

2025
Washington
Writers
Conference

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Washington Writers Conference 2025

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The Ivy Bookshop will be in the upper level foyer and open May 3, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Please visit them at www.TheIvyBookshop.com.

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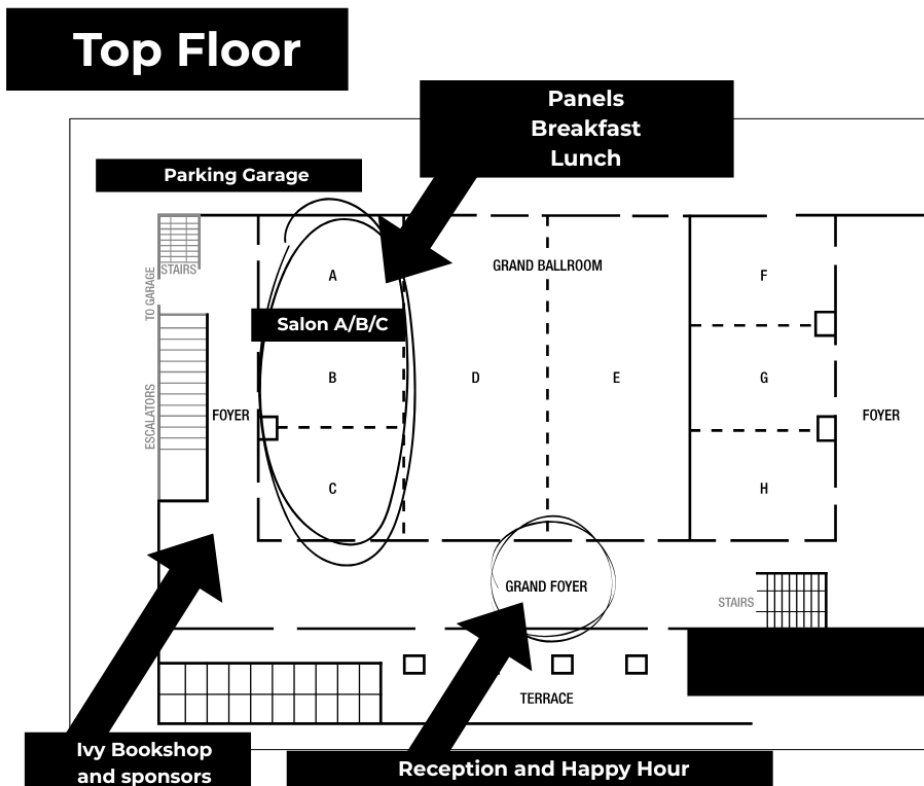
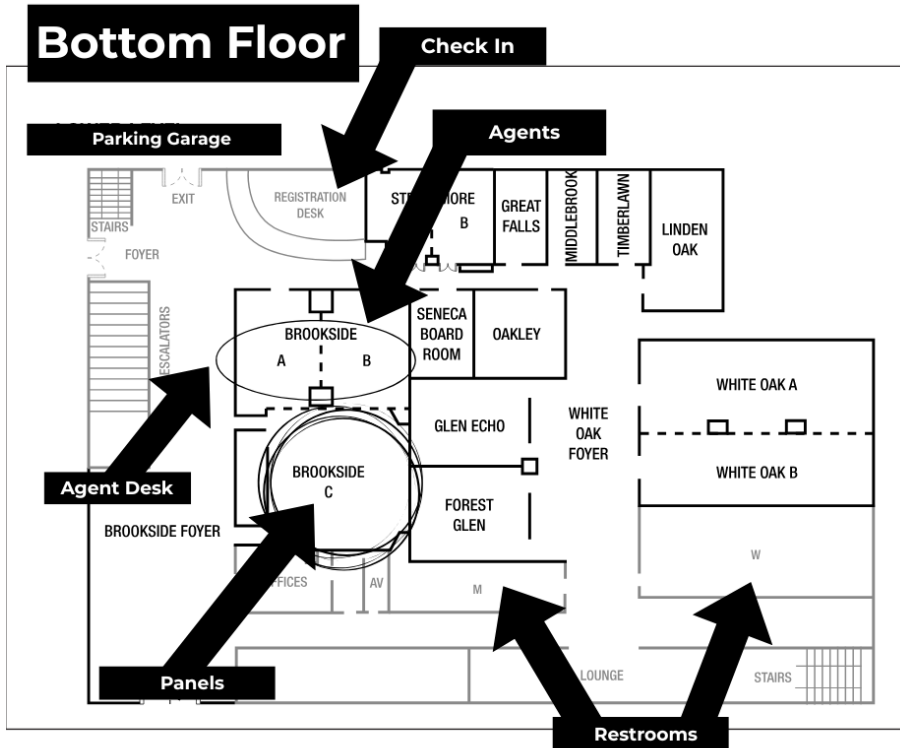
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The reception, breakfast, lunch, and happy hour will be served in the Grand Foyer near Salon A/B/C on the upper level. For the reception and happy hour, beverages will be available by purchasing tickets at select locations near the bars.

Parking is free.



Conference Map





Schedule

Friday, May 2

Registration opens at 5:30 p.m. (lower level entrance)

Time	Salon A/B/C (main level)
6:30-7:30 p.m.	How to Pitch an Agent
7:30-9:00 p.m.	Reception (Grand Foyer) Food included; drink tickets available for purchase.

Saturday, May 3

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. (lower level entrance). Continental breakfast served 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. in the Grand Foyer.

Time	Salon A/B/C (upper level)		
8:30 – 8:50 a.m.	Welcome and Housekeeping		
Time	Salon A/B/C (upper level)	Brookside C (lower level)	Brookside A/B (lower level)
9:00 – 9:50 a.m.	Nonfiction Authors Share Their Stories	What Do Local Editors Want?	Agents by appointment (9:00 – 11:50 a.m.)
10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	Debut Authors: How They Did It	Workshop: You've Written It: Now What? How to Publicize Your Book	
11:00 – 11:50 a.m.	Telling the Untold Tale: Finding Your Niche in Historical Fiction	Workshop: Revising Your Novel: How to Know When It's Done	



Saturday, May 3 (continued)

Time	Salon A/B/C (main level)		
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lifetime Achievement Award: E. Ethelbert Miller ▪ Keynote Speaker: Glory Edim 		
Time	Salon A/B/C (upper level)	Brookside C (lower level)	Brookside A/B (lower level)
2:00 – 2:50 p.m.	Deconstructing the Book: An Author, Editor, Agent and Publisher Talk About What Sells	How to Find Grants, Scholarships and Residencies	Agents by appointment (1:35-4:10 p.m.)
3:00 – 3:50 p.m.	When Your Life is the Story: Writing Memoir and Personal Essays	Writing Across Genres	
	Salon A/B/C (upper level)		
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Happy Hour/Social Drink tickets available for purchase.		

Please see pages 4 for complete descriptions of panels and workshops.



