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#### September 23–25, 2022

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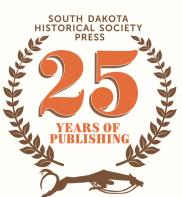
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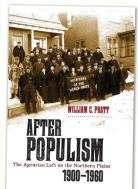
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# WELCOME ....

#### **Celebrate Reading in Brookings**

n behalf of the City Council and myself, I would like to welcome you to the City of Brookings. Our community is excited you're here and wants the South Dakota Humanities Council's 20th annual South Dakota Festival of Books to be a great experience for you.

Your presence is important to the vibrancy and culture of our community. I encourage you to explore all of the amenities Brookings has to offer including our parks, museums, colorful downtown murals, restaurants and shops, which are looking forward to your visits.



If you ever have any comments or questions, I'd love to hear from you. Welcome to Brookings.

Sincerely,

Oepke "Ope" Niemeyer Mayor of Brookings

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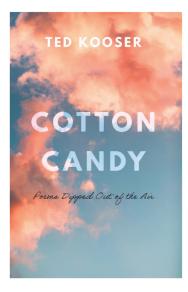
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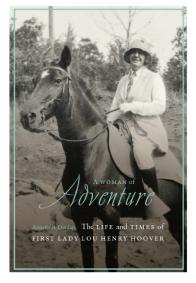
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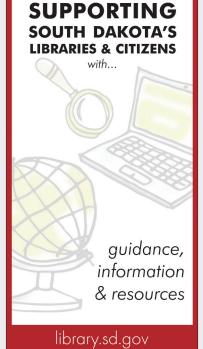
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# MILESTONE MOMENTS

elcome to the 2022 South Dakota Festival of Books in Brookings. As we gather this year, we will honor two noteworthy events: the South Dakota Humanities Council is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and the Festival of Books is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

How appropriate to have both milestones happening together. We



can rejoice in how SDHC has been part of South Dakota for half a century, and through its work, this impressive Festival has brought two decades of informative, thoughtful authors who gather with South Dakotans from every part of the state.

Think about how diminished we'd be without SDHC or the Festival. No grant offerings, no Speakers Bureau events, no civic discussions, no support for museums, libraries, and humanities organizations of every size. No Pulitzer Prize winning authors, no Young Readers school visits, no

writing workshops, no panel discussions, no local authors, no authors of international renown.

It's a privilege to make these events happen for you. Thank you for leading the way with your interest and for continuing to support us. We all have a story to tell, and when we join together, we are enlivened and enriched by hearing, reasoning, and talking about those stories.

Think about what the next 50 years of SDHC programs could mean. And think about the many noteworthy encounters with authors that could happen in the next 20 years of the Festival of Books. Such dreaming should bring a smile to our faces: we join with you in knowing what a happy, significant moment this is and how more such moments could happen.

Here's to celebrating in 2022, and here's to enjoying the humanities in the future!

Ann Volin, Executive Director South Dakota Humanities Council

#### **FESTIVAL GUIDELINES**

Please abide by the following guidelines to make this event enjoyable for all: no soliciting or distributing flyers, literature, etc., of any kind at any festival venue without prior consent. No videotaping or tape recording without prior consent. Turn cell phones and pagers off during presentations. The Festival of Books, its sponsors and venues are not responsible for lost or stolen items.

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#### BOOKS FOR SALE!

# Visit Our Book Nook

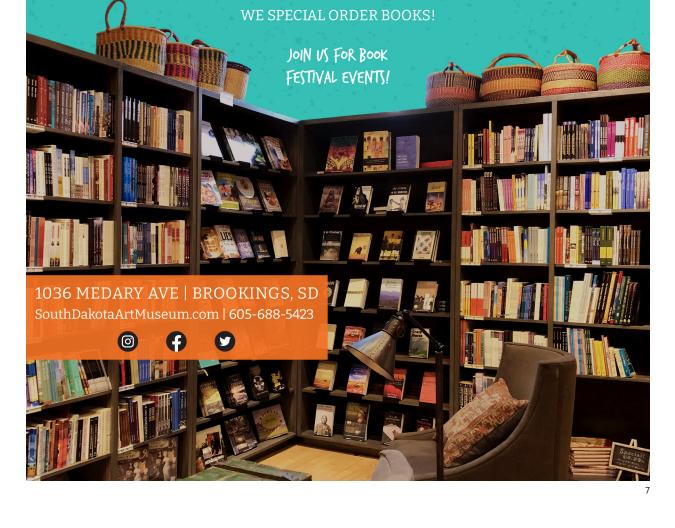
Discover books by authors featured in the South Dakota Festival of Books!

Here are a few:

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#### **Topics**:

Regional History Native American Regional Art Children's Books Best Sellers Cook Books Regional Authors



#### CAMPUS MAP EVENT LOCATIONS

US Highway 14 Bypass



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#### **SDSU CAMPUS**

#### 1. ALUMNI CENTER

(815 Medary Ave.)

- 2. HILTON M. BRIGGS LIBRARY (1300 N. Campus Dr.)
- 3. MCCRORY GARDENS VISITOR CENTER (631 22nd Ave.)
- 4. OSCAR LARSON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (1601 University Blvd.)
- 5. SD AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM (977 11th St.)

6. SD ART MUSEUM (1036 Medary Ave.)

#### **SDSU PARKING**

Parking at the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center is free. Attendees with Visitor's Permits can also park in any stall designated as "Visitor" (see navy dots on SDSU map) or in any Campus Commuter lot. To acquire a Visitor's Permit, visit the Parking Services office, located in the University Student Union Card Services office (Room 140), or the University Police Department, located east of Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium off Jackrabbit Avenue.

Visitors can also use the Pay Lot (east side of University Student Union), which is free for the first 30 minutes.

# BROOKINGS MAP EVENT LOCATIONS



- A. BROOKINGS ARTS COUNCIL (524 4th St.)
- B. BROOKINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY (515 3rd St.)
- C. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF SOUTH DAKOTA (521 4th St.)

D. MOSAIC WINE BAR & SMALL PLATES (225 Main Ave.)

E. WILBERT SQUARE EVENT CENTER (931 25th Ave.)

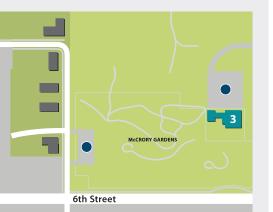
#### FREE DOWNTOWN PARKING

72-HOUR LOT (NW of 3rd Ave. & 4th St.) BROOKINGS ACTIVITY CENTER/BROOKINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY LOT (SE of 5th Ave. & 4th St.) CITY/COUNTY GOVERNMENT LOT (SE of 5th Ave. & 3rd St.) NAPA AUTO PARTS LOT (NW of 5th Ave. & 3rd St.) PARK & REC LOT (between 3rd St. & Front St.) SPRINT/SWIFTEL LOT (NW of 5th Ave. & 4th St., available as posted)

Visit sdbookfestival.com for additional parking info and maps.

#### **SIOUX FALLS VENUE**

PESTIVAL BOOKS



WASHINGTON PAVILION (301 S. Main Ave.)







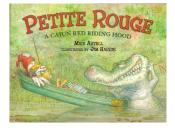
#### **BOOKS WE NEED**

Mike Artell had a successful career in sales and marketing until one day he saw an ad that said, "We buy jokes."

"All my life I've been kind of a funny kid, the class clown type of kid," Artell says. "I could always make my teachers laugh."

He gave it a shot and his jokes sold. For about 10 years he wrote jokes and cartoons and sold them to publications like the Washington Post and Entrepreneur Magazine. He branched out into greeting cards and illustrated a children's book. That's when he decided to pursue writing full time. Since then, he's written or illustrated more than 50 children's books on a wide array of topics, including a biography of Michael Jordan, how-to cartooning books, an exploration of animal skulls and Petite Rouge: A Cajun Red Riding Hood, his bestseller. That eclectic collection is a result of Artell's marketing background.

