SAINTS + SINNERS

March 27 - 29, 2020
17th Annual
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Timothy Cummings, represented by Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco and Nancy Hoffman Gallery in New York, journeyed to a French Quarter pied-à-terre over-looking Armstrong Park in the Fall of 2017 as part of a My Good Judy Residency. The My Good Judy Foundation provides residencies for artists seeking to produce a body of work or performance in New Orleans that address culture making from an LGBTQ perspective. The residency was established to also honor the work of author and activist Judy Grahn. The subjects of Cummings’ work are often children and adolescents struggling with issues of sexuality and sexual orientation in an adult world. In 2013, he was an artist-in-residence and subject of a solo exhibition at Transarte in Sao Paulo, Brazil. His paintings are also part of the collections of Rufus Wainwright, Whoopi Goldberg, and Tomaso Bracco and Sara Davis in Milan, Italy. Timothy enjoyed his time in New Orleans where he received inspiration from the spirits of his favorite writers Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote. “They shaped my early adolescence. They offer a magical telling of the spirit of this place. The darkness and humor of life and the queer Southern aesthetic shows up in my work as well. Williams’ ‘garrulous grotesque,’ replacing the bleak mundane of the world with a lush queer poetic eye for the shadows is part of my focus,” Cummings said. We’re excited that Timothy created an original painting of a young Tennessee that we were able to use as our cover art for the 2020 Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival. Cummings resides in Corrales, New Mexico close to the Rio Grande.

You can see more of Timothy’s work at timothy-cummings.com
Welcome to Saints + Sinners!

We are excited to welcome you to New Orleans for the 17th annual Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival. Whether you’re here for the first time or the 17th (Carol Rosenfeld) we hope you take advantage of all the pleasures New Orleans and the Festival have to offer.

It has been rewarding to see how the reach of the Saints and Sinners community has expanded.

Our 2020 Short Fiction Contest received a record number of entries including submissions from England, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, and Norway. On Saturday evening you’re invited to our annual Fiction Contest book launch reception where our winner and some of the finalists featured in the anthology will read short selections of their winning stories.

With us this weekend, we have participants that have traveled to New Orleans from over 30 states and all regions of the country—including the historically gay meccas of San Francisco, New York, Boston, and Seattle—to the rural areas of Wyoming, Ohio; Adkins, Texas; and Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. We have authors in from Canada, the Netherlands, and Switzerland, as well as students and faculty members from the University of Warsaw (Poland), and Humboldt-University Berlin.

Start your weekend off on Friday by grabbing some beignets and sitting in on some of our Master Class sessions on topics including setting, poetry, and memoir. We are pleased to welcome the great Irish writer, Colm Toibin, to SAS this year; he will be interviewed by NPR’s Maureen Corrigan as part of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival on Friday afternoon at 4 p.m. Begin your evening in the French Quarter at the Historic Beauregard-Keys Home & Garden Museum at 6:30 p.m. where you can Glitter with the Literati at our welcome party.

SAS programming continues its emphasis on the history of LGBTQ+ literature and publishing with a discussion featuring the three surviving and thriving members of the influential Violet Quill writing group—Andrew Holleran, Felice Picano, and Edmund White—as well as authors published by the legendary feminist publisher, Firebrand Books, including Jewelle Gomez and Judith Katz. We’ll also explore the current state of LGBTQ+ publishing with influential editors and indie press presentations.

You won’t want to miss our closing reception on Sunday where you will meet the new inductees into the SAS Hall of Fame. In between, you’ll have the chance to celebrate the rich community of writers, readers, and friends who make LGBTQ+ literature, not to mention taking a spin around the Carousel Bar in our literary landmark venue—the Hotel Monteleone.

Whether you want to jump-start your own writing practice, connect with a favorite author, or just get feedback for your ideas—SAS is the place to be inspired. We’d like to say a special thanks to two members of the SAS community who have greatly helped this event over the years. Writer, Rob Byrnes, has graciously funded the Emerging Writer Award for many years, and the 2015 winner turned bestselling author, Saeed Jones, returns to the Festival with How We Fight for Our Lives. It has been so inspiring to see this recognition come full circle.

Lastly, we’d like to thank artist, Timothy Cummings, who has generously provided images of his unforgettable paintings for the SAS program and anthology covers for the past several years. For 2020, he created an original work, The Young Playwright, for the TW/NOLF cover. It is currently on display in the Festival box office. It is such a pleasure to meet and see the talents of such a variety of artists, writers, and collaborators each year!

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

— Paul James Willis
Executive Director, SAS and TW/NOLF
LGBT+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR
March 27, 3:30 – 5 PM
March 28, 1 – 2:30 PM
This leisurely stroll through the French Quarter focuses on New Orleans’ enchanting past with an emphasis on the neighborhood’s queer history and its rich literary heritage. See where writers lived and wrote, and learn about the incredible contributions lesbians and gay men have made to the city over its 300-year-old history. Other highlights include Jackson Square, Free People of Color, the French Market, the birth of jazz, Voodoo, and a wide diversity of architecture. The tour is guided by long-time French Quarter resident Frank Perez, a local historian and professional tour guide who has written two books about French Quarter history. The Friday tour will include a private tour of “Grand Illusions: The History and Artistry of Gay Carnival,” a temporary exhibit by the Louisiana State Museum at the Presbytere on Jackson Square.
Hotel Monteleone, Mezzanine outside Orleans B, $25.

NOLA DRAG TOUR
March 26, 27, 28, and 29
1 – 3 PM
From drag queens to Storyville madams to the Ursuline nuns, Quinn LaRoux teaches the fascinating history of the rebellious and dangerous women who built New Orleans! Nola Drag Tours are hilarious, entertaining, and deeply committed to historical accuracy and social responsibility. Tours emphasize the contributions and stories of women, queer people, and people of color, and attendees can expect to learn much about the history of trans people, the sex industry, and famous LGBTQ+ figures. Total tour walking distance is just under 2 miles. Bar Tonique, 820 N. Rampart Street, $30.

CEMETERY TOUR
March 25 and 26
11 AM – 12:30 PM
This walking tour, led by historian Frank Perez, explores New Orleans’ oldest “City of the Dead.” Founded in 1789, St. Louis Cemetery #1, is a fascinating study in the city’s death and burial customs. Notable residents include Voodoo Queen Marie LaVeau, civil rights activist Homer Plessy, World Chess Champion Paul Morphy, famed architect Benjamin Latrobe, and statesman Bernard de Marigny. Essentially a walk through New Orleans history, this tour covers topics ranging from Voodoo, Free People of Color and race relations, immigration in New Orleans, civil rights, LGBTQ+ history, yellow fever, and slave revolts. 90 minutes. Hotel Monteleone, Mezzanine outside Orleans B, $25.

michele karlsberg marketing and management

“Michele Karlsberg makes sense out of nonsense, and gets it all in writing. She can accomplish nothing short of a miracle, sorting through and organizing the sometimes daunting volume of requests that had buried my ability to get back to the writing life. As a business manger she has no equal.”
—DOROTHY ALLISON

“Michele has a broad reach into the world of publishing and used her many skills to make my memoir a success. She worked with me shoulder to shoulder. I look forward to doing it all again when my next book is finished”
—MICHAEL H. WARD

“Michele works hard, is well-connected, accessible and she keeps the fun in publishing by having a great sense of humor which is a huge asset when you’re talking about the success of your book.”
—LUCY JANE BLEDSOE

michaelkarlsberg@me.com • 917-359-2803

Awards
Publishing Triangle Leadership Award
Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame Inductee
Lambda Literary Publishing Professional Award

When Michele is not focusing on the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community she persists to resist the current administration.

Follow her on
Twitter @MKarlsberg and on Facebook @ Michele Karlsberg & Michele Karlsberg Marketing and Management
In The **BAR of A TOKYO HOTEL**

by **Tennessee Williams**

**MARCH 25-APRIL 5 2020**

in collaboration with the **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS/NEW ORLEANS LITERARY FESTIVAL**

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**THE CHALKY WHITE SUBSTANCE**

**VISIONS OF A QUEER APOCALYPSE BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS**

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2:30 – 3:45 PM — Writer’s Craft Session
FACT AND FICTION WITH COLM TÓIBÍN
This session delves into how history, biography, journalism, an overheard remark, a story half told, or an experience can make their way into fiction, and how life can be completed using fictional methods. We’ll pay special attention to Henry James’ *The Turn of the Screw* and Thomas Mann’s *Death in Venice*, as we have evidence (from James’ Notebooks and Katia Mann’s memoirs) about the origin of these stories. We’ll learn how the authors made use of facts to create their fiction, and how their imagination was nourished by fact, by anecdote, and by experiences that were then transformed as the work progressed.
Tickets on sale at: www.tennesseewilliams.net
The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, $25

6 – 7:15 PM — Special Event
LETTERS READ: The Letters of Stewart Butler
Letters Read is an ongoing series of live events in which local performers interpret historically interesting letters written by culturally vital individuals from various times and Louisiana communities, directed by Nancy Sharon Collins. This event is a rare glimpse into the personal life of an important Louisiana political activist, Stewart Butler. Since the 1970s, Butler has been a significant force in the Louisiana civil rights movement and an advocate for gay rights. He co-founded the Louisiana chapter of the Lesbian and Gay Political Action Caucus and has served on the boards of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, PFLAG, and LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. The letters begin with the 1967 correspondence from Ann, an intimate friend, and the reading weaves in annual Valentine’s letters that Stewart still mails to 200 of his dearest friends. Local performers Dylan Hunter and Rebecca Hollingsworth interpret these letters. Emcee: Frank Perez.
Frenchmen Art & Books, 600 Frenchmen Street, free admission

8 – 10 PM — Special Event
POETRY SLAM
Resident word maestro Chuck Perkins is back to host New Orleans’ finest performance poets in a fierce spoken word battle. You could be among the audience members called upon to judge the poetic proceedings and crown the 2020 Slam winner. No experience is necessary to be a judge, but a good ear and a willingness to be thrilled is essential. And, if you have some good rhymes to share and an appetite to compete, come early and sign up from 7:30-7:45. The evening will also feature live music by Lolly Mariah and Yisrael, and pianist Dave Geare. Sponsored by Paige Royer and Kerry Clayton.
Tickets: www.tennesseewilliams.net
Café Istanbul, 2372 St Claude Avenue $5 in advance, or $10 at the door

