

# New England Independent Booksellers Association

## The 45th Annual Fall Conference

Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence RI  
September 25-27, 2018

### Tuesday

#### Keynote Speaker

**Valerie Jarrett**, *Finding My Voice*, Viking

#### Education Sessions

#### Author Reception

Katherine Arden, Dan Barry, Marie Benedict, Lisa Brennan-Jobs, Christopher Castellani, S. A. Chakraborty, Yangsze Choo, Anika Aldamuy Denise, Sara Farizan, Kit Frick, Lisa Gardner, Bassey Ikpi, Shelley Jackson, Martha Hall Kelly, Grace Lin, Tochi Oneybuchi, Sy Montgomery, Rob Sanders, Whitney Scharer, B. A. Shapiro, Grace Talusan, Susan Verde, Yara Zgheib



### Wednesday

#### Children's Author Breakfast

**Jerry Craft**, *New Kid*, HarperCollins

**Monica Hesse**, *The War Outside*, Little, Brown and Company

**David Ezra Stein**, *Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise*, Candlewick

### Exhibit Day

#### Awards Banquet

Fiction - **Celeste Ng**, *Little Fires Everywhere*, Penguin

Non-Fiction - **John Hodgman**, *Vacationland*, Penguin

Children's (Ages Birth-11) - **Jessica Kensky**, **Patrick Downes**, ill. **Scott Magoon**, *Rescue And Jessica*, Candlewick

Young Adult - **Holly Black**, *The Cruel Prince*, Little, Brown for Young Readers

President's Award

Saul Gilman Award - **Kate Sullivan**, **Random House Children's Books**

Independent Spirit Award



### Thursday

#### Author Breakfast

**Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah**, *Friday Black*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**Jarrett J. Krosoczka**, *Hey, Kiddo*, Scholastic

**Walter Mosley**, *John Woman*, Atlantic Monthly Press

**Adriana Trigiani**, *Tony's Wife*, Harper

#### Education, Annual Meeting

#### Luncheon

**Andre Dubus III**, *Gone So Long*, WW Norton

# NEIBA 2018 Fall Conference

## Schedule of Events

### Tuesday

September 25, 2018

#### **KEYNOTE, PUBLISHER PICK-NIC, EDUCATION AND AUTHOR RECEPTION**

Conference Educational Sessions are sponsored by **Ingram Book Company and Penguin Random House**

10:00 am - 5:30 pm

#### **Registration Open**

10:00 am - 7:00 pm

#### **Exhibitor Move In**

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### **IndieCommerce**

An IndieCommerce specialist will be available to talk to both users and non-users of IndieCommerce and IndieLite and you can reserve your spot for the meeting. Walk-ins are welcome too. The link for the sign-up form is : <http://bookweb.org/indiecommerce-one-one-appointments-neiba-2018-fall-conference>

11:00 am - Noon

#### **KEYNOTE**

Advanced ticket required

**Valerie Jarrett**, *Finding My Voice*, Viking

12:15 – 2:15

#### **PUBLISHER'S PICK-NIC LUNCH**

The Rotunda

Advanced ticket required

Please join us for the two-hour, speed-dating style, sales and marketing boxed lunch. Publisher's and wholesaler's reps introduce us to the best of the fall and winter lists with a focus on regional titles and their personal picks. Essential for buyers and frontline booksellers. Please note that this year's event will feature wedding-style assigned seating at the tables so that our rep partners have the chance to present to the widest range of booksellers possible. Please look for your name and table number on the sign as you enter the Rotunda.

### **AFTERNOON EDUCATION SESSIONS**

2:30-3:45

#### **Unlocking the Marketing Power of Social Media with Sarah Benoit**

Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook are not magical portals for connecting with customers. It takes knowing who your customers are, what they want, and where they hang out online to make social media work for your store. Join Sarah Benoit, director of training and lead instructor for JB Media Institute, to learn how to amplify your business by understanding the role of social media in your marketing efforts and how to build relationships with customers by communicating with these tools. Used correctly, social media turns into advocate who runs around the world talking about how awesome you are. Who doesn't want that?

#### **NECBA Picks: The Windows & Mirrors Project**

Every child deserves to see themselves in the books they read. NECBA's Windows & Mirrors Committee proudly presents a selection of their favorite books from 2018. Highlighting titles from toddler to young adult, they will unveil and present books representing the best in children's books and diversity, and lead a discussion about steps you can take in your stores to handsell diverse titles effectively and sensitively. This session is particularly recommended for general NEIBA bookstores and booksellers who would like to learn about noteworthy children's titles to know and stock this holiday season. Handouts provided.

4:00 – 5:15

### How to be Smarter about Inventory Management

Inventory management is something we all wish would just sort of handle itself, but it takes work. And, like anything we want to be better at, from yoga poses to running that 5k, it takes consistent practice to perfect. Join buyers from large and small stores, along with a publisher rep, to learn how mastering the many moving parts of today's inventory toolkit—including using analytics for frontlist ordering, the consistent ordering of backlist direct from publishers, and strategic wholesaler deployment—can help any store's bottom line.

### Selling Outside Your Comfort Zone

Having category specialists on staff is a gift—those folks who know everything about a single section and can be relied on to put the perfect book into a customer's hands every time. But what happens on their day off? Or during a busy holiday Saturday when they're three-people deep at the information desk? Having a go-to, cross-sectional strategy for staff education can make the best use of everyone's time when you need it most. Join category-specialist booksellers and an omnibus publisher rep to learn how to train your staff to sell the whole store, make section-specific cheat-sheets, and—as an added bonus—to stock their go-to backlist recommendations (with some hot Fall 2018 frontlist thrown in for good measure).

## ABA PRESENTS

### Maximizing Pre-Order Campaigns

Pre-orders are becoming an increasingly important way in which books are sold and marketed in 2018, and indie bookstores can and should take part in this growing business. Heavily influenced by television and social media, the months before a title's publication are critical, and pre-orders are a growing component of a book's ultimate sales. By working with publishers to take full advantage of pre-order opportunities, indie bookstores can avoid lost sales, lost PR, and lost market share. In this session, ABA will discuss ways that stores can successfully promote and sell pre-orders to become an integral partner to publishers and authors. Learn about new methods developed and tested by a task force of indie stores—including processes and protocols for stores using various POS systems—that all stores can use to maximize pre-orders through marketing, tracking, and reporting. The session will include bookseller participation from the pre-order task force.

6:00 – 7:30 pm

## AUTHOR COCKTAIL RECEPTION

The Rotunda

One of the highlights of the Fall Conference, the Author Cocktail Reception winds down the day in a relaxing atmosphere where you'll have time to visit with your bookselling and publishing colleagues and introduce yourselves to 23 authors. All attendees are welcome!

**Katherine Arden**, *Small Spaces*, Penguin Young Readers  
**Dan Barry**, *This Land*, Black Dog & Leventhal  
**Marie Benedict**, *The Only Woman in the Room*, Sourcebooks Landmark  
**Lisa Brennan-Jobs**, *Small Fry*, Grove Atlantic  
**Christopher Castellani**, *Leading Men*, Viking  
**S. A. Chakraborty**, *The Kingdom of Copper*, Harper Voyager  
**Yangsze Choo**, *The Night Tiger*, Flatiron  
**Anika Aldamuy Denise**, *Planting Stories*, HarperCollins  
**Sara Farizan**, *Here to Stay*, Algonquin Young Readers  
**Lisa Gardner**, *Never Tell*, Dutton  
**Kit Frick**, *See All The Stars*, Simon & Schuster Children's  
**Bassey Ikpi**, *I'm Telling the Truth, But I'm Lying*, Harper Perennial  
**Shelley Jackson**, *Riddance*, Catapult  
**Martha Hall Kelly**, *Lost Rose*, Random House  
**Grace Lin**, *When You Grow Up To Vote*, Roaring Brook Press  
**Tochi Oneybuchi**, *Crown of Thunder*, Penguin Young Readers  
**Sy Montgomery**, *How to Be a Good Creature*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
**Rob Sanders**, *Stonewall*, Random House Books for Young Readers  
**Whitney Scharer**, *The Age Of Light*, Little, Brown and Company  
**B. A. Shapiro**, *The Collector's Apprentice*, Algonquin Books  
**Grace Talusan**, *The Body Papers*, Restless Books  
**Susan Verde**, *I Am Human*, Abrams Books for Young Readers  
**Yara Zgheib**, *The Girls at 17 Swann Street*, St. Martin's Press