"My approach was quite different than most aspiring authors," Artell says. "A lot of them want to write from their inspiration, and that's wonderful. But I took a more blue-collar approach. I would go to teachers and librarians and say, 'What kind of book do you need?' If they needed simple biographies, I'd go home and write it. Maybe they need science books on very specific subjects, so I won't do the whole skeleton, I'll do skulls. I still want, and always have wanted, to create wonderful books. But I wanted to create wonderful books that would sell."



#### Absolutely a Detective

mashie McPerter was born on the spur of the moment. Her creator, author N. Griffin, was telling a story and suddenly forgot the name of the person she was

talking about. "You know," she said, searching for a name. "Smashie McPerter!"

"For days we would say the name to each other and just howl, but as soon as I said it, I totally felt who Smashie McPerter would really be," Griffin says. "She would be 8. She

would be good hearted but impulsive. She is absolutely a detective and has a co-detective best friend. It just came to me in a rush, and I knew I had to write a book about her."

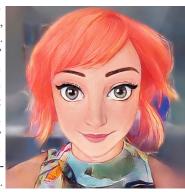
That book, Smashie McPerter and the Mystery of Room 11, is the 2022

Young Readers One Book. Copies were given to 11,000 third graders this fall in advance of appearances by Griffin in Sioux Falls and Brookings and online during the Festival of Books.

The story follows Smashie and her best friend Dontel as they investigate the disappearance of a hamster from

their third-grade classroom. Smashie dons her "Investigator Suit" and follows the clues, which ultimately lead to the culprit. Griffin's experience as a teacher helped her to expertly craft the classroom setting, right down to the behavior and dialogue of the students, teachers and one hilariously over-thetop substitute.

Griffin has long been a voracious reader and always knew she would be-



come a writer. Her titles include three novels for young adults and three Smashie McPerter mysteries. "I love writing mysteries," she says. "Every fiction book in the world is ultimately

> a mystery because you just don't know what's going to happen. With the Smashie books I really have to plan. I chart it out extensively with Post-it notes and mural paper what clue is going to be planted where and how and where I'm going to

hide them, just to make it really fun and work out. I want the reader to have the opportunity to solve the mystery, too. Then, once the plot and the clues are all charted out, I just have fun."

Writers sometimes say - tongue-

in-cheek, of course — that the best part about writing is "having written." That's something she'll talk about when she meets with South Dakota third graders. "I love talking about the writing process and how hard it is," Griffin says. "Writing is not always fun, even when you like writing. It can be terrible, and I like ac-

knowledging that with kids because it's hard work. You get your fun parts, and that's the payoff, but it's a lot of just sticking to it and not giving up when something didn't work out. And then we'll do something fun. With the Smashie books, I always bring a mystery-related activity. I really miss being a teacher, so it's fun for me to design something around the mysteries."







#### Art, Plague, Love and Mystery

mily St. John Mandel was experimenting with autofiction, or autobiographical fiction, in the months before the COVID-19 pandemic hit New York City, where she was living. They were snippets that reflected her experiences while promoting her post-apocalyptic novel Station 11, which included 114 events in seven countries. "I think it's fair to say that 99 percent of my interactions with people were wonderful, but if you're doing a lot of events, the other 1 percent adds up," Mandel said during a virtual presentation hosted by the University of California-San Diego. "I'd had a number of very surreal and strange and occasionally enraging interactions with people while on the road and I wanted to write about that."

But then COVID reached America, along with its life-altering changes. "It was as horrible as you read in the *New York Times*," Mandel said. "I felt like writing a novel might be important to stay sane in that environment. It can feel like a refuge to build this secret world that nobody else gets to see. That secret world ended up being a time travel novel. It took me a minute to realize what I was doing. I was trying to get as far away from lockdown as possible. Anywhere on Earth was too close."

*Sea of Tranquility* is a novel of art, plague, love and mystery that spans five centuries from Vancouver Island

in 1912 to a dark moon colony 500 vears later. The author from her autofiction became Olive Llewellyn, who is on a book tour in 2203 just as a deadly pandemic sweeps across Earth. Another character is based on Mandel's great-grandfather, who immigrated to Canada in the early 20th century under mysterious circumstances. Other characters in Sea of Tranquility have appeared in her earlier works. "Character development is the single most important thing to me in writing a book," she said. "As a reader, if I'm interested in the people, I'll follow that author anywhere."

The novel also allowed Mandel to explore time travel. She said Italian physicist Carlo Rovelli compared the way we move through time to a fish moving through water. "We distinguish ourselves from other species by the way we live in our imaginations and our conception of the world across multiple centuries and millennia," she said. "We alone on Earth think of time in these vast spans and travel mentally between eras. I love the idea that just by being human we are all somehow time travelers. There's something about structuring a novel that feels weirdly like time travel. You can have two different timelines set centuries apart, and you can toggle between them. I've always enjoyed playing with time in that way. I think it's a really interesting way to tell a story."



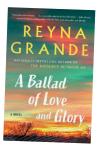
brookings

Reyna Grande's new novel A Ballad of Love and Glory is her first foray into historical fiction, a path she never thought she would take. "But my desire to explore this moment in history and to learn more about the fight for the southern border, the conflict between the U.S. and Mexico that in a way continues to this day, inspired me to give historical fiction a try," she says. "I'm so glad I did because I learned so much in the process about myself, and it helped me to reframe my identity as a Mexican living in the U.S."

Set during the Mexican-American War, the story centers on the evolving relationship between Ximena Salomé Benítez y Catalán and John Riley. Ximena joins the war as a nurse after her husband dies while defending Mexican territory. Riley, plagued by discrimination and nativist feelings within the U.S. Army, recruits a group of fellow Irish-Catholics who desert and fight for Mexico. He's based on the real soldier and leader of the Saint Patrick's Battalion.

Grande drew upon her own story to craft the relationship between Ximena and John. Her father left his wife and three children in poverty in Mexico, hoping to earn enough money in the U.S. to better care for his family. She tells that story in her 2012 memoir, *The Distance Between Us.* "He came here to find a better life for us, but he met a nurse assistant and fell in love with

her," Grande says. "When I was writing about John Riley and his wife, and his conflicting feelings for Ximena, I thought of my father."



#### Register

# POETRY

Foundation

**Brass Family** 

#### FINDING THE MOUNTAINTOPS

Jodi Andrews' first full-length poetry collection is a window into her 20s and all her "big things": young love, getting married, having two children and being diagnosed with melanoma. *Skin Reverberations* was published in the summer of 2022 by Pasque Press, the publishing arm of the South Dakota State Poetry Society. It follows her earlier chapbook, *The Shadow of Death.* Both contain poems that touch on Andrews' illness as well as her experiences as a young mother.

Her diagnosis came in 2014, the same year she graduated from college, was married and started graduate school. Enrolling in a poetry class provided a means with which to deal with the incredible ups and downs packed into that single year. "I really wasn't writing much when I was diagnosed," she says, "but in the fall of 2015, because it was so recent and I had a nice amount of space, I started writing about it. It was really valuable to be able to put those things into words and just



express how it felt as a 22-yearold to hear that you have cancer. It was a really powerful medium for me to be able to use."

Her experience inspired a master's thesis, which she finished in 2016. Today, she teaches English at South Dakota State University. Her children are 3 and 1. But as the poems in *Skin Reverberations* remind us, nothing is promised. "It's contending with life and purpose and how fragile we are, but also finding the mountaintops that exist when you have been in those valleys," she says.



#### Terrance Hayes on the American Dream

an poetry still speak to Americans whose souls are buried and busied by technology,

politics and \$5 per gallon gas prices?

Doubters should catch a presentation by Terrance Hayes at this year's Festival of Books because the poet from New York City — born and raised in South Carolina — is an enthusiastic believer in the power of the written word.

"I'm not going to totally say it's artists that hear the American dream best and then give it its shape," he said recently. "I would say poets carry love in their defense, love in their loneliness and bewilderment in their doubt and their genius."

Hayes said he has learned to, "always turn my gaze to the window on our country out there, as well as to the mirror for self-reflection, for my family, and always to leave a door into this room where you are welcome to enter, eat, dance and rest."

The accomplished poet credits his success in part to Cave Canem, a nonprofit started in 1996 to encourage African American poets in the United States. The organization, whose title means "Beware of the Dog" in Latin, has been credited with helping many of today's leading poets.

