

# SAINTS + SINNERS XV

MARCH 23-25, 2018  
NEW ORLEANS



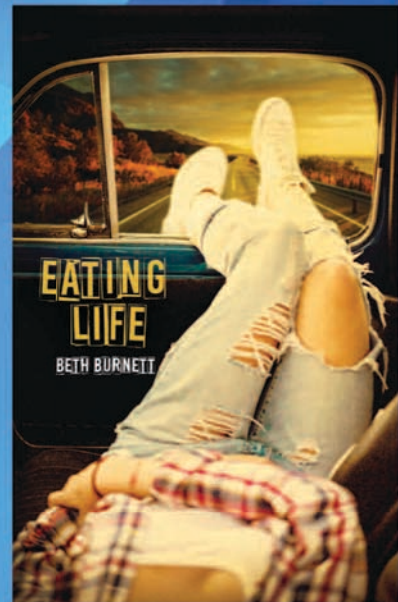
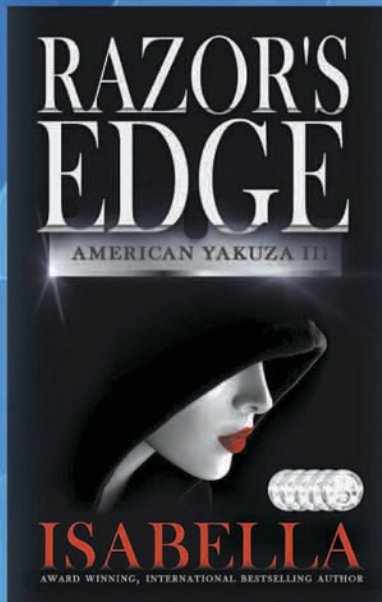


# SAPPHIRE BOOKS

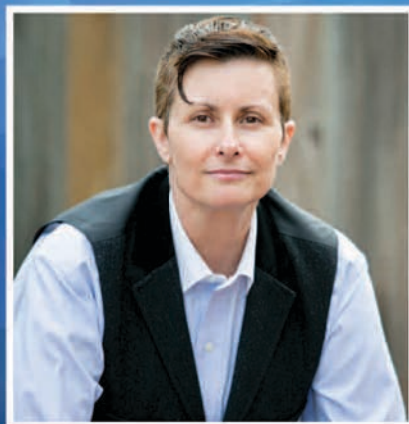
is proud to participate in the 15th annual

## SAINTS+SINNERS

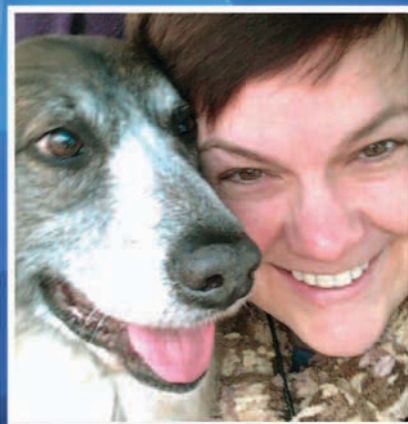
### Literary Festival



### AUTHORS ATTENDING



ISABELLA



BETH BURNETT

THE GEM IN  
LESBIAN PUBLISHING  
[www.sapphirebooks.com](http://www.sapphirebooks.com)





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## VENUES

### Hotel Monteleone

214 Royal Street

### Beauregard-Keyes House and Garden Museum

1113 Chartres Street

#### SAINTS AND SINNERS LITERARY FESTIVAL COORDINATORS:

**Paul J. Willis**, Founder of SAS Fest & Executive Director for the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

**Susan Larson**, Literary Program Consultant

**Amie M. Evans**, Anthology Project Coordinator

#### PROGRAM ASSISTANTS:

**Augustin J. Corroero**, **Mark Drake**, **Josh Fegley**, **James A. Jordan**, **Karissa Kary**, **Erinn Beth Langille**, **Cassie Pruyn**, and **Ruby Tremont**.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR: **Marian Kaufman**

#### SUPPORT FOR THE SAS LITERARY PROGRAM PROVIDED BY:

**Graham Gremore**, **Martin Hyatt**, **Michele Karlsberg**, and co-founders **Greg Herren** and **J.M. Redmann**.

#### SPECIAL EVENT COORDINATORS:

**Tracy Cunningham**, TW/NOLF

and **Christopher Leonard**, NO/AIDS—CrescentCare

#### BOOKSELLER: **Candice Huber**, Tubby & Co's Mid-City Book Shop

#### PROGRAM DESIGN: **Toan Nguyen**, [odau@icloud.com](mailto:odau@icloud.com)

#### WEBSITE DESIGN: **Cherry Cappel**



Saints and Sinners is a program of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival

