

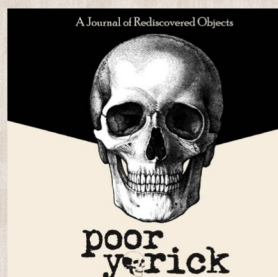
W | MFA
C | CREATIVE
S | AND
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WRITING

2021

SUMMER RESIDENCY



JULY 31ST - AUGUST 5TH



Bram
Stoker
Festival

LET THE GAMES BEGIN.



**Residency books are available through
our local independent bookstore, Byrd's Books.**

Visit their website [here](http://BYRDSBOOKS.COM).



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2021 Summer Residency Schedule

	9:00-10:30	11:00-12:30	12:30-1:45	2:00-3:30	4:00-5:00	5:00-6:30	7:00-8:30
July 31	Matthew Quinn Martin	GB Tran, pt. 1	Lunch	Briana McGuckin Elizabeth Little	New Student Orientation 4:00-5:30	Dinner	Faculty Flash Reading (works in progress)
Aug. 1	Charles Coe	Sonja Mongar, pt.1	Lunch	Baron Wormser	Free Writing Session	Dinner	Gina Troisi & Sue William Silverman
Aug. 2	Jane Cleland	Sonja Mongar, pt. 2	Lunch	Adrienne Wallner	Student Open Mic	Dinner	Nadia Owusu
Aug. 3	Free Writing Session	Adria Karlsson Linus Curci	Lunch Poor Yorick Info Session	Lara Ehrlich	Visiting Writer/Mentor Meetings	Dinner	Lara Ehrlich
Aug. 4	Enrichment Projects	Nicole Jean Turner	Lunch Thesis Info Session	Michelle Dotter Monica Fernandez Jarret Middleton	Student Open Mic	Dinner	Alumni Flash Reading Featured Readers: Ron Farina Nick Manzollillo
Aug. 5	Dave Patterson	Visiting Writer/Mentor Meetings	Lunch	GB Tran, pt. 2	Visiting Writer/Mentor Meetings	Dinner	Flash Fiction Contest

2021 Summer Residency Schedule

Saturday, July 31st

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Matthew Quinn Martin

First...Do No Harm: Practical Strategies for Avoiding Hurtful “Help” on Your Writer’s Journey

“During the Gold Rush, the folks who got themselves richest...were the ones selling pans.” - Old West Wisdom

As writers, we all constantly strive to become the best versions of ourselves. And while our craft is, ultimately, a solitary endeavor, none of us make it to our destination on our own.

We all need aid and support along the way. But knowing which advice is the best to take can be tricky. Understanding the difference between writing rules, guidelines, and outright falsehoods is tough even for the most seasoned authors. It’s unfortunate when even someone with the best of intentions steers us down the wrong path...and, sadly, there will always be those out there whose “best intentions” will not be intended to benefit you.

This workshop will help you dismantle the rhetoric around apocryphal writing “rules.” Give you strategies for surviving, and thriving, in any kind of workshop environment. Arm you against the predators lurking at the fringes, and in the heart, of our industry. And set you on the right path to someday becoming the type of kind and nurturing mentor that you yourself would love to have.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

GB Tran – Part 1

Making Comics: The Art of Reading

Comics are greater than the sum of their parts. Cartoonist GB Tran will begin this first session diving into this unique language by walking you through his process, followed by conversation, and ending with a lesson exploring the foundation of comics: panel components, character expression, panel transitions, and more. You will then be given a comic creation assignment due for the second session.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Briana Una McGuckin and Elizabeth Little

Lessons Learned in the Pitch Wars Trenches

Pitch Wars is a free mentorship program during which published authors help select writers to revise unpublished manuscripts. After three months, these manuscripts are featured in an Agent Showcase, where many a mentee has found agent representation for their work—including WCSU alumna Briana Una McGuckin. Join Briana and author-mentor Elizabeth Little (*Pretty as a Picture, Dear Daughter*) as they talk with Anthony D’Aries about this whirlwind experience, from applying to Pitch Wars to signing with an agent. This session will help you determine whether Pitch Wars would be a good opportunity for you, to understand what makes a submission stand out in a slush pile, and to gain useful perspectives for revising on a deadline.