8 – 10:30 PM — Theater
The Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans presents:
*IN THE BAR OF A TOKYO HOTEL*
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
Miriam finds herself trapped in a crowded, futuristic Tokyo as her husband, Mark, works diligently in a separate hotel room on what he believes is the next breakthrough in modern art. She attempts to find solace in the chic bar of the hotel as she aggressively puts her Western views and her entire self upon those around her. Her fragility blooms as she fights to rid herself of the burden of her husband. The production will highlight the way in which love of self, love of another, and love of passion drives each of us across boundaries within the human experience. Directed by Torey Hayward.
The Lower Depths Theatre at Loyola University, 6363 St. Charles Avenue
Tickets on sale online at: www.twtheatrenola.com
March 26, 27, 28, 29. All shows are from 8 – 10:30 PM with one intermission
WHAT’S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT:
POETRY WORKSHOP WITH JEWELLE GOMEZ
Contrary to what we may think, it’s a lot easier to write about people, places, or things that we dislike. Consider the cleverly vitriolic reviews of books or movies that are far more entertaining than the subjects of their criticism. Ditto for creating villainous characters who inevitably end up being the most popular with readers and audiences. Writing poems about the people, places, and things that we love—or at least care about—is not easy without descending into the moon/June/spoon treacle that has ruined poetry for many people. Popular songs can often accomplish that kind of tribute, and so can we if we turn our minds and eyes toward what is at the heart of the object of our affection. This workshop will take attendees through a few exercises that will help them dispassionately embrace the proper symbolism, analogies, and similes that can be used to describe random objects. After that, there will be a session for writing about something/someone/someplace that is near to their hearts.
This event is supported in part by Poets & Writers, thanks to a grant from the Hearst Foundations.
Hotel Monteleone, Bienville C, Included in SAS Weekend Registration or $20

EDMUND WHITE: AUTOFICTION OR AUTOBIOGRAPHY
In an hour-long talk, followed by 15 minutes of questions and answer, prize-winning novelist and memoirist Edmund White will discuss the advantages and drawbacks of writing about your life as a novel or autobiography. The contract with the reader is different in each case. The autobiographer is committed writing the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and can be severely criticized if she or he departs from the facts, whereas the novelist is free to rearrange chronology, describe events in-depth beyond the powers of recall, and change the chronology to make it more dramatic or easier to follow. Autobiography possesses authority; autobiographical fiction, by contrast, is free and flexible. This event is supported in part by Poets & Writers, thanks to a grant from the Hearst Foundations.
The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, $25 (not included in SAS Weekend Registration)

PUBLISHING MASTER CLASS WITH DON WEISE FACILITATED BY ERIC ANDREWS-KATZ
Successful publishing requires a combination of passion, discernment, and marketing savvy. Add to that a commitment to gay writing in all its forms and you are describing Don Weise, editor and publisher of Querelle, a small press co-founded with Chuck Forester that publishes two new titles per year. Eric Andrews-Katz interviews Don about his commitment to “celebrating and challenging our views of LGBT life through literature.” Weise will answer questions from writers about seeing their work to publication. During his career, Weise has worked with important LGBT literary figures such as Gore Vidal, Edmund White, Samuel R. Delany, James Purdy, Leslie Feinberg, and Christopher Bram.
Hotel Monteleone, Bienville C, Included in SAS Weekend Registration or $20

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER PRESS
Beautiful Dreamer Press founder and chief editor, Louis Flint Ceci, will be meeting with authors at SAS2020. BDP is looking for novels or story collections; no poetry or plays. They are most interested in unusual perspectives on topics of interest to the LGBTQ community. Pitches will be for possible 2021 publication. For more information about BDP and online submission guidelines, visit: beautifuldreamerpress.com
Hotel Monteleone, Bienville A

TREBOR HEALEY: QUEER SETTING OR SETTING IN LGBTQ LITERATURE
For decades, queer writers have debated what entails a queer setting. Is it the quickly-disappearing gay ghettos in places like San Francisco, New York, and LA? Or has it always been—and increasingly continues to be—just regular places where queers construct their lives, build their support systems and families, and live within traditional non-LGBT environments? As writers, setting is an important part of how we build a story, and it is essential for us to create complex and authentic settings that reflect the reality of gay life, whether it be the
large metropolises where gay neighborhoods exist, or within ethnic enclaves with little immediate support, or, more pertinently, places with no public queer life. Regardless, how do we deepen our expression of setting as a reflection not only of place and time, but of internal things like belief, social and psychological security, religion, nationality, ethnicity, and gender? A setting can be made as complex as the characters who inhabit it, and this master class will walk attendees through how to write that properly.

This event is supported in part by Poets & Writers, thanks to a grant from the Hearst Foundations.

Hotel Monteleone, Bienville D, Included in SAS Weekend Registration or $20

1 – 2:15 PM — SAS Master Class
SAEED JONES: MEMOIR WRITING & THE TRUTH (Or Something Like It):
Our memory is an unreliable narrator. When writing about our pasts, everything we do is in tension with that unavoidable fact. To write a memoir or personal essay, we inevitably use fictive techniques—like dialogue, for example—to craft an engaging, vivid depiction of what we experienced. How do we keep ourselves from going off the rails? How do we write a compelling story while also doing our best to stay true to “what really happened”? I’ve got some ideas about this that I’d like to share with you. Let’s figure out how to tell the truth as best we can.

Hotel Monteleone, Iberville D, Included in SAS Weekend Registration or $20

2:30 – 3:45 PM — SAS Master Class
MICHELE KARLSBERG: MISTAKES MADE AND LESSONS LEARNED IN SELF-PUBLISHING
The writing world is a different place than it was a few years ago. In a world where we’re quicker to read a blog post than we are to go inside a brick-and-mortar bookstore, what defines a reader (and a writer) has changed. Self-publishing was once seen as a desperate, last-ditch attempt from a writer who couldn’t cut it in the real world. Now it’s seen as simply another avenue for a writer to get their work out there. The sheer number of new things you have to learn/decide on is overwhelming. The term “self-publishing” is a bit of a misnomer. Every step forward is incredibly daunting, so stay organized. Join Michele as she shares her expertise to help you along the path as an aspiring writer and offers assistance with publishing troubleshooting.

Hotel Monteleone, Iberville D, Included in SAS Weekend Registration or $20

4 – 5:15 PM — Literary Discussion
COLM TÓIBÍN IN CONVERSATION WITH MAUREEN CORRIGAN
Colm Tóibín is a master of many literary forms: the grand novel (The Master, Nora Webster, Brooklyn), essays (Nine Ways to Kill Your Mother: Writers and Their Families, and Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know: The Fathers of Wilde, Yeats, and Joyce), and stories (“Mothers and Sons”). As a chronicler of Irish immigration to America, he is without parallel. And who better to talk with him about his work than Fresh Air book critic Maureen Corrigan, author of Leave Me Alone, I’m Reading: Finding and Losing Myself in Books, and So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endure? Don’t miss this thrilling meeting of the minds.

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

Headmistress Press

Charlotte Mew Chapbook Contest
Submissions open May 4 – July 4
Past judges: Meg Day, Natalie Diaz, Robin Becker, Ching-In Chen, Ellen Bass

2:30 – 3:45 PM — SAS Workshop
CHAPBOOK 101
WITH RISA DENNENBERG, FREESIA McKEE, AND GREGG SHAPIRO
Everything you ever wanted to know about publishing a chapbook, and then some! So you have some poems or several pieces of creative nonfiction? Maybe a few short-short stories? Not quite enough material to submit for publication as a full length book? Starting from scratch, how can your most polished work (poems, short fiction, or creative nonfiction) become a chapbook? In this workshop we will describe what a chapbook is, explain how to put one together, discuss the most LGBT-friendly chapbook publishers, and explore methods of promoting your chapbook once it is published. There will be plenty of time to answer any and all questions. The workshop leaders have experience in writing, editing, reviewing, and publishing chapbooks. Our goal is to help you step-by-step to get your chapbook out into the world.

Hotel Monteleone, Bienville C, Included in SAS Weekend Registration or $20
The My Good Judy residency serves the community through literary, critical, educational and live performance programs; to support artists and academics seeking to make a contribution in the area of liberatory cultural studies; and to honor the work and legacy of pioneering poet/activist/thinker Judy Grahn.

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

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

The house was built in 1826 by architect Francois Correjolles for a wealthy auctioneer by the name of Joseph Le Carpentier. The last resident of the B-K House, was the author Frances Parkinson Keyes. In the "Author's Note" of her book, Madame Castel's Lodger, she gives her own account of how she became fortuitously involved with the Beauregard House.

"My original tenancy of Beauregard House was apparently a happy accident. I stumbled on it when I was searching for temporary headquarters and nothing seemed available. But I have long since ceased to believe that such occurrences are accidental; I am convinced that they are part of a pattern in which a power higher than ours has had a hand."

With the help of the architect Sam Wilson, Mrs. Keyes undertook the restoration of the House and established the Keyes Foundation that has maintained the House as a museum since her death in 1970.

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

Welcome Party
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020 • 6:30 PM until 8:30 PM

GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI
Welcome Party
Beauregard-Keyes House and Garden Museum
1113 Chartres Street
Price: Included with Weekend Pass/Partner Party Pass or $25
Come experience true Southern hospitality in the beautiful courtyard of the Beauregard-Keyes House. Mingle with fellow writers and avid readers as you begin your evening in the French Quarter at this historical landmark. We'll have hors d’oeuvres, spirits, and a specialty cocktail to get you started. Melodic stylings of harpist Luke Brechtelsbauer will add to the ambience along with Tarot readings by Marcela.

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

The house was built in 1826 by architect Francois Correjolles for a wealthy auctioneer by the name of Joseph Le Carpentier. The last resident of the B-K House, was the author Frances Parkinson Keyes. In the "Author's Note" of her book, Madame Castel's Lodger, she gives her own account of how she became fortuitously involved with the Beauregard House.

"My original tenancy of Beauregard House was apparently a happy accident. I stumbled on it when I was searching for temporary headquarters and nothing seemed available. But I have long since ceased to believe that such occurrences are accidental; I am convinced that they are part of a pattern in which a power higher than ours has had a hand."

With the help of the architect Sam Wilson, Mrs. Keyes undertook the restoration of the House and established the Keyes Foundation that has maintained the House as a museum since her death in 1970.

Historic House and Garden Tours: Tours run on the hour beginning at 10 AM until 3 PM
You can book online @ bkhouse.org
In his first novel in over fifteen years, Felice Picano explores the competing demands of celebrity and integrity set amid the hard reality of Manhattan and the voluptuous fantasy of Hollywood. Noted names and events of the 1970s, ‘80s, and ‘90s intermingle with personal triumphs and private tragedies in this roman à clef with a heart.

