

Local Author Fair Booklet

June 29th, 2024

10am-3pm



TABLE 48

LORI JAKIELA

Lori Jakiela is the author of seven books, including the memoir *Belief Is Its Own Kind of Truth Maybe*, which received the Saroyan Prize for International Literature from Stanford University. Her latest books include a poetry collection -- *How Do You Like It Now Gentlemen?*--which received the Wicked Woman Prize from Brickhouse Books, and a new memoir--*They Write Your Name on a Grain of Rice: On Cancer, Love, and Living Even So*. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Pittsburgh Quarterly*, and more. Her columns--"Stories of Our Neighbors" and "Let Yourself Go"--appeared in *Pittsburgh Magazine* through 2023. She is featured in the PBS documentary "People Who Write Books Around Here," and actress Kristin Bell chose and read Jakiela's *New York Times/Modern Love* piece, "The Plain Unmarked Box Arrived," on the *NY Times Modern Love* podcast on WBUR. Her author website is <http://lorijakiela.net>. She lives in Trafford, Pennsylvania, her hometown and the last stop in Pittsburgh's Electric Valley.

CHARLES WILLIAM DAVIS III

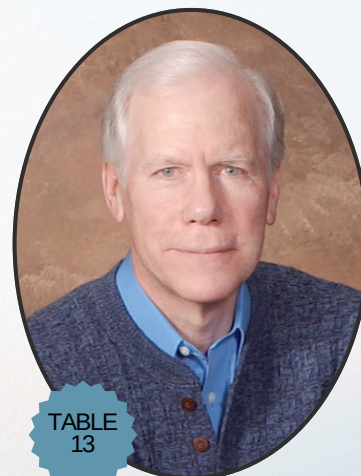


TABLE 13

My name is C. William Davis III. I have been interested in writing and literature since I was in High School. I wrote my first novel between High School and College but set it aside for school and work. I spent thirty-four years in the Aerospace and Industrial/electrical fields. Retired in 2002 and then began to write again. I was published for the first time in 2006. My first novel was "THE FOREVER MAN" a fictional mystery about a Southwestern Pennsylvania Sheriff Clive Aliston. My next novel was "TAIL OF THE SCORPION", a revised version of the novel back between High School and College and it became the second novel in the "Clive Aliston Mystery Series." That was followed by the third novel in the series, "THE TICKET MASTER, RETURN OF THE FOREVER MAN". I am presently working on a fourth novel in the series, "LADY LETHAL." Possible release in 2024. I have also written a book of seven short stories, "WHISPERS, ECHOES AND WISPS OF THE WIND." I received a literary award for it. My writing has led to public speaking and working with a group of authors that my wife, Linda (also my business manager) created "THE GATHERING OF AUTHORS." I have plans for several more books in the series and other projects. I love this art form and will continue until I can no longer do so. All my books are listed five stars and have been sold nationwide.



TABLE 19

JILL CULLEN

Jill Cullen lives in Monroeville with her husband Lloyd, son Finn, and their adorable mini goldendoodle Myrna. She's a cataloging and acquisitions librarian at Greensburg Hempfield Area Library. Her novels include "Flirting with a New Life"; "Soulmates"; "Until"; and "Flirting with Celebrity" (a sequel to "Flirting with a New Life"). She's hard at work on "Football, Magic, and All the Good Stuff" that should be ready for publication later in 2024. When not writing, she's probably reading, watching true crime, mod podging something, or tending to her numerous houseplants. You might also find her spending time laughing with family and friends or visiting her daughter Eilish in Chicago. <https://linktr.ee/jillcullen>



TABLE 49

ERIN GARSTKA

Erin Garstka is the winner of the 2023 Westmoreland Award for poetry at the Westmoreland Arts and Heritage Festival. Christine Telfer, Editor of *Invisible River Publishing*, produced her chapbook, "The Thought of a Hat." She and her husband, Mark, facilitated a poetry group for 20 years at the Monroeville Public Library. She also received a past Taproot Prize. Currently, she acts as Corresponding Secretary for the Pittsburgh Poetry Society which celebrated a 100 year anniversary this month. She has been an active member of the Squirrel Hill Poetry Workshop which meets bi-monthly for 25 years.

ELISA BETH HARANSKY-BECK

Dr. Elisa Beth "ElisaBe" Haransky-Beck is a Neurodevelopmental optometrist specializing in optometric vision and movement therapy. She is a wellness practitioner, spiritual nutrition counselor, EmbodyVision somatic yoga teacher, educator, and speaker. She contributed to the book "Vegan Voices: Essays by Inspiring Changemakers," Lantern, 2021. In 2024, she released "Enlivening Consciousness: Deepening Your Journey through Vision, Movement, Nutrition, Nature, and Spirit (Balboa Press). Through poetry, prose, experiential explorations and practical tips we learn to rise to our highest potential in body, mind, spirit and emotional life with homeostatic rhythm and passion. And so it is, Dr. ElisaBe 🌱🍓🌈🌿🕒🌸



TABLE 25

LINDA ROSSI

Linda Rossi is a writer of various artistic styles including the self-help genre, poems and personalized quotes. She has a passion for helping people to improve their lives and empower them with simple techniques toward change. She is the Author of *Zest for Life Simple Adjustments to the "New You"*