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

New Student Orientation

This session offers new students all they need to know about starting their first semester. We'll review program requirements and expectations, tips on developing syllabi and working with mentors, and everything else you'll need to start your courses with focus and confidence. New students will meet their peer mentors during this session and will have plenty of time to ask questions.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Faculty Flash Reading

Join MFA faculty in kicking off the first night of residency! Faculty will share short (5-7 minute) readings from their current works-in-progress.

Sunday, August 1st

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Writing About People You Know – A Workshop and Conversation with Charles Coe

Many poets and writers of nonfiction prose write about people in their lives. And many fiction writers use people with whom they're familiar as inspirations and "templates" for their characters.

But writers face many questions when they take on this task. Why am I going down this particular path? Am I trying to make sense of, to come to terms with certain experiences? If I'm writing about difficult people, how can I be rigorous yet fair? How can I write characters that are "three-dimensional" and not cardboard cutouts? Am I willing to face the ire of someone who might object to the way they're portrayed? Sometimes we have to grapple with all of the above in the same piece. This workshop will take a deep dive into some of these questions.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Sonja Mongar

The Art of Generative Writing, Part I

Are strategies like outlines and chronological structure causing writer's block—preventing you from chipping through abstractions, sidetracks and detours to get to the heart of your story? What is the story anyway?

Generative writing is a breakthrough, non-canonic, non-linear writing method that peels back the layers and dives deep beneath the veneers quickly and effectively, giving the writer new insights into his/her/their writing and stories.

Via a series of flash writing exercises, the writer will explore echoes or recurring images, metaphors and symbols in her/his/their writing. Mosaic, segmented, montage, collage, vignette, episode, braided and triptych structures and the use of white space will be explored.

The writer will come away with a sharpened awareness of their own key, core metaphors as well as the possibilities of non-linear structure.

Preparation:

Come to class with something that represents you and three sentences to sum it up. Digital versions of materials/readings needed for the class will be provided in advance.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Baron Wormser

Revision: Practice and Ideal, Poetry and Prose

In this session, poet, novelist, and memoirist, Baron Wormser, will begin with a discussion of three drafts of his poem “Near Skowhegan” that he revised over the course of decades. The poem will serve as the basis for a writing prompt to get students to think and rethink familiar places. With a little help from Nabokov, Updike, and Woolf, Baron will guide students through sentence making and remaking.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Free Writing Session

Can’t wait until the end of residency to start writing some new work? Have no fear, Free Writing Sessions are here! Take a break from Zoom and devote some time to your own work. You might write/revise a writing prompt assigned by one of our residency faculty or you may choose to work on something completely different. Or maybe a walk outside or a coffee break will serve you better – go for it! This time is yours.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Gina Troisi & Sue William Silverman

Savory Senses: From Detail to Metaphor to Art

Aristotle writes, “Place is a vessel that holds us.” And, indeed, it is. As writers we need to draw upon our physical surroundings for sensory images and details to embody our complicated and compelling interior lives. By doing so, we also discover the metaphors of our narratives, thus turning experience into art.

Memoir writers Sue William Silverman and Gina Troisi will discuss the way these essential aspects of craft can help to transform our personal stories and open them up to a universal audience. They will read short excerpts of their work in order to illustrate examples and will answer questions about technique and process.

Monday, August 2nd

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Jane Cleland

Crafting Evocative Prose

In this workshop, we'll discuss and practice how to write with sensual clarity, how to avoid boring or banal generalizations and passive verbs, and how to use "The Metaphor Machine" to convert abstract concepts into tangible images that resonate with readers. Writing to evoke a mood, create atmospheric descriptions, and add telling details moves your writing—in all genres—to the next level.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Sonja Mongar

The Art of Generative Writing, Part II

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Adrienne S. Wallner

A Poet's Process

Poet and author Adrienne S. Wallner will share her process for creating and editing poetry. From harvesting passages in her journal entries and travel writing to revisiting stubborn pieces that required many revisions, Adrienne will impart tips and ideas to help develop your poetry writing process. Class will include discussion, examples, brief readings, and a generative exercise. No poetry experience or expertise required.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Student Open Mic

Come share your work with the MFA community! Current students are welcome to read a 5-minute excerpt in any genre. These open mics are hosted by a current student and are a great opportunity to meet fellow writers and learn more about their work. Sign up to read at the beginning of the event or feel free to just sit back and enjoy the readings.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Nadia Owusu

Reading & Discussion

Nadia Owusu is a Ghanaian and Armenian-American writer and urbanist. She was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and raised in Italy, Ethiopia, England, Ghana, and Uganda. Her first book, *Aftershocks: A Memoir*, topped many most-anticipated and best book of the year lists, including *The New York Times*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *Vogue*, *TIME*, *Vulture*, and the *BBC*. It was a *New York Times* Book Review Editor's Choice.