Panels and Workshops

Panels

Debut Authors: How They Did It

Varun Gauri, *For the Blessings of Jupiter and Venus: A Novel*

Liza Achilles, *Two Novembers: A Memoir of Love 'n' Sex in Sonnets*

Karen Outen, *Dixon Descending: A Novel*

Jeffrey Dale Lofton, *Red Clay Suzie: A Novel Inspired by True Events*

Moderator: Virginia Hartman, *The Marsh Queen: A Novel*

Four very different narratives, but all leading to a first book: A tale in verse about falling in love with one's physical therapist (Liza Achilles, *Two Novembers: A Memoir of Love 'n' Sex in Sonnets*). A novel about a globetrotting woman who accepts an arranged marriage to a small-town politician (Varun Gauri, *For the Blessings of Jupiter and Venus*). A fictionalized memoir written through the lens of being gay and living with a disability in a conservative Southern family (Jeffrey Dale Lofton, *Red Clay Suzie*). The story of two brothers who aspire to be the first Black American men to summit Mount Everest (Karen Outen, *Dixon Descending: A Novel*). Virginia Hartman — whose much-translated novel *The Marsh Queen* has been compared to *Where the Crawdads Sing* — will moderate as these debut authors tell their success stories.

What Do (Local) Editors Want? Maybe Just What You're Writing

Kelsea Johnson, Stirred Stories

Kathryn Fay, Modern Artist Press

Andrew Bertaina, Night Ginkgo Press

Zach Powers, Poet Lore

Moderator: Caroline Bock, Washington Writers' Publishing House

Viewed from the outside, the realm of publishing can be confounding. Hear the experts explain what grabs their interest. Kelsea Johnson is the co-founder of indie publishing house Stirred Stories, which has been recognized for its diverse collection of books. Kathryn Fay is the publisher of Modern Artist Press, which she founded recently to give a voice to literary fiction. Andrew Bertaina runs the 804 Lit Salon in Washington, DC, and is an editor for Night Ginkgo Press. And moderator Caroline Bock is co-president and editor of Washington Writers' Publishing House and the author of the forthcoming novel *The Other Beautiful People*, among other works. Her books have been published by both "Big Five" publishers (St. Martin's Press) and local, independent presses.

Telling the Untold Tale: Finding Your Niche in Historical Fiction

Tim Wendel, *Rebel Falls: A Novel*

Louis Bayard, *The Wildes: A Novel in Five Acts*



Lauren Francis-Sharma, *Casualties of Truth: A Novel*
Moderator: Aaron Hamburger, *Hotel Cuba: A Novel*

Aaron Hamburger guides this discussion about mining the past for fictional treasure. His recent novel *Hotel Cuba* follows the plight of two Jewish sisters who flee the Soviet revolution only to be trapped in 1920s Havana. Among Louis Bayard's numerous bestselling historical novels are *The Pale Blue Eye*, now a Netflix motion picture starring Christian Bale, and his most recent work, *The Wildes: A Novel in Five Acts*. The latest fiction by critically acclaimed author Lauren Francis-Sharma, *Casualties of Truth*, was inspired by her attendance at South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Amnesty Hearings. *Rebel Falls* — Tim Wendel's new novel based on an incident from 1864 — tells of a daring young woman drafted by the U.S. secretary of state to infiltrate and foil Confederate agents gathering at Niagara Falls.

Deconstructing the Book: An Author, Editor, Agent, and Publisher Talk About What Sells

Max Sinsheimer, an agent at Sinsheimer Literary
Melanie D.G. Kaplan, *Lab Dog: A Beagle and His Human Investigate the Surprising World of Animal Research*
Tina Pohlman, independent editor and former agent and publisher
Moderator: Hannah Grieco, Alan Squire Publishing

Don't rely on a crystal ball — get advice from this savvy team of professionals about selling your book or article. Independent journalist Melanie D.G. Kaplan, who writes for the Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and many others, is also author of the forthcoming book on animal research, *Lab Dog*. First an editor and publisher, then an agent, and now an independent editor, writing coach, and publishing consultant, Tina Pohlman has worked extensively with acclaimed fiction and nonfiction writers. Moderating the discussion is writer and editor Hannah Grieco, whose anthology *Already Gone: 40 Stories of Running Away* was recently released by Alan Squire Publishing.

Nonfiction Authors Share Their Stories

Daniel de Visé, *The Blues Brothers: An Epic Friendship, the Rise of Improv, and the Making of an American Film Classic*
Eric Dezenhall, *Wiseguys and the White House: Gangsters, Presidents, and the Deals They Made*
Brigid Schulte, *Over Work: Transforming the Daily Grind in the Quest for a Better Life*
Moderator: Dine Watson, *Transplant: A Memoir*

Hear how these talented authors tackled their recent nonfiction projects. Leading the conversation is Bernadine (Dine) Watson, a poet and journalist whose memoir, *Transplant*, won the 2023 Washington Writers' Publishing House prize for nonfiction. Among his five books, Daniel de Visé's latest is *The Blues Brothers: An Epic Friendship, the Rise of Improv, and the Making of an American Film Classic*. Eric Dezenhall is an award-winning author of 12 books of fiction and nonfiction,



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including *Wiseguys and the White House: Gangsters, Presidents, and the Deals They Made*. Renowned journalist and speaker Brigid Schulte undertook years of economic and cultural research for her recent book *Over Work: Transforming the Daily Grind in the Quest for a Better Life*.

Writing Across Genres

Indran Amirthanayagam, *Seer*

Debbie Levy, *A Dangerous Idea: The Scopes Trial, the Original Fight over Science in School*

Nevin Martell, *Looking for Calvin and Hobbes: The Unconventional Story of Bill Watterson and his Revolutionary Comic Strip*

Moderator: David Ebenbach, *Possible Happiness*

Some writers stick to a single genre, while others move easily from fiction to nonfiction, poetry to prose. How do writers gifted at more than one genre choose the most suitable form for the story they want to tell? Moderating this discussion is Georgetown faculty member David Ebenbach, author of nine works of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, plus the acclaimed new novel *Possible Happiness*. A musician and prolific poet whose recent volume is *Seer*, Indran Amirthanayagam writes and translates in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. First an editor and a lawyer, Debbie Levy then turned to writing and has authored more than 30 books for young people, including her New York Times bestselling story about Ruth Bader Ginsberg, *I Dissent*. Writer-photographer Nevin Martell has published eight books, including *Red Truck Bakery Cookbook* and *Freak Show Without a Tent*, a travelogue-memoir inspired by family vacations.