## OUR COVER ARTIST



### Timothy Cummings,

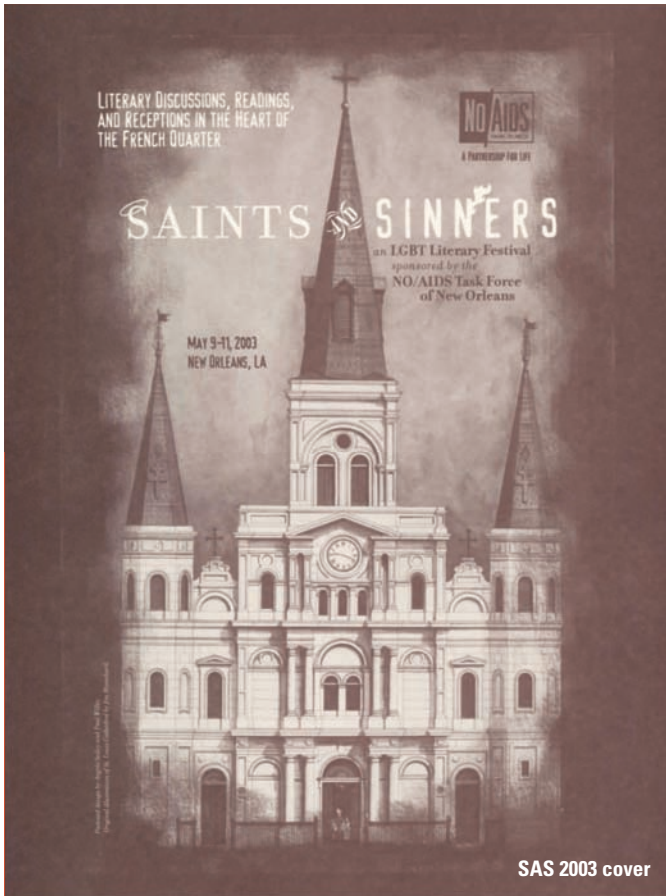
represented by Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco and Nancy Hoffman Gallery in New York, journeyed to a French Quarter pied-à-terre over-looking Armstrong Park this past Fall, provided as part of a My Good Judy Residency. The My Good Judy Foundation provides residencies for artists seeking to produce a body of work or

performance in New Orleans that addresses culture-making from an LGBTQ perspective. "Much of the inspiration for these portraits is from being in close proximity to the spirits of my favorite writers, Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote, they shaped my early adolescence. They offer a magical telling of the spirit of this place. The darkness and humor of life and the queer Southern aesthetic shows up in my work as well. Williams' 'garrulous grotesque,' replacing the bleak mundane of the world with a lush queer poetic eye for the shadows is part of my focus," Cummings said.



You can see more of Timothy's work at  
**[timothy-cummings.com](http://timothy-cummings.com)**

# WELCOME SAINTS AND SINNERS!



*"Saints and Sinners is a vital and important event in the unique way it stokes the queer artistic spirit. There is camaraderie at Saints and Sinners unlike any other literary event, which energizes writers. The panels are as exciting and entertaining as they are educating, with the perfect mixture of politics, literature, and provocation. Saints and Sinners truly feels like a family reunion. I left feeling renewed—and with a renewed dedication to writing and to LGBTQ literature."*

— **Matthew Griffin**, New Orleans, LA who teaches at Tulane University. For his recent novel *Hide*, Matthew was a Lambda Literary Award nominee; recipient of the 2017 Crook's Corner Book Prize; and it was a Stonewall Honor Book.

agent. We drew on our collective experience with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and the Lambda Literary Foundation to start planning the SAS Fest.

From the beginning, New Orleans provided the perfect setting for such an undertaking. Our city has a long literary history of gay writers finding refuge and inspiration (and maybe romance) here—think of Truman Capote, John Rechy, Tennessee Williams, and John Waters. But more than that, the city's freewheeling culture of acceptance has always welcomed LGBTQ visitors to dine, drink, and dance over such festivals as Mardi Gras and Southern Decadence.

