



15th Annual



NANTUCKET BOOK FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY THE
NANTUCKET BOOK FOUNDATION

June 11-14, 2026

Nantucket, MA

15th Annual



**NANTUCKET
BOOK FESTIVAL**

PRESENTED BY THE
NANTUCKET BOOK FOUNDATION

*Welcome to the
2026 Nantucket Book Festival!*

Fifteen years ago, we launched our very first Nantucket Book Festival with the foundational belief in the power of words. Spoken and written words that become story have the power to change worlds, influence hearts, and alter minds. Reading creates pathways to empathy and understanding, deepens our compassion, and enlarges and illuminates our imagination and creativity. That message has never mattered more. In this divided world, the distance between us grows. Books close that distance. In shared pages of a book, we can find common ground. We can enter a life not our own, be changed by another’s story. That is what we celebrate in this, our 15th year. A reminder we can all foster a sense of shared humanity, a way of walking in this world, together.

Our Festival is fueled by a dedicated team passionate in our shared belief in the power of words. We want to thank our Festival Committee and our Foundation’s Board of Directors, our sponsors and donors, our volunteers and our small but mighty staff. Thank you to our readers, our Festival supporters and champions. And thanks to you, for being with us to experience the wide and wonderful worlds explored through the pages of these books and the vision and work of our writers.

Sara DiVello & Mary Haft, Co-Chairs

Instagram: @nantucketbookfestival | Facebook: Nantucket Book Festival
#nantucketbookfestival

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15th Annual
**NANTUCKET
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NANTUCKET BOOK FOUNDATION

**2026 Book Festival
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Sara DiVello & Mary Haft

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Josh Gray
Rebecca Hickman
Linda Henry
Wendy Hudson
Rachel Lewis Lensing
Sandy Mitchell
Charity Grace Mofsen
Ann Sullivan
James Sulzer
Jill Surprenant
Barbara Tibbetts
Anne Troutman

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Host Committee:

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Jennifer Diamond
Ginny Grenham
Loulie Walker James
Rachel Lewis Lensing
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Nancy Seaman and
Alan Schwartz

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Vice President & Treasurer:

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Vice President: Anne Troutman

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Mary Haft/co-founder
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Rachel Lewis Lensing
Sandy Mitchell
Charity Grace Mofsen
James Sulzer
Jill Surprenant
Barbara Tibbetts

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Eleventh Hour Design

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Charity Grace Photography

**Social Media and
Marketing:**

Tim Ehrenberg,
Tim Talks Books



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Wednesday, June 10

Schedule

5:00 - 6:00 pm

New Nantucket Fiction Meet & Greet

Nantucket Dreamland

Join our four panelists, authors Julie Gerstenblatt, Pamela Kelley, Kyleigh Leddy, and James Sulzer in a casual setting at the Nantucket Dreamland. Admission is free and there will be a cash bar.

6:00 - 7:00 pm

New Nantucket Fiction Panel

Nantucket Dreamland

Settle in after the Meet & Greet for the New Nantucket Fiction panel discussion, moderated by Nantucket Book Foundation Board Member Ann Sullivan. The four authors will discuss their new books, and the role that Nantucket has played in their writing and their lives.

Thursday, June 11

10:00 - 10:45 am

Lois Romano with Kathleen Matthews

Methodist Church

Lois Romano is a celebrated journalist who was an editor, political writer, and columnist for *The Washington Post* and *Politico*. Now, with the publication of her new book, *An Inconvenient Widow: The Torment, Trial, and Triumph of Mary Todd Lincoln*, Romano brings to life a misunderstood, historically unknown 'inconvenient widow' in the wife left behind in the wake of the assassination of her husband, President Abraham Lincoln. This biography illuminates a lost chapter and presents Mary Todd Lincoln as a formidable force and full partner in what became a historic presidency that changed the course of American history. Lois will be joined in conversation with television journalist and communications strategist, Kathleen Matthews.

11:00 - 11:45 pm

Jamie Siminoff with Kate Brosnan

Methodist Church

A lifelong inventor and mission-driven entrepreneur, Jamie Siminoff created the world's first WiFi video doorbell while working in his garage in 2011. That doorbell has since transformed into Ring, the whole-home security powerhouse acquired by Amazon in 2018 for over \$1 billion. Today, Jamie continues to make neighborhoods safer as the Chief Inventor of Ring. He is also active in impact investing and philanthropy through his family office, Shark Lake Explorations. He will be in conversation with Kate

Brosnan to discuss his latest invention, a book: *Ding Dong*, a candid, behind-the-scenes account of how a scrappy garage startup called Doorbot turned into Ring, a household name and security brand now trusted by millions.

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Dr. Joshua Bennett

Methodist Church

Dr. Joshua Bennett is a Distinguished Chair of the Humanities and Professor of Literature at MIT, the founding editor of the *Duke Poetry Series*, and the founder and principal of Solon: a design studio specializing in the art of adaption. He is the author of seven books, which have received numerous awards including the Paterson Poetry Prize, the National Poetry Series award, and the *New Yorker* Best Book of the Year. Dr. Bennett will be speaking about the themes in his latest work, *WE (The People of the United States)*, a book-length poem made to the measure of the modern world. In *WE*, Dr. Bennett summons Virgil's Georgics as a lens through which to not only tell the story of his family, but a much larger one about the "form of the American mind," our relationship to the natural world, and the pursuit of a dignified, abundant life.

2:00- 2:45 pm

Julian Brave NoiseCat with Mary Haft

Methodist Church

Julian Brave NoiseCat carries the stories of the legacy of his family and his people through the craft of writing, filmmaking and theatre and dance. A writer, filmmaker, journalist, champion powwow dancer, and historian, his debut book, *We Survived the Night* was published to international acclaim. A portrait of indigenous life, telling the story of his own family, but enlarging the lens to the ancestral tale of the Coyote Epic, it is a story told through layers of time. A *New Yorker* "Best Book", Julian will be joined in conversation with writer and producer, Mary Haft, a co-founder of the Nantucket Book Festival and author of *Nantucket: Portrait of an American Town*.

3:00 - 3:45 pm

Isaac Fitzgerald with Wendy Hudson

Methodist Church

Isaac Fitzgerald is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dirtbag, Massachusetts*, winner of the New England Book Award. He is also the author of the best-selling children's book *How to Be a Pirate* as well as the co-author of *Pen & Ink: Tattoos and the Stories Behind Them* and *Knives & Ink: Chefs and the Stories Behind Their Tattoos*, winner of an IACP Award. He will be in conversation with Nantucket Book Festival co-founder Wendy



Thursday, June 11

Schedule

Hudson about his latest work, *American Rambler: Walking the Trail of Johnny Appleseed*. A moving blend of memoir, history, and travelogue, *American Rambler* is at once an ode to the American heartland, a meditation on escaping the breakneck pace of modern life, and a clear-eyed look at the myths—often violent, sometimes hopeful, frequently romanticized—at the very core of American identity and history.

4:00 - 4:45 pm

Laura Zigman with Sara DiVello
Methodist Church

Laura Zigman is a novelist and essayist acclaimed for her sharp wit and keen observations of modern relationships. Her latest novel, *The Author Weekend*, gives readers a thrilling and hilarious peek behind the publishing curtain as a (fictional!) best selling mystery author's retreat goes horribly wrong and one of the attendees winds up dead. This book is both a meditative dive into the dark heart of envy, and a glorious exploration of a woman of a certain age desperate to survive the dog-eat-dog world of publishing and control her own narrative. She will be in conversation with author and festival co-chair Sara DiVello about the inspiration behind the novel, the dynamics of creative communities, and the art of capturing human connection on the page.

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Nantucket Young Playwrights
Nantucket Atheneum

Prepare to enjoy, appreciate and even laugh at a series of ten-minute plays written by Nantucket teens, under the mentorship of award-winning filmmaker, Jay Craven.

8:00 pm

Authors in Bars
Breeze Bar at The Nantucket Hotel

Join several of this year's authors in a comfortable after-hours setting, while enjoying your favorite beverage. Admission is free, and there will be a cash bar.

