Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso served as Senior Rabbi of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis from 1977 to 2013. She currently is the director of the Religion, Spirituality and the Arts Initiative at IUPUI’s Arts and Humanities Institute. Sandy is active in the arts, civic and interfaith communities and has written and lectured on women, spirituality and the discovery of the religious imagination in children. She cofounded Women4Change Indiana in 2017.

Sandy is an author of two books for adults and sixteen award-winning children’s books, including two starred reviews from Publishers Weekly and the 2006 Best Books of Indiana Award. Four of her books are awaiting release in 2018 and 2019. She has been named a Sagamore of the Wabash and has received the Heritage Keepers Award from the Indiana State Museum and the Spirit of the Prairie Award from Conner Prairie. She received a National Jewish Book Award in 2013. She and husband Dennis.

Sandy was the first woman ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and the first to serve a Conservative congregation. She and her husband, Dennis, are the first practicing rabbinical couple in world Jewish history and were designated as Interfaith Ambassadors of the Year by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation in Indiana. They are the parents of two children, David and Debbie, and grandparents of Darwin, Ari and Levi. Visit her online at www.allaboutand.com.

**Genre:** Children’s literature, adult nonfiction  
**Target:** Adults, children (6-9)  
**Offerings:**  
- Readings and discussion of her works for adults and children  
- Retelling the Bible - writing from the questions  
- Nurturing children’s spirituality through narrative  
- Giving women names and stories
AZAREEN VAN DER VLIET OLOOMI, 2018 EMERGING AUTHOR FINALIST

Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi is the author of the critically acclaimed novels Call Me Zebra, published in the U.S. by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in February 2018 and in the U.K. by Alma Books in May 2018, and Fra Keeler, published in 2012 by Dorothy: a publishing project, and by Giulio Perrone Editore in Italy. In 2015, Azareen won a Whiting Writers’ Award and a National Book Foundation “5 Under 35” award. She is the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship, a Fellowship from the Institució de les Lletres Catalanes in Barcelona and residency fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and Ledig House. Her work has been compared to that of Vladimir Nabokov, Alfred Hitchcock and Rachel Kushner. Azareen’s work has appeared in Electric Literature, The Paris Review, GRANTA, Guernica, BOMB and the Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly Journal, among other places. Call Me Zebra is forthcoming from Paralela 45 in Romania and Paris Yayinlari in Turkey.

Azareen is an assistant professor in the English Department’s M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing at the University of Notre Dame and lives in South Bend. Visit her online at www.azareenvandervlietoloomi.com.

**Genre:** Literary fiction, noir/psychological thriller, memoir, anti-memoir, essay with particular interest on relationship between landscape and literature

**Target Audience:** Adults

**Offerings:**
- Readings and discussion of her works
- Discussion on the following topics:
  - Exile, migration, immigration, social justice, U.S.-Iran relations, multiculturalism
  - World literature with a particular emphasis on Latin American, North American, European and Middle Eastern literatures
  - Literature in translation
  - Art history
LORI RADER-DAY, 2017 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

Lori Rader-Day is a native of Boone County, Indiana, where she attended Western Boone Junior-Senior High School. She studied journalism at Ball State University and later earned an MFA degree in creative writing from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Lori’s debut novel, The Black Hour, won the Anthony Award for Best First Novel and was a finalist for the Simon and Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award. Her second novel, Little Pretty Things, won the 2016 Simon and Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award. Her third novel, The Day I Died, was a finalist for the Mary Higgins Clark, Thriller, Anthony, and Barry Awards and for the Chicago Writers Association’s Book of the Year. Her fourth novel, Under a Dark Sky, was published by Harper Collins in August.

Lori’s short fiction has appeared in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Time Out Chicago, Good Housekeeping, Crab Orchard Review, Southern Indiana Review and others. A career communications and public-relations specialist, Lori has also taught writing at the Yale University Writers’ Conference, the Midwest Writers’ Workshop, the Antioch Writers’ Workshop, Ball State University, Roosevelt University and StoryStudio Chicago.

Lori now lives with her husband and dog in Chicago, where she is highly involved with Sisters in Crime and serves as the cochair of the mystery readers’ conference Murder and Mayhem in Chicago.