TABLE 26



CHRISTINE TELFER

Christine Telfer served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Bulgaria (1991-93), where she taught English as a Foreign Language. A first self-published chapbook, *In Good Time*, reflects on her experience there. She started a small magazine, *The Exchange*, which she edited and published for six years, then a small press, *Invisible River Publishing*, releasing Erin Garstka's chapbook, *The Thought of a Hat* in 2003. Christine's poems have appeared in various publications including *The Boom Project: Voices of a Generation*, *Along These Rivers: Poetry & Photography from Pittsburgh*, *Nasty Women and Bad Hombres*, *Mainstreet Rag*, *Rain City Review*, *The Brentwood Anthology*, and *Pittsburgh Poetry Exchange 1974-2024 50: an Anthology of Poetry*, released this May.

She taught English as a Second Language and Citizenship classes in AIU's Adult program for many years, and currently moderates two ESL Conversation groups hosted by local libraries—one of them MCL. She lives in Wilkins Township.

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CORI WAMSLEY

Cori Wamsley is the award-winning author of ten books and has contributed chapters to two anthologies. She writes stories about women overcoming huge challenges in their lives that lead them to become the next best version of themselves. Her most recent works of women's fiction are *The Treasures We Seek* (2023) and *Braving the Shore* (2022), which was lauded with The Author Zone Award for excellence in fiction in 2023. As CEO of Aurora Corialis Publishing, Cori works with leaders who want to share their transformational story with a book. She helps them quickly and easily write and publish a book for their brand that helps them create a legacy and be seen as an expert while building a relationship with the reader. She is also the host of the livestream show *Page-Turner's Studio with Cori* on the SWE Media Network. Cori has nearly 20 years' experience as a professional writer and editor, including 10 years with the Departments of Energy and Justice and four years as the executive editor of *Inspiring Lives Magazine*. When she's not helping authors with their books or hanging out with her husband and two daughters, Cori can be found dancing, painting, singing, or writing her next book. Connect with Cori at www.auroracorialispublishing.com or on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok.



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JENNIFER SILBAUGH

Jen is a first time author who's memoir came out in September 2023 for Suicide Awareness Month. She wrote "A Dove in the Shadows: My Mental Health Recovery Journey from Patient to Professional" as a way to provide hope for others. Jen is a Certified Peer Specialist which she uses her diagnosis to connect with others like her. After 20 years of hopelessness with medications and hospital stays she decided to turn within for the answers to heal herself. "I wouldn't want anyone to think they can't get through their struggles. I'm here as a representation that you can" Jen hopes her book will open up conversations about mental health and to inspire others to talk about and write their story as well.



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ROBERT MALCOLM

Robert Cameron Malcolm IV is a 1973 graduate of Highlands High School, a 1977 graduate of Westminster College, and a 1981 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. After serving 38 years in the ministry, he retired from Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church in 2017. Robert has written ten books including *Youth Groups My Way*, *Mary Magdalene: New Testament Eve*, and a six-book novella series *A Divine Christmas Ghost Story*. Robert lives in Natrona Heights with his wife Laurie and his son Robert. Please visit his Facebook page for details about his books and email him at rc4malcolm@comcast.net.

KEZIAH FREER

Keziah Freer is a local author from Irwin Pennsylvania. She enjoys stories of all kinds but is often drawn to romance and historical fiction. In school she struggled with ADHD and anxiety and didn't feel she could pursue a higher education in creative writing. Through the encouragement of her husband and two young sons she found a unique way of improving her skills with the individualized help from a local editor. Keziah hopes to encourage other aspiring writers to persevere in their writing endeavors, no matter what obstacles or challenges they may face. Her debut novel, "Visions of Home" is available now.



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DAN J. KIRK

I write fiction and hold an MFA in Creative Writing from Chatham University. My debut novel ("Between the Innings") was published in 2017, but I have also written plays. I have two new novels that I am currently editing.



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TABLE 1

GEMMA STEMLEY

Gemma Stemley is a Caribbean woman who grew up in Trinidad and Tobago. She emigrated to the US many years ago to pursue higher education. She is an author and poet. Her book *Finding Home: A Sentimental Journey* recently won an award from the National Indie Book Of Excellence. It is a memoir of her journey to find the meaning of home. Gemma worked for many years in higher education, first at Clarion University and secondly at Cheyney University in College Admissions. Gemma is a performing musician, who has made appearances at several local Universities such as La Roche, Clarion, Edinboro and California. She plays flute and the music of the Caribbean- Calypso, Reggae and Salsa.

Finding Home : A Sentimental Journey is a personal account of my migration to America and my quest to determine whether the emotional fervor and affection for the land of my birth could be experienced elsewhere. My own wanderings included asking whether homeland should apply only to the land where one's parents are buried and the only place where one can obtain a birth certificate. Was there such a concept as an adopted homeland where one can obtain a marriage certificate? Are there feelings of disloyalty to be contended with if one should acquire citizenship elsewhere. My book explores the issues of taking up residence in a country not considered one's birthplace; issues such as language, culture, climate and isolation. The fear of getting that call from home that requires immediate return because of illness or death of love ones left behind. Read about how I am able to bring about some resolution to the condition of being an emigrant.