Friday, June 12

9:00 - 9:45 am

Julian Sancton with Sara DiVello
Methodist Church

Julian Sancton is a journalist who has reported from every continent including Antarctica, and an author who brings gripping true stories to life with vivid detail and

an eye for marvelously entertaining and one hundred percent true stories. His latest book, *Neptune's Fortune*, uncovers the riveting true story of a legendary Spanish galleon that sunk off the coast of Colombia with over \$1 billion in gold and silver—and one man's obsessive quest to find it. In it, we follow the larger-than-life Roger Dooley into the dusty archives of Spanish shipping records where he stumbles across what he believes to be the real location of the San Jose. Sancton will be in conversation with author and festival co-chair Sara DiVello. They will explore the real-life events that inspired his work, the challenges of reconstructing history, and why tales of the ocean continue to captivate readers.

10:00 - 10:45 am

Angela Flournoy with Shantaw Bloise-Murphy
Methodist Church

Angela Flournoy is the author of *The Wilderness*, a novel that follows five women over two decades as they navigate their evolving relationships, adulthood, and modern times. Angela will be joined by Shantaw Bloise-Murphy, Nantucket Book Foundation Board member and the Town of Nantucket's Director of Culture and Tourism. Angela and Shantaw will chat about friendship, the transition from young adulthood to midlife, career, and family, along with social justice and the many twists and turns of life.

11:00 - 11:45 am

Nicholas Boggs with Mitchell Jackson
Methodist Church

Nicholas Boggs embarked on a years long odyssey with his masterpiece on the great 20th century writer, James Baldwin, in *Baldwin: A Love Story*. Through a lens of love, Boggs examines a complicated life through the prism of four key figures in Baldwin's life, producing a singular biography of a writer whose works have shaped American art and activism. Nicholas will be joined in conversation with Pulitzer Prize winning writer Mitchell Jackson, author of *The Residue Years*, *Survival Math: Notes on an All American Family* and *Fly: The Big Book of Basketball Fashion*.

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Belle Burden with Elin Hilderbrand
Methodist Church

Belle Burden hit a nerve with her instant *New York Times* bestselling memoir, *Strangers: a Memoir of Marriage*. "The memoir of the year", said *VOGUE Magazine* about a book that continues to pick up steam and has spawned



Friday, June 12

Schedule

conversations that are running through book clubs, podcasts and now, a film deal with Netflix who will bring her story to the screen. Belle will be joined in conversation with Nantucket's own Elin Hilderbrand, author of over 31 *New York Times* bestselling novels and the co-host of the podcast: *Books, Beach & Beyond*.

2:00 - 2:45 pm

Richard Russo with Chrissy Brown
Methodist Church

Richard Russo is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of numerous books, including the novel *Empire Falls*, celebrating its 25th Anniversary in print this year and *Life and Art, a 2025 collection of essays*. Richard will be in conversation with the Nantucket Book Foundation's Administrative Director Chrissy Brown for reflections on Russo's signature portrayal of small town American living, the nuances of family dynamics, the challenges of contemporary literature, and his many years of reading and writing.

3:00 - 3:45 pm

**Alice Hoffman with
Laura Zigman and Adriana Trigiani**
Methodist Church

Alice Hoffman is the bestselling author of more than thirty works of fiction. In *The Best Dog in the World*, Hoffman wrote and curated a collection of essays in celebration of our furry, four-legged best friends. She will be joined in conversation by her fellow authors, presenters, and essay contributors Laura Zigman and Adriana Trigiani. Dog lovers are required to attend; cat people also welcome.

4:00 - 5:15 pm

**Jenna Bush Hager with Tim Ehrenberg
featuring Emma Brodie, Juliet Faithfull,
and Shannon Garvey**
Methodist Church

Join Jenna Bush Hager, co-host of *TODAY* with Jenna & Scheinelle and the founder of the wildly popular Read With Jenna book club, as she introduces Nantucket to her newest venture, Thousand Voices Media. Jenna will first be joined by President of the Nantucket Book Foundation and creator of Tim Talks Books, Tim Ehrenberg, to discuss Jenna's passion for reading and her numerous literary enterprises. The second half of the event will feature Jenna and three authors from her brand-new book imprint in collaboration with Random House Publishing Group, Thousand Voices; Emma Brodie, author of *Into the Blue*,

Juliet Faithfull, author of *Liar's Dice*, and Shannon Garvey, author of *June Baby*. This is a special 75 minute event because "one story can spark a hundred conversations that inspire a thousand voices."

6:30 - 7:30 pm

**15th Annual Nantucket Book Festival
Celebration Evening**
Unitarian Universalist Church

***Crystal Clear: Reading to Understand
the World and Each Other***

A fifteenth celebration is traditionally honored with crystal, and like a crystal, the mission of the Foundation in our 15th Festival year has been to radiate light, illuminating the power of words to inspire and enlarge our world and connect us to our shared humanity. Please join us as visionary authors Tayari Jones, Julian Brave NoiseCat, Ann Patchett, and Patrick Ryan tell us through their own prism how reading and writing informs and brightens their understanding of the world and each other.

7:30 - 10:00 pm

Nantucket Book Festival Author dinner
White Elephant Inn and Residences

Enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner in the heart of Nantucket while rubbing elbows with your favorite authors. The Dinner, presented by The White Elephant Hotel, is the perfect ending to a day filled with inspiring author conversations. As the only event designed to fundraise for the Book Festival, your ticket purchase helps to keep our author sessions free and open to everyone. *Ticket required.*

Saturday, June 13

9:00 - 9:45 am

Vanessa Riley with Dawn Tripp
Methodist Church

Vanessa Riley is an award-winning author known for her ability to bring the hidden narratives of power, love, and sisterhoods of Black women and women of color to life on the page. Her novel *Fire, Sword, and Sea* continues her exploration of resilience, identity, and survival. Riley's work has been praised for its meticulous research and emotional depth. In addition to penning over twenty-five novels, Riley holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering from Stanford University and STEM degrees from Penn State, adding a research-oriented approach to her writing while emphasizing inclusive storytelling about the Caribbean, Georgian,



and Regency eras. In this engaging session with author Dawn Tripp, Riley will discuss the inspirations behind her seafaring adventure, the complexities of historical storytelling, and the ways in which untold histories can reshape our understanding of the past.

10:00 - 2:00 pm

Local Authors from the Cape and Islands

Atheneum Great Hall

Browse books written by authors from Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod when they gather in the Great Hall on Saturday. Don't miss this chance to support our local writing community!

10:00 - 10:45 am

A Conversation with Mitchell Jackson, Marlon James, and Lisa Genova

Methodist Church

Pulitzer Prize winning author Mitchell Jackson, author of *Fly*, *The Residue Years* and *Survival Math*, and Booker Prize Winner Marlon James, author of *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*, and *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, join bestselling author of *More or Less Maddy*, *Remember* and *Still Alice*, neuroscientist Lisa Genova for a wide-ranging conversation about storytelling, identity, and the power of language to illuminate the human experience.

11:00 - 11:45 am

Ann Patchett with Tim Ehrenberg

Methodist Church

Ann Patchett is the author of over a dozen books and the owner of Parnassus Books in Nashville, TN. The beloved writer will be in conversation with Nantucket Book Foundation President and creator of Tim Talks Books, Tim Ehrenberg, to discuss Ann's newest novel, *Whistler*, a luminous story that reminds us of the sweetness and impermanence of life and the power of connection to defy time. Ann and Tim will talk about the book's themes of memory and family as well as owning a bookstore, writing both fiction and nonfiction, Ann's reading life, and her other treasured novels, memoirs, and essays.

1:00 - 1:45 pm

Norah O'Donnell with Linda Henry

Methodist Church

Celebrated award-winning journalist, Senior Correspondent for *CBS News* and Contributing Correspondent for *CBS 60 Minutes*, Norah O'Donnell has used this year's celebration

of America's 250th Anniversary to turn her lens to the pivotal women whose lives changed American history. A *New York Times* bestseller, *We the Women* are the stories not told; women who embodied the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and fought for freedom and equality. Norah will be joined in conversation with Linda Henry, CEO of *Boston Globe Media Partners*.

2:00 - 2:45 pm

Ruta Sepetys with Mary Haft

Methodist Church

Internationally acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author, Ruta Sepetys, has used the prism of historical fiction to create stories that bring unknown histories to life. From *Between Shades of Gray* to *Salt to the Sea* to *The Fountains of Silence*, her work is deeply researched with tightly drawn characters who live the realities that governments and institutions have left submerged. Into this light is Sepetys' first novel for adult readers, *A Fortune of Sand*, continuing her rich tradition of using shards of history to illuminate truth. Ruta will be joined in conversation with writer and producer, Mary Haft, a co-founder of the Nantucket Book Festival and author of *Nantucket: Portrait of an American Town*.