Hayes says the very existence of the group is amazing. When Cave Canem won the National Book Award in 2016,



he was asked to speak and said this: "In 1968, when a white policeman erroneously shot 33-year-old black poet

> Henry Dumas in a subway station in Harlem, no one imagined a nation of black poets could exist — it's such a futuristic idea, a world in which descendants of slaves become poets."

> Hayes studied painting and writing, and played basketball while attending Coker College in Harts-

ville, S.C. He received an MFA from the University of Pittsburgh and then began a teaching career that included stints in Japan, Ohio and Louisiana before he becoming professor of English at New York University.

Hayes, 50, has already won many honors for his poetry, including a 2010 National Book Award, and he is known as an engaging and humorous speaker who loves his craft and his country. One message he delivers is that people need to have the right expectations of a poem.

"People show up wanting answers in poems," he told a group of students, "but most of art is not about answers, it's about questions. It's both clarifying and complicating — but it's not trying to simplify things because we're not simple, nobody is really simple.

"That's what interests me as an artist," he said. "To not settle on one side of the fence or the other but to stand right on it and look at both sides at once."

# NON-FICTION



#### Writing as Therapy

hen Trent Preszler's father died, his only inheritance was a box of tools. He brought them home to New York and was inspired to build a canoe, not only to create something tangible and useful with his father's hammer and tape measure, but to try

to reconcile their longstrained relationship.

A reporter for Newsday heard about Preszler's project and created a short documentary that won a local Emmy award. "She was the first person to help me tell my story, and the first to believe that there was a story

here that might resonate with people," Preszler recalls.

Soon a literary agent reached out, urging Preszler to write a book. His resulting memoir, Little and Often,

LITTLE AND TRENT PRESZLER

was published by Harper Collins in 2021 and became a USA Today Best Book of the Year.

Preszler grew up on a ranch near Faith, where he struggled with selfidentity, self-worth and even his own sexuality. He felt out of place in the rough and tumble cowboy culture of West River and became increasingly estranged from his father, a former rodeo champion and Vietnam War veteran. After Preszler left home, the two rarely spoke until his father's cancer diagnosis began to remove the chill from their relationship. Building a boat using his father's tools helped him start to heal, a process that continued through writing.

"It's fair to say that writing the book

was therapy for me," Preszler says. "You can talk until you're blue in the face about life, death, grief and your maturation as a human, but writing those things down makes them more concrete and measurable and alleviates some of the fear."

Preszler is the CEO of Bedell Cel-

lars, a winery on the North Fork of Long Island. He lives just steps away from the Atlantic Ocean, but he sat down daily for nearly two years and thought and wrote about South Dakota, a process both comforting and excruciating. "It was easy to write about the physical place because I find it so beautiful

and so haunting, but it was very hard to write about my family," he says. "It was a deeply personal book, and obviously there's a lot of death and trauma in my childhood. South Dakota itself was kind of a healing balm because it was this place of flat calm and quiet contemplation that was like a refuge for me, both in growing up but also in processing grief."

Publication brought relief and the chance that he might reach someone who finds reassurance in his words. "I was really proud that I put this out there and hoped that someone else with a similar experience might be inspired or might change their life as a result," he says. "People often thank me for sharing my story, but writing a memoir is so much different than that because you're really interrogating your own memory to find some common thread to weave through and create a narrative that will inspire people. It's so much more specific and complicated than simply sharing your story."

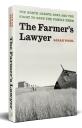
#### THE FARMER'S LAWYER

Sarah Vogel spent a lot of time looking back to write her memoir, The Farmer's Lawyer: The North Dakota Nine and the Fight to Save the Family Farm. But she was also looking ahead. "I wrote the book because I'm concerned about the future of family farmers today," Vogel says. "I don't want to have another '80s farm crisis, and I don't want to have corporations pushing farmers off the land."

The Farmer's Lawyer is the story of Vogel's work representing North Dakota farmers who faced foreclosure during the worst economic crisis to hit rural America since the Great Depression. Having grown up in a family that supported farmers and the old Nonpartisan League, she accepted the challenge, even though most clients couldn't pay." In retrospect, I would think that surely I was crazy, but I had a strong faith in the system, so when I started to do appeals with the farmers I really thought we would win," she says. "That got knocked out of me pretty quickly after losing every hearing I did before the Farmers Home Administration. Then I got really angry over the mistreatment of the farmers, and that provided a lot of energy."

Vogel spent seven years finding and organizing documents to write her memoir. Her collection, perhaps among the best farm crisis archives in the country, now resides in the North Dakota State Historical Society Archives."With retrospect, you can see where you made mistakes, and you can see where you lost people," Vogel says of revisiting that era. "It's a lawsuit that I won, but I didn't save

everybody. There was just a ton of emotion that I had to go through again. It was sometimes hard to face it."







Robert E. Fishback and Patricia S. Fishback Foundation

# WRITERS' SUPPORT

## PART OF THE SOLUTION

A member of the Cherokee Nation, Traci Sorell can't recall reading contemporary stories about her people as a child. "It was like we had the Trail of Tears and then we disappeared," Sorell says. "My own lived experience debunked that because we were very much still here. But that's not reflected in anything I read. No one was talking about us past 1838 and 1839."

When she had a son of her own, she was dismayed to discover that nothing had changed. "There were traditional stories but no contemporary depictions of us, and I thought, 'How can that be? We're the largest tribe in the country.' So, it was one of those times where I said, 'How can I be part of the solution?'"

That's when she picked up her pen and starting writing. Sorell is the author of several fiction and nonfiction books for kids from birth to age 18, including Powwow Day, We Are Grateful, We Are Still Here and Wilma Mankiller. Her mission is to tell stories that show Native people thriving in the modern world, and it's a cause that other writers and illustrators among the nation's 574 federally recognized tribes and beyond are also taking up. "There is a growing number of writers and artists from a variety of Native nations who are bringing their work into children's literature," Sorell says. "We have a long way to go before we get to the number of books that are needed because there are so many Native nations and we've had so



little accurate representation, but now we do have contemporary depictions."

#### **Regaining Control**

oining the United States Army surprised most of Colin Halloran's friends and family. Halloran was mostly interested in poetry and songwriting through school, but the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 changed the perspective of thousands

of Americans. "There was a lot of talk about a draft possibly being reinstated, and a lot of my friends and their families were worried that they would be called out of college and forced into service," Halloran says. "I couldn't afford to be in college, so I figured why should someone who doesn't want to go have

to go when I didn't mind going."

Halloran deployed to Afghanistan in 2006 and remained in-country until injuries forced his medical evacuation seven months later. He struggled readjusting to civilian life and dealing with his war experiences until a therapist suggested writing. "It took longer than I care to admit," he says. "It was probably a couple of years of struggling without having the writing there. But I started with a couple of poems and then it just snowballed from there, and I realized that was how I was going to be able to start processing my experience."

Halloran has since authored several collections of essays and poems and travels the country helping other veterans find a path to healing through the creative process. He will lead a special workshop for veterans at this year's Festival of Books and will serve as a judge for the South Dakota Humanities Council's Veterans Story Contest. "It's



not an exaggeration to say that poetry saved my life," Halloran says. "I've been overwhelmed by responses to my work, people reaching out and saying that I was writing exactly what they were feeling, that they didn't know other people felt this way."

Scientific studies have shown that the creative process — be it writing, music or art — is vital in engaging our neuroplasticity. "Through the creative process, you can actually alter your brain's chemistry, so you're not just processing the trauma from a psychological perspective, you're processing it from a psychiatric

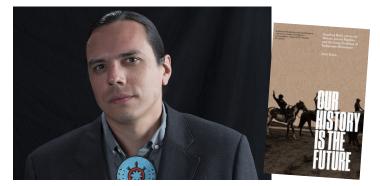
and neurochemical perspective as well," he says. "One of the fun parts about doing this is being on the research side of things, too — a poet and a neurosurgeon working together."

