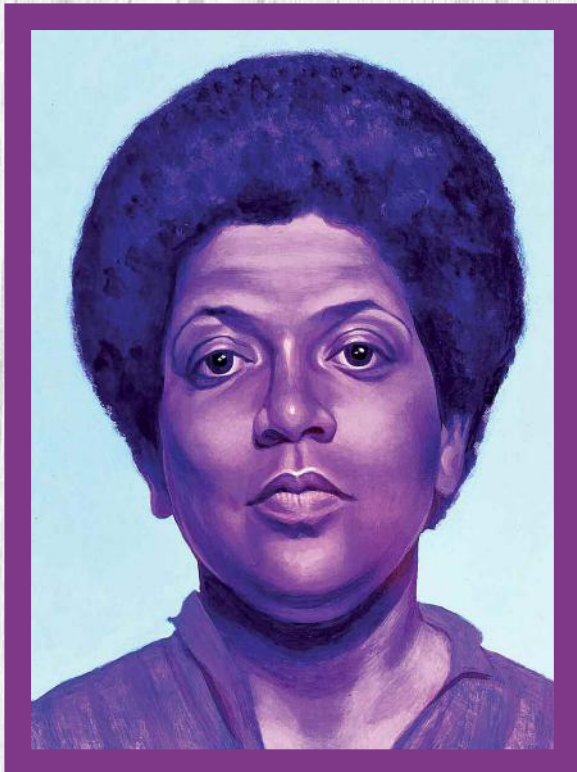
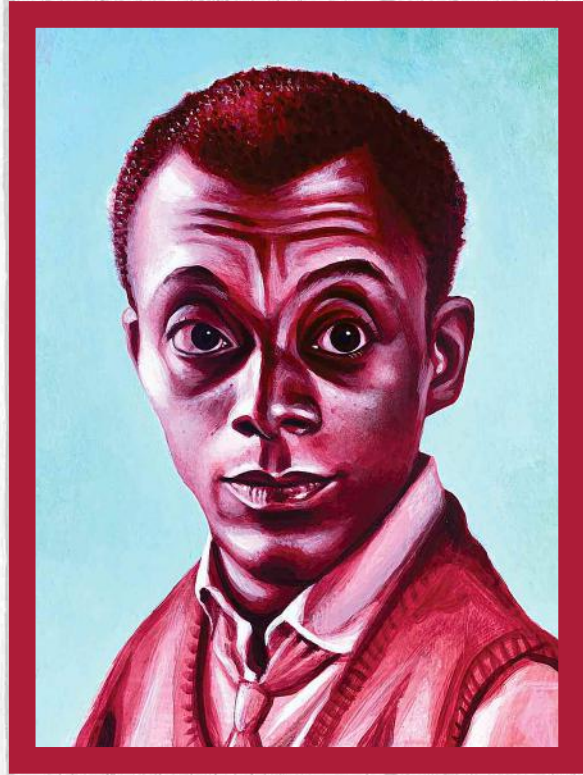


SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS



PAINTINGS BY TIMOTHY CUMMINGS

MARCH 28 - 30, 2025



What are you doing on Thursday evening, April 17, 2025?

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

We will be presenting the following prestigious awards:

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

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



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

FOLLOW US ON:



Facebook



Instagram



Bluesky



Youtube

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

SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS

MARCH 28 - 30, 2025

TENNESSEE
WILLIAMS &
NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY
FESTIVAL



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

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VENUES

Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street

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

Historic BK House & Gardens
1113 Chartres Street

Toulouse Theatre
615 Toulouse Street

SAVE THE DATE

23rd annual Saints + Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival
March 27 - 29, 2026

SAINTS AND SINNERS LITERARY FESTIVAL COORDINATORS:

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

Tracy Cunningham
Managing Director

PUBLICIST:
Reine Dugas

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR:
Nancy Gorman

**CREATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE SAS LITERARY
PROGRAM PROVIDED BY:**
**Jonathan Alexander, Trebor Healey, Greg Herren,
Morgan Hufstader, Michele Karlsberg, Susan Larson,
Daniel W.K. Lee, Steven Riel, and Nikki Ummel**

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

PROGRAM DESIGN:
Toan Nguyen

WEBSITE DESIGN:
Cherry Cappel



tubbyandcoos.com

2025 COVER ART

ICONS OF QUEER LITERATURE, 2025

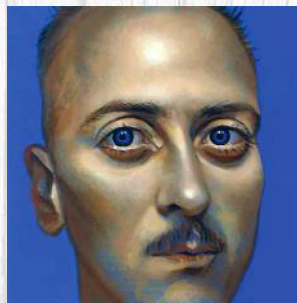
Dorothy Allison
James Baldwin
Audre Lorde
Tennessee Williams

The size of the portraits are 12" x 9" acrylic on panel.

OUR COVER ARTIST

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

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



Self Portrait in Blue, 2010

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

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



Witch's Veil, 2022
Lithograph with hand work,
Visit: breditions.com

Welcome to the

SAINTS + SINNERS

LGBTQ+ LITERARY FESTIVAL • NEW ORLEANS

Welcome back, everyone!

We're all very glad you were able to make it back to New Orleans this year, given everything that's going on in the world today. It sometimes gets to the point where you want to turn off notifications on every app, doesn't it?

Saints and Sinners has always, from the very beginning, been about creating community and connecting readers and writers at every stage of their careers, talking about our art, and providing an almost retreat-like experience where we can all shutter the outside world and celebrate who we are, what we write, and what we read.

It's more important than ever that we support our writing community. It is through our work that we



Managing Director Tracy Cunningham and Executive Director Paul J. Willis



Jewelle Gomez, Candy Wrapper & Pencil
by Timothy Schaffert, 2024



Joan Larkin, Candy Wrapper & Pencil
by Timothy Schaffert, 2024

open eyes to our experiences and how we see this wild and crazy world differently with a perspective that is absolutely necessary for our culture and society.

We are so grateful to you for coming down to New Orleans this weekend to celebrate and uplift our art and artists. We come together as a community, to replenish our creative wells and souls, to find inspiration from each other and meet others who are also committed to the beauty of creation. We write to illuminate, to educate, to create, and to express ourselves. Every piece of art from us is a gesture of defiance and strength in the face of oppression.

We hope you spend your time this weekend recharging and drinking

from the community fount of inspiration. Spend this time learning from your peers and drawing strength and courage from each other to continue to light the world with our talents and our stories. We've created a little community for the weekend, so escape into the discussions of craft, the readings of new works, and the celebration of artistic achievements.

I'm looking forward to our tribute to Dorothy Allison, a longtime friend of the Festival and a member of our first Hall of Fame class. Please join us for our tribute reading to one of our community's most iconic writers and activists. Longtime friend Jewelle Gomez is also joining us again this weekend to share her wisdom with us all, and I am also thankful to Timothy Cummings for the new paintings he created for our cover art. Be sure to pick up copies of the wonderful new Saints and Sinners anthologies at the Saturday night launch.

Buy books! Take notes!
Have a great time this weekend!

Paul J. Willis
Executive Director



Author Dorothy Allison and Executive Director Paul J. Willis



Stories Deserve to Be Told.
Voices Deserve to Be Heard.

At a time when books—especially those centering sapphic and women-loving-women stories—are being banned and challenged, I thank the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ Literary Festival for standing firm in your mission: to increase the diversity, accessibility, quality, and visibility of these vital stories.

Again, THANK YOU to the booksellers, readers, writers, publishers, editors, and audiobook narrators who bring sapphic literature to life, ensuring that these voices are never silenced. Because representation matters, and every reader deserves to see themselves in the stories they love.

www.michelekarlsberg.com

917-359-2803

Support. Read. Resist.

WALKING TOURS

LGBTQ+ FRENCH QUARTER TOUR

Thursday, March 27, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Friday, March 28, 3:30 – 5 PM

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

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$30 or VIP Pass.



PHOTO BY ELLIS ANDERSON

QUEER UNDERGROUND

Thursday, March 27 - Sunday, March 30, 1 - 3 PM

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

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

LGBT+ Archives Project

OF LOUISIANA

FRENCH QUARTER GHOSTS AND LEGENDS TOUR

Thursday, March 27, 5:30 – 7:15 PM

Friday, March 28, 5:30 – 7:15 PM

Saturday, March 29, 7:30 – 9:15 PM

Sunday, March 30, 5:30 – 7:15 PM

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

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

HANDS THAT ROCKED THE CREOLE CRADLE: WOMEN OF THE FRENCH QUARTER

Thursday, March 27, 10 AM - 12 noon

Friday, March 28, 10 AM - 12 noon

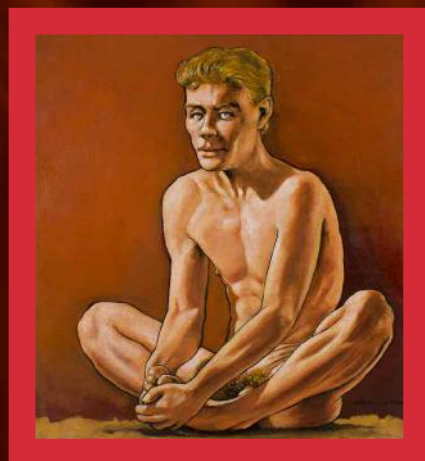
Saturday, March 29, 1 - 3 PM

Join **Dianne "Gumbo Marie" Honoré** on this intriguing tour about the fierce women who nurtured the building of New Orleans and the creation of an indelible culture along the Mississippi River. You'll meet the Baroness Pontalba, nuns including Henriette Delille and Mother Cabrini, medicine women, Voodoo practitioners, business woman Eulalie de Mandéville, Black Storyville Baby Dolls, female musicians, the first women to purchase property in today's Tremé neighborhood, as well as Catiche Destrehan and Elizabeth Weirlien. Women stirred the early pots that would become today's gumbo and jambalaya, grew herbs for healing, faithfully prayed for and tended the sick, fought to create spaces for orphans, ran highly successful businesses, made music that inspired some of New Orleans' most famous musicians, owned property, influenced the development of Jazz, tended births and funerals at home, and more.

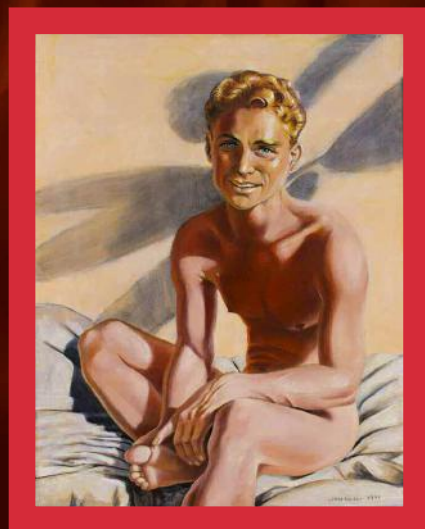
Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Parlor, \$30 or VIP Pass.



Stations of the Night II, 1990



Toe Catcher, 1998



Darby (nude), 1995



John Burton Harter profile in cap, 1974

John Burton Harter

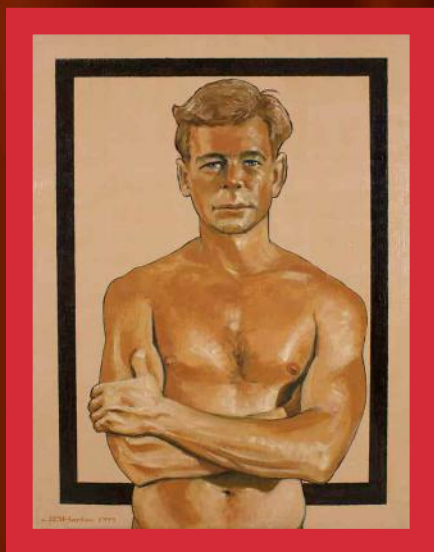
(1940-2002) documented the richness of gay experience through his prolific artwork. Harter is most known for exquisite figure studies, especially fine compositions of the male body. These works range from classical studio drawings to completed paintings and self-portraits. He created over 3,000 works of art during his life largely based in New Orleans. His paintings have received acclaim at showings in New York, Baton Rouge, and San Francisco.

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

—J.B. Harter

“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



Half of Cliff, 1999

“New Year’s Day—1939—What a nite! I was introduced to the artistic and Bohemian life of the Quarter with a bang! All very interesting, some utterly appalling.”

—Tennessee Williams, Journal Entry



The Last Bohemia is a series of theatre, music, and social events embodying New Orleans culture, the spirit of Tennessee Williams, and the profound effect New Orleans had on the playwright, personally and professionally. For a complete schedule of Last Bohemia events and to purchase tickets, visit: www.tennesseewilliams.net

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

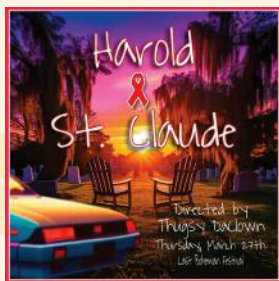
7 - 8:15 PM

HAROLD AND ST. CLAUDE

A reimagining of the Classic film *Harold and Maude*. In 1982 at the beginning of the AIDS pandemic, young Harold is coming OUT and meets Claude, an older drag queen. Together they explore life, death and love. We have a band, but it's not a musical. And we encourage the audience to come dressed like it's the 1980s.

Thugsy DaClown, Director,
with Blue Muhlowd,
Bizzy Barefoot, Dakota the
Bearded Lady, Lilith Dorsey,
Velvet Spade, Dick Jones,
and Rose Bush Blues.

The Twilight Room,
2240 St. Claude Avenue,
\$35 cocktail table,
\$20 general admission.



9:30 - 10:45 PM

FAUXNIQUE. SO RELEVANT

You've always relied on being a cool kid. What happens when you wake up one day and realize you're neither cool, nor a kid? You think, *You're not a kid anymore, I don't think you'll ever be a kid again, kiddo.* (55-year-old Sondheim reference.) What if you were never cool? What happens when time marches on, and you have been left chasing the parade? Can you redefine what it means to be cool? *Fauxnique. So Relevant* is a hard-hitting and hilarious romp of songs, storytelling, and real-time on-stage crisis management. It's art therapy served up with Fauxnique's signature blend of sardonic wit and vulnerability. From the legendary lady drag queen and published author who brought you the solo shows, *Faux Real with Fauxnique* and *The F Word*, and the memoir *Faux Queen: A Life in Drag*, whose work has been called “engaging, critically serious, counter-culturally crucial,” (Author Michelle Tea) and “hilarious,” with an “intellectual spark” and “enough to make a girl want to revisit her Susan Sontag,” (*SF Chronicle*)

The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue, \$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission.



FRIDAY, MARCH 28

9 - 10:15 PM

THE NIGHT FIONA FLAWLESS WENT MAD

A Dark Comedy Drag Musical by
Trey Ming

Meet Fiona Flawless. Breathtaking drag queen. Talented chanteuse. Admitted murderess. After turning herself in for a double homicide, Fiona and her psychiatrist dive through convoluted memories in search of that pivotal moment when her otherwise flawless mind disconnected from reality...the night she went mad. A dark musical comedy for certain, *The Night Fiona Flawless Went Mad* is an exploration into the issues of Queer identity, loneliness, and the reclamation of self-love.

Written and directed by Trey Ming.

Cast: Laveau Contraire,
Prince Octavian, Sebastien E'toile,
Bette Tittler

The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue,
\$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission.



10:30 - 11:45 PM

KITTEN ON THE KEYS IN *LANGUE DE CHAT*

International cabaret pianist and singer **Kitten on the Keys** introduces her latest cabaret show, *Langue De Chat*. Named after her favorite French patisserie, *Langue De Chat* translated from French is “the cat’s tongue.” Like many of Tennessee Williams’ characters, a cat’s tongue presents as soft but is coarse and rough. Kitten embraces numerous genres and eras and will accompany herself on piano and accordion. Expect stories and songs from her extensive songbook.