3:00 - 3:45 pm

Adriana Trigiani with Sara DiVello

Methodist Church

Adriana Trigiani is a beloved storyteller and *New York Times* bestselling author whose novels celebrate family, heritage, and the ties that bind us. In *The View from Lake Como*, she transports readers from where our protagonist begins, freshly divorced and living in her loving-but-oblivious parents' basement in suburban New Jersey to the beauty of Italy, while exploring themes of self-discovery, love, and reinvention. She will be in conversation with author and festival co-chair Sara DiVello, discussing the inspiration behind her latest novel, her connection to Italian culture, and poignant, hilarious, and deeply heartfelt nature of her work.

4:00 - 4:45 pm

Patrick Ryan with Ann Patchett

Methodist Church

Patrick Ryan is the author of one of the most talked about books of 2025, *Buckeye*, a Read with Jenna selection and *New York Times* best-seller. Patrick will be joined by fellow author Ann Patchett for an intimate conversation between dear friends on reading and writing. They will discuss the writing process of *Buckeye*, its memorable storyline and characters, and how the book came to be, as Ann describes, "this glorious sweep of a novel."



Saturday, June 13

Schedule

5:00 – 5:45 pm

Tayari Jones with Tim Ehrenberg Methodist Church

Tayari Jones is the author of *An American Marriage* and *Kin*, a *New York Times* best-seller and a recent Oprah's Book Club selection from February 2026. Tayari will be in conversation with Tim Ehrenberg, President of the Nantucket Book Foundation and creator of Tim Talks Books, for a moving talk on mothers and daughters, lifelong friendship, and the American south. The two will also discuss Tayari's writing process, her years of teaching creative writing, and the books and authors who inspired her on this literary path.

Sunday, June 14

10:00 - 10:45 am

Rick Tulsy with Adam Nee Nantucket Dreamland

Pulitzer Prize winning author Rick Tulsy will sit down with Adam Nee, Executive Director of the Nantucket Book Foundation, for a gripping discussion on his newest work of investigative journalism, *Injustice Town: A Corrupt City, a Wrongly Convicted Man, and a Struggle for Freedom*. The two lawyers will discuss our criminal justice system, racism, and police corruption by focusing on this story of one man and showing us a vision of what a better future could be.

11:00 - 11:45 am

Liaquat Ahamed with Michael Schulder Nantucket Dreamland

Liaquat Ahamed spent a career in finance as an investment advisor, knowledge that led to his prescient first book, *Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World*, which won the Pulitzer Prize. His just released second book, *1873: The Rothschilds, the First Great Depression, and the Making of the Modern World*, named a "Most Anticipated Book of 2026" by Literary Hub, reckons with the first truly global financial crisis that reverberated across history whose fault lines are still felt today. Liaquat will be joined in conversation with Michael Schulder, a former CNN Producer and founder of Wavemaker, a podcast where "curiosity meets hope."

12:00 - 12:30 pm

Young Writer Award and Tharon Dunn Scholarship, with Special Guest Ruta Sepetys Nantucket Dreamland

Please join us for the presentation of the Nantucket Book Foundation's two student awards: the **Young Writer Award**, which celebrates and honors the work of our high school students who, through an essay competition, will accept their awards together as One Winner, Four Finalists (inspiration drawn from the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction), and the **Tharon Dunn Scholarship Award**, honoring longtime NBF board member Tharon Dunn by celebrating a graduating Nantucket High School senior passionate about literature and for whom English is not their first language. Internationally acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author, Ruta Sepetys, will present.

12:30 - 1:15 pm

John Vaillant Nantucket Dreamland

John Vaillant's *Fire Weather - On the Front Lines of a Burning World*, was a 2024 Pulitzer Prize Finalist. Through vivid storytelling and meticulous research, Vaillant captures both the human drama and the environmental stakes of a rapidly warming planet. In this solo session, he will share the real-life events behind his book, the science and storytelling of extreme weather, and the urgent questions his work raises about our collective future. As an award-winning writer known for his immersive nonfiction that explores the powerful intersections of nature, humanity, and survival, this session will offer a deeply thoughtful examination of climate change and the escalating forces shaping our world.

3:00 – 5:00 pm

Festival Send-Off Celebration Cisco Brewers

Gather at Cisco Brewers on our final day of the Festival for great food, music, and conversation for readers and writers alike. Attendees may choose from delicious options for lunch, plus drinks by Cisco Brewers, Triple 8, and Nantucket Vineyards.

Shuttle available from the Visitors Services on Federal Street. No tickets required; pay for your own food and drinks.



Featured Authors

Liaquat Ahamed graduated with degrees in economics from Cambridge and Harvard, worked at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., and had a twenty-five career as a professional investment manager based in London and New York before turning to writing. His first book, *Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World*, about the lead up to the 1929 Great Depression, won the Pulitzer Prize for History, the Council on Foreign Relations Arthur Ross Gold Medal, and the *Financial Times* Best Business Book of the Year Award. He is a trustee of the Putnam Funds, an adviser to the Rock Creek Group, and the Chair of the Sun Valley Writers' Conference. He lives in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., with his wife Meena.



Liaquat Ahamed

Dr. Joshua Bennett is Distinguished Chair of the Humanities and Professor of Literature at MIT. He is the author of seven books, including *Spoken Word: A Cultural History* (Knopf, 2023), which was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and a Best Book of the Year by *The New Yorker*; *The Study of Human Life* (Penguin, 2022), which won the Paterson Poetry Prize and was adapted for television in collaboration with Warner Brothers Studios; and *The Sobbing School* (Penguin, 2016), winner of the National Poetry Series.

For his creative writing and scholarship, Joshua has received fellowships and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Whiting Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Society of Fellows at Harvard University.



Dr. Joshua Bennett

Nicholas Boggs is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Baldwin: A Love Story*, the first major biography of the iconic figure in over three decades and winner of a 2026 ALA Stonewall Book Award. He also co-edited a new edition of Baldwin's collaboration with French artist Yoran Cazac, *Little Man, Little Man: A Story of Childhood* (2018). He is the recipient of a 2023 Whiting Creative Nonfiction Grant and fellowships from the Leon Levy Center for Biography, the Scholars-in-Residence program at the Schomburg Center, the Gilder Lehrman Center and Beinecke Library at Yale, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as residencies at Yaddo and MacDowell. Born and raised in Washington, D.C., he received his BA from Yale and his PhD from Columbia, both in English, as well as an MFA in Creative Writing from American University. He now resides in New York City.



Nicholas Boggs

Julian Brave NoiseCat is a writer and filmmaker. A member of the Canim Lake Band Tsq'escen, NoiseCat's first book, *We Survived the Night*, a national bestseller, was published by Alfred A. Knopf, Penguin Random House Canada, and Profile Books. It is currently a finalist for the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award for Nonfiction. His first documentary, *Sugarcane*, directed alongside Emily Kassie, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival where it won the Directing Award in the U.S. Documentary Competition. The film was recognized with dozens of awards including Best Documentary from the National Board of Review and was nominated for an Academy Award.



Julian Brave NoiseCat

Emma Brodie has worked in book publishing for fifteen years, currently as an Executive Editor at Clarkson Potter. She graduated from Johns Hopkins University's Writing Seminars program, and her debut novel, *Songs in Ursa Major*, received the American Book Award. She lives on Martha's Vineyard with her husband and their very good dog, Freddie Mercury. Her second novel, *Into the Blue*, was published by Ballantine x Thousand Voices.



Emma Brodie

Featured Authors



Belle Burden

Belle Burden is an attorney specializing in juvenile immigration cases. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*. *Strangers: A Memoir of Marriage* was an instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller and one of the most talked about memoirs of the year so far. She lives with her children in New York City.



Jenna Bush Hager

Jenna Bush Hager is the co-host of *TODAY* with Jenna & Sheinelle and the founder of the wildly popular Read With Jenna book club, which has introduced millions of readers to breakout authors and bestselling books since its launch in 2019. In 2022, she launched her production company, Thousand Voices, in partnership with NBCUniversal's Universal Studio Group. She later expanded the brand with Thousand Voices Books, a co-venture with Random House Publishing Group, through which she publishes titles across its imprints. Jenna is also the author of ten books and a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author.