Nadia is the recipient of a 2019 Whiting Award. Her lyric essay, “So Devilish a Fire” won the *Atlas Review* chapbook contest. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *The New York Times*, *The Lily*, *Orion*, *Granta*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *Catapult*, *Bon Appétit*, *Travel & Leisure*, and others.

By day, Nadia is the Director of Storytelling at Frontline Solutions, a Black-owned consulting firm that helps social-change organizations to define goals, execute plans, and evaluate impact. She is a graduate of Pace University (BA) and Hunter College (MS). She earned her MFA in creative nonfiction at the Mountainview low-residency program where she now teaches. She lives in Brooklyn.

Tuesday, August 3rd

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Free Writing Session

Can’t wait until the end of residency to start writing some new work? Have no fear, Free Writing Sessions are here! Take a break from Zoom and devote some time to your own work. Students might write/revise a writing prompt assigned by one of our residency faculty or may choose to work on something completely different. Or maybe a walk outside or a coffee break will serve you better – go for it! This time is yours.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Adria Karlsson and Linus Curci (moderated by Karen Romano Young)

A Picture Book Process: Beginning to End

In this session, the author and illustrator team behind the upcoming picture book *My Sister, Daisy* will discuss the conceptualization of the text and art for the book, the experience and process of working with a traditional publishing house, and what they have learned as a debut picture book team.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Lunch/Poor Yorick Info Session

Want to learn more about our student-run literary journal, *Poor Yorick*? Join the current and incoming editor for an informal chat about running an online literary magazine. Find out how you can contribute to the editorial and production process and even earn internship credit for doing so.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Lara Ehrlich

Writing Short

Short can be deep. Quick can cut to the quick. Short stories can shatter your heart. In this workshop, we’ll break down examples of short prose that packs a punch, investigate what makes them powerful, and apply those elements to our own craft. We’ll do generative writing exercises with the aim of leaving the workshop with a completed flash piece.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Visiting Writer/Mentor Meetings

These time blocks are for you to meet individually with your mentors and/or visiting writers. If you do not have any meetings scheduled, you're welcome to use this as free time.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Lara Ehrlich

Reading and Discussion

Lara Ehrlich is the author of the story collection *Animal Wife*, which won Red Hen Press's Fiction Award, judged by Ann Hood, and was published in Sept 2020. *Animal Wife* has been praised by *Electric Literature*, the *Kenyon Review*, *PANK*, *Kirkus*, and others, including *Lit Hub*, who called the collection "remarkable...a standout in a season full of amazing new releases." She is also the host of *Writer Mother Monster*, a conversation series devoted to dismantling the myth of "having it all" and offering writer-moms solidarity, support, and advice as we make space for creative endeavors. Lara is the director of marketing for the International Festival of Arts & Ideas based in Connecticut, where she lives with her husband and 5-year-old daughter.

Wednesday, August 4th

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Enrichment Project Presentations

Current MFA students will share their Enrichment Project experiences. Come support your fellow writers, learn more about Enrichment Projects, and perhaps spark some ideas for your own projects.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Nicole Jean Turner

Authentic Storytelling as a Business

In a world of new media where most things are a Google search away, including your own life story, authenticity is not just commendable it is essential. You as a writer are going to need an authentic brand that doesn't just tell the world who you are but why you are the *only* you who can do what you do.

When there are countless other writers on the market, businesses are going to hire the ones that they can trust to tell their story best. That starts by preparing your own story. This isn't just about resumes; whether it's through your poetry, journalism, technical documentation or any other thing you create with words, open and honest communication establishes trust. In a world that overshadows on personal media, you want to make sure what you're sharing in the public is something you'll stand behind.

Your digital presence is half the story when pitching a book or submitting a resume. In this workshop we'll talk about branding your writing in a competitive way that is based on authenticity and confidence to help you approach LinkedIn, Twitter, and every other channel writers are expected to participate in.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Lunch/Thesis Info Session

All students entering their thesis semester are required to attend this session. All other students are welcome to attend, too.