While a great deal has changed nationally regarding gay rights since the first SAS event, the Festival's interest in promoting and empowering those who bring LGBTQ issues to the forefront not only remains, but seems all the more relevant. In an era of tension and potential loss of hard-won rights, Saints + Sinners remains focused on creating a space of

We are so happy to be celebrating 15 years of the Saints and Sinners LGBTQ Literary Festival in New Orleans. If this is your debut at the Festival, we'll make sure you feel right at home; and if you've been with us before, we are glad to have you back!

**T**he first Saints and Sinners Literary Festival took place in May of 2003, as an innovative way to disseminate information about HIV/AIDS. It also brought the LGBTQ Literary Community into the mix. The literary arts have long cultivated hope and inspiration and continue to provide an avenue of understanding.

The idea for SAS evolved from a conversation with my partner, author Greg Herren, our good friend Jean Redmann (author and a director at NO/AIDS), and myself. Jean came up with the name "Saints and Sinners," and connected me with the NO/AIDS Task Force, who became the initial fiscal



Hall of Famers Michele Karsberg and Val McDermid





**Patricia Nell Warren, 2003**

acceptance. By fostering an environment where writers and publishers can network and discuss LGBTQ issues, SAS serves as inspiration for new writings that benefit not just the LGBTQ community, but the greater community at large.

From the very beginning we've brought the best and the brightest to share their knowledge and set the tone for the future. We proudly recognized our first Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame in 2003 with a stellar inaugural class composed of Dorothy Allison, Katherine V. Forrest, Felice Picano, and Patricia Nell Warren. Over the years, we have added to their ranks with award-winning writers and committed activists.

Our Festival Fiction anthology, begun in 2009, celebrates the best submissions we've received in our writing contests, ranging from work by established authors to debut writers, and is the perfect souvenir of the Festival, a sampling of writing by participants.

In 2013, Lambda Award-winning author Rob Byrnes generously established the Saints and Sinners Emerging Writers Award, a cash prize to acknowledge and support developing talent and to further substantiate the mission and goals of Saints and Sinners. Past winners have included Alexander Chee, Saeed Jones, and Julian Rich.

And this being New Orleans, over the years we've partied with everyone from Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Cunningham, Jake Shears, whose memoir *Boys Keep Swinging*, comes out next month, and bestselling authors Val McDermid, Christopher Rice and Edmund White. We've enjoyed gay history walking



**Our First Emerging Writer Honoree, William Sterling Walker with Susan Larson**



**Christopher Rice, 2014**

tours of the French Quarter with Frank Perez and erotica readings organized by Ron Suresha at the Phoenix.

It has been inspiring and energizing to work on SAS because of the incredible talent in our community. Each year returning participants renew Festival friendships, and welcome new writers who enliven the program with their exciting works. The energy, camaraderie, and new ideas that come out of each gathering are addictive. I'm addicted to Jeff Mann and Carol Rosenfeld who have come back every year!

Whether you're a Saint or a Sinner – and aren't we all a little of both? – we know you've had a good time over the past 15 years. Now, on to the next 15...

— Paul J. Willis  
*Executive Director, SAS and TW/NOLF*



**Edmund White, Andrew Holleran, Paul J. Willis, and Felice Picano**



**Gillian Rodgers, Bill Mann, and J.M. Redmann, 2007**



**Closing Reception 2009 with Samiya Bashier, Jewelle Gomez, J. Winston James, and Charles Rice-Gonzalez**

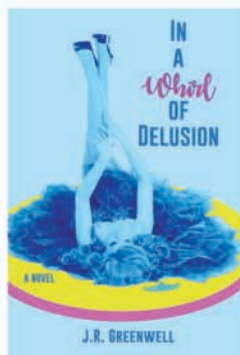




# Chelsea Station Editions

a new destination for gay literature

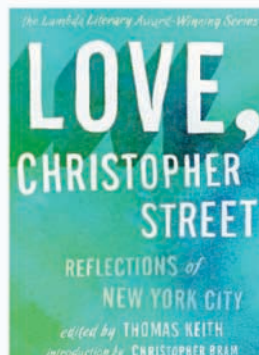
[www.chelseastationeditions.com](http://www.chelseastationeditions.com)



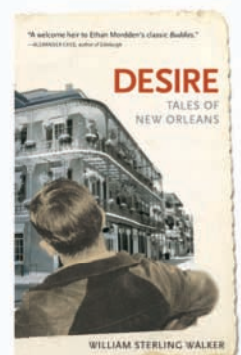
**In a Whirl of Delusion**  
a novel by J.R. Greenwell  
978-1-937627-24-9  
\$18