**WEDNESDAY**

September 26, 2018

**CHILDREN'S AUTHOR BREAKFAST, EXHIBITS AND AWARDS BANQUET**

7:30 am - 5:30 pm

**Registration Open**

7:30 am – 10:00 am

**Exhibitor Move-in**

8:30 am – 10:00 am

**CHILDREN'S AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BREAKFAST**

**Sponsored by Bookazine**

Advance tickets required

**Jerry Craft**, *New Kid*, HarperCollins

**Monica Hesse**, *The War Outside*, Little, Brown and Company

**David Ezra Stein**, *Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise*, Candlewick

10:00 am – 4:30 pm

**Trade Show Exhibits Open**

10:00 - 4:00 pm

**Author Signings at Exhibitor Tables**

**IndieCommerce**

An IndieCommerce specialist will be available to talk to both users and non-users of IndieCommerce and IndieLite and you can reserve your spot for the meeting. Walk-ins are welcome too. The link for the sign-up form is :

<http://bookweb.org/indiecommerce-one-one-appointments-neiba-2018-fall-conference>

4:30 pm

**Trade Show Exhibit Closes**

6:00 – 9:00 pm

**AWARDS BANQUET**

Biltmore Hotel, Grand Ballroom

**Sponsored by Baker & Taylor**

Advance tickets required

An evening in celebration of New England Book Awards

**New England Book Awards:**

Fiction – **Celeste Ng**, *Little Fires Everywhere*, Penguin

Non-Fiction - **John Hodgman**, *Vacationland*, Penguin

Children's (Birth-11) - **Jessica Kensky, Patrick Downes, illust. Scott Magoon**, *Rescue And Jessica*, Candlewick

Young Adult - **Holly Black**, *The Cruel Prince*, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

President's Award

Saul Gilman Award - Kate Sullivan, Random House Children's Books

Independent Spirit Award

**THURSDAY**

September 27, 2018

**AUTHOR BREAKFAST, NEIBA ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON**

7:30 am – 1:30 pm

**Registration Open**

8:30-10:00 am

**AUTHOR BREAKFAST**

**Sponsored by HarperCollins**

Advanced ticket required

**Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah**, *Friday Black*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

**Jarrett J. Krosoczka**, *Hey, Kiddo*, Scholastic

**Walter Mosley**, *John Woman*, Atlantic Monthly Press

**Adriana Trigiani**, *Tony's Wife*, Harper

10:15 am – 11:15 am

**Bookstores and Political Activism in the Current Climate**

As a center for the exchange of ideas in every community, bookstores can serve as the perfect place for fostering political discussion and activism. But in this divided and divisive age, how do we stay true to book retail's legacy as a hub for discourse and still make all customers feel welcome? How do we express our own political beliefs—through things like events or creative displays—while making it understood to the communities we serve that there's a place for all viewpoints within our four walls? Join activist booksellers and an ABA moderator for a lively discussion on what works, what doesn't, and how we can all be better prepared for how to position our stores during this nutty time (and beyond).

**Creative Event Marketing:**

**Thinking outside the box to book the events you want, and increase attendance at the events you have**

For many stores, events are the backbone of the business plan. But like nearly every piece of that plan, a store's orientation toward events needs constant innovation. Are you striking out with publishers, from the Edelweiss grid to the offices of the publicist? Are you underwhelmed by the attendance when you do hold an event? Why are stores your size in other places seemingly hitting it out of the park with events and you're still struggling? Join NEIBA President Laura Cummings moderating a panel of innovative bookstores from stores large and small, urban and rural, to talk event creativity—from reading series' to in-conversation-with events, from putting a dollar value on the entertainment you're providing, to the big existential question: to bundle, or not to bundle. Our panel is here to help you work with what you have to get what you want out of your events.

**The Secrets of Storytime with Megan Dowd Lambert**

Want to start a storytime at your store? Or incorporate fresh ideas into your existing program? This session will offer you the tools you need to create engaging, welcoming storytimes. Join noted scholar, author, and storytime pioneer Megan Dowd Lambert, and a panel of booksellers who are currently winning at their own storytime sessions, to learn how the Whole Book Approach and sensory storytimes can make your events more inclusive for the children in your community. We'll also discuss strategies for organizing and promoting your storytimes, choosing titles, and incorporating music and movement.

**Swipe Right for Romance:**

**Creative Strategies for Selling this Hot Category with author and activist Sarah MacLean**

The Romance genre has shed its lightweight past and claimed a rightful place at the nexus of gender and cultural studies. Today's writers have taken the category to an edgier, more inclusive place that has expanded the audience. Also: it's really, really fun to read (and sell). Join author and activist Sarah MacLean, alongside a panel of booksellers who have built successful Romance sections, to learn why this category is seeing a renaissance at retail, who comprises the customer base, and how your store can get in on the action.

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

**NEIBA Annual Meeting**

12:30 – 2:00 pm

**AUTHOR LUNCHEON**

**Sponsored by W.W. Norton**

Advanced ticket required

**Andre Dubus III**

*Gone So Long*, WW Norton

**\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\***

**Please note** that NEIBA will no longer issue credit for unused meal tickets. Because these meals usually sell out, and there are always booksellers looking to attend who don't have tickets, we're going to use the Bookseller Facebook Forum as a have-a-ticket/need-a-ticket swap space. If you buy a ticket that you ultimately don't need, please notify the group on Facebook to seek a buyer/taker. And if you aren't a member of the Facebook Forum, please email [beth@neba.org](mailto:beth@neba.org) your Facebook-associated email address so we can rectify that situation immediately (you're missing all the fun!)

**No Carts**

No carts, luggage on wheels or empty strollers or carriages are allowed in the Exhibit Ballroom during regular exhibit hours.

If you have a legitimate medical reason to need a cart, please email the NEIBA office at [nan@neba.org](mailto:nan@neba.org) before the show to obtain permission.

\*\*\*\*\*

**No Audible Cell Phones, Please!**

For all NEIBA programming, breakfasts, dinner, workshops, the NEIBA Board of Directors asks that audible cell phones be turned off.

\*\*\*\*\*

Attendees are reminded of NEIBA's "Do Not Take, Please Ask" policy. Do not remove galleys or books from exhibitor tables without permission – they may be the only copy at the show. Please report any violations of this policy to Convention Center Security or Executive Director Beth Ineson.

**WHERE TO STAY**

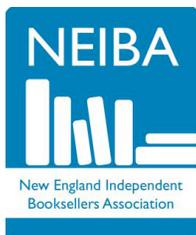
NEIBA has reserved a block of rooms at two Providence hotels:

NEIBA has reserved a block of rooms at two Providence hotels: **The Omni** at One Exchange Street, Providence, RI 02903 (800) 843-6664. Room rates at the Omni are \$199 per night. The **Providence Biltmore** at 11 Dorrance Street, Providence RI 02903. (401) 421-0700. The room rates at the Biltmore are \$183 per night. Rates reflect single, double or junior suite occupancy, plus tax. Hourly and overnight parking is available at both hotels at their published rates.

**You must reference NEIBA when making your reservation to receive the group rate!**

All reservations must be guaranteed with a one-night room deposit by remitting a check or a major credit card number and expiration date. If a reservation is cancelled, one night's room and tax will be forfeited.

**Deadline for room reservations is Tuesday September 4, 2018**



**New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA)**  
1955 Massachusetts Avenue, #2  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
617-547-3642; Fax 617-547-3759  
[www.newenglandbooks.org](http://www.newenglandbooks.org)

## About the Books at Author Events

### Tuesday Keynote Luncheon

**Valerie Jarrett**, *Finding My Voice*, Viking

When Valerie Jarrett interviewed a promising young lawyer named Michelle Robinson in July 1991 for a job in Chicago city government, neither knew that it was the first step on a path that would end in the White House. Jarrett soon became Michelle and Barack Obama's trusted personal advisor and family confidante; in the White House, she was known as the one who "got" him and helped him engage his public life. Jarrett joined the White House team on January 20, 2009 and departed with the First Family on January 20, 2017, and she was in the room—in the Oval Office, on Air Force One, and everywhere else—when it all happened. No one has as intimate view, nor one that reaches back as many decades, of the Obama years, as Jarrett shares in *Finding My Voice*.