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Independent Press Panel

Michelle Dotter, Monica Fernandez, and Jarret Middleton

In this panel, we will discuss the process of publishing with an independent press. What is an independent press? How are they different from other publishing avenues? What can a debut author expect? This panel features authors, editors, and media managers from two highly respected independent publishers: Dzanc Books and Ren Hen Press. Panelists will guide students through the complete publishing process, from manuscript submission to editorial and production to marketing and promotion.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Student Open Mic

Come share your work with the MFA community! Current students are welcome to read a 5-minute excerpt in any genre. These open mics are hosted by a current student and are a great opportunity to meet fellow writers and learn more about their work. Sign up to read at the beginning of the event or feel free to just sit back and enjoy the readings.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Alumni Flash Reading & Featured Readers: Ron Farina & Nick Manzolillo

As we often say in the MFA, we are a lifelong community of writers. Join us in celebrating our alumni! This event includes a series of brief readings by MFA graduates followed by two featured readings by alumni who have recently published books.

Thursday, August 5th

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

David Patterson

Tell Me Your Secrets, Your Juicy Little Secrets

Great fiction is often littered with secrets characters are hiding. When revealed, these hidden intimacies can draw readers in to make them feel like insiders to the narrative. When withheld, secrets can turn even the most sophisticated readers into desperate gossips, scouring every sentence, ripping through pages until the secret is revealed. Whether revealed or concealed, secrets can propel the narrative in a compelling way. If we're only as healthy as our secrets, then our characters, who are unhealthy and conflicted by their very nature of appearing in a story, must be hiding juicy secrets. And those secrets must be surprising, shocking, even terrifying to the reader and, most importantly, to the writer.

This workshop will explore the way authors can develop meaningful secrets that add human layers to our characters to make readers feel at once empathetic and repulsed. We will consider the role of hidden intimacies in works by, among others, Jesmyn Ward, Karen Russell, and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Visiting Writer/Mentor Meetings

These time blocks are for you to meet individually with your mentors and/or visiting writers. If you do not have any meetings scheduled, you're welcome to use this as free time.

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

GB Tran – Part II

Comics Workshop

GB will lead a discussion of student assignments, focusing on using your work to drive more in-depth exploration of the comics language and its endless potential.

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Visiting Writer/Mentor Meetings

These time blocks are for you to meet individually with your mentors and/or visiting writers. If you do not have any meetings scheduled, you're welcome to use this as free time.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Dinner

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Flash Fiction Contest

The event you've all been waiting for! Our annual flash fiction contest. Students, faculty, and alumni are welcome to read a short piece of fiction or creative nonfiction (no more than 750 words). A panel of judges will select the top three pieces and award prizes beyond your wildest dreams (mostly gift cards and books). Come celebrate the end of virtual-residency life as we know it and hear/share some great new work.

2021 Summer Residency Bios

Jane K. Cleland writes both fiction and nonfiction, including the long-running and multiple award-winning *Josie Prescott Antiques Mysteries* [St. Martin's & *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*] and the Agatha Award-winning bestsellers *Mastering Suspense*, *Structure & Plot* and *Mastering Plot Twists* [Writer's Digest Books], recommended by Dan Brown, Louise Penny, David Baldacci, and Neil Gaiman. Jane is a contributing editor for *Writer's Digest Magazine*, and the chair of the Wolfe Pack's Black Orchid Novella Award (BONA), in partnership with *AHMM*. She is a frequent workshop leader and guest author at writing conferences and MFA Residencies. Jane is offering free monthly workshops on the craft of writing in the "We're All in It Together," series. Details can be found at www.janecleland.com.



Charles Coe is a poet, prose writer, teacher of writing and a musician. He is author of *All Sins Forgiven: Poems for my Parents* and *Picnic on the Moon*. His poetry has appeared in literary reviews and anthologies such as *Poesis*, *The Mom Egg*, *Solstice Literary Review*, and *Urban Nature*. Charles won a fellowship in poetry from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and his poems have been set to music by a number of composers. Co-chair of the Boston Chapter of the National Writers Union, Charles was selected by the Associates of the Boston Public Library as a "Boston Literary Light for 2014." His latest collection of poems, *Memento Mori*, was published by Leapfrog Press in 2019.

Linus Curci is a freelance illustrator and master screen printer residing in Philadelphia, PA. He has illustrated cover art for numerous young adult fictions books and has had his work featured at The Society of Illustrators in New York City. He received his BFA at Moore College of Art and Design. He has a personal connection to the theme of the story *My Sister, Daisy* because he is transgender. Here he is with his dog Bowie.