**Who the Hell is Rachel Wells?**  
stories by J.R. Greenwell  
978-1-937627-12-6  
\$18



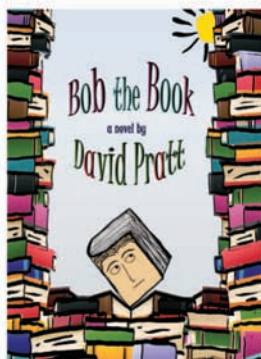
**Love, Christopher Street**  
edited by Thomas Keith  
978-1-937627-07-2  
\$20



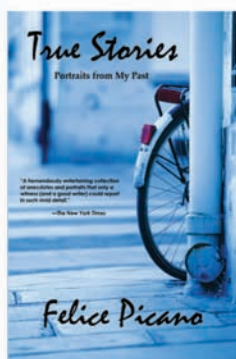
**Desire**  
**Tales of New Orleans**  
by William Sterling Walker  
978-1-937627-02-7  
\$18



**The Wolf at the Door**  
a novel by Jameson Currier  
978-0-9844707-0-9  
\$16



**Bob the Book**  
a novel by David Pratt  
978-0-9844707-1-6  
\$16



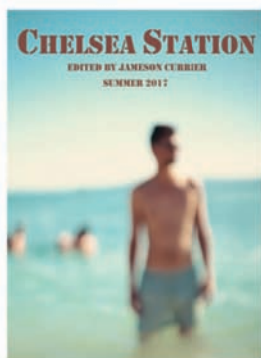
**True Stories:**  
**Portraits from My Past**  
a memoir by Felice Picano  
978-0-9844707-7-8  
\$16



**True Stories Too:**  
**People & Places from My Past**  
a memoir by Felice Picano  
978-1-937627-15-7  
\$20



**Until My Heart Stops**  
a memoir by Jameson Currier  
978-1-937627-17-1  
\$20



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# FRIDAY SAS SCHEDULE OPTIONS

## FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018

### 10:30 AM

#### SAINTS AND SINNERS FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR

This leisurely stroll through the French Quarter focuses on New Orleans' enchanting past with an emphasis on the neighborhood's queer history and its rich literary heritage. See where writers lived and wrote, and learn about the incredible contributions lesbians and gay men have made to the city over its nearly 300-year-old history. Other highlights include Jackson Square, Free People of Color, the French Market, the birth of jazz, Voodoo, and a wide diversity of architecture. The tour is guided by long-time French Quarter resident **Frank Perez**, a local historian and professional tour guide who has written two books about French Quarter history. **Approximately 2 hours, \$25. Tour also available Thursday, March 22 @ 2 PM**  
**TOUR MEETS IN THE HOTEL MONTELEONE LOBBY**



### 1 PM

#### INQUIRING MINDS: PUBLICITY WORKSHOP FOR AUTHORS

Publicist **Michele Karlsberg** discusses strategies for getting the word out and creating more visibility for you as an author. In today's market we practically have unlimited power and reach. Book reviews, blogs, vlogs, virtual book tours, book clubs, self-publishing, booksellers and more are covered in this informative session.  
**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room, Included in SAS Weekend Registration.**

### 2 PM – 4 PM

#### Looking for a publisher? PITCH IT!

#### Registration has closed for this event

For the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we've brought back a Festival favorite session of scheduled pitch meetings with Bold Strokes Books. Senior Editor **Sandy Lowe** will be taking ten minute pitch meetings between 2 and 4 p.m. Interested participants submitted book basics, a one page summary, and a brief author bio before their scheduled pitch. We hope to continue this at the 2019 Festival and would welcome other publishers that would like to participate.  
**Hotel Monteleone, Ursuline Room, Pre-registration was required.**



### 2:30 PM

#### OPEN-GENRE WORKSHOP

#### LANIA KNIGHT: SEX AND THE APOCALYPSE—WRITING THE FUTURE AND NON-NORMATIVE SEX

In this fun **open-genre workshop**, we'll combine the best of all possible writing exercises: sex and world-building. We'll look at examples of sex and writing, drawing on a range of writers like Ursula Le Guin, Kristen Roupenian, Lydia Yuknavitch, Roy McFarlane, David Foster Wallace, and Sharon Olds. Then we'll push fast forward. It's the future: will we have sex with robots? with words? with ourselves? Perhaps the planet will be so full—so full of humans and their mess—a latent gene in homo sapiens regulating desire and arousal will switch on and we'll all want too much sex, or too little. However you imagine the future, join us for a few hours of writing about the human body, future tense.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room, Included in SAS Weekend Registration. Free Session to General Public.**



## LAGNIAPPE AT THE TENNESSEE WILLIAMS FESTIVAL

For tickets to these events: [tennesseewilliams.net](http://tennesseewilliams.net) or can be purchased on site at the Festival Box Office.