SUSAN FRAZIER DELANEY



TABLE 2

"Budding & Wilted Roses: Inspirational Poems Through Life's Seasons"

Susan Frazier DeLaney grew up on the Southside of Chicago, Illinois. Her favorite teacher during both first and second grades, instilled in her the love and value of education. Upon moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she taught for over thirty years in the Pittsburgh Public School System (PPS) and an additional ten years in the Gateway School District. She is a member of RAMP (Raising Achievement in Monroeville and Pitcairn), currently on the Gateway School Board, a member of the Rotary Club of Monroeville, on the Forbes Hospital Family & Patient Advisory Board, a proud member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Founder of the William C. & Susan A. DeLaney Scholarship Fund, and a dedicated member of Mount Ararat Baptist Church.

"Budding and Wilted Roses: Inspirational Poems Through Life's Seasons" is a collection of her writings which includes personal and scriptural references together with quotations from noted spiritual and social leaders. The poems reflect her personal views, experiences, challenges and an approach to life's situations which exemplifies that of the victor and not the victim. The poems are designed to inspire and encourage those who may have similar experiences on their life's journey. This was her way of sending people roses from her "personal garden" which might be a source of strength and comfort to them. The book is divided into the four seasons to illustrate growth from the inception of spiritual awareness to maturity.



TABLE 7

LESLIE SAVISKY

Leslie Savisky is a contributing writer for Pittsburgh Parent magazine and Monroeville Times Express. She is the author of two self-published novels: *Other People's Words* and *Almost Too Late*. Leslie is currently working on her third novel, which is expected to be released in late summer. She is also a student mentor and speaks at local libraries and bookstores on how to self-publish. Her books are available for purchase online on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, and locally at Feathers Artist Market in downtown Irwin. Leslie resides in Penn Township with her husband, their daughter and two dogs.



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CHRIS WHITLATCH

Chris Whitlatch is an author, game creator, and nonprofit marketer, but he likes to be best known as a storyteller. For the past several years, he hosted two walking tours in downtown Pittsburgh, telling stories of Pittsburgh's Notorious past. He collected those stories as well as several more of his favorites into the true crime book, *Notorious Pittsburgh*. He is also releasing a children's holiday picture book this year. Look for current and future titles at christopherwhitlatch.com.

MARY WARWICK

Mary Warwick is a long-term resident of Murrysville and the author of the *Tall Thoughts* series, in which Warwick examines the struggles of everyday life. Her latest book is *Tall Thoughts During Chemo*. According to Amazon reviews, her books are wry, wise, heartbreaking, and hilarious. Warwick is also a rising comedian and a runner-up in the 2024 *Erma's Got Talent* competition sponsored by the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop.



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NATHAN DOVERSPIKE

Nathan is the author of the Sci-Fi Fantasy *Aetherial War* novels. The first novel in the series, *Chaos and Consequences*, is available and progress on the second novel, *The Edge of Madness*, is underway.



TABLE 22

J.V. HILLIARD

Born of steel, fire, and black wind, J.V. Hilliard was raised as a highlander in the foothills of a once-great mountain chain on the confluence of the three mighty rivers that forged his realm's wealth and power for generations. His father, a peasant twerg, toiled away in industries of honest labor and instilled in him a work ethic that would shape his destiny. His mother, a local healer, cared for his elders and his warrior uncle, who helped to raise him during his formative years. His genius brother, whose wizardly prowess allowed him to master the art of the abacus and his own quill, trained with him for battles on fields of green and sheets of ice. Hilliard's earliest education took place in his warrior uncle's tower, where he learned his first words. His uncle helped him to learn the basics of life—and, most importantly, creative writing. Hilliard's training and education readied him to lift a quill that would scribe the tale of the realm of Warminster, filled with brave knights, harrowing adventure and legendary struggles. He lives in the city of silver cups, hypocycloids and golden triangles with his wife, a ranger of the diamond. They built their castle not far into the countryside, guarded by his own two horsehounds, Thor and MacLeod, and resides there to this day. His works include The Warminster Series and The Element of Time, and his preferred genre is fantasy.



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LISA DONOVAN

Lisa Donovan is very good at looking out the window at birds, and that's why she wrote *BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD* in 2019, a picture book for children up to age seven. With light verses and collage illustrations, the book is a non-fiction, whimsical introduction to the creatures we see every day. Self-published in 2023, her second book is *BIRDS AT THE BEACH AND BEYOND*, proving that she also enjoys birds at the shore, on marshes, and in ponds. Currently, she is working on a third picture book for children about birds at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. Lisa grew up in Greensburg and graduated from Grove City College. She received an M.A. in Professional Writing from Carnegie Mellon University. After working in communications for various companies and clients—and raising a family—she volunteers and looks at birds. Currently, she serves on the boards of WQED and Aria412 in Pittsburgh. She is also a Shorebird Steward on Kiawah Island, South Carolina. Lisa is pleased to participate in this event as her mother Alice Schlenke Laurich was a Murrysville native. Lisa enjoyed many holidays at the home of her dear Aunt Betty and Uncle Cliff Baughman on Chalmers Avenue, and the town holds a special place in her heart.