**The Twilight Room, 2240 St. Claude Avenue,
\$35 cocktail table, \$20 general admission**



SATURDAY, MARCH 29

7 - 9 PM—Theatre

THE LAST BOHEMIA SOIREE: *TIM MURRAY IS WITCHES!*

Join us for a magical evening of music and performance in the storied Toulouse Theatre in the heart of the French Quarter. The evening begins at 7 PM with **Kitten on the Keys** playing show tunes in the lobby bar made famous from countless performances of the late great James Booker. Try the signature Soirée cocktail and have your photo taken by our paparazzi. At 8 PM the lights dim as our emcee **Michelle Nelson aka LOVE the Poet** invites us into the main theater. San Francisco-based performance art witch and drag queen **Fauxnique** will call the winds and the directions. She’ll set the stage for the night, quite literally, with a feminist incantation for healing and magic. Our featured artist, **Tim Murray**, is hot off his sold-out and award-winning run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. *Tim Murray is WITCHES!* is a mix of stand-up and original comedy songs about Tim’s favorite pop culture witches. Murray is like a gay Bo Burnham, but painted green and doing drag! The show is a tribute to how we discover our magic once we find our coven. Murray speaks to the many people who feel



like we have to hide ourselves to fit in, and we find our powers grow stronger once we find our chosen family. From *The Craft* to *Wicked* to the Sanderson Sisters to *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch* and Angelica Houston’s Grand High Witch, Murray celebrates famous sorceresses throughout herstory and uses their stories as a parallel to our own journey towards community.

Tim Murray has performed stand-up all over the U.S. including SF

Sketchfest, The Brooklyn Comedy Festival and DragCon. His new sketch comedy TV show *Wish You Were Queer* produced by Trixie Mattel will debut this year. *Tim Murray Is WITCHES!* received several 5 star reviews at Edinburgh Fringe, was nominated for an Off-West End award, and WON Best Musical show from *Entertainment Now*.

**The Toulouse Theater, 615 Toulouse Street,
Preferred Seating \$75, General Admission \$45.**

“Support the festival by buying a chance to win a signed poster from the cast of the first national touring company of the musical *Wicked* including Adam Lambert, Carol Kane, and Eden Espinosa.”

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

7 - 8:15 PM—Culinary Event

BIBI’S KITCHEN: A ROMANI CULINARY RITUAL

Join your slutty, stoner Aunties **Bimbo Yaga** and **Moonbear** as they lovingly share their kitchen witchery with you. This four-course family-style meal will feature inspired dishes of Eastern European and Balkan Romani family food traditions with slight variations to accommodate gluten free and vegetarian guests. Following dinner, **Jezmina** and **Paulina** will guide guests through a brief tealeaf reading session. Includes live music from the renowned troubadour **Milly Raccoon** and special musical guest **Viktor**, this ritual of food is curated to nourish your spirits. Our menu for this event is subject to change.



THE MENU

- 1st Course:** Pickled onion and cucumber salad with herbed smetana, in-house smoked cheese, buttermilk biscuits, gluten free corn bread, and garlic honey butter.
 - 2nd Course:** Delicious gluten free & vegetarian Sarma, a stuffed cabbage similar to Golumpki (made with baked rice, impossible burger, and mushrooms), and a gluten free kimmel soup.
 - 3rd Course:** A choice of braised greens with roasted eggplant and chickpeas topped with feta OR braised lamb and curried vegetable stew all served over baked herbed rice.
 - 4th Course:** Baked apples with spiced honey and sweet cheese with tea, followed by tea leaf readings.
- Beverages:** Iced Herbal Tea, Herb Infused Wine
**Mister Gregory’s Shrimp Boil Cabaret,
830 North Rampart Street, \$100.**

**“I’ve never known anybody who lived in,
or even visited the Quarter who wasn’t
slightly intoxicated—without booze.”**

—Tennessee Williams,
Dick Cavett interview, 1974



SAINTS + SINNERS XXII

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025



10 - 11:15 AM—SAS Writer's Craft

BETWEEN MEMOIR AND FICTION

—DONNA MINKOWITZ

Many writers have a hard time deciding whether memoir or fiction is the better vessel to carry their own deepest narratives. What if they didn't have to choose? More and more, writers are finding a beautiful blend between memoir and fiction. These meaningful stories benefit from both the magical toolkit of fiction as well as the personal identification and intense emotion of memoir writing. In this workshop, we will discover the beauty that comes from fusing fiction and memoir writing. Donna Minkowitz is the author of the autofiction novel *Donnaville*, the magical realist memoir *Growing Up Golem*, and the Lammy-award-winning memoir *Ferocious Romance*.

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

10 - 11:15 AM—SAS Writer's Craft

FROM FLAT TO FULL: WRITING FULLY-FORMED

ANTAGONISTS AND MINOR CHARACTERS

—REINE DUGAS

Creating a protagonist who has a history, depth, and a vibe is easy—they're the main character, after all! But all too often, our antagonists (or villains) are one-note and become caricatures. Minor characters can become cliché or flat if we ignore them. This workshop will give writers shortcuts on how to make their antagonists and minor characters as alive, diverse, and vibrant as their main characters, even if they often have less time on the page. Through a combination of prewriting and revision exercises, participants will learn techniques for character development that take their characters from flat to full.

Reine Dugas is an English professor at Southeastern Louisiana University. When not writing, she's the assistant editor of *Louisiana Literature* and editor of the magazines, *Louisiana Life* and *Acadiana Profile*.

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

10 AM - 12 PM—*pre-registration required

PITCH SESSIONS WITH AMBLE PRESS

Amble Press's former Managing Editor, **Eric Peterson**, will be meeting with authors at SAS2025. The press has been publishing for five years as an imprint of Bywater Books. Amble seeks to publish fiction and narrative nonfiction by queer writers, with a primary, though not exclusive, focus on writers of color who tell stories with contemporary resonance. Eric will forward pitches of high interest to Amble's new Managing Editor, **Orlando Ortega-Medina** and Publisher/Editor-in-Chief **Salem West**. To set up an appointment with Amble Press, contact Eric Peterson at: eastendboy7@gmail.com and include **PITCH** in the subject line.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

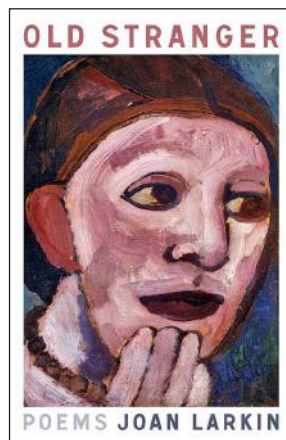
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft

WRITING QUEER POEMS: THE POWER OF "THINGNESS"—JOAN LARKIN

Two of our queer ancestors, Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, didn't agree on much, but both were firmly rooted in the conviction that poetry speaks to us through our bodies. An essential part of any poet's work is to find the details that evoke an object, person, or place with exactness. In this workshop, we'll look closely at some LGBTQ+ poems that enter into story and deep feeling through a particular object or group of objects, often with a dive into greater emotional intensity. We'll explore this process at work with such poets as Judy Grahn, Eduardo Corral, Audre Lorde, Thom Gunn, and Joy Ladin. We'll extend the notion of "thingness" to include memorable sensory images other than those that are simply visual. Participants will write something new in response to prompts sparked by the examples we've discussed. Whether you are new to poetry or widely published, this generative workshop will free and refresh your practice, igniting work in your own inimitable voice.

Joan Larkin's sixth book of poems, *Old Stranger*, was published in August by Alice James Books. She received the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award.

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



11:30 AM - 12:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft

FINDING THE RIGHT POINT OF VIEW—TREBOR HEALEY

How do you decide which point of view is the correct one to carry your story? Finding the right POV can take a story to a higher level when explored and rendered in the proper voice. In this session, we'll ask: what are the benefits of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd POV, both limited and omniscient? How do they differ? Is the emotionality of 1st person more important than its unreliability? Is the omniscience of the 3rd person problematic for sketching out the interiority of characters and their conflicts? Each story has a different answer to these very pertinent questions, and it behooves a writer to reflect on them. We'll do some exercises and likely have some breakthroughs by exploring our stories through different views.

Trebor Healey teaches creative writing for UCLA and has authored several award-winning novels, a recent novella and numerous short story collections.

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

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM—*pre-registration required

PITCH SESSION WITH MCFARLAND PUBLISHING

McFarland Publishing has recently partnered with **Clayton Delery**, who will be General Editor of a new nonfiction book series titled **LGBT+ In America**. This series seeks to highlight the queer experience, with preference given to topics involving life outside of major east and west coast cities. Clayton will review pitches and proposals at SAS 2025 and forward promising ones to McFarland for recommended inclusion in the series. For more information on McFarland Publishing, visit mcfarlandbooks.com. Anyone wanting to schedule a pitch meeting with Clayton should email him at claytondelery@yahoo.com.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

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

Rattling Good Yarns Press managing publisher, Ian Henzel, will be meeting with authors at SAS2025. RGYP is looking for fiction, novels, story collections, and nonfiction, including but not limited to history and memoirs. No poetry or plays. They are most interested in unusual perspectives on topics of interest to the LGBTQ+ community. To schedule a pitch appointment, contact **Ian Henzel** at ian.henzel@rattlinggoodyarns.com. Pitches will be for possible 2026 publication.

For more information about Rattling Good Yarns and online submission guidelines, visit:

rattlinggoodyarns.com/submissions/
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

1 – 2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATION OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN FICTION—KATE SEGRUFF

This interactive workshop will explore the complex portrayal of mental illness in fiction through group discussion and analysis of published works of fiction. Participants will examine excerpts from both historical and contemporary novels to analyze how mental health is depicted across genres and time periods. In this workshop, we will consider questions about the writer's responsibility when representing mental illness and how such portrayals can shape societal perceptions. We will examine stereotypes, the fine line between humor and sensitivity, and how to create a complex character with a mental health diagnosis. Kate Segriff is an award-winning writer and filmmaker whose debut collection of short stories, *Animals in Captivity*, was published in 2024. She is a medical doctor who works in primary mental health care, palliative care, and urgent care.



Tears by Timothy Cummings

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

1 – 2:15 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
THINKING CINEMATICALY—ELISABETH NONAS

Screenwriters face the unique challenge of creating visual representations for abstract ideas and emotions. They must use minimal description and dialogue to make readers of their scripts see a movie as they read. Through exercises and examples, participants of this workshop will learn to think cinematically in a way that can serve as a valuable tool for writers of prose and poetry. Elisabeth Nonas is a novelist and screenwriter. She taught screenwriting and writing for emerging media at Ithaca College for twenty-five years. Her most recent novel, *Grace Period*, was published in 2024. She is currently working on a sequel.

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

2:30 – 3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
KISS YOUR DARLINGS: AN EDITOR ADVISES YOU TO ABANDON ALL ADVICE—TIMOTHY SCHAFFERT

Maybe you've followed the classic maxim and killed so many of your darlings, you can't find a pulse in your latest draft. In this interactive session, bring your questions, your assumptions, your anxieties, and we'll explore what happens when we shut out the exterior voices and listen for our own. But what voices, exactly, are acquiring editors listening for, and how should that influence our writing? We'll discuss the editor's role in publishing, past and present, art vs. commerce, and storytelling vs. style. Timothy Schaffert is Director of Creative Writing and founder/co-editor of Zero Street, the LGBTQ+ fiction series at the University of Nebraska Press. He is the Author of seven novels with the latest being the national bestseller *The Titanic Survivors Book Club* and *The Perfume Thief*, both from Doubleday/Penguin Random House.

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

2:30 – 3:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft
EROTICA LAID BARE: PUTTING PASSION ON THE PAGE—JERRY L. WHEELER

Do you stumble and fumble when writing sex scenes? You're not alone, but your characters don't have to remain eternally chaste. Join erotica writer and editor Jerry L. Wheeler in some guided writing, where you'll create a perfect seven-line paragraph of erotica using your senses. You'll learn his method to writing engaging seduction or you'll receive prompts to get you in the mood...to write. Bring your boldest creative self and something to write with and get ready to lose your inhibitions on the page. Wheeler is the editor of seven anthologies of gay erotica for Bold Strokes Books, Wilde City Press, and other publishers. His own collection of short fiction and essays, *Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits* was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award.



Photograph by Jacob Mitchell

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

Rebel Satori Press's publisher, **Sven Davisson**, and **Tom Cardamone**, TLOHC imprint curator, will be meeting with authors at SAS2025. The press has been publishing for more than two decades and has more than 200 titles with many more in development. The editors are looking for book-length literary fiction, single-author collections of poetry, speculative fiction, or occult/spiritual nonfiction from talented LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC authors. Contact publisher, Sven Davisson at: svendavisson@rebelsatori.com to schedule your pitch! Pitches will be for possible 2026 or 2027 publication. For more information about Rebel Satori Press visit: <https://www.rebelsatoripress.com>

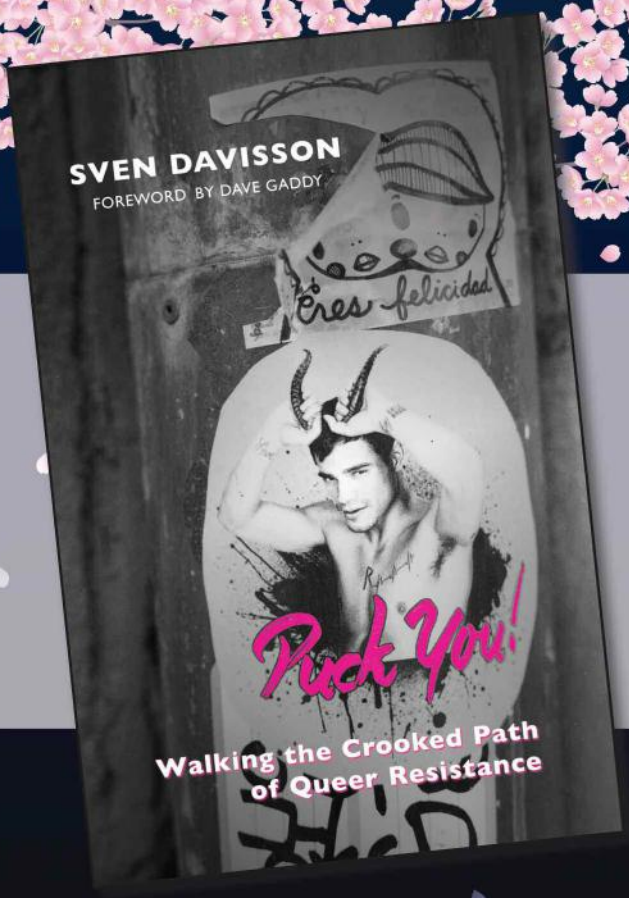
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A



LOUISIANA
OFFICE of CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

ARTS • ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORIC PRESERVATION • CODOFIL

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



Puck You!

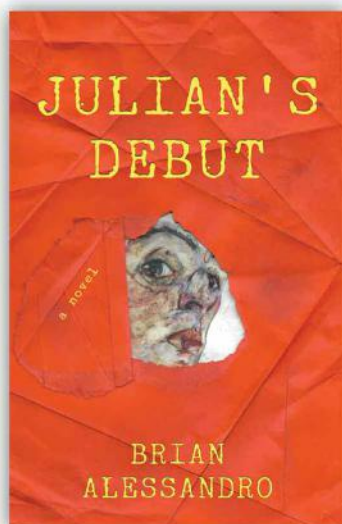
Sven Davisson

The crooked path is a safe space to be unsafe. Our journey of resistance may mean wrapping ourselves in ancient custom and reclaiming our forgotten lore.

