings and exhibitions in April, national poetry month. Her poetry and prose have appeared in venues including *Lithub*, *SF Weekly*, *7x7*, and *Crab Orchard Review*. She is

the author of the poetry chapbook *Relic*. Her debut novel, *The Good War*, is out now from Regal House and was described by *Publishers Weekly* as "dark and intense...lyrical...Moody and atmospheric, this gritty tale is worth a look."



Michael Cunningham is the author of seven novels: *A Home at the End of the World* (1990), *Flesh and Blood* (1995), *The Hours* (1998), *Specimen Days* (2005), *By Nightfall* (2010), *The Snow Queen* (2014), and *Day* (2024). A collection of short stories, *A Wild Swan and Other Tales*, was published in 2016. A work of non-fiction, *Land's End*, appeared in 2003, and a new non-fiction book, *Unsayable*, is

forthcoming in the summer of 2026. *The Hours* received the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, as well as the PEN/Faulkner Award. It was adapted into a film in 2002,

featuring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, and Nicole Kidman, who won an Academy Award for Best Actress. Cunningham has received grants from the Whiting and Guggenheim Foundations. He is a Professor in the Practice at Yale University.



Vinny Cusenza writes heart-centered fiction, personal and travel essays, memoir, and epistolary meditations on his place in the world. He has won awards for his photography, founded a Michelin-starred inn in Connecticut, sung onstage with Liza Minnelli, and herded rhinos. Vinny lives in Brooklyn with husband Steve and the spirit of Neko, their dearly departed, transsexual cat. *Blood and Soil* is Vinny Cusenza's debut novel, an historical LGBTQ+ mystery-thriller and romance.



Matthew Clark Davison is the author of the novel *Doubting Thomas* (Amble Press), which was hailed as a "Must-Read Books by Queer Authors" in *Esquire Magazine*. He is co-author, with Alice LaPlante, of *The Lab, Experiments in Writing Across Genre* (W.W. Norton), and is Emeritus Faculty in Creative Writing at San Francisco State University.



Sven Davisson is a writer, editor, and longtime advocate for queer literature whose work has helped sustain and expand LGBTQIA+ publishing. He is the founder of Rebel Satori Press and its imprints, where he has spent more than two decades championing emerging and marginalized voices. His own writing—appearing in journals, zines, and collaborative projects—explores identity, memory, and the intersections of queer spirituality with art and activism. Based in New Orleans, he continues to edit, write, and support independent literary communities, remaining a committed steward of queer storytelling and small-press culture. His most recent works include *Breeding Devils In Chaos*, *Puck You!*, and *The United Rite*.



Casey Dawson is an occasional writer and full time pool boy at the vampire mansion from New Orleans. You can follow them on Letterboxd at @caseylikekc. You cannot follow them into the void. (Get your own.)



St Sukie de la Croix is an award-winning, internationally published reporter, columnist, photographer, historian, novelist, humorist, and playwright. His latest books are *Twilight Manors in Palm Springs: The Great New Orleans Powder Puff Caper* and *St Sukie's Lunatic Asylum for Demented Toys* (Illustrated by Roy Alton Wald). He is currently writing another novel in the Twilight Manors series.



Clayton Delery is the author of two nonfiction books about the queer history of New Orleans: *The Up Stairs Lounge Arson* (McFarland, 2014), and *Out for Queer Blood* (Exposit, 2017). He has recently partnered with McFarland Publishing to be General Editor of a nonfiction book series titled *Queer Life in America*. A longtime New Orleans resident, Clayton recently retired with his husband to Natchez, Mississippi, where they participate in a surprisingly active and thriving queer community.



Alfred P. Doblin has spent most of his professional career working as a journalist. He has been recognized by numerous state and national journalism associations, including the American Society of News Editors, the Society of the Silurians, NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists, and was nominated four times for the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Newspaper Columnist. He was a finalist in the Saints and Sinners 2025 and 2024 Short Fiction contests. His first book, *Tales of the Lavender Twilight*, was released last spring, and his second book, *Sailing Beyond the Sunset*, a collection of ten short stories, will be released this spring by Rattling Good Yarns Press.



Margot Douaihy's debut mystery, *Scorched Grace*, won the Pinckley Prize for First Crime Novel and was named one of the Best Crime Novels of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *CrimeReads*, and others. Her second mystery, *Blessed Water*, was also named a *New York Times* Best Crime Novel of the Year (2024) and won the Publishing Triangle Award for LGBTQ Fiction. The third mystery in her series, *Divine Ruin*—"fearlessly inspired" (Gillian Flynn)—published in January 2026. Margot is an assistant professor with the Popular Fiction MFA at Emerson College.



Reine Dugas is an English professor at Southeastern Louisiana University. When not writing, she's assistant editor of *Louisiana Literature*, publicist for the Tennessee Williams and New Orleans Literary Festival and editor of the magazines, *Louisiana Life* and *Acadiana Profile*. On the weekends, she interviews authors for a boozy literary podcast called *Booktails*. Her short stories have appeared in publications including *South 85 Journal*, *Deep South Magazine*, *The Arkansas Review*, and *Acentos Review* to name a few. Of those, "Ellie, an Epilogue," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She's edited two anthologies—an academic collection focusing on Eudora Welty's *Delta Wedding* and a creative collection of feminist writing called *Audacious Women*. Her short story collection, *When Books are Your Life*, will be published next spring.



Samuel Ernest is a theologian and writer in New Haven, Connecticut. He is the founding publisher and editor in chief of Homodoxy, a new press for gay/queer theology and literature. His essays in erotic spiritual autobiography have been featured in *Cephalophore*, *Longreads*, and Roxane Gay's Emerging Writer Series at *The Audacity*. He is graduating in May with a PhD in Religious Studies from Yale University, after which he will begin working on the press full time.



Andrew Faye is a recovering-attorney-turned author. His current fiction project involves exploring the overlapping 19th and 20th Century histories of queer fiction, vampiric fiction, phlebotomy, and hematology, as told through a story of love, sacrifice, and innocence lost predominantly set in the Allied trenches cut into the French countryside during The Great War and the blood banks of San Francisco in 1985, where a different kind of battle is playing out.



Robert W. Fieseler is a journalist investigating marginalized groups and a scholar excavating forgotten histories. A NLGJA Journalist of the Year and recipient of the Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship, his debut book *Tinderbox* won seven awards, including the Edgar Award, and his reporting has appeared in *Slate*, *Salon*, and *River Teeth*, among others. Fieseler's second queer history book, *American Scare*, was named a *Kirkus* Best Book of 2025. He is pursuing a PhD at Tulane University as a Mellon Fellow and lives with his husband on the gayest street in New Orleans.



Bradley Firchow is a Kentucky-based writer and medical student whose work examines the human and ecological complexities of Appalachian life. His essays and stories draw from his clinical experiences in rural medicine and his longstanding commitment to narrative as a tool for understanding place. His work has appeared in *Academic Medicine*, *Testament: A Rural Anthology*, *Salvation South*, and elsewhere. He is at work on a collection of fiction exploring care, identity, and the ties that bind people to the mountains.



Ben Fluet is a queer poet and filmmaker living in New Orleans. He is currently the Graduate Editor at University of New Orleans Press and a reader for *Bayou Magazine*. In 2022, he hand-bound and self-published his debut chapbook, *How We Forgot to Sing*. In 2020, Ben directed *Meet Me By The Magnolia Tree*, a documentary exploring the history of gay men's lives in Richmond, Virginia, which aired on PBS and was featured on Virginia Public Media. His recent writing appears in *Otis Nebula* and *Trampoline Poetry*.