Workshops usually begin with Halloran sharing his own experiences and work. Then they explore the work of other writers and the literary devices they use. There are tears of catharsis, group hugs and often intergenerational connections. "I've had workshops where I've had a recently returned Iraq vet and a Vietnam vet who's been home for 50 years, and you see through the process of writing and sharing stories just how much they have in common," he says. "My goal is always to leave people with the tools that they will need to start sharing and shaping their story. When it comes to trauma, you feel so helpless. It's completely out of your control. Being able to write your story gives you control."

Stay Connected View the schedule, changes to the author roster and other news at SDBookFestival.com or on SDHumanities Facebook, Instagram & Twitter. Use #sdbookfest when commenting.

# HISTORY/TRIBAL WRITING WESSER

#### A History of Resistance



eople from all walks of life traveled to North Dakota in 2016 and 2017 to join Native Americans protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline, a conduit that would transport oil from the Bakken Formation across the Dakotas and Iowa to Illinois. But the protest was nothing new for tribes who have resisted encroachment for centuries. Nick Estes explores that story in the 2022 One Book South Dakota *Our History is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance.* 

"Indigenous resistance draws from a long history, projecting itself backward and forward in time," writes Estes, a member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe who grew up in the Missouri River town of Chamberlain.

The book explores seven historical eras in which indigenous people fought what Estes calls "settler colonialism," including the fur trade of the 18th century, the Plains wars of the 19th century, the Pick-Sloan Plan that dammed the Missouri River and flooded thousands of acres of tribal lands, and the American Indian Movement and occupation of Wounded Knee in 1973 - all placed in the context of indigenous peoples' relationship with the land and water. "What happened at Standing Rock was really just a continuation of this political mobilization on the part of the Oceti Sakowin that can't just be reduced to civil rights or voting, but should be

understood as national politics, nation meaning the Oceti Sakowin, which existed prior to the United States and prior to the founding of states like South Dakota or North Dakota," Estes says.

Estes visited the Oceti Sakowin camp — the largest of the protest camps near the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri rivers and named for the people of the Seven Council Fires — four times in 2016. His book is the result of interviews with camp leaders and participants, his own experiences and observations and years of archival research into the history of the Red Power movement and the Pick-Sloan Plan.

Now that six years have passed, Estes says the protests can be viewed against the larger political context that included the rise of Donald Trump and the emergence of a sincere, authentic alternative across all races. "In many ways, it was the coalescence of larger social forces in the United States that were really fed up with the lack of alternatives on both fronts, whether it was Democrats or Republicans. I think what caught people off guard is that it happened in a very conservative oil state and in a rural community that often gets written off as not a hotbed for progressive activism," Estes says. "There's a tendency to think that indigenous people don't constitute a significant voting bloc or political power in the United States in the same way that other minority communities like African Americans or Latinos do. but in rural states they do."

#### BENEVOLENT BENJAMIN

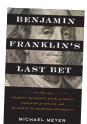
Having studied and written extensively about China, Michael Meyer was invited to a dinner at the State Department when Chinese leader Hu Jintau visited Washington, D.C., in 2011. As he milled about the reception, he stepped into an adjoining room and innocently leaned against a table. A Marine stationed nearby quickly admonished him.

"Is it old?" Meyer asked. "That's the table where Benjamin Franklin signed the Treaty of Paris," the Marine said.

Meyer not only felt embarrassed about the faux pas, but also because he realized how little he knew about Franklin. A Google search that night eventually led Meyer to Franklin's last will and testament, in which he left £2.000 each to the cities of Boston and Philadelphia to be lent to tradesmen over the next 200 years to jumpstart their careers. Franklin's benevolent final wish is the subject of Meyer's book, Benjamin Franklin's Last Bet: The Favorite Founder's Divisive Death, Enduring Afterlife, and Blueprint for American Prosperity.

"I kept looking over my shoulder and saying, 'Has no one really written this story before?'" says Meyer, a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh. "But the time to write a book is when the book you want to read doesn't exist. He was ahead of his time in so many ways, but his foresight was lacking in certain

changes to American finance, America's growth and its changing demographics."



# SCHEDULE SNEAK PEEK

#### Watch SDBookFestival.com for a Complete Event Schedule in Late August!

At that time, you can obtain a copy by calling (605) 688-6113 or emailing festival@sdhumanities.org. We will also post updates on our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

#### **THURSDAY, SEPT. 22**

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Author Reception at Woster Celebration Hall in the SDSU Alumni Center (TICKETS REQUIRED)

#### FRIDAY, SEPT. 23

- 9 a.m. 9 p.m. Full day of Festival events and workshops to be announced: Author Talks, Craft Sessions, Panel Discussions, Poetry Readings and more!
- 1 5 p.m. Exhibitors' Hall open
- Writing Workshops, including "Pivot! What to Do When You Hit the Writer's Proverbial Wall" with Christine Mager Wevik (TICKETS REQUIRED)
- 12 1 pm SDPB "In the Moment" Live Broadcast with Lori Walsh featuring Colin D. Halloran, Alexander Heffner, and Sara Woster

#### **Book Signings**

Downtown Brookings Poetry Walk

- 4 5 p.m. Happy Hour: "Banning in Education: A Conversation on Critical Race Theory, Banned Books, and Revising History in our Classrooms." Sponsored by the SDSU Department of English and Interdisciplinary Studies
- 4:30 7 p.m. Opening Reception: Smithsonian's Museum on Main "Crossroads: Change in Rural America." Hosted by the South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, featuring Sarah Vogel
- **Evening Events** with Nick Estes and Terrance Hayes
- **Open Mic** sponsored by the South Dakota State Poetry Society

#### SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Full day of Festival events and workshops to be announced: Author Talks, Craft Sessions, Panel Discussions, Poetry Readings and more.

#### FEATURED EVENTS

- "The Plague and Us: Writing Humor through Unfunny Times" — Lorna Landvik and Sarah Stonich
- "Why Everyone Should Read Science Fiction" — Robert J. Sawyer
- "I Hate to Tell You, but You're Writing a Book" — Mary Woster Haug and Amber Jensen
- "South Dakota's Mathis Murders: Horror in the Heartland" – Noel Hamiel
- "ReGENerating Our Land Requires GENerations of Farmers" — Beth Hoffman
- "The Cost of Oil: The Fight Against the Dakota Access Pipeline" — Jasilyn Charger and Katherine Wiltenburg Todrys
- "What Writers Can Learn from Cops and Criminals" – Marc Cameron and Jim Reese
- "Using Historical Fiction to Teach Public Health" — Bonny Specker
- "Staying the Course: Overcoming Adversity" – Dick Beardsley

#### 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Exhibitors' Hall open

#### **Book Signings**

- Awards Ceremonies: Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities, South Dakota Poet of Merit, Veterans Story Contest
- Anniversary Party: Celebrating 50 Years of SDHC and 20 Years of the Festival of Books!
- Evening Events with Mary Kay Andrews, Reyna Grande, and Emily St. John Mandel
- **Songs and Stories** with Christopher Vondracek

#### SUNDAY, SEPT. 25

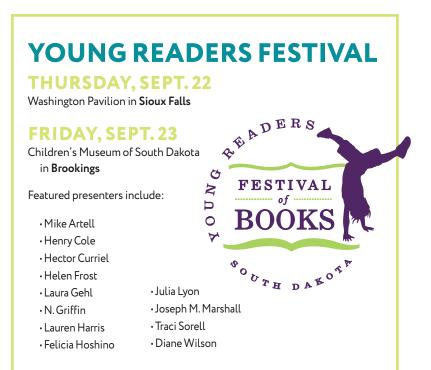
Closing Celebration at McCrory Gardens

- 10 am 12 pm: Reflect on seeds, food, and cultural traditions with Diane Wilson and other authors
- 12 3 pm: Enjoy the sights of the gardens and the sounds of live music during the "Party on the Porch." Food and beverages available for purchase.



#### **SAFETY FIRST!**

We want to assure all attendees that we will make every effort to provide a safe and pleasant experience at the Festival. We will follow local, regional, and national public health reports closely and respond with applicable COVID prevention protocols. We will create a "mask-friendly" environment, and we ask that attendees follow any specific rules posted at our host venues. Nothing is more important to us than the well-being of our Festival's readers and writers!