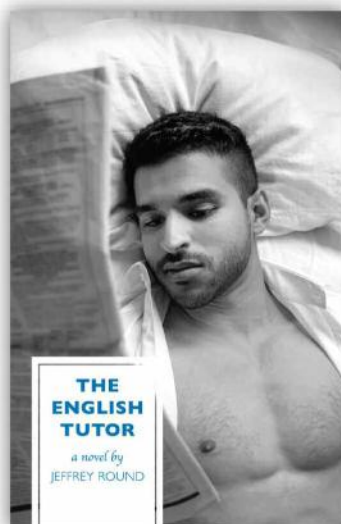
*"We are the architects of our survival.
Our shared desire is a fecund field."*

Rebel Satori Press

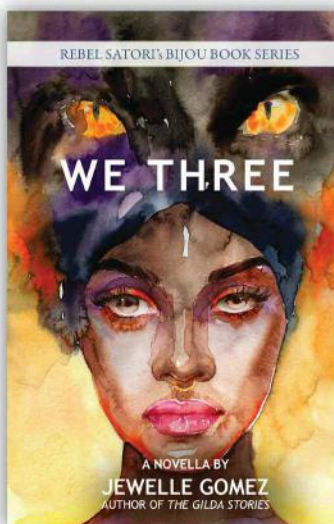
Safeguarding the voices of our heritage since 2002



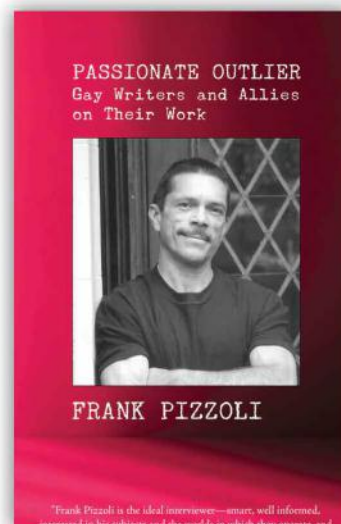
Julian's Debut
Brian Alessandro



The English Tutor
Jeffrey Round



We Three
Jewelle Gomez



Pasionate Outllier
Frank Pizzoli

SAINTS+SINNERS XXII

WELCOME PARTY

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025 • 6:30 PM UNTIL 8:30 PM

GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI WELCOME PARTY



Tsarina Hellfire and Stanley Roy

Historic BK House & Gardens 1113 Chartres Street

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

Come experience true Southern hospitality in the beautiful courtyard of the Historic BK 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.

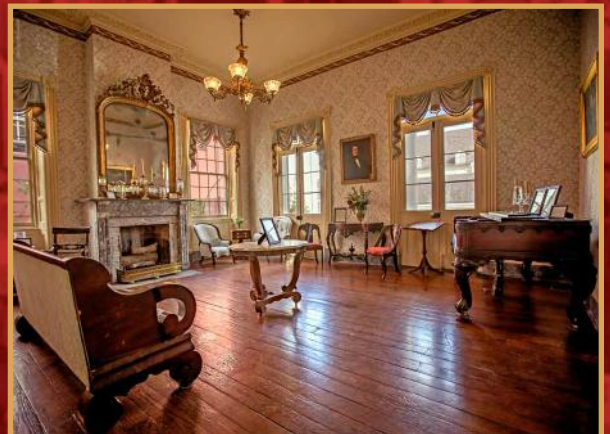
Melodic stylings of Tsarina Hellfire and Stanley Roy will add to the ambience.



Welcome at BK House, watercolor, Jameson Currier, 2024



The **Historic BK House & Gardens** is a National Historic Landmark built in 1826. This architectural treasure is an outstanding example of a raised center hall villa and includes both Creole and American features in an elaborately detailed residence. BK House's diverse history includes the stories of those who both lived and labored here for nearly 200 years, offering a unique educational experience to visitors, which furthers the understanding of New Orleans history. The house, parterre garden and lovely courtyard have been featured in several films and television shows and are favorites for guided tours, weddings, and special events. Open for guided tours on the hour, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 AM – 3 PM.



Welcome
Party 2024



TAROT FOR TIPS

Readings by
Moonbear Aguilar
& Jacob Budenz





SAINTS+SINNERS XXII

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025



10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: HOW WRITERS NURTURE THEIR WRITING HABIT

How do writers get themselves to write? Our intrepid panelists will share their strategies for dealing with the art/craft/joy/ special hell that is getting their ideas onto the page. What secrets will they reveal about their process? What, if any, practices/rituals/ techniques might they have in common? How do they handle fear/ anxiety about writing? How do they prioritize time to write? What tools do they use to get out of ruts? Speaking of tools—computer or pen/ pencil and paper? Join us for the answers to these and other writerly questions in what promises to be a lively discussion.

Panelists: Jonathan Alexander, Michael Cunningham, Jewelle Gomez, Joan Larkin, and Donna Minkowitz

Moderator: Elisabeth Nonas

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



Jewelle Gomez with Audre Lorde while filming *Before Stonewall*.

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

MAKE 'EM LAUGH

The old cliché holds that laughter is the best medicine—and sometimes, all you CAN do is laugh. But how does one incorporate humor into their work, especially when the work is meant to be taken seriously? But when times are hard, the ability to find joy becomes even more crucial. What is more joyous than laughter? Join us for a lively discussion on the importance of humor, and how to incorporate it seamlessly into your work.

Panelists: Dale Corvino, St Sukie de la Croix, Eric Peterson, and Genevieve Rheams

Moderator: William Christy Smith

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

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

LIGHTING THE CANDLES ONE BY ONE—QUEER WITCHCRAFT

Witchcraft has a varied and rich history, with a multiplicity of traditions, many of which are boldly queer. From seminal works by Arthur Evans and Starhawk to contemporary treatments of the subject by the authors on this panel, there is a well-established and growing canon of queer letters dealing with witchcraft, sorcery, mysticism and the occult. In this panel, we will explore witchcraft's unique approach to



Moon Twins Ritual, 2019
by Timothy Cummings

spirituality, feminism, queerness, gender, political activism, community and ultimately the larger human experience. We will delve into chaos magic, our common and varied pagan roots, and all aspects and practices of this empowering earth-centered approach to spirituality and human community. Finally, we'll encourage discussion around questions such as: What are the challenges for writers in this genre, or for those producing work from this more radical perspective on queer life, experience and meaning? And where might such writers find publishers and opportunities to share their work?

Panelists: Jacob Budenz, Sven Davisson, Jason Ezell, and Jewelle Gomez

Moderator: Trebor Healey

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHT TO READ: PUBLISHING LGBTQ+ TITLES IN 2025

In this panel, an esteemed group of publishers will offer their insights on the challenges, goals, and objectives of queer-focused publishers and editors in an increasingly difficult political and commercial environment. In their efforts to represent an increasingly embattled demographic, how do queer publishers select titles and material that serve to educate, inform and support the wider LGBTQ+ community and its interests? When queer titles are suppressed, how do they navigate marketing and book launches? Do queer publishers face higher expectations and greater responsibility than other publishers? In addition, we'll discuss how recent technological advances and changes might serve the LGBTQ+ publishing industry, whether via podcasts and virtual book tours or through making constructive and selective use of AI and the ever-expanding social media landscape.

Panelists: Louis Flint Ceci, Sven Davisson, Ian Henzel, Miah Jeffra, and Timothy Schaffert

Moderator: Clayton Delery

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—SAS Writer's Craft

COLLAGE YOURSELF INTO A STORY—PENELOPE STARR

A lot of writers have difficulty finding their next story. Maybe you have an idea but not the characters, or conversely, the characters are haunting you, but you don't know what to do with them. Participants in this workshop will find inspiration, tap into their intuition, and exercise their imaginations using simple SoulCollage® techniques combined with writing exercises. Absolutely no art experience is necessary, and all supplies will be provided. Please bring something to write with, your willingness to learn new techniques, and your enthusiasm to explore a new approach to an old problem. Penelope Starr is the author of the novel *Desert Haven* and *The Radical Act of Community Storytelling: Empowering Voices in Uncensored Events*. She is a certified SoulCollage® facilitator. Penelope often combines aspects of SoulCollage® techniques in her innovative writing and storytelling workshops.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal A

Included in SAS Weekend Registration or \$25

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

FICTION VS. NONFICTION: JUST THE FACTS

This panel—composed of authors who write both fiction and nonfiction—looks at the differences, similarities and complex relationship between these two types of storytelling. What are the tools and requirements of each genre? Why choose one over the other? In an age when the border between truth and falsehood has been profoundly blurred, does the distinction between fiction and nonfiction even matter anymore? Or does it matter more than ever?

Panelists: Brian Alessandro, Robert W. Fieseler, Dale Corvino, and Kara Zajac

Moderator: Doc McLemore

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

CELEBRATING RFD'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

RFD, the oldest reader-written quarterly for gay people in the US that focuses on country living and encourages alternative lifestyles, began publication in 1974. Long associated with the Radical Faerie Movement, the journal has made important contributions towards liberating the consciousness of our communities and forging connections for those living in rural isolation. Two former poetry editors of the journal (**Franklin Abbott and Steven Riel**) and a librarian (**Jason Ezell**) who researches the regional gay liberationist movement that gave birth to *RFD* will discuss the history and aims of the journal and share some of the best poetry published in its pages.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS:

WRITERS READ

*Sponsored by the
John Burton Harter Foundation*

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a

past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Eric Andrews-Katz, Doc McLemore, Daniel Meltz, Sean Patrick Mulroy, Ruben Quesada, Kirsten Reneau, and Kara Zajac** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers. **Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**



1 – 2:15 PM—Reading Series

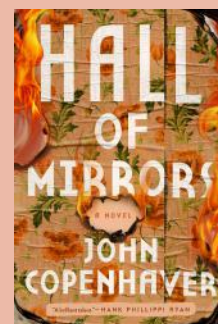
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

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Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



"After the Storm"

JACOB MITCHELL

is a photographic artist
in New Orleans, Louisiana

 
@thesoggyblanket

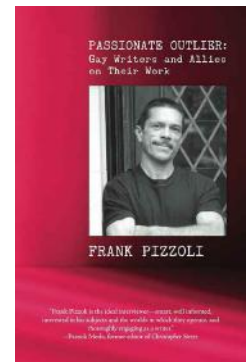


2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

INSIDE THE WRITER'S STUDIO: THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW & HOW TO PRESERVE OUR HISTORY

If, as writers, activists, and advocates, we stand on the shoulders of all those who came before us, it is our first responsibility to know who they were in their own words and the words of those who knew them up close. **Eric Andrews-Katz** will facilitate this session of the Writer's Studio talking with two extraordinary interviewers about their craft. From 2021-2024, **Brian Alessandro** conducted 65 one-hour live-streamed interviews with actors, writers, filmmakers, journalists, dancers, and designers for Queens Public Library's Culture Connection series. Such guests included Joyce Carol Oates, Ira Sachs, Linus Roache, AM Homes, Andre Aciman, Hua Hsu, and Hernan Diaz, among many others. For *Fever Spores: The Queer Reclamation of William S. Burroughs*, Brian interviewed Debbie Harry and Chris Stein, Samuel R Delany, David Cronenberg, Fran Lebowitz, Tony Kushner, and Legs McNeil. **Frank Pizzoli** was named a Living Legend as part of Pennsylvania's capital city Harrisburg's sesquicentennial celebrations. His collection, *Passionate Outlier: Gay Writers and Allies on Their Work*, contains interviews with the surviving members of the Violet Quill: Edmund White, Andrew Holleran and Felice Picano, as well as conversations with John Rechy, Christopher Bram, Martin Duberman, and other voices from the annals of queer history and literature. Pizzoli currently writes for The Village Voice and Pennsylvania Capital-Star.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

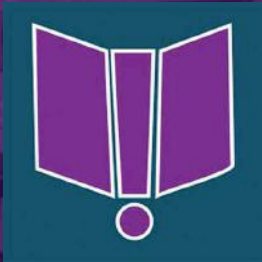


2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

CREATING COMMUNITY AROUND BOOKS

Books have the power to inspire empathy and connection. In a world where people can feel disconnected and isolated, books can offer a reader comfort, strength, and affirmation. Our participants will discuss programs designed to use the written word to bring people together. They'll talk about book banning and actionable ways to fight censorship and foster community, especially in queer spaces. They'll go into the challenges of bringing queer literature to rural and remote spaces, and how it's more important than ever to share LGBTQ+ stories and voices. As the director and founder, **Becka Robbins** will discuss the work of her organization Books Not Bans, and Rattling Good Yarns publisher **Ian Henzel** will present information about the Independent Book Publishers Association regarding the work with LGBTQ+ authors and presses. **Nikki Ummel** will talk about the community created by LMNL, an arts organization focused on readings, workshops, and residencies. There will be time for Q&A with our presenters and an opportunity for you to briefly share your efforts in building a literary community. Moderated by library professional **William Christy Smith**.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



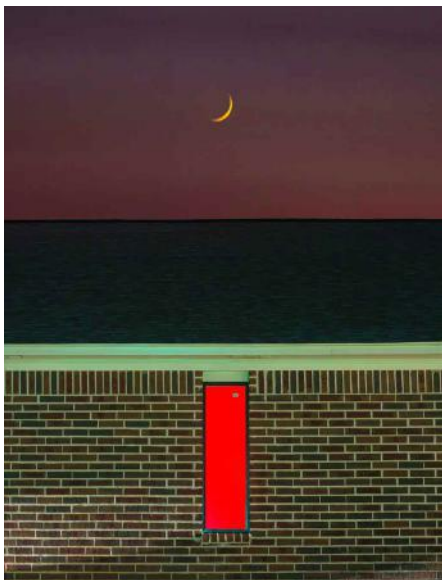
Becka Robbins is the founder of the "Books Not Bans" program at Fabulosa Books. This tiny but mighty org has sent over 1000 books to over 25 organizations in 16 states.

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

LGBTQ IN APPALACHIA

Southern Appalachia is a region fraught with stereotypes, but it is also home to many thriving LGBTQ writers. On this panel, **Cynthia Burack**, co-editor of SUNY Press's Queer Politics and Cultures series, will discuss Allison E. Carey's *Doubly Erased*, the first scholarly examination of LGBTQ literature in Appalachia; **Savannah Sipple** will read from *WWJD and Other Poems*; **Julia Watts** will read from her most recent novel, *Lovesick Blossoms*; **Jeff Mann** will read from the second edition of his memoir, *Loving Mountains, Loving Men*; and Mann and Watts will discuss their first-of-its-kind anthology, *LGBT Fiction and Poetry from Appalachia*.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C



Photograph by Jacob Mitchell

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or

revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Vinny Cusenza, Ben Fluet, Natalie Rose Gove, Glen Peters, Robert Raasch, Steven Riel, and Jerry L. Wheeler** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers. **Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D**



4 – 5:15 PM—Literary Discussion

GENERATIONAL CHANGE IN GAY CULTURE AND LITERATURE

In the 50+ years since Stonewall, the queer community has produced an enduring body of literature. From coming out to AIDS and marriage, the gay novel has reflected changes in the culture, as each generation confronts new challenges and charts its own path. But what of the elders, the ones who are still around but no longer on the cutting edge of societal evolution? This panel will explore aging in the gay community, as reflected in our literature. As we age, we must deal not only with the loss of our own touchstones, but the creation of new ones by a younger generation we may not fully understand. How does that dynamic affect generational connection, and how does it work in our stories? In a broader sense, how have our older generations navigated the path from the power of youth to the invisibility of middle age, and finally the wisdom of elders?

Panelists: Cynthia Burack, Tom Cardamone, Lewis DeSimone, Miah Jeffra, and Gary Zebrun

Moderator: David Pratt

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



“Make writing a place of joy. If you only think of writing as this work, as this onus, difficult thing, eventually you will start avoiding it or at least you will not come to it with the enthusiasm and energy. It needs to be what you want to do, what you love to do. You have to give yourself permission to do scary, wonderful exciting things.”

– Dorothy Allison



4 – 5:15 PM—Poetry Readings and Discussion TO BE YOUNG, GIFTED, QUEER, AND BLACK

Inspired by Donny Hathaway’s song “To Be Young, Gifted, and Black,” this panel explores the work of four young, gifted, queer, and Black poets who are working towards their first collection. We’ll hear some of their poems, and poet Karisma Price will facilitate a discussion about their personal inspirations, influences, and challenges. Plus, they’ll discuss how they situate themselves within Black queer poetics and what is at stake in contemporary poetry and society at large.

Panelists: Christian Lee, Penda Smith, Malik Thompson, and Ashley Young.

Moderator: Karisma Price

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Supported by the The Ethel and Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.

4 – 5:15 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the

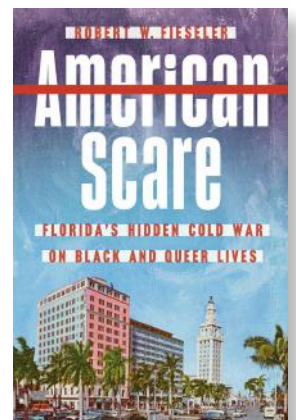
John Burton Harter Foundation

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Brian Alessandro, Robert W. Fieseler, Trebor Healey, Jeffrey Round, Kate Segriff, and Ery Shin for this year’s mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



6:30 – 7:45 PM

SAS FICTION CONTEST READING

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

See page 16 for more details.