### THURSDAY, MARCH 22

#### 8 PM — Theater

#### ONE ARM

Directed by **Augustin J Correro**

*One Arm* is Moisés Kaufman's adaptation of a screenplay by Tennessee Williams, based on his short story of the same title. A navy veteran and boxer who lost his arm in a car accident must resort to hustling on Canal Street to make his living. When a john pushes him too far, though, he finds himself on death row. He escapes into the correspondence of his past clients for spiritual salvation until his number is up. Produced by the Tennessee Williams Theatre Company of New Orleans in conjunction with the TW/NOLF.

General Admission \$25. Students/Seniors/Theater Professionals: \$20.

**Zeitgeist Multi-Disciplinary Arts Center, 1618 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard.**





## FRIDAY, MARCH 23

### 10:30 AM — Writer's Craft Session

#### JAFFE COHEN: WRITING FOR TV AND FILM—HOW OUR TWO-HOUR SCREENPLAY WAS TURNED INTO EIGHT HOURS OF GREAT TELEVISION

When it comes to a career in show business, if you persist, every ten years something wonderful will happen! In this informative and fun workshop, Jaffe Cohen, pioneering stand-up comedian, (Funny Gay Males) will speak about how he and his writing partner, Michael Zam, wrote the screenplay *Best Actress* just for fun, how it miraculously became one of the hottest un-produced scripts of the year, how they sold it to Ryan Murphy to make as a feature, and how, together, they turned it into *Feud: Bette and Joan*, an award winning TV show on FX network, that's changing the way Hollywood thinks of casting mature actresses. Along with some great insights about Hollywood, Jaffe—currently teaching screenwriting at Purchase College in upstate NY—will discuss screenwriting technique (the Hero's Journey) and how he's now modifying this approach to write for television.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25.**

## FRIDAY, MARCH 23

### 1 PM — Writer's Craft Session

#### MARTIN SHERMAN: THE LIVING ART OF THEATRE

Why is a play a work of living art in a way that a piece of literature is not necessarily, or sometimes necessarily not? How does a story reveal to its author that it must be told on the stage—not in a film or a novel? How do playwrights make the internal lives of their characters available to a live audience? These and many other aspects of being a playwright will be discussed when *American Theatre Magazine* founder **Jim O'Quinn** engages in conversation with master American Playwright **Martin Sherman**, award-winning author of *Bent*, *Rose*, *The Boy from Oz*, *Gently Down the Stream*, and the screenplays *Mrs. Henderson Presents*, *Alive and Kicking*, and *Tennessee Williams' The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25.**

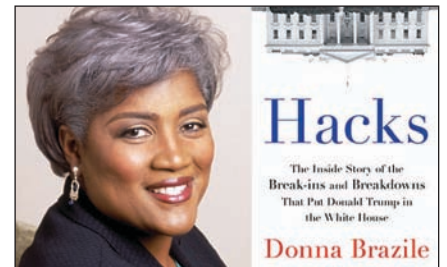
## FRIDAY, MARCH 23

### 2:30 PM — Writer's Craft Session

#### TELLING YOUR TRUTHS: A CONVERSATION WITH DONNA BRAZILE

New Orleans native, political consultant, and writer Donna Brazile has long been a star on the national political scene; she was the first African-American to run a presidential campaign. In *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in America*, she talks about her New Orleans roots and the evolution of her political style. Now, in her bestseller, *Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns that Put Donald Trump in the White House*, she revisits the 2016 election. Join her for an illuminating and wide-ranging interview with celebrated author and New Orleans historian **Patricia Brady**.