Liza Flum's poetry has appeared in *AGNI*, *Narrative*, *Meridian*, *Washington Square Review*, *Lambda Literary*, and *Zócalo Public Square*. She is a recipient of a Barbara Deming artist grant, and her writing has been supported by fellowships from the Saltonstall Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, Aspen Summer Words, and the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center. She holds an MFA in poetry from Cornell and a PhD in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Utah. *Hover* (Omni dawn, 2025) is her first book.



Yoseli Castillo Fuertes is a bilingual Afro-Dominican lesbian poet, educator, activist and mom. A Cave Canem alum, her work has been featured in anthologies across New York, Buenos Aires, Madrid, and Santo Domingo. Yoseli is the author of *De eso sí se habla / Of That, I Speak* (2012) and coeditor of the anthology *Pájaros, lesbianas y queers, ¡a volar!* (2025). She is dedicated to creating spaces that uplift queer, immigrant, and Afro-Caribbean voices.



Ramón García is the author of *Strange Signatures* (Walton Well Press, 2025), *The Chronicles* (Red Hen Press, 2015) and *Other Countries* (What Books Press, 2010), a monograph on the artist *Ricardo Valverde* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013) and a chapbook *Strays* (Foundlings Press, 2021). His poetry has appeared in a variety of journals and anthologies, including *circulo de poesía*, the *Best American Poetry* anthology, *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (LARB), *Gulf Coast*, and *Plume*. He is Associate Editor of *Plume* literary journal, teaches at California State University, Northridge, and lives in Los Angeles.



Katie Gilmartin believes that disconnection from the past is a kind of spiritual violence – and storytelling is one way to heal. Katie (she/they) runs the Queer Ancestors Project, devoted to forging sturdy relationships between young Queer and Trans people and their ancestors through free workshops in writing and printmaking. Her illustrated noir mystery, *Blackmail, My Love*, won Lambda and Indiefab Gold Awards. Katie's second novel, "Vice Academy," set in the shimmering subterranean nightlife of 1950s San Francisco, illuminates the fierce, tender work of cultivating community against all odds (and is in search of a publisher).



Jewelle Gomez is the author of eight books, including the recently published collection of poetry, *Still Water*, which explores her multiple identities: Black, Native American, Lesbian, Feminist, as well as her activism (she served on the original board of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation and GLAAD). Her Black, Lesbian Vampire novel, *The Gilda Stories*, has been in print more than 30 years and was optioned by Cheryl Dunye for a TV miniseries. Her third play commissioned by New Conservatory Theatre Center, *Unpacking in P'town*, premiered last spring in San Francisco. *Photo by Irene Young.*



Sonny Artemis Gray is a Gulf Coast native in their first year of studying fiction at UNO's MFA program. They are particularly interested in writing about the South or people who come from the South, with focuses on themes of queerness, sickness, and madness.



Zach Grear (b. 1984 San Francisco, CA) is a Black queer writer and self-taught visual artist based in Brooklyn. He attended San Francisco State University and graduated with a BA in Creative Writing. His visual art has been featured in *New York Pride Guide* magazine, the Oslo Erotic Film & Art Festival, The AIDS Memorial T-Shirt, and LaMama Galleria among others. His short nonfiction has been shown in *Truant* zine, curated by author Nate Lippens, and most recently the introduction to *Male Burlesk-Times Square 1980-81: Photographs* by *Vivienne Maricevic*. Zach is currently working on his first book.



Reuben "Tih" Hayslett is a queer writer, storyteller, activist, and author of *Orbital Bebop* from Running Wild Press. His first book, *Dark Corners*, was named Best Fiction of 2019 by *Kirkus*. His short stories have been included in *The Surreal South Anthology 2011*, *Oregon Literary Review*, *Splinter Generation*, and more. Hayslett currently works as the Executive Director of the Center for Story-based Strategy, a California non-profit that seeks to build the capacity of progressive left activists to incorporate narrative into campaign strategies for social change. An Iowa native, Hayslett has lived all over the United States, with community ties in New York City and Los Angeles. He currently lives in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico with his pet cat, Mengo.

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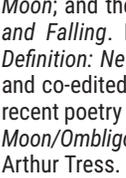


Cheryl A. Head's writing explores themes of social justice and diversity. Her award-winning Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries, whose female PI protagonist is queer and Black, was featured on the game show *Jeopardy!* Her 2023 historical fiction novel, *Time's Undoing*, was shortlisted

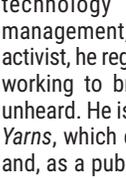
for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, as well as the Anthony, Macavity, Agatha, and *Strand* Critics Awards. Head was named to the Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival Hall of Fame in 2019, is a 2022 recipient of the Alice B. Award, and is the 2026 winner of the Saints & Sinners Fiction Contest. She is co-chair of the 2027 Bouchercon World Mystery Convention, which will be held in Washington, DC.



Trebor Healey is the recipient of a Lambda Literary award, two Publishing Triangle awards, and a Violet Quill award, and is the author of the novels *A Horse Named Sorrow*, *Faun*, and *Through It Came Bright Colors*; the poetry collections *Sweet Son of Pan* and *Navel of the Moon*; and the story collections *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 Evans) *Queer & Catholic*. His most recent poetry collection focusing on Mexico City, *Navel of the Moon/Ombigo de la Luna*, is a collaboration with photographer Arthur Tress. www.treborhealey.com



Ian Henzel is the co-founder and publisher of Rattling Good Yarns Press, a mission-based LGBTQ+ owned and operated independent press established in 2019 and dedicated to amplifying overlooked LGBTQ+ voices. Prior to founding the press, he spent 42 years in technology marketing, product management, project management, and quality assurance. A lifelong LGBTQ+ activist, he regards publishing as an extension of his advocacy, working to bring forward stories that might otherwise go unheard. He is also the host of the podcast *Bold Voices/Good Yarns*, which examines how authors' lives inform their work, and, as a public speaker, he has addressed audiences in the United States and the United Kingdom on the role of LGBTQ+ owned and operated independent publishers in sustaining queer literature. He lives in Cathedral City, California, with his husband of 38 years, guided by Rattling Good Yarns Press's mission to produce quality work and treat people right.



Greg Herren is the award-winning author of over forty novels and is the award winning editor of over twenty anthologies. He lives in New Orleans with his partner of 30 years. His most recent book, *Hurricane Season Hustle*, was released in February.



Gil Z. Hochberg is a writer and scholar whose work bridges the political and art. Trained in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley, she is now a Professor of Comparative Literature and Middle East studies at Columbia University in New York. Her research and writing engage literature, cinema, visual art, and photography, exploring how images, stories, and archives both shape and challenge the forces of colonialism, nationalism, and patriarchy. She is the author of three acclaimed books on Palestinian and Israeli literature, cinema, and art, and the editor of several art catalogues, photography collections, and queer and feminist publications—including a special issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, titled "Queer Politics and the Question of Palestine/Israel." Her new book is a memoir entitled *My Father, the Messiah*. It is her first work of creative nonfiction.



Morgan Hufstader is a writer, editor, and advocate for the literary arts. Originally from New York City, she has since grown roots in New Orleans and commits herself to supporting the local literary and arts community. She's the executive director of The Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction and runs a local writing workshop for queer writers. Currently, she is acquiring her M.F.A. at the Creative Writing Workshop at the University of New Orleans.



Fay Jacobs, a member of the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame, has six published collections of humorous/activist essays with Bywater Books, including *As I Lay Fry*, *Fried and Convicted* and her latest, *Big Girls Don't Fry*. She was named a 2019 Champion of Pride by *The Advocate Magazine* and has won numerous awards for her books. She has been recognized by the National Library Association, Golden Crown Literary Society, Independent Publishers Association, and the National Women's Press Association. Fay is an editor with Bywater Books as well as doing freelance work. She has written for *The Washington Post*, *Advocate Magazine*, *Washington Blade*, *Delaware Beach Life* and has authored a column for 30 years for *Letters from CAMP Rehoboth* and more. She's also a sit-down comic performing her solo show *Aging Gracelessly: 50 Shades of Fay*, all over the country.