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SARAH MCKNIGHT

Sarah McKnight has been writing since she could pick up a pencil, and it often got her in trouble in math class. She writes in a variety of genres including contemporary YA that focuses on mental health and big life changes, paranormal fantasies about Grim Reapers who want to quit their jobs, and horror that's sure to send a chill or two down the reader's spine. When not writing, she enjoys spending time with her husband and four cats, playing cozy video games, and crafting.



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JOHN MORROW

I am a retired Presbyterian pastor, a graduate of Kent State University and the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology, having last served the Jeannette Presbyterian Church, and currently living in Bear Rocks Community. My wife is deceased, and I have a son and two daughters. My book's genre is mystery and adventure written for young adult readers, although adults have enjoyed it as well.

JANET ROBERTS

Janet Roberts is a global leader in cybersecurity education and awareness with over a decade of experience. She holds a BA in Journalism from Temple University, and MA in Communications from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She is a member of both the Women's Fiction Writers Association (WFWA) and Pennwriters. Her first two novels won 1st Place in Fiction from Pittsburgh's The Authors' Zone. Her poetry has been published in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and in San Fedele Press' Art in the Time of COVID-19. She lives in Pittsburgh's East End where Frick Park is her favorite place for a hike. She never met a library, bookstore, or ice cream shop she didn't like. Learn more about her at www.booksbyjanetroberts.com



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JOE WALKO

Murrysville resident Joe Walko has written two books and co-authored two others. His latest work is *Cairns: The Beauty and Power of Finding Your Way*, an inspiring memoir of self-discovery and reinvention following loss.



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PAULETTE GLOVER, M. ED.

Paulette is the author of *Mindfully Ever After*, an easy-to-read book offering 52 chapters of guidance, tips, and advice to help relationships preserve the sanctity of forever love by living in the zone of mindfulness. She shares a treasure chest of practical everyday tips for couples of all ages that help identify the common pitfalls of relationships and resolve issues before they occur. Through research data, personal experiences, candid advice, and humor, she captures the value of gently guiding the heart and soul of love to preserve its integrity, encourage couples to fight fair, and inspire those in love to become mindfully aware of the challenges that often line the path of even the healthiest of relationships. Paulette is a Reiki/Master Teacher, Mindfulness Instructor, and dedicated Meditator. Retired from teaching children with special needs, she actively practices and studies healing energy techniques, such as Reiki, Psych K, EFT, White Light, and Ho'oponopono. She continues to share the energy of vibration and frequency healing through workshops. Her love of teaching has led her to teach high school students of special needs skills to prepare for gainful employment. She is also a national sales representative for a Pulsed Electronic Magnetic Field medical device based on science developed by Nikola Tesla. Paulette obtained her Master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. For more about Paulette and the workshops that she offers, visit Pauletteglover.com.

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MICHAEL HARITAN

Michael Haritan is a professional commercial photographer with a Certified and Craftsman Rating with the Professional Photographers of America. This Pittsburgh-based, award-winning photographer is the recipient of numerous local, state, national and international awards for his outstanding photography including the 1987 first place award for his photo of a downtown Pittsburgh hi-rise construction project, and displayed at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. Earning a Master of Music in Folk Arts degree in 1980, Haritan has produced photo documentaries of folk music and dance cultures, history, architecture and geography of Native Americans, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Ukraine. His trips to Ukraine in 2016 and 2018 provided research information about the world's worst nuclear accident and has given over forty presentations to audiences across the USA. It also formed the basis for his 2023 book titled: "Chernobyl: Aftermath of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster", a photography chronicle and memoir of his two visits including untold stories and interviews from survivors of the Exclusion Zone. Haritan became an Amazon Best Seller Author in just two weeks of the book's release last December. <https://ChernobylAftermath.com> (book website) Preferred genre: Non-Fiction – world history and nuclear disasters.

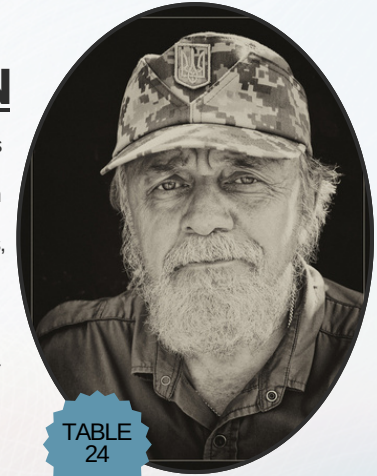


TABLE
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KLAUDYNA GRUDOWSKI

K.U. Grudowski was born behind the Iron Curtain, in Poland. She graduated from Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland (alma mater of Nicolaus Copernicus, Pope John Paul II, and President of Poland, Andrzej Duda). Both of her Master of Arts degrees in Editorship and Culture Studies are related to travel literature. She didn't know back then that someday during one of her personal journeys she would find her home in Pennsylvania, USA. She lives in the Pittsburgh area with her husband and children.