**The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, \$25.**



# michele karlsberg marketing and management

*"Michele is great fun to work with, enthusiastic and tireless. Her support has meant a great deal to me both because of her effective work and because of her personal encouragement, which every writer needs!"*

—JEWELLE GOMEZ

*"For more than a decade it has been my pleasure to work with Michele Karlsberg. She is a problem-solver; she is eager to learn new things; she pays attention to detail, large and small; she is creative and fun-loving; she anticipates and takes initiative; she takes pride in finishing projects; she is a woman of integrity and always takes the long view that her work with others is part of building community and a better world."*

—KATE CLINTON

**M**ichele Karlsberg believes commitment and teamwork is the key to making things happen in a successful publicity campaign. She uses multiple resources in communications and marketing to tackle client challenges, whether at the local, regional, national or international level.

Michele pens the WORDS column in the *San Francisco Bay Times* and is a contributor to *Love, Christopher Street* (Chelsea Station Editions) and is Co-Editor of *To Be Continued* and *To Be Continued Take Two* (Firebrand)

## Awards

Publishing Triangle Leadership Award  
Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame Inductee  
Lambda Literary Publishing Professional Award

## Selected List of Clients

Judith Katz  
Gar McVey-Russell  
Nairne Holtz  
Michael H. Ward  
Elizabeth F. Schwartz  
Isabella  
Jewelle Gomez

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# Beautiful Dreamer Press

## Channeling Morgan by Lewis DeSimone

Every writer needs a voice. For Derick Sweetwater, it's usually someone else's. But when he gives up ghostwriting to become a "serious novelist," he discovers being true to himself is harder than he imagined. It will take facing down Hollywood hypocrites, New Age conspiracies, literary conventions, and his own demons—all with the help of a spectacular drag queen and a spectral literary guide.



"As a send-up of publishing, literary workshops, Hollywood hypocrisy, and Manhattan A-list Gays, *Channeling Morgan* makes compulsive reading—come for the story, but stay for the truth."

—Keith John Glaeske, *Out In Print*

## Gay Zoo Day: Tales of Seeking and Discovery by Mike McClelland

Eight stories follow uncertain voyagers as they seek a way out of the constraints of their time and place. Using the map of the world to explore the map of the heart, McClelland drives his characters to their inevitable destinations across landscapes of love, death, violence, ambition, and sex. All find more than what they were looking for.



"Urgent, sometimes sordid, yet always attuned to the smallest gestures and details."

—Ben Tanzer, author of *Be Cool*

## Wallaçonia by David Pratt

All Jim Wallace ever wanted was to be normal. Now he is turning eighteen and he feels it's time to be the "upright and sterling" young man everyone expects him to be. The first step in that will be to lose his virginity, and his girlfriend and trusted confidant, Liz, is willing to help. But then his neighbor seeks his help running his bookstore during the holiday rush, and Jim finds an even more welcoming haven there.



"... an LGBT coming-of-age novel that preserves the messiness and uncertainty of youth in the clever, funny voice of its protagonist."

—Kirkus Reviews

## Not Just Another Pretty Face edited by Louis Flint Ceci, photographs by Dot

The stories, poems, and essays in this collection all spring directly from photographs of go-go boys. But these are not ordinary photographs. Whimsical, haunting, satiric, playful, ominous—these young men are not mere icons, but stories waiting to be told. *Not Just Another Pretty Face* looks beyond the archetype, beneath the skin, for sudden revelations.



"All of the eroticism, mystery, creativity, and smoldering desire embodied by adult male exotic dancers comes to life. . . . This collection, which embraces the beauty of the male body, . . . celebrates the work of dancers and the rewards for those who watch and fantasize."

—Jim Piechota, *The Bay Area Reporter*

## With Fingers on the Tips of My Words: Poems by M. J. Arcangelini

### Foreword by Patrick Califia

Extraordinary poems about life, death, family, and fetish by the Northern California poet praised by James Broughton for his "maturity, force, felicity of phrase, and tenderness of feeling."



"Arcangelini situates his observations about gay desire . . . within the natural world of changing seasons, altering phases of the moon, and the destruction wrought by great storms and fires. A valuable addition to the growing body of well-written gay male verse."

—from the foreword by Patrick Califia

## Hard Bitz by Don Edward Flint Preface by Trebor Healey

Posthumous poems by Marin poet Vivekan Don Flint, collected and edited by Louis Flint Ceci



"I first met Vivekan when he was teaching yoga, and soon learned he worked at a cutting-edge center for the healing arts out past Bolinas. And then on top of all that, I learned he wrote poetry as well. I was impressed with the life he'd built for himself. But it was the poetry, above all else, that made us run away together."