Born in Iran (where her father, a doctor, sought a better job than he could find in segregated America), Jarrett grew up in Chicago in the 60s as racial and gender barriers were being challenged. A single mother stagnating in corporate law, she found her voice in Harold Washington's historic administration, where she began a remarkable journey, ultimately becoming one of the most visible and influential African-American women of the 21st century.

Valerie Jarrett was the longest serving Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama. She oversaw the Offices of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs and Chaired the White House Council on Women and Girls. Before joining the White House, she served as the Chief Executive Officer of The Habitat Company in Chicago, Chairman of the Chicago Transit Board, Commissioner of Planning and Development, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. Jarrett has received numerous awards and honorary degrees, including TIME's "100 Most Influential People." She received her B.A. from Stanford University in 1978 and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1981. She is currently a senior advisor to the Obama Foundation and Attn and a Senior Distinguished Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School.

### Tuesday Author Reception

**Katherine Arden**, *Small Spaces*, Penguin Young Readers

After suffering a tragic loss, eleven-year-old Ollie only finds solace in books. So when she happens upon a crazed woman at the river threatening to throw a book into the water, Ollie doesn't think—she just acts, stealing the book and running away. As she begins to read the slender volume, Ollie discovers a chilling story about a girl named Beth, the two brothers who both loved her, and a peculiar deal made with "the smiling man," a sinister specter who grants your most tightly held wish, but only for the ultimate price.

Ollie is captivated by the tale until her school trip the next day to Smoke Hollow, a local farm with a haunting history all its own. There she stumbles upon the graves of the very people she's been reading about. Could it be the story about the smiling man is true? Ollie doesn't have too long to think about the answer to that. On the way home, the school bus breaks down, sending their teacher back to the farm for help. But the strange bus driver has some advice for the kids left behind in his care: "Best get moving. At nightfall they'll come for the rest of you." Nightfall is, indeed, fast descending when Ollie's previously broken digital wristwatch, a keepsake reminder of better times, begins a startling countdown and delivers a terrifying message: RUN.

Only Ollie and two of her classmates heed the bus driver's warning. As the trio head out into the woods—bordered by a field of scarecrows that seem to be watching them—the bus driver has just one final piece of advice for Ollie and her friends: "Avoid large places. Keep to small."

And with that, a deliciously creepy and hair-raising adventure begins.

Born in Austin, Texas, Katherine Arden spent a year of high school in Rennes, France. Following her acceptance to Middlebury College in Vermont, she deferred enrollment for a year in order to live and study in Moscow. At Middlebury, she specialized in French and Russian literature. After receiving her BA, she moved to Maui, Hawaii, working every kind of odd job imaginable, from grant writing and making crêpes to guiding horse trips. Currently she lives in Vermont.

### **Dan Barry**, *This Land*, Black Dog & Leventhal

A landmark collection by *New York Times* journalist Dan Barry, selected from a decade of his distinctive "This Land" columns and presenting a powerful but rarely seen portrait of America.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina and on the eve of a national recession, *New York Times* writer Dan Barry launched a column about America: not the one populated only by cable-news pundits, but the America defined and redefined by those who clean the hotel rooms, tend the beet fields, endure disasters both natural and manmade. As the name of the president changed from Bush to Obama to Trump, Barry was crisscrossing the country, filing deeply moving stories from the tiniest dot on the American map to the city that calls itself the Capital of the World.

Complemented by the select images of award-winning *Times* photographers, these narrative and visual snapshots of American life create a majestic tapestry of our shared experience, capturing how our nation is at once flawed and exceptional, paralyzed and ascendant, as cruel and violent as it can be gentle and benevolent.

Dan Barry is a journalist and author of *The Boys In The Bunkhouse* and *Bottom Of The 33Rd*. Among his many journalistic honors are a share of a Pulitzer Prize; a George Polk Award; an American Society of Newspaper Editors Award for deadline reporting (for coverage of the first anniversary of 9/11); a Mike Berger Award for in-depth human interest reporting; and the PEN/ESPN Literary Award for Sports Writing. He lives with his family in Maplewood, N.J.

### **Marie Benedict**, *The Only Woman in the Room*, Sourcebooks Landmark

She was beautiful. She was a genius. Could the world handle both? A powerful, illuminating novel about Hedy Lamarr.

Hedy Kiesler is lucky. Her beauty leads to a starring role in a controversial film and marriage to a powerful Austrian arms dealer, allowing her to evade Nazi persecution despite her Jewish heritage. But Hedy is also intelligent. At lavish Vienna dinner parties, she overhears the Third Reich's plans. One night in 1937, desperate to escape her controlling husband and the rise of the Nazis, she disguises herself and flees her husband's castle.

She lands in Hollywood, where she becomes Hedy Lamarr, screen star. But Hedy is keeping a secret even more shocking than her Jewish heritage: she is a scientist. She has an idea that might help the country and that might ease her guilt for escaping alone -- if anyone will listen to her. A powerful novel based on the incredible true story of the glamour icon and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication, *The Only Woman in the Room* is a masterpiece.

Marie Benedict is a lawyer with more than ten years' experience as a litigator at two of the country's premier law firms. She is also the author of *The Other Einstein* and *Carnegie's Maid*. She lives in Pittsburgh with her family.

### **Lisa Brennan-Jobs**, *Small Fry*, Grove Atlantic

A frank, smart and captivating memoir by the daughter of Apple founder Steve Jobs.

Born on a farm and named in a field by her parents—artist Chrisann Brennan and Steve Jobs—Lisa Brennan-Jobs's childhood unfolded in a rapidly changing Silicon Valley. When she was young, Lisa's father was a mythical figure who was rarely present in her life. As she grew older, her father took an interest in her, ushering her into a new world of mansions, vacations, and private schools. His attention was thrilling, but he could also be cold, critical and unpredictable. When her relationship with her mother grew strained in high school, Lisa decided to move in with her father, hoping he'd become the parent she'd always wanted him to be.

*Small Fry* is Lisa Brennan-Jobs's poignant story of childhood and growing up. Scrappy, wise, and funny, young Lisa is an unforgettable guide, marveling at the particular magic of growing up in this family, in this place and time, while grappling with her feelings of illegitimacy and shame. Part portrait of a complex family, part love letter to California in the seventies and eighties, *Small Fry* is an enthralling story by an insightful new literary voice.

Lisa Brennan-Jobs lives in Brooklyn. *Small Fry* is her first book.

### **Christopher Castellani**, *Leading Men*, Viking

An expansive yet intimate story of desire, artistic ambition, and fidelity, set in the glamorous literary and film circles of 1950s Italy.

In July of 1953, at a glittering party thrown by Truman Capote in Portofino, Italy, Tennessee Williams and his longtime lover Frank Merlo meet Anja Blomgren, a mysteriously taciturn young Swedish beauty and aspiring actress. Their encounter will go on to alter all of their lives. Ten years later, Frank revisits the tempestuous events of that fateful summer from his deathbed in Manhattan, where he waits anxiously for Tennessee to visit him one final time. Anja, now legend-

ary film icon Anja Bloom, lives as a recluse in the present-day U.S., until a young man connected to the events of 1953 lures her reluctantly back into the spotlight after he discovers she possesses the only surviving copy of Williams's final play. What keeps two people together and what breaks them apart? Can we save someone else if we can't save ourselves? Like *The Master* and *The Hours*, *Leading Men* seamlessly weaves fact and fiction to navigate the tensions between public figures and their private lives. In an ultimately heartbreaking story about the burdens of fame and the complex negotiations of life in the shadows of greatness,

Christopher Castellani is the author of three previous novels (the trilogy *A Kiss from Maddalena*, *The Saint of Lost Things*, and *All This Talk of Love*) and *The Art of Perspective*, a book of essays on the craft of fiction. He is the son of Italian immigrants, a Guggenheim fellow, and the artistic director of GrubStreet, one of the country's leading creative writing centers. He lives in Boston.

### **S.A.Chakraborty**, *The Kingdom of Copper*, Harper Voyager

S. A. Chakraborty continues the sweeping adventure begun in *The City of Brass*—"the best adult fantasy I've read since *The Name of the Wind*" (#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Sabaa Tahir)—conjuring a world where djinn summon flames with the snap of a finger and waters run deep with old magic; where blood can be dangerous as any spell, and a clever con artist from Cairo will alter the fate of a kingdom.