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DAZEJAH MAE

Dazejah Mae is a self published author of two books *Guide for the Next Girl* & *Let's Go There*. She is certified in being a Empowerment Life Coach and Life Coach. She is also currently majoring in Criminal Justice. She writes advice & encouraging books for young women on life, friendships, faith, and self confidence. When she's not writing you'll find her traveling, songwriting, or watching Gossip Girl.

WILL CANDURI

Will Canduri, born in 1978 in Caracas, Venezuela, now lives in Michigan, USA. His first book, "Ensalada de Cuervos," was a hit in 2021, getting a special mention at the International Latino Book Awards (ILBA, 2023). He's also known for "Siempre Joven," "El Misterio de la Garra del Oso," and "Farewell, Oviedo." His book "Twisted Crows" was a finalist in the Independent Published Book Award (IPPY, 2023), and he won two categories at the 20th Annual Best Book Awards (American Book Fest, 2023) for Best Anthology and Best Multicultural Book, representing a chunk of his work translated into English. People love Canduri's writing style for its versatility and creativity. He's great at crafting interesting settings and characters, and his stories always have a unique tone. With these skills, he's becoming one of the top contemporary authors in Latin America, captivating readers everywhere.



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TOM LAWRENCE

In 2009 the author was diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer and had radical surgery. Within the next year he also was found to have a neurological disease which left him in a wheelchair for life. It was while facing these physical challenges Tom was able to focus on the many ways God encouraged him through it all. This book is the story of how circumstances which we usually consider coincidences may be God speaking to guide, correct, or encourage us through them. Tom Lawrence is a retired pastor. He and his wife live near Pittsburgh, PA. He has been a student of God's Word for over 60 years, and has served on the deacon board and taught an adult Sunday School class at his current church.



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SUSAN HELENE GOTTFRIED

Susan Helene Gottfried is the heavy-metal-loving, not-disabled-enough divorced Jewish mother of two. A freelance line editor to authors of fiction by day, her select roster of clients tend to hit bestseller lists, and more than a few have quit their day jobs. It's not entirely her doing, but like does attract like. Susan holds a BA (University of Pittsburgh) and MFA (Bowling Green State University) in English Writing and Fiction, respectively. She currently writes contemporary and women's fiction and is focused on the Tales from the Sheep Farm series, which currently consists of four novels. She is a recent recipient of a Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator grant from the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council. She lives with a couple cats in the Pittsburgh suburbs, just West of Mars. Visit her at WestofMars.com and TalesFromTheSheepFarm.com

DANA JONES

Dana Jones, co-founder of D+T Place To Be, has dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for disabled adults and children. Alongside her sister, Tracy, Dana runs a company that teaches essential everyday living activities through engaging social media content. From cooking and baking to shopping and fitness, their videos on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube provide invaluable guidance. D+T Place To Be is not just about virtual lessons. They have published several cookbooks, available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble, with plans to expand to 100 platforms thanks to a new publishing deal. Their cookbooks, unique in their inclusion of different languages and sign language, have made a significant impact on the community. Dana brings over 18 years of experience in the field. She works as a tour coordinator and staff member for a well-established agency that has been organizing trips for disabled adults for over 40 years. This role allows her to combine her passion for travel with her commitment to serving the disabled community, making it, as she says, "the best job ever." Dana's dedication is evident in every aspect of her work. Through D+T Place To Be, she continues to share her expertise and enthusiasm with the world, ensuring that people with disabilities can lead exciting and meaningful lives. Passionate and driven, Dana is eager to participate in events that allow her to showcase the incredible work her company does and to further her mission of enhancing the lives of those with disabilities.



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BEVERLY KORIBANIC

Born and raised in Pittsburgh Pa. I am currently a real estate agent but prior to real estate I was a mainframe programmer/project leader/analyst with various companies. I always said when the computers start talking it's time to leave the business and wouldn't ya know they started to talk. lol I enjoy what I do and love helping people. So becoming a real estate agent was easy for me to transition to. However, I got scammed and decided to help people identify scammers so they themselves could easily identify and to avoid the pain of being scammed. This book is 'WOW! Scammed or Not Scammed'. In the midst of all of this I met a cute little beagle that the owners were going to euthanize. When I found out all of her issues I decided to write a book about her. The book is called Midge My Life Story.



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LINDA RETTSTATT

Linda Rettstatt is an award-winning and bestselling author of women's fiction, romance (contemporary and seasoned), suspense, regional historical fiction, and light fantasy/paranormal fiction. Two of her novels—Love, Sam and Ladies in Waiting—won the prestigious EPIC eBook Awards. She will celebrate the publication of her 50th novel—a work of women's fiction—this August. Rettstatt grew up in Brownsville, PA. In 2021, she retired from a social work position in Mississippi and returned to the Pittsburgh area where she continues to write and to offer services as an editor and writing consultant.

SCOTT WATKINS

Don't let the beard, tattoos, general adult responsibilities or age fool you. Scott is a large child at heart. Scott's love for storytelling began at a young age and has grown into a mission to impact and enrich the lives of others through fun and meaningful stories. Although Scott is not a #1 Bestselling New York Times Author, his wonderful wife and mother say he's a #1 best seller in their eyes. Scott writes children's books for all ages and focuses on learning, adventure and sound principles. Scott calls a little town outside of Pittsburgh, PA home with his wife and darling daughter.