Miah Jeffra is author of four books—most recently *The Violence Almanac* (finalist for several awards, including the Grace Paley and Robert C Jones Book Prizes) and the novel *American Gospel*, finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Prize—and is co-editor, with Arisa White and Monique Mero, of the anthology *Home is Where You Queer Your Heart*. Miah is co-founder of Whiting Award-winning queer and trans literary collaborative, Foglifter Press, and teaches writing, decolonial studies and cultural theory at Santa Clara University.



Rick Karlin has been a freelance journalist and editor for the past 40+ years. He is the Arts & Culture editor for *Out South Florida*. His most recent book, with historian Fred Fejes, *Last Call South Florida*, a history of queer bars from Palm Beach to Key West, has been ranked in the Top 100 LGBT travel books on Amazon since its release in late 2024. *Last Call Chicago: 1001 LGBT-Friendly Taverns, Hangouts, and Haunts*, written with Sukie de la Croix, was published in 2022 and also remains a top seller. His memoir *Paper Cuts: My Life in Chicago's Volatile LGBT Press* was published in 2019. He is currently working on *Last Call Boston*. In recognition of his years as an LGBT community activist, he was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 1997. He relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2013, where he lives with his husband, Gregg Shapiro, and their dog Miss Coco.

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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*, *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, *The Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns*, *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, *Provincetown Arts*, and *Studies in Scottish Literature*. He has served as dramaturge for Sundance Institute Theater Lab and teaches theater at Pace University.



Born and raised in rural North Carolina, **Mickie Kennedy** is a gay poet who explores queerness, family, illness, and what it means to rebuild after trauma and tragedy. His work is a window to an integral time in gay history, when AIDS was its zenith and sex was synonymous with death. His debut poetry collection, *Worth Burning*, was published by Black Lawrence Press in February 2026, and his chapbook, *Glandscapes*, won Button Poetry's 2025 Chapbook Prize. Recent poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *POETRY*, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Southern Review*, *The Sun*, *Copper Nickel*, *Nimrod*, and *Black Warrior Review*.



Rickey Laurentiis was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, to be reacquainted with the light. *Boy with Thorn*, their debut book, won the Cave Canem Poetry Prize, the Levis Reading Prize, and was a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Her other honors include fellowships from the Lannan Literary Foundation, the National Endowment

for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, the Whiting Foundation, and the Center for African American Poetry and Poetics at the University of Pittsburgh as the Inaugural Fellow. Their poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *New Republic*, the *New York Times*, *Poetry* & other journals. In 2022, Laurentiis was named a Living Legends Honoree by the Marsha P. Johnson Institute, an organization which celebrates black trans lives. Her second book, *Death of the First Idea*, published this year by Knopf, was longlisted for the National Book Award.



Bracken LeClair (he/him, they/them) is a trans poet thinking about angels. Their work focuses around queer issues, trans and aspec experiences, and religion, and hopes to recenter the conventional perspective around love. They are currently in the process of earning their MFA in creative writing at UNO.



Chin-Sun Lee is the author of the debut novel *Upcountry* (Unnamed Press 2023) and the forthcoming *Soon You'll Be Just Like Us* (Creature Publishing 2027). She's a contributor to the *New York Times* bestselling anthology *Women in Clothes* (Blue Rider Press/Penguin 2014). Her work has also appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Literary Hub*, *The Georgia Review*, and *Joyland*, among other publications. She writes, edits, and teaches in New Orleans. www.chinsunlee.com



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 Queer Mojo/Rebel Satori Press. Daniel won the 2025 Patty Friedmann Writing Competition

in poetry, and his work has been seen in print and online, including recent pieces in *Winter in America (Again)*, *High Rise: Brutalist Poetry*, *Saints & Sinners: New Poetry from the Festival, 2025*, *South Dakota Review*, *Foglifter*, and *64 Parishes*. He is a co-host of the *Power Beyond Pride* podcast and lives in New Orleans with his head-turning whippet Camden. Find out more about him at danielwkle.com or join his Patreon at patreon.com/danielwkle.



Russ López is the author of *Provincetown Stories*. His six nonfiction books include *The Hub of the Gay Universe: An LGBTQ History of Boston, Provincetown, and Beyond*. He is the editor of *LatineLit*, an online magazine that publishes fiction by and about Latinx people, and his work has appeared in *The Fictional Café*, *Somos en escrito*, *Northeast Atlantic*, *Discretionary Love*, *Night Picnic*, *The Gay and Lesbian Review*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, and many other places. He has appeared on podcasts, news shows, and other outlets.



Michael Lowenthal is the author of a story collection, *Sex with Strangers*, and four novels: *The Same Embrace*, *Avoidance*, *Charity Girl* (a *New York Times Book Review* "Editors' Choice" and a *Washington Post* "Top Fiction of 2007" pick), and *The Paternity Test* (an Indie Next selection and a Lambda Literary Award finalist). The recipient of fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, he was also awarded the James Duggins Outstanding Mid-Career Novelists' Prize at Saints and Sinners 2009. Lowenthal's most recent book is a memoir-in-essays, *Place Envy*, published in 2026. He lives in Boston and Pittsburgh.



James Magruder is a fiction writer, playwright, and translator. His most recent of five books of fiction, *No One Is Looking at You*, came out in 2025. He wrote the books for two Broadway musicals—*Triumph Of Love* and *Head Over Heels*, the blank verse mash-up of Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia* and the song catalog of the Go-Go's. His one work of non-fiction, *The Play's the Thing: Fifty Years of Yale Repertory Theater (1966-2016)*, was published to thundering silence in 2024. A five-time MacDowell Fellow, he lives in Baltimore.



Steve Majors is the author of *Man Made: In Search of Dads, Daddies, Father Figures and Fatherhood* (University of Wisconsin Press), *High Yella: A Modern Family Memoir* (University of Georgia Press), and the forthcoming graphic novel *Light Bright* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2026). Steve's writing explores issues of race, class, culture, and identity, and his personal essays have been published in national outlets including *Electric Lit*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *CNN.com*, and *NBC Think*. Steve's writing skills were honed as a journalist. For many decades he worked as a TV producer, first in major TV markets across the country and then in New York where he held successive leadership positions at CNBC, MSNBC, and NBC's *Weekend TODAY* show. Most recently, he's led marketing and communications for national nonprofits.



Thomas Mallon is the author of eleven novels, including *Henry and Clara*, *Fellow Travelers* and *Up with the Sun*. His nonfiction books include *Mrs. Paine's Garage* and, most recently, *The Very Heart of It: New York Diaries, 1983-1994*, which *Kirkus Reviews* called "Funny, sad, witty, horrible, and beautiful ... An exquisitely evocative glimpse into an unparalleled era in queer history steeped in joy, sex, and death." He is a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and other publications. In 2011 he received the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Harold D. Vursell Memorial Award for prose style. He has been the literary editor of *GQ* and the deputy chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He lives in Washington, D.C.



Ann McMan is the two-time Lambda Literary Award-winning author of fifteen novels and two short story collections. She has also garnered numerous Independent Publisher (IPPY), Foreword INDIES, and Golden Crown Literary Society medals and awards. She also is renowned as an award-winning book cover designer and is a laureate of the Alice B. Foundation for her outstanding body of work. Her most recent book is *Switch* (Bywater Books, 2025).



Kim Roberts Meikle is the author of seven books of poems, most recently *Q&A for the End of the World*, a collaboration with Michael Gushue (WordTech Editions, 2025), and two guidebooks, including *The District's Departed: Walking Tours of DC-Area Cemeteries* (forthcoming from Rivanna Books, 2026). Roberts edited *By Broad Potomac's Shore: Great Poems from the Early Days of our Nation's Capital* (University of Virginia Press, 2020), selected by the East Coast Centers for the Book to represent Washington, DC in the Route 1 Reads program. She co-curates DC Pride Poem-a-Day each June, and co-directs the Pride Poetry Residency at the Arts Club of Washington.