Nahri's life changed forever the moment she accidentally summoned Dara, a formidable, mysterious djinn, during one of her schemes. Whisked from her home in Cairo, she was thrust into the dazzling royal court of Daevabad—and quickly discovered she would need all her grifter instincts to survive there.

Now, with Daevabad entrenched in the dark aftermath of the battle that saw Dara slain at Prince Ali's hand, Nahri must forge a new path for herself, without the protection of the guardian who stole her heart or the counsel of the prince she considered a friend. But even as she embraces her heritage and the power it holds, she knows she's been trapped in a gilded cage by a king who rules from the throne that once belonged to her family—and one misstep will doom her tribe.

Meanwhile, Ali has been exiled for daring to defy his father. Hunted by assassins, adrift in his ancestral land, he is forced to rely on the frightening abilities the marid—the unpredictable water spirits—have gifted him. But in doing so, he threatens to unearth a terrible secret his family has long kept buried.

And as a new century approaches and the djinn gather in Daevabad for celebrations, a threat brews unseen in the desolate northern borderlands. It's a force that would bring a storm straight to the city's enchanted gates . . . and one that seeks the aid of a warrior trapped between worlds, torn between a violent duty he can never escape and a peace he fears he will never deserve.

S. A. Chakraborty is a speculative fiction writer from New York City. Her debut, *The City of Brass*, was the first book in the Daevabad trilogy and was shortlisted for a Locus Award.

### **Yangsze Choo**, *The Night Tiger*, Flatiron

From *New York Times* bestselling author Yangsze Choo, an utterly transporting novel set in 1930s colonial Malaysia, perfect for fans of Isabel Allende and Min Jin Lee.

Smart, vivacious Ji Lin is stuck as an apprentice dressmaker, moonlighting as a dancehall girl to help pay off her mother's Mahjong debts. But when one of her dance partners accidentally leaves behind a gruesome souvenir, Ji Lin may finally get the adventure she has been hoping for.

Across town, 11-year-old houseboy Ren is on a mission of his own, racing to fulfill his former master's dying wish: that Ren find the man's severed finger, lost years ago in an accident, and bury it with his body. Ren has 49 days to do so, or his master's soul will wander the earth forever.

As the days tick by, a series of unexplained deaths wreak havoc on the town, along with whispers of men who turn into tigers. Ji Lin and Ren are pulled together in ways they couldn't have imagined, as their increasingly dangerous paths lead them from lush plantations, to hospital storage rooms, to a ghostly dreamscape.

*The Night Tiger* draws us into a world of servants and masters, ancient superstition and modern ambition, sibling rivalry and forbidden love. But anchoring this dazzlingly ambitious, propulsive novel is the intimate coming of age of a boy and a girl, each searching for their place in a society that would rather they stay invisible.

Yangsze Choo is a fourth-generation Malaysian of Chinese descent. After graduating from Harvard University, she worked in various corporate jobs before publishing her first novel, *The Ghost Bride*, a *New York Times* bestseller. She

lives in California with her husband and children.

**Anika Aldamuy Denise**, *Planting Stories*, HarperCollins

Celebrate the power of storytelling in this gorgeous and lyrical picture book biography of Pura Belpré, the first Puerto Rican librarian in New York City.

When she came to America in 1921, Pura Belpré carried the cuentos folklóricos of her Puerto Rican homeland. Finding a new home at the New York Public Library as a bilingual assistant, she turned her popular stories into libros and spread story seeds across the land. Today, these seeds have grown into a lush landscape as generations of children and cuentistas continue to share her stories and celebrate Pura's legacy.

Brought to colorful life with Paola Escobar's fresh, exuberant, and elegant illustrations and Anika Aldamuy Denise's lyrical text, this portrait of the influential librarian, author, and puppeteer reminds us of the power of storytelling and the extraordinary woman who opened doors and championed bilingual literature. Includes an author's note that gives context to Pura's achievements, which forever influenced educators' roles as teachers, storytellers, and active members of the community. There's also a selected bibliography, further reading, and more.

Anika Aldamuy Denise first heard the stories of Pura Belpré from her titi Rose, who, like Pura's family, enjoyed sharing the treasured folklore of Puerto Rico. Today, Anika is the celebrated author of several picture books, including *Starring Carmen!*; *Lights, Camera, Carmen!*; and *Monster Trucks*. She lives with her husband and three daughters in Rhode Island. Visit her online at [www.anikadenise.com](http://www.anikadenise.com).

**Sara Farizan**, *Here to Stay*, Algonquin Young Readers

A powerful novel about fighting bullying and Islamophobia and finding your voice—told with humor and heart by the award-winning author of *If You Could Be Mine*.

For most of high school, Bijan Majidi has flown under the radar. He gets good grades, reads comics, hangs out with his best friend, Sean, and secretly crushes on Elle, one of the most popular girls in his school. When he's called off the basketball team's varsity bench and makes the winning basket in a playoff game, everything changes in an instant.

But not everyone is happy that Bijan is the man of the hour: an anonymous cyberbully sends the entire school a picture of Bijan photoshopped to look like a terrorist. His mother is horrified, and the school administration is outraged. They promise to find and punish the culprit. All Bijan wants is to pretend it never happened and move on, but the incident isn't so easily erased. Though many of his classmates rally behind Bijan, some don't want him or his type to be a part of their school. And Bijan's finding out it's not always easy to tell your enemies from your friends . . .

Sara Farizan, the daughter of Iranian immigrants, was born in Massachusetts. She is an MFA graduate of Lesley University and holds a BA in film and media studies from American University. Sara grew up feeling different in her private high school, not only because of her ethnicity, but also because of her liking girls romantically, her lack of excitement in science and math, and her love of writing plays and short stories. So she came out of the closet in college, realized math and science weren't so bad (but were not for her), and decided she wanted to be a writer. Sara has been a Hollywood intern, a waitress, a comic book/record store employee, an art magazine blogger, a marketing temp, and an after-school teacher, but above all else she has always been a writer. Sara lives near Boston, loves Kurosawa films, eighties R&B, and graphic novels, and thinks all kids are awesome. She is the acclaimed author of *If You Could Be Mine* and *Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel*.

**Kit Frick**, *See All The Stars*, Simon & Schuster Children's

*We Were Liars* meets *Goodbye Days* in this thrilling debut novel that sweeps readers away as they try to solve the mystery of what happened then to make Ellory so broken now.

It's hard to find the truth beneath the lies you tell yourself.

Then: They were four—Bex, Jenni, Ellory, Ret. (Venus. Earth. Moon. Sun.) Electric, headstrong young women; Ellory's whole solar system.

Now: Ellory is alone, her once inseparable group of friends torn apart by secrets, deception, and a shocking incident that changed their lives forever.

Then: Lazy summer days. A party. A beautiful boy. Ellory met Matthias and fell into the beginning of a spectacular, bright love.

Now: Ellory returns to Pine Brook to navigate senior year after a two-month suspension and summer away—no boyfriend, no friends. No going back. Tormented by some and sought out by others, troubled by a mysterious note-writer who won't let Ellory forget, and consumed by guilt over her not entirely innocent role in everything and everyone she's lost, Ellory finds that even in the present, the past is everywhere.

The path forward isn't a straight line. And moving on will mean sorting the truth from the lies—the lies Ellory has been telling herself.

Kit Frick is a novelist, poet, and MacDowell Colony fellow. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, she studied creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College and received her MFA from Syracuse University. When she isn't putting complicated characters in impossible situations, Kit edits poetry and literary fiction for a small press, edits for private clients, and mentors emerging writers through Pitch Wars. See *All the Stars* is her first novel. Visit Kit online at KitFrick.com.

**Lisa Gardner**, *Never Tell*, Dutton

A man is dead, shot three times in his home office. But his computer has been shot twelve times, and when the cops arrive, his pregnant wife is holding the gun.

D.D. Warren arrives on the scene and recognizes the woman—Evie Carter—from a case many years back. Evie's father was killed in a shooting that was ruled an accident. But for D.D., two coincidental murders is too many.

Flora Dane sees the murder of Conrad Carter on the TV news and immediately knows his face. She remembers a night when she was still a victim—a hostage—and her captor knew this man. Overcome with guilt that she never tracked him down, Flora is now determined to learn the truth of Conrad's murder.