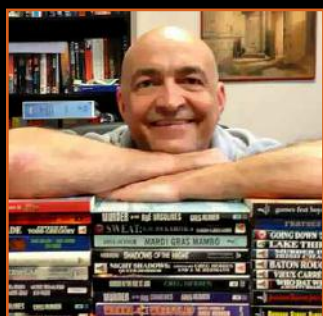
16th Annual Saints + Sinners SHORT FICTION CONTEST READING AND RECEPTION SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 • 6:30 PM

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon

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



Join this year's contest runner-up **David Pratt** "Our Finest Gifts," along with finalists **John Copenhaver**, **Lewis DeSimone**, **Alfred P. Doblin**, **Miah Jeffra**, **Meagan Perry**, and **Tom Semmes** for an evening of cocktails and readings from the Saints and Sinners 2025: *New Fiction from the Festival* hosted by Co-editor Morgan Hufstader with comments from our finalist judge Greg Herren.



Greg Herren
Our Finalist Judge



Paul J. Willis and Morgan Hufstader
Co-editors



Special thanks to The John Burton Harter Foundation and Rebel Satori Press for their support of the Short Fiction Contest. Audience members receive a copy of the new anthology created from our 2025 Short Fiction Contest.



INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ON THE FRONTIERS OF LIMINAL SPACE





Laura Corin

Winner, Laura Corin (they/she) is a genderqueer writer, Lambda Literary Fellow and Tin House alum who lives on Dena'ina land in Anchorage, Alaska, with their wife and daughter.

2025 CONTEST FINALISTS



Izzy Beach



Anil Classen



John Copenhaver



J. Duncan Davidson



Lewis DeSimone



Alfred P. Doblin



Marcy Rae Henry



Miah Jeffra



Reginald Kent



Mina Manchester



Meagan Perry



David Pratt



Tom Semmes



Charlie Stephens



Quality and Diversity in LGBTQ Literature

SAINTS+SINNERS XXII



VINSANTOS

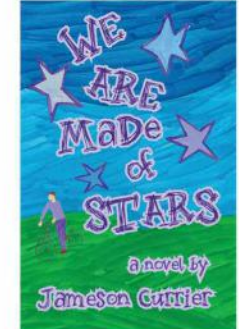
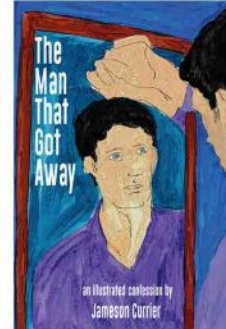
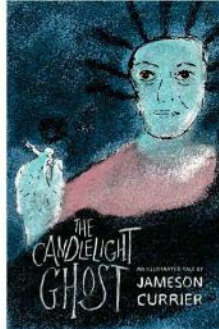
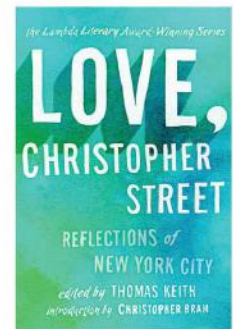
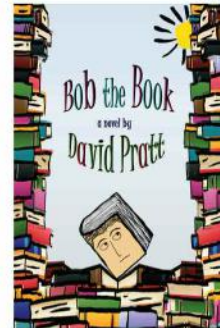
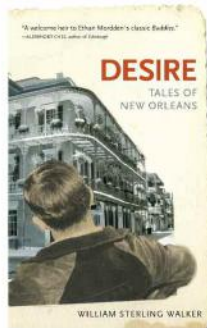
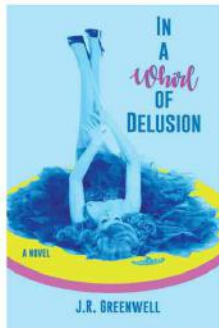
IS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ARTIST LIVING IN THE SOUTH AND BEYOND. HE'S AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CABARET ARTIST AND A REINCARNATION OF TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' FAMED CHARACTER NIGHTINGALE.

AS AN ORIGINAL ART DOLL MAKER, HE CREATES BESPOKE DOLLS SCULPTED WITH POLYMER CLAY AND ADORNED WITH VINTAGE AND ANTIQUE JEWELRY AND EPHEMERA. HIS CUSTOM BESPOKE DOLLS INCLUDE PERSONAL ITEMS SENT TO HIM BY HIS COLLECTORS TO BE TREASURED FOREVER.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS ENIGMATIC ARTIST VISIT HIM AT VINSANTOS.COM



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SAINTS & SINNERS XXII

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025



10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

POETS RESPOND DURING TROUBLED TIMES

Come listen to four gifted and award-winning poets discuss how the current political climate deeply affects their work. Weaving in examples from their recent publications, they'll describe how they marshal the power of poetry to address anti-LGBTQIA+ oppression. Panelists will also draw our attention to poems, including those by queer writers, that they turn to for inspiration and grounding in troubled times.

Panelists: KB Brookins, Margot Douaihy, Sean Patrick Mulroy, and Ruben Quesada
Moderator: Steven Riel

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



10 - 11:15 AM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Kate Castle, Dale Corvino, Lewis DeSimone, Jeff Mann, Richard Compson Sater, and Penelope Starr** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



10 - 11:15 AM—Literary Discussion

THE DEBONAIRE DEBUT

There is nothing more exciting and challenging than publishing a first novel. For some authors, their first novel is the culmination of many years' hard work. For others, it can be sudden. Regardless, the experience can also be fraught and complicated. In this panel, our featured debut novelists will discuss how they got to this magical moment, and what they felt was essential in the process. Panelists will discuss how they acquired an agent and offer their advice on how to decide between a small press, big press, or self-publish. Questions we'll explore will include: When does a writer know when a novel is truly ready for publication? What are the various strategies writers pursue to reach publication? What marketing strategies should an author be savvy to? And finally, how much support can one expect from one's publisher? We'll have a rigorous Q&A so that writers working on their first novels can benefit from a forum of folks with relevant and insightful commentary on the process.

Panelists: Robert Brueggmann, Daniel Meltz, Glen Peters, Robert Raasch, and Ery Shin
Moderator: Trebor Healey

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

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

THE PLEASURES AND IMPORTANCE OF QUEER GENRE FICTION DURING A TIME OF ASCENDANT FASCISM

Queer and trans stories have always been important to our communities. They provide evidence to each other, and the world, that we are not alone, and that our lives and loves are as complex, rewarding, challenging, and fulfilling as any other. Even more, from romances to speculative narratives, from mysteries to even horror, queer genre fiction not only provides evidence of our ongoing presence in the world, but also delights, entertains, and comforts at times of stress, anxiety, and concern. Especially at a time of re-emerging fascism, such stories are poised to assume even more importance in our communities.

This panel celebrates the work of writers across multiple sub-genres of queer story.

Panelists: Laurinda D. Brown, Kate Castle, John Copenhaver, Greg Herren, and Jerry L. Wheeler

Moderator: Jonathan Alexander

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



Brazil by Timothy Cummings, 2013

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

FINDING YOUR MUSE IN LGBTQ HISTORY AND CULTURE

Just as writers have created a vast body of work in the history and culture of the LGBTQ community, other writers have been transforming that work into memorable, moving fiction. **Emma Copley Eisenberg** draws on the life of American photographer Berenice Abbott in her thought-provoking debut novel, *Housemates*. **Jeff Mann** has returned time and again to his native Appalachian culture to create a considerable body of work in both fiction and nonfiction. **Rob Osler** sets his debut novel, *The Case of the Missing Maid*, in 19th century Chicago. And **Timothy Schaffert** has written about Paris in its heyday in *The Perfume Thief*, and the glamorous era of the Titanic, in *The Titanic Survivors Bookclub*. Finally, **J.M. Redmann's** Micky Knight novels are a long-running chronicle of the lesbian community in New Orleans. These writers discuss their creative choices in making an era come alive and impart its lessons to the reader.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

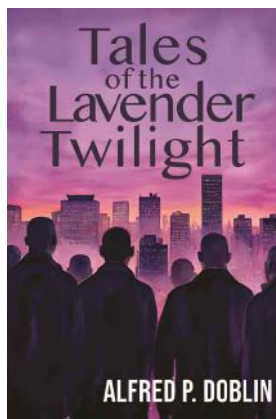
Supported by the The Ethel and Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies.

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



Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Peter Covino, Rob Byrnes, Alfred P. Doblin, Jan Edwards Hemming, Donna Minkowitz, Kay Murphy, and Carol Rosenfeld** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



11:30 AM – 2 PM—Culinary
THE LAST BOHEMIA PRESENTS:
A DRAG BRUNCH NAMED DESIRE

STELLAAA! IT'S TIME FOR DRAG BRUNCH!

Step into the drama and decadence of the Tennessee Williams Festival Drag Brunch, where the mimosas are bottomless, the performances are *electrifying*, and the food is as rich as Blanche DuBois' taste in men! Join New Orleans drag royalty for a high-energy show paired with a three-course brunch inspired by **Poppy Tooker's Drag Brunch Cookbook**.

Dickie Brennan's Tableau, 616 Saint Peter Street, Brunch & Show \$120 inclusive of tax & gratuity. Tickets available at www.tennesseewilliams.net/other-events/the-last-bohemia/

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

DANGEROUS LIAISONS:

WRITING ABOUT SEX, LOVE, AND ITS FORBIDDEN HISTORY

Everyone loves a good love story: the meet-cute, the tortured longing, and the hard-won love and acceptance. In this panel, four authors explore the complexities of queer love stories when loving another often means loving one's self, too. They'll delve into how to create romances with historical, cultural, and social context in mind. Plus, they'll discuss how writing and reading real, complicated, and fearless LGBTQ+ love stories can be a healing and revolutionary act in itself.

Panelists: R.J. Lee, Jeffrey Round, Richard Compson Sator, and Julia Watts

Moderator: Kara Zajac

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B

1 – 2:15 PM—Literary Discussion

PRESERVATION IS RESISTANCE: RECOVERING AIDS TEXTS, MEMOIR, POETRY, AND THE ART OF THE INTERVIEW —ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE AND DEFIANCE

Writers and editors gather to discuss the necessity of preserving, translating, and promoting works by authors who recorded their experience during the onset of the AIDS holocaust. The significance of memoir, poetry, and interviewing creatives and activists will be discussed, all to highlight the importance of keeping our history in print, front and center, to ensure that the reading public can know our stories and that younger generations can access roadmaps to community-building, art-making and, most-importantly, resilience in the face of renewed adversity.

Panelists: Peter Covino, Jewelle Gomez, James Nolan, and Frank Pizzoli

Moderator: Tom Cardamone

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal C

Sponsored by the Bruce J. Heim Foundation.

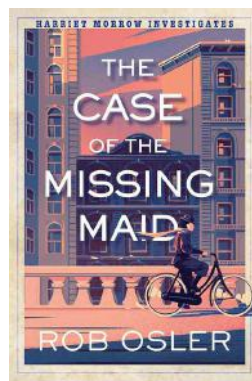
1 – 2:15 PM—Reading Series

SAINTS AND SINNERS: WRITERS READ

Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation

Take the rare opportunity to hear authors in their own voice. This highlighted Festival event has authors share their vivid imaginations with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Ezra Adamo, KB Brookins, Emma Copley Eisenberg, Joan Larkin, Rob Osler, and J.M. Redmann, and Savannah Sipple** for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Literary Discussion

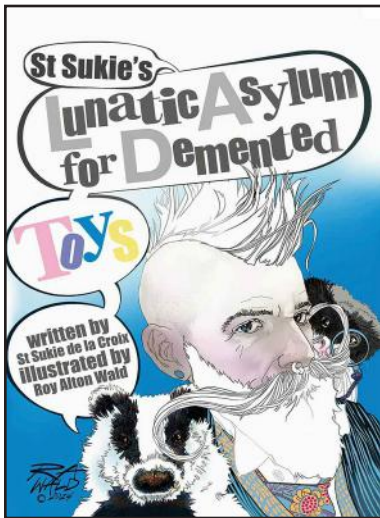
SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF CHARACTER

Sam Spade. Lew Archer. Kinsey Millhone. Henry Rios. Micky Knight. Crime fiction has always been strongly character-driven; everyone remembers the name of the great characters created by crime writers. Join us as our glittering panel of critically acclaimed and award winning crime writers talk about the creation of character, its importance to setting and story, and connecting with the reader. Even if you're not a crime writer, come join these masters of character and pick up some tips on how to make yours memorable, engaging, and relatable.

Panelists: John Copenhaver, Anne Laughlin, Rob Osler, Jeffrey Round, and Gary Zebrun

Moderator: Dan White

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal B



2:30 – 3:45 PM—Reading Series
SAINTS AND SINNERS:
WRITERS READ



Sponsored by the
John Burton Harter
Foundation

Take the rare
 opportunity to hear
 authors in their own

voice. This highlighted Festival event has
 authors share their vivid imaginations
 with their new creations, or revisiting a past work that holds
 special meaning. Please join us in welcoming: **Laurinda D.**
Brown, Robert Bruegmann, Louis Flint Ceci, Sven
Davisson, St Sukie de la Croix, T.J. Fury and James Nolan
 and for this year's mix of established and exciting new writers.
Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal D

2:30 – 3:45 PM—Special Event

“TWO OR THREE THINGS I KNOW FOR SURE”
—A TRIBUTE READING FOR DOROTHY ALLISON

*“The horror of class stratification, racism, and prejudice is that some people begin to believe that the security of their families and communities depends on the oppression of others, that for some to have good lives there must be others whose lives are truncated and brutal.” —Dorothy Allison, **Skin**, Firebrand Books, 1994.*

Dorothy Allison was a queer icon for decades and also one of our community's brightest lights and strongest voices. Dorothy stood as a beacon of hope and wisdom, which she shared with the world in her writing. Raised as a “Bastard out of Carolina,” Dorothy fiercely fought against stigma and shame, and fought for the underprivileged. Her work brilliantly explored the connections and intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. She was also a longtime supporter and friend of Saints & Sinners, was in our first Hall of Fame class of Literary Saints, and participated whenever she was able. It's almost impossible to imagine Saints and Sinners without Dorothy. She was also a favorite TWfest speaker, loved for her honesty, quick humor, and solid advice for aspiring writers. We hope you will join us for this tribute reading for a lesbian literary legend. Hosted by **Jewelle Gomez**, with additional readings by **Patricia Brady, Greg Herren, Thomas Keith, Susan Larson, and Elisabeth Nonas.**

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom,
\$10 or LitPass or VIP Pass.



Dorothy Allison and Jewelle Gomez

4 – 6 PM—Special Event

CLOSING RECEPTION

We'll induct our 2025 SAS Hall of Fame members and present our 11th annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award—sponsored by **Rob Byrnes.**

Hotel Monteleone, Lobby Level, Royal Salon

See page 24 for more details.

SAINTS AND SINNERS FEST

QUEER AF OFFSITE

SAINTS + SINNERS LITERARY FESTIVAL



PENDA SMITH



MIAH JEFFRA



KIRSTEN RENEAU



KAY MURPHY



DANNY UNGER



DANIEL MELTZ



NAT GOVE



ASHLEY YOUNG



MALIK THOMPSON



TODD OSBORNE



MEGHAN SULLIVAN



JACOB BUDENZ



FERNANDO RIVERA

THE DOMINO
SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 7PM
HOSTED BY LMNL ARTS

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in Crime®*

Where Writers *Belong*



Advocacy. Education.
Support. Community.
We're here for you.

www.SistersInCrime.org/join-us

SAINTS & SINNERS XXII

CLOSING RECEPTION

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 • 4-6 PM

Hosted by **Monique Jenkinson**

Sponsored by **Keith Fox** and **Tom Keyes**

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon

(Admission included in Weekend Pass/Partner Pass)



Monique Jenkinson
Artist, performer and writer

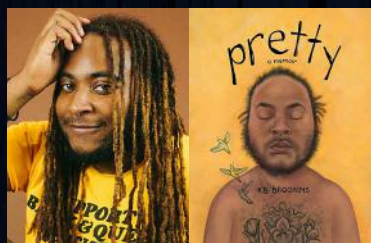
Finish out the Festival by joining us as we honor outstanding members of our literary community. Wrap up the weekend with old and new friends, and pass one more good time at the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival.

We'll introduce the honorees of our eleventh annual Saints + Sinners Emerging Writer Award generously sponsored by Rob Byrnes.