When Your Life Is the Story: Personal Essays and Memoir

Christine Koubek Flynn, essayist and Writer's Center workshop leader

Randon Billings Noble, *A Harp in the Stars: An Anthology of Lyric Essays*

Laura Oliver, *The Story Within: New Insights and Inspiration for Writers*

Moderator: Fernando Manibog, essayist

Writing about personal experiences can be quite challenging. Fernando Manibog is a memoirist and essayist who left a career as an energy economist to pursue his love of writing. He'll moderate a discussion about delving into one's own life for creative inspiration. Christine Koubek Flynn's award-winning essays have appeared in the Washington Post, Electric Literature, Chautauqua, and Bethesda magazine, among others. Essayist Randon Billings Noble has published two collections with a university press and other works with the New York Times, Brevity, Creative Nonfiction, and elsewhere. Laura J. Oliver is an award-winning developmental story editor, workshop facilitator, and writing mentor whose book *The Story Within: New Insights and Inspiration for Writers* has been reprinted eight times.

How to Find Grants, Scholarships, Residencies

Laura Weiss, Maryland State Arts Council

Melanie Figg, poet, teacher, coach, frequent grant recipient

Trudy Hale, writer, teacher and head of the writers' retreat the Porches
Moderator: Dave Housley, editor-at-large, Barrelhouse Magazine

Searching for financial assistance for a project, a quiet place to complete your rough draft, or feedback and the fellowship of other writers? Novelist Dave Housley, a founding editor at Barrelhouse magazine and primary organizer of its writing conference, moderates this discussion about securing support and finding community. Melanie Figg is a poet, teacher, and writing coach who has secured numerous grants and competitive residencies for her own creative work and that of many others. Trudy Hale — poet, teacher, and editor-in-chief of Streetlight Magazine — turned a renovated Virginia farmhouse into the Porches, a retreat for artists of all stripes. After earning a music degree from Catholic University and holding multiple positions at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, Laura Weiss joined the Maryland State Arts Council as program director for arts services in 2019.

Workshops

Polish or Perish: Revising Your Novel. How to Know When It's Done.

Popular speaker and Writer's Center workshop leader Kathryn Johnson shares wisdom on turning a rough draft into a compelling manuscript. Also writing as Mary Hart Perry and Nicole Davison, she has authored over 40 novels with HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, MacMillan, and other traditional publishers. She is CEO and founder of WriteByYou.com, a writers' coaching and editorial service. Her most recent book is *The Extreme Novelist: The No-Time-to-Write Method for Drafting Your Novel in 8 Weeks*, based on her live Zoom course.

You've Written It...Now What?: How to Publicize Your Book.

Whether you're self-published or are working with a traditional or hybrid press, that's only the start. Given all the new books vying for readers' attention each year, it takes a strategic marketing effort to get yours noticed. In this workshop, Emily Barrosse, former McGraw-Hill editor-in-chief and founder and CEO of Bold Story Press, will walk through how to use the publication calendar to your best advantage, ensure your book is getting noticed ahead of publication, and make the most of your launch.

Panelists and Speakers

[Liza Achilles](#) is the author of *Two Novembers: A Memoir of Love 'n' Sex in Sonnets*, published by Beltway Editions. *Two Novembers* was selected for DCTRENDING's Summer Booklist 2024. It sold out before its publication date and sold out again one-and-a-half months later. Achilles' nonfiction and poetry has appeared in the Independent, the Silent Book Club blog, and literary journals such as Exacting Clam and Tofu Ink Arts Press. Her [blog for the discerning reader](#) features great modern books. She lives near Washington, DC. Find Liza on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).



Indran Amirthanayagam writes and translates in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. He has published 28 poetry books, including *El bosque de deleites fratricidas*, *Seer*, *The Runner's Almanac*, *Poet Nan Po A* (Poet of the Port), *The Migrant States*, *The Elephants of Reckoning* (winner 1994 Paterson Poetry Prize), *Uncivil War*, and *The Splintered Face: Tsunami Poems*. In music, he recorded Rankont Dout. He publishes at [Beltway Editions](#); edits [Beltway Poetry](#); writes a [blog](#) and a weekly poem for Haiti en Marche and El Acento; and has received fellowships from the Foundation for the Contemporary Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, the U.S./Mexico Fund for Culture, and the MacDowell Colony. He is the 2022 IFLAC World Poet (Poeta Mundial) and also hosts [the Poetry Channel](#) on YouTube.

Emily Barrosse is the founder and CEO of [Bold Story Press](#), a publishing company dedicated to amplifying the voices of women authors. With over 35 years of experience in the publishing industry, Emily has a proven track record in signing, developing, and publishing bestselling books. She honed her expertise while holding leadership roles, including vice president and editor-in-chief at McGraw-Hill, where she managed a \$500 million digital and print publishing portfolio. Throughout her distinguished career, Emily recognized the significant barriers women authors face in traditional publishing. Today, she is passionate about empowering women to share their stories with the world through Bold Story Press. Outside of publishing, Emily is an enthusiastic dahlia grower and a student of bridge.

Louis Bayard, says the New York Times, “reinvigorates historical fiction,” rendering the past “as if he’d witnessed it firsthand.” His acclaimed novels include *The Wildes: A Novel in Five Acts*, *The Pale Blue Eye*, now a Netflix motion picture starring Christian Bale, the national bestseller *Courting Mr. Lincoln*, and *Jackie & Me*, *The School of Night*, and *Mr. Timothy*. A New York Times Notable author, Bayard has been nominated for both the Edgar and Dagger awards. His reviews and articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, and Salon. Find Lou on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Bluesky](#).

Andrew Bertaina is the author of the essay collection *The Body Is a Temporary Gathering Place* (Autofocus, 2024), the book-length essay *Ethan Hawke & Me* (Barrelhouse, 2025), and the short-story collection *One Person Away from You* (Moon City Press Award Winner, 2021). His work has appeared in the ThreePenny Review, New Letters, Prairie Schooner, Witness Magazine, and elsewhere. His work has been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry* and *The Best Microfiction* and was listed as notable in three editions of *The Best American Essays* and earned a special mention in the Pushcart Prize anthology. He has an MFA from American University, runs the 804 Lit Salon in Washington, DC, and is an editor for Night Ginkgo Press.

Caroline Bock is the author of the forthcoming novel *The Other Beautiful People* (Regal House Publishing), a workplace love story. She is also the author of *Carry Her Home*, winner of the Fiction Award from the Washington Writers' Publishing House, and the critically acclaimed YA novels *LIE* and *Before My Eyes*. Her short work has been published in SmokeLong, Brevity, Bethesda Magazine, Gargoyle, and the Grace & Gravity series, and she has new flash fiction forthcoming in

the Hopkins Review. She is currently the co-president and editor of the Washington Writers' Publishing House, a DC-area literary institution, and is working on an anthology of poetry and prose for 2025 entitled *America's Future*.

Daniel de Visé is the author of five books. The latest, *The Blues Brothers: An Epic Friendship, the Rise of Improv, and the Making of an American Film Classic*, is a dual biography of John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd that explores their friendship and the genesis of an iconic film. It has been translated into Spanish, German, Italian, and the Queen's English. Find Dan on [X](#).