But D.D. and Flora are about to discover that in this case the truth is a devilishly elusive thing. As layer by layer they peel away the half-truths and outright lies, they wonder: How many secrets can one family have?

Lisa Gardner is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty novels, including *Look for Me*, *Right Behind You*, *Find Her*, *Crash & Burn*, *Fear Nothing*, *Touch & Go*, *Catch Me*, and *The Neighbor*, which won the International Thriller of the Year Award. She lives with her family in New England.

**Bassey Ikpi**, *I'm Telling the Truth, But I'm Lying*, Harper Perennial

A deeply personal collection of essays exploring Nigerian-American author Bassey Ikpi's experiences navigating Bipolar II and anxiety throughout the course of her life.

Bassey Ikpi was born in Nigeria in 1976. Four years later, she and her mother joined her father in Stillwater, Oklahoma—a move that would be anxiety ridden for any child, but especially for Bassey. Her early years in America would come to be defined by tension: an assimilation further complicated by bipolar II and anxiety that would go undiagnosed for decades.

By the time she was in her early twenties, Bassey was a spoken word artist and traveling with HBO's Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam, channeling her experiences into art. But something wasn't right—beneath the façade of the confident performer, Bassey's mental health was in a precipitous decline, culminating in a breakdown that resulted in hospitalization and a diagnosis of Bipolar II.

Determined to learn from her experiences—and share them with others—Bassey became a mental health advocate and has spent the fourteen years since her diagnosis examining the ways mental health is inextricably intertwined with every facet of ourselves and our lives. Viscerally raw and honest, the result is an exploration of the stories we tell ourselves to make sense of who we are—and the ways, as honest as we try to be, each of these stories can also be a lie.

Bassey (BAH-SS-ee) Ikpi is an American-Nigerian writer and mental health advocate. She appeared on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam" and joined the touring company for their Tony Award-winning Broadway show. Appearing on stages across the globe as both a public speaker and TV personality, Bassey has also added contributor editor for Catapult to her growing credentials. An active voice in the mental health community and a pop culture connoisseur, her essays on both topics can be found on platforms including *The Root*, *Ebony* and *The Africa Report*. Bassey's essay, *Just To Get By*, appears in the anthology for Temple University Press, *Who Will Speak For America*. Bassey is the founder of The Siwe Project, a mental health organization whose mission is to spread mental health awareness in the global Black community. She is also the creator of #NoShameDay, an initiative that normalizes conversations surrounding mental health in order to reduce stigma.

**Shelley Jackson**, *Riddance*, Catapult

In *Riddance*; or, *The Sybil Joines Vocational School for Ghost Speakers & Hearing-Mouth Children*, children with speech impediments attend a school in Massachusetts to learn how to channel the dead. Written in the form of transcripts, found documents, and archival material, the novel is a disquieting supernatural investigation into life

after death, and marks the much-anticipated return of a brilliant writer.

"Shelley Jackson is a writer of such extraordinary, uncanny power that the hair on the back of my neck stands up when I encounter her work. What an exhilarating, prickling, blistering book *Riddance* is! I made myself read it as slowly as possible in order to stay in as long as I could." —Kelly Link, author of *Get in Trouble: Stories*, finalist for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction

Eleven-year-old Jane Grandison, tormented by her stutter, sits in the back seat of a car, letter in hand inviting her to live and study at the Sybil Joines Vocational School for Ghost Speakers & Hearing-Mouth Children. Founded in 1890 by Headmistress Sybil Joines, the school—at first glance—is a sanctuary for children seeking to cure their speech impediments. Inspired by her haunted and tragic childhood, the Headmistress has other ideas.

Pioneering the field of necrophysics, the Headmistress harnesses the "gift" she and her students possess. Through their stutters, together they have the ability to channel ghostly voices communicating from the land of the dead, a realm the Headmistress herself visits at will. Things change for the school and the Headmistress when a student disappears, attracting attention from parents and police alike.

Set in the overlapping worlds of the living and the dead, Shelley Jackson's *Riddance* is an illuminated novel told through theoretical writings in necrophysics, the Headmistress's dispatches from the land of the dead, and Jane's evolving life as Joines's new stenographer and central figure in the Vocational School's mysterious present, as well as its future.

Shelley Jackson is the author of the short story collection *The Melancholy of Anatomy*, the novels *Half Life* and *Patchwork Girl*, several children's books, and "Skin," a story published in tattoos on more than 2,000 volunteers. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, and teaches in the graduate writing program at The New School.

### **Martha Hall Kelly**, *Lost Rose*, Random House

From the author of her bestselling phenomenon *Lilac Girls*, a new novel about the Russian Revolution that interweaves the incredible voices of three distinctive women—one from New York society, another a Russian countess, and a tarot card reader's daughter with ties to the Bolsheviks.

Long Island, 1914. Eliza Woolsey Mitchell Ferriday invites her friend Sofya Streshnayva, a cousin to the Russian Imperial family, to a party at a mansion on Gin Lane, the premier street in the Hamptons. Tensions are brewing in Russia, but Sofya excitedly asks Eliza to return home to St. Petersburg with her.

Soon after Eliza arrives in Russia and experiences the grandeur of the Tsar's rule, Austria declares war on Serbia, and the Imperial dynasty starts to fall. While Eliza escapes in time to return home safely, Sofya's family is forced to flee to their country home in Malinov, seeking refuge from thieves and dissenting soldiers. In desperate need for domestic help, they hire the local fortuneteller's daughter, Varinka, unknowingly allowing intense danger into their home...

Back in New York, Eliza and her teenage daughter Caroline (who would go on to be the heroine of *Lilac Girls*), face a personal tragedy that nearly shatters them. And when word arrives that Sofya's life—and the lives of many of her friends and family—are in peril, a chain reaction is set in motion that will link these three women's lives together in the most surprising and devastating of ways.

Martha Hall Kelly is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lilac Girls*. She lives in Connecticut, and spends her days traveling to visit Civil War battlefields and writing her next prequel to *Lilac Girls*, set during the Battle of Gettysburg. *Lost Roses* is her second novel.

### **Grace Lin**, *When You Grow Up To Vote*, Roaring Brook Press

Eleanor Roosevelt's book on citizenship for young people now revised and updated for a contemporary audience.

In the voice of one of the most iconic and beloved political figures of the twentieth century comes a book on citizenship for the future voters of the twenty-first century. Eleanor Roosevelt published the original edition of *When You Grow Up to Vote* in 1932, the same year her husband was elected president. The new edition has updated information and back matter as well as fresh, bold art from award-winning artist Grace Lin. Beginning with government workers like, firefighters and garbage collectors, and moving up through local government to the national stage, this book explains that the people in government work the voter.

Fresh, contemporary, and even fun, *When You Grow Up to Vote* is the book parents and teachers need to talk to

---

children about how our government is designed to work.

Grace Lin is a *New York Times*–bestselling author and illustrator. She was recognized at the White House as a Champion of Change for Asian American and Pacific Islander Art and Storytelling. She lives in Florence, MA.

**Tochi Onyebuchi**, *Crown of Thunder*, Penguin Young Readers

In the sequel to the acclaimed *Beasts Made of Night*, Taj has escaped Kos, but Queen Karima will go to any means necessary—including using the most deadly magic—to track him down.

Taj is headed west, but the consequences of leaving Kos behind confront him at every turn. Innocent civilians flee to refugee camps as Karima's dark magic continues to descend on the city. Taj must return, but first he needs a plan.

With Arzu's help, Taj and Aliya make it to the village of her ancestors, home of the *tastahlik*—sin-eaters with Taj's same ability to both battle and call forth sins. As Taj comes to terms with his new magic, he realizes there are two very different groups of *tastahlik*—one using their powers for good, the other for more selfish ends.

Aliya is struggling with her own unique capabilities. She's immersed in her work to uncover the secret to Karima's magic, but her health begins to mysteriously deteriorate. With the help of a local western mage, Aliya uncovers her true destiny—a future she's not sure she wants.

As Taj and Aliya explore their feelings for each other and Arzu connects with her homeland, the local westerners begin to question Taj's true identity. Karima is on his heels, sending dark warnings to the little village where he's hiding. Taj will have to go back and face her before she sends her mostly deadly weapon—Taj's former best friend, Bo.