#### **CAN'T JOIN US IN PERSON?**

While we're all looking forward to gathering in Brookings, we know some of you might not be able to join us there. If you'd still like to experience a bit of Festival fun, you can watch livestreams of selected Festival weekend events via Zoom or the South Dakota Humanities Council's Facebook page. Watch SDBookFestival.com for details!

#### VIRTUAL BONUS BOOK EVENTS

#### "Speaking of Health"

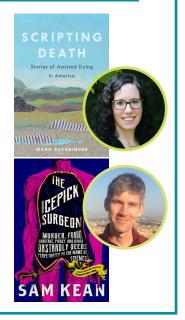
A Health Humanities Speaker Series

Presented by the Wegner Health Sciences Library at the Sanford USD Medical Center

Sept. 15, 6 p.m. Mara Buchbinder, author of *Scripting Death* 

Dec. 20, 6 p.m. Sam Kean, author of *The Icepick Surgeon* 

Visit LibGuides.USD.edu/ HealthHumanities for details Watch SDBookFestival.com for virtual access information



Discover stories of South Dakota history through books at the Old Courthouse Museum Store!





# PRESENTERS

**CHRISTINA M. ABT** is an accomplished newspaper columnist, magazine contributor, radio broadcaster, and author of five books, including the historical novel *Beauty and Grace*, the September 2019 selection of the South Dakota Women's Prison Book Club, the first club of its kind in America. Her media projects include "64 and More," for which she traveled America filming the stories of people like Broadway legend Tommy Tune. Abt's most recent book is the humorous and touching *Money or Love.* 

JODI ANDREWS is a poet whose debut full-length collection Skin Reverberations traces a melanoma diagnosis



to a deep gratitude for the sense of touch. She has also authored the chapbook *The Shadow of Death* and been published widely in journals and anthologies. Andrews teaches English at South Dakota State University and serves on the board of directors for the South Dakota State Poetry Society. She lives in Brookings with her husband and two children.

MARY KAY ANDREWS is the author of several New York Times bestsellers.

including Sunset Beach, The High Tide

Club, Beach Town, Savannah Blues, and Christmas Bliss, among many others. She has also written 10 critically acclaimed mysteries, including the Callahan

Garrity series, under her real name, Kathy Hogan Trocheck. A native of St. Petersburg, Florida, a former journalist, a frequent writing teacher and a lifelong "junker," she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

**MIKE ARTELL** is an award-winning author, illustrator, cartoonist, musician, and professional speaker with an extensive background in sales and marketing, primarily with technology-based companies. He has written and/ or illustrated more than 50 books since 1990, includ-

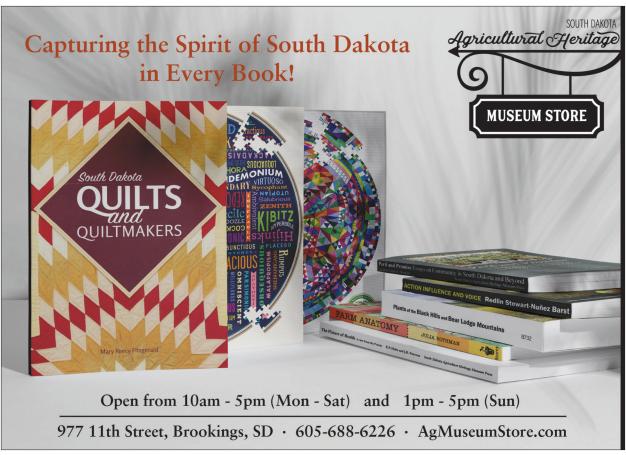


ing Petite Rouge: A Cajun Red Riding Hood, named the 2009 Read Aloud Book of the Year by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Artell lives in Covington, Louisiana with his wife, a middle school librarian.

**SANDY BARNARD** specializes in writing about the Civil War and the Plains Indian engagements of the post-war period. For nearly 25 years, he edited the annual *Greasy Grass* magazine published by

the Custer Battlefield Historical & Museum Association. A U.S. Army veteran who served as an intelligence officer in Vietnam in 1968-1969, Barnard holds





degrees from Boston College and the University of Missouri School of Journalism. He is a retired professor emeritus from Indiana State University.

#### **DICK BEARDSLEY** became worldfamous as the second-place finisher in the



1982 Boston Marathon, a memorable contest known as the "Duel in the Sun." His book, *Staying the Course*, recounts that race and the challenges that followed,

including a series of near-fatal accidents and a subsequent addiction to painkillers. As a motivational and inspirational speaker, Beardsley now shares his experiences of overcoming these and other tragedies with audiences worldwide.

JOHN BICKNELL worked 30 years as a reporter, columnist, and editor in Florida and Washington, D.C. He is the author of two books on 19th century U.S. political history: America 1844: Religious Fervor, Westward Expansion and the Presidential Election That Transformed the Nation and Lincoln's Pathfinder: John C. Fremont and the Violent Election of 1856. He is also a contributor to Heartland River: A Cultural and Environmental History of the Big Sioux River.

#### MARC CAMERON is the author of



the New York Times bestselling Jericho Quinn thrillers, the Deputy U.S. Marshal Arliss Cutter crime series, and since 2016 the continued Tom Clancy Jack Ryan/

Campus Thriller series. A retired Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal, Cameron holds a second-degree black belt in Jujitsu and is a law enforcement scuba diver and man-tracking instructor. He hails from Texas and now lives with his wife in Alaska. JASILYN CHARGER (Cheyenne River Sioux) helped ignite the Standing Rock Pipeline Resistance Movement. A land defender and community organizer youth advocate for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Charger stood on the frontlines for six years battling pipelines and advocating for Native and LGBTQ rights. Charger is co-founder of the International Indigenous Youth Council, The One Mind Movement, 7th Defenders Project and supports the local movement for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People with the Women Warriors Society.

MARJ CHARLIER is a former Wall Street Journal reporter and the author of 12 novels and three novellas. Her first histori-

cal novel, *The Rebel Nun*, set in sixth-century Gaul, was published in March 2021 as a BuzzFeed "most anticipated novel." Her second historical novel, *The Candlemaker's* 

*Woman*, comes out in 2022. Charlier teaches writing and publishing workshops throughout Southern California and was selected for residency at the Dorland Mountain Arts Colony this past spring.

#### SHARON (GRENZ) CHMIELARZ

was born and raised in Mobridge, South Dakota, attended two years at Sioux Falls (then) College, and graduated with degrees in German, French, Education, and English from the University of Minnesota, where she fell in love with poetry. She has published 13 books of poetry and three children's picture books. The South Dakota State Poetry Society named Chmielarz the 2021 Poet of Merit.

#### HENRY COLE has writ-

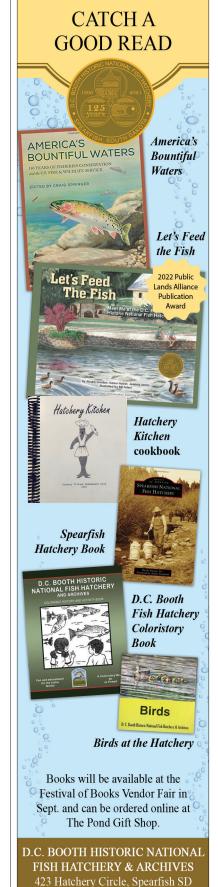
ten and illustrated more than 150 books for children, including Spot, the Cat; And Tango Makes Three; Oink?; and Little Bo



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#### PRESENTERS

*in France.* He is also the illustrator of *With a Little Help from My Friends* by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. A former elementary school teacher, Cole now writes and paints full time. Cole's latest books are *Adventure Awaits* and *Forever Home: A Dog and Boy Love Story.* 

**HECTOR CURRIEL** is an illustrator, watercolor artist, and cartoonist whose first book is the graphic novel *American Ace: Joe Foss, Fighter Pilot.* Originally from Lima, Peru, Curriel has always carried with him a love for art. He now enjoys being part of the community of artists in Sioux Falls, and he specializes in bringing out the area's natural beauty in his paintings.