Eric Dezenhall is an award-winning author of 12 books of fiction and nonfiction, including *Wiseguys and the White House: Gangsters, Presidents, and the Deals They Made* and, with Gus Russo, *Best of Enemies: The Last Great Spy Story of the Cold War*, which is being made into a feature film. He founded one of the nation's first crisis-management firms and worked in the White House, where President Reagan once called him "Derek." His organizational skills were deemed insufficient for membership in organized crime, but he's really trying. His novel *False Light*, about a reputation smear in the internet age, won the award for best novel from the Independent Book Publishers Association.

David Ebenbach is the author of 10 books of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction, including his new novel, *Possible Happiness*, which Booklist called "a beautiful coming-of-age novel with a highly empathic, multidimensional character who comes alive on the page" in a starred review. His books have won such awards as the Drue Heinz Literature Prize and the Juniper Prize, among others. He lives with his family in Washington, DC, where, at Georgetown University, he teaches creative writing and literature and works with faculty and graduate students to support their teaching. Find David on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [TikTok](#).

Glory Edim is the founder of [Well-Read Black Girl](#), a podcast and digital literacy platform that celebrates the uniqueness of Black literature and sisterhood. She edited the anthology *Well-Read Black Girl*, which was nominated for an NAACP Image Award and named a best book of the year by Library Journal. Her latest work, *Gather Me: A Memoir in Praise of the Books That Saved Me*, is a collection of groundbreaking short stories that explore the thin yet imperative line between Black girlhood and womanhood. The winner of the Innovator's Award from the Los Angeles Times Book Prizes, Edim worked as a cultural practitioner for over 10 years and serves on the board of Baldwin for the Arts. She resides in Washington, DC, with her son, Zikomo. Find Glory on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#).

Kathryn Fay (she/her) is the publisher and editor of [Modern Artist Press](#), a new woman-owned indie press that looks to expand and explode the definition of a modern artist by publishing literary fiction. Kathryn has over 15 years of writing, editing, and publishing experience to include museum catalogues, biographies, memoirs, and fiction. Her interest in art and literature was inspired by her experience growing up in a foreign-service family that was posted in Brazil, South Korea, Morocco, Russia, Argentina, and the United States. She holds a B.A. in English and art history from the



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College of William & Mary and an M.A. in art history from American University. You can find Modern Artist Press on [Instagram](#) and [Bluesky](#).

Melanie Figg is a poet, teacher, and writing coach who loves building good grant budgets. She has secured many grants and competitive residencies for her own creative work (from the NEA, MD State Arts Council, the McKnight and Jerome Foundations, the Arts & Humanities Council of Montgomery County, and others), as well as a full scholarship for her MFA. She's also spent 30+ years as a grant writer for a variety of nonprofit organizations, securing funding for hundreds of creative-arts and community projects. She loves working one-on-one with writers and individual artists to get funding for their own projects. Find Melanie on [LinkedIn](#).

Christine Koubek Flynn's essays have appeared in the Washington Post, [Electric Literature](#), Chautauqua, and Bethesda magazine, among others. Her work has also received awards from the American Society of Journalists and Authors and has been supported by residencies at Ragdale and the Virginia Center for Creative Arts. She holds an MFA in creative writing and enjoys working with writers to help shape their stories both one-to-one and in workshops she has led for literary centers and independently.

Lauren Francis-Sharma is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Til the Well Runs Dry*, *Book of the Little Axe*, and her latest, *Casualties of Truth*, inspired by her attendance at South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Amnesty Hearings. Find Lauren on [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Facebook](#).

Varun Gauri was born in India and raised in the Midwest. After studying philosophy in college and public policy in graduate school, he worked for more than two decades on global poverty and human rights, publishing academic articles and books on development economics and behavioral economics. He now teaches at Princeton University and lives with his family in Bethesda, Maryland. His short fiction was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and recognized in Best American Nonrequired Reading. He was a summer writer-in-residence at the Inner Loop in Washington, DC. *For the Blessings of Jupiter and Venus* is his first novel. Find Varun on [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

Andrew Gifford, who was born and raised in Washington, DC, is the founder and director of the Santa Fe Writers Project, an indie press dedicated to craft writing. He is the grandson of the founder of Gifford's Ice Cream and the author of *We All Scream: The Fall of the Gifford's Ice Cream Empire*.

Hannah Grieco is a writer and editor in Washington, DC. She edits novels and prose collections at the local independent press Alan Squire Publishing, where her recent anthology, *Already Gone: 40 Stories of Running Away*, was released in November 2023. Her own writing can be found in the Washington Post, the Independent, Al Jazeera, Brevity, Craft Literary, Poet Lore, Shenandoah, Fairy Tale Review, and elsewhere. She is the editor-in-chief of two literary journals, the ASP Bulletin and Porcupine Literary. Find her on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Bluesky](#).



Trudy Hale is a poet, writer, teacher, and editor-in-chief of [Streetlight Magazine](#), a digital and literary arts journal. She earned an MFA from Antioch Los Angeles. In 2004, she moved to Nelson County, Virginia, renovated a 19th-century farmhouse overlooking the James River, and opened [the Porches](#), a writers' retreat that supports and encourages writers and artists of all stripes. The Porches offers uninterrupted time for writers to concentrate on their projects. The Porches also offers workshops, residences, and fellowships. Many writers have had creative breakthroughs at the Porches and published chapbooks, poetry and essay collections, memoirs, novels, and plays.

Aaron Hamburger is the author of four books, the story collection [The View from Stalin's Head](#), winner of the Rome Prize in Literature, and the novels [Faith for Beginners](#) (a Lambda Literary Award nominee), [Nirvana Is Here](#) (winner of a Bronze Medal in the 2019 Foreword Indie Awards), and [Hotel Cuba](#) (winner of the 2024 Bridge Book Award in American Fiction). His writing has appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Chicago Tribune, Tin House, Crazyhorse, Boulevard, Poets & Writers, O, the Oprah Magazine, and elsewhere. He is the winner of the 2023 Jim Duggins, PhD Outstanding Mid-Career Novelist Prize from Lambda Literary. He has also won fellowships from Yaddo, Djerassi, the Civitella Ranieri Foundation, the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and the Edward F. Albee Foundation. He teaches writing at George Washington University and the Stonecoast MFA Program. Find Aaron on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), and [Bluesky](#).

Jennifer Harris is the author of the novel [Pink](#) (Harrington Park Press). Her creative essay "Why I Am Not a Buddhist Monk," from *Monk Girl*, is forthcoming in *Gargoyle* magazine. Her work has previously appeared in several issues of the New York Quarterly, HLLQ, and Fish Stories Collective and in the anthology [Power Lines](#) (Tía Chucha Press). She is the publisher and director of [JackLeg Press](#).