Vincent Traugher Meis is a fiction writer and a former ESL community college teacher. Most of the characters in his novels and short stories come from across the LGBTQ+ spectrum and are racially and ethnically diverse. He has published ten novels: *Eddie's Desert Rose*, *Tio Jorge*, *Down in Cuba*, *Deluge*, *Four Calling Burds*, *The Mayor of Oak Street*, *First Born Sons*, *Colton's Terrible Wonderful Year*, *The Long Journey to You*, and the latest, *Iguana*, published in May 2025. *Tio Jorge*, *Down in Cuba*, and *Deluge* have all won Rainbow Awards. *The Mayor of Oak Street* and *First Born Sons* have won Reader Views Reviewer's Choice Awards. His short stories have appeared in several collections both in print and online, and have reached finalist status in several short story contests. A collection of short stories, *Far from Home*, was published in October 2021. He lives with his husband in San Leandro, California and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.



Dan Meltz was raised in the low-rent reaches of Jersey, sixteen minutes from Times Square, and has lived in Manhattan for fifty years. He's a retired technical writer and teacher of deaf young people, with a B.A. from Columbia (no honors). Both his first book of poems, *It Wasn't Easy to Reach You*, from Trail to Table, and his first novel, *Rabbis of the Garden State*, from Rattling Good Yarns, were published in 2025.



Donna Minkowitz is a writer of memoir, fantasy, and journalism. Her memoir *Growing Up Golem*, which *Lilith* magazine called "compulsively readable. ... with emotional complexity and fierce imagination," will be republished in 2026 in an all-new edition after 13 years. Her novel *Donnaville* was praised by *Chills* at *Will* as "a master class in world-building." Her first memoir, *Ferocious Romance*, will also be republished with new material in 2027. She is the winner of a Lambda Literary Award, a GLAAD Media Award, an Exceptional Merit Media Award, and The National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association's Award for Outstanding Journalism. A former writer for the *Village Voice*, she lives in the Hudson Valley of New York State.



Joby Mire is a graduate student of creative writing in the genre of poetry at the University of New Orleans. Joby was born and raised in the Acadiana region of Louisiana and now resides in New Orleans, after having spent years living in Southern California. Additionally, he has studied English literature, with an emphasis in the early modern period, at California State University, Long Beach. His greatest poetic influences are John Milton, William Blake, W.B. Yeats, Robert Duncan, James Merrill, and Rebecca Tamás.



Mark Mones is an editor at the University of Virginia Press. He acquires books covering a range of subjects, from architecture/architectural history to urban design (including our Midcentury series), as well as projects surveying history, art, folklore, nature and the environment, music, and other areas of general interest throughout Virginia and the region for UVA's new imprint, Rivanna Books. He received a BA in sociology and anthropology from Gettysburg College and an MA in anthropology from the University of Virginia, and his list reflects admittedly wide-ranging and eclectic interests. He started his career in scholarly reference at Oxford University Press, where he was a principal editor for the *Buildings of the United States*, a collaborative venture with the Society of Architectural Historians that has continued to this day, with the series and *SAH Archipedia*, the online encyclopedia of American architecture, now a principal part of UVA Press's publishing program.



Michael Montlack's third poetry collection *Cosmic Idiot* is forthcoming from Saturnalia. He is the editor of the Lambda Finalist essay anthology *My Diva: 65 Gay Men on the Women Who Inspire Them* (University of Wisconsin Press). His work has appeared in *Poetry Daily*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *The Cortland Review*, *Epoch*, and other journals. In 2025, his poem "Multiverse" won the Smartish Pace Erskine Poetry Prize. He lives in NYC and teaches poetry workshops at NYU and CUNY City College.



Writer, actor, multi-disciplinary artist, and faggoty hauntologist **Sean Patrick Mulroy** is an internationally recognized poet and performer. An award-winning professor, Mulroy recently completed his latest international tour of Europe and SWANA in support of his debut poetry collection, *Hated for the Gods*. A 2013 Lambda Literary Fellow, 2018 Writer-in-Residence at The Kerouac Project in Orlando Florida, and winner of the 2020 Button Poetry Chapbook Contest, Mulroy is also an award-winning professor of writing. Born and raised in the American South, Sean has lived and worked all over the world, in over 25 countries on 4 continents. At present, he lives in New York City.



Jerome Ellison Murphy is poet and critic, still very much aspiring, based in New York City. He earned his MFA from the Creative Writing Program at New York University, where he currently serves as Manager of Undergraduate Programs, while serving part time as a Consulting Editor for Park, Fine & Brower Literary Agency. His poetry appears at *LitHub*, *Poets.org*, *Poem-a-Day*, *Narrative Magazine*, *Bellevue Literary Quarterly*, *The Cortlandt Review* and elsewhere, and was recorded for NPR as part of the Poetry Well performance series. His critical writing has appeared in *The Yale Review*, *LA Review of Books*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and elsewhere.



Geoffrey Newman, PhD, is an award-winning author and educator whose memoir, *Better to Cry Now*, celebrates resilience, authenticity, and the transformative power of the arts. Geoffrey is dean emeritus of the College of the Arts at Montclair State University in New Jersey. He was the first holder of the Owen Duston Distinguished Professorship from Wabash College in 1987 and received the prestigious Amoco Award for Theatrical Excellence from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in 1979. He helped establish the Department of Theater at Wabash College in 1970 and served on the faculty of the drama department from 1975 to 1986, during which time he was appointed chairman of drama (1982–1986). He then served as the founding dean of the College of Arts at Montclair State University from 1988 to 2011. He now resides in Palm Springs, California, with Ed, his husband and soulmate of forty-seven years.



Denne Michele Norris is the editor-in-chief of *Electric Literature*, winner of the 2022 *Whiting Literary Magazine* Prize. She is the first Black, openly trans woman to helm a major literary publication. A 2021 Out100 Honoree, her writing has been supported by MacDowell, Tin House, and the Kimbilio Center for African American Fiction, and appears in *McSweeney's*, *American Short Fiction*, and *ZORA*. She is co-host of the critically-acclaimed podcast *Food 4 Thot*, and her debut novel, *When The Harvest Comes*, was released by Random House in April 2025.



Martin Padgett is the author of *The Many Passions of Michael Hardwick* (2025), which tells the full story of the Supreme Court's disastrous 1986 sodomy decision, and *A Night at the Sweet Gum Head* (2021), which details the emergence of queer rights at a famed Atlanta drag club. Martin has written for *Bitter Southerner*, *Oxford American*, *The Paris Review*, *Gravy*, *Washington Post*, and *Time* on topics ranging from single mothers in pursuit of sole custody to the prison labor that

trains wild horses for adoption, the novel legal defenses of Atlanta strip clubs, the best dive bars in the French Quarter (RIP Flanagan's), and the economic effects of self-driving cars. He earned his MFA in narrative nonfiction writing from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. He was named a 2019 Lambda Literary Fellow. He earned a PhD in History at Georgia State University in 2023. His next book chronicles the HIV/AIDS epidemic as it was portrayed on TV news. Rutgers University Press will publish this work in 2026.



Les Patin is a marketing strategist and poet from New Orleans. His poem, "Last Requests // A Good Day for Ghost Stories," was a finalist for the 2025 Patty Friedman Prize, and he is a finalist in the 2026 SAS Fest Poetry Competition.