Tochi Onyebuchi holds a B.A. from Yale, an MFA in Screenwriting from Tisch, a Masters degree in Global Economic Law from L'institut d'études politiques, and a J.D. from Columbia Law School. His writing has appeared in Asimov's and *Ideomancer*, among other places. Tochi resides in Connecticut where he works in the tech industry.

**Sy Montgomery**, *How to Be a Good Creature*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

National Book Award finalist Sy Montgomery reflects on the personalities and quirks of 13 animals—her friends—who have profoundly affected her in this stunning, poetic, and life-affirming memoir featuring illustrations by Rebecca Green.

Understanding someone who belongs to another species can be transformative. No one knows this better than author, naturalist, and adventurer Sy Montgomery. To research her books, Sy has traveled the world and encountered some of the planet's rarest and most beautiful animals. From tarantulas to tigers, Sy's life continually intersects with and is informed by the creatures she meets.

This restorative memoir reflects on the personalities and quirks of thirteen animals—Sy's friends—and the truths revealed by their grace. It also explores vast themes: the otherness and sameness of people and animals; the various ways we learn to love and become empathetic; how we find our passion; how we create our families; coping with loss and despair; gratitude; forgiveness; and most of all, how to be a good creature in the world.

Researching films, articles, and 22 books, Sy Montgomery has hiked the Altai Mountains of Mongolia looking for snow leopards, tracked tree kangaroos in Papua New Guinea, and more. A National Book Award finalist, she has also been honored with a Sibert Medal, two Science Book and Film prizes from the National Association for the Advancement of Science, three honorary degrees, and many other awards. She lives in Hancock, NH.

**Rob Sanders**, *Stonewall*, Random House Books for Young Readers

Celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising with the very first picture book to tell of its historic and inspiring role in the gay civil rights movement.

From Rob Sanders, author of the acclaimed *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*, comes this powerful and timeless true story that will allow young readers to discover the rich and dynamic history of the Stonewall Inn and its role in the gay civil rights movement—a movement that continues to this very day. In the early-morning hours of June 28, 1969, the Stonewall Inn was raided by police in New York City. Though the inn had been raided before, that night would be different. It would be the night when empowered members of the LGBTQ+ community—in and around the Stonewall Inn—began to protest and demand their equal rights as citizens of the United States. Movingly narrated by the Stonewall Inn itself, and featuring stirring and dynamic illustrations, *Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution* is an essential and empowering civil rights story that every child deserves to hear.

Rob Sanders is a writer who teaches and a teacher who writes. He is the author of Crystal Kite Award Winner *Outer Space Bedtime Race*, *Cowboy Christmas*, *Ruby Rose: Off to School She Goes!*, *Ruby Rose: Big Bravos!*, *Rodzilla*, and *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*. Rob lives in Florida, where he teaches elementary school. Visit him at [robsanderswrites.com](http://robsanderswrites.com).

**Whitney Scharer**, *The Age Of Light*, Little, Brown and Company

A sweeping debut set in Paris in the 1930's about the love story between *Vogue* model turned photographer Lee Miller and the artist Man Ray.

"I'd rather take a picture than be one," says Lee Miller, after she arrives in Paris in 1929. Gorgeous and talented, Lee has left behind a successful modeling career to pursue her dream of being an artist. She catches the eye of renowned artist Man Ray, and though he wants to use her only as a model, Lee convinces him to teach her photography as well. Man is an egotistical, charismatic force, and soon their personal and professional lives become intimately entwined.

Their romance unfolds against the backdrop of bohemian Paris, with nights spent at smoky cabarets, opium dens, and Surrealist parties, and days spent working together to discover radical new photography techniques. But as Lee begins to assert herself, and moves from being a muse to an artist, Man's jealousy spirals out of control, and soon their mutual betrayals threaten to destroy them both.

Told in interweaving timelines of 1930s Paris and war-torn Europe during WWII, this richly detailed, sensuous, and captivating debut by Whitney Scharer brings Lee Miller-- a brilliant and pioneering artist in her own right--out of the shadows of a man's legacy and into the light.

Whitney Scharer earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Washington, and her short fiction has appeared in the *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Cimarron Review*, and other journals. She's received an Emerging Artist Award in Literature from the St. Botolph Club Foundation, a Somerville Arts Council Artists grant, and been awarded a residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. *The Age of Light* is her first novel.

**B.A. Shapiro**, *The Collector's Apprentice*, Algonquin Books

It's the summer of 1922, and nineteen-year-old Paulien Mertens finds herself in Paris—broke, disowned, and completely alone. Everyone in Belgium, including her own family, believes she stole millions in a sophisticated con game perpetrated by her then-fiancé, George Everard. To protect herself from the law and the wrath of those who lost everything, she creates a new identity, a Frenchwoman named Vivienne Gregsby, and sets out to recover her father's art collection, prove her innocence—and exact revenge on George.

When the eccentric and wealthy American art collector Edwin Bradley offers Vivienne the perfect job, she is soon caught up in the Parisian world of post-Impressionists and expatriates—including Gertrude Stein and Henri Matisse, with whom Vivienne becomes romantically entwined. As she travels between Paris and Philadelphia, where Bradley is building an art museum, her life becomes even more complicated: George returns with unclear motives . . . and then Vivienne is arrested for Bradley's murder.

B. A. Shapiro is the author of the award-winning *New York Times* bestseller *The Art Forger* and the bestseller *The Muralist*. She has taught sociology at Tufts University and creative writing at Northeastern University and lives in Boston with her husband, Dan, and their dog, Sagan. Her website is [www.bashapirobooks.com](http://www.bashapirobooks.com).

**Grace Talusan**, *The Body Papers*, Restless Books

Winner of The Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing, Grace Talusan's memoir *The Body Papers* powerfully explores the fraught contours of her own life as a Filipino immigrant and survivor of cancer and sexual abuse.

With dexterous literary subtlety, debut memoirist Grace Talusan excavates a legacy of violence and abuse that, unmentionable at the time, dominated her childhood and shaped her adulthood. Throughout, she navigates the psychological stress of immigrant life in America, and lifts the heavy shroud of secrecy and silence that presses down on her community. This artfully wrought and insightful memoir recounts the mounting aggressions inflicted upon the author's body—illness, sexual abuse, and racism—that all come to bear on her ability to write, develop human connections, and survive.

Giving a voice to the Philippine diaspora, *The Body Papers* simmers beneath the surface of a New England suburb that is rife with the secret pain of immigrant children and their parents struggling to assimilate while remaining connected to their culture. Interlacing prose and visual images—such as immigration papers, cancer test results, and legal certificates—*The Body Papers* maps an associative path to the epicenters of reverberating injury, investigates the

myriad ways in which trauma can render one invisible, and throughout shines with hope and breathtaking resilience.

Grace Talusan is a writer and writing teacher. As a child, she immigrated to the United States from the Philippines with her parents. She has published essays, longform journalism, fiction and book reviews in *Brevity*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Boston Magazine*, *Boston Globe*, *The Rumpus*, and many others. She is the recipient of a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to the Philippines and an Artist Fellowship Award from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and has been awarded residencies to Hedgebrook, Ragdale, and the Dune Shacks in Provincetown. She is a graduate of Tufts University and the MFA Program in Writing at the University of California, Irvine. At Tufts University, she teaches in the English Department and The Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life. She is a longtime member and teacher at Grub Street, an independent creative writing center. She lives outside of Boston with her husband.

**Susan Verde**, *I Am Human*, Abrams Books for Young Readers

From the creators of the bestselling *I Am Peace* comes a hopeful celebration of empathy and family

I am human  
I am a work in progress  
Striving to be the best version of ME

From the picture book dream team behind *I Am Yoga* and *I Am Peace* comes the third book in their wellness series: *I Am Human*. A hopeful meditation on all the great (and challenging) parts of being human, *I Am Human* shows that it's okay to make mistakes while also emphasizing the power of good choices by offering a kind word or smile or by saying "I'm sorry." At its heart, this picture book is a celebration of empathy and compassion that lifts up the flawed fullness of humanity and encourages children to see themselves as part of one big imperfect family—millions strong.

Susan Verde is the author of *The Museum*, *You and Me*, *I Am Yoga*, and *My Kicks*. She is a licensed yoga instructor and lives in East Hampton, New York.