Genre: Mystery/thriller, fiction
Target Audience: Adults, though teens are welcome
Offerings:
• Workshops for writers: “Taking the Mystery out of Mystery Writing,” “14 Tips for Writing Suspense,” “Writing the Amateur Sleuth,” “Liars and Thieves: Writing the Hard-to-Like Protagonist,” “Point of View as a Foundation for Fiction,” “The Art of Revision”
• Presentation on publishing: “Creating a Writing Life”
• Presentation on her path to becoming a writer
• Readings and discussion of her novels
• Other programs upon request

BRYAN FURUNESS, 2017 EMERGING AUTHOR FINALIST

Bryan Furuness has written a couple of novels (The Lost Episodes of Revie Bryson and the forthcoming Do Not Go On). His stories and essays have appeared in Ninth Letter, Sycamore Review, Southeast Review, Hobart, Nashville Review and Barrelhouse, among other venues.

Bryan is also an editor. In addition to editing for literary magazines and presses, he is the editor of several anthologies, including Winesburg, Indiana, and the forthcoming My Name was Never Frankenstein: And Other Classic Adventure Tales Remixed.
Bryan is a recipient of the Tennessee Williams Scholarship in fiction from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, a finalist for the Society of Midland Authors award and a winner of the Midwest Short Fiction contest. He holds an MFA degree from the Warren Wilson Program for Writers. He lives in Indianapolis, where he teaches writing courses at Butler University.

**Genre:** Fiction, creative nonfiction  
**Target Audience:** Middle grades, adults  
**Offerings:**  
- Workshops for writers/students: “Getting Started,” “Playing with Words,” “Mining Your Experience,” etc.  
- Talks on publishing: “Navigating the Publishing Process”  
- Presentation on his path to becoming a writer  
- Readings and discussion of his works  
- Other programs upon request

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**JOHN DAVID ANDERSON, 2017 GENRE EXCELLENCE WINNER**

John David Anderson, or Dave as he prefers to be called, is the critically acclaimed author of several books for young people, including *Ms. Bixby’s Last Day* (a *New York Times* Editors’ Choice, Young Hoosier Book, and an ALA Notable Book), *Posted*, *Sidekicked*, *The Dungeoneers* and *Standard Hero Behavior* (a Young Hoosier Book). He frequently visits and Skypes with schools across the country to talk about the forces of inspiration and imagination and the need for young readers and writers to be the heroes of their own narratives.

A graduate of both Indiana University and the University of Illinois, where he taught writing and literature for seven years, Dave is a self-proclaimed root beer connoisseur and chocolate fiend. He lives with his wife, two kids and immense Lego collection in his hometown of Indianapolis. You can learn more at www.johndavidanderson.com.

**Genre:** Realistic and fantasy fiction  
**Target Audience:** Young adult (ages 8–14); the vast majority of his speaking engagements are school visits at the upper elementary and intermediate level  
**Offerings:**  
- Readings and discussion of his works  
- Presentation on the steps he took to become a writer and what he’s learned along the way  
- Presentation on hero creation and the role of superhero myths in our culture  
- Discussion on the importance of building reading communities and creating spaces for imaginative thinking to both adult and student audiences  
- Student workshops on story building, character creation and creating a good hook
PHILIP GULLEY, 2016 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

Philip Gulley is a pastor, writer and speaker from Danville, Indiana. Many of his characters and recollections are taken from his boyhood in this small town.

Phil studied theology and sociology at Marian University and received his Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary. While pastoring in seminary, he began writing essays for his church’s newsletter. Broadcaster Paul Harvey Jr. received the newsletters and shared them with a publisher; the firm printed the essays in a collection titled Front Porch Tales, Phil’s first book in the best-selling “Porch Talk” series of inspirational and humorous essays.

An eclectic author, Phil has now written 21 books, including the acclaimed “Harmony” series, chronicling life in the eccentric Quaker community of Harmony, Indiana. His latest fictional series continues the exploits of Sam Gardner, first introduced in the “Harmony” series. The new “Hope” series includes A Place Called Hope, A Lesson in Hope and A Gathering in Hope, his most recent fictional release.