Juliet Faithfull

Juliet Faithfull is a Spanish-British-American writer who grew up in Brazil. *Liar's Dice*, her first novel, was a winner of the 2024 Irish Writers Centre's Novel Fair and a semifinalist for the James Jones First Novel Fellowship. She was awarded a Pauline Scheer Fellowship by GrubStreet's Novel Incubator program in Boston, and her short stories have been published in the *Bellevue Literary Review* and *Urbanus Magazine*. A graduate of Harvard University and Smith College School for Social Work, Juliet works as a trilingual psychotherapist and currently lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her two sons.



Isaac Fitzgerald

Isaac Fitzgerald is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* (winner of the New England Book Award). He is also the author of the bestselling children's book *How to Be a Pirate* as well as the co-author of *Pen & Ink: Tattoos and the Stories Behind Them* and *Knives & Ink: Chefs and the Stories Behind Their Tattoos* (winner of an IACP Award). He appears frequently on *The Today Show*, and his writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *The Guardian*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and numerous other publications. He lives with his wife and their two dogs on the North Fork of Long Island.



Angela Flournoy

Angela Flournoy's bestselling new novel, *The Wilderness*, was long-listed for the National Book Award and is a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Her debut novel, *The Turner House*, was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her nonfiction has appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The New Yorker*.

Featured Authors

Shannon Garvey received her MFA from the University of New Hampshire, where she taught undergraduate classes. She has published short fiction in *The Saturday Evening Post*. She grew up in Rhode Island, and now lives on the rocky New Hampshire coast. She researched *June Baby* during many years waiting tables in tourist towns and her time working on Block Island.



Shannon Garvey

Julie Gerstenblatt is the author of *Daughters of Nantucket*, which won the New England Society Book Award for Fiction, and *The Stargazer of Nantucket*, recently released from Harper Collins. She holds a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Teachers College, Columbia University and has taught everything from middle school English to graduate studies. Her essays have appeared in the *Huffington Post* and *Grown & Flown*, among others. A native New Yorker who has been visiting Nantucket since childhood, Julie now lives in coastal Rhode Island with her family and one very smart shichonpoo.



Julie Gerstenblatt

Alice Hoffman is the author of more than thirty works of fiction, including *When We Flew Away: A Novel of Anne Frank Before the Diary*, *The World That We Knew*, *The Marriage of Opposites*, *The Red Garden*, *The Museum of Extraordinary Things*, *The Dovekeepers*, *Here on Earth*, an Oprah's Book Club selection, and the *Practical Magic* series, including *Practical Magic*, *Magic Lessons*, *The Rules of Magic*, a selection of Reese's Book Club, and *The Book of Magic*. She lives near Boston.



Alice Hoffman

Mitchell S. Jackson has won the Pulitzer Prize and National Magazine Award in Feature Writing. Jackson's debut novel *The Residue Years* won a Whiting Award and The Ernest J. Gaines Prize for Literary Excellence. His essay collection *Survival Math: Notes on an All-American Family* was named a best book of 2019 by more than a dozen publications and was later acknowledged as one of the best nonfiction books of the 21st century. Jackson is also the author of *Fly: The Big Book of Basketball Fashion*, described by *The New York Times* as "A coffee-table book that elevates the subject to the same decorative status as a Dior or Gucci monograph." *Fly* was a *USA Today* bestseller and won a Booktique Award (honoring the best coffee table books of the year).



Mitchell Jackson

Marlon James was born in Jamaica. He is the author of multiple award-winning novels including *A Brief History of Seven Killings*, which won the 2015 Booker Prize and the American Book Award. His novel *Black Leopard, Red Wolf*, was a finalist for the 2019 National Book Award for Fiction. In 2019, *Time Magazine* included him in their Time 100 list of the year's most influential people. His new novel, *The Disappears*, will be published in Fall 2026.



Marlon James

Featured Authors



Tayari Jones

Tayari Jones is the author of five novels, including *An American Marriage*, which was an Oprah's Book Club selection and also appeared on Barack Obama's summer reading list and his year-end roundup. It won the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Aspen Words Literary Prize, and an NAACP Image Award and has been published in two dozen countries. Jones is the C.H. Candler Professor of English and Creative Writing at Emory University and lives in Atlanta. Her latest novel is *Kin*, which is also an Oprah's Book Club selection and *New York Times* best seller.



Pamela Kelley

Pamela Kelley is a *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author of women's fiction, family sagas, and suspense. Readers often describe her books as feel-good reads with people you'd want as friends. Her latest novel, *Nantucket Second Chances*, was released on June 9, 2026. Pamela lives in an historic seaside town near Cape Cod and just south of Boston. She has always been an avid reader of women's fiction, romance, mysteries, thrillers and cook books.



Kyleigh Leddy

Kyleigh Leddy is the author of *The Perfect Other: A Memoir of My Sister*, which is based on her *New York Times* Modern Love essay, *Years Ago, My Sister Vanished. I See Her Whenever I Want*. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York* magazine, *Parents*, and *QCODE*, among others. In 2023, she was named on the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 Media list. She holds a BA from Boston College, an MSW from Columbia University, and an MFA from Bennington Writing Seminars. She is a licensed therapist and teaches creative writing at Gotham Writers and Boston College.



Norah O'Donnell

Norah O'Donnell is a multiple Emmy Award-winning journalist with nearly three decades of experience covering the biggest stories in the world and conducting impactful, news-making interviews. She is CBS News' Senior Correspondent, focused on big interviews and projects for the network, and spent five years as the anchor and managing editor of the *CBS Evening News*, the oldest and most revered evening news broadcast in America. O'Donnell anchors *CBS News Election Specials* and is a *60 Minutes* contributing correspondent. She is married to the bacon-loving Geoff Tracy, otherwise known as Chef Geoff, and is the mother of three children.



Ann Patchett

Ann Patchett is the author of novels, most recently the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Tom Lake*, works of nonfiction, and children's books. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the PEN/Faulkner, the Women's Prize for Fiction in the UK, and the Book Sense Book of the Year. Her novel *The Dutch House* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Her work has been translated into more than thirty languages, and *Time* magazine named her one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. President Biden awarded her the National Humanities Medal in recognition of her contributions to American culture. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee, where she is the owner of Parnassus Books.

Featured Authors

Vanessa Riley is an acclaimed author of more than twenty-five novels, including *Island Queen*, a *Good Morning America* Buzz Pick, and *Queen of Exiles*, an *ABC View* Lit Pick. She is the recipient of Georgia's 2023 Literary Fiction Author of the Year for *Sister Mother Warrior* and the 2024 Mystery/Detective Author of the Year for *Murder in Drury Lane*. Her work has been praised by the *Washington Post*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *NPR*, *Publishers Weekly*, and the *New York Times*. She hosts the essay podcast "Write of Passage" on Substack.



Vanessa Riley

Lois Romano is a distinguished American journalist, author, and editor, known for her in-depth coverage of national politics and American political culture for major outlets, including *The Washington Post* and *Politico*. Her longtime interest in the lives of women who have influenced history informs her writing with empathy, depth, and nuance. *An Inconvenient Widow: The Torment, Trial, and Triumph of Mary Todd Lincoln* reflects her insight into the interplay between politics and the human condition, illuminating the complex life of a First Lady who navigated personal turmoil and public scrutiny to play a central role at the most consequential moment in our nation's history.



Lois Romano

Richard Russo is the author of ten novels, most recently *Somebody's Fool*, *Chances Are . . .*, *Everybody's Fool*, and *That Old Cape Magic*; two collections of stories; the memoir *Elsewhere*; and the essay collection *Life and Art*. In 2002 he received the Pulitzer Prize for *Empire Falls*, which, like *Nobody's Fool*, won multiple awards for its screen adaptation, and in 2023 his novel *Straight Man* was adapted into the television series *Lucky Hank*. In 2017 he received France's Grand Prix de Littérature Américaine. His newest novel, *Under the Falls*, will be published in September. He lives in Portland, Maine.



Richard Russo

Patrick Ryan's novel, *Buckeye*, is a *New York Times* and international bestseller. He is also the author of the story collections *The Dream Life of Astronauts* and *Send Me*. His work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories*, the anthology *Tales of Two Cities*, and elsewhere. The former associate editor of *Granta*, he is the editor-in-chief of the literary magazine *One Story*. He lives in New York City.