Frank Perez is a writer, teacher, tour guide, and public speaker who also serves as the executive director of the LGBTQ+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He is also the editor of *Ambush Magazine*. He has authored several books on New Orleans queer history and written hundreds of articles on the same topic. His publications also include a number of scholarly articles in academic journals as well as a number of poems and short stories in various literary journals. His latest book, *Café Lafitte in Exile: Queer New Orleans and the Story of America's Oldest Gay Bar*, is forthcoming from the LSU Press.



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 was named a finalist in the 2022 and 2023 Saints + Sinners Short Fiction Contests for his stories, "Little Boy Blue," and "Banjo," respectively. *Loyalty, Love, & Vermouth* is his first novel.



C. Russell Price is the author of *oh, you thought this was a date?!*: *Apocalypse Poems* and *Tonight, We Fuck the Trailer Park Out of Each Other*. Their newest collection *Bisquick: An American Seance* will be published in August 2026 by Northwestern University Press. They are a poet-in-residence at the Chicago Poetry Center and work with the *Anarchist Review of Books* and Story Studio Chicago. They are a Lambda Fellow, Ragdale Fellow, Literary Death Match champion, and two-time Lit 50 honoree. Price landscapes in Chicago.



Robert Raasch was raised in Northern New Jersey. He is a writer, architect/designer, and visual artist who is an active participant in 24PearlStreet and the Fine Arts Work Center (FAWC) in Provincetown, Massachusetts. He divides his time between Chicago, New York, and Copenhagen, where he is working on his second novel.



J.M. Redmann has published twelve novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her most recent is *The Smallest Day*. Her first was published in 1990, one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detectives. Her books have won multiple awards, including three Lambda Literary awards and the Publishing Triangle's Joseph Hansen Award. Her third book, *The Intersection of Law and Desire*, originally published by W. W. Norton, was an Editor's Choice of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and a recommended book of NPR's *Fresh Air*.



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 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, and is the board president of the Anaïs Nin Foundation. His collection, *A Quilt for David*, was published by City Lights and is the product of over ten years of research regarding dentist David Acer's life. His newest collection, *Outliving Michael*, is a memorial memoir in poetry, chronicling Reigns's profound friendship with Michael Church, who died of AIDS in 2000.



Genevieve Rheams is the author of *We Will Plant Birds of Paradise*. She writes LGBTQ+ romance, comedy, literature, and personal essays. She received her MFA in Fiction from the University of New Orleans, teaches fiction writing workshops, and is an Academic Advisor at Loyola University. She delights in having conversations with her three adult children and going for absurdly long walks. She lives with her wife in her hometown of New Orleans with their two cats and a dog. As you read this, she is most likely out of coffee and litter.



Brad Richard's books include *Turned Earth* (Louisiana State University Press, 2025), *Motion Studies* (The Word Works, 2011; 2nd, expanded edition, 2025), *Butcher's Sugar* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2012), and *Parasite Kingdom* (The Word Works, 2019). After many years of high school and college teaching, he is now primarily a freelance teacher and editor. Series editor of the Hilary Tham Capital Collection from The Word Works, he lives, writes, and gardens in New Orleans. More at bradrichard.org.



AJ Romriell is a queer, neurodivergent, and HIV+ writer from Salt Lake City, Utah. He is the award-winning author of *Wolf Act: A Memoir* (2025), and his essays, stories, and poems have appeared in *Electric Literature*, *The Missouri Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Brevity*, and elsewhere. He has been a recipient of the Walter E. Dakin Fellowship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, the Vandewater Prize in Poetry, as well as multiple Pushcart Prize nominations and grants from the Greater Columbus Arts Council. He earned his MFA from The Ohio State University where he was a 2024 - 25 Presidential Fellow.



Carol Rosenfeld is an author and poet. Her debut novel, *The One That Got Away*, was published by Bywater Books in June 2015, and her short stories have appeared in several anthologies. She is currently working on a second novel, as well as a memoir and a collection of her poems. Carol has been the chair of The Publishing Triangle for many years, and in 2023 she was recognized with a Gay City News Impact Award for her service. She is also a proud member of the SAS Hall of Fame.



Patrick Earl Ryan was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, in a family spanning 5 continents and 7 generations in the city. His debut short story collection *If We Were Electric* won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. His work-in-progress second collection, *Fancy Gumbo*, was runner-up for the William Faulkner - Wisdom Award. His stories have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Ontario Review*, *Best New American Voices*, *Pleiades*, *Men on Men*, *James White Review*, and *Gertrude*, and he was the founder and editor-in-chief of the queer literary journal *Lodestar Quarterly*.



Douglas Sadownick, PhD, is the author of *Sacred Lips of the Bronx* and *Healing Gay Sex and Love*. For more than thirty years he has worked at the intersection of psychotherapy, community organizing, and cultural writing about the inner life of queer people. His AIDS-era novel *Sacred Lips of the Bronx*, exploring the intersection of gay and Jewish experience, has been reissued by Rebel Satori Press in a 30-year commemorative edition. His psychological novel *Healing Gay Sex and Love: A Group Experience*, edited by the late Felice Picano, grows out of decades of group therapy and performance work. Sadownick founded the LGBT Specialization in Clinical Psychology at Antioch University Los Angeles. His next book, *The G+Q MAP: A Gay Guide to the Gay Hero's Journey*, appears in April.



Lieutenant Colonel **Richard Compson Sater**, U.S. Air Force (retired), spent most of his military career as a photojournalist. He's a veteran of both Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His second novel, *Thirst*, was published in 2025, following *Rank* (2016). His third, *Scratch*, is anticipated in late 2026. Sater earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's in creative writing from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in fine arts from Ohio University. He has at various times been a college professor, radio announcer, bookkeeper, bricklayer, bartender, clerk, music critic, and window-shade salesman. A Seattle resident since 2007, he has recently been exploring screenwriting and song composition as well.



Polly Sawabini (she/they) is a Palestinian American writer and organizer based in New Orleans. Since moving to the city in 2010, Polly has been involved in mutual aid and community support, organizing with the Palestinian Youth Movement, co-founding the Ida Support Network, and serving as a member of Innocence Project New Orleans' Community Advocates. Polly's creative work explores questions of god, identity, diasporic grief, and the tenderness of survival. They've performed poetry across New Orleans, including at Pillowtalk and New Orleans Solidarity Storytellers, and remain committed to using language as both a witness and an offering. Polly and her writing partner, Thafer Abu Qamir (he/him), are the recipients of the 2025 Antenna Publishing Award. Their forthcoming book of essays and poems, Title TBD, will be published in late 2026.



Timothy Schaffert is the author of seven novels, most recently *The Titanic Survivors Bookclub* and *The Perfume Thief*. His graphic novel set in the 1950s romance comics industry, *Easy To Love*, will be released next year. He is the Glenna Luschei Editor in Chief of the *Prairie Schooner* literary journal, the Adele Hall Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the co-editor of Zero Street Fiction, an LGBTQ+ book series.