#### **STACI LOLA DROUILLARD**, a descendant of the Grand Portage Band



of Lake Superior Anishinaabe, lives and works in her hometown of Grand Marais, Minnesota, on the North Shore of Lake Superior. Her first book, *Walking*  the Old Road, won the Hamlin Garland Prize in Popular History and the Northeast Minnesota Book Award for nonfiction and was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award. Her new book, *Seven Aunts*, combines memoir and cultural history.

NICK ESTES, Kul Wicasa and a citizen of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, recently joined the Department of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of the 2022 One Book South Dakota, *Our History Is the Future*. In 2014, he co-founded The Red Nation, an Indigenous resistance organization. His research engages colonialism and global Indigenous histories, with a focus on decolonization, U.S. imperialism, environmental justice, anti-capitalism, and the Oceti Sakowin.

WAYNE FANEBUST has a penchant for writing about the dark side of history and advocating for the underdog. Born in Sioux Falls and raised in rural South Dakota and Iowa, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and performed in rock bands in Cali-



fornia before earning a BA in history from UCLA and a JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Now retired from practicing law, Fanebust

has written 11 non-fiction books.

**HELEN FROST** lived in Brookings until she was 11, while her father served as Director of Athletics at South Dakota State College (now University, where Frost Arena bears his name). She is the author of two poetry collections, 11 novels-in-poems,



and seven picture books. Frost's awards include the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction, a National Endowment for the Arts Poetry Fellowship,

and a Michael L. Printz honor. She now lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

MARK LEE GARDNER is the author of Rough Riders, To Hell on a Fast Horse, Shot All to Hell, and most recently, The Earth Is





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Open Sunday – Saturday 10am – Gpm | Check Website for Admission Rates McCrory Gardens | 631 22nd Ave., Brookings | 605-688-6707 | www.McCroryGardens.com All that Lasts. He has twice received the Spur Award from Western Writers of America, among other honors. An authority on the American West, Gardner has appeared on PBS's American Experience, as well as on the History Channel, the Travel Channel, and NPR. He lives in Cascade, Colorado.

**LAURA GEHL** is the award-winning author of more than 30 popular picture



books, board books, and early readers, including One Big Pair of Underwear and the Baby Scientist series. New in 2022 are Donut: The Unicorn Who

Wanted to Fly, The Hiking Viking, and Apple and Magnolia. A former science writer and teacher, Gehl holds a Ph.D. in neuroscience. She lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, with her husband, four children, and large stash of dark chocolate.

**REYNA GRANDE** is an award-winning author, motivational speaker, and writing teacher. As a young girl, she crossed the



U.S.-Mexico border to join her family in Los Angeles, a harrowing journey chronicled in *The Distance Between Us*, a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist.

Grande's most recent books are the anthology Somewhere We Are Human and the historical novel A Ballad of Love and Glory. She lives in Woodland, California, with her husband and two children.

**N. GRIFFIN** is the author of *The Whole* Stupid Way We Are, for which she was named one of Publishers Weekly's Flying Start Authors of 2013, and Just Wreck It All. She also writes the Smashie McPerter Investigates series, including the 2022 Young Readers One Book South Dakota, *Smashie McPerter and the Mystery of Room 11*. She received her MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and lives with her husband and a lot of dogs.

**COLIN D. HALLORAN** is a U.S. Army veteran who documented his combat ex-

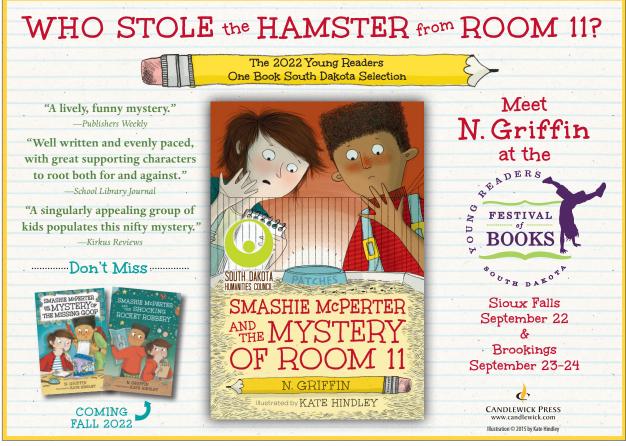
periences in Afghanistan in his memoir-inverse *Shortly Thereafter*, which won the 2012 Main Street Rag Poetry Books Award and was named a Massachusetts Must-Read Book. He has also published the poetry collections *Icarian Flux* and *American Etiquette*, along with many essays and short stories. When not writing, Halloran leads workshops that seek to promote personal and international healing and reconciliation through writing and the arts.

**NOEL HAMIEL** is a South Dakota native and career journalist who worked at



daily newspapers in five states. He won numerous awards for editorial and column writing and was inducted into the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame in 2012. Hamiel now

travels the state for the South Dakota Community Foundation, helping communities establish their own philanthropic funds. A former member of the South Dakota Legislature, he lives in Rapid City with his wife.



#### PRESENTERS

LAUREN R. HARRIS grew up in a military family and visited most of the United States, studying history along the way. She blended her experiences as an elementary



teacher and a journalist to write her extensively researched children's historical picture books, *The Plum Neighbor* and *A Place for Harvest: The Story of Kenny* 

*Higashi*. Harris lives in the Pacific Northwest in a vintage farmhouse with her husband and three children.

#### MARY WOSTER HAUG, a native

of Lyman County, South Dakota, is the author of Out of Loneliness: Murder and Mem-



oir and Daughters of the Grasslands. She has been published in several literary journals and national anthologies. Haug has been twice nominated for

a Pushcart Prize and is a recipient of the Spirit of Dakota award. She currently lives

in Minneapolis, just 10 minutes away from her grandchildren.

**TERRANCE HAYES** has written six poetry collections, including *American Sonnets for My Past And Future Assassin*, a finalist for the National Book Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, and TS Eliot Prize; and *Lighthead*, winner of the 2010 National Book Award for Poetry. His prose collection, *To Float In The Space Between*, won the Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism. A professor of English at New York University, Hayes has received fellowships from the MacArthur, Guggenheim, and Whiting foundations.

#### ALEXANDER B. HEFFNER, host

of The Open Mind on PBS, has covered



American culture, politics, and civic life since 2008. His writing has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe, USA Today and Newsday, and he has been interviewed by PBS, C-SPAN, CNN and the BBC, among other broadcast venues. Heffner is co-author of A Documentary History of the United States, an annotated collection of the documents, speeches, and letters that have forged America.

**GORDON HENRY** is an enrolled member of the White Earth Anishinaabe Nation in Minnesota, senior editor of the



American Indian Studies Series at Michigan State University Press, and professor of English at Michigan State University. A widely published poet, es-

sayist, and fiction writer, he won an American Book Award for his novel *The Light People.* His most recent poetry collection is *Spirit Matters: White Clay, Red Exits, Distant Others.* 

**PATRICK HICKS** is the author of *The Commandant of Lubizec, Adoptable, The* 

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Collector of Names, and Library of the Mind, among others. He is the Writer-in-Residence at Augustana University as well as a faculty member in the MFA Program at Sierra Nevada University. A former Visiting Fellow at Oxford, Hicks was recently a finalist for an Emmy and hosts the popular radio show, *Poetry from Studio* 47. His latest novel is *In the Shadow of Dora*.

#### **BETH HOFFMAN** has reported on food and agriculture for 25 years, airing on



NPR, publishing in *The Guardian* and *Civil Eats*, and blogging as the "Hungry Hack" for Forbes.com. Hoffman now raises grassfinished beef with her hus-

band, John, on a 570-acre farm in Iowa. Her book *Bet the Farm* is a first-hand account of the perils of the modern American food system and an exploration of more just and sustainable ways of producing food.

**FELICIA HOSHINO** was born in San Francisco, where she still lives with her family. Her prize-winning illustrations can be seen in children's books such as the newly published A Place for Harvest: The Story of Kenny Higashi, written by Lauren R. Harris, and Juna and Appa, written by Jane Park. Hoshino's other titles include the Jane Addams Peace Award-winning A Place Where Sunflowers Grow and several books about the Japanese American experience during WWII.