Patrick Ryan

Julian Sancton is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Madhouse at the End of the Earth* and a senior features editor at *The Hollywood Reporter*. His work has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *National Geographic*, *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, and *GQ*, among other publications. He has reported from every continent, including Antarctica, and lives in Larchmont, New York. His newest nonfiction book, *Neptune's Fortune: The Billion-Dollar Shipwreck and the Ghosts of the Spanish Empire*, was published in January.



Julian Sancton

Featured Authors



Ruta Sepetyš

Ruta Sepetyš is an internationally acclaimed, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of historical fiction published in over sixty countries and forty languages. Winner of the Carnegie Medal and honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Ruta gives voice to underrepresented history and those who experienced it. She has been invited to present at NATO, European Parliament, the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress, and embassies worldwide. Ruta alternates her time between the hills of Tennessee and the flats of Florida.



Jamie Siminoff

Jamie Siminoff, a lifelong inventor and mission-driven entrepreneur, created the world's first wifi video doorbell while working in his garage in 2011. That doorbell has since transformed into Ring, the whole-home security powerhouse that was acquired by Amazon in 2018 for over \$1 billion. Today, Jamie continues to make neighborhoods safer as the Chief Inventor of Ring. He is also active in impact investing and philanthropy through his family office, Shark Lake Explorations. His latest invention is a book: *Ding Dong*, a candid, behind-the-scenes account of how a scrappy garage startup called Doorbot turned into Ring, a household name and security brand now trusted by millions. Jamie holds his Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship from Babson College. When he's not working, Jamie enjoys spending time with his wife, son, and two dogs Pancake and Biscuit.



James Sulzer

James Sulzer's new novel *All That Smolders: A Mystery* was named the One Book One Island book for 2026 by the Nantucket Atheneum. Other published works include a novel about Emily Dickinson, *The Voice at the Door* and a novel about John Keats, *Writ in Water*, as well as the novel *Nantucket Daybreak* and a trilogy of middle grade novels for children, *The Card People*. A year-round resident of Nantucket since 1982, he taught for 30 years and also produced countless "Sonic ID's" for Public Radio. In his early years on the island, he labored as a commercial scalloper and sang professionally in a barbershop quartet.



Adriana Trigiani

Adriana Trigiani is the *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty-one books of fiction and nonfiction, including *The View from Lake Como*, *The Good Left Undone*, *The Shoemaker's Wife* and *Lucia, Lucia*. Her work has been published in thirty-eight languages around the world. An award-winning playwright, television writer/producer, and filmmaker, Trigiani wrote and directed the major motion picture of her debut novel, *Big Stone Gap*, adapted her novel, *Very Valentine*, for television, and directed the award-winning documentary, *Queens of the Big Time*. She has written for *The Washington Post*, the *Richmond Times Dispatch* and *Bon Appetit* magazine, among others. Adriana hosts the hit podcast, *You Are What You Read*, where she interviews authors and luminaries about the books that built their souls.



Rick Tulskey

Rick Tulskey was the co-founder of *Injustice Watch* and served as editorial director until he retired in 2020. Before starting *Injustice Watch* in 2016, Rick was the founding director of Medill Watchdog, a program at Northwestern University's journalism school to undertake collaborative projects on systemic problems while mentoring students in such work. Rick previously worked at the Jackson (Miss.) *Clarion Ledger*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *Center for Investigative Reporting*. His work has received more than two dozen national awards including a Pulitzer Prize, and has been a nominated finalist in two other years.

Featured Authors

John Vaillant's most recent book, *Fire Weather: On the Front Lines of a Burning World*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for Nonfiction, winner of the Baillie Gifford Prize, and named one of the "10 Best Books of the Year" by *The New York Times*, among other accolades. His other award-winning nonfiction books include *The Golden Spruce* and *The Tiger*, both national best sellers. His debut novel, *The Jaguar's Children*, was a finalist for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the International Dublin Literary Award. Vaillant has received the Governor General's Literary Award, British Columbia's National Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, the Windham-Campbell Literature Prize, and the Pearson Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction. He has written for, among others, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic*, and *The Guardian*.



John Vaillant

Laura Zigman is the author of *Small World* (a *New York Times* Group Text pick and Editor's Choice), *Separation Anxiety* (optioned by Julianne Nicholson and the "Mare of Easttown" production company, Wiip), *Animal Husbandry* (made into the Fox 2000 movie "Someone Like You," starring Hugh Jackman and Ashley Judd, and directed by Tony Goldwyn), *Dating Big Bird*, *Her*, and *Piece of Work*. She has collaborated on several works of nonfiction, including Eddie Izzard's *New York Times* bestseller, *Believe Me*; has been a contributor to the *New York Times* and other publications, and was the recipient of a Yaddo residency. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her seventh novel, *The Author Weekend*, was published in May 2026.



Laura Zigman

NANTUCKET BOOK FOUNDATION

THE ACADEMY PARTY

with Elin Hilderbrand and Shelby Cunningham
and the **Read the Runway** Fashion Show

July 30th | 4pm - 8:30pm | The Nantucket Hotel & Resort

HOSTED BY TIM TALKS BOOKS

nantucketbookfoundation.org

Scan code for tickets

Moderators



Shantaw Bloise-Murphy is the Town of Nantucket's Culture & Tourism Director. Prior to this she held positions in many local nonprofit organizations, and currently serves on several boards, including the Nantucket School Committee, Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Nantucket Education Trust. She is the co-creator of Supple Sirens Bath & Body, a small batch skincare brand, as well as the owner of Broad Street Surf Shop.



Kate Brosnan is the co-founder of the Nantucket Project. She has been a passionate Nantucket resident for over 35 years. Kate was the Executive Director of Juice Guys Care, the philanthropic arm of the juice company Nantucket Nectars, and served as General Manager and Host of Emmy award winning Plum TV.



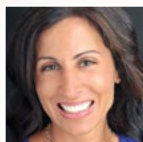
Chrissy Brown is the Administrative Director of the Nantucket Book Foundation. A graduate of Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration, Chrissy spent her early career in hotel and restaurant operations, then hospitality consulting. She is currently the Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Dana Hall School.



Sara DiVello Sara DiVello is co-chair of the 2026 Nantucket Book Festival, an author, the host of the South End Author Series for the Boston Public Library, and the creator and host of Mystery and Thriller Mavens, a popular author interview series. She's hosted over 500 author interviews, ranging from the world-renowned to the buzziest debuts. Her most-recent book, *Broadway Butterfly: A Thriller*, was a CBS NY Book Club pick, featured in *Vanity Fair*, and received starred reviews from *Booklist* and *Library Journal*.



Tim Ehrenberg is the creator of Tim Talks Books, President of the Nantucket Book Foundation, and co-host of the hit literary podcast Books, Beach, & Beyond with best-selling author Elin Hilderbrand. Tim is also the Marketing, Events, & E-commerce Director for Nantucket Book Partners, Nantucket's two independent bookstores, Mitchell's and Bookworks, and he is the official book reviewer for N Magazine, penning his "Need to Read" column in every issue for the last 10 years. Follow along @timtalksbooks or visit TimTalksBooks.com.



Lisa Genova is *The New York Times* bestselling author of six novels, including, most recently, *More or Less Maddy*, and *Still Alice*, which spent 59 weeks on the bestseller list. She is also the author of the nonfiction book, *Remember: The Science of Memory and the Art of Forgetting*. She is a Harvard-trained neuroscientist. Her TED talks on memory and Alzheimer's have been viewed over 11 million times.



Mary Haft is a writer, producer, and founder of Haft Productions, LLC, specializing in work with non-profits. Co-founder of the Nantucket Book Festival & Foundation and Board Member Emeritus of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation, she is the author of *Nantucket: Portrait of an American Town*, and a recently completed memoir: *Staying the Course: The Making of a Marine Mom*.



Linda Henry is co-owner and CEO of *Boston Globe* Media, the 154-year-old multimedia company that includes *The Boston Globe*, Boston.com, *Boston Magazine*, B-Side, Harvard Book Store, and Stat. Linda is also a partner in Fenway Sports Group, which stewards teams in the Premier League, MLB, NASCAR, TMRW Golf, and more. Linda is also an Emmy-award winning television producer, Emmy-award winning documentary producer, children's book author, avid scuba diver, and facilitator of a Guinness Book World Record. A lifetime learner, Linda holds degrees from Babson, MIT, and Harvard, and is chair, trustee, director, or advisor to ten non-profits.