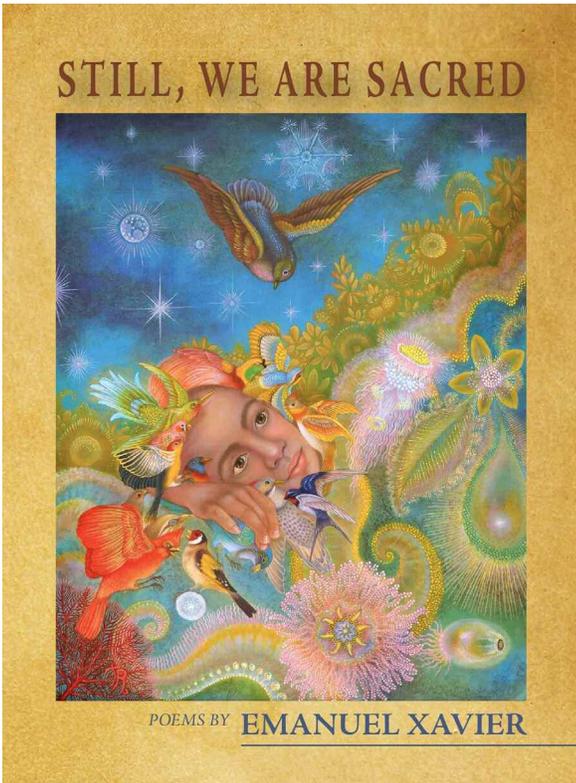
Gregg Shapiro is the author of 10 books including *Speaking in Italics* (Souvenir Spoon Books, 2026). Recent/forthcoming lit-mag publications include *Pleiades*, *Bronze Bird Review*, *Oatleaf Poetry Magazine*, *Gargoyle*, and *BarBar*. His work is also included in the anthologies *White Winged Doves: A Stevie Nicks Poetry Anthology* (Madville Publishing, 2026), *America's Future: Poetry & Prose in Response to Tomorrow* (Washington Writers' Publishing House, 2025), and *Visiting Joni: Poems and Short Prose Inspired by the Life and Work of Joni Mitchell*. An entertainment journalist whose interviews and reviews run in a variety of regional LGBTQ+ outlets and an anchor on *Queer News Tonight*, Shapiro lives in South Florida with his husband Rick and their dog Coco.



Martin Sherman was born in Philadelphia, raised in New Jersey, and educated at Boston University. He has lived in London for over forty years. His plays have been produced in over sixty countries and include *Passing By*, *Cracks*, *Rio Grande*, *Bent*, *Messiah*, *When She Danced*, *A Mad House in Goa*, *Some Sunny Day*, *Rose*, *Onassis*, and *Gently Down the Stream*. His stage adaptations include E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, and he wrote the Broadway musical *The Boy From Oz*. Martin's screenplays include *The Clothes in the Wardrobe*, *Alive and Kicking*, *Bent*, *Callas Forever*, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* and *Mrs Henderson Presents*. He has been nominated for two Tonys, two BAFTAs and two Oliviers. His memoir, *On the Boardwalk*, was published in September, 2025.



William Christy Smith is a museum and library professional who lives in New Orleans. He has attended every Saints and Sinner Literary Festival except for the first one and has appeared in six SASFest anthologies and is a member of the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame. His first book is *Skylark*, a collection of 18 interrelated short stories to be published by the University of Louisiana Press, Lafayette, in the fall of 2026.



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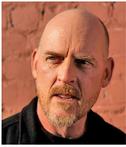
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Rooted in New York City's ballroom culture and the Nuyorican arts movement, *Still, We Are Sacred* explores queer survival, chosen family, faith, and tenderness as resistance—holding doubt and belief side by side and honoring survival as sacred labor, by a 2023 Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival Hall of Fame inductee.

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K.M. Soehnlein (Karl) was honored in 2024 with the Jim Duggins, PhD, Outstanding Mid-Career Novelist Prize from Lambda Literary. His published novels are *Army of Lovers*, recognized by the Independent Publisher Book Awards for the best LGBTQ Fiction Of 2022; *The World of Normal Boys*, winner of the Lambda Award for Gay Fiction; *You Can Say You Knew Me When*; and *Robin and Ruby*. He lives in San Francisco and teaches in the MFA program at University of San Francisco.



Rodney Rhoda Taylor is a playwright and author inspired by Carrie Bradshaw, who earned a Creative Writing degree from San Francisco State University. Their passion for storytelling led to writing, directing, and acting in numerous plays, as well as co-founding the LGBTQ-focused Left Coast Theatre Co. in San Francisco. After a brief hiatus, Rodney published their memoir, *A Life in Letters: A Story of Resilience, Sequins, and Hope*. They currently reside in the South with their chihuahua, Isabela, continuing to write.



Justin Torres is the author of *Blackouts*, which won the 2023 National Book Award for Fiction, was a finalist for the *LA Times* Book Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Southern California Book Award. A 2024 Guggenheim Fellow, he's also received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard, and the New York Public Library's Cullman Center. His first novel, *We the Animals*, was a national bestseller and adapted into a feature film. He lives in Los Angeles and is an associate professor of English at UCLA.



Christopher Tradowsky is a writer, artist, and art historian. He was awarded the BLOOM Literary Journal Prize for fiction in 2013 and the J. Michael Samuel Prize from the Lambda Literary Foundation in 2023. He lives in St. Paul, Minnesota. His debut novel *Midnight at the Cinema Palace* was published by Simon & Schuster in 2025.



Viento Izquierdo Ugaz (b. 1992, Lima, Perú) [they/he] is a trans/disciplinary artist/organizer, poet, medium and language justice worker. Through writing, photography, and thread, they address the burden of imposed migration that has woven its threads into the visual tapestry of their lineage. They are a co-organizer of BODYHACK, a mutual aid platform for trans people; TRANSMISSION, NYC's first trans music festival; and the Visual Art Field Coordinator at Queer|Art. Izquierdo-Ugaz is also a member of Mil Mundos Books Colectiva. He is a 2020-21 Poetry Project Curatorial Fellow and a 2025 Andy Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grantee. Their first chapbook is *Estoy Tristeza* (No Dear, 2018).



Nikki Ummel has been published by *The Georgia Review*, *Black Lawrence Press*, and others. She is the 2025 recipient of the New American Poetry Prize for her forthcoming collection, *Swamp Elegies*. Nikki is the co-founder of LMNL, an arts organization focused on providing free and accessible arts workshops, readings, community events, and more. She has two poetry chapbooks, *Hush* (Belle Point Press, 2022) and *Bayou Sonata* (NJHF, 2023), funded by the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation.



Glen P. Vecchione, who also writes under the name **Glen Peters**, is the author of 28 commercial science, math, and history books that have been translated into several languages and distributed throughout the world. His first novel, *Where the Nights Smell Like Bread*, was published by Rattling Good Yarns Press and premiered at SAS 2025. His new novella, *The Crows*, will be released by Rebel Satori in April 2026. Glen's poetry appears in *Prairie Schooner* (2024), *ZZZZYVA* (2018), and *Penn Review* (2025). Currently, Glen divides his time between the California desert and Umbria, Italy.



Dan Vera is a Washington, DC based writer, editor, and literary historian. Recipient of the Oscar Wilde Award for Poetry and the Letras Latinas/Red Hen Poetry Prize, he's the co-editor of *Imaninan: Poets Writing In The Anzaldúan Borderlands* and author of *The Space Between Our Danger and Delight*, *Speaking Wiri Wiri*, and the forthcoming *Celestial Fire: Songs of A Love That Dares*. His poems appear in high school textbooks and university curricula, various journals and in various anthologies including most recently *The Library of America's Latino Poetry Anthology*. He publishes others through 81 Names Press and Souvenir Spoon Books.



Brad Vogel wrote *Find Me in the Feral Pockets*, a poetry collection featured in *The New Yorker*, as well as the collection *Broad Meadow Bird*. Find his poetry in *Evergreen Review*, *Smartish Pace*, *Eel Pit*, *No Dear*, *Freshwater Review*, *Mañana Temprano*, *Solitary Plover*, *Griffel*, *The Nature of Our Times*, and more. Brad created the annual NYC Poets Afloat residency and writing series aboard ships in New York Harbor. A graduate of Tulane Law School, he serves on the board of the Walt Whitman Initiative. Brad lives and canoes in Gowanus, Brooklyn where he coordinates the annual Gowanus Pride Paddle.



Salem West is a publisher, writer, and outspoken advocate for First Amendment freedoms. As the driving force behind Bywater Books, she has championed bold, authentic queer storytelling and elevated voices often sidelined in mainstream publishing. A seasoned editor and essayist, West writes passionately about the power of literature to challenge systems, preserve truth, and spark personal and cultural change. Her commitment to free expression guides her work with authors and her public advocacy, where she defends the essential role of books in a democratic society. West's leadership continues to shape a publishing landscape where courage, craft, and uncompromised storytelling thrive.