Virginia Hartman's novel, [The Marsh Queen](#), has been translated into five languages. Her fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in the Hudson Review, Alaska Quarterly Review, Washingtonian, Redux, Delmarva Review, Beltway Poetry Quarterly, Sligo Journal, and [Gravity Dancers: Even More Fiction by Washington Area Women](#), among others. Her writing has been supported by the Sewanee Writers' Conference, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and the Tyrone Guthrie Centre. She holds an MFA from American University and teaches creative writing at George Washington University and at the Writer's Center.

Dave Housley is the author of four novels and five story collections, most recently the novel [The Other Ones](#) and the collection [Looney](#). His work has appeared in Booth, Mid-American Review, McSweeney's, Split Lip, and other places. He is one of the founding editors and all-around do-stuff people at Barrelhouse and the primary organizer of the Barrelhouse conference Conversations and Connections: Practical Advice on Writing. He is also the director of web strategy at Penn State Outreach and Online Education. Find Dave on [Bluesky](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

Kathryn Johnson (aka Mary Hart Perry/Nicole Davidson) has authored over 40 novels with HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, MacMillan, and other traditional publishers. Her books have been nominated for the prestigious Agatha Award and won the Heart of Excellence and Bookseller's Best



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Awards. Kathryn teaches popular writing workshops for the Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland, and has spoken at the Smithsonian, the Library of Congress, and many regional writers' conferences. She is CEO and founder of WriteByYou.com, a writers' coaching and editorial service. Her most recent book is *The Extreme Novelist: The No-Time-to-Write Method for Drafting Your Novel in 8 Weeks*, based on her live Zoom course.

Kelsea Johnson is the co-founder of indie publishing house [Stirred Stories](#), which has been recognized by the Children's Book Council, Reading Is Fundamental, and the Washington Post for its diverse collection of books and refreshing approach to publishing. Prior to Stirred Stories, Kelsea earned a degree in political science from Elon University and worked as a communications and advocacy professional for marginalized communities at the local and national level. A native and current resident of Washington, DC, Kelsea is committed to using storytelling as a tool for positive social change.

Melanie D.G. Kaplan is an independent journalist who covers travel, science, and animals. She has written more than 100 travel stories for the Washington Post and has also contributed to the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, U.S. News & World Report, USA Today, People, and National Parks. She is a 2021-22 MIT Knight Science Journalism Fellow and 2022 Vermont Law School Media Fellow. Her book, *Lab Dog: A Beagle and His Human Investigate the Surprising World of Animal Research*, will be published later this year. When she's not on the road, Melanie lives in an 11-foot-wide house in Washington, DC.

Debbie Levy is the author of more than 30 books for young people, including the New York Times bestselling *I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark*; *A Dangerous Idea: The Scopes Trial, the Original Fight Over Science in Schools*; *This Promise of Change* (with Jo Ann Allen Boyce); *The Year of Goodbyes*; and *Becoming RBG*. Debbie is the recipient of a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor, Sydney Taylor Award, and the National Jewish Book Award, among other honors. Before she started writing books for young people, she worked as a newspaper editor and a lawyer. Find Debbie on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Jeffrey Dale Lofton is a senior advisor at the Library of Congress, where he's surrounded by books and the people who love them. *Red Clay Suzie* is a fictionalized memoir written through his lens of being gay and living with a disability in a conservative family in the Deep South. It was longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, awarded the Seven Hills Literary Prize for Fiction, and named an Indie Next List Pick by the American Booksellers Association. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of *Red Clay Suzie* go to support the important work of the Trevor Project and the Born This Way Foundation. Find Jeffrey on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [Bluesky](#), and [X](#).

Fernando Manibog, a memoirist and essayist, is a recent entrant into creative writing. He was well into his career as an energy economist when his old love of writing hit hard. After many short courses, he completed American University's MFA program in 2024, where he was awarded the Literature Department's Richard McCann Prize for Prose Writing. He has several publications in literary magazines and has won the Columbia Journal's Nonfiction Prize. He also completed the full



curriculum of the Studio Acting Conservatory, where he learned to bridge theater and the writing craft. He has decided to focus on memoir and personal essays upon realizing he had already spread a lot of fiction in his previous work as an economist. His fondest dream is to write obsessively on a white sand beach in his native Philippines until he uses up all the fancy pens, rainbow inks, and artsy notebooks he accumulated while aspiring to become a writer. He is currently working on a memoir.

Nevin Martell is a writer-photographer based in the DC area who focuses on food, travel, and foraging. His work regularly appears in the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, USA Today, National Geographic, and many other publications. He is the author of eight books, including *Red Truck Bakery Cookbook: Gold-Standard Recipes from America's Favorite Rural Bakery*, *The Founding Farmers Cookbook: 100 Recipes for True Food & Drink*, and the travelogue-memoir *Freak Show Without a Tent: Swimming with Piranhas, Getting Stoned in Fiji and Other Family Vacations*. Find him on [Instagram](#).

Randon Billings Noble is an essayist. She has two books published by the University of Nebraska Press: her collection *Be with Me Always* and her anthology of lyric essays, *A Harp in the Stars*. Other work has appeared in the “Modern Love” column at the New York Times, Brevity, Creative Nonfiction, and elsewhere. She is the founding editor of the online literary magazine [After the Art](#) and currently teaches in West Virginia Wesleyan’s Low-Residency MFA Program and Goucher’s MFA in Nonfiction Program. Find Randon on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

Laura J. Oliver is an award-winning developmental story editor, workshop facilitator, and writing mentor. She is the author of *The Story Within: New Insights and Inspiration for Writers*, which was published by Penguin Random House and has been reprinted eight times. Her fiction and nonfiction appear in national magazines, newspapers, and literary reviews. She taught at the University of Maryland and St. John’s College, and her popular weekly newspaper column is featured every Wednesday as “This Is How the Story Goes” on NPR member station WHCP. Oliver has won a Maryland State Arts Council Individual Artist Award in Fiction and an Anne Arundel County Literary Arts Award. Find Laura on [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#).

Karen Outen’s fiction has appeared in Glimmer Train, the North American Review, Essence, and elsewhere. She is a 2018 recipient of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award and has been a fellow at both the Institute for the Humanities at the University of Michigan and the Pew Fellowships in the Arts. She received an MFA from the University of Michigan. She lives in Bowie, Maryland. *Dixon, Descending* is her first novel. Find Karen on [LinkedIn](#).

Tina Pohlman spent nearly 25 years as an editor and publisher before moving to the agenting side of the business, first at Union Literary in New York and then at Ross Yoon (recently acquired by William Morris Endeavor) in Washington, DC, where she now lives. Tina has acquired and edited a wide range of critically acclaimed and bestselling authors over the course of her career, including Colson Whitehead, Patrick deWitt, and Christine Schutt in fiction, and Temple Grandin and Arika Okrent in nonfiction. As an agent, she represented notable fiction and nonfiction authors, including Mateo Askaripour, author of the New York Times bestselling novel *Black Buck*; John Lee Clark, National Book Award finalist and author of *How to Communicate: Poems* and *Touch the Future: A*



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[*Manifesto in Essays*](#); and Dr. Kwane Stewart, CNN Hero of the Year and author of [*What It Takes to Save a Life: A Veterinarian's Quest for Healing and Hope*](#). Tina currently enjoys working as an independent editor, writing coach, and publishing consultant.