**Yara Zgheib**, *The Girls at 17 Swann Street*, St. Martin's Press

Inspired by her own experience, Yara Zgheib's poetic and poignant debut novel is a haunting portrait of a young woman's struggle with anorexia on an intimate journey to reclaim her life.

Anna Roux was a ballerina in Paris, France, married to the man of her dreams. But beauty and grace eluded her. All she saw in the mirror was imperfection. A body that was terribly overweight. Changing her diet failed to make her thinner, and a knee injury sidelined her career.

Despite a full recovery, Anna no longer dances. When her husband's job brought them to St. Louis, Missouri, she found little to occupy her days. Lonely, homesick, and despairing, her appetite dwindled until she weighed a mere eighty-eight pounds.

Now, Anna has taken up residence at 17 Swann Street, where women with life-threatening eating disorders live. Every step Anna takes towards recovery requires strength, endurance, and the support of the girls at 17 Swann Street.

Yara Zgheib is a Fulbright scholar with a Masters degree in Security Studies from Georgetown University and a PhD in International Affairs in Diplomacy from Centre D'études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques in Paris. She is fluent in English, Arabic, French, and Spanish. Yara is a writer for several US and European publications, including *The Huffington Post*, *The Four Seasons Magazine*, *A Woman's Paris*, *The Idea List*, and *Holiday Magazine*.

### Wednesday Children's Breakfast

**Jerry Craft**, *New Kid*, HarperCollins

For fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang comes this full-color, contemporary graphic novel about a twelve-year-old kid from Washington Heights who starts the seventh grade at a new posh private school, where diversity is low and expectations are high.

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan just happens to be one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

With humor, heart, and honesty, cartoonist Jerry Craft shines a spotlight on the experience of being a black student in

a predominantly white school, tackling tough topics like racism and microaggressions. This full-color graphic novel will also speak to any kid who's dealt with the challenges of middle school.

Jerry Craft is an author-illustrator who has worked on numerous books for young readers. Jerry created *Mama's Boyz*, an award-winning comic strip. He has won five African American Literary Awards and cofounded the Black Comic Book Festival. He received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts and lives in Connecticut.

### **Monica Hesse, *The War Outside*, Little, Brown and Company**

It's 1944, and World War II is raging across Europe and the Pacific. The war seemed far away from Margot in Iowa and Haruko in Colorado—until they were uprooted to dusty Texas, all because of the places their parents once called home: Germany and Japan.

Haruko and Margot meet at the high school in Crystal City, a “family internment camp” for those accused of colluding with the enemy. The teens discover that they are polar opposites in so many ways, except for one that seems to override all the others: the camp is changing them, day by day and piece by piece. Haruko finds herself consumed by fear for her soldier brother and distrust of her father, who she knows is keeping something from her. And Margot is doing everything she can to keep her family whole as her mother's health deteriorates and her rational, patriotic father becomes a man who distrusts America and fraternizes with Nazis.

With everything around them falling apart, Margot and Haruko find solace in their growing, secret friendship. But in a prison the government has deemed full of spies, can they trust anyone—even each other?

Monica Hesse is the bestselling author of *Girl in the Blue Coat* and *American Fire*, as well as a journalist with *The Washington Post*. She lives outside Washington, D.C. with her husband and their dog.

### **David Ezra Stein, *Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise*, Candlewick**

Surprise! The little red chicken is back — and as endearingly silly as ever — in David Ezra Stein's follow-up to the Caldecott Honor-winning *Interrupting Chicken*.

It's homework time for the little red chicken, who has just learned about something every good story should have: an elephant of surprise. Or could it be an element of surprise (as her amused papa explains)? As they dive in to story after story, looking for the part that makes a reader say “Whoa! I didn't know that was going to happen,” Papa is sure he can convince Chicken he's right. After all, there are definitely no elephants in “The Ugly Duckling,” “Rapunzel,” or “The Little Mermaid” — or are there? Elephant or element, something unexpected awaits Papa in every story, but a surprise may be in store for the little red chicken as well. Full of the same boisterous charm that made *Interrupting Chicken* so beloved by readers, this gleeful follow-up is sure to delight fans of stories, surprises, and elephants alike.

David Ezra Stein is the author-illustrator of many picture books, including *Interrupting Chicken*, which was awarded a Caldecott Honor, *I'm My Own Dog*, *Ice Boy*, and *Dinosaur Kisses*. He lives with his family in Kew Gardens, New York.

## **Wednesday Awards Banquet**

### **Fiction – Celeste Ng, *Little Fires Everywhere*, Penguin**

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is meticulously planned—from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principal is playing by the rules.

Enter Mia Warren— an enigmatic artist and single mother— who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenaged daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon Mia and Pearl become more than tenants: all four Richardson children are drawn to the alluring mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past, and a disregard for the rules that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When the Richardsons' friends attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town and puts Mia and Mrs. Richardson on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Mrs. Richardson becomes determined to uncover the secrets in Mia's past. But her obsession will come at unexpected and devastating costs to her own family—and Mia's.

*Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of long-held secrets and the ferocious pull of motherhood—and the danger of believing that planning and following the rules can avert disaster, or heartbreak.

Celeste Ng grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, and Shaker Heights, Ohio, in a family of scientists. She attended Harvard University and earned an MFA from the University of Michigan (now the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Mich-

igan), where she won the Hopwood Award. Her fiction and essays have appeared in *One Story*, *TriQuarterly*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *the Kenyon Review Online*, and elsewhere, and she is the recipient of the Pushcart Prize. She lives in Cambridge, MA, with her husband and son.

### **Non-Fiction - John Hodgman, *Vacationland*, Penguin**

Disarmed of falsehood, he was left only with the awful truth: John Hodgman is an older white male monster with bad facial hair, wandering like a privileged Sasquatch through three wildernesses: the hills of Western Massachusetts where he spent much of his youth; the painful beaches of Maine that want to kill him (and some day will); and the metaphoric haunted forest of middle age that connects them.

*Vacationland* collects these real life wanderings, and through them you learn of the horror of freshwater clams, the evolutionary purpose of the mustache, and which animals to keep as pets and which to kill with traps and poison. There is also some advice on how to react when the people of coastal Maine try to sacrifice you to their strange god.

Though wildly, Hodgmaniacally funny as usual, it is also a poignant and sincere account of one human facing his forties, those years when men in particular must stop pretending to be the children of bright potential they were and settle into the failing bodies of the wiser, weird dads that they are.

John Hodgman is a writer, comedian, and actor. He is the author of three *New York Times* bestselling books—*The Areas of My Expertise*, *More Information Than You Require*, and *That Is All*. After an appearance to promote his books on *The Daily Show*, he was invited to return as a contributor, serving as the show's "Resident Expert" and "Deranged Millionaire." This led to an unexpected and, frankly, implausible career in front of the camera. He has performed comedy for the president of the United States, at a TED conference, and in a crypt in Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. He is the host of the popular Judge John Hodgman podcast, in which he settles serious disputes between real people, such as "Is a hot dog a sandwich?" He also contributes a weekly column under the same name for *The New York Times Magazine*.

### **Children's (Birth-11) - Jessica Kensky, Patrick Downes, illust. Scott Magoon, *Rescue And Jessica*, Candlewick**

Based on a real-life partnership, the heartening story of the love and teamwork between a girl and her service dog will illuminate and inspire.

Rescue thought he'd grow up to be a Seeing Eye dog — it's the family business, after all. When he gets the news that he's better suited to being a service dog, he's worried that he's not up to the task. Then he meets Jessica, a girl whose life is turning out differently than the way she'd imagined it, too. Now Jessica needs Rescue by her side to help her accomplish everyday tasks. And it turns out that Rescue can help Jessica see after all: a way forward, together, one step at a time. An endnote from the authors tells more about the training and extraordinary abilities of service dogs, particularly their real-life best friend and black lab, Rescue.

Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes are a married couple who were both injured during the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. Jessica's service dog, Rescue, joined their family in 2014. Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes live in Cambridge, MA.

Scott Magoon has been designing, writing, and illustrating books for young readers since 2003. He lives in Reading, MA.

### **Young Adult - Holly Black, *Cruel Prince*, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers**

By #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Holly Black, the first book in a stunning new series about a mortal girl who finds herself caught in a web of royal faerie intrigue.

Of course I want to be like them. They're beautiful as blades forged in some divine fire. They will live forever.