Phil has served as a Quaker pastor for 30 years, currently at Fairfield Friends Meeting in Camby, Indiana. His memoir, I Love You, Miss Huddleston: And Other Inappropriate Longings of My Indiana Childhood, was recognized as an Indiana Book of the Year and was a semifinalist for the James Thurber Prize for American Humor. He writes the popular monthly “Home Again” column for Indianapolis Monthly and is a regular contributor to The Saturday Evening Post. In 2010 Christian Theological Seminary awarded Phil an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, and in 2014 Franklin College presented him with an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in recognition of his body of work.

Genre: Fiction, fiction/inspiration, religion/spirituality, literature/inspiration
Target Audience: Adults, teens
Offerings:
• Readings and discussion of his works
• Storytelling
• Discussion about his writing background and approach to writing

SARAH GERKENSMEYER, 2016 EMERGING AUTHOR WINNER

Sarah Gerkensmeyer’s story collection, What You Are Now Enjoying, was selected by Stewart O’Nan as winner of the Autumn House Press Fiction Prize, longlisted for the Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award and chosen as winner of Late Night Library’s Debut-litzer Prize. The collection also earned her the top prize in the 2016 Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award emerging author category.

A Pushcart Prize nominee for both fiction and poetry and a finalist for the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction and the Italo Calvino Prize for Fabulist Fiction, Sarah has published stories and poetry in American Short Fiction, Guernica, The Massachusetts Review, Hayden’s Ferry Review, B O D Y, Hobart and Cream City Review, among others. Her story “Ramona” was featured in a Huffington Post piece on flash fiction and also chosen for the 2014 Best of the Net Anthology. Sarah was the 2012–13 Pen Parentis Fellow. She received her MFA degree in fiction from Cornell University and now lives with her family in Greencastle, Indiana.
Sarah has taught creative writing courses for 12 years. She presents workshops on several topics for both adults and children.

**Genre:** Fiction (short stories and novels, with a tint of fabulism/magical realism)

**Target Audience:** Her work itself is for an adult audience, but she is happy to talk about creative writing in general with any age group

**Offerings:**
- Readings and discussion of her works
- Workshops on topics such as “Writing the Unknown” (looking at slanted/skewed approaches to writing that can give fresh perspective on characters, themes, etc.), “Fairy Tale Lessons in Craft” (considering how the seemingly simple and “stripped down” aesthetic of the fairy tale might help one approach the rich subtext in one’s own writing), “The Publishing World” (what it takes to become a published author, from sending work to magazines and journals to working with a small, independent press), “An Eye for the Weird” (exploring how her midwestern roots have shaped the odd elements in her writing—and how place in general infuses life into our writing) and “Mining Material from Your Own Life” (which takes participants through a series of generative free-writing sessions about specific memories and leads them toward the drafting of a poem)
- Student workshops that explore how to find inspiration for creative writing and how important messiness can be in the early stages (for kindergarten through middle school)

**BILL KENLEY, 2016 EMERGING AUTHOR FINALIST**

Bill Kenley is an English teacher at Noblesville High School and the author of *High School Runner (Freshman)*, a fictional love letter to high-school cross-country running. *High School Runner* is Bill’s debut novel and the first in a series of four planned books highlighting the protagonist Sherman Kindle’s journey through school and the lessons he learns through running. Runnersworld.com recommended it as one of three books for summer reading in 2015.

Three times voted by students as his school’s most inspiring and influential teacher, Bill writes primarily for a young adult audience. He’s spoken to thousands of high school runners at camps at the University of North Carolina, the University of Notre Dame and Nike’s Green Mountain and Smoky Mountain running camps to name a few. He’s an avid runner with multiple Boston Marathons and a 50-mile trail run under his belt.

Using *High School Runner (Freshman)* and his character Sherman Kindle as a basis, Bill delivers talks for young audiences, connecting with them through stories that entertain and inspire. In addition to the young audiences he usually addresses, Bill also discusses the journey of high school with adults.