Anthony D'Aries is the author of *The Language of Men: A Memoir* (Hudson Whitman Press, 2012), which received the PEN Discovery Prize and IndieFab's Book of the Year Award. His work has appeared in *Boston Magazine*, *Solstice*, *The Good Men Project*, *Shelf Awareness*, *Memoir Magazine*, *The Literary Review*, *Sport Literate*, *Flash Fiction Magazine*, and elsewhere. He has taught writing and literature in prisons, shelters, and hospitals and was selected as the Lighthouse Writers Workshop's Fort Lyon Writer-in-Residence. Anthony currently coordinates the MFA in Creative and Professional Writing at WCSU.



Michelle Dotter is the publisher and editor-in-chief of Dzanc Books, a nonprofit press devoted to championing innovative and brilliant literary fiction. Since starting her career with noted San Francisco publishing house MacAdam/Cage, she has worked with *New York Times* bestsellers, Pulitzer Prize winners, National Book Award honorees, and some damn fine other people, too. She lives in Colorado with her wife.

Lara Ehrlich is the author of the story collection *Animal Wife*, which won Red Hen Press's Fiction Award, judged by Ann Hood, and was published by the press in Sept 2020. *Animal Wife* has been praised by *Electric Literature*, the *Kenyon Review*, *PANK*, *Kirkus*, and others, including *Lit Hub*, who called the collection "remarkable...a standout in a season full of amazing new releases." She is also the host of *Writer Mother Monster*, a conversation series devoted to dismantling the myth of "having it all" and offering writer-moms solidarity, support, and advice as we make space for creative endeavors. Lara is the director of marketing for the International Festival of Arts & Ideas based in Connecticut, where she lives with her husband and 5-year-old daughter.



Ron Farina is author of the book, *Who Will Have My Back*, a collection of short stories about caregivers to disabled American veterans, published by Lagrange Books, (October 2020). Other recent works include; "Unsung Heroes" and "Keeping Promises," personal essays published by *Connecticut Magazine* (November 2020 and 2019, respectively). The short story, "A Place More Kind than Home," is the featured story in the anthology *The Odds Are Against Us*, published by Liberty Island Media (February 2019). In 2013, Farina was awarded honorable mention by the Pell Center, Salve Regina College for the award-winning short story, "Un-Breakable Embrace" (published online). In 2012, Farina's short story "A Keyhole" was featured on NPR. *Out of the Shadows, Voices of American Women*

Soldiers is scheduled for release in early 2022.

Ron earned a B.A. in Creative Non-Fiction in 2015 from Central Connecticut State University, and an MFA in Creative and Professional Writing at Western Connecticut State University, Summa Cum Laude, with Distinction (2020). He served in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967.

Monica Fernandez graduated from the University of California, Irvine cum laude with a BA in English with an emphasis on Creative Writing, and from City University London with an MA in Creative Writing and Publishing. She has had several short fiction and creative nonfiction pieces published in *The Chaffey Review*, *Rind Literary Magazine*, *Scribendi*, *The Left Coast Review*, *Creepy Gnome*, and *Slush Pile Magazine's Envy* anthology. She is Filipino-American, a proud Hufflepuff, and a film and theatre enthusiast.



Monica manages the media and publicity of all Red Hen's books. She curates the Red Hen Reading Series in Pasadena, CA, arranges our participation in literary events across the country, promotes book news, reviews, and press publicity across their social media networks and contacts, connects authors with media and interview opportunities, and liaises with Foreign Rights and Film Rights agents for prospective sale of language and film rights.



Adria Karlsson is the author of the picture book *My Sister, Daisy*, illustrated by Linus Curci. Currently she is writing picture books and middle grade novels while pursuing an MFA in Creative Writing (Writing for Young People) at Lesley University. She holds a BA from Rice University, an MAT in Elementary Education from Brown University, and an Ed.S. in Behavior Analysis from Simmons University. Having followed a winding road through teaching 3rd graders, tutoring dyslexics, helping families with complex dogs and cats, and content editing for the *IAABC Journal*, she finally landed on writing when she found the perfect story. She lives in Cambridge, MA with her spouse, five kids, two dogs, two cats, and the long-lived gerbil, Templeton.