—from the preface by Trebor Healey



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Sandy Lowe

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# Bold Strokes Books

Quality and Diversity in LGBTQ Literature  
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# WELCOME PARTY

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 • 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM



## STROLL BACK INTO HISTORY...

The house was built in 1826 by architect Francois Correjolle for a wealthy auctioneer by the name of Joseph Le Carpentier. In 1833 the house was sold to John Ami Merle who later became the Swiss Consul to New Orleans. His wife, Anais Merle designed the House's first *parterre* garden. General Pierre Gustav Toutant Beauregard rented the home with his two sons in 1965 upon his return from the Civil War in late 1865.

The last resident of the B-K House was the author Frances Parkinson Keyes. In the "Authors Note" of her book, *Madame Castel's Lodger*, she gives her own account of how she became fortuitously involved with the Beauregard House.

"My original tenancy of Beauregard House was apparently a happy accident. I stumbled on it when I was searching for temporary headquarters and nothing seemed available. But I have long since ceased to believe that such occurrences are accidental; I am convinced that they are part of a pattern in which a power higher than ours has had a Hand."

## GLITTER WITH THE LITERATI

Welcome Party

### Beauregard-Keyes House and Garden Museum 1113 Chartres Street

Price: Included with Weekend Pass/Partner Party Pass or \$25

Come experience true Southern hospitality in the beautiful courtyard of the Beauregard-Keyes House. Mingle with fellow writers and avid readers as you begin your evening in the French Quarter at this historical landmark. We'll have snacks and spirits to get you started, including a specialty cocktail provided by Old New Orleans Rum. Melodic stylings of harpist Luke Brechtelsbauer will add to the ambience.



Luke Brechtelsbauer



With the help of the architect Sam Wilson, Mrs. Keyes undertook the restoration of the House and established the Keyes Foundation which has maintained the House as a museum since her death in 1970.



## Historic House and Garden Tours

Tour of 1826 raised cottage and surrounding gardens in the heart of the French Quarter. A grand example of Federal Style, the house features both Creole and American influences and is filled with period furniture and decor.

Tours run on the hour beginning at 10 AM until 3 PM  
You can book online @ [bkhouse.org](http://bkhouse.org)



# PANEL AND READING SERIES SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018

Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

### 10 AM

#### LESBIAN ROMANCE IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: CH-CH-CHANGES

Romance is a resilient and ever evolving genre. But what of the lesbian romance novel? Is lesbian romance a distinct genre, or are our books really just romance novels—uninflected—where girl gets girl, instead of girl gets boy? How has lesbian romance changed in this century, and how does it continue to change to embrace changing queer sensibilities and to reflect our intersectional identities?

**Panelists:** Mary Griggs, Nairne Holz, Isabella, and Radclyffe

**Moderator:** Ruth Sternglantz

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon C**

### 10 AM

#### QUEER FICTION AS SOCIAL COMMENTARY

How do LGBTQ characters make their way in a world that is always changing, but not always welcoming? This struggle makes queer fiction a form that is always socially aware, passionately so. In his novel, *Hide*, **Matthew Griffin's** long-loving couple makes their way against a changing social background; **Nick White's** characters in *How to Survive a Summer* struggle through a "gay conversion" summer camp; **Felice Picano's** work has long chronicled the changing backdrop of gay life, and **Gar McVey-Russell's** *Sin Against the Race* portrays a young African-American gay man's struggle to find his place in the community.

**Moderator:** Barry McCrea

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**

### 10 AM

#### SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: WRITERS READ

*Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.*

Authors **Tom Baker**, **J.R. Greenwell**, **Melanie Hoffer**, **Andrew Holleran**, **Jeff Mann**, **Lauren Sanders**, and **Penelope Starr** share their latest or favorite works in our annual reading series. Enjoy a mix of Festival favorites and promising new voices.