Moderators

Elin Hilderbrand is the #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of 31 novels including *The Five-Star Weekend*, *The Perfect Couple*, and *The Academy*, co-written with her daughter, Shelby Cunningham. She is a graduate of the John Hopkins University and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. She is a co-host of the podcast *Books, Beach, & Beyond* with @TimTalksBooks creator Tim Ehrenberg. Hilderbrand is raising four young adult children and likes to spend her free time at the beach and on her Peloton. She is a grateful breast cancer survivor.



Wendy Hudson

Wendy loves books and libations so much she has made a life out of those passions. She co-founded Cisco Brewers with her husband Randy in 1995, bought Nantucket Bookworks in 2000, and later Mitchell's Book Corner in 2012 to form Nantucket Book Partners. She co-founded the Nantucket Book Festival because she knew the island's love of books first-hand and wanted to elevate literature in the minds of young and old, visitors and islanders alike.



Kathleen Matthews is a Washington journalist and communications strategist. For 25 years, she reported and anchored the news for WJLA-TV. She moved to Marriott International as chief communications and public affairs officer for the global hotel company. For the past 10 years she has served on nonprofit boards and in local and national politics. She is a voracious reader and spends her summers in Nantucket.



Adam Nee A graduate of UMass Amherst and Boston University School of Law, Adam spent the last twenty years in various general counsel roles, most recently Chief Legal Officer of global design-build company Unispace, before joining the Nantucket Book Foundation as Executive Director. Adam is Race Director of the Dover-Sherborn Boosters Triathlon, and also sings with and serves on the board of the New World Chorale. Adam can be found most mornings swimming and running with other Nantucket Athletic Association members or chasing after the family dog at Ladies Beach.



Michael Schulder is a network news veteran and the creator and host of "Wavemaker Conversations: Where Curiosity Meets Hope". His guests include historians and historic figures, athletes and coaches, political analysts and performing artists, leaders in journalism, national security, conflict resolution, mental and physical health, and more. Michael's journalism career has included five years as a Writer for Peter Jennings at *ABC World News Tonight* and seventeen years as a Senior Executive Producer and on-air essayist at *CNN*.



Ann Sullivan completed her B.A. at Beloit College, and then continued on to graduate work in liberal studies at Dartmouth College. In 1985 she and her husband and their four sons moved to Nantucket full time. Ann split her professional career between healthcare finance and business management. Since retirement in 2019, she has devoted time to the Nantucket Book Foundation, many friends, travel and beloved grandchildren.



Dawn Tripp is a nationally bestselling author whose most recent book, *Jackie*, won the San Diego Writers Historical Fiction Award. Previous novels include New England Book award finalist *Georgia*, *Game of Secrets*, *Moon Tide*, and Massachusetts Book Award winner, *The Season of Open Water*. Dawn's work has been translated into a dozen languages, and her poems and essays have appeared in a variety of publications. A Harvard grad, Dawn previously served as writer-in-residence at the Island School and is the current board chair of the Boston Book Festival.



Local Authors



Doreen Burliss

Doreen Burliss

Doreen Burliss is a former lifestyle columnist and newspaper correspondent turned novelist. Nantucket claimed her heart in 1989 on her first visit as a young bride – three kids and thirty years of marriage later, she put pen to paper to bring her journals, fantasies, and napkin notes to life, where Nantucket is not just a setting but an emotional landscape. Her storytelling is unique for its thoughtful blending of island history and deep sense of place, the weight of tradition and the pull of nostalgia; balancing humor, reflection and human connection. Across each of her four novels; *We'll Always Have Nantucket*, *That Nantucket Summer*, *Fogged In*, and *Blame It On Nantucket*, she explores the often precarious collision of desire, grief, and the unfinished story – when life insists on change before we feel ready or willing to allow it.



Christina Marie Calderwood

Christina Marie Calderwood

Christina Marie Calderwood is a South Shore, Massachusetts, native and the author of *Protecting Children Through Divorce: Building Healthy Pathways*. She is also a Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor (LADC-I), certified holistic health and recovery coach, and nutritionist with a passion for helping families heal, grow, and thrive, using body, mind, and soul. Blending professional training with personal insight, Christina creates heart-centered, practical work designed to support real people through real change. Her debut book was born from lived experience, creativity, purpose, and the belief that families can build healthier pathways forward, even in the middle of hard seasons. Christina lives in Massachusetts with her husband, two children, and an overactive imagination.



M. Cano & S. Sultanova

Maria Teresa Chirinos Cano and Sofia D. Sultanova

María Teresa Chirinos Cano is a Spanish teacher, mother, and storyteller who believes in the magic of everyday moments. Born in Peru and raised in Chicago, she now lives in Nantucket with her family, where she writes stories that inspire wonder, healing, and connection in young readers.

Sofia D. Sultanova is a young artist who illustrated *Coco and Lola's Magical Journey to the End of the Rainbow* at just twelve years old. Now thirteen, she lives in Nantucket, where she loves drawing, reading, and swimming. She is proud to share this special project with her mother.



Christine Devane

Christine Devane

Christine Devane's first published book, *Elephant Beach*, was inspired by her childhood and growing up shy, a project she pursued to help shy children feel seen. Her second book, *Lola and Sophie's ABC Adventure*, drew from her two favorite dogs, her rescue dog Sophie and her chihuahua Lola, introducing the alphabet through playful doggy antics and emphasizing pet adoption. Her third book, *Pet Safety with Lola & Sophie*, was written to teach children kindness and empathy toward animals while also teaching them safety. Her books have won Mom's Choice Awards, a Literary Titan Book Award, and Golden Wizard Book Awards. Christine volunteered at the MSPCA Boston and remains a devoted animal advocate.



Sean Foy

Sean Foy

Sean Foy is an author and award-winning filmmaker whose stories regularly delve into themes of resilience, self-determination, human connection, and the complexities of family. His debut psychological thriller, *The Grotesque*, was long-listed (top 2%) for the Cheshire Novel Prize and draws inspiration from writers such as Gillian Flynn and Chuck Palahniuk, and films such as *Black Swan*. Sean's storytelling is as much about grappling with life's darkness as it is about embracing its profound, messy beauty. His films, which span the sci-fi, horror, and comedy genres, feature elements of suspense, moral conflict, and often, just plain fun. Sean lives in Plymouth, Massachusetts, with his wife and two daughters.

Local Authors

Wendy Haller

Wendy Haller is the author of *The Flannigan Girls* series, named a 2025 Indie Author Project Runner-Up in Contemporary Fiction—an honor awarded by librarians across the country. She writes emotionally compelling women's fiction that explores family, identity, and the bonds that shape our lives. Her poetry has appeared in numerous anthologies, and her debut, *Kiss You Love, Goodbye*, a poetic memoir, reflects her gift for capturing the tender, often unspoken truths of the human experience. A former schoolteacher of more than twenty years, she now writes from her home in Connecticut, where she lives with her husband, two children, and two cats. Her stories linger long after the final page, leaving readers with characters who feel like lifelong friends.



Wendy Haller

S.A. Healey

S. A. Healey (aka "Sue") is a coastal New Englander, a married mother of two, and an award-winning author of novels that typically fall into the College and New Adult contemporary romance categories. She strives to create compelling stories with complex characters that leave readers guessing until the very last chapter. Her books, *Fill Me In* and *Empty Me Out*, tend to be emotional, angst-infused, heart-first dives into relationship dynamics influenced by deeper themes. Serious moments are often balanced with humor. Discover more about S. A. Healey's writing by visiting sahealey.com. Sue has a new book that came out this Spring, *My Eyes Are Up Here*.



Sue Healey

Stephen (Steve) Horne

Steve Horne is a veteran data and analytics executive with more than 35 years of experience working with high-stakes information where accuracy is critical. He held senior roles at Dun & Bradstreet, Dow Jones, and IBM, focusing on building data systems that help distinguish fact from assumption. During the lead-up to the 2008 financial crisis, Steve's analysis of complex financial instruments—particularly CDOs and credit default swaps—identified systemic risks that were not being fully disclosed. After retiring from IBM in 2018, Steve turned to writing. His work, including *The Moral Compass*, draws on decades of experience examining how data, incentives, and institutions can distort truth—and argues for a return to transparency, accountability, and principled leadership.