Elizabeth Little is the bestselling author of *Dear Daughter*, *Pretty as a Picture*, and two works of nonfiction. Her crime fiction has been nominated for the Barry, Macavity, and CWA John Creasey Debut dagger awards, and she received the Strand Critics Award for Best First Novel. Her latest novel, *Pretty as a Picture*, was a Barnes and Noble monthly pick and a *Los Angeles Times* and *Publishers Weekly* bestseller. Her writing has also appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *McSweeney's*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among other publications. A two-time Pitch Wars mentor and current member of the Mystery Writers of America's national board of directors, Elizabeth lives in Los Angeles with her family.



Nick Manzollito was born in Providence, Rhode Island. He completed his first novel by the age of 16 and went on to achieve a B.A. in English and Writing from The University of Rhode Island. In 2017 he received an MFA in Creative and Professional Writing from Western Connecticut State University. He writes everything from crime and fantasy, to horror and comedy. His top five favorite authors are Stephen King, Neil Gaiman, H.P. Lovecraft, Darren Shan, and Charlie Huston. He currently lives in Manhattan with his fiancé and two overly attached kitties. His debut novel, *Moon Regardless*, was published in 2021.

Matthew Quinn Martin is the author of the *Nightlife* series (Pocket Star/Simon & Schuster) as well as numerous works of short fiction. He is the co-writer of the feature films *Being* and *Slingshot*. He lives in the shadow of the Capital in Upstate New York, and when he isn't writing or pulling a "Bob Vila" on the house he just bought, he spends his time playing bagpipes competitively (...for real).





Briana Una McGuckin has an M.F.A. in Creative and Professional Writing from Western Connecticut State University. Her fiction appears in the 2020 Stoker-nominated *Not All Monsters* anthology (Rooster Republic Press) as well as *The Arcanist* and *Hides the Dark Tower* (Pole-to-Pole Publishing). She maintains <http://moonmissives.com>, where she sometimes writes about having cerebral palsy.

Sonja Mongar is an 11-year MFA mentor and author of the award-winning novel, *Two Spoons of Bitter* (2018). A former professor of English (University of Puerto Rico), she specializes in creative nonfiction, survivor/trauma narrative, writing the other, journalism/feature writing, digital storytelling, the creative process, writing theory and writing for nonprofits. Her interests include digital & performance story work, life narrative, auto-ethnographic research, documentary film, screenplay writing, indie publishing, social justice/advocacy, songwriting and blues harmonica. She is currently working on a 1920s Western screenplay inspired by her fierce Montana grandmothers called *Riders of the Dust*.



Jarret Middleton is the author of *Darkansas* (Dzanc Books) and the novella, *An Dantomine Eerly*. He was the founding editor of Dark Coast Press and the classics library Pharos Editions, an imprint of Counterpoint/Soft Skull Press. His fiction, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Shelf Awareness*, *The Quarterly Conversation*, *The Weeklings*, *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, *The Collagist*, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, and *HTMLGIANT*, as well as the anthologies *Breadline*, *Hotel Angeline: A Novel in 36 Voices*, and *In Heaven, Everything is Fine: Fiction Inspired by David Lynch*. He teaches writing at Richard Hugo House in Seattle.

Nadia Owusu is a Ghanaian and Armenian-American writer and urbanist. She was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and raised in Italy, Ethiopia, England, Ghana, and Uganda. Her first book, *Aftershocks, A Memoir*, topped many most-anticipated and best book of the year lists, including *The New York Times*, *The Oprah Magazine*, *Vogue*, *TIME*, *Vulture*, and the *BBC*. It was a *New York Times* Book Review Editor's Choice.

Nadia is the recipient of a 2019 Whiting Award. Her lyric essay, "So Devilish a Fire" won the Atlas Review chapbook contest. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *The New York Times*, *The Lily*, *Orion*, *Granta*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *The Guardian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Slate*, *Catapult*, *Bon Appétit*, *Travel & Leisure*, and others.



By day, Nadia is the Director of Storytelling at Frontline Solutions, a Black-owned consulting firm that helps social-change organizations to define goals, execute plans, and evaluate impact. She is a graduate of Pace University (BA) and Hunter College (MS). She earned her MFA in creative nonfiction at the Mountainview low-residency program where she now teaches. She lives in Brooklyn.