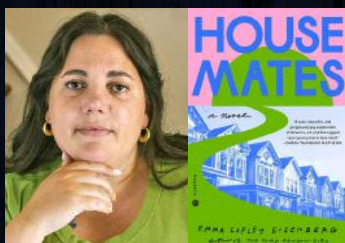
This award acknowledges an exceptional debut work or an author establishing a body of work propelling them to the next stage of their literary career. We'd like to congratulate and recognize two writer this year! **KB Brookins** for their memoir *Pretty*, and **Emma Copley Eisenberg** for the novel *Housemates*. Both authors have started non-profits to nurture and support marginalized voices.



Rob Byrnes



KB Brookins



Emma Copley Eisenberg

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**

2022: **Eric Nguyen**

2023: **De'Shawn Charles Winslow**

2024: **Margot Douaihy**

We'll hear from three of our finalists from the 2025 Poetry Contest read from their winning entries, and we'll have copies of our 2025 Saints and Sinners Poetry Contest Anthology available as a gift to everyone at the closing reception.



Daniel WK Lee



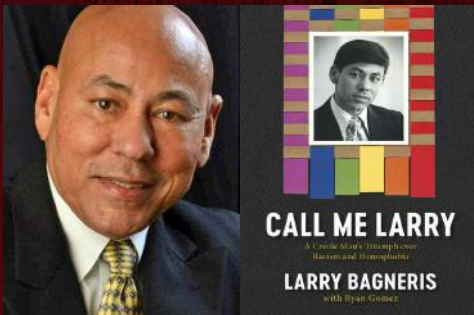
Jendi Reiter



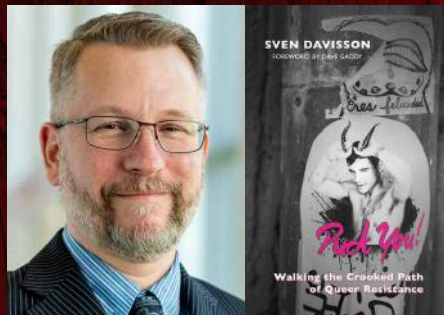
Victoria Sosa

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.

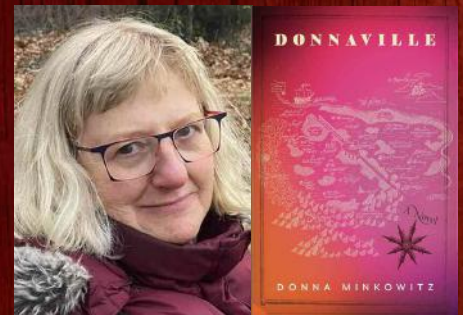
2025 SAINTS AND SINNERS HALL OF FAME CLASS:



Larry Bagneris



Sven Davisson



Donna Minkowitz

MEMBERS OF THE SAINTS + SINNERS HALL OF FAME

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



2024 HOF Inductee Justin Torres
with Charles Rice-Gonzalez



Jewelle Gomez presenting to Elisabeth Nonas
in recognition of honoree Nancy K. Bereano

SAINTS+SINNERS XXII

2025 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS & FINALISTS

We'd like to congratulate our
2025 Poetry Contest Winners & Finalists!

OUR 2025 WINNER:



Jendi Reiter



Arumandhira
Howard



Daniel W.K. Lee



Branwell Roberts

THREE RUNNERS-UP:

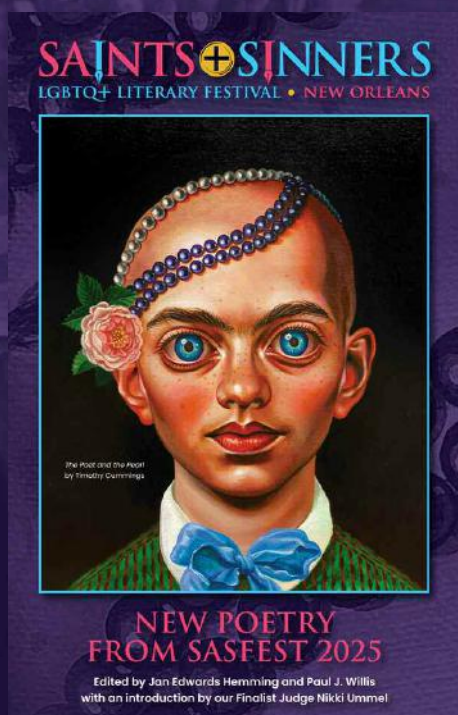
And a very special "Thank You" to **Nikki Ummel** our
2025 Finalist Judge, all our preliminary judges, and to
Jan Edwards Hemming for her editing expertise and
help with organizing our 2025 poetry anthology.



Nikki Ummel



Jan Edwards Hemming



2025 POETRY CONTEST FINALISTS:



Amada Bales



Kit Evans



Ben Hellerstein



Ash Helms-Tippit



Lauren Howton



Liz Kingsley



Joshua Kulseth



Daniel Meltz



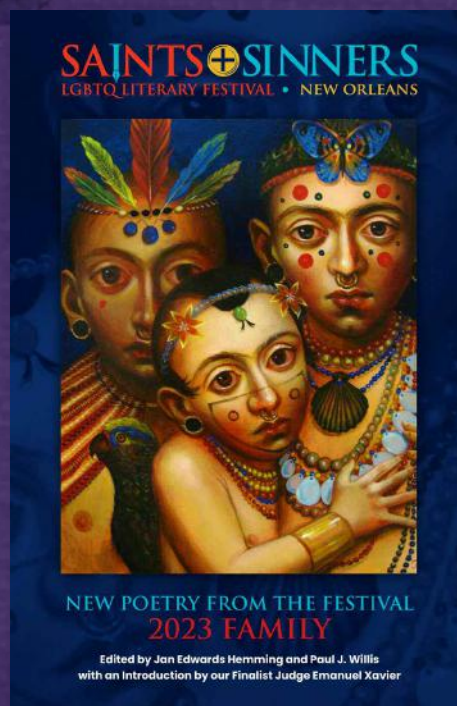
Bleah Patterson



Mandy Shunnarah



Victoria Sosa



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

Beautiful Dreamer Press



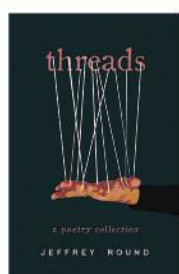
Ambidextrous
The Secret Lives of Children
Felice Picano

"Rich, charming, naughty, and funny
... Wonderful!"
—Andrew Holleran



Justify My Sins
A Hollywood Novel in Three Acts
Felice Picano

"The cultural observations are
interesting, the sex scenes exciting,
and the gossip specific."
—Jeff Solomon, *Gay & Lesbian Review*



Threads
A Poetry Collection
Jeffrey Round

"Reminiscent of Cavafy, a journey
through loves and losses, deaths and
memories."
—Trebor Healey,
author of *A Horse Named Sorrow*



Leave Me Not Alone
Book 4 of the Croy Cycle
Louis Flint Ceci

"A defiant cry that small-town
America has always included people
of color and queer people."
—J. Marshall Freeman, author of
The Dubious Gift of Dragon's Blood

www.BeautifulDreamerPress.com





SAINTS+SINNERS XXII

FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Franklin Abbott is a poet and community organizer living in Atlanta. He founded the Atlanta Queer Literary Festival and is an original radical faerie. He is editor of three anthologies on men and masculinity and his new book will be his third volume of poetry. The first two are titled *Mortal Love* and *Pink Zinnia*. His papers are collected in the Women and Gender Collections in the archives at Georgia State University where he volunteers as an oral historian. He recently traveled to India where he participated in poetry readings in New Delhi and Chandigarh. A CD of his original songs and poems, *Don't Go Back To Sleep*, will also be available at the festival.



Ezra Adamo is a student from New Orleans.



Moonbear Aguilar is a gender expansive, two-spirit artist, energy worker, and performer of Mexican, Indigenous North American, Romani, and mixed European heritage. They humbly honor the labor and legacy of Romani femmes who created and fostered this practice as a survival trade.



Brian Alessandro has written for numerous publications, including *Interview Magazine*, *Newsday*, *The Gay & Lesbian Review*, *Kirkus*, and many others, and is the author of three novels, *The Unmentionable Mann*, *Performer Non Grata*, and *Julian's Debut*, as well as co-author of *Edmund White's A Boy's Own Story: The Graphic Novel* and co-editor of *Fever Spores: The Queer Reclamation of William S. Burroughs*.



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



Eric Andrews-Katz calls Seattle home. His work has been included in over 16 anthologies, *The Advocate*, *Chelsea Station*, and at Equality365.com. He is the author of "the Buck 98" spy-parody series (*The Jesus Injection* and *Balls and Chain*) as well as the fantasy adventure, *Tartarus* (Honorable Mention, Rainbow Book Awards, 2018).



A native New Orleanian, **Larry Bagneris** began his civil rights activism as a student at St. Augustine High School. He graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana and moved to Houston, Texas, where he was a two-term president of the city's Gay Political Caucus, chairperson of Gay Pride week, and, in 1979, founder of Houston's Gay Pride parade. Bagneris returned to New Orleans in the 1990s and became a lobbyist for the NO/AIDS Task Force. He served four mayoral administrations as executive director of New Orleans's Human Relations Commission before retiring in 2018. He is the author of the new memoir *Call Me Larry: A Creole Man's Triumph over Racism and Homophobia*.



KB Brookins is a Black queer and trans writer, educator, and cultural worker from Texas. KB's chapbook *How To Identify Yourself with a Wound* won the Saguaro Poetry Prize, a Writer's League of Texas Discovery Prize, and a Stonewall Honor Book Award. Their debut poetry collection *Freedom House* won the American Library Association Barbara Gittings Literature Award and the Texas Institute of Letters Award for the Best First Book of Poetry. KB's debut memoir *Pretty* was released in May 2024 with Alfred A. Knopf. It won the Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writer's Award in Creative Non-Fiction. Follow them online @earthtokb.



Laurinda D. Brown is a native Memphian and graduate of Howard University who has been called a "literary juggernaut" by journalists and a "uniquely gifted storyteller" by critics. Laurinda successfully self-published her first novel, *Fire and Brimstone*, in 2001. Within a year, the title, along with its sequel *UnderCover*, was optioned by Strebor Books, the then rapidly growing publishing company of national best-selling author, Zane. *Fire and Brimstone* was selected as a national finalist for the coveted Lambda Literary Award for Best Debut Fiction in 2004. In 2006, Laurinda won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Lesbian Fiction for her collection of short stories, *Walk Like A Man*, which is also the title of her Off-Broadway production that has been optioned by theatre companies across the nation. www.iamlaurindadbrown.com



Robert Bruegmann is an historian and critic of architecture, landscape, and the built environment and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Art History, Architecture, and Urban Planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is the author of numerous scholarly books and articles including *The Architects and the City: Holabird & Roche of Chicago 1880-1918*, (1998); *Sprawl: A Compact History* (2005); *The Architecture of Harry Weese* (2010); and *Art Deco Chicago: Designing Modern America*, (2018). Most recently he published his first novel, *Roman Ivory*, in 2024.



Jacob Budenz is an author, multidisciplinary performer, musician and witch with an MFA from University of New Orleans and a BA from Johns Hopkins whose work focuses on the intersection of queer otherness and the otherworldly. The author of speculative short story collection *Tea Leaves* (Bywater Books 2023) and poetry chapbook *Pastel Witcheries* (Seven Kitchens Press 2018), Budenz has had work in print journals including *Slipstream* and *Assaracus*, zeitgeisty online journals including *Taco Bell Quarterly* and *Wussy Mag*, anthologies by Mason Jar Press and Unbound Edition, and, most recently, a performance art piece in the Walters Art Museum for their Queering the Collection series. Follow Jake's work on Instagram (@dreambabyjake) or at www.jakebeearts.com.



Cynthia Burack is professor of women's, gender, and sexuality studies at The Ohio State University. She writes about LGBTQ politics and co-edits the *Queer Politics and Cultures* book series at State University of New York Press.



Rob Byrnes is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of six novels and several short stories and essays. He was inducted into the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame in 2016 and is also active with The Publishing Triangle, serving as host of that organization's monthly OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Reading Series. He also serves on the Boards of Directors of the NYC Gay Men's Chorus and The Other Side of Silence (TOSOS), which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024 as New York City's oldest LGBTQ+ theater company. He lives in Jersey City, NJ with his partner, Brady Allen.



Tom Cardamone is the editor of *Crashing Cathedrals: Edmund White by the Book*, and the author of the Lambda Literary Award-winning speculative novella *Green Thumb*. He is also author of the erotic fantasy *The Lurid Sea* and other works of fiction, including two short story collections. Additionally, he has edited *The Lost Library: Gay Fiction Rediscovered* and co-edited *Fever Spores: The Queer Reclamation of William S. Burroughs*. Currently he is co-curating the Rebel Satori Press imprint The Library of Homosexual Congress, dedicated to returning works of gay literature back into print with a focus on the AIDS crisis.



Kate Castle is the author of the best-selling young adult adventure novel *Girl Island*, winner of two Golden Crown Literary Society Awards. She has just released her debut collection of poetry, *The Nature of Love*, and her next novel, *Letters from the Apocalypse*—a zombie apocalypse thriller—is out in 2025. Kate's books fall into the young/new adult adventure and thriller categories and always feature a sapphic romance subplot. Kate is passionate about representing LGBTQ+ teenagers in literature and writes immersive, fast-paced stories populated with fierce, independent, queer young women—the kind of characters she wished she could have read more about growing up.



Louis Flint Ceci's poetry is published in *The Colorado-North Review* and *Impossible Archetype*. His short stories have appeared in *Diseased Pariah News*, *Jonathan*, and *Trikone Magazine*, and in several anthologies. His most recent novel is *Leave Me Not Alone*. He is an avid U.S. Masters swimmer and won four silvers and a gold medal at the IGLA+ World Championships in Buenos Aires in November.



John Copenhaver is an award-winning author whose latest novel, *Hall of Mirrors*, was named a *New York Times* Crime Novel of the Year. His debut, *Dodging and Burning*, won the Macavity Award, and *The Savage Kind* earned the Lambda Literary Award. A founding member of Queer Crime Writers, he teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University, mentors in the University of Nebraska MFA program, and lives in Richmond, Virginia, with his husband, artist Jeffery Paul Herrity.



Dale Corvino's essays have appeared in *Salon*, *the Rumpus*, and the *Gay & Lesbian Review*. *Bonds & Boundaries*, his debut short story collection, was published in 2023 by Rebel Satori Press. His memoir of sex work, *Afterlife of a Kept Boy*, won the C&R Press Nonfiction Prize and is out now.



Peter Covino is a poet-translator-editor whose most recent book, *What Sex Is Death? Dario Bellezza, Selected Poems* (2025) won the Wisconsin Press Prize for Poetry in Translation. He is an associate professor of English at the University of Rhode Island and author of three poetry collections including, *The Right Place to Jump* and *Cut Off the Ears of Winter*, both from W. Michigan UP; and a co-edited volume of essays on Italian American Culture. His awards include a National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship and the PEN/American Osterweil Award.



Michael Cunningham is the author of six novels: *A Home at the End of the World*, *Flesh and Blood*, *The Hours*, *Specimen Days*, *By Nightfall*, and *The Snow Queen*, as well as a story collection, *A Wild Swan and Other Tales*, and a book of nonfiction, *Land's End: A Walk in Provincetown*. *The Hours* won the PEN Faulkner Award and the Pulitzer Prize in 1999. It was made into a film starring Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, and Nicole Kidman. His new novel, *Day*, was published in November 2023.



Vinny Cusenza co-wrote his first novel, *The Adventures of Pen and Pencil*, in fourth grade with his best friend Steve Drayzen. Besides novels, he writes personal and travel essays, memoir, and epistolary meditations on his place in the world. He has won awards for his photography, founded a small New England inn, sang with Liza Minnelli onstage in Central Park, and herded rhinos. Vinny lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn with husband Steve and Neko, their transsexual cat.



Sven Davisson is the innovative force behind Rebel Satori Press, an independent publishing house dedicated to pushing boundaries and amplifying marginalized voices. With a keen eye for compelling narratives and a commitment to fostering diverse literary landscapes, Davisson curates a catalog that challenges conventions and sparks dialogue. His own recent work includes the books *Breeding Devils in Chaos*, *The Rise & Fall of Rajneeshpuram*, and *Puck You! The Crooked Path of Queer Resistance*.



