AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES
SANDY EISENBERG SASSO, 2018 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

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 20 award-winning children’s books with two awaiting release in 2020, 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.

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

LORI RADER-DAY, 2017 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

Lori Rader-Day is a native of Boone County, Indiana, where she attended Western Boone Jr.-Sr. High School. She studied journalism at Ball State University and later earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Roosevelt University in Chicago.

Lori is the author of The Lucky One, Under a Dark Sky, The Day I Died, Little Pretty Things, and The Black Hour, is an Edgar Award nominee, a two-time Anthony Award winner, and a three-time Mary Higgins Clark Award nominee, winning the award in 2016. She has also been a finalist for Thriller, Barry, and Macavity Awards and is a past recipient of the Indiana Authors Award, regional category.

Lori’s short fiction has appeared in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Time Out Chicago, Good Housekeeping, Crab Orchard Review, Southern Indiana Review, and several anthologies including Deadlier, a UK collection of women crime writers edited by Sophie Hannah, and a forthcoming anthology of Hoosier authors.
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. She has been a keynote speaker at Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers’ Colorado Gold Conference, Killer Nashville Crime Fiction Workshop, and Lakefly Writers Conference.

Lori lives with her husband in Chicago, where she co-chairs the mystery readers’ conference Murder and Mayhem in Chicago. Lori will serve as the national president of Sisters in Crime for a year starting October 2019.

**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,” “Motivation and Productivity for the Writer”
- 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

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**BRYAN FURUNESS, 2017 EMERGING AUTHOR FINALIST**

![Bryan Furuness](image)

Bryan Furuness is the author of a couple of novels, *The Lost Episodes of Revie Bryson* and *Do Not Go On*. He is the editor of the anthology *My Name was Never Frankenstein: And Other Classic Adventure Tales Remix*, and the co-editor (with Michael Martone) of *Winesburg, Indiana*. He lives in Indianapolis, where he teaches at Butler University. (If you’re reading this bio, you’re probably trying to figure out which author to invite to your venue. First of all, you can’t go wrong with any of them. Have you seen their bios? They’re all amazing. Now here’s what you need to know about me: I’m good at doing events in the community, mainly because I really like doing them. So if you send for me, you’ll get someone with over a decade of teaching and editing experience who is psyched to come to your venue.)

**Genre:** Fiction, creative nonfiction  
**Target Audience:** Adults, students in grades 6-12  
**Offerings:**
- Workshops for writers/students:
  - “Playing with Words: Creativity, Playfulness, and Writing”
  - “Remix: 5 Ways to Make Old Stories New”
  - “Getting Started: How to Start a Project, a Creative Practice, a Writing Career.”
- A talk about my path to becoming a writer
- A reading and discussion of my work
- Other programs available upon request
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, Finding Orion, Sidekicked, The Dungeoneers and Standard Hero Behavior (another 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.john davidanderson.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 (this is the program most commonly given at schools)
- 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 22 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 more than 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

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**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 taint 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 and has enjoyed working with children and adults with special needs.  
**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 5C-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 Al-You-Car-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 Al-You-Car-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 Indianapolis, 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 most recent 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 expanse 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.” Adrian is currently working on a new collection of poems, On the B Side, and a graphic novel, Last on His Feet, which will be published by Liveright in 2021.

Among Adrian’s honors are the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award, the Julia Peterkin Award, a Pushcart Prize, and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. He is the Ruth Lilly Professor of Poetry at Indiana University in Bloomington and is the 2018-2019 Indiana Poet Laureate.

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

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**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”

### NORBERT KRAPF, 2014 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

Jasper native, Indianapolis resident and former Indiana Poet Laureate (IPL) **Norbert Krapf** was inspired to start writing poetry in 1971 by the poems of Walt Whitman and the songs of Delta blues great Robert Johnson. As IPL, Norbert, who has worked with photographers Darryl Jones, David Pierini and Richard Fields, promoted collaborations and the reunion of poetry and song. He released a CD with jazz pianist-composer Monika Herzig, “Imagine,” and performs poetry and blues with Gordon Bonham, his guitar teacher.

Of Norbert’s 28 books, 13 are full-length poetry collections, including the recent “Catholic Boy Blues: A Poet’s Journal of Healing,” “American Dreams,” “Songs in Sepia and Black and White,” “Bloodroot: Indiana Poems” and “Invisible Presence” He has also published a prose childhood memoir, “The Ripest Moments,” edited a collection of pioneer German journals and letters from Dubois County and translated early poems of Rainer Maria Rilke and legends from his ancestral Franconia. Most recently, he published “The Return of Sunshine,” about his Colombian-German-American grandson, and “Indiana Hill Country Poems.” His play adaptation of the Catholic Boy Bluespoetry collection received an extended workshop production of five performances in June of 2019, and his poem “Back in Indiana” was included in the Indiana Bicentennial play “Finding Home: Indiana at 200” at the Indiana Repertory Theatre.

Norbert is emeritus professor of English at Long Island University where he directed the C.W. Post Poetry Center. He holds degrees from St. Joseph’s College (Ind.) and the University of Notre Dame and was Fulbright Professor at the Universities of Freiburg and Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany. He received the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, had a poem included in a stained-glass panel at the Indianapolis Airport and held an Arts Council of Indianapolis Creative Renewal Fellowship to combine poetry and the blues. Garrison Keillor has read his poems on The Writer’s Almanac. See and hear more at [www.krapfpoetry.com](http://www.krapfpoetry.com).