**CRAIG HOWE**, founder and director of the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS), earned a



Ph.D. in architecture and anthropology from the University of Michigan. He develops innovative tribal history projects and museum exhibitions, lectures across

the U.S., and provides professional development and cultural awareness training. A citizen of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Howe lives on his family's ranch on the Pine Ridge Reservation where he is designing and building Wingsprings, an architecturally unique retreat and conference center. **AMBER JENSEN** grew up on a dairy farm east of Bryant, South Dakota, and lives



on an acreage just two miles from that childhood home with her husband, children, and animals. She earned her BA and MA from South Dakota State University, where

she teaches composition and creative writing, and completed her MFA in creative writing through the University of New Orleans. Her first book, *The Smoke of You: Love During and After Deployment* is scheduled for release in 2023.

W. CARTER JOHNSON is Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University. His re-



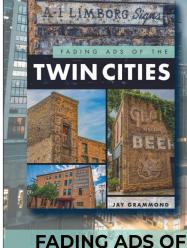
search has focused on the Missouri River, prairie restoration, landscape ecology, and the effects of climate change on wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Re-

gion. Johnson has taught courses in ecology and land management, served on four National Research Council panels, and earned national awards from the Ecological Society of America and the Environmental Law Institute.

#### **BRUCE BURGESS JUNEK** has

traveled and bicycled with his wife, Tass Thacker, through 54 countries. Since 1987, they have shared educational slide programs about their journeys with two million students across the country. Junek has written a climbing guidebook and two travel narratives; produced the documentary film, *Bruce & Tass Bicycle China*; and published a four-book, low fantasy series, *A Bright One Chronicles*, a mystical and thought-provoking, coming-of-age adventure for all ages.

**SAM KEAN** is the New York Times bestselling author of six books, including The Icepick Surgeon, The Bastard Brigade, and The Dueling Neurosurgeons. His work has appeared in The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, The New York Times Magazine, and Slate and has been featured on NPR's Ra-



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# WHITE

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diolab, Science Friday, All Things Considered, and Fresh Air. Kean's podcast, The Disappearing Spoon, debuted at #1 on the iTunes charts for science podcasts.

**BOB KEYES** worked as a journalist for four decades, becoming a nationally recognized arts writer and storyteller with spe-



cialties in American visual arts and the contemporary culture of New England. His numerous awards include the Rabkin Prize for Visual Arts Journalism in

recognition of his contributions to the national arts dialogue. The Isolation Artist is his debut book. Now the editorial director at Colby College, Keyes lives with his family in Maine.

#### WILLIAM KENT KRUEGER has

logged timber, worked construction, done freelance journalism, and researched child development. He now makes his living as the New York Times bestselling author of the award-winning Cork O'Connor mystery series, set in the Minnesota Northwoods. Krueger's stand-alone novel, Ordinary Grace, received the Edgar Award and was named the 2015 One Book South Dakota. Krueger lives with his wife in St. Paul, a city he dearly loves.

LORNA LANDVIK is the author of 12 novels, including the best-selling Pat-



ty Jane's House of Curl, Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons, and Oh My Stars, which has been made into a short 'proof of concept" film. Her latest book, Chronicles of a

Radical Hag (with Recipes) has just been released in paperback. Also an actor, Landvik regularly performs a one-woman, all-improvised show called Party in the Rec Room.

ERIKJ. LARSON, author of The Myth of Artificial Intelligence, is a computer scientist and tech entrepreneur. The founder of two

DARPA-funded AI startups, he is currently working on core issues in natural language processing and machine learning. Larson has written for The Atlantic and for professional journals and has tested the technical boundaries of artificial intelligence through his work with the IC2 tech incubator at the University of Texas at Austin.

JON K. LAUCK is a native of rural Madison, South Dakota. He is the author of books including The Lost Region and From Warm Center to Ragged Edge. Lauck has

worked as a lawyer, professor, and political advisor and now serves as adjunct professor of history and political science at the University of South Dakota



and as Editor-in-Chief of Middle West Review. His latest books are The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest and Heartland River: A Cultural and Environmental History of the Big Sioux River Valley.

JULIA LYON is an award-winning former reporter who covered education, poverty, health, and refugees for daily newspapers in Bend, Oregon and Salt Lake City, Utah. A college history major at Columbia University and a graduate of the Colum-

bia Journalism School, she now uses her investigative skills to write hidden history for kids. Lyons' nonfiction picture book, A Dinosaur Named Ruth, tells the story



of Ruth Mason, who found dinosaur bones in her backyard near Faith, South Dakota.

**EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL** is the author of the critically acclaimed novel Station Eleven, a finalist for the 2014 National Book Award, as well as The Glass Hotel, a finalist for the 2020 Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her latest book is Sea of Tranquility, a novel of art, time, love, and plague that takes the reader from Vancouver Island in 1912 to a dark colony on the moon 500

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years later. Mandel lives in New York City with her husband.

#### JOSEPH M. MARSHALL III is a

teacher, historian, writer, storyteller, and Lakota craftsman. Raised by his maternal grandparents in a traditional household on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation, he is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota tribe. Marshall published his first book in 1991 and has written 17 more since, mostly non-fiction focusing on Lakota history, issues, and culture. He is an adjunct instructor at Sinte Gleska University and a board member of Lakota Youth Development.

MICHAEL MEYER is the author of four critically acclaimed books, including Benjamin Franklin's Last Bet. A Fulbright scholar,



Guggenheim fellow, and Whiting Award winner, he has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Cullman Center, MacDowell, and the University of Oxford's Centre for Life-Writing. Meyer is a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, where he teaches nonfiction writing. He lives in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

#### **DEVON A. MIHESUAH**, an enrolled

citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is the Cora Lee Beers Price Professor in the Humanities Program at the University of Kansas. A historian by training, Mihesuah is



former editor of American Indian Quarterly and the author or editor of over a dozen award-winning books on Indigenous history and current issues, including Re-

covering Our Ancestors' Gardens and Indigenous Food Sovereignty in the United States. Her latest novel is The Hatak Witches.

WILLIAM C. PRATT is Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His research, focused on the history of political and farm movements on the Northern Plains, has taken him



from Montana to Moscow. Pratt has served as Distinguished Fulbright Lecturer in American History at Moscow State University, lecturing on U.S. farm and

labor movements, and Senior Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies at the University of Warsaw, teaching about the Great Plains and recent American history.

TRENT PRESZLER grew up on a cattle ranch near Faith, South Dakota and attended a one-room schoolhouse on the Standing Rock Reservation. A 1998 graduate of Iowa State University, he holds an MS in agricultural economics and a

Ph.D. in horticulture from Cornell University. Preszler is CEO of Bedell Cellars, a Long Island vineyard, and founder of Preszler Woodshop, where he makes be-



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JIM REESE is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota. He has spoken at venues from the Library of Congress to San Quentin Prison. Reese's awards include a First Place Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award and a Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of his contributions to the Education Department at Federal Prison Camp Yankton. His fourth poetry collection, *Dancing Room Only*, is coming this year.

**BRUCE ROSELAND** is a fourth-generation cattleman who grew up on – and still works – a ranch in north central South Dakota. His poetry collections include *The Last Buffalo* (2007 Wrangler Award), *A Prairie Prayer* (2009 Will Rogers Medallion Award), *Cowman* (2019 Will Rogers Medallion Award), and 2021's *Heart of the Prairie*. Roseland holds a master's degree in sociology from the University of North Dakota and serves as South Dakota State Poetry Society president and a South Dakota Humanities Council scholar.

**MOLLY P. ROZUM** is the author of *Grasslands Grown* and co-editor (with Lori Ann Lahlum) of *Equality at the Ballot Box*, and her essays have been published in several journals and collections. A Mitchell native, Rozum is Associate Professor and



Ronald R. Nelson Chair of Great Plains and South Dakota History at the University of South Dakota. She won the 2021 Blair and Linda Tremere Faculty Public Service

Award at USD for her commitment to presenting history to local audiences.