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



Debbie With a D, The Bourbon Street Bombshell, is a New Orleans-based drag queen celebrated for her quick wit, dazzling costumes, and fun performances. As the reigning Queen LV of the Krewe of Armeinius, one of the city's oldest gay Mardi Gras krewes, she embodies the spirit of the city. Debbie has headlined Jazz Fest twice, and is a two-time winner of the Mardi Gras Bourbon Street Awards. She won the title of King Cake Monarch in 2024, the same year that Gambit newspaper recognized her as the #1 Drag Queen in New Orleans. Whether hosting and performing Debbie is sure to leave you with something to talk about. You can find her at her weekly show on Bourbon Street or engaging in public health advocacy on Instagram @DebbieWithAD.



Clayton Delery is a Louisiana native and a (nearly) lifelong resident of the Deep South. He has published articles and essays in a variety of popular and scholarly journals, and is the author of two books of LGBT+ nonfiction: *The Up Stairs Lounge Arson* (McFarland 2014) and *Out for Queer Blood: The Murder of Fernando Rios and the Failure of New Orleans Justice* (Exposit 2017). He is currently working on a book about AIDS activism in New Orleans, and he has recently partnered with McFarland Publishing to be general editor of a nonfiction series about LGBT+ life in the United States.



Lewis DeSimone's most recent novel, *Exit Wounds* (Rebel Satori Press, 2024), tackles the complexities of growing older in a society that is transforming at record speed. Set in contemporary San Francisco, it examines generational shifts in gay culture and the impact of technology on community. Lewis's previous novels include *Channeling Morgan*, *The Heart's History*, and *Chemistry*. After a quarter century in the Bay Area, he now lives in Minnesota, where he's working on his next novel and remembering how to shovel snow.



Alfred P. Doblin has spent most of his professional career working as a journalist. He has been recognized by numerous state and national journalism associations, including the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) award for excellence in editorial writing; the Society of the Silurians; NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists; and was nominated four times for the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Newspaper Columnist. He was a runner-up in the Saints and Sinners 2024 Short Fiction Contest, and his debut book, *Tales of the Lavender Twilight*, a collection of eleven interrelated short stories, will be released this spring by Rattling Good Yarns Press. Doblin lives in Brooklyn, New York.



Margot Douaihy lives in Northampton, MA, and is an assistant professor of creative writing with Emerson College. She is the author of the award-winning, nationally bestselling *Sister Holiday* series, in addition to the poetry collections *Bandit/Queen: The Runaway Story of Belle Starr*, *Scranton Lace*, and *Girls Like You*. Her debut mystery, *Scorched Grace*, won The Pinckley Prize in Crime Fiction and was named a Best Crime Novel of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *CrimeReads*, *Marie Claire*, and others.



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



Emma Copley Eisenberg is the author of the novel *Housemates*, which was a national bestseller and named a best book of the year by *The Boston Globe*, *People*, *NBC*, *Them*, *Us*, *Autostraddle*, and *Kirkus Reviews* as well as one of *Electric Literature's* "Top 5 Novels of 2024" and *Time Magazine's* "16 Best Books to Read for Pride." Her narrative nonfiction book, *The Third Rainbow Girl*, was a *New York Times* Notable Book and Editor's Choice, as well as a finalist for an Edgar Award, a Lambda Literary Award, and an Anthony Award, among other honors. Her fiction, essays, and criticism have appeared in *Granta*, *Esquire*, *The New Republic*, *Lux*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, *VQR*, and many other publications. She lives in Philadelphia, where she co-founded Blue Stoop, a community hub for the literary arts. Her short story collection, *Fat Swim*, is forthcoming from Hogarth in 2026.



Jason Ezell is an academic librarian and LGBTQ+ historian. He is the Head of Learning and Engagement at Miami University Libraries, in Ohio, and his first book, *For a Spell: Sissie Collectivism and Radical Witchery in the Southeast*, will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in Fall 2025.



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



Ben Fluet is a queer poet, journalist, and filmmaker from Richmond, Virginia, currently living in New Orleans where he is pursuing an MFA in Poetry at University of New Orleans. In 2022, he hand-bound and self-published his debut chapbook, *How We Forgot to Sing*, and is currently a reader for *Bayou Magazine*. In 2020, Ben directed *Meet Me by the Magnolia Tree*, a documentary exploring the history of gay men's lives in Richmond, VA, which aired on PBS and was featured on Virginia Public Media. His recent poetry appears in *Otis Nebula*, and you can find him on Instagram @beanspasms.



T.J. Fury is a gay author and publisher with a background in graphic arts. His experiences with homelessness and addiction have profoundly shaped his life and fueled his passion for mental health and substance awareness. He is dedicated to promoting harm reduction strategies and creating accessible resources for individuals navigating similar challenges. T.J. is also a passionate advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and believes in the power of storytelling to build bridges of understanding and empathy.



Jewelle Gomez, (Cape Verdean/Ioway/Wampanoag), is a novelist, poet, essayist, and playwright. Her books include five collections of poetry and the first Black Lesbian vampire novel, *The Gilda Stories*. In print for more than 30 years, it was optioned for a TV mini-series by Cheryl Dunye (Watermelon Woman). Her latest work is *We Three: A Novella* published by Rebel Satori Press and *Still Water: Poems* from BLF Press. Her last three plays (*Waiting for Giovanni*, *Leaving the Blues*, *Unpacking in P'town*) were commissioned and produced by New Conservatory Theatre Company, San Francisco. @VampyreVamp



Natalie Rose Gove is a poet, writer, and basketball fan currently living in New Orleans. She received a MFA from Queens University Charlotte in August 2024. Their work has been published in *Postscript Magazine*, *Bayou Review*, *Third Iris Zine*, *Noyo Review*, *Snapdragon Journal* and a couple of anthologies. They were a finalist for the Patty Friedmann writing contest in Creative Non-Fiction and a semi-finalist for poetry.



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



Jan Edwards Hemming's poetry and essays have appeared in *Electric Literature*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Los Angeles Review of Books Blog*, *The Ilanot Review*, *FruitSlice*, and elsewhere. Her poems "Bird" and "Oven" were each nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and her essay "Mirror, Mirror" was nominated for the *Best American Essays 2025*. She holds an MFA in Poetry from NYU and a B.A. in English from LSU, has been awarded residencies from Virginia Center for Creative Arts and Vermont Studio Center, and co-edited the 2023 and 2024 Saints & Sinners Literary Festival Poetry Anthologies. She lives and works in New Orleans.



Ian Henzel reinvented himself after retiring from a 42-year career in corporate technology marketing in Asia, Europe, and North America to start a new life as a publisher. In 2019 Ian founded Rattling Good Yarns Press, now entering its fifth year, focused on bringing overlooked LGBTQ+ voices to light. Rattling Good Yarns Press has released over 31 fiction and nonfiction titles. Ian has been a speaker at the Saints & Sinners LGBTQ+ Literary Festival in New Orleans, and at the Independent Publishers Association Conference where he spoke about promoting books to niche audiences. Ian is thrilled that his college years focused on classic and modern comparative literature are finally being put to good use.



Greg Herren is the author of over 40 novels, 50 short stories, and has edited over 20 anthologies. He has won several awards for his writing and editing, and has been nominated for a multitude of others, including the Shirley Jackson, the Lefty, the Agatha, and the Anthony. His next novel, *Hurricane Season Hustle*, will be released in fall 2025.

BOLD VOICES/GOOD YARNS
PODCAST

The book is only half the story, we've got the rest.

HOSTED BY: IAN HENZEL

Behind every book is an author with a unique voice. And behind every author is a lifetime of experiences — triumphs, struggles, inspirations, and revelations. We dive deep into the lives of writers whose stories not only entertain but challenge, inspire, and reflect the incredible diversity of our lives. We dive between the pages of authors' lives.

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Morgan Hufstader is a writer of queer mysteries and thrillers. Originally from New York City, she has since grown roots in New Orleans and commits herself to supporting the local literary and arts community. With over a decade in literary marketing, she has spoken at the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival to demystify digital marketing for authors. She has also had her works published in previous anthologies. Currently, she is studying in the Creative Writing Workshop graduate program at the University of New Orleans.



Miah Jeffra is author of four books of fiction and nonfiction, most recently *The Violence Almanac* (finalist for several awards, including the Grace Paley and Robert C Jones) and *American Gospel*—finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Prize and winner of the Clark-Gross Award—and co-editor, with Arisa White and Monique Mero, of the anthology *Home is Where You Queer Your Heart*. Work can be seen in *StoryQuarterly*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The North American Review*, *storySouth*, *DIAGRAM*, *Anomaly*, and many others. Miah is co-founder of Whiting Award-winning queer and trans literary collaborative, Foglifter Press, and serves as Assistant Professor of English/Creative Writing at Santa Clara University.



Monique Jenkinson is an artist, choreographer, performer and writer whose work dwells at the intersection of contemporary dance and cabaret and considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable and subversive act. Her alter-ego Fauxnique made herstory as the first cis-woman anywhere ever to be crowned as a pageant-winning drag queen and her solo performance works have toured nationally and internationally in wide-ranging contexts from nightclubs to theaters to museums. Her memoir, *Faux Queen* is out now on Amble Press.



Thomas Keith has edited the Tennessee Williams titles for New Directions since 2002, over twenty volumes, and wrote the introductions for *A House Not Meant to Stand* and *Now the Cats with Jeweled Claws*. Co-editor of *Letters of Tennessee Williams* and *James Laughlin*, Keith edited *Love, Christopher Street*—a collection of original LGBTQ essays about New York City. His writing has appeared in *American Theatre*, *Gay & Lesbian Review*, *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, *The Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns*, *The Tennessee Williams Annual Review*, *Provincetown Arts*, and *Studies in Scottish Literature*. He has served as dramaturge for Sundance Theatre Lab and teaches theater at Pace University in New York.



Joan Larkin's sixth book of poems, *Old Stranger*, was published in August by Alice James Books. Her previous books include *Blue Hanuman*; Lambda winner *Cold River*; and *My Body: New and Selected Poems*, recipient of the Audre Lorde Award. Joan co-founded Out & Out Books during the 1970s feminist literary explosion and co-edited *Gay and Lesbian Poetry in Our Time*, among other anthologies. Her work includes *Sor Juana's Love Poems*, co-translated with Jaime Manrique; *Glad Day: Meditations for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People*; and *The AIDS Passion*, a verse play. She received the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Memorial Award.



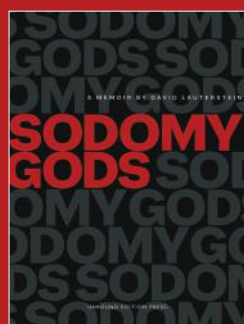
Susan Larson is the host of *The Reading Life* on WWNO, New Orleans' NPR affiliate, the former book editor of *The New Orleans Times-Picayune* and the author of *The Booklover's Guide to New Orleans*. She is the past president of the Women's National Book Association of New Orleans, which presents the Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction, and she is a former member of the boards of the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and The New Orleans Public Library. In 2007, she received the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities lifetime achievement award for her contributions to the literary community.



Anne Laughlin is the award-winning author of eight novels. In addition to winning four Goldie Awards and being nominated three times for a Lammy Award, she is the 2022 recipient of the Alice B Medal for her body of work. Anne stays busy in the queer crime-writing community. She is active in the Queer Crime Writers Association, writes reviews for the *Gay & Lesbian Review*, is a board member of Mystery Writers of America, and helps compile new books to be included in the *Crime Reads* review of queer crime books. She has recently completed a ninth novel, this one a historical thriller set in 1929 and 1930 Berlin. She lives in Chicago.



Christian Lee was born in New Orleans and raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 2022, he graduated from the University of New Orleans, was a featured reader of Imnl lit, and was a recipient of the Ryan Chighizola Memorial Scholarship for poetry. Recently, he's been featured in the Purple Poetry Circle and Montez Press Radio. While he has not published any poems, you can occasionally find him attending poetry events hosted by Tilted House each new moon or at Café Istanbul on Wednesday nights. He likes rum and favors men who like cats.



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



R. J. Lee is a native of Natchez, Mississippi, graduating with a B.A. from the University of the South (Sewanee). He now lives in Oxford, Mississippi as a gay widower after residing in New Orleans for thirty years. Since 1992, he has had 17 novels published and has been an active acrylic artist. His latest novel, *The Majestic Leo Marble*, details his journey from being a closeted young boy in Mississippi to living an authentic life as an “out” gay man, starting at twenty-six in the Crescent City. *Kirkus Reviews* says: “A richly textured saga of a gay everyman moving from self-doubt to pride.”



Jeff Mann has published six books of poetry, *Bones Washed with Wine*, *On the Tongue*, *Ash*, *A Romantic Mann*, *Rebels*, and *Redneck Bouquet*; three collections of essays, *Edge*, *Binding the God*, and *Endangered Species*; a memoir, *Loving Mountains, Loving Men*; six novels, *Fog*, *Purgatory*, *Cub*, *Salvation*, *Country*, and *Insatiable*; one graphic novel, *Highland Moon*; and four volumes of short fiction, *A History of Barbed Wire*, *Desire and Devour*, *Consent*, and *The Sagas of Mann*. 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.



Doc McLeMore is a writer living in New Orleans. Their recent work, “Truffle Fuckers” will be released with LMNL Lit’s next anthology, and their first book will be released under an alias in 2026.



Daniel Meltz was raised in the low-rent reaches of New Jersey, sixteen minutes from Times Square, and has lived in Manhattan for fifty years. His poems and stories have been published in *Best New Poets 2012*, *American Poetry Review*, *Salamander*, *upstreet*, *Columbia Review* and many others. Both his first book of poems, *It Wasn’t Easy to Reach You*, from Trail to Table, and his first novel, *Rabbis of the Garden State*, from Rattling Good Yarns, will be published in 2025. He’s a retired technical writer and teacher of Deaf young people, with a B.A. from Columbia (no honors).



Donna Minkowitz’s novel *Donnaville* was recently published by Indolent Books. Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore said of it, “Tender and grotesque... *Donnaville* shocks the senses to open the gates between myth and belonging... *Donnaville* frees the soul from its burdens.” Minkowitz is also the author of the memoirs *Ferocious Romance*, which won a Lambda Literary Award, and *Growing Up Golem*, which was a finalist for a Lammy and for the Judy Grahn Nonfiction Award. She is a former columnist for the *Village Voice*, and her writing has also appeared in the *New York Times Book Review*, *The Nation*, *Salon*, *Slate*, and *The Advocate*. Minkowitz is the recipient of a GLAAD Media Award, the Exceptional Merit Media Award, an NLGJA Award for Outstanding Journalism, and an Art Omi residency fellowship.



Sean Patrick Mulroy is a writer, multi-disciplinary artist, and faggotry hauntologist who was born and raised in the American South and currently lives in New York City. A 2013 Lambda Literary Fellow, 2018 writer-in-residence at Kerouac House, and 2019 winner of the Margaret Reid Prize for formal verse, Mulroy recently completed a two-month speaking tour of Europe and SWANA in support of his poetry collection, *Hated for the Gods*. His e-chapbook, *Tortured: Poems after Taylor Swift’s The Tortured Poets Department*, was released in November of 2024 and is available free-of-charge via his website.



Kay Murphy is Professor Emeritus at the University of New Orleans where she taught in the English Department, the Creative Writing Workshop, and the Honors Program, and served as Poetry Editor for *Bayou Magazine*. She continues to work with graduate students and to teach in the Low Residency MFA Program. She was awarded the Louisiana Division of the Arts Individual Artist Grant in 2002 for her poetry and a University-wide Excellence in Teaching Award in 2001. Since coming to UNO in the fall of 1984, she has published over fifty essays/reviews of contemporary poetry in national journals such as *The American Book Review*, *Chelsea*, and *The Spoon River Poetry Review*. Besides reviews, she has published fiction in such journals as *Ascent* and *Fiction International*. Her heart-genre, poetry, has appeared in over 100 journals such as *North American Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *Poetry*, and *College English*. She is the author of two poetry collections: *The Autopsy* and *Belief Blues*. She has taught in Innsbruck, Austria, Montpellier, France, San Miguel, Mexico, Edinburgh, Scotland, and Cork, Ireland.