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KERRY E. B. BLACK

Kerry E.B. Black, author of YA paranormal thrillers Awakening at Equinox and Spring of Spirits, short story collections Carousel of Nightmares, Fairy Herds and Mythscapes, Nightmares on Holiday, and TAZ winner Herd of Nightmares, the novella Wolves at Bay, and Poetic Nightmares, is a proud Pittsburgher who's a member of the Horror Writers Association, Nomadic Wordsters, Rough Writers, and Wily Writers. <https://www.KerryEBBlack.com>



TABLE 10

NIKKI RENZI

Nikki Renzi is a Physician Assistant from Murrysville, PA with a passion for medicine, specifically neurology, and a gift for weaving mesmerizing fiction narratives. Her unique blend of medical expertise and creative storytelling has made her a distinguished figure in both the healthcare and literary realms. Nikki Renzi, PA-C, graduated in 2017 with a Masters in Physician Assistant Sciences from Saint Francis University. She began her career in internal medicine as a hospitalist, and during her five years working in the frontlines of hospital medicine, she fell more in love with neurology and decided to delve into specialty medicine. With unwavering dedication, she brings comfort and hope to countless patients battling neurological conditions. Beyond her flourishing medical career, Nikki Renzi possesses an insatiable thirst for storytelling. Her literary endeavors have unlocked a new dimension of her creativity, showcasing her ability to craft engaging and emotionally resonant tales. Nikki's passion for fiction has led to the creation of two novels that explore the complexities of the human experience, often drawing inspiration from her medical background and encounters with patients. One Wednesday, her first novel, was the opening opportunity to explore combined passions for medicine and literature with a YA novel detailing the life of Melanie Charles, a twelve year old girl who receives a gut wrenching diagnosis. Sorry We Met This Way, her second novel in the genre of adult literary fiction, re-imagines storytelling and pairs the rich character development with neurologic surprise. She invites readers on journeys that traverse the boundaries of reality and imagination, allowing them to immerse themselves in worlds both familiar and unique medical experiences. Explore her novels, delve into her medical insights, and embark on an odyssey that celebrates the healing power of both medicine and literature. Nikki invites you to join her in exploring the infinite possibilities of the human experience through the pages of her books and the compassion of her medical practice.



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MARY BETH PECORA

Mary Beth Pecora, a faithful wife, mother, grandmother, friend, worshiper and servant leader, who loves life and loves people. More importantly, she passionately loves God and the fullness of who He is! Mary Beth contributed her writing skills with Enduring Hope Ministries. She was one of the writers for the online international publication, Point of Hope Magazine. Presently, she is a contributing author and encourager for Kingdom Winds, an online multimedia website for Christian Kingdom creators. Mary Beth delights in encouraging folks of all ages within various walks of life. Her love of writing is now her passion, which led her to publish two books, "Restoration Explosion In The New Year," and "Navigating The Mysteries Of God." In "Restoration Explosion," she shares what has taken her from resolution to restoration. It's a process we all can achieve. In her book "Navigating The Mysteries," you will learn how to take the next steps if you are desiring a new direction. Key words are: "Be Intentional & Take The Steps To Make The Change." Never too late to hit the reset button. Website is <https://mybelovedsvoice.com/> (My Beloved's Voice) Social Media sites: Facebook, Twitter, Kingdom Winds, LinkedIn, You Tube Channel



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ROBIN ACTON

Award winning journalist Robin Acton interviewed everyone from presidential candidates to convicted murderers during a thirty-three-year career at western Pennsylvania newspapers. Her debut novel, *The Taker*, independently published in 2021, was a Best Mystery finalist in the Silver Falchion Award competition sponsored by the Killer Nashville International Writers Conference. She recently completed her second novel, *Empty Boxes*, and is represented by the literary agency WordLink, Inc.



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LEWIS E. RUFFING

Lewis E. Ruffing writes memoirs that explore the conflicts within the duality of the True Self and of the False Self—from an early age through young adulthood. Religious dogma, more than any other aspect of culture, exacerbated the conflicts during that period of his life. The metaphors in his memoirs offer a glimpse into his spiritual journey. Lew is a retired engineer and software developer living in Murrysville, PA.

NINA DAMATO

Nina grew up in Leechburg, PA and graduated from IUP in 1972. Her first, short, but most satisfying career was as a first and third grade teacher for Kiski Area School District. Life events took her to Washington, DC where worked in the federal service until retirement when she returned to southwestern PA and took up residence in Murrysville. Nina, like many of us, has been owned by cats all her life. Seven years ago she was adopted her first specially abled kittens...Bocelli and Big, Bad, Louise Braille. Like many teachers she had a lifelong dream of writing a children's book and the covid lock down gave her just that opportunity. She looked down in her lap, there were the two purr-fect subjects, her dear kittens who are blind and the book the 'Extraordinarily Ordinary Kittens' emerged on paper. All profits from the book go to the Kiski Valley Cat and Kitten Rescue whose staff gave Bochi and Big Lou a badly needed second chance.