**Genre:** Poetry, prose memoir  
**Target Audience:** Adults, teens (colleges, high schools, libraries, community centers)

**Offerings:**
- Readings of his work with a focus: Poems of Place, Family History Poems, Story Poems, Portrait Poems of People, Voice Poems, or any combination of these  
- Prose memoir readings: Ripest Moments from Childhood, Shrinking the Monster: Helping Others Heal  
- Workshop: Writing about Difficult Relationships
KELSEY TIMMERMAN, 2014 EMERGING AUTHOR WINNER

Kelsey Timmerman is the New York Times bestselling author of the Where Am I? series: Where Am I Wearing?, Where Am I Eating?, and Where Am I Giving?. Kelsey has reported from more than 50 countries and written about topics such as sweatshops in Bangladesh and slavery in Ivory Coast. He educates audiences and readers through humor and storytelling, and encourages them to think globally and act locally. He is also a co-founder of The Facing Project, a national community storytelling nonprofit that has collected more than 1,500 stories. Kelsey seeks to create understanding and empathy through stories that inspire action. For more information visit www.kelseytimmerman.com.

Genre: Nonfiction (social justice, sociology, travel, globalization, philanthropy, agriculture)

Target Audience: Middle school - adult

Offerings:
- Where Am I Wearing? A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People That Make Our Clothes
- Where Am I Eating? An Adventure Through the Global Food Economy
- Where Am I Giving? A Global Adventure Exploring How to Use Your Gifts and Talents to Make a Difference
- Nonfiction writing workshops: How I write true stories

MIKE MULLIN, 2013 EMERGING AUTHOR WINNER

Mike Mullin’s first job was scraping the gum off the undersides of desks at his high school. From there, things went steadily downhill. He almost got fired by the owner of a bookstore due to his poor taste in earrings. He worked at a place that showed slides of poopy diapers during lunch (it did cut down on the cafeteria budget). The hazing process at the next company included eating live termites raised by the resident entomologist, so that didn’t last long either. For a while Mike juggled bottles at a wine shop, sometimes to disastrous effect. Oh, and then there was the job where swarms of wasps occasionally tried to chase him off ladders. So he’s really glad this writing thing seems to be working out.

Mike holds a black belt in Songahm Taekwondo. He lives in Danville, Indiana with his wife and her two cats. His debut novel, Ashtal, was named one of the top five young adult novels of 2011 by National Public Radio, a Best Teen Book of 2011 by Kirkus Reviews, and a New Voices selection by the American Booksellers Association. His latest work is the young adult thriller, Surface Tension. He is represented by Kate Testerman of @literary.

Genre: Science Fiction

Target audience: Young adult

Offerings: Writing workshops for 4th grade and up, "How Taekwondo Is Like Writing" general interest presentation, and "The Big Boom: What Will Happen to Your City if Yellowstone Erupts?" (a science-focused presentation)
BARBARA SHOUP, 2012 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER

Barbara Shoup is the author of eight novels for adults and young adults, most recently An American Tune, and Looking for Jack Kerouac, and the co-author of Novel Ideas: Contemporary Authors Share the Creative Process. Her young adult novels, Wish You Were Here and Stranded in Harmony were selected as American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults. Vermeer’s Daughter was a School Library Journal Best Adult Book for Young Adults.

She is the recipient of the PEN Phyllis Reynolds Naylor Working Writer Fellowship, the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Regional Indiana Authors Award, two Lilly Endowment Creative Renewal Fellowships from the Indianapolis Arts Council, and six individual artist fellowships from the Indiana Arts Commission. A high school creative writing teacher for twenty-five years, she served as the Executive Director of the Indiana Writers Center for ten years and is currently the organization’s Writer-in-Residence. She is also a faculty member of Art Workshop International.

For more information visit: www.barbarashoup.com

Genre: Fiction
Target Audience: Adults, high school, middle school
Offerings:
• How Fiction Works (Basics of fiction, including writing exercises)
• Jump Start Your Writing Life (For people who want to begin writing, but don’t know how, or people who want to get back to it)
• Writing in Indiana (Focusing on the idea that you can be a writer here, featuring info about people writing in Indiana now)
• Writing Historical Fiction
• The Writing Life (What it’s like to be a writer—from writing a book to publication and beyond)
• Tailor-made presentations for the needs of specific organizations

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, John Bushemi, and Robert L. Sherrod  
- Other programs upon request

**SUSAN NEVILLE, 2009 REGIONAL AUTHOR WINNER**


> “These stories are gems. Neville’s prose feels sourced from poetry, with its deft metaphors and fleet movement between the real and surreal, leaving the reader in a kind of dream landscape, recognizable yet askew, replete with the chilly thrill of inhabiting a new world. This foreign yet familiar place is the so-called flyover country, our country’s heartland, and at a time of decline, of abandonment, of aging, of death. The voices in these stories are eloquent and profound, personal and national, serving as a chorus, singing the complex song of loss and praise, the elegy.”

Neville’s story “Here” won the 2015 McGinnis-Ritchie Award from the *Southwest Review,* and recent stories and essays have appeared or will appear in the *North American Review, The Collagist, The Missouri Review, Diagram,* and other magazines. She teaches creative writing, a seminar in Willa Cather, Kurt Vonnegut, Contemporary British Women Writers, and courses in Butler’s First Year Seminar program.

**Genre:** Fiction and creative non-fiction  
**Target Audience:** Adults  
**Offerings:** Readings from work and discussion of issues (including the opiate crisis and loss of manufacturing jobs) raised by *The Town of Whispering Dolls.* Lectures including “What is creative nonfiction and how do I write it?,” “Willa Cather’s Midwest” and “Indiana Literature and Landscape”