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. His first novel, *Pangs*, was released by Queer Space/Rebel Satori Press in 2022, followed by the BookFest Award-winning *Mercedes General* in 2023. He lives and writes in Denver, Colorado, maintaining his review blog, *Out In Print: Queer Book Reviews* (outinprintblog.wordpress.com) and his own editing business, Write And Shine (jerrywheelerblog.wordpress.com).



Dan White is the creator and host of the weekly podcast *OutWithDan*. This podcast features and highlights LGBTQ+ authors characters and our allies. Dan is so proud to have included every letter in the rainbow alphabet as a guest on his show and also authors from four continents and counting. Dan is also one of the creators and voices on the podcast *Queer Magnolias Podcast*. Both podcasts can be found on all platforms.



Audrey Wilson is the award-winning author of *The Ever End*, *Wrong Girl Gone*, and *Only Human*. In 2026, her novel *Dear Unrequited Love Girl* will be published by Bywater Books. Having earned her BA in Television Writing and Producing from Columbia College Chicago, Audrey has written and co-written over two dozen screenplays and television episodes, and has won a variety of awards for her writing, including a regional Emmy nomination. An avid supporter of authors of all writing levels, Audrey has spoken professionally at numerous writing events, including the Golden Crown Literary Society Conference, the Let's Just Write! Chicago Writers Conference, and the International Dublin Writers' Festival. She lives in the suburbs of Chicago with her husband, their rescue dog, and two cats. Audrey is represented by The Purcell Agency.

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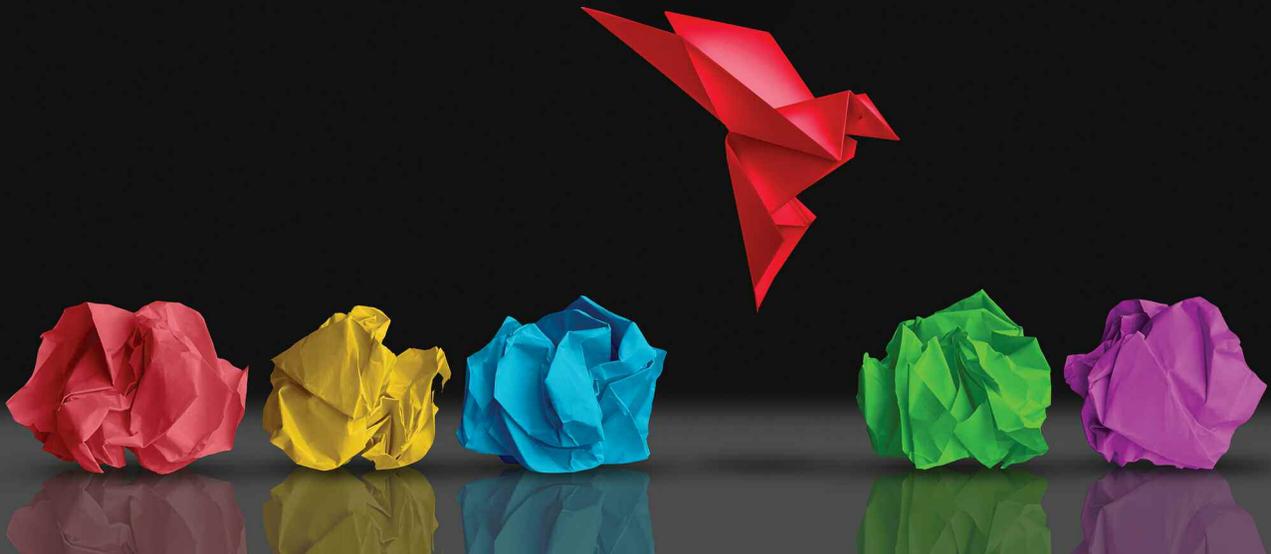
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For Inquiries/Commissions/Collaborations:
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WHERE IMAGINATION TAKES FLIGHT



2027 SHORT FICTION CONTEST

Opens May 1, 2026

Be sure to enter the 18th annual Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest and be part of our 2027 anthology produced by Rebel Satori Press and sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation. We're pleased to announce that **Margot Douaihy** will be our finalist judge. Guidelines and deadlines at: sasfest.org

Margot Douaihy's debut mystery, *Scorched Grace*, won the Pinckley Prize for First Crime Novel and was named one of the Best Crime Novels of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *CrimeReads*, and others. Her second mystery, *Blessed Water*, was also named a *New York Times* Best Crime Novel of the Year (2024) and won the Publishing Triangle Award for LGBTQ Fiction. The third mystery in her series, *Divine Ruin*—"fearlessly inspired" (Gillian Flynn)—was published in January 2026. Margot is an assistant professor with the Popular Fiction MFA at Emerson College. She is a founding member of the Creative Writing Studies Organization and an active member of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs, Queer Crime Writers, and Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI).



2027 POETRY CONTEST

The winner of our 7th annual poetry contest will be selected from submissions of original unpublished poems by LGBTQ+ writers.

Our contest will open on May 1, 2026 and our Finalist Judge will be **Ruben Quesada**. For more information and submission guidelines visit our website: sasfest.org.



PAST POETRY WINNERS

- 2026 **Marya Hornbacher**
- 2025 **Jendi Reiter**
- 2024 **Holly Zhou**
- 2023 **Isobel A. Burke**
- 2022 **Michael Montlack**
- 2021 **Danielle Bero**

Ruben Quesada is a poet, editor, and critic. He is the author of *Revelations* (2018) and *Next Extinct Mammal* (2011), and editor of the award-winning, landmark anthology *Latinx Poetics: Essays on the Art of Poetry* (2023). His early translations of Luis Cernuda in *Exiled from the Throne of Night* (2008) was published in a limited-edition print. His writing appears in *American Poetry Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Orion Magazine*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere in print and online. His poetry collection, *Brutal Companion* (2024), won the Barrow Street Editors Prize and was recognized as A Notable Book of 2024 by the University of California. In 2025, Goodman Theater commissioned him to write a poem for the premiere of Jordan Harrison's *The Antiquities*.

PAST SHORT FICTION WINNERS

- 2026 **Cheryl A. Head** "Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries"
- 2025 **Laura Corin** "Beaver Moon"
- 2024 **Charlie J. Stephens** "For the Birds"
- 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"

2026 SAS FEST MEMBERS AND DONORS

(As of March 7, 2026)

Thank you to the individuals and organizations that supported our 23rd anniversary event through our SAS Festival membership program.