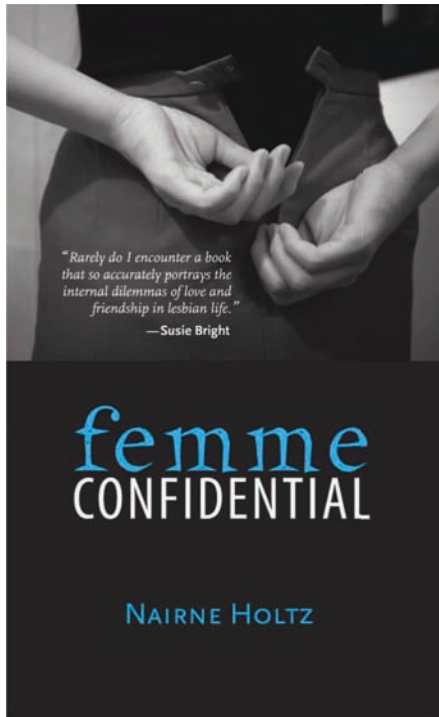
**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room**

### 11:30 AM

#### INSIDE THE WRITER'S STUDIO

Ever wonder how an author achieves longevity in the field? **Jewelle Gomez** (*The Gilda Stories*) is a poet, critic, short story writer and playwright. **Greg Herren** (*Murder in the Rue Dauphine*) has enjoyed success as an editor, blogger and a novelist of several series. Join **Eric Andrews-Katz** (*Tartarus*) as he interviews these two prolific writers on their expansive careers, achieving success, and their goals for the future. A short audience Q&A will follow.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon C**



### 11:30 AM

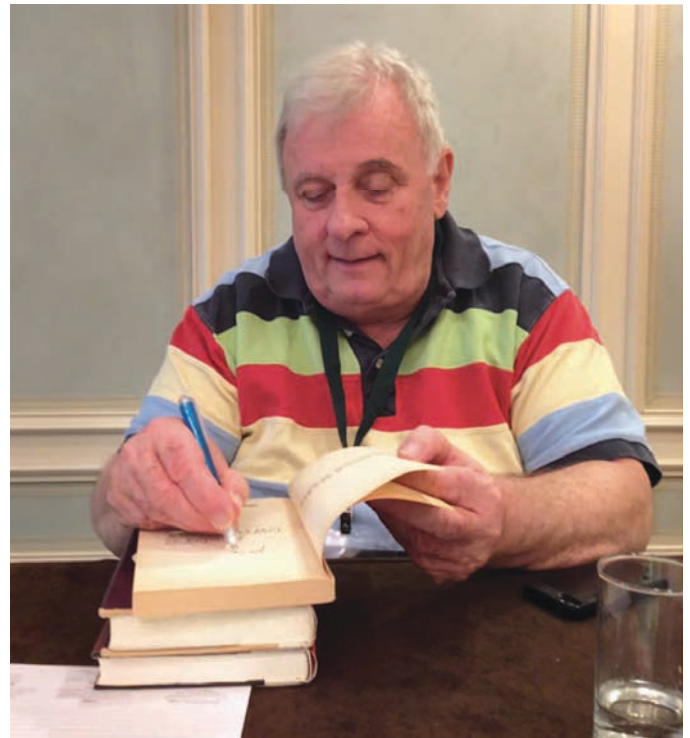
#### TO TELL THE TRUTH: THE MAKINGS OF A GREAT MEMOIR

Memoirs hold a very important place in the world of queer literature. They often remind us of who we are, where we have been, and where we are going. However, making a memoir exceptional poses unique challenges. A panel of successful writers will discuss the ways in which they approach memoir-writing. They will explore the techniques that work for them and give us insights into their writing process. They will examine the ways in which truth, structure, language, and personal history play a role in their work.

**Panelists:** Barrie Jean Borich, Peter Gajdics, Martin Hyatt, and Felice Picano

**Moderator:** Michael H. Ward

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**



Ed White signing after his memoir panel, SAS 2014



## 11:30 AM

### SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: WRITERS READ

*Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.*

Authors **Christian Baines**, **Jericho Brown**, **Beth Burnett**, **Isabella, Tammy Lynne Stoner**, and **Nick White** share their latest works in our annual reading series. Enjoy a mix of Festival favorites and promising new voices.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room**

## 1 PM

### HISTORICAL FICTION: ONCE UPON A TIME

Historical fiction is always seductive in its research phase—we all love the fascinating details that we discover. But how do we write historical fiction with ease and grace, creating a world for the reader that doesn't sound like a textbook? **Vanda** and **Cheryl A. Head**, who write about World War II, **Judith Katz**, who draws readers into the world of Jewish Buenos Aires at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and **Jeff Mann**, who writes about his native West Virginia's history—these writers illuminate that turn from the research archive to the pages of fiction.

*Moderator: Matthew Griffin*

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon C**



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

## 1 PM

### CREATING WRITING COMMUNITY

Writing is often hard and lonely work; who knows that better than another writer? That's