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KENZIE GRAVES

Kenzie Graves is a paranormal romance author within the dark, Rejected Mates, and why choose subgenres. While becoming an avid reader during her sophomore year in high school, Kenzie immersed herself in the paranormal and fantasy worlds. It started with Harry Potter when she was ten and became more of an avid reader after reading Patricia Brigg's Mercy Thompson series. After her first child was born, she decided to dive into the world of an indie author! Kenzie is a Pittsburgher born and raised. She is married to her best friend and soulmate. They have two beautiful children and two cat familiars.



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SARAH MCDAVIS

Sarah McDavis likes to do a lot of things which sometimes can cause problems, but most times it keeps her the right amount of busy. She is an author and illustrator of books for kids, a kids yoga instructor, digital presence educator, and an improv cast member with the kids' comedy experience Penny Arcade! She lives in Pittsburgh, PA with her family and books in (almost) every room. Sarah's debut chapter book, *OCTO, PI AND THE MISSING EGG* (May 2024), is a mystery for 7 to 10 year olds set in a world where Zootopia meets Finding Dory. Octo, PI, likes facts that stick and that makes her the number one case solver at the ZAR&R. In this first book in the series, Mama Goo's egg goes missing and she knows exactly where to go. Octo follows the facts across the ZAR&R and uncovers an even bigger mystery. Will she and her team reunite Mama Goo with her egg before sundown and the dark that comes with it? In addition to the main story, Sarah creates mini zines (or miniature magazines) featuring each character in the series. She loves getting to know these residents and hopes you do too!



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Carol Silvis's first novel, *Murder and Mayhem, The Suzie Tuft Mystery Series*, (Harbor Lane Books, 2024) is available under the pen name Bethany Barker. Two other novels in the series are contracted for publication. She is represented by Cindy Bullard, literary agent at Birch Literary. Carol Silvis is the author of six college textbooks, three business books, a story in an anthology, an article in *The Writer's Market*, a dozen creative nonfiction stories, and over fifty newsletter articles. Ms. Silvis has been interviewed for *Yahoo.com*, *AARP Online*, *CBSMoneywatch.com*, newspapers, and magazines. She was video interviewed by Tory Johnson for *ABCNews.com* and appeared on half-hour shows for *Cornerstone TV*, *HMC-TV Channel 20*, and *WIUP-TV*. Carol is a member of National and Pittsburgh Sisters in Crime and Pennwriters. She has held several offices for Pennwriters, including president, and remains on the Board. A former teacher, she holds a master's in adult education. She has given workshops at conferences nationwide. Visit her website www.carolsilvis.com. Find her on [carolsilvis@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/carolsilvis), Instagram, and LinkedIn.

CAROL SILVIS



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LIZ MILLIRON

Liz Milliron is the author of the Laurel Highlands mystery series, starring a Pennsylvania State Trooper and a Fayette County public defender in the scenic Laurel Highlands of southwest Pennsylvania. She is also the author of the *Homefront Mysteries*, set in Buffalo, NY in the early years of WWII. The series features Betty Ahern, a Rosie the Riveter turned Sam Spade. Her short fiction has been published in multiple anthologies including *Murder Most International*, *Blood on the Bayou*, and *Murder Most Historical*. Liz is a past president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of Sisters in Crime and the current Vice President, as well as the Education Liaison for the National Board of Sisters in Crime. She is a member of International Thriller Writers, Pennwriters and the Historical Novel Society. Liz splits her time between homes in Pittsburgh and the Laurel Highlands, where she lives with her husband and a very spoiled retired-racer greyhound.



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BRIAN COLELLA

B. A. Colella, PhD, is a lifelong resident of Western Pennsylvania. He blends his extensive background in aviation and firefighting to craft *Out of the Fire*, a fast-paced, high-stakes tale of personal and professional adversity in an airport setting. An avid runner, military history buff, amateur photographer, classic rock fan, and 1970s Chevy Camaro enthusiast, he enjoys visiting Pittsburgh's many parks, coffee shops, libraries, and bookstores with his wife, Karen. Please note: This book is considered a "Men's Action Thriller"

JOSEPH TALAMO

Joseph A. Talamo, PhD (1981-), received his degree in clinical psychology with a specialization in depth psychology in 2009 from Pacifica Graduate Institute, his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 2004, and attended Catholic schools from grades K, 2-6, and 10-12 as well as college. He has twenty-two years of experience in clinical and academic settings and is the author of two articles ("Harry Potter and the Haunted Prophet"; "Archetypal Storm: Jung and the Music of DragonForce"), a book (*Black Storm: Development, Transformation, and Apocalyptic Moments*), and a dissertation ("A Jungian Depth Perspective on OCD"). Joseph enjoys sports (especially hockey, baseball, and football), fantasy sports, music (especially piano and DragonForce), chess, and occasionally resurrecting his video/computer game days. He is Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania-born and raised.



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J.B. VETTORI

Jody B. Vettori is a novelist, poet, and blogger living in Pennsylvania with her husband, Daryl, and their pets, Cooper and the Smurf. Her children's book, *Sully & Friends Cross the Road*, is set at Daryl's family farm. Her first novel, *Upside Down Kingdom*, became required reading for a college Humanities course. *Stories From the Road* is her newest book, a work of nonfiction about an epic American road trip. It is her love letter to America. Jody has a Bachelor of Arts in Fiction and Poetry Writing from the University of Pittsburgh.