**Genre:** Young adult, coming of age, humor, novels, short stories

**Target Audience:** Young adult, though *High School Runner (Freshman)* appeals to runners of all ages; the story is about relationships between the old and the young, and teachers and coaches in particular enjoy the novel

**Offerings:**
- Discussion and readings of his works
- Presentation on setting goals (like writing a novel or qualifying for the Boston Marathon)
- Talks on “Sport and Identity” (how his protagonist Sherman comes to understand himself through running and how the goals we set for ourselves define us), “The Importance of Team” (how a connection with others makes running more meaningful and more joyful) and “The Journey of High School” (how this first book on Sherman is about identity, finding his niche in high school and what he’ll face in the years—and three books—ahead)
- Writing workshops (including for young writers)
EDWARD KELSEY MOORE, 2016 EMERGING AUTHOR FINALIST

Indianapolis native Edward Kelsey Moore is the author of *The Supremes Sing the Happy Heartache Blues*, published in June 2017. The novel, his second, has received starred reviews in *Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly* and is slated for publication in several international editions. Edward’s 2013 debut novel, the *New York Times* and international bestseller *The Supremes At Earl’s All-You-Can-Eat*, was chosen as a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection and was awarded the 2014 First Novelist Award by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. A popular choice among book clubs and community discussion groups across the country, *The Supremes at Earl’s All-You-Can-Eat* was also selected for northwest Indiana’s Books to Bridge the Region literacy program.

Edward’s award-winning essays and short fiction have appeared in the *New York Times* and a number of literary magazines, including *Ninth Letter, Indiana Review, African American Review*, and *Inkwell*.

In addition to his writing, Edward maintains a career as a professional cellist. His playing has been featured on many recordings and he has toured nationally and internationally. Edward currently performs with a number of ensembles, including the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Joffrey Ballet Orchestra.

Edward makes his home in Chicago.

**Genre:** Literary fiction, personal essay  
**Target Audience:** Adults  
**Offerings:**  
- Discussion and readings of his works  
- Creative-writing workshops

ADRIAN MATEJKA, 2015 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

Adrian Matejka was born in Nuremberg, Germany, and grew up in California and Indiana. He is a graduate of Indiana University and the MFA program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He is the author of *The Devil’s Garden* (Alice James Books, 2003) which won the New York/New England Award and *Mixology* (Penguin, 2009), a winner of the 2008 National Poetry Series. *Mixology* was also a finalist for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literature.

Adrian’s poetry collection *The Big Smoke* (Penguin, 2013) received the 2014 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award. It was also a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award, 2014 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and 2014 Pulitzer Prize in poetry. His new book, *Map to the Stars*, was released from Penguin in March 2017. *Publishers Weekly* notes that “in his stellar fourth collection, Matejka evokes an Indianapolis boyhood in which economic and educational privations starkly contrast with the inspiring expanses of outer space. Newly identified planets, space shuttle launches, *Star Trek*, and Voyager probes encountered via radio, TV, and newspaper here become poignant emblems of escape.”
Among Adrian’s other honors are the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award, two grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Julia Peterkin Award, a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. He teaches in the MFA program at Indiana University in Bloomington and is currently working on a new collection of poems, *Hearing Damage*, and a graphic novel. He is the 2018-2019 Indiana Poet Laureate.

**Genre:** Poetry, graphic novels  
**Target Audience:** Adults, teens  
**Offerings:**  
- Discussion and readings of his works

### LAURA BATES, 2015 EMERGING AUTHOR FINALIST

Laura Bates has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in Comparative Literature, with a focus on Shakespeare studies. She is professor of English at Indiana State University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on Shakespeare and world literature.

For more than twenty-five years Laura taught throughout the state and federal prison system. She created the world’s first Shakespeare program in supermax—the long-term solitary confinement unit. Her prison work has been featured in local and national media, including two segments on MSNBC-TV’s *Lock Up*. Laura chronicled these prison experiences in *“Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard (Sourcebooks, 2013)*. The book received positive reviews as well as national and international recognition, from *Kirkus* and *Publishers Weekly* to *National Geographic* and the *Huffington Post*. It was selected as the 2015 global Big Library Read and read by more than 100,000 readers in 12 countries. A film adaptation is currently under contract.