Stephen Horne

Frances Karttunen

Frances Karttunen is a twelfth-generation Nantucketer educated in the local public schools. She received a bachelor's degree with honors from Radcliffe College and a Ph.D. in linguistics from Indiana University. She held the position of Senior University Research Scientist at the Linguistics Research Center at the University of Texas, at Austin, and also served as Program Director for Linguistics at the National Science Foundation. She has been awarded three Fulbright fellowships, all in Finland. She is the author of the NHA Book *The Adventures of Nancy Gardner Prince*.



Frances Karttunen

Judy Lannon

Judy Lannon is an award-winning author of contemporary women's fiction, celebrated for her authentic and emotionally resonant portrayals of women's lives. Her novels—including *Nine Days*, *The Making of Genevieve*, and *Callahan's Cottage*—have earned critical acclaim and a dedicated readership thanks to her knack for capturing the nuances of friendship, family, and self-discovery. Her latest novel, *Back to the Cape*, is releasing early summer of 2026, just in time for the Nantucket Book Festival. Judy lives on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, near the Atlantic Ocean with her husband and their standard poodle, Puck. Even though she finds it a cliché, the ocean's constant presence in her stories makes it an undeniable source of inspiration.



Judy Lannon

Local Authors



Ava Roberts

Ava Roberts

Ava Roberts is a clinical psychologist turned author who knows that the most unsettling secrets often lurk just beneath the surface. She is the author of *The Summer House Murder*, *The Vanishing Neighbor*, *Juniper Isle*, and the *Thistler Thrillers* series. Kirkus Reviews hailed *The Summer House Murder* as “a whirlwind domestic thriller that’s also a pitiless anatomy of the costs of motherhood and sisterhood.”



Lisa Marie Runfola

Lisa Marie Runfola

Lisa Marie Runfola went from living a conventional American lifestyle to an unconventional expat lifestyle. A mother of five and a lifelong reader, she brings her experiences as a parent, partner, and daughter into her writing. Runfola currently lives in Nantucket, Massachusetts, with her husband and two of her children and frequently travels to both Sarasota, Florida, and Buffalo, New York, to meet with family. Lisa is the author of *A Limitless Life in a Powerless World* and *Leading with Legacy*.



Mary Russell

Mary Russell

Mary Russell EdD MSN is a Registered Nurse with an extensive career in critical care, burn units, emergency departments, and emergency management. She is finally enjoying time to write beyond professional journal articles and books. More recently she has published her award-winning personal memoir *BEDSIDE: Nursing Stories*, a multi-generational family history story *The Catskill Farm: A Place of Adventure, Solace and Peace*, and her first fiction book *The Household*. She has been a member of the Nantucket Writing Group sponsored by the Atheneum since 2014.



Barbara Tibbetts

Barbara Tibbetts

Barbara Tibbetts is a full-time resident of Nantucket, a former Kindergarten teacher, mother of three grown children and Hunter the Owl. She is the creator and founder of a scavenger hunt book series called *The LOOK Book*. The first book in the series was developed for her daughter on a trip to Nantucket with her brownie troop to engage the girls and teach them about the island. Barbara has gone from a self-published author to a publisher with over 20 books in the series. Her passion is to make learning fun!



Roxana Trabusli

Roxana Trabusli

Roxana Motiwalla Trabusli is an award-winning author whose debut historical fiction novel, *Of Mud and Honey*, has earned widespread critical acclaim. Her work is the winner of the 2024 Bapsi Sidhwa Literary Prize and the 2024 BookFest Award for Historical Biographical Fiction, and was recently shortlisted for the Reedsy Discovery Awards. Born in London and raised in Dubai, Roxana’s global upbringing informs her storytelling, which has been praised by Kirkus Reviews and featured on *The Shit No One Tells You About Writing* podcast. She now lives in Massachusetts, where she serves as the Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion for the Women’s Fiction Writers Association (WFWA). A graduate of Northeastern University, Roxana balances her creative life with her roles as an educator and business owner. She lives with her husband, her children, and their three-year-old cockapoo.

Katherine Keen Velasquez

Katherine lived through decades of mental suffering and confusion until she found freedom. Now she writes about the simple but transformative truths that found her, so that others can experience freedom too. When she's not writing, Katherine is chasing her four young children around and/or laughing at her Colombian husband's jokes. She is also a shameless foodie and coffee shop dweller. She has a Master's degree in Counseling and never gets tired of talking all things psychology and spirituality.



Katherine Keen Velasquez

John Warner

As a young man, Warner worked in Nantucket restaurants and as a commercial fisherman. He is the son of Nantucket author John D. "Jack" Warner. After receiving his BS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, John worked in advertising in New York City before going to restaurant management school. In the 1980's he worked as a chef at the Boarding House and Le Languedoc restaurants on Nantucket. He went back to school and earned a Master's and Doctorate in History from Boston College. In 1988 he joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, serving for thirty years, including two years on Active Duty during the Global War on Terror. He was appointed Archivist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a division of the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office, in 1996.



John Warner

Jerrine Wire

A native of Philadelphia, Jerrine Wire resides on Cape Cod, spends the winter in Sonoma County, California, and travels regularly to Europe and Japan. In her life she has been an art student, artists model, single mother, teacher of macrobiotic cooking, caterer, acupuncturist, spiritualist, and health food retailer. With her husband of nearly five decades, she now co-owns a thriving import business, yet still finds time to write, paint, cook and garden. Her first novel, *Beatchik*, inspired by her bohemian youth in the 1960's Boston, New York's East Village, and Haight-Ashbury, was also published by Outskirts Press.



Jerrine Wire

An Author
Walks Into
a Bar...

... except it's
not a joke!

Join us at the
**Nantucket Hotel's
Breeze Bar**

Thursday, June 11 • 77 Easton Street

Authors will start heading to the bar at about 8 pm.

Share stories with your favorites over a drink (or two).

Admission is free* – the stories will be priceless!

*Patrons pay for their own drinks.

Weekend at a Glance

Wednesday, June 10

5:00 pm **New Nantucket Fiction Meet & Greet**
Julie Gerstenblatt, Pamela Kelley, Kyleigh Leddy, and James Sulzer
Free admission, cash bar
Nantucket Dreamland

6:00 pm **New Nantucket Fiction Panel**
Julie Gerstenblatt, Pamela Kelley, Kyleigh Leddy, and James Sulzer with Ann Sullivan
The Stargazer of Nantucket; Nantucket Second Chances; Worse Than Strangers; All That Smolders
Nantucket Dreamland

Thursday, June 11

10:00 am **Lois Romano with Kathleen Matthews**
An Inconvenient Widow: The Torment, Trial, and Triumph of Mary Todd Lincoln
Methodist Church

11:00 pm **Jamie Siminoff with Kate Brosnan**
Ding Dong: How Ring Went from Shark Tank Reject to Everyone's Front Door
Methodist Church

1:00 pm **Dr. Joshua Bennett**
WE (The People of the United States)
Methodist Church

2:00 pm **Julian Brave NoiseCat with Mary Haft**
We Survived the Night
Methodist Church

3:00 pm **Isaac Fitzgerald with Wendy Hudson**
American Rambler: Walking the Trail of Johnny Appleseed
Methodist Church

4:00 pm **Laura Zigman with Sara DiVello**
The Author Weekend
Methodist Church

5:00 pm **Nantucket Young Playwrights**
Enjoy 10-minute plays
written by Nantucket Teens
Nantucket Atheneum

8:00 pm **Authors in Bars**
Breeze Bar at The Nantucket Hotel

Friday, June 12

9:00 am **Julian Sancton with Sara DiVello**
Neptune's Fortune: the Billion-Dollar Shipwreck and the Ghosts of the Spanish Empire
Methodist Church

10:00 am **Angela Flournoy with Shantaw Bloise-Murphy**
The Wilderness
Methodist Church

11:00 am **Nicholas Boggs with Mitchell Jackson**
Baldwin: A Love Story
Methodist Church

1:00 pm **Belle Burden with Elin Hilderbrand**
Strangers: A Memoir of Marriage
Methodist Church

2:00 pm **Richard Russo with Chrissy Brown**
Empire Falls
Methodist Church

3:00 pm **Alice Hoffman with Laura Zigman and Adriana Trigiani**
The Best Dog in the World
Methodist Church

4:00 pm **Jenna Bush Hager with Tim Ehrenberg featuring Emma Brodie, Juliet Faithfull, and Shannon Garvey**
Into the Blue; Liar's Dice; June Baby
Methodist Church