Zach Powers is the author of the forthcoming novel *The Migraine Diaries* (JackLeg, 2026), the novel [*First Cosmic Velocity*](#) (Putnam, 2019), and the story collection [*Gravity Changes*](#) (BOA Editions, 2017). His writing has been featured in *American Short Fiction*, Lit Hub, and elsewhere. He serves as artistic director for the Writer's Center and marketing director for Poet Lore, America's oldest poetry magazine. Originally from Savannah, Georgia, he now lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Brigid Schulte is a journalist, keynote speaker, and author of [*Over Work: Transforming the Daily Grind in the Quest for a Better Life*](#) and the New York Times bestselling [*Overwhelmed: How to Work, Love, and Play When No One Has the Time*](#). She was an award-winning journalist for the Washington Post and part of the team that won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize. She is the director of the Better Life Lab, the work-family justice, care, and gender-equity program at New America. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including the New York Times, Harvard Business Review, the Financial Times, and others.

Bernardine (Dine) Watson is a nonfiction writer and poet who lives in Washington, DC. She has written on social-policy issues for major foundations, nonprofit organizations, and for the Washington Post Health and Science section and the She the People blog. Dine's memoir, [*Transplant*](#), won the 2023 Washington Writers' Publishing House prize for nonfiction and appeared on National Public Radio's 2023 list of "Books We Love." Dine was selected by Poets & Writers as one of their "5 over 50" debut authors for 2023. Her poetry has been published in Beltway Poetry Quarterly, Bourgeon/Mid-Atlantic Review, and Dark House Books. In 2023, two of her poems were nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Dine is a member of the 2015 class of the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities' "The Poet in Progress" program and the 2017 and 2018 classes of the Hurston/Wright Foundation's Summer Writers' Workshop for Poetry. She is a member of the Washington Writers' Publishing House.

Laura Weiss has served as program director for arts services at the [*Maryland State Arts Council*](#) since 2019. Previous to MSAC, Laura has 13 years of nonprofit arts-management experience as a longtime staff member at Everyman Theatre in Baltimore. During her tenure at Everyman, she served in multiple roles, including associate director of marketing and media relations, special assistant to the artistic and managing directors, and development operations manager. Laura holds a Bachelor of Music degree in musical theatre from the Catholic University of America. She is a Baltimore-area native, having grown up in Towson and attended Carver Center for Arts and Technology for high school.

Tim Wendel's books include [*Summer of '68*](#), [*Cancer Crossings*](#), [*Castro's Curveball*](#), and his new historical novel, [*Rebel Falls*](#), winner of the 2025 W.Y. Boyd Literary Award, given to the best novel set in a period when the United States was at war. A longtime writer-in-residence at Johns Hopkins University, his honors include a New York Times Editor's Selection, Latino Literary Award,

Publisher's Weekly Top 10, and an Indie Book Award. His work has appeared in the New York Times, USA Today, Washington Post, Gargoyle, National Geographic, GQ, and Esquire. Find Tim on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

Lifetime Achievement Award: E. Ethelbert Miller

E. (Eugene) Ethelbert Miller is a giant across the DC region and throughout the literary community. A much-celebrated poet, he is also known for his advocacy, his sharp wit, and his passion for using language to bridge divides between cultures. He is always ready with an encouraging word and an eagerness to uplift fellow writers. For these reasons, we're proud to announce that he'll receive the Independent's Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's Washington Writers Conference.

Though born in the Bronx, Miller quickly became a fixture in Washington, DC, after graduating from Howard University in 1972 and serving as director of its African American Studies Resource Center from 1974 to 2015. He has authored two memoirs and several poetry collections, including, most recently, *the little book of e*, a collaboration with translator Rafi Ellenson that presents Haiku in English and Hebrew as a symbol of how language can bring people together. His poetry has been translated into nearly a dozen languages.

Miller is a two-time Fulbright Senior Specialist Program Fellow to Israel and holds an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from Emory & Henry University. He was inducted into the 2015 Washington, DC, Hall of Fame and was given the 2016 AWP George Garrett Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature and the 2016 DC Mayor's Arts Award for Distinguished Honor.

In 2018, he was inducted into the Gamma Xi Phi arts fraternity and appointed an Authors Guild ambassador. His collection *If God Invented Baseball* won the 2019 Literary Award for poetry by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and he received a 2020 grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. He was nominated for a Grammy in 2022 for Best Spoken Word Poetry Album, "Black Men Are Precious." He hosts the weekly WPFW morning radio show "On the Margin with E. Ethelbert Miller" and hosts and produces "The Scholars" on UDC-TV. For 17 years, Miller served as editor of Poet Lore, the oldest poetry magazine in the U.S. He has been married to Denise King-Miller for 42 years and has two children, Jasmine Simone and Nyere Gibran.



Agents

Ritu Anand of [D4EO Literary Agency](#) has been a passionate storyteller since childhood. Caught and admonished for writing — under her desk — during a math class, she recalls being highly inconvenienced. Inspiration had struck from within, and there was little else she could have done to curtail it. Today, Ritu is the award-winning author of *Kara's Dreams*, a picture book about being resilient in the face of adversity. Her interests include kidlit (picture books, middle grade, and YA), literary fiction (drama, fairytales, and stories in verse), general fiction (women's, drama, humor, satire, realistic, and tragedy), and historical fiction (women's, fantasy, and romantic). Diverse and underrepresented voices are encouraged to submit. She'd love to be pitched the next *Where the Wild Things Are*. DO NOT pitch her sci-fi, paranormal, or erotica. (Instagram: @Rituwrites4kids)

Regina Bernard-Carreño of [Ladderbird Literary Agency](#) was born and raised in New York's Hell's Kitchen and "safeguards a deep, personal passion for her city and all of its history." As an academic and writer — she holds a Ph.D. in urban education — Bernard-Carreño is drawn to all things artistic, and her literary interests are broad. The editorial director at Ladderbird, she works with writers and agents "to help them expand ideas, consider techniques and approaches, and tinkers with craft."

Penelope Burns came to [Gelfman Schneider Literary Agents](#) as an intern in 2012, after graduating from Colgate University and attending the Denver Publishing Institute. She became a full-time agent in late 2015 after working briefly at a book-to-film scouting agency. She considers herself a "generalist," representing an eclectic variety of literary and commercial fiction in adult, YA, and middle grade, as well as some narrative nonfiction. She's always looking for an engaging voice. She'd like to be pitched the next *Mr. Robot* — "basically, something with the kind of twists that make me sit up and gasp in shock." DO NOT pitch her military thrillers, police procedurals, or picture books.