James Nolan’s latest books are the memoir *Between Dying and Not Dying, I Chose the Guitar: The Pandemic Years in New Orleans*, and a translation of the iconic Spanish poet Jaime Gil de Biedma, *If Only for a Moment (I’ll Never Be Young Again)*. Nolan’s *Flight Risk* won the 2018 Next-Generation Indie Book Award for Best Memoir. He has also published three prize-winning books of fiction, four poetry collections, and a translation of Neruda’s *Stones of the Sky*. Awarded N.E.A., Javits, and two Fulbright fellowships, he has taught at universities in San Francisco, Barcelona, Madrid, and Beijing, as well as in his native New Orleans, where he now lives.



Elisabeth Nonas, the author of four published novels, has written several screenplays as well as short stories, magazine articles, and essays. She coauthored with Simon LeVay the nonfiction *City of Friends: A Portrait of the Gay and Lesbian Community in America*. She taught screenwriting and writing for emerging media at Ithaca College for 25 years. She shared her pedagogy in *Story Workout: Exercises to Help You Connect with the Stories You Want to Tell*. Her most recent novel, *Grace Period*, was published in 2024. She is currently working on a sequel.



Rob Osler writes traditional mystery novels and short stories. Believing that relatability is as important as representation, he strives to showcase our shared humanity across individual identities. Rob's historical novel, *The Case of the Missing Maid*, is a *USA Today* bestseller, earned a starred review from *Publishers Weekly*, and is an Amazon Editors Pick. His work has won the MWA Robert L. Fish Award and has been a finalist for the Edgar, Anthony, Agatha, Lefty, and Macavity Awards, as well as a CrimeReads Best of the Year. Rob resides in California with his husband and a tall gray cat.



Frank Perez is a writer, teacher, tour guide, and public speaker who also serves as the executive director of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He has authored several books on New Orleans queer history and written hundreds of articles on the same topic. His publications also include a number of scholarly articles in academic journals as well as a number of poems and short stories in various literary journals. His latest book, *Rainbow Fleur de Lis: Essays on Queer New Orleans History*, is forthcoming from the University Press of Mississippi.



Glen Peters, also writing under the name of Glen Vecchione, is the author of science, math, and history books that have been translated into several languages and distributed throughout the world. His poetry and short stories appear in *Missouri Review*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Comstock Review*, *Timberline Review*, and *Main Street Rag*. Glen won the Editor's Choice Award in the *Last Stanza Poetry Journal* and was the featured poet in *Sequestrum's* Wonder issue of January 2024. He was also nominated for the 2022 and 2023 Pushcart Prize and named a Finalist in the 2022 *Sewanee Review* poetry competition. Glen wrote the music and lyrics to the jazz ballet *The Legend of Frankie and Johnny*, produced by the Nat Horne Theatre on Broadway in 1980. His play-in-verse, *Cowboy BO and the Train Whistle* was produced at the Lyceum Theatre in San Diego in 2011. *Where the Nights Smell Like Bread* is his first novel.



Eric Peterson is a novelist and playwright. His plays include an adaptation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*, *Seven Strangers in a Circle* (nominee, Best Play, Washington Theatre Festival), and *Smoke & Mirrors*. He has been a regular contributor to *Letters from CAMP Rehoboth* and *NBC Out*, and was named a finalist in the 2022 and 2023 Saints + Sinners Short Fiction Contests for his stories, "Little Boy Blue," and "Banjo," respectively. *Loyalty, Love, & Vermouth* is his first novel.



Frank Pizzoli's work has appeared in *The Village Voice*, *LA Weekly*, *Windy City Times*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *Huffington Post*, *Raw Story*, *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*, *POZ*, and *Instinct*. His first book, *Gay Writers and Allies on Their Work*, is forthcoming from Rebel Satori Press.



David Pratt is author of the Lambda-winning *Bob the Book* (Chelsea Station), *Wallaçonia* (Beautiful Dreamer Press), *Todd Sweeney*, *The Fiend of Fleet High* (Hosta Press), *Looking After Joey* (Lethe Press), and a story collection, *My Movie* (Chelsea Station). His stories have appeared in several periodicals and anthologies. He has performed work for the theater at venues in New York City and Michigan and has published *Two Plays: The Snow Queen and November Door*. In 2020-21 he published *The Book of Humiliation*, an "anti-novel" in sixteen zines, designed by Michigan artist Nicholas Williams.



Karisma Price is an assistant professor of English at Tulane University. A poet, screenwriter, and media artist, she is the author of *I'm Always So Serious* (Sarabande Books, 2023). Her work has appeared in publications including *Poetry*, *Indiana Review*, *Oxford American*, *Four Way Review*, *Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day Series*, and elsewhere. She is a Cave Canem Fellow, was a finalist for the 2019 Manchester Poetry Prize, was awarded the 2020 J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize from the Poetry Foundation, and is the 2023 winner of the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from the *American Poetry Review*. A native New Orleanian, she holds an MFA in poetry from New York University, where she was a Writers in the Public Schools Fellow. Karisma is currently writing a television pilot.



Ruben Quesada's latest poetry collection, *Brutal Companion*, winner of the Barrow Street Press Editors Prize, was published in October 2024. He edited the anthology *Latinx Poetics: Essays on the Art of Poetry*, which won an Independent Publisher Book Award in 2023. Quesada's work appears in *The Believer*, *American Poetry Review*, *the Best American Poetry series*, *Harvard Review*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. He has received fellowships from the Jentel Foundation and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Quesada is an editor, writer, and advocate for diversity and inclusivity in the literary arts. He lives in Chicago.



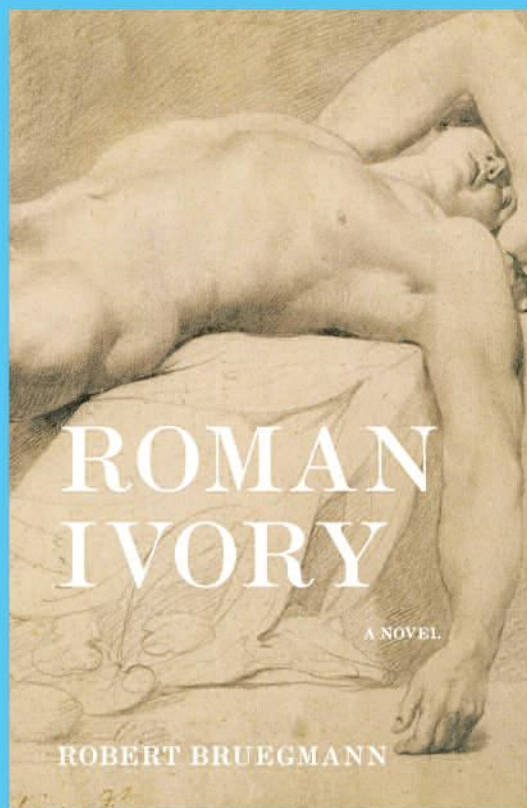
Robert Raasch was raised in Northern New Jersey. He is a writer, architect/ designer, and visual artist who is an active participant in 24PearlStreet and the Fine Arts Work Center (FAWC) in Provincetown, Massachusetts. He divides his time between Chicago, New York, and Copenhagen, where he is working on his second novel. *The Summer Between*, his debut novel, is a bittersweet, unsparingly honest coming-of-age saga, a sexy and romantic time capsule centered on three months in 1978.



J.M. Redmann has published twelve novels featuring New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her first book, published in 1990, is one of the early hard-boiled lesbian detectives. Her books have won three Lambda Literary awards, a Publishing Triangle Joseph Hansen award, and two Goldie awards. *The Intersection of Law and Desire* was an Editor's Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book of NPR's *Fresh Air*. Two books were selected for the American Library Association GLBT Roundtable's Over the Rainbow list, and *Water Mark* won a ForeWord Gold First Place mystery award.



Kirsten Reneau is a writer living in New Orleans. She is the author of two chapbooks, and her work has been published in *The Threepenny Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Reed Magazine*, and others. She has been nominated for several awards, and won a few. *Sensitive Creatures* from Belle Point Press is her first full-length essay collection.



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—Publisher's Weekly

Robert Bruegmann is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Art History, Architecture, and Urban Planning at the University of Illinois Chicago and the author of *Sprawl: A Compact History*.

www.BeautifulDreamerPress.com 



Genevieve Rheams writes LGBTQ+ romance, comedy, literature, and personal essays. She received her MFA in Fiction from the University of New Orleans, teaches fiction writing workshops, and is an Academic Advisor at Loyola University. You can find her telling stories onstage at her local chapter of The Moth or Greetings, From Queer Mountain. Her debut novel, *We Will Plant Birds of Paradise*, is due for release in Fall 2025 through Rattling Good Yarns Press. Genevieve delights in having conversations with her three adult children and going for absurdly long walks. She lives with her wife in her hometown of New Orleans with their two cats and a dog.



Steven Riel is the author of two full-length collections of poetry: *Fellow Odd Fellow* and *Edgemere*. His chapbook *Postcard from P-town* was published as runner-up for the inaugural Robin Becker Chapbook Prize. His poems have appeared in numerous periodicals, including *The Minnesota Review* and *International Poetry Review*. He edits the Franco-American journal *Résonance* and served as poetry editor of *RFD* from 1987 to 1995. Recipient of a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Riel was also selected as a 2016 Fellow by the Lambda Literary Foundation.



Becka Robbins is the founder and director of Books Not Bans, which sends needed, popular LGBT titles to community groups in conservative parts of America. Books Not Bans also throws parties celebrating authors or themes with dramatic readings and drag. They've also thrown book packing parties, bike rides

to bookstores, and readathon dance parties. Books Not Bans has been written about in the *LA Times*, *Guardian U.K.*, CBS National, and NPR, and other publications. In addition to founding Books Not Bans, Becka is the events producer at a queer bookstore in San Francisco. She has a dog, a spouse and musical tendencies, and is from Los Angeles.



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



Jeffrey Round's books include the Lambda Award-winning Dan Sharp series, the comic Bradford Fairfax series, and the acclaimed historical mystery, *The Sulphur Springs Cure*, highlighted at the Toronto International Festival of Authors in 2024. He directed Agatha Christie's classic stage play, *The Mousetrap*, for three of its twenty-seven record-breaking years at Toronto Truck Theatre. His plays, films, and music videos have won multiple international awards, including the Luis Buñuel Memorial Award. He is also a songwriter and photographer.



Richard Compson Sater retired from the U.S. Air Force after 24 years of service, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. He spent most of his career in photojournalism, a veteran of both Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) and Operation Iraqi Freedom. *Thirst* is his second novel, following *Rank* (2016). Sater earned a bachelor's degree in creative writing from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's in creative writing from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in fine arts from Ohio University. He has at various times been a professor, radio announcer, bookkeeper, bricklayer, bartender, critic, actor, and window-shade salesman. He lives in Seattle.



Timothy Schaffert is the author of seven novels, most recently *The Titanic Survivors Bookclub* and *The Perfume Thief*, which was named a Top Ten Best Book of the Summer by the *LA Times* and a Top 10 Historical Fiction Novel by CrimeReads. His work has been a *New York Times Review Editors' Choice*, an Oprah.com Book of the Week, an Indie Next pick, and a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection. He is co-editor and founder of the LGBTQ+ literary novel series Zero Street Fiction, and he is the Adele Hall Professor of English at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Kate Segriff (she/her) is stunningly awkward but has an excellent game face. She is a Toronto-based writer and filmmaker, and her work has appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *Greensboro Review*, *Prism International*, and *Best Canadian Poetry*, among others. She won the Edinburgh Story Prize, the London Independent Story Prize, and the Connor Prize for Poetry, among other awards. Her feminist short films have been selected for over 50 film festivals worldwide. Her first collection of short stories was published by Riddle Fence Debuts in 2024. She is working on a novel about a Cadillac-obsessed octogenarian with a suspect moral compass.



Ery Shin was born in Ames, Iowa, and raised in Manhattan for the first decade of her life, then Seoul for the second. The author of *Gertrude Stein's Surrealist Years*, a study of Stein's later experimental gestures and their philosophical implications within Hitler's Europe, she is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi. *Spring on the Peninsula* is her debut novel.

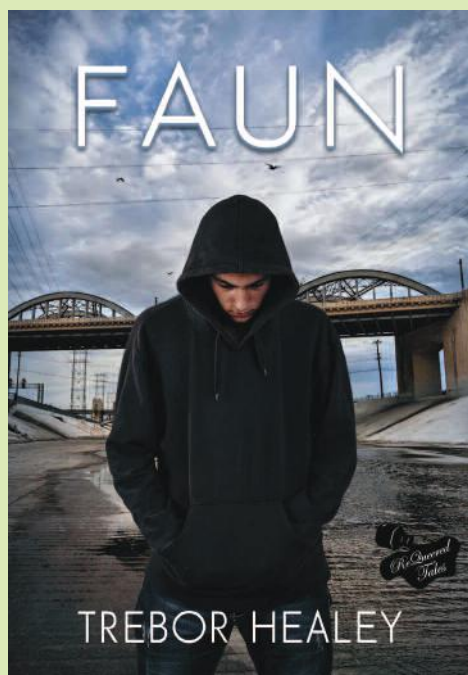


Savannah Sipple is a writer and professor from Kentucky. Her debut poetry collection is *WWJD and Other Poems* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2019), and she's currently writing a novel about two players on a summer league softball team. Her most recent work can be found in the anthologies *Troublesome Rising: A Thousand-Year Flood in Eastern Kentucky* and *What Things Cost: An Anthology for the People*. Savannah is also the editor of *GO Magazine's 100 Women We Love Class of 2024*, featured in the 2024 Pride Issue. She resides in Lexington, Kentucky, with her wife.



Penda Smith is a creative writer, educator, and thinker living and breathing in New Orleans. Her work focuses on mother-and-daughter relationships, coming-of-age narratives, African diaspora studies, and slavery. Inspired by her Senegalese heritage, she raises questions about belonging, identity, consent, and pleasure within the afterlife of slavery. She has received support from the Cave Canem Foundation, Hedgebrook Writing Residency, Hurston/Wright Writers workshop, and you can find her work at *Muzzle Magazine*, *Root Work Journal*, and *Obsidian Journal*. Aside from writing, she loves hot yoga, roller skating, and twerking her trauma out. She teaches at Loyola University and loves her cat, Prudence.

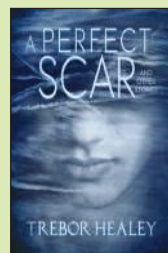
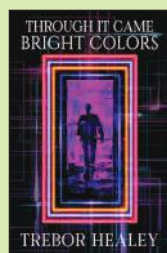
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William Christy Smith is a library and museum professional who lives in New Orleans. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, a Master of Liberal Arts from the University of Chicago, and a Master of Arts degree from the University of New Orleans. His short stories have been published in numerous literary journals.



Penelope Starr is the author of the novel *Desert Haven* (2024) and *The Radical Act of Community Storytelling: Empowering Voices in Uncensored Events* (2017) and she is a certified SoulCollage® facilitator. Penelope often combines aspects of SoulCollage® techniques in her innovative writing and storytelling workshops. You can see what she's up to at www.penelopestarr.com.



Malik Thompson (he/they) is a Black queer person from Washington, DC. His work has been published in the *Cincinnati Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere. He has received fellowships and residencies from organizations including Cave Canem, Lambda Literary, the Anderson Center, and Sundress Publications. He can be found on Instagram via the handle @latesummerstar.



Nikki Ummel has been published by The Georgia Review, Black Lawrence Press, and others. She is the 2022 recipient of the Leslie McGrath Poetry Prize and 2023 recipient of the Juxtapose Poetry Award for her manuscript, *Bloom*. Nikki is the co-founder of LMNL, an arts organization focused on readings, workshops, and residencies. She has two poetry chapbooks, *Hush* (Belle Point Press, 2022) and *Bayou Sonata* (NOLA DNA, 2023), funded by the New Orleans' Jazz and Heritage Foundation.