“The cultural observations about LA are spot on.”
—Jeff Solomon, Gay & Lesbian Review

“What fun! A delicious read.”
—Mark Abramson, author of Farm Boy: A Memoir with Recipes

Two boys from a working class neighborhood in Newark in the 1960s form a lasting, but unequal, bond. As the city decays around them, Paul and Hal strive for genuine affection against a backdrop of dysfunctional families, escalating violence, and the seedy and sometimes dangerous men willing to take advantage of lost boys.

“Lou Dellaguzzo has crafted a gritty coming-of-age novel that rings true, with a strong ear for dialog and characters who jump off the page.”
—Lewis DeSimone, author of Channeling Morgan

www.BeautifulDreamerPress.com

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700 BURGUNDY STREET, NEW ORLEANS
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

10 – 11:15 AM
JEWISH LESBIAN LITERATURE AND ACTIVISM
The women on this panel will discuss their own participation in both the literature and activism of the women's movements since the 1970s, as well as their extensive knowledge of others whose work has been central to the development of lesbian cultures. The panelists have explored various facets of our Jewish secular vision, but many writers—even, on occasion, the panelists themselves—have down-played their Jewish heritage over the last fifty years for a variety of reasons. This year seems a particularly good time to affirm and celebrate the contributions of Jewish lesbians. Elana Dykewomon, Judith Katz, and Irena Klepfisz discuss this topic with moderator, publicist Michele Karlsberg.
Sponsored by Sinister Wisdom.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon C

10 – 11:15 AM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: Michael Carroll, Terence Diamond, Andrew Holleran, Jeff Mann, Gary Eldon Peter, Sebastian Stuart, and Colm Tóibín for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C

11: 30 AM – 12:45 PM
THE PEOPLE AND PLACES WE LOVE:
CELEBRATING GAY HISTORY
We must never forget the struggle for gay rights that led us where we are today. This panel celebrates the way gay history informs both fiction and nonfiction, whether its Henry Alley's Men Touching, a novel about a gay Vietnam vet, or Paula Martinac’s historical novel, The Ada Decades. Still other writers play homage to LGBTQ meccas in history: Russ Lopez, author of The Hub of the Gay Universe: An LGBTQ History of Boston, Provincetown, and Beyond; Felice Picano, who has chronicled so much of gay history in his plays, novels, and memoirs; and Martinac, author of The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites. Moderated by author and educator, Matthew Griffin.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon C
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
WHEN BOTH OF YOU WRITE: TRUE CONFESSIONS OF LITERARY COUPLES

What’s the key to a good love/writing relationship? Are you ever envious of your spouse’s success? Do you ever hold back the impulse to edit? And who gets the most bookshelf space? These couples have the answers. Charlene Ball writes biblio mysteries with her wife Libby Ware under the name of Lily Charles. Murder at the Estate Sale is the first in the Molly and Emma Booksellers Series. The two live a mile from each other in Atlanta – a personal space solution? Journalist/memoirist Rick Karlin and poet/fiction writer/journalist Gregg Shapiro live the freelance life in South Florida. Short story writer Michael Carroll and novelist/memoirist Edmund White live in New York—what’s it like to live with someone writing a memoir of your life together? Moderator: publisher, Rattling Good Yarns Press, Ian Henzel.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: Leona Beasley, Rich Barnett, Louis Flint Ceci, Jameson Currier, Risa Denenberg, Daniel W.K. Lee, and Vince Sgambati for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C

1 − 2:15 PM
WRITING IN AND ACROSS GENRE: PUSHING AGAINST THE STEREOTYPES

We often turn to genre fiction because we love the form, its comfortable contours, its sense of familiar rhythms. But the best writers are always straining against boundaries (and in LGBTQ writing, pushing the envelope is a way of life), using their work as both a place for conforming with and remaking the idea of genre. Hear how Alex Myers remakes the idea of a western novel in Continental Divide by featuring a trans protagonist; how Elliott Foster told the story of the adoption of his two sons in a memoir from the point of view of the family dog; James K. Moran writes queer themed speculative fiction, poetry and horror novels, and Mary Griggs writes award-winning speculative fiction and romance. Moderator: author, Rick R. Reed.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon C

1 − 2:15 PM
THE VOICES IN YOUR HEAD:
PODCASTS YOU SHOULD BE LISTENING TO

David Swatling produced award-winning radio programs before the term “podcast” was coined in 2004. He facilitates a discussion of this increasingly influential art form with podcasters Elizabeth Andersen, host of the monthly Sandra Moran Radio Book Club on KKF-FM; Wayne Goodman, host of Queer Words podcast; and Candice Huber of Tubby and Coo’s Mid-City Book Shop and host of the Writer’s Forum podcast on WRBH radio-New Orleans. Moderator: David Swatling.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D

1 − 2:15 PM
THE WILD BEAST:
IRENA KLEPFISZ IN CONVERSATION WITH JEWELLE GOMEZ

Irena Klepfisz, the author of five collections of poetry, is also a translator, educator, and human rights activist. Born in the Warsaw ghetto, she and her mother survived and immigrated to the US. She was co-editor of the groundbreaking Jewish Women’s Anthology Tribe of Dina, co-founder of the Jewish Women’s Committee to End the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and was on the original collective of the Lesbian Feminist literary magazine Conditions. Join Gomez and Klepfisz as they discusses Irena’s fascinating life journey. Sponsored by Sinister Wisdom.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon A

1 − 2:15 PM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: Rob Byrnes, Tony Holland, Rick Karlin, Felice Picano, Phyllis Oscar, Trebor Healey, and Carter Sickels for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C
2:30 – 3:45 PM
QUEER POETS, DEMOCRATIC VISTAS
Poets Lisa Dordal, Savannah Sipple, Michael Montlack, and Daniel W.K. Lee join moderators Brad Richard and Elizabeth Gross for a conversation about how queerness shapes both their work and their perspectives on American democracy. We'll explore how queer identities and politics show up not only in poems that comment directly on contemporary political issues, but also in relationship to other subjects in their work—landscape, history, family, love, etc. Coming together from NYC, Appalachia, the San Francisco Bay area, and the south, this panel represents diverse geographical perspectives on the role that queerness can play in poetry and activism at the end of American democracy.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon C

2:30 – 3:45 PM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming Daniel M. Jaffe, Deb Jannerson, Miah Jeffra, Paula Martinac, Vincent Meis, Mike McClelland, and David Pederson for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C

4 – 5:15 PM
SOUTHERN CHARM: BOOKS SET IN THE SOUTH
The American South is many different things to many different people. It's one of the most beautiful parts of the country, with its ecological diversity ranging from the sprawling Mississippi River to the startling beauty of the Smoky Mountains, from the kudzu-covered hollers to the rich delta lands to the sparkling white beaches of the Gulf Coast. The unique and bustling Southern cities also offer a warm departure from their northern counterparts. Alongside this, however, exists the constant presence of a history filled with prejudices and injustices of many different types. Join us as we discuss writing about the new South, the need to reinvent the Southern narrative, and issues of class, race, and gender in the Southern Gothic tradition.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon C

4 – 5:15 PM
INSIDE THE WRITER’S STUDIO—MICHAEL ALAGO
What do Metallica, Public Image Ltd, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Jean Michel Basquiat have in common? Michael Alago. This “gay, Puerto Rican” boy from Brooklyn quickly became the assistant music director for New York’s historic nightclub, The Ritz. He went on to become one of the youngest A&R executives for Elektra Records, working with artists ranging from White Zombie to Cyndi Lauper and Nina Simone. Join Eric Andrews-Katz as he interviews this legendary man of music and photography, followed by an audience Q&A.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D

2:30 – 3:45 PM
THE TRUEST VOICE YOU KNOW
What makes your work recognizably yours? And is having an idiosyncratic voice a good thing? How do you develop the voices of your characters and how do you let them speak through you? These accomplished writers talk about how they get out of their own way and let the characters speak.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D

4 – 5:15 PM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming poets Sven Davisson, Lisa Dordal, Freesia McKee, Michael Montlack, Brad Richard, Gregg Shapiro, and Savannah Sipple for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C
Meet Our Authors

Eric Andrews-Katz  Rob Byrnes  Kimberly Cooper Griffin
Greg Herren  David Pederson  Felice Picano
J.M. Redmann  David Swatling  Ali Vali

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Eleventh Annual Saints + Sinners Short Fiction Contest
Book Launch Reading and Reception
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020 at 6 PM

Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room
(included in weekend pass or $25 individual ticket)

Join this year’s contest winner Matthew Cherry, runner-up Lewis DeSimone, along with finalists Ariadne Blayde, Morgan Rae Hufstader, Miah Jeffra, and Gar McVey-Russell for an evening of cocktails and readings from Saints and Sinners 2020: New Fiction from the Festival hosted by anthology co-editor Tracy Cunningham.

Special thanks to The John Burton Harter Foundation and Bold Strokes Books for their support of the Short Fiction Contest. Audience members receive a copy of Saints + Sinners New Fiction from the Festival 2020.
2020 Contest Finalists

Gania Barlow  Rich Barnett  Ariadne Blayde  Lewis DeSimone  Matthew Haynes

Kevin W. Holland  David Holly  Morgan Rae Hufstader  Miah Jeffra  John Kane

Gar McVey-Russell  Scott D. Pomfret  EJ Robinson  Gary Smith  Michael H. Ward

Matthew Cherry, Winner

We are all stories.