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ROY NELSON SHAULIS

Award winning Local Author Roy Nelson Shaulis's children Christian book "Cat Food for Jesus" is now listed as a bestselling children's illustration. "Cat Food for Jesus" from Collins Harper, reminds readers that God is always actually in control. Author Roy Nelson Shaulis offers an engaging children's book that centers around the Christian faith and values. The heartwarming story follows a young man who helps his neighbor try to find her lost cat. Roy Nelson Shaulis, who resides in the mountains of Pennsylvania, presents his award winning book "Cat Food for Jesus": a creative and thoughtful children's story that reminds readers of God's ability to strengthen the faith of those who are open to listening. The story also focuses on the importance of helping others. When a neighbor loses her cat while she is trying to find a new home for it, the cat ends up in a very unexpected place. Author Roy Nelson Shaulis writes, "So this is what my family calls a 'hillbilly' moment. I know I have a long rope in the shed; maybe I can lasso the kitten. So I went to get the rope. Whatever makes me think I can lasso a small kitten in the tree. I never lassoed anything in my life. But I am being mocked by a kitten and begged by a little girl, so I was not thinking normally. I threw the rope up as high as I could. It went past the kitten and wrapped around the very top of the tree. I pulled to try to get the rope loose, but the tree bent as I pulled. The more I pulled, the more it bent. Well, maybe I can pull it down enough so Emma can reach the kitten. So I pulled with all my strength. Yet the tree did not bend enough. But my 'hillbilly moments' never cease to amaze me. I decided to pull my pick up, tied the end of the rope to the bumper, then pulled the tree down." Published by Collins Harper, and Page Publishing, Roy Nelson Shaulis's charming tale inspires readers to remember that God is always in control of every event in their lives. Readers who wish to experience this original work can purchase "Cat Food for Jesus" at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes Store, Amazon, Google Play, or Barnes and Noble. And now on-line with Wal- Mart. 2017 Most inspirational new Author "Shadow of Death". 2021 Barnes & Noble best child Author "Cat Food for Jesus".



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JOANNE NIEHL

Joanne Niehl is a homemaker from Manor Borough. She is the author of Pittsburgh on Your Plate! A journey of over 175 recipes, stories and anecdotes of Pittsburgh and its food. Pittsburgh on Your Plate! Is waiting for you to enjoy the food world of your hometown! Joanne's next book in this series ... Pittsburgh in Your Pot! Is due to be on shelves in late 2024.



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CHRISTIAN SHANE

Award-winning author, angler, teacher, fly tier, dad, husband, outdoor writer, river guide, dog-owner... Christian A. Shane, a Middle School Life Science teacher in Pittsburgh, PA, is also an avid fly fisherman, fly tier, and outdoor writer. His writing has been featured in PA Angler & Boater Magazine, The Drake, Fly Culture, Montana Fly Fishing Magazine, PA Outdoor News, and the Kype Magazine. For over 25 years, he has enjoyed teaching young people from Second through Seventh Grade. As a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Christian is a huge fan of the Black-n-Gold. He lives in the 'Burgh with his wife, three kiddos, black lab, three geckos, and four turtles. His latest middle grade Alaskan adventure novel called SALMON SURVIVOR, a middle grade fiction adventure story set in Alaska. Visit his website at www.christianshaneauthor.com



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LORETTA MARTINE

Loretta Martine is a teacher who has recently received a Master of Science and Library Science degree. Her first release, "Hey Kid with A.D. D.!" Is for ages 7 through 14, but adults express that they glean many great ideas and tips to organize and expand their lives.



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REBECCA JUNG

Rebecca Jung is a writer and poet who lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA. She grew up an expat due to her father's work, living in ten different countries within a span of ten years. Her work has been published in literary magazines, including: Sky Island Journal, Memoir, The Impetus, Pennsylvania Review, Evening Street Review, Postcards Poetry and Prose, Not Very Quiet, The Write Launch, Prometheus Dreaming, Purple Clover, and The Bangalore Review. Her work has also appeared in two books: Along These Rivers: Poetry and Photography from Pittsburgh, and Buringword Ninety-Nine, A Selected Anthology of Poetry, 2001-2011, and numerous other anthologies. She earned her B.A. in English writing from the University of Pittsburgh, and a B.A. in art history from Kent State University. www.rebeccajung.com

DARLA GRIECO

Darla Grieco is a keyboard-tapping, fun-lovin' gal who loves to connect with others about two of her favorite things—writing and faith. Her hope is to inspire women to overcome false beliefs and to learn how to find their voice. Darla has had devotionals and short stories included in various collectives including Wit, Whimsy and Wisdom, Snapshots of Hope & Heart and life, repurposed. She has also written for Guideposts: Angels on Earth magazine and has published stories in various Chicken Soup for the Soul anthologies. When Darla isn't at her keyboard tapping away, she can be found enjoying her family, playing tennis, or simply marveling at God's glorious creation. Stop by to visit her at dsgrico.com.



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