And Cardan is even more beautiful than the rest. I hate him more than all the others. I hate him so much that sometimes when I look at him, I can hardly breathe.

Jude was seven years old when her parents were murdered and she and her two sisters were stolen away to live in the treacherous High Court of Faerie. Ten years later, Jude wants nothing more than to belong there, despite her mortality. But many of the fey despise humans. Especially Prince Cardan, the youngest and wickedest son of the High King.

To win a place at the Court, she must defy him--and face the consequences.

Holly Black is the bestselling author of contemporary fantasy novels, including *Tithe: A Modern Faerie Tale* and the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Spiderwick* series. She has been a finalist for the Mythopoeic Award and the Eisner Award, and the recipient of the Andre Norton Award. Holly lives in Massachusetts with her husband, Theo, in a house with a secret library.

**Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah**, *Friday Black*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

A piercingly raw debut story collection from a young writer with an explosive voice; a treacherously surreal, and, at times, heartbreakingly satirical look at what it's like to be young and black in America.

From the start of this extraordinary debut, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's writing will grab you, haunt you, enrage and invigorate you. By placing ordinary characters in extraordinary situations, Adjei-Brenyah reveals the violence, injustice, and painful absurdities that black men and women contend with every day in this country.

These stories tackle urgent instances of racism and cultural unrest, and explore the many ways we fight for humanity in an unforgiving world. In "The Finkelstein Five," Adjei-Brenyah gives us an unforgettable reckoning of the brutal prejudice of our justice system. In "Zimmer Land," we see a far-too-easy-to-believe imagining of racism as sport. And "Friday Black" and "How to Sell a Jacket as Told by Ice King" show the horrors of consumerism and the toll it takes on us all.

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah is from Spring Valley, NY. He graduated from SUNY Albany and went on to receive his MFA from Syracuse University. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in numerous publications, including *Guernica*, *Compose: A Journal of Simply Good Writing*, *Printer's Row*, *Gravel*, and *The Breakwater Review*, where he was selected by ZZ Packer as the winner of the 2nd Annual Breakwater Review Fiction Contest. *Friday Black* is his first book.

**Jarrett J. Krosoczka**, *Hey, Kiddo*, Scholastic

The powerful, unforgettable graphic memoir from Jarrett Krosoczka, about growing up with a drug-addicted mother, a missing father, and two unforgettably opinionated grandparents.

In kindergarten, Jarrett Krosoczka's teacher asks him to draw his family, with a mommy and a daddy. But Jarrett's family is much more complicated than that. His mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, and in and out of Jarrett's life. His father is a mystery -- Jarrett doesn't know where to find him, or even what his name is. Jarrett lives with his grandparents -- two very loud, very loving, very opinionated people who had thought they were through with raising children until Jarrett came along.

Jarrett goes through his childhood trying to make his non-normal life as normal as possible, finding a way to express himself through drawing even as so little is being said to him about what's going on. Only as a teenager can Jarrett begin to piece together the truth of his family, reckoning with his mother and tracking down his father.

*Hey, Kiddo* is a profoundly important memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.

Jarrett J. Krosoczka is a *New York Times* bestselling author, a two-time winner of the Children's Choice Book Award for the Third to Fourth Grade Book of the Year, an Eisner award nominee, and the author and/or illustrator of more than 30 books for young readers. His work includes several picture books, select volumes of *Star Wars: Jedi Academy*, the *Lunch Lady* graphic novels, and the *Platypus Police Squad* novel series. Jarrett has given two TED Talks, both of which have been curated to the main page of TED.com and have collectively accrued more than two million views online. He is also the host of *The Book Report with JJK* on SiriusXM's Kids Place Live, a weekly segment celebrating books, authors, and reading. Jarrett lives in Western MA with his wife and children, and their pugs, Ralph and Frank.

**Walter Mosley**, *John Woman*, Atlantic Monthly Press

From the award-winning Walter Mosley comes a dazzling novel of ideas about the sexual and intellectual coming-of-age of an unusual man who goes by the name Woman

A convention-defying novel by bestselling writer Walter Mosley, *John Woman* recounts the transformation of an unassuming boy named Cornelius Jones into John Woman, an unconventional history professor—while the legacy of a hideous crime lurks in the shadows.

At twelve years old, Cornelius, the son of an Italian-American woman and an older black man from Mississippi named Herman, secretly takes over his father's job at a silent film theater in New York's East Village. Five years later, as Herman lives out his last days, he shares his wisdom with his son, explaining that the person who controls the narrative of history controls their own fate. After his father dies and his mother disappears, Cornelius sets about reinventing himself—as Professor John Woman, a man who will spread Herman's teachings into the classrooms of his unorthodox southwestern university and beyond. But there are other individuals who are attempting to influence the narrative of John Woman, and who might know something about the facts of his hidden past.

Engaging with some of the most provocative ideas of recent intellectual history, *John Woman* is a compulsively readable, deliciously unexpected novel about the way we tell stories, and whether the stories we tell have the power to

change the world.

Walter Mosley is the author of more than fifty critically-acclaimed books, including the major bestselling mystery series featuring Easy Rawlins. His work has been translated into twenty-five languages and includes literary fiction, science fiction, political monographs, and a young adult novel. In 2013, he was inducted into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame, and he is the winner of numerous awards, including an O. Henry Award, the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award, a Grammy, and PEN America's Lifetime Achievement Award. He lives in New York City.

### **Adriana Trigiani, *Tony's Wife*, Harper**

Set in the lush Big Band era of the 1940s and World War II, this spellbinding saga from beloved *New York Times* bestselling author Adriana Trigiani tells the story of two talented working class kids who marry and become a successful singing act, until time, temptation, and the responsibilities of home and family derail their dreams

Shortly before World War II, Chi Chi Donatelli and Saverio Armandonada meet one summer on the Jersey shore and fall in love. Both are talented and ambitious, and both share the dream of becoming singers for the legendary orchestras of the time: Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman. They're soon married, and it isn't long before Chi-ara and Tony find that their careers are on the way up as they navigate the glamorous worlds of night clubs, radio, and television. All goes well until it becomes clear that they must make a choice: Which of them will put their ambitions aside to raise a family and which will pursue a career? And how will they cope with the impact that decision has on their lives and their marriage?

From the Jersey shore to Las Vegas to Hollywood, and all the dance halls in between, this multi-layered story is vivid with historical color and steeped in the popular music that serves as its score. *Tony's Wife* is a magnificent epic of life in a traditional Italian family undergoing seismic change in a fast paced, modern world. Filled with vivid, funny, and unforgettable characters, this richly human story showcases Adriana Trigiani's gifts as a storyteller and her deep understanding of family, love, and the pursuit of the American dream.

Adriana Trigiani is the bestselling author of 17 books, which have been published in 36 countries around the world. She is a playwright, television writer/producer and filmmaker. She wrote and directed the film version of her novel *Big Stone Gap*, which was shot entirely on location in her Virginia hometown. She is co-founder of the Origin Project, an in-school writing program that serves more than a thousand students in Appalachia. She lives in Greenwich Village with her family.

### **Thursday Luncheon**

#### **Andre Dubus III, *Gone So Long*, WW Norton**

Few writers can enter their characters so completely or evoke their lives as viscerally as Andre Dubus III. In this deeply compelling new novel, a father, estranged for the worst of reasons, is driven to seek out the daughter he has not seen in decades.

Daniel Ahearn lives a quiet, solitary existence in a seaside New England town. Forty years ago, following a shocking act of impulsive violence on his part, his daughter, Susan, was ripped from his arms by police. Now in her forties, Susan still suffers from the trauma of a night she doesn't remember, as she struggles to feel settled, to love a man and create something that lasts. Lois, her maternal grandmother who raised her, tries to find peace in her antique shop in a quaint Florida town but cannot escape her own anger, bitterness, and fear.

Cathartic, affirming, and steeped in the empathy and precise observations of character for which Dubus is celebrated, *Gone So Long* explores how the wounds of the past afflict the people we become, and probes the limits of recovery and absolution.

Andre Dubus III is the author of *Dirty Love*, *The Garden of Last Days*, *House of Sand and Fog* (a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, Oprah's Book Club pick, and finalist for the National Book Award), and *Townie*, winner of an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature. His writing has received many honors, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a *National Magazine Award*, and two Pushcart Prizes. He lives with his family in Newburyport, MA.