AMBLE PRESS
Managing Editor Michael Nava

Bywater BOOKS
Managing Editor Fay Jacobs

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10 – 11:15 AM
QUEER HISTORY IN FOCUS:
COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO TRAGEDY AND DISCRIMINATION
This panel is a retrospective discussion of the LGBTQ+ Movement in Louisiana from the 1970s to the 1990s. Focusing on three events—the UpStairs Lounge, the AIDS Crisis, and PFLAG’s inclusion of trans people in their Mission Statement—this discussion will focus on how the community responded to each of these events. Panelists include Moderator Frank Perez, Transgender activist Courtney Sharp, HIV activist Jean Redmann, and author Robert Fieseler.
Sponsored by The Ethel and Herman L. Midlo Center at the University of New Orleans.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon A

10 – 11:15 AM
LEAN AND MEAN: SHORT STORIES AND ESSAYS
Some writers seem born to the novel; others, to poetry. But for some writers, the short form summons their deepest dedication; there’s something pleasurable about distilling something to its essence. Still others turn to the short form as a relief from the demands of the long form. These talented, diverse writers—Anita Dolman, Jeff Mann, Gar McVey-Russell, and Gary Eldon Peter—talk about short stories and essays and editing anthologies of short work. Moderated by Andrew Holleran.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D

10 – 11:15 AM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: Charlene Ball, Elana Dykewomon, Judith Katz, Lindsay Sproul, Tammy Lynne Stoner, Ali Vali, and Libby Ware for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C

11 AM – 1 PM — Special Event
POPPY’S POP-UP DRAG BRUNCH
Join New Orleans food celebrity and author Poppy Tooker for a wild and rollicking drag brunch. With three delicious courses, bottomless mimosas, and four beautiful drag queens, it’s guaranteed to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Poppy’s latest book, Drag Queen Brunch profiles 16 fascinating drag queens, the history of drag in New Orleans, and over 60 recipes, including some delectable dishes from Dickie Brennan’s restaurants. Poppy will serve as ringmaster as four of the queens featured in the book perform.
11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
BOOKS, BED, AND BEYOND
What happens in the bedroom doesn't always stay there, does it? This panel discusses the joys and challenges of writing about sex in all its permutations, whether you’re crafting a sex scene for a mainstream literary novel, setting out to make your mark in erotica, or writing nonfiction about sexual behavior. Let’s talk about language and technique and literary energy. What does it take to elevate writing about sex to an art?
Panelists: Jewelle Gomez, Jeff Mann, Jeffrey Round, and Lindsay Sproul. Moderated by Lewis DeSimone.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon A

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
WHERE IS THE NEXT GENERATION OF ACTIVISTS AND READERS?
This cross-generational, diverse panel will address issues of activism across time; what are the pressing LGBTQ issues we need to focus on now? And are young LGBTQ persons rising to the challenge? Veteran activist Felice Picano teaches writing and theater workshops in Los Angeles; poet Daniel W.K. Lee is a third-generation refugee, born in Malaysia, now living in New Orleans. Katie Hogan is a professor of English at UNC Charlotte who has done great research on the culture of AIDS; Tammy Lynne Stoner is not only an author, but the publisher of Gertrude journal and the GERTIE queer book club. Saeed Jones has catapulted to the front lines of activism with the success of his bestselling memoir, How We Fight for Our Lives. Moderator: Carol Rosenfeld, author and chair of the Publishing Triangle.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming Henry Alley, Anita Dolman, Elliott Foster, Wayne Goodman, James K. Moran, David Pratt, and Vanda for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C

1 – 2:15 PM
WHEN SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL:
WHAT INDIE PRESSES HAVE MEANT TO LGBTQ+ BOOKS
Many of the most important works of LGBTQ+ literature and nonfiction have come to us through the work of pioneering indie presses. A panel of publishers survey the scene today. Panelists include Sven Davisson who is a New Orleans-based writer, photographer, and publisher at Rebel Satori Press (and imprints QueerMojo and Queer Space). Risa Denenberg is a co-founder and editor at Headmistress Press, publisher of lesbian/bi/trans poetry and curator of The Poetry Café, an online meeting place where poetry chapbooks are celebrated and reviewed. Miah Jeffra is founding editor of the queer literary collaborative, Foglifter Press, Don Weise, currently the founder of Querelle Press, has 25 years publishing experience, the majority of which has been devoted to LGBT literature. Among the many authors he has worked with are Gore Vidal, Edmund White, Samuel R. Delany, James Purdy, Leslie Feinberg, Christopher Bram, and Ann Bannon. Louis Flint Ceci is publisher and chief editor at Beautiful Dreamer Press. Moderated by author Trebor Healey.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon A

1 – 2:15 PM
WE READ TO KNOW WE'RE NOT ALONE: THE POWER OF MEMOIR
For all readers, but perhaps especially LGBTQ readers, memoirs serve an important purpose, connecting us to one another, showing us possible paths in life. Master memoirist Edmund White has long been a chronicler of his own life and times, elegant and wickedly funny. Novelist Andrew Holleran turned to the memoir during the early years of the AIDS crisis in New York to memorialize friends. Michael Alago takes us into the New York music scene, and his own life as an artist. And Sebastian Stewart, author of several novels, will be publishing his memoir The Malinowski Curse in April of this year with Querelle Press. Moderated by memoirist Michael H. Ward.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D
1 – 2:15 PM
SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: 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, or revisit a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming Kimberly Cooper Griffin, Russ Lopez, Alex Myers, Eric Peterson, Rick R. Reed, and Jeffrey Round for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, 2nd floor, Bienville C

1:30 – 2:45 PM
LEGENDARY CHILDREN: THE FIRST DECADE OF RuPaul’s Drag Race and the Last Century of Queer Life
Tom Fitzgerald and Lorenzo Marquez deep-dive into queer history and culture with hit reality show RuPaul’s Drag Race as a touchstone of influence on modern LGBTQ culture. The book and this discussion focus on the idea that not only is RuPaul’s Drag Race the queerest show in the history of television, but that RuPaul and company devised a show that serves as an actual museum of queer cultural and social history, drawing on queer traditions and the work of legendary figures going back nearly a century.
Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carre Room

2:30 – 3:45 PM
LITERARY LUMINARIES OF THE VIOLET QUILL
Andrew Holleran, Felice Picano, and Edmund White discuss their roles as the surviving members of the influential Violet Quill literary group, which also included Christopher Cox, Robert Ferro, Michael Grumley, and George Whitmore. This group, which met in 1980 and 1981, is responsible for some of the most important post-Stonewall writing in America and for chronicling the AIDS pandemic, as well as celebrating, critiquing and advancing gay culture and liberation. Moderated by The Reading Life host, Susan Larson.
Hotel Monteleone, Royal Ballroom BC

2:30 – 3:45 PM
CELEBRATING OUR FIREBRANDS
If you’ve been reading feminist literature, you know about the distinguished history and tradition—and endurance—of lesbian writers. These distinguished authors talk about the role of their publishers and the relationship they build together to further the visibility of lesbian literature. Panelists include Jewelle Gomez, playwright and author of The Gilda Stories; Paula Martinac, teacher and author of the Lambda winning novel Out of Time; novelist (The Escape Artist) and scholar Judith Katz; and mystery novelist and activist J.M. Redmann.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon D

2:30 – 3:45 PM
TABOO BUSTING
How do we talk about things that were once taboo? How do we reconcile with language that has become politically derisive and now appears taboo? With Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) as its center point, this panel will examine the canons of 20th-century narrative and how institutional bias is viewed today. Professionally, Hearn was an internationally recognized journalist credited with putting New Orleans on the map as a tourist destination and introducing Japan to readers in the West. As a man, he pursued a transgressive, outsider existence embracing, and writing literature that crossed Reconstruction-era cultural taboos.
Panelists: Thomas Bonner, Jr., Marion Hill, and John Whittier Treat. Moderator: Nancy Sharon Collins.
Hotel Monteleone, Riverview Room

4 – 6 PM – Special Event
CLOSING RECEPTION
We’ll induct our 2020 SAS Hall of Fame members and announce our 8th annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award, sponsored by Rob Byrnes. See page 22 for more details.
Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré, Included in SAS Weekend Registration
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OF LOUISIANA

Getting Our History Out of the Closet
www.lgbtarchiveslouisiana.org
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 announce the winner of our eighth annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award generously sponsored by Rob Byrnes. This award acknowledges an exceptional debut work or an author establishing a body of work propelling them to the next stage of their literary career. We’d like to congratulate our three finalists for their original and compelling works. Author Alex Myers, whose first novel was Revolutionary, has followed that up with Continental Divide, a novel about Ron Bancroft, who travels west in hope of establishing his new transgender life; Myers conjures the tenderness and fear and tremendous courage of new beginnings. Carter Sickels, in The Prettiest Star, gives us the story of Brian, who returns home to the family and town in southern Ohio that rejected him for his life choices. Why? He is dying of AIDS. This heartbreaking, precisely observed tale probes bonds of family and place. Tammy Lynne Stoner, in Sugarland, asks this question: Is there any place more difficult to be a lesbian than west Texas in the 1920s? Probably not. This historical novel covers a lot of territory, and the ride is a joyful one all the way.

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

Past Emerging Writer Honorees
2013: William Sterling Walker
2014: Juliann Rich
2015: Saeed Jones
2016: Alexander Chee
2017: Libby Ware & Matthew Griffin
2018: Cassie Pruyn
2019: Bryan Washington

Closing Reception
Sunday, March 29 • 4-6 PM
Hosted by SAS Hall of Famer Brenda Currin
Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carré Room
(Admission included in Weekend Pass/Partner Pass)

2019 Winner Bryan Washington

Actor & Activist, Brenda Currin
2020 Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame Class

Members of the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame:

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Daniel W.K. Lee

Fixation
L.A. Fields

Hey Boy
A.W.W.Bremont

Songs for the Long Night
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Henry Alley, Professor Emeritus of Literature (Honors College, University of Oregon), is the author of five novels, Through Glass (Iris Press, 1979), The Lattice (Alire Press, 1986), Umbrella of Glass (Breitenbush Books, 1988), Precincts of Light (Inkwater Press, 2010), and Men Touching (Chelsea Station Editions, 2019) and a story collection, The Dahlia Field (Chelsea Station Editions, 2017). For nearly half a century, such journals as Seattle Review and Virginia Quarterly Review have published his fiction. Tennessee Williams is an important presence in his novel-in-progress. He lives in Eugene, Oregon, with his husband, Austin Gray.

Elizabeth Andersen, who has been a copy editor for thirty-five years, currently edits for Bywater Books. She is also the host of the monthly Sandra Moran Radio Book Club on KKFI 90.1 FM. Past authors on the show include Lillian Faderman, Penny Mickelbury, George Hodgman, and Christopher Bram. Since 2001 she has been on the production team of Out Here Now, Kansas City’s LGBT film festival, and since 2010 she has been a house manager for the National Women’s Music Festival. She lives in Roeland Park, Kansas.

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, Tartarus (all from Bold Strokes Books). His work can also be found in several anthologies including Best Gay Love Stories 2015, and the Saints & Sinners Anthologies (2014 & 2015). An expanded list of his work can be found at www.EricAndrewsKatz.com

Charlene Ball writes bibilomysteries with her wife Libby Ware under the name of Lily Charles. Murder at the Estate Sale is the first in the Molly and Emma Booksellers Series. Since Charlene retired from Georgia State University, she has been writing fiction and selling antiquarian books. Her debut novel Dark Lady: A Novel of Emilia Bassano Lanyer won the Story Circle May Sarton Fiction Award in 2017. She lives in Atlanta about a mile from her wife Libby.