Julia Watts is the author of 14 novels for both young adults and adults. Her books, set in Appalachia, often depict the lives of LGBTQ people in the Bible Belt. Her young adult novel *Needlework* was selected as Tennessee's youth selection for the "Great Reads from Great Places" list for the 2022 National Book Festival of the Library of Congress, and won Honorable Mention for Best YA novel of the year in the *Foreword Reviews* INDIES awards. Her novel *Finding H.F.* won the Lambda Literary Award in the children/young adult category. Her novel *Quiver*, set in rural Tennessee, received a rare "Perfect 10 Rating" from *VOYA Magazine*, and was selected for the American Library Association's Rainbow List. Her novel *Secret City* was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and a winner of a Golden Crown Literary Award. In 2020 Watts was given the Tennessee Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Award. She lives in Knoxville and just completed her PhD in Literacy Studies from The University of Tennessee. Her newest novel is *Lovesick Blossoms*.



Jerry L. Wheeler is the editor of seven anthologies of gay erotica for Bold Strokes Books, Wilde City Press, and other publishers. His own collection of short fiction and essays, *Strawberries and Other Erotic Fruits* was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award in 2012. His first novel, *Pangs*, was released by Queer Space/Rebel Satori Press in 2022, followed by *Mercedes General* in 2024. He lives and writes in Denver CO, maintaining his review blog, *Out In Print: Queer Book Reviews* and his own editing business, Write And Shine.



Created by T.J. Fury, 2024



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



Ashley Young (she/they) is a Black Queer Nonbinary writer, poet, tarot reader and social worker. She is a 2010 Voices of Our Nation's Foundation Poetry Fellow and a 2011/2016 Lambda Literary Nonfiction Fellow. Her work has been published in three anthologies, *Hot and Heavy: Fierce Fat Girls on Life, Love and Fashion* (Seal Press), *All About Skin: Short Fiction by Women of Color* (University of Wisconsin Press) and Lambda Literary Award-winning *Glitter and Grit: Queer Performance from the Heels on Wheels Femme Galaxy* (Portland Studio). She is working on the publication of her poetry collection *Black Amphibian* & her debut novel *Indigo's Rise*. Ashley works as a case manager & spiritual practitioner in her heart town of New Orleans.



Kara Zajac is a freelance writer, chiropractor, mother of a daughter, wife, entrepreneur, musician, and diehard romantic. Kara is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist who plays drums and tours the Southeast with The Jessie Albright Band. Kara's debut book, *The Significance of Curly Hair: A Loving Memoir of Life and Loss* (Atmosphere Press 2024) was awarded the Literary Titan Gold Book Award for Nonfiction, The Bookfest First Place Award for Transformational Nonfiction, and was chosen for the Independent Book Review's "Best Books We Read in 2024!" An excerpt from her forthcoming book, *The Special Recipe for Making Babies*, was a finalist in 2022's Charlotte Lit/Lit South Award for Nonfiction. Kara's work has been published in *Scarlet Leaf Review*, *Imperfect Life Magazine*, *Ripped Jeans and Bifocals*, and *Just BE Parenting*. Kara resides in the North Georgia Mountains with her wife, Kim, and daughter, Senia Mae. She just completed her first fiction work, *The Waiting is the Hardest Part*.



Gary Zebrun lives in Providence, Rhode Island. His new novel, *Hart Island*, is set on New York City's potter's field off the coast of the Bronx. Its main character, a gay ferry boat captain, hauls coffins from the city to the burial ground. It is part love story, part crime novel, and part mystery. Gary's first novel, *Someone You Know*, was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award. He is a recipient of Yaddo and MacDowell fellowships; his work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *New Republic*, *Iowa Review*, *The Believer*, *Sewanee*, *The Common*, *American Scholar*, and elsewhere.

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RFD is a reader-created journal by and for LGBTQ+ people, celebrating both rural and urban living while embracing alternative lifestyles. We cultivate community, foster meaningful connections, and explore the diverse expressions of our sexuality. Our focus extends to environmental stewardship, Radical Faerie consciousness, and nature-centered spirituality, as well as sharing personal experiences that shape our lives. Produced entirely by volunteers, RFD thrives on community participation—we welcome your voice and contributions.



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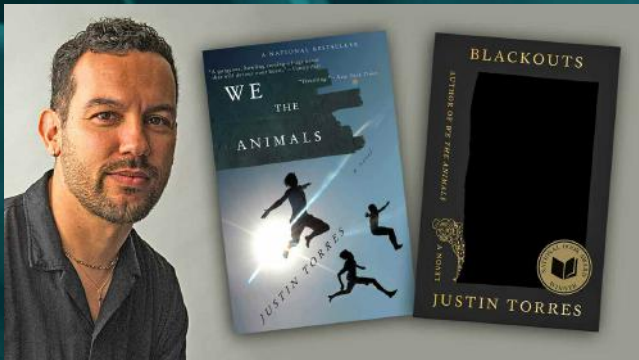


2026 SHORT FICTION CONTEST

Opens May 1, 2025

Be sure to enter the 17th annual Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest and be part of our 2026 anthology produced by Rebel Satori Press. We're pleased to announce that **Justin Torres** will be our finalist judge. Guidelines and deadlines at: sasfest.org

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



PAST SHORT FICTION WINNERS

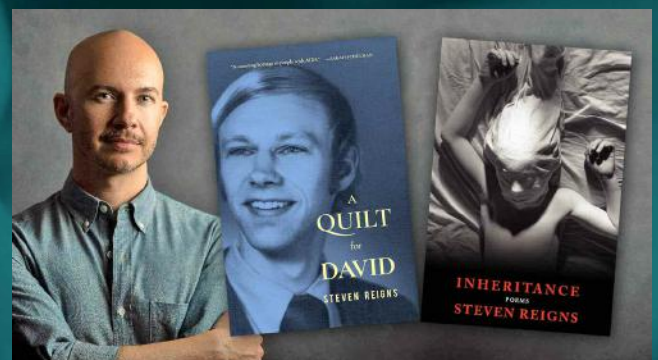
- 2025 **Laura Corin** "Beaver Moon"
- 2024 **Charlie J. Stephens** "For the Birds"
- 2023 **Ariadne Blayde** "Minor Difficulties in BigEasyWorld"
- 2022 **J. Duncan Davidson** "My Elijah"
- 2021 **Colby Byrne** "The Fog House"
- 2020 **Matthew Cherry** "Big House"
- 2019 **J. Marshall Freeman** "The Grove of Mohini"
- 2018 **Jeremy Schnotala** "Sand Angels"
- 2017 **J. Marshall Freeman** "Curo the Filthmonger"
- 2016 **Jerry Rabushka** "Trumpet in D"
- 2015 **Maureen Brady** "Basketball Fever"
- 2014 **Sally Bellerose** "Corset"
- 2013 **Sandra Gail Lambert** "In a Chamber of My Heart"
- 2012 **Jerry Rabushka** "Wasted Courage"
- 2011 **Sally Bellerose** "Fishwives"
- 2010 **Wayne Lee Gay** "Ondine"

2026 POETRY CONTEST

The winner of our 6th annual poetry contest will be selected from submissions of original unpublished poems by LGBTQ+ writers.

Our contest will open on May 1, 2025 and our Finalist Judge will be **Steven Reigns**. For more information and submission guidelines visit our website: sasfest.org.

Steven Reigns is a Los Angeles poet, educator, and was appointed the first Poet Laureate of West Hollywood. Alongside over a dozen chapbooks, he has published the collections *Inheritance*



and Your Dead Body is My Welcome Mat. Reigns holds a BA in Creative Writing, a Master of Clinical Psychology. He edited *My Life is Poetry*, showcasing his students' work from the first-ever autobiographical poetry workshop for LGBT seniors. Reigns has lectured and taught writing workshops around the country to LGBT youth and people living with HIV. Currently he is touring *The Gay Rub*, an exhibition of rubbings from LGBT landmarks and is the board president of the Anais Nin Foundation. His newest collection *A Quilt for David* was published by City Lights and is the product of over ten years of research regarding dentist David Acer's life. www.stevenreigns.com

PAST POETRY WINNERS

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



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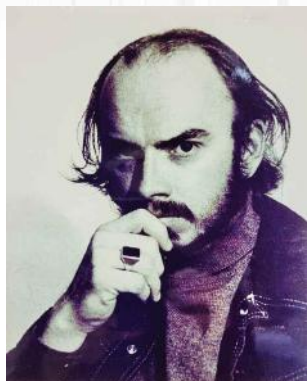


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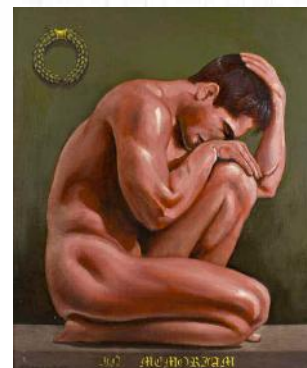
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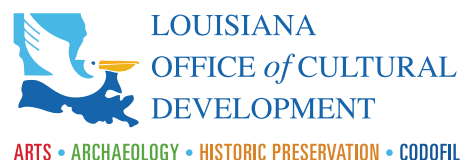


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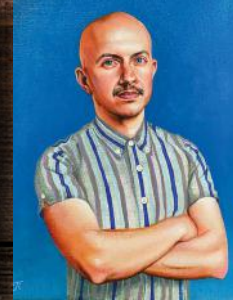
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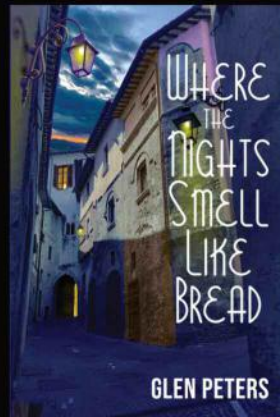
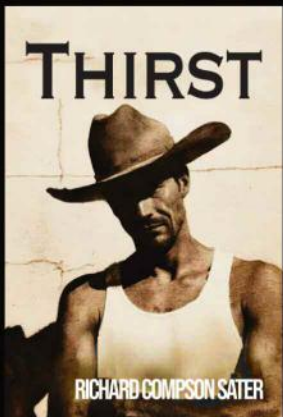
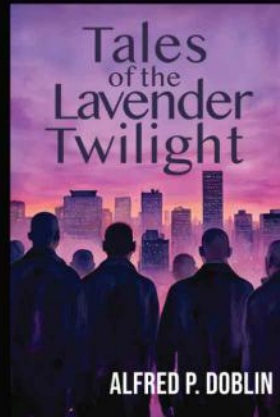
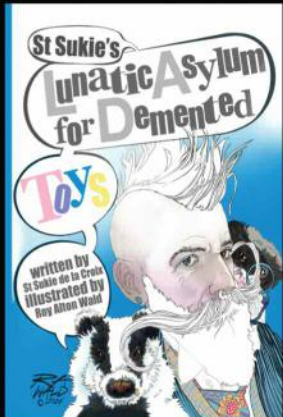
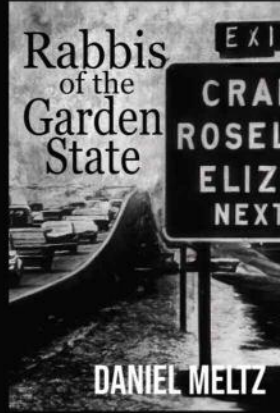
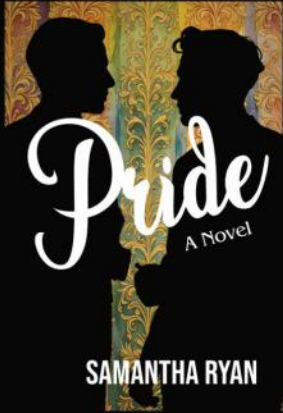


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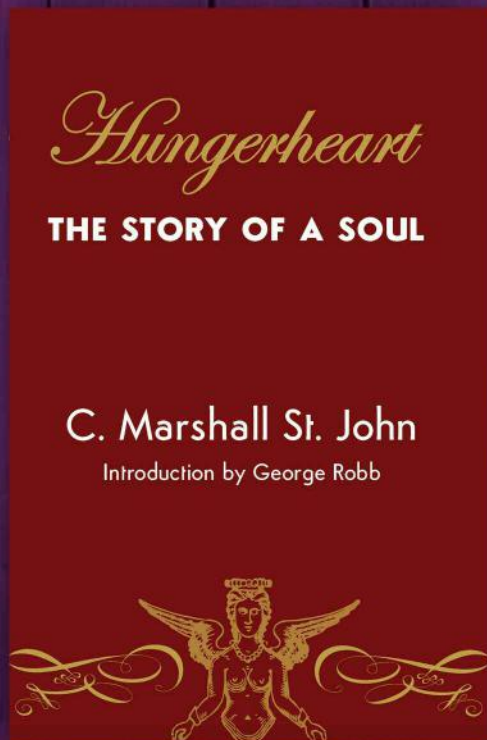


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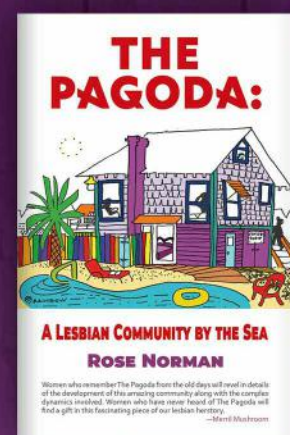
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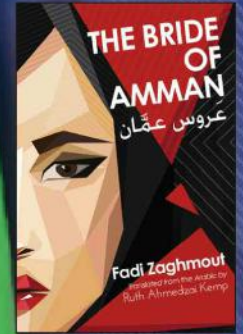
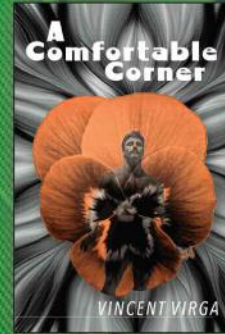
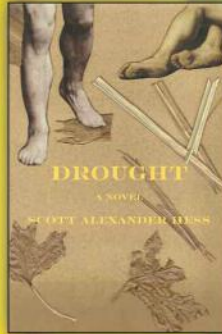
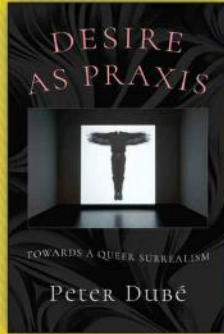
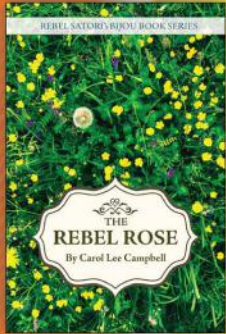


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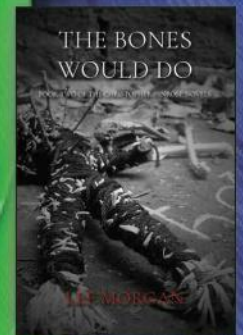
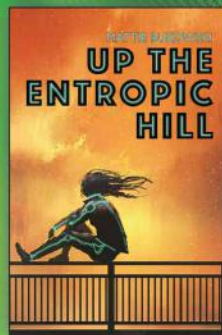
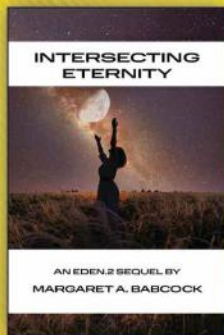
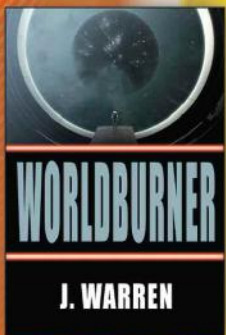
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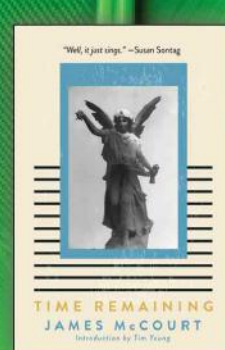
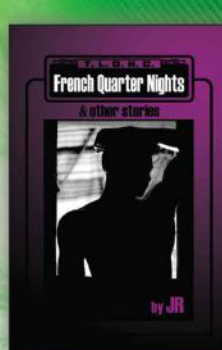
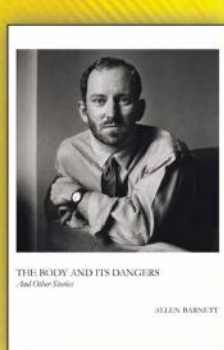
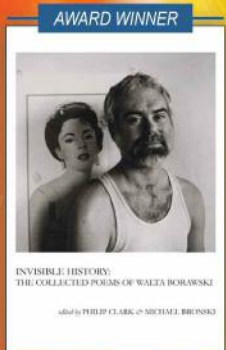
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