6:30 pm **15th Annual Nantucket Book Festival Celebration Evening**
Crystal Clear: Reading to Understand the World and Each Other
Tayari Jones, Julian Brave NoiseCat, Ann Patchett, and Patrick Ryan
Unitarian Universalist Church

Weekend at a Glance

Friday, June 12

- 7:30 pm Nantucket Book Festival Author Dinner**
White Elephant Inn and Residences
Presented by the White Elephant
■ Tickets required

Saturday, June 13

- 9:00 am Vanessa Riley with Dawn Tripp**
Fire, Sword, and Sea
Methodist Church
- 10:00 am Local Authors from the Cape and Islands**
Atheneum Great Hall
- 10:00 am A Conversation with Lisa Genova, Mitchell Jackson, and Marlon James**
The Power of Language to Illuminate the Human Experience
Methodist Church
- 11:00 am Ann Patchett with Tim Ehrenberg**
Whistler
Methodist Church
- 1:00 pm Norah O'Donnell with Linda Henry**
We the Women: The Hidden Heroes Who Shaped America
Methodist Church
- 2:00 pm Ruta Sepetys with Mary Haft**
A Fortune of Sand
Methodist Church
- 3:00 pm Adriana Trigiani with Sara DiVello**
The View From Lake Como
Methodist Church
- 4:00 pm Patrick Ryan with Ann Patchett**
Buckeye
Methodist Church
- 5:00 pm Tayari Jones with Tim Ehrenberg**
Kin
Methodist Church

Sunday, June 14

- 10:00 am Rick Tulsy with Adam Nee**
Injustice Town: A Corrupt City, a Wrongly Convicted Man, and a Struggle for Freedom
Nantucket Dreamland
- 11:00 am Liaquat Ahamed with Michael Schulder**
1873: The Rothschilds, the First Great Depression, and the Making of the Modern World
Nantucket Dreamland
- 12:00 pm Young Writer Award and Tharon Dunn Scholarship, with Special Guest Ruta Sepetys**
Nantucket Dreamland
- 12:30 pm John Vaillant**
Fire Weather: On the Front Lines of a Burning World
Nantucket Dreamland
- 3:00 pm Festival Send-Off Celebration**
Cisco Brewers



Festival Merchandise

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Merchandise and our authors' books will be available for purchase in the Atheneum Garden tent throughout the festival.





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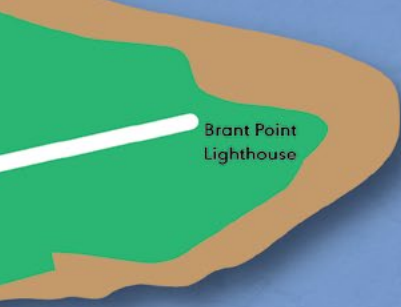
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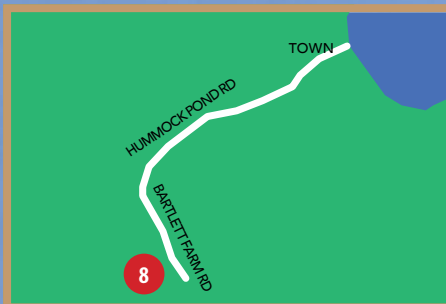
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UNION STREET

Venue Map



1. **White Elephant Inn & Residences** 19 North Water Street
2. **Nantucket Atheneum Garden** 1 India Street
3. **Nantucket Hotel** 77 Easton Street
4. **Nantucket Visitor Services & Information** 25 Federal Street
5. **Methodist Church** 2 Centre Street
6. **Unitarian Universalist Church** 11 Orange Street
7. **Nantucket Dreamland** 17 South Water Street
8. **Cisco Brewery** 5 Bartlett Farm Road



The Nantucket Book Foundation
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Nantucket Book Foundation



The Nantucket Book Foundation continues its work year-round. We are committed to broadening the world through words for our island children by our expanded reach of programs:

The Nantucket Book Festival Young Writer Award

The **Nantucket Book Festival Young Writer Award** celebrates the craft of writing and finding one's voice through the expression of words on a page. Join us at our Sunday celebration at the Nantucket Dreamland at noon, where we will announce this year's winner, along with the four finalists. We're aiming for the stars with our outreach to our island's young people. We believe in the power of words to shape and change lives. Our hope is that our students find a platform of words and a love of reading — to understand that while they may live on an island, there is no limit to imagination.

The Tharon Dunn Scholarship

In May of 2023, the Nantucket Book Foundation lost a beloved member of our family. As longtime chair of the Literary Committee, Tharon Dunn was committed to bringing the most captivating authors to Nantucket for our annual Festival, but she was also a fierce advocate for literacy and ELL programs, helping to found the English Language Learners program at the Nantucket Atheneum. In her honor, we have established the **Tharon Dunn Scholarship**, an annual award to celebrate a Nantucket High School student who loves reading, writing and for whom English is not their first language. The winner will also be announced at our Sunday Celebration.

The Nantucket Book Foundation Visiting Authors Program

This program was created in close collaboration with Nantucket school teachers and librarians, featuring authors whose work ties into the curriculum. In the fall of 2025 and spring of 2026, we were thrilled to bring three Visiting Authors to our schools – **Ruta Sepetys** and **Steve Sheinkin** for our middle and high school students, and **Peter H. Reynolds** for our elementary and intermediate school students.

The **Young Writer Award** and **Visiting Author Program** were created by co-founder **Mary Haft** in partnership with the dedicated librarians, teachers, and principals at our Nantucket Schools. Funding is provided by generous grants from the Nantucket Golf Club Foundation, the Community Foundation for Nantucket's Nantucket Fund, and the Mass Cultural Council, as well as ongoing support from our generous sponsors and donors. We extend our profound gratitude to our two Young Writer Award judges, **Sandy Mitchell** and **James Sulzer**. The Nantucket Book Foundation also supports island literacy by donating books to island schools and organizations, by supporting the Nantucket Book Mobile – run by teacher Gillean Myers – and through our newest event: **Children's Book Day**, held this year on August 22 at Children's Beach.



Author Peter H. Reynolds (R) visits with school children.
Photo: Charity Grace Photography



15th Annual

Events



**NANTUCKET
BOOK FESTIVAL**

PRESENTED BY THE
NANTUCKET BOOK FOUNDATION

**Local Authors
in the Great Hall**
Saturday, June 13
10:00am - 2:00pm



Local authors for readers of all ages gather in the
Atheneum Great Hall to talk with readers and sell their books.

.....



Presents

Children's BOOK DAY

AUG. 22, 2026

Children's Beach
10am - 1pm

Featuring children's book authors
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Special Guest Author - Robin Newman,
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The Nantucket Fund has supported a variety of programs and initiatives including the Visiting Authors in Schools program, bringing world-renowned authors to every single student on Nantucket.

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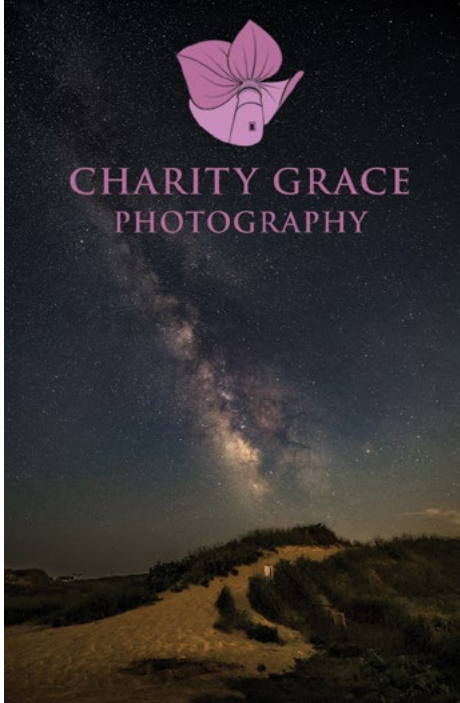
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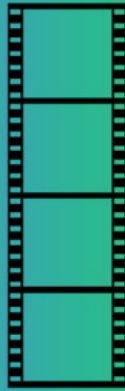
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SAVE THE DATE
June 10-13, 2027

Our Mission Statement

The NBF celebrates the transformative power of words to inspire, illuminate, educate, and to connect us to each other through our shared humanity.

We are building a community of readers and writers on and beyond Nantucket.

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