Rich Barnett’s humor column in the magazine LETTERS from Camp Rehoboth just celebrated twelve years and his most recent book Fun with Dick and James was published in 2016. Rich’s work has appeared in a variety of publications, including Best Gay Stories 2017, Chelsea Station, Delaware Beach Life, and Saints and Sinners: New Fiction from the Festival. Rich and his partner Michael reside in a 99-year old seaside cottage in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, surrounded by boxwoods, hydrangeas, and a coterie of colorful friends and neighbors.

Leona Beasley is a writer and a soft-butch warrior king. She writes about queer, eccentric and funny characters roaming in a faraway land known as the South. Her debut book, Something Better than Home, was a 2018 Lambda Literary Award finalist and depicts an adventurous gay girl coming out in the 70s South. She is presently busy at work on her next novel which follows queer characters frolicking around in the 1920s during prohibition and the jazz era.

Ariadne Blayde is a playwright and novelist. Her plays have been finalists for The Arts and Letters Prize, the Tennessee Williams Playwriting Contest, Lark Playwrights Week, and more. Her play “The Other Room” won the VSA Playwright Discovery Award and has had more than 300 productions around the world. Ariadne lives in New Orleans and moonlights as a ghost tour guide in the French Quarter. “The Sultan’s Palace” is an excerpt from her (as yet) unpublished novel, Ash Tuesday.

Thomas Bonner, Jr. is Professor Emeritus at Xavier University of Louisiana, where he was formerly the W.K. Kellogg Professor and Chair of English. He twice served as Distinguished Visiting Professor at The United States Air Force Academy. His books include Parterre: New and Collected Prose and Poetry, Sherwood Anderson and Other Famous Creoles (edited with Judith H. Bonner), William Faulkner: The William B. Wisdom Collection, and The Kate Chopin Companion with Chopin’s Translations from French Fiction.

Greg Brisendine writes poetry, plays, and nonfiction books from coffee shops around Seattle, where he has also produced two of his plays. The Hat is a story of gay men figuring out dating in the age of online apps, and No Strings Attached is a story of friendship and STDs in a Florida retirement community. His most recent nonfiction book and audiobook is Measuring Success: A Practical Guide to KPIs.

To pay his mortgage, Greg supports self-published authors at Amazon.

Rob Byrnes is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of six novels, including When the Stars Come Out, The Night We Met, and the Grant Lambert/Chase LaMarca series of crime capers, and his short stories and essays have been included in several anthologies. He was inducted into the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame in 2016, and is also active with The Publishing Triangle and Lambda Literary. A native of Rochester, NY, he now lives in “Manhattan-adjacent” West New York, NJ, with his partner, Brady Allen.

Michael Carroll won the 2015 Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for his collection Little Reef and Other Stories. Little Reef was also nominated for a Lambda Literary award and a Publishing Triangle award. His work has been included in the Yale Review, Southwest Review, Open City, The Harvard Review and many other journals, as well as such anthologies as The New Penguin Book of Gay Short Stories. His second collection, Stella Maris and Other Key West Stories (Turtle Point Press) is a multi-character sequence set in Key West. As a Peace Corps Volunteer, he taught in Yemen and the Czech Republic. He has also taught in the summer writing program at John Cabot University in Rome. Married, he lives in New York.
Louis Flint Ceci is an author, educator, and retired software engineer. His published works include poems, short stories, autobiographical essays, and a novel, as well as scholarly works on poetics, linguistics, and artificial neural networks. He is a master swimmer, winning two silver medals and a bronze at Gay Games 10 in Paris in 2018. He won the gold medal in the Poetic Justice poetry slam at the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney, and was inducted into the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame in 2017. He is publisher and chief editor at Beautiful Dreamer Press.

Nancy Sharon Collins, in partnership with Antenna Gallery, produces LETTERS READ, the ongoing series of live readings bringing historically important letters to general audiences. The series was recently awarded a Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and an LGBTQ+ Archives Project of Louisiana grants. CODEX, part of the Letters Read series, was recently featured on Susan Larson’s “Thinking Outside the Book.”

Jameson Currier is the author of seven novels, a memoir, and five collections of short fiction. Most recently, he published Why Didn’t Someone Warn You About Prince Charming? In 2010 he founded Chelsea Station Editions, an independent press devoted to gay literature, and the following year launched the literary magazine Chelsea Station, which has published the work of more than two hundred writers. A self-taught artist, illustrator, and graphic designer, his design work is often tagged as “Peachboy.”

Brenda Currin received an Obie Award for My Sister in This House by Wendy Kesselman. Brenda has worked extensively in the New York theater. Her film credits include: In Cold Blood, The World According to Garp, Reds, Taps, C.H.U.D., Out of Blue, Gossamer Folds, and The Friend. Last year for the TW/NOLF, Brenda played Thelma Toole in the Festival’s presentation of Confederacy of Dunces. Also in New Orleans, Brenda was in Dividing the Estate, To Kill a Mockingbird, Orpheus Descending, and Suddenly Last Summer. With David Kaplan, Brenda has worked on adaptations of Eudora Welty’s stories “Sister and Miss Lexie” and “A Fire Was in My Head.” She most recently adapted Welty’s short story, “Moon Lake.”


Lisa Dordal teaches in the English Department at Vanderbilt University and is the author of Mosaic of the Dark, which was a finalist for the 2019 Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee and the recipient of an Academy of American Poets University Prize and the Robert Watson Poetry Prize. Her poetry has appeared in Best New Poets, Ninth Letter, CALYX, The Greensboro Review, Vinyl Poetry, and Nasty Women Poets: An Unapologetic Anthology of Subversive Verse. Her website is lisadordal.com.

Robert W. Fieseler is the 2019 National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association “Journalist of the Year” and the author of Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation, winner of the Edgar Award in Best Fact Crime and Lambda Literary’s Judith A. Markowitz Award for Emerging Writers. He graduated co-valedictorian from the Columbia Journalism School and lives with his husband and dog in New Orleans.

Robert Diamond is a transmale writer, playwright, arts critic, storyteller, occasional performer, and experimental scribe living in New York City. He has written many trans- and queer-themed plays, and short fiction. In 2013, “Tomboy of the Western World” appeared in the Lambda Award-winning anthology, “The Collection” (Topside Press). Terence’s debut, a full-length work of experimental narrative, Big Pink Meat was released in Fall 2019 and a book tour is in the works to trans/GNC spaces around the country.

Elana Dykewomon is a long-time social justice activist, editor and teacher living in Oakland, CA. She’s published eight award-winning books foregrounding lesbian heroism, including her Lambda-winner, Beyond the Pale, and received the 2018 Lee Lynch Classic Award from Golden Crown for her first novel, Riverfinger Women. In 2018, she was also inducted into the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame. From 1987-94 she published the international lesbian-feminist journal, Sinister Wisdom, for which she is now co-editing a special issue on Jewish Lesbians. Currently, she is working on a full-length play about her spouse’s life and dementia, incorporating issues around the right to die, in residency with Alter Theater in San Raphael. She is grateful to all the lesbian connections that have led her to a useful old age.

Lisa Denenberg lives on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state where she works as a nurse practitioner. Lisa is a co-founder and editor at Headmistress Press, publisher of lesbian/bi/trans poetry and curator of The Poetry Café, an online meeting place where poetry chapbooks are celebrated and reviewed. She has published three full-length collections of poetry, most recently, slight faith by MoonPath Press, 2018.

Risa Denenberg lives on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state where she works as a nurse practitioner. Risa is a co-founder and editor at Headmistress Press, publisher of lesbian/bi/trans poetry and curator of The Poetry Café, an online meeting place where poetry chapbooks are celebrated and reviewed. She has published three full-length collections of poetry, most recently, slight faith by MoonPath Press, 2018.

Lewis DeSimone is the author of the novels Channeling Morgan, Chemistry, and The Heart’s History. His work has also appeared in Jonathan, Chelsea Station, Christopher Street, Saints + Sinners: New Fiction from the Festival 2019, Not Just Another Pretty Face, and My Diva: 65 Gay Men on the Women Who Inspire Them. After spending most of his life on the coasts—first Boston, then San Francisco—he currently makes his home in Minneapolis, where he’s honing his skills as a snow shoveler. www.lewisdesimone.com.

Robert W. Fieseler is the 2019 National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association “Journalist of the Year” and the author of Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation, winner of the Edgar Award in Best Fact Crime and Lambda Literary’s Judith A. Markowitz Award for Emerging Writers. He graduated co-valedictorian from the Columbia Journalism School and lives with his husband and dog in New Orleans.

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Elliott Foster is the author of two novels, Panic River (Calumet Editions, 2019) and Whispering Pines (Wise Ink, 2015) which was an Indie Book Award national finalist. He also co-authored the memoir, Retrieving Isaac & Jason (Calumet Editions, 2019), the story of the adoption of Elliott’s two sons from Southeast Asia as told through the voice of the family dog. In addition to his books, Elliott’s short stories, poems, and essays have appeared in the Green Blade literary journal, the Huffington Post, and the Daily Journal of Southern California. He lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota with a dog named Louie to whom he reads excerpts from his forthcoming novel, a sequel to Panic River.

Jewelle Gomez, playwright, novelist, poet, and cultural worker, is the author of eight books, including the first Black Lesbian vampire novel, The Gilda Stories. In print more than 25 years, the novel will soon be a television mini-series. Jewelle’s fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in over 100 anthologies. She is playwright-in-residence at the New Conservatory Theatre Center in San Francisco, who commissioned her trilogy of plays about African American artists in the first half of the 20th century: Waiting for Giovanni, about James Baldwin, which had its New York City premiere in 2018; Leaving the Blues, about singer/songwriter Alberta Hunter; and Unpacking in P’Town, about a group of retired vaudeville performers, which will premiere in 2021.

Wayne Goodman has lived in the San Francisco Bay Area most of his life (with too many cats). Goodman hosts Queer Words Podcast, conversations with queer-identified authors about their works and lives. When not writing or recording, he enjoys playing Gilded Age parlor music on the piano, with an emphasis on women, gay, and Black composers.

Kimberly Cooper Griffin, a Foreword Book of the Year award winner, is the writer of several contemporary romance novels. Her stories explore the complexities of building relationships and finding balance when life has a tendency to make things messy. Along the way, she’s not afraid to tackle sensitive issues while marching toward those romantic, and often steamy, happy endings. Kimberly publishes with Bold Strokes Books and lives in Denver, Colorado with her wife and daughters where they enjoy the outdoors and hanging out with friends and family.