Marisa A. Corvisiero is the founder of — and senior literary agent at — the [Corvisiero Literary Agency](#). She is also an author coach, literary consultant, speaker, author, and attorney with more than 25 years of experience in corporate law and trusts & estates. She holds a JD from the Pace University School of Law, with a focus on corporate and international law. She also received a Bachelor's degree in business administration from Hofstra. She has attended over 100 conferences and workshops and continues to present on webinars, tutorials, and bootcamps for Writer's Digest and other reputable sources, as well as hosting her own Author Preneur Workshops, where she teaches and coaches authors on writing, mindset, and publishing as a business. [Read her manuscript wish list here.](#)

Arielle Datz of [Dunow, Carlson, & Lerner](#) is seeking mostly adult (and some YA) literary and commercial fiction that features unusual stories and voices. In nonfiction, she is looking for essays, unconventional memoir, pop culture, and sociology, with a focus on underrepresented voices. [Read her manuscript wish list here.](#)



Lindsay Edgecombe, a vice president at [Levine Greenberg Rostan Literary Agency](#), represents a vast array of nonfiction titles — including lifestyle and health, memoir, and illustrated books — and literary fiction. She is especially drawn “to projects with strong narrators, obscure journeys, and political backbones,” and she’s always on the lookout for new talent.

Sorche Elizabeth Fairbank established [Fairbank Literary Representation](#) in 2002. Since then, she has had the pleasure of working with a dynamic and varied client list, representing bestselling authors, award-winning journalists, artists, and illustrators, television and YouTube stars, and, of course, one of her favorite kinds of client: the debut author. Her authors are found with all the major publishers, as well as in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Globe*, the *New Yorker*, *Tin House*, *Glimmer Train*, the *Best American* series, *Pushcart Prize*, *Granta*, *Smithsonian*, *McSweeney’s*, *Narrative*, *One Story*, and many more. Sorche’s tastes in novels tend toward literary fiction, international voices, and voice-y novels with a strong sense of place. On the nonfiction side, books that tackle current events and topical and societal issues with a narrative treatment. She has a strong interest in women’s voices and class and race issues, quality lifestyle books (food, craft, design), and the occasional memoir, providing it goes beyond the “me-moir.” Sorche reps a few wildly successful children’s books and is eager for more submissions from illustrator-authors only. She is one of the leading agents of humor, pop culture, and gift books. She and her co-agents work closely to maximize clients’ ancillary rights, including film and television, merchandising, and translation rights. Sorche is a longstanding member of the Association of American Literary Agents (AALA, formerly known as AAR), as well as Sisters in Crime, PEN, and the Agents Round Table, and is on the Literary Council of Grub Street.

Sam Farkas, a South Jersey native, earned a B.A. in history and English from the College of William & Mary before moving to New York City to intern with Maria B. Campbell Associates. Later, she worked in the rights division at Penguin, where she was involved in major international publishing events for authors like John Green. She’s been at [Jill Grinberg Literary Management](#) since 2018 and, an avid traveler, has also been to four continents. [Read her manuscript wish list here.](#)

Jennie Goloboy joined the [Donald Maass Literary Agency](#) in 2017 after six years at a Twin Cities-based literary agency. She has a Ph.D. in the history of American civilization from Harvard and published a book based on her dissertation, “Charleston and the Emergence of Middle-Class Culture in the Revolutionary Era,” in 2016. Her novel, *Obviously Aliens*, was published by Queen of Swords Press in 2021. Says Jennie, “I’m a big fan of fantasy novels with a historical setting — the more researched, the better!” DO NOT pitch her historical novels or memoir. (X: @jenniegoloboy)

Barbara Jones of [Stuart Krichevsky Literary Agency](#) worked for many years as an editor at magazines like *Real Simple* and *Vogue* before moving into books. A onetime editorial director at Hyperion and executive editor at Henry Holt, she represents literary and upmarket fiction and nonfiction at SKLA, where she especially seeks out voices from underrepresented communities. She’d love to be pitched the next *Wedding People*, *Clear* (by Carys Davies), *Say Nothing*, *Salvage the*



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Bones, *Never Let Me Go*, or *Fire Weather*. DO NOT pitch her romance, fantasy, graphic novels, thrillers, or mysteries.

Linda Konner of the [Linda Konner Literary Agency](#) has been in the publishing business for over 30 years as an agent, author, editor, columnist, and lecturer. She has served as editor-in-chief of *Weight Watchers Magazine* and Richard Simmons' monthly newsletter, *Richard Simmons & Friends*, and was a features editor at *Redbook*, *Seventeen*, and *Woman's World*. She was a columnist for *Glamour* and *Fitness* magazines, and her articles have appeared in dozens of publications, including the *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Playboy*, the *N.Y. Daily News*, *Cosmopolitan*, *TV Guide*, and *Woman's Day*. Her controversial piece for *New Woman* magazine, "Living Apart and Loving It," became the basis for "Donahue" and "Sally Jessy Raphael" shows. Konner has lectured on book and magazine publishing at more than four dozen writers' conferences and colleges, including New York University, the Willamette Writers' Conference (Portland, Oregon), the Cape Cod Writers' Conference, Brooklyn College, the BlissDom bloggers' conference, and the University of Wisconsin (River Falls). Konner is a member of the Association of Authors' Representatives, the Authors Guild, and the American Society of Journalists and Authors. She seeks book projects in the following categories: health, relationships, diet, fitness, parenting, popular psychology, addiction, women's issues, business how-to, personal finance, and popular science. She'd love to be pitched the next *The Psychology of Money*. DO NOT pitch her children's, fiction, or religion.

Lizz Nagle is a senior agent at [Victress Literary](#). She used to read books while walking to school as a kid and got lost in stories at the Allentown Public Library. She then stayed local, graduating from Cedar Crest College in May of 2009, where she studied English with a creative-writing concentration and picked up another communication major along the way. After graduating college, mothering, office managing for a chiropractor, substitute teaching for the Allentown School District, working construction for a little while, and writing for fun herself, Lizz began her agenting career in 2019 at Victress Literary under the mentorship of Victress founder Shannon Orso. She immediately began seeking out layered, character-driven stories with social relevance that challenge stereotypes, soften hearts, and spread hope with a message of resilience. With a client list including but not limited to young adult, women's fiction, horror, and fantasy titles, Lizz thrives in a creative atmosphere working on a wide variety of books that mash up genres and are propelled by characters. As an agent, she values communication, community, and collaboration. When not reading, writing, painting, practicing guitar, traveling, or at a concert, she might be found on a hiking trail or with her menagerie of kids and rescue animals. (X: [@VictressLizz](#); Instagram: [@VictressLizz](#))