**ROBERT J. SAWYER** is a bestselling science-fiction author from Toronto, one of only eight writers to win all three of the world's top sci-fi novel awards: the Hugo, Nebula, and John W. Campbell Memorial. His 24 novels include *FlashForward*, the basis for the ABC TV series; the Aurora



Award-winning Quantum Night; and most recently, The Oppenheimer Alternative. A past president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America,

Sawyer is a member of the Order of Canada.

**TRACI SORELL** writes children's books that center the humanity of citizens of Native Nations. Recent works include *Powwow Day; We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know* (a Sibert and American Indian Youth Literature Award honor picture book); and *Classified: The Se*-

cret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer (an Orbis Pictus and AIYLA honor picture book). An enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation,



Sorell lives with her family on her tribe's reservation in northeastern Oklahoma.

**BONNY SPECKER**, a recently retired epidemiologist, has published over 200 scientific papers and chapters. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she has worked to educate the public about epidemiology. She drew on her lifelong fascination with the investigative work of early epidemiologists to write her first novel, *Spot On: The 1846 Faroe Islands Measles Outbreak*. Specker lives in Brookings, where she was recently elected to the City Council. She is currently writing a novel about the 1876-1877 Lake Winnipeg smallpox outbreak.

#### **CHRISTINE STEWART-NUÑEZ**,

South Dakota's poet laureate from 2019-2021, is the author and editor of several books, including *The Poet & The Architect* and *South Dakota in Poems: An Anthology*. Her debut prose collection is *Chrysopoeia: Essays of Language, Love, and Place.* Her



poetry has been the basis for international, cross-artistic collaborations with colleagues in music, dance, visual art, and architecture. Stewart-Nuñez teaches for

the University of Manitoba's women's and gender studies program.

**SARAH STONICH** is the author of *These Granite Islands*, a Barnes & Noble Great New Writers pick, and *Laurentian* 



Divide, winner of the 2019 Minnesota Book Award. Her other work includes the memoir Shelter: Off the Grid in the Mostly Magnetic North

and the RayAnne series, which debuted in 2020 with *Fishing!* The recipient of a Loft McKnight Award and four Minnesota State Arts Board fellowships, Stonich lives in a repurposed flour mill on the Mississippi River.

FAITH SULLIVAN is the author of many novels, including Gardenias, The Cape Ann, What a Woman Must Do, and, most recently, Ruby & Roland. A demon gardener, flea marketer, and feeder of birds, she is also an indefatigable champion of literary culture and her fellow writers. Born and raised in southern Minnesota, she spent more than 20 years in New York and Los Angeles but now lives in Minneapolis with her husband, Dan.

#### **KATHERINE WILTENBURG TO-**

**DRYS** is a lawyer specializing in health and human rights research and advocacy. A former researcher with Human Rights Watch, she has reported on health condi-



tions in African prisons, access to HIV treatment for migrants, and police abuses against sex workers in New York City. Her first book, *Black Snake*, consid-

ers the health impacts of fracking in the Bakken and tells the story of four Indigenous leaders in their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

GEORGE TSAKIRIDIS holds a Ph.D.

from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in Religion and Science and teaches at South Dakota State University. His work is interdisciplinary, engaging the fields of religion, philosophy, and science, with a recent focus on religion and popular culture. His books include *Theology and Spider-Man* and *Seven Virtues for Success*. In his free time, Tsakiridis is an actor, a filmmaker, and a huge fan of the television show *The Americans*. **SETH TUPPER** is a fifth-generation South Dakotan with roots in Wessington Springs and Kimball. He spent 18 years as a newspaper journalist before joining South Dakota Public Broadcasting as supervising senior producer at the Black

Hills Studio. In 2021, Tupper won a national Edward R. Murrow Award for his investigative report on the political and environmental ramifications of fireworks



displays at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. His books include *Calvin Coolidge in the Black Hills* and *Surviving the '72 Flood.* 

SARAH VOGEL is an attorney, advocate, and author of *The Farmer's Lawyer*, a memoir about the landmark class action lawsuit, Coleman v. Block. She brought and won this historic case against the fed-



eral government on behalf of 240,000 family farmers facing foreclosure during the 1980s farm crisis. Along with advocating for family farmers, women, and Na-

tive Americans, Vogel served two terms as North Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture, the first woman to be elected to this position in any state.

#### **CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK**

is the author of *Dancing with Welk: Music, Memory, and Prairie Troubadours,* about his college rural indie band's pursuit of musical glory. His 2020 poetry collection, *Rattlesnake Summer,* features a poem for each of South Dakota's 66 counties. Vondracek holds degrees in journalism and literature from the University of South Dakota and an MFA in creative nonfiction from Hamline University. He covers agriculture for *The Star Tribune* and lives with his wife and daughter in Minneapolis.

#### CHRISTINE MAGER WEVIK is the

author of four books, including the humor-



ous self-help book *It's* Only Hair and two awardwinning paranormal mysteries: Vacant Eyes and Borrowed Memories. Her most recent book, Some-



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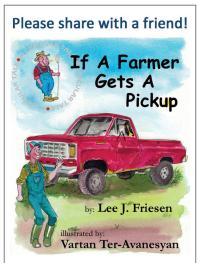
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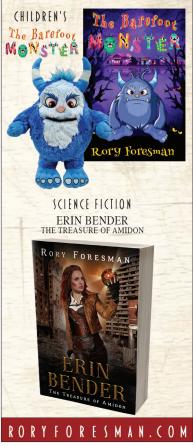
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one Knows, highlights 52 of South Dakota's many cold cases involving unsolved deaths and disappearances. A mother of four and grandmother of four, Wevik lives with her husband Doug (the other Clint Eastwood) in southeast South Dakota.

#### LYDIA WHIRLWIND SOLDIER,

born on the Rosebud Reservation, is a founding member of the Oak Lake Tribal Writers Society. A graduate of Sinte Gleska University and Pennsylvania State Univer-



sity, she is best known for her poetry but is also a non-fiction writer, teacher, business owner, and Native craftswoman. Whirlwind Soldier

received the 2015 South Dakota Living Indian Treasure Award in recognition of her preservation of traditional art forms.

**DIANE WILSON** is a writer, speaker, and educator who has published two award-winning non-fiction books, numerous essays, the children's book *Ella Cara Deloria: Dakota Language Protector*, and, most recently, the novel *The Seed Keeper*. She has received a Bush Foundation Fel-



Ived a Bush Foundation Fellowship and honors from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Jerome Foundation, and the East Central Regional Arts Council. A Mdewakan-

ton descendent enrolled on the Rosebud Reservation, Wilson is executive director of the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance.

JERRY WILSON is the author of six books, including novels, short stories, and environmental non-fiction. His most recent books are *Eden to Orizaba*, a novel about immigrants across the southern border, and *Seasons of the Coyote*, an eco-memoir of life in the woods and prairie on the Missouri River bluff in southeast South Dakota where he has invested the past four decades. In former lives he was a professor of journalism and managing editor of *South Dakota Magazine*.

NORMA WILSON was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, where she began writing poetry. In 1978, she completed a Ph.D. in English at the University of Oklahoma; published her first book, *Wild Iris*; and joined the English faculty at the University of South Dakota. Foundation Valparaiso presented her with a poetry residency in 2002. Since retiring from USD in 2005, she has authored five books, most recently *Continuity*. She and her husband live on a prairie bluff near Vermillion, South Dakota.

#### **STEVEN WINGATE** is the author of

the novels The Leave-Takers and Of Fathers

and Fire and the short story collection Wifeshopping, which won the Bakeless Prize in Fiction from Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. His experimental work in-



cludes the prose poem collection *Thirty-One Octets* and the digital interactive memoir *daddylabyrinth*. Wingate has taught at the University of Colorado and the College of the Holy Cross, and he is now a professor of English at South Dakota State University.

SARA WOSTER is a painter, illustrator, animator, and writer who shows her work around the world and recently founded The Painting School. She has illustrated

several children's books, written two middle-grade novels, and contributed personal essays to multiple anthologies. Woster holds a creative writing degree from



The New School and has received a Jerome Foundation Emerging Artist Fellowship, a Franconia Sculpture Park residency, and a Brooklyn Arts Council SU-CASA residency. She lives with her family in Brooklyn.

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