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

By day, Mary Griggs is a non-profit management consultant and a political activist. She spends her nights writing. Whenever she can, she takes advantage of all the amenities New Orleans has to offer—especially the food! She is the author of lesbian romances Unbroken Circle and Crash Stop, as well as speculative fiction novels In the Midst of Tribulation and Bitter Heart, all published by Bella Books. Griggs can be found on her website at http://www.marygriggs.com.

Elizabeth Gross is the author of This Body / That Lightning Show, selected by Jericho Brown for the Hilary Tham Capital Collection of The Word Works Press in 2019, and Dear Escape Artist, a chapbook created in collaboration with artist Sara White, which came out from Antenna in 2016. She teaches interdisciplinary humanities for the Honors Program at Tulane University and co-organizes The Waves Reading Series, showcasing LGBTQIA+ writers.

Trebor Healey is the recipient of a Lambda Literary award, two Publishing Triangle awards, and a Violet Quill award. He is the author of A Horse Named Sorrow, Faun, and Through It Came Bright Colors, as well as a poetry collection, Sweet Son of Pan, and three collections of stories: A Perfect Scar, Eros & Dust, and the recently-released 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.

Ian Henzel reinvented himself after retiring from a 42-year career in corporate technology marketing to start a new life as a publisher and creative consultant. Together with his husband, author St Sukie de la Croix, he founded Rattling Good Yarns Press, focused on overlooked LGBTQ voices. Not being content to rest on that, he also established LeatherLeaf Marketing & Design, a marketing consulting company. In his spare time, Ian is a health and wellness coach and is the creative force behind FatBoyWins.com, dedicated to positive self-image for mature gay men.

Greg Herren is an award-winning author and editor based in New Orleans. He has won two Lambda Literary Awards, an Anthony Award, and two Moonbeam Medals for excellence in young adult fiction, and has been short-listed for numerous other awards. His short story collection Survivor’s Gilt and Other Stories was released in March of 2019, and his novel Royal Street Reveillon was released in September 2019.

Marion Hill is a New Orleans based filmmaker and video director. Her direction of the camera serves as means to authentically center queer & POC sexuality, sensuality, and femme power across cultures.

Katie Hogan is professor of English and faculty affiliate of Women’s and Gender Studies at UNC Charlotte. Her book, Women Take Care: Gender, Race, and the Culture of AIDS, was a finalist for the CGS Gustave O. Arlt Award in the Humanities. She co-edited Gendered Epidemic: Representations of Women in the Age of AIDS and Over Ten Million Served: Gendered Service in Language and Literature Workplaces and has authored several articles on queer ecocriticism. Her current book project is titled All Over the Place: Environmental Belonging in Queer and Trans Literature.

Tony Holland is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. The youngest of four children, he spent much of his childhood with his head in a book! When he was not dreaming of faraway places and beautiful landscapes, he spent his time learning to sew and designing clothing. Sewing is still his primary vocation today. Although Holland is always passionate about art in any form, A Fractured Past is his inaugural effort at the art of writing.

Andrew Holleran is the author of three novels, a book of short stories and a collection of essays on AIDS. He recently retired from the MFA program at American University and now lives in Florida, where he is a regular contributor to the Gay and Lesbian Review.

Candice Huber (she/they) owns New Orleans’ premier geeky bookstore, board gaming store, and nerd mecca: Tubby & Coo’s Mid-City Book Shop, named after her grandparents. She is also a writer, blogger, and editor, and she hosts the podcast Winterfell and I Can’t Get Up, a Game of Thrones podcast with her mom, and The Writers’ Forum on WRBH Reading Radio. She established TALES Publishing in 2018, which has thus far published three books.

Ian Henzel
Morgan Rae Hufstader is a romance and thriller author and book marketer. She studied Creative Writing at Sarah Lawrence College and completed a writing intensive in Bath, England. She has since published seven paranormal and two queer contemporary romance novels. This native New Yorker is currently growing roots in New Orleans, where she lives with her lovely, patient wife and two eccentric dogs. She enjoys exploring dark themes and morally ambiguous characters, and takes her iced coffee shaken, not stirred.

Daniel M. Jaffe is an internationally published fiction writer, essayist, and literary translator. His new collection, Foreign Affairs: Male Travel Tales of Lust & Love, is forthcoming. He’s author of the novels Yelled Tov (Rainbow Award finalist and honorable mention), The Genealogy of Understanding (Rainbow Award finalist and honorable mention), and The Limits of Pleasure (Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award finalist), as well as the collection, Jewish Gentle and Other Stories of Gay-Jewish Living.

Deb Jannerson is an award-winning, Pushcart-nominated author. Their YA debut, The Women of Dauphine (NineStar Press, 2019), a New Orleansian lesbian ghost story, received praise from Kirkus Reviews, LoveBytes, and Ambush. They also have two collections of poetry, Rabbit Rabbit (Finishing Line Press, 2016) and Thanks for Nothing (Finishing Line Press, 2018); the latter was a finalist for the Golden Crown Award. Their work has been widely published in magazines, including viral articles for Bitch. They live in New Orleans with their wife.

Miah Jeffra is author of The First Church of What’s Happening (Nomadic 2017), The Fabulous Ekphrastic Fantastic! (Sibling Rivalry 2020), The Violence Almanac (Black Lawrence 2021), and co-editor, with Arisa White and Monique Mero, of the anthology Home is Where You Queer Your Heart (Foglifter 2020). Miah is founding editor of queer literary collaborative, Foglifter Press.

Saeed Jones is the author of the memoir How We Fight for Our Lives, winner of the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction, and the poetry collection Prelude to Bruise, winner of the 2015 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry and the 2015 Stonewall Book Award/Barbara Gittings Literature Award. The poetry collection was also a finalist for the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award, as well as awards from Lambda Literary and the Publishing Triangle in 2015. He lives in Columbus, Ohio and tweets @TheFerocity.

During Rick Karlin’s tenure in Chicago’s LGBT press he managed to work for almost every LGBT publication in the area, starting with GayLife Newspaper in the 1970s. In 1997 he was inducted in the City of Chicago’s Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to LGBT journalism in Chicago and his charity work with a number of community groups. He lives in South Florida where he works as a free-lance journalist for the LGBT press. Rattling Good Yarns Press recently published his memoir, Paper Cuts: My Life in Chicago’s Volatile LGBT Press.

Michele Karlsberg is a publicist, producer, publisher, event planner, literary executor, speaker, advocate, and author. She is one of the founders/publishers of Amethyst Press and former publisher at Bywater Books. In 1989, Michele launched Lesbian and Gay Book Month with The Publishing Triangle. She has been instrumental in planning conferences and festivals, such as OUTWRITE, Saints and Sinners, and the Gay Games Cultural Festival. Michele’s WORDS column appears monthly in the San Francisco Bay Times. She is co-editor of the Lambda Literary Award-finalist To Be Continued and To Be Continued: Take Two (Firebrand Books). Her non-fiction piece “The Isle Of Staten” appears in the book Love, Christopher Street (Chelsea House Editions). She helped launch both the Pat Parker/Vito Russo and SI Center’s libraries. Michele has won the Publishing Triangle Leadership Award, the 2017 Publishing Professional Award from Lambda Literary Foundation, Community Health Action Advocacy Award, Saints and Sinners Literary Hall Of Fame, and One Island/One Pride Award.

Judith Katz is the author of two novels: Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound, which won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Fiction in 1992, and The Escape Artist, first published in 1996. Both books were originally published by Firebrand Books and recently reissued by Bywater Books. The Escape Artist has been recently published by DotBooks in Germany under the title Der Traum de Freiheit. She and Elena Dykewomon have recently completed editing To Be A Jewish Dyke in the 21st Century, a Jewish Lesbian issue of Sinister Wisdom that will appear in early 2021.

Irena Klepfisz is a poet, Yiddish translator, teacher, and feminist/lesbian activist who has focused her activism on challenging homophobia, and promoting secular Jewish identity, women’s rights, and peace in the Middle East. Her research is centered on Eastern European/Yiddish women writers and intellectuals. Klepfisz co-founded the feminist magazine, Conditions, and co-edited The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Woman’s Anthology and A Jewish Woman’s Call for Peace. For ten years she taught English and Women’s Studies in the college program at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for women, and she recently ended 22 years of teaching Jewish Women’s Studies at Barnard College. She was a recipient of an NEA fellowship and NYFA grant in poetry and was a finalist for the poetry Lambda Award. Most recently she received the Dreaming in Yiddish Prize from the Adrienne Cooper Fund. The author of the poetry collection A Few Words in the Mother Tongue (poetry) and the essay collection Dreams of an Insomniac, she is preparing a manuscript for a bilingual collection of her poetry and prose to be issued next year by the Polish publishing house słowo/obraz terytoria (word/image territories).

Susan Larson is the host of The Reading Life on WWNO, New Orleans’ NPR affiliate, and author of The Booklover’s Guide to New Orleans. She served as the book editor for The New Orleans Times-Picayune from 1988-2009, and is the past president of the Women’s National Book Association of New Orleans. She has twice chaired the jury for the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, and in 2007 the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities presented her with a lifetime achievement award.

Daniel W.K. Lee is a third-generation refugee. Lee was born in Kuching, Malaysia, and raised in Chicagoland. He moved to New York City in 1996 where he earned a BA at NYU and an MFA in Creative Writing at The New School. Daniel relocated to Seattle in March 2014, and five years later he moved to New Orleans in December 2019. His debut collection of poetry, Anatomy of Want, was published by Rebel Satori Press/Queer Mojo in November 2019.

Russ Lopez is the author of The Hub of The Gay Universe: An LGBTQ History of Boston, Provincetown, and Beyond, his sixth book. He is a graduate of Stanford, Harvard, and Boston Universities—he only attends schools whose colors are a shade of red—and currently teaches at Tufts University. A native of California, he and his husband split their time between Boston and Ptown.

Jeff Mann has published five books of poetry, including Bones Washed with Wine, On the Tongue, Ash, A Romantic Mann, and Rebels. He has also published three collections of essays, Edge, Binding the God, and Endangered Species; a book of poetry and memoir, Loving Mountains, Loving Men; six novels, Fog, Purgatory, Cub, Salvation, Country, and Insatiable; and three volumes of short fiction, A History of Barbed Wire, Desire and Devour, and Consent. With Julia Watts, he co-edited LGBTQ Fiction and Poetry from Appalachia. The winner of two Lambda Literary Awards, he teaches creative writing at Virginia Tech.
Paula Martinc is the author of five novels, most recently Clio Rising (2019) and The Ada Decades, a finalist for the 2018 Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBTQ Fiction. Her debut, Out of Time, won the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction, and her second novel, Home Movies, was a Lammy finalist. She has also published three nonfiction books, including The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites. Martinc teaches fiction writing at UNC Charlotte and at Charlotte Center for the Literary Arts.