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To become a 2027 SAS Festival member, visit: sasfest.org

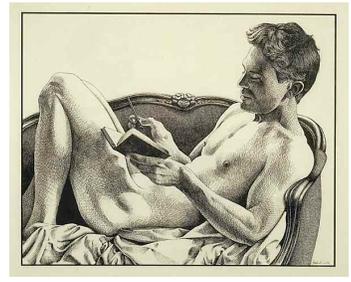
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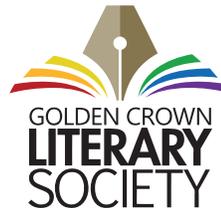
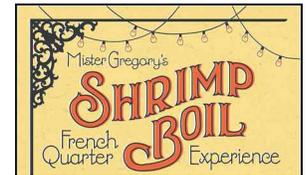


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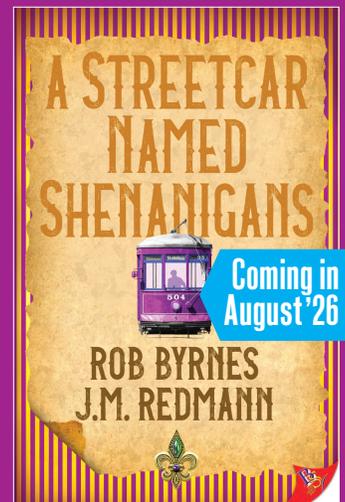
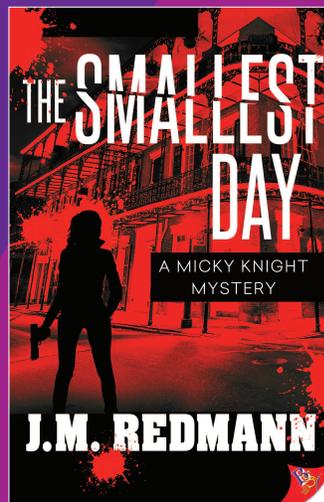
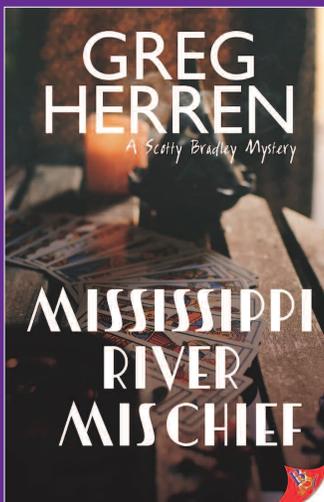


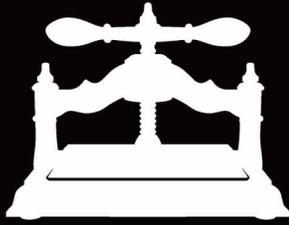
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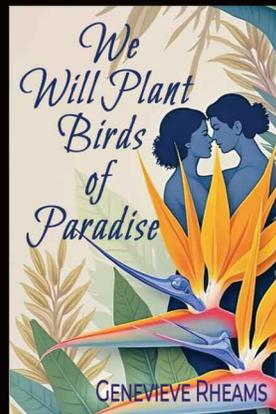
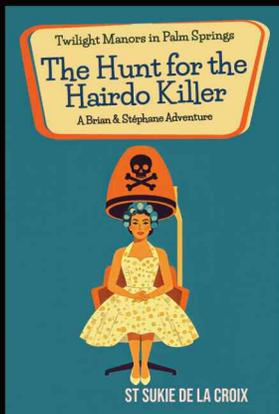
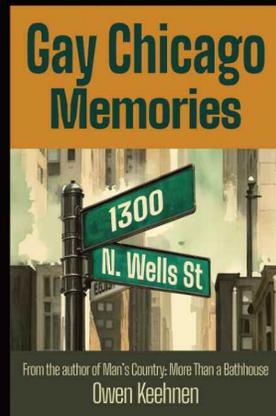
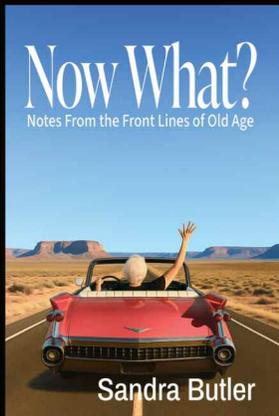
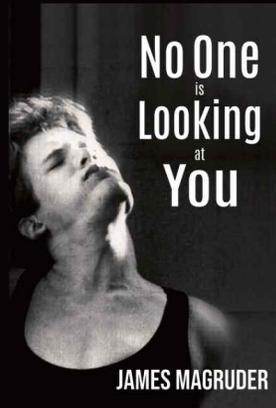
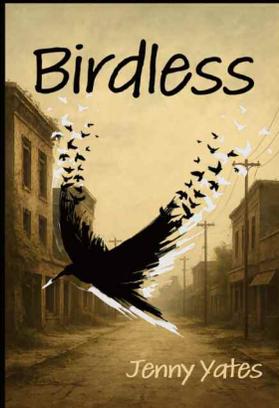
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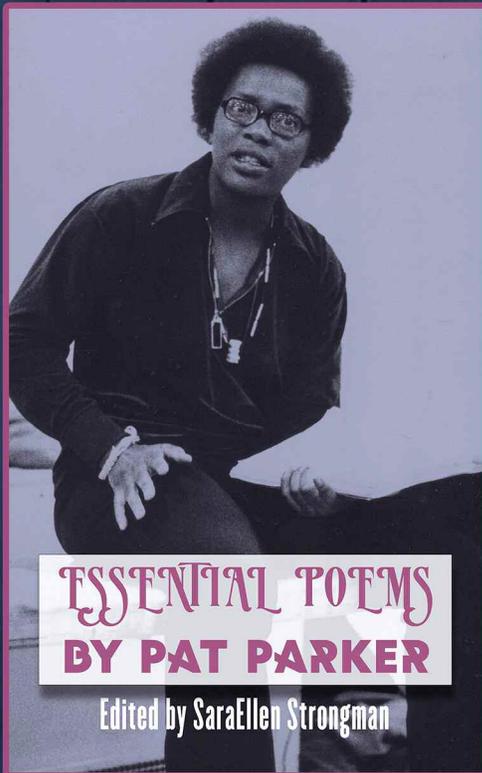
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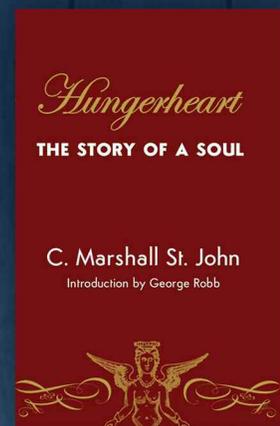
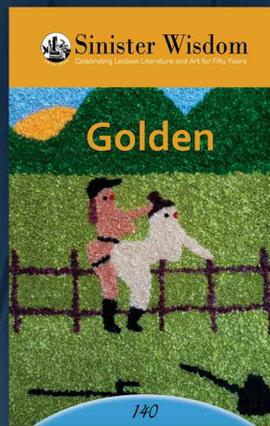
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Sinister Wisdom congratulates Paul J. Willis and Saints & Sinners on the 23rd Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival



Sinister Wisdom is proud to publish *Essential Poems by Pat Parker* as our fifteenth Sapphic Classic. Renowned African-American, lesbian-feminist poet and performer Pat Parker wrote five collections of poetry during her lifetime. Parker enchanted audiences with her fire for justice and her belief in change. Parker's most loved poems are now collected in this accessible volume edited by SaraEllen Strongman, introducing new audiences to Parker's fire, passion, tenderness, and vision for the world.

Other recent issues of *Sinister Wisdom*:



More information at SinisterWisdom.org



What are you doing on Thursday evening, April 16, 2026?

Come to The Publishing Triangle Awards in the Auditorium at New York City's New School, 66 West 12th Street in Manhattan. This event is free and open to the public, and we'll also livestream it. A free reception to celebrate with winners, nominees, presenters, and your fellow lovers of literature will follow.

We will be presenting the following prestigious awards:

- Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement
- Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBTQ+ Fiction
(in conjunction with our partner, The Ferro-Grumley Foundation)
- Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction
- Randy Shilts Award for Gay Nonfiction
- Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction
- Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry
- Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry
- Joseph Hansen Award for LGBTQ Crime Writing
- Leslie Feinberg Award for Trans and Gender-Variant Literature
- Jacqueline Woodson Award for Children/Young Adult Literature
- Amber Hollibaugh Award for LGBTQ+ Social Justice Writing
- Betty Berzon Emerging Writer Award
- Michele Karlsberg Leadership Award
- Publishing Triangle Torchbearer Award

Visit us at www.PublishingTriangle.org for more on this year's Whitehead, Karlsberg, Berzon, and Torchbearer winners and a list of finalists in our competitive award categories.



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The purpose of the Publishing Triangle is to further the publication of books and other materials written by LGBT authors or with LGBT 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 LGBT literature.