Rita Rosenkranz of the [Rita Rosenkranz Literary Agency](#) founded her boutique agency in 1990 after working as an editor and interacting with agents at major publishing houses, including Random House, Scribner Books, and Outlet, a division of Crown. "I was attracted to their autonomy and appreciated the freedom to be productive on my terms," she says. Working with nonfiction only, Rosenkranz represents biography, business, cooking, health, history, how-to, humor, illustrated books, music, parenting, popular reference, popular science, spirituality, sports, writing, and general-



interest titles. represents all areas of adult nonfiction. DO NOT pitch her anything other than adult nonfiction. (X: @litage)

John Rudolph joined [Dystel, Goderich & Bourret LLC](#) in 2010 after 12 years as an acquiring children's book editor. He began his career at Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers as an editorial assistant and then moved to the G.P. Putnam's Sons imprint of the Penguin Young Readers Group, where he eventually served as executive editor on a wide range of young adult, middle-grade, nonfiction, and picture-book titles. He graduated from Amherst College with a double major in Classics and music. While John's list started out as mostly children's books, it has evolved to the point where it is now half adult, half children's authors — and he's looking to maintain that balance. On the children's side, John is keenly interested in middle-grade and YA fiction and would love to find the next great picture book author/illustrator. For adults, he is actively looking for narrative nonfiction, especially in music, sports, history, popular science, “big think,” performing arts, health, business, memoir, military history, and humor. He is also interested in commercial fiction but is very selective in what he takes on.

Katharine Sands of the [Sarah Jane Freyemann Literary Agency](#) has worked with a varied list of authors who publish a diverse array of books. She is the agent provocateur of *Making the Perfect Pitch: How to Catch a Literary Agent's Eye*, a collection of pitching wisdom from leading literary agents. Actively building her client list, she likes books that have a clear benefit for readers' lives in categories of food, travel, lifestyle, home arts, beauty, wisdom, relationships, parenting, and fresh looks (which might be at issues, life challenges, or popular culture). When reading fiction, she wants to be compelled and propelled by urgent storytelling and hooked by characters. For memoir and femoir, she likes to be transported to a world rarely or newly observed.

Dani Segelbaum of [Arc Literary Management](#) grew up in Minneapolis and interned at Marie Claire while a student at Boston University. A lifelong reader, she represents a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction for adults and children and works with bestselling writers and debut authors alike. In nonfiction, she's “particularly drawn to books in the areas of women's issues, popular culture, illustrated/photography, history, politics, self-help, and current events.” And in fiction, she's on the hunt for “contemporary and upmarket adult fiction, historical fiction, rom-coms, and women's fiction.” She especially hopes to see writing that's “voice-driven, highly transporting, and features unique perspectives and marginalized voices.” She'd love to be pitched the next great women's fiction, upmarket, or rom-com novel! DO NOT pitch her sci-fi, thrillers, or fantasy.

Max Sinsheimer launched [Sinsheimer Literary](#) in the fall of 2016 after nearly seven years as an editor at Oxford University Press. He represents exclusively adult nonfiction across a range of genres, but with a particular interest in food and culture, history, popular science, and social issues. As a former academic editor, he welcomes scholarly works that he think can reach a crossover trade market. For instance, a few food studies and “issues” books he's represented include Marion Nestle's *Unsavory Truth* (Basic Books), Michael Jacobson's *Salt Wars* (MIT Press), and Catherine Donnelly's *Ending the War on Artisan Cheese* (Chelsea Green). He'd love to take on more popular

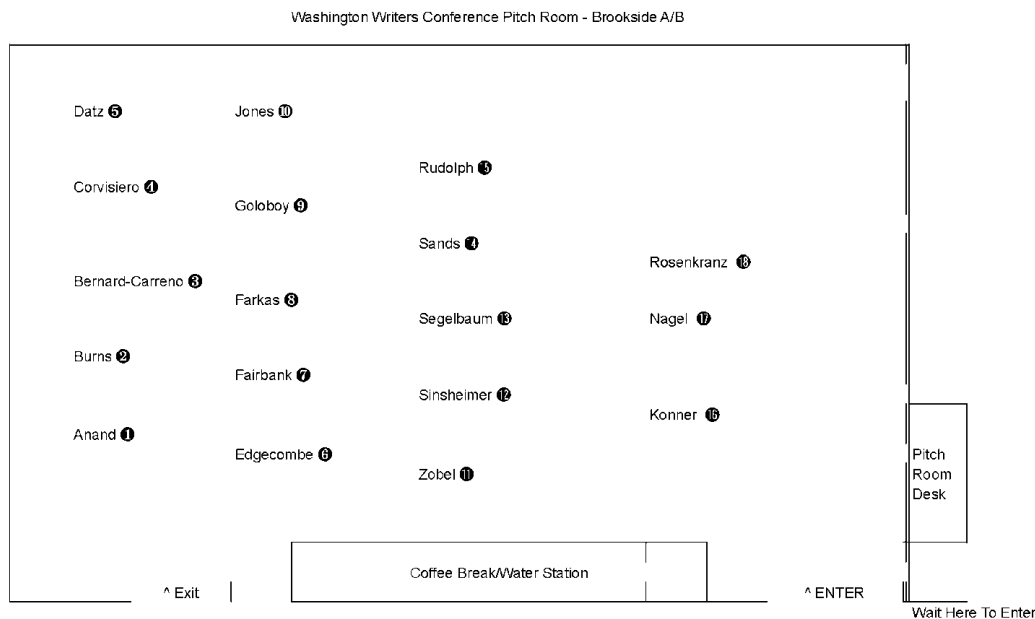


science, particularly where there is a personal narrative woven in. He’s also keen to represent environmental and social-issue books, having worked on *Disposable City* (Nation Books), about Miami’s existential sea-level-rise crisis, and *If I Don’t Make It, I Love You* (Skyhorse), an anthology of narratives from school-shooting survivors. He’s not afraid to take on difficult, depressing topics, but he does expect the writer to leave the reader with something hopeful to cling to. Really, though, he has eclectic tastes and wants to see more pitches in his inbox. So, if you have an exceptional nonfiction manuscript (or even just a complete proposal and sample chapter), he wants to see it! He’d love to be pitched the next *Cobalt Red*, *Madhouse at the End of the Earth*, *Why Fish Don’t Exist*, or *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*. DO NOT pitch him diet books, wellness, self-help, or spirituality. “I’m much more on the narrative than the prescriptive end of things!” (X: @SinsheimerLit; Instagram: @msin10)

Christina Zobel, the Subsidiary Rights Associate at [JABberwocky Literary](#), worked at Harlequin Books before becoming an agent and has a soft spot for fantasy and romance of any kind, with an emphasis on sapphic stories and fairytale retellings. Beyond her literary interests, she’s an avid fan of videogames, can be found laughing or crying at the latest episodes of “Critical Role,” and plays a truly absurd amount of TTRPGs (who doesn’t love adventures with friends?).

Agent Room Information

Agent pitches are in the Brookside A/B on the lower level, across from the registration desk. When it’s time for your pitch, please check in at the agent table. Please do not go into the agent room until the timer opens the door. When you’re done, please exit through the back door. The map below shows how agents will be seated.





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