Mike McClelland, like Sharon Stone and the zipper, is originally from Meadville, Pennsylvania. He has lived on five different continents but now resides in Georgia with his husband, their two sons, and a menagerie of rescue dogs. He is the author of the short fiction collection Gay Zoo Day (Beautiful Dreamer Press, 2017) and his work has appeared in a variety of anthologies and in publications such as the Boston Review, Entropy, Queen Mob’s Tea House, Permafrost, and others. Keep up with him at magicmikewrites.com.

Freesia McKee is author of the chapbook How Distant the City (Headmistress Press, 2018). Her words have appeared in Flyway, Bone Bouquet, So To Speak, Tinderbox Poetry Journal, Virga, Painted Bride Quarterly, CALYX, About Place Journal, South Dakota Review, New Mexico Review, and the Ms. Magazine Blog. Freesia is a staff book reviewer for South Florida Poetry Journal. She works as a writing coach and freelance editor. Find Freesia online at freesiamckee.com or on Twitter at @freesiamckee.

Gar McVey-Russell’s first novel, Sin Against the Race (gamer books, 2017), was listed on The Advocate’s Best Books We Read in 2018: LGBTQ Novels. His fiction has also appeared in Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS (1993) and Harrington Gay Men’s Fiction Quarterly (vol. 7, Num. 3, 2005). Non-fiction has appeared in Chill Magazine and The Good Men Project. Gar is married and lives in Oakland, California, where he listens to a lot of jazz.

Vincent Meis grew up in Decatur, Illinois and graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans. He has published travel articles, poems, and book reviews, in publications such as, The Advocate, LA Weekly, In Style, and Our World. His novels include Eddie’s Desert Rose (2011), Tio Jorge (2012), and Down in Cuba (2013), Deluge (2016) and Four Calling Burds (2019). Recently his stories have been published in several collections, including WITH:New Gay Fiction, Best Gay Erotica Vol 1 and Best Gay Erotica Vol 4.


Ottawa author James K. Moran’s speculative fiction and poetry have appeared in Canadian, American, and British publications including Icarus, On Spec, and Glitterwolf. His poetry recently appeared in Another Dysfunctional Cancer Poem Anthology (Mansfield Press) and Bywords. Moran’s articles have appeared via CBC Radio, Daily Xtra and Rue Morgue. In 2012, he founded the Little Workshop of Horrors, an Ottawa-based writers’ group that carves speculative and literary work into the shape it is meant to be. Moran also runs Queer Speculations, a writers’ group that workshops queer-themed stories from far and wide. Town & Train (Lethe Press, 2014) is Moran’s debut horror novel. He blogs at jameskmoran.blogspot.ca. Right now, he is likely working on editing his second horror novel.

Alex Myers is a novelist, teacher, and transgender rights advocate. Born and raised as a girl in Paris, Maine, Alex came out as transgender when he was sixteen and started living as a boy. He was the first openly transgender student at both Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard University. At Harvard, he began his work as an activist and advocate for transgender rights, work that led him to a career as a lecturer and educator, working with schools around the world to be more gender inclusive. After earning degrees in Near Eastern Languages and Religious Studies at Harvard and Brown, Alex went to Vermont College of Fine Arts and studied Fiction Writing. It was in this program that Alex crafted his debut novel, Revolutionary, which tells the story of his ancestor, Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man and fought in the American Revolutionary War. Alex teaches high school English in New Hampshire, where he lives with his wife and two cats.

Phyllis “Phly” Oscar is a nonfiction writer currently working on her memoir titled We Were That Family: Confronting A Murderous Legacy. She lives in San Francisco, where she runs the Tongues of Fire reading series and a monthly “Lit Brunch” Writers’ Salon. She earned an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Mills College in Oakland, CA in 2017. You can read or listen to parts of her memoir at PhyllisOscar.com.

David S. Pederson lives in Wisconsin with his husband, Alan, and their two friendly cats, Kona and Hilo. He enjoys studying classic ocean liners, floor plans, and historic homes. A film noir and mystery enthusiast, David is the author of Death Comes Darkly, Death Goes Overboard (selected by GLBT Round Table of the American Library Association for the 2018 Over the Rainbow book list), Death Checks In (A Lambda Literary Award Finalist for 2019), and Death Overdue, coming in July of 2020.

Frank Perez is an historian, a tour guide, a public speaker, and a writer who lives in the French Quarter of New Orleans. He has authored three books: Southern Decadence in New Orleans, In Exile: The History and Lore Surrounding New Orleans Gay Culture and Its Oldest Gay Bar, and Treasures of the Vieux Carre: Ten Self-Guided Walking Tours of the French Quarter. He is also co-editor of the anthology My Gay New Orleans: 28 Personal Reminiscences on LGBT+ Life in New Orleans. Frank also writes a column on New Orleans history for Ambush Magazine. His other publications include a number of scholarly articles in academic journals as well as poems and short stories in various literary journals. When not writing or giving tours, Perez teaches history classes at Loyola University. Perez also owns a small business, the Crescent City Tour Booking Agency, and is a licensed tour guide. He currently serves as President of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana.

Gary Eldon Peter’s short fiction has appeared in Water-Stone Review, Great River Review, Queer Voices, and other publications. He is the recipient of the McKnight Artist Fellowship for Writers/Loft Award in Creative Prose as well as two Minnesota State Arts Board grants. His debut short story collection, Oranges, won the 2016 New Rivers Press Many Voices Project competition in Prose, the Midwest Book Award, and was a finalist for the Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction. He currently teaches at the University of Minnesota.

Eric Peterson is a novelist, playwright, and teacher living in Washington DC. His plays include an adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The House of the Seven Gables, Seven Strangers in a Circle (nominated for Best Play at the Washington Theatre Festival), and Afterglow, which has been performed throughout the United States and Europe. His first novel is Loyalty, Love & Forsooth.
Felice Picano, the author of many books and the winner of multiple awards, is perhaps best known for the novel The Lure and Like People in History (winner of the Ferro-Grumley award for Best Gay Novel, 1966), the memoir Nights at Rizzoli (Dirk Vanden Award for Best Autobiography/Memoir, 2015), and collections of short stories, essays, and poetry. Also a playwright, he has had four of his plays produced. His latest book is the novel, Justify My Sins: A Hollywood Novel in Three Acts. ReQueered Tales has begun reissuing his Picano’s classic books: Onyx, Like People in History, Book of Lies and Slashed To Ribbons in Defense of Love. In the U.K. Muswell Press reissued The Lure in its Classic Gay series. Picano heads three writing workshops and lectures internationally on screenwriting and Vintage Hollywood. He has won a Violet Quill Life Achievement Award winner from the Tennessee Williams Festival, a Lifetime Achievement/Pioneer Award from the Lambda Literary Foundation, and a Rainbow Key Achievement Award from the City of West Hollywood, where he lives.

David Pratt is the author of the novels Wallaconia (Beautiful Dreamer Press), Todd Sweeney: The Fiend of Fleet High (Hosta Press), Looking After Joey (Lethe Press) and the Lambda Award-winning Bob the Book (Chelsea Station Editions). He is also the author of Two Plays: The Snow Queen and November Door. His short story collection, My Movie (Chelsea Station), includes new work and short fiction originally published in Christopher Street, The James White Review, Velvet Mafia, and many other periodicals. Anthology publications include Louis Flint Ceci’s Not Just Another Pretty Face, Don Weise’s Fresh Men 2, Jameson Currier’s With, and, upcoming, Book 3 (Horror) of Breaking Rules’ Short Story Book Project. David has directed and performed his work for the theater in New York City at the Cornelia Street Cafe, HERE Arts Center, Dixon Place, the NY International Fringe Festival and other venues, and in Detroit at The Forge, with Michigan artist Nicholas Williams. In the 1980s, David was the first director of plays by Canadian playwright John Milton.

J.M. Redmann writes two mystery series, one featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight and as R. J.ean Reid, the Neil McGraw series, about a Gulf Coast town newspaper editor. Her books have won first place in the ForeWord mystery category and several Lambda Literary awards. The Intersection of Law & Desire was an Editor’s Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book by Maureen Corrigan of NPR’s Fresh Air. Redmann is an at-large board member for Mystery Writers of America.

Rick R. Reed draws inspiration from the lives of gay men to craft stories that quicken the heartbeat, engage emotions, and keep the pages turning. Although he dabbles in horror, dark suspense, and comedy, his attention always returns to the power of love. He is the award-winning and bestselling author of more than fifty works of published fiction and is forever at work on yet another book. Lambda Literary has called him “a writer that doesn’t disappoint.” Rick lives in Palm Springs, CA with his beloved husband and their fierce Chihuahua/Shiba Inu mix. You can find him at www.rickreed.com or www.rickreeddreamality.blogspot.com.

Brad Richard’s books include Habitation (Portals Press, 2000); Motion Studies, winner of the 2010 Washington Prize (The Word Works, 2011) and finalist for the 2012 Thom Gunn Award in Gay Poetry from the Publishing Triangle; Butcher’s Sugar (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2012); and Parasite Kingdom, winner of the 2018 Tenth Gate Prize (The Word Works, 2019). A teacher of creative writing for twenty-eight years, he is now at work on several writing projects and doing some occasional teaching.

Carol Rosenfeld is a New York City-based writer and poet. Her debut novel, The One That Got Away, was published by Bywater Books. Her short stories appear in several anthologies, the most recent in Saints and Sinners: New Fiction from the Festival 2016, edited by Amie M. Evans and Paul J. Willis (Bold Strokes Books). Carol is the chair of the Publishing Triangle and the coordinator for the Triangle’s annual Thom Gunn and Audre Lorde poetry awards.

Jeffrey Round’s latest book is Lion’s Head Revisited, seventh in the Lambda Award-winning Dan Sharp mystery series set in and around Toronto. Recently, he was chosen to put together a mentored retreat for aspiring writers at High Cotton MS, starting in March 2020. He is also an award-winning filmmaker, television producer and songwriter.