Dave Patterson is the author of the novel, *Soon the Light Will be Perfect*. He holds an MA from the Bread Loaf School of English and an MFA from the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast program. His work has appeared in *Slice Magazine*, *Salon*, *Hot Metal Bridge*, *Clare Literary Journal*, and *The Portland Press Herald*, among other publications. He was a finalist for a 2019 Maine Literary Award in fiction and is a contributing writer at *Maine Magazine* where he covers craft beer. Patterson teaches high school English in Maine and at Southern New Hampshire University's Online MFA program in Creative Writing. He lives in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, with his wife, two kids, and dog.

Sue William Silverman is the author of four memoirs: *How to Survive Death and Other Inconveniences*, published in March 2020 by University of Nebraska Press, *American Lives Series*; *The Pat Boone Fan Club: My Life as a White Anglo-Saxon Jew*, the University of Nebraska Press, *American Lives Series*; *Because I Remember Terror, Father, I Remember You*, winner of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Award Series in Creative Nonfiction. Her memoir *Love Sick: One Woman's Journey through Sexual Addiction* was also made into a Lifetime TV Original Movie. Her craft book is *Fearless Confessions: A Writer's Guide to Memoir*, and her poetry collections are *If the Girl Never Learns* and *Hieroglyphics in Neon*.



Eisner nominated cartoonist **GB Tran** is the author of the graphic memoir, *Vietnamerica*. Included by Time Entertainment on its all-time "Top 10 Graphic Memoir" list, it also earned the Society of Illustrators' gold medal for Sequential Art and the New York Foundation for the Arts' Gregory M. Nonfiction Literature Fellowship. In 2016, GB was awarded the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship, the first cartoonist to be selected since Alison Bechdel. Since self-publishing his first comic in 2003 – the Xeric awarded Content – his stories have strived to use comic's idiosyncratic language to explore memoir and multiculturalism. Visit his website: GBTran.com

In addition to cartooning, GB leads a graphic design team at the apparel company Old Navy and teaches in the California College of the Art's MFA in Comics program. The eclectic approaches and creative processes of designing, teaching, and cartooning – and being a father of two – draw from each other to create his unique work deeply rooted in emotion and story.

Gina Troisi's work has appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies, including *Fourth Genre*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Fugue*, *Under the Sun*, *Flyway: Journal of Writing and Environment*, and elsewhere. Her stories and essays have been recognized as finalists in several contests, including the 2020 *Iron Horse Literary Review* Trifecta Award in Fiction, the 2018 New Letters Publication Award in Fiction, the 2012 *Iowa Review* Award in Creative Nonfiction, the 2012 *Bellevue Literary Review* Nonfiction Prize, *Bellingham Review's* 2012 Annie Dillard Award for Creative Nonfiction, and the 2009 Eric Hoffer Award for prose. She received an Honorable Mention for *American Literary Review's* Creative Nonfiction Contest, 2018, and for Gulf Coast's 2012 Nonfiction Prize. She served as Writer-in-Residence at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Her debut memoir, *The Angle of Flickering Light*, was published by Vine Leaves Press in 2021.





Nicole Jean Turner is an artist from New England with an affinity for vignettes, napping outdoors, and conversations that confront the human condition. She is the author of the poetry collection *With Only Which She Could Carry* and works as an internal communications writer at EG America.

Adrienne S. Wallner lives and writes in the north woods of Wisconsin. Her debut poetry collection *To the 4 a.m. Light* was released in March 2021 from Finishing Line Press. Learn more about Adrienne and her work at inkinthebranches.com and on social media @inkinthebranches.



Baron Wormser is the author of nine books of poetry and a poetry chapbook. He is the co-author of two books about teaching poetry and the author of a memoir along with a book of short stories, two novels and a book of biographical essays. He is the Founding Director of the Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching in Franconia, New Hampshire and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, Bread Loaf and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. He served as poet laureate of Maine from 2000 to 2005 and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Maine at Augusta in 2005. His novel about a character based on Bob Dylan and entitled *Songs from a Voice* was published in April 2020.

Karen Romano Young is a writer, artist, deep-sea diver, polar explorer, and comics creator. The author of more than twenty books, including novels, nonfiction, and graphic novels, Karen has taken her work to the top of the world — the Arctic Ocean — and the bottom of the ocean — in a submarine. Recent work includes writing and drawing aboard an icebreaker, creating *Humanimal Doodles* — a science comic, the children's book *Doodlebug: A Novel in Doodles*, and the young reader detective novel, *A Girl, A Racoon, and the Midnight Moon*.