Laura’s second book, *Making a Difference: Using Literature to Change Children’s Lives*, was published by Kendall Hunt in 2016. Informed by her work with prisoners who committed their crimes, including murder, as juveniles, this book shows teachers and other caring adults how to use literature to redirect criminal impulses in youth.

Laura is a popular speaker on campuses, in schools, libraries, and community centers across the nation. Her interactive multimedia presentations introduce audiences to both Shakespeare and prison in new and thought-provoking ways. She has been called “highly engaging” and “inspirational.”

**Genre:** Nonfiction (though her specialty is Shakespeare, which is fiction/drama/classic literature)  
**Target Audience:** All groups, but especially college campuses, libraries and community centers, as well as prisons, high schools and even elementary schools  
**Topics:**  
- Discussion and readings of her works  
- Presentations on Shakespeare and prison (which can be a combination of multimedia interactive presentation, lecture, book reading, and Q&A)  
- Creative-writing workshops
MICHAEL SHELDEN, 2014 NATIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

A resident of Bloomington, Michael Shelden is the author of several biographies and has received numerous accolades for his work. His most recent biography, Melville in Love: The Secret Life of Herman Melville and the Muse of Moby-Dick, was published in June 2016 to rave reviews, with Time magazine listing it this summer as one of “240 Reasons to Celebrate America Right Now.” Past works have met similar success: Orwell: The Authorized Biography was a finalist for the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for biography, Mark Twain: Man in White was a New York Times bestseller, and Young Titan: The Making of Winston Churchill was widely praised on both sides of the Atlantic. Most recently, Michael recorded 24 video lectures for the Great Courses series. His course, “How Winston Churchill Changed the World,” will be released in DVD, Blu-ray, and audio versions in October of 2018 and is sponsored by the International Churchill Center in Washington, D.C.

Michael received his Ph.D. in English from Indiana University and serves as professor of English at Indiana State University. He has been a features writer for the London Daily Telegraph, has served as a fiction critic for the Baltimore Sun and has written for the Washington Post and the Times of London.

Genre: Biography, history, literature
Target Audience: Adults
Offerings:
- Discussion and readings of his works
- Presentations on the subjects he has researched and written about: World War II (especially Dunkirk and D-Day); Edwardian England (especially the British Empire, the aristocracy and the suffragettes); “George Orwell, Political Tyranny and the Modern Surveillance State”; Herman Melville and Moby-Dick; and “The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain”

RAY BOOMHOWER, 2010 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

A native of Mishawaka, Indiana, Ray E. Boomhower has been with the Indiana Historical Society for more than three decades and now serves as editor of its quarterly popular history magazine Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History. A former newspaper reporter, Ray has written numerous articles for such publications as Outdoor Indiana, the Indiana Magazine of History, Michigan History, and Traces. He has also written sixteen books on a variety of Indiana subjects, including biographies of such notable Hoosiers as Ernie Pyle, Gus Grissom, Lew Wallace, May Wright Sewall, John Bartlow Martin, and Juliet Strauss.

In 1998 he received the Hoosier Historian award from the Indiana Historical Society. In 2009 his book Robert F. Kennedy and the 1968 Indiana Primary was selected as the winner in the historical nonfiction category of the annual Best Books of Indiana contest sponsored by the Indiana Center for the Book. His books have also been finalists and received honors in the annual Benjamin Franklin Awards from the Independent Book Publishers Association and Foreword Review’s Book of the Year Awards. Ray has also been honored with multiple awards for his writing from the Indiana Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Ray, who lives in Indianapolis with his wife and dog, is a member of the Society of Midland Authors, the Midwestern History Association, and the Biographers International Organization.
Genre: Nonfiction, history, and biography

Target Audience: Adults, but teens are welcome

Offerings:

- Workshop on how to write biography, "Telling Good Stories: Writing Biography for Fun and (Little) Profit."
- Presentation on the history of *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History* and how to write for the quarterly periodical
- Programs on individuals he has written biographies of, including Ernie Pyle, Lew Wallace, Gus Grissom, Juliet Strauss, May Wright Sewall, John Bartlow Martin, Alex Vraciu, and John Bushemi
- Other programs upon request