Vince Sgambarl’s debut novel, Most Precious Blood, was a Foreword Indies Finalist in literary fiction, 2018, and a Central New York Book Awards Finalist. His short stories have been recognized by the Nimrod Literary Awards: the Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction and the Saints and Sinners Fiction Contest (2013 & 2016). His fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in North American Review, Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry, Gertrude, Off The Rocks, Saints and Sinners: New Fiction from the Festival, Queer and Catholic, Journal of GLBT Family Studies, and Lavender Magazine, where he wrote a column on Queer Parenting. His short story collection, Undertow of Memory, was recently published by Fomite. https://www.vincesgambarl.com

Gregg Shapiro is the author of seven books, including the 2019 chapbooks, Sunshine State (NightBallet Press) and More Poems About Buildings and Food (Sousven Spoon Books). In 2020, Dishing With Divas, a collection of his celebrity interviews, compiled and edited by Rick Karlin, is being published by Rattling Good Yarns Press. An entertainment journalist, whose interviews and reviews run in a variety of regional LGBT and mainstream publications and websites, Shapiro lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with his husband, Rick, and their dog, Coco.

Courtney Sharp has been a veteran activist fighting for legal protections for the LGBT community for over 20 years, with her first foray into the legal arena in the 90s after experiencing employment discrimination. Involving herself in one of the earliest high profile cases, Olger vs. Winn Dixie, Sharp successfully advocated for the ACLU LGBT Project to accept the case. Her work has included extending legal protections for transgender people in New Orleans, statewide, and federally. She has lobbied and educated leaders of PFLAG New Orleans, fought for non-discrimination protections for people in New Orleans, statewide, and federally. She has lobbied and educated leaders of PFLAG New Orleans, fought for non-discrimination protections for gender identification, served on the Mayor’s Advisory Committee for LGBT Issues, the LAGPAC Board of Directors, and both the PFLAG National Board of Directors and the local chapter. She remains keenly interested in the intersection of all of our issues with communities of faith.

Carter Sickels’ novel The Prettiest Star is forthcoming from Hub City Press in 2020. He is the author of the novel The Evening Hour (Bloomsbury 2012), an Oregon Book Award finalist and a Lambda Literary Award finalist. His essays and fiction have appeared or are forthcoming in various publications, including Guernica, Bellevue Literary Review, Green Mountains Review, and Buzzfeed. Carter is the recipient of the 2013 Lambda Literary Emerging Writer Award. He is Assistant Professor of English at Eastern Kentucky University.

Savannah Sipple is the author of WWJD & Other Poems (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2019), which explores what it is to be a queer woman in Appalachia and is rooted in its culture and in her body. Her writing has recently been published in Southern Cultures, Split This Rock, and Salon. An Assistant Professor of English at Bluegrass Community and Technical College and a mentor in the low residency MFA program at West Virginia Wesleyan College, Savannah resides in Lexington with her wife, Ashley.

Lindsay Sproul, originally from Massachusetts; teaches at Loyola University New Orleans and serves as editor-in-chief of the New Orleans Review. Her short fiction has appeared in Epoch, Witness, Glimmer Train, The Massachusetts Review, and others, and she has received fellowships from Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Gulkistan Iceland, and The MacDowell Colony. Her first novel, We Were Promised Spotlights, comes out on March 24, 2020 from Putnam/Penguin. She lives in New Orleans.
Tammy Lynne Stoner is the author of Sugar Land, which was starred by Kirkus Reviews, listed a Top Five of 2019 by Powell's Books and Best of 2019 by the Advocate, won an IPPY, was a finalist for the Forewords Book of the Year and the Crook's Corner Prize, and was called "writing at its finest" by the New York Journal of Books. She is also the publisher of Gertrude literary journal and wrangler of their queer, quarterly subscription book box, GERTIE. Tammy lives in Switzerland and can most often be found in the bathtub.

Sebastian Stuart has published nine novels, four under his own name. These include a national bestseller translated into eight languages, and a New York Times bestseller. His novel The Hour Between won the Ferro-grumley Award and was an NPR Season's Readings Selection. As a playwright, he was dubbed "the poet laureate of the East Village" by Michael Musto in the Village Voice. His work has been seen at the Kitchen, LaMama, and The Public Theater, and he has won grants from the Edward Albee Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and others.

David Swatling was a 2015 Lambda Literary Award finalist for his debut novel Calvin's Head. He grew up in New York, studied theatre, and escaped to Amsterdam in 1985. He produced arts and culture documentaries for Radio Netherlands and is three-time winner of the NLGJA Excellence in Journalism Award, among other international honors. His short story "Poets' Walk" appeared in the UK magazine Chase the Moon. He has contributed to online publications such as Chelsea Station and The Big Thrill.

Colm Tóibín is an Irish novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, journalist, critic, and poet. He is currently the Irene and Sidney B. Silverman Professor of the Humanities at Columbia University. Tóibín's 1990 novel The South was followed by The Heather Blazing (1992), The Story of the Night (1996) and The Blackwater Lightship (1999). His fifth novel, The Master (2004), is a fictional account of portions in the life of author Henry James. Tóibín is the author of other non-fiction books: Bad Blood: A Walk Along the Irish Border (1994), (reprinted from the 1987 original edition) and The Sign of the Cross: Travels in Catholic Europe (1994). Tóibín has also written two short story collections. His first, Mothers and Sons, was published in 2006 and was reviewed favorably (including by Pico Iyer in The New York Times). His second, broader collection, The Empty Family, was published in 2010, and was shortlisted for the 2011 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award.

John Whittier Treat is a Seattle writer whose novel The Rise and Fall of the Yellow House was a finalist for 2016 Lambda Literary Foundation award for best gay male fiction. His short story "The Pond" won the Christopher Hewitt Prize in 2018, and his 2019 short story "Good Humor" has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His novel about a stutterer who saves the world, First Consonants, is forthcoming. Treat's 1991 memoir Great Mirrors Shattered: Homosexuality, Orientalism, and Japan will be discussed in the Taboo Busting panel discussion.

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

Vanda is working on a series of novels about LGBT history in New York City called the Juliana Series. Four books from the series have been published by Sans Merci Press. Paris Adrift, Book 3 in the series, was chosen as a Finalist for the Lesfic Bard Award in LGBT Historical Fiction, won a 2019 New Apple Summer E-book Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing, and was selected as a semi-finalist for the Goethe Prize. Juliana, Book 1 in the series was short-listed for this same contest in 2017. Book 2, Olympus Nights on the Square won a Bronze Medal, and a Readers' Favorite sticker in Independent Publishing. She is currently working on Book 5. As a playwright, Vanda has received numerous honors including an Edward Albee Fellowship. Her play, Vile Affections, published by Original Works, was a finalist for a National Lambda Award.

Michael H. Ward received a B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, taught at the University of Maryland's Overseas Program and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Later he trained in New York City to become a psychotherapist and practiced privately in Boston for nearly forty years. Upon retirement he wrote The Sea Is Quiet Tonight, a memoir of his relationship with Mark Halberstadt, who died of AIDS in 1984. He is currently writing a series of short stories about a young gay man growing up in the American Heartland.

Libby Ware writes bibliomysteries with her wife Charlene Ball under the name of Lily Charles. Murder at the Estate Sale is the first in the Molly and Emma Booksellers Series Libby Ware's debut novel, Lum, was an ALA Stonewall Honor Book, won a gold medal from the Independent Publishers Association, and was a finalist for Lambda Literary's Debut Novel Award. Libby is an antiquarian bookseller and lives in Atlanta with her dog, Robin, about a mile from her wife Charlene.

Don Weise has twenty-five years publishing experience, the majority of which has been devoted to LGBT literature. Among the many authors he has worked with are Gore Vidal, Edmund White, Samuel R. Delany, James Purdy, Leslie Feinberg, Christopher Bram, and Ann Bannon. He was named by Publishers Weekly as one of twelve annual industry "Change Makers" and listed among Out Magazine's "100 Most Intriguing Gay Men and Lesbians" of the year. Weise is currently the founder/publisher of Querelle Press.

Edmund White is an American novelist, memoirist, and an essayist on literary and social topics. Much of his writing is on the theme of same-sex love. His books include The Joy of Gay Sex (1977) (written with Charles Silverstein), his trio of autobiographic novels, A Boy's Own Story (1982), The Beautiful Room Is Empty (1988) and The Farewell Symphony (1997), and his biography of Jean Genet. His debut novel, Forgetting Elena (1973), set on an island, can be read as commenting on gay culture in a coded manner. The American/Russian novelist Vladimir Nabokov called it "a marvelous book." His next novel, Nocturnes for the King of Naples (1978) was explicitly gay-themed and drew on his own life. From 1980 to 1981, White was a member of a gay writers’ group, The Violet Quill, which met briefly during that period and included Andrew Holleran and Felice Picano. Critically acclaimed memoirs published by White include Our Paris: Sketches from Memory (1995); My Lives (2005); City Boy (2009); Inside a Pearl: My Years in Paris (2014), and The Unpunished Vice: A Life of Reading (2018).

Paul J. Willis has over 24 years of experience in non-profit management. He earned a B.S. degree in Psychology and a M.S. degree in Communication. He started his administrative work in 1992 as the co-director of the Holos Foundation in Minneapolis. The Foundation operated an alternative high school program for at-risk youth. Willis has been the executive director of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival since 2004. He is the founder of the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival (established in 2003). Willis received the Publishing Triangle Award for Leadership (2019). This nationally recognized award is for service to the LGBTQ literary community and was presented at The New School in New York City. Current fascinations include LSU Football and Gymnastics, Baby Yoda, and the artwork of Timothy Cummings.
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Salem West serves as publisher of Bywater Books, Inc., a queer indie press out of Ann Arbor, MI. The company is comprised of its feminist and lesbian Bywater Books imprint, as well as the Amble Press imprint which focuses on publishing writers across the LGBT+ spectrum and queer writers of color. Previously, West was the voice of The Rainbow Reader, a highly successful review blog that combined original essays with insightful analysis of all genres of LGBT literature; and served on the Board of Trustees of Lambda Literary. She is active in the queer literary community and is a sought-after facilitator for groups, panels, and events focusing on feminist and queer literature. West and her wife, Bywater author Ann McMan, collaborated on the novel Hoosier Daddy, which was a Lambda Literary Award Finalist. She can be reached through bywaterbooks.com.
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John Burton Harter (1940-2002) documented the richness of gay experience through his prolific artwork. Harter is most known for exquisite figure studies, especially fine compositions of the male body. These works range from classical studio drawings to completed paintings and self-portraits. He created over 3,000 works of art during his life largely based in New Orleans. His paintings have received acclaim at showings in New York, Baton Rouge, and San Francisco.

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

— J. B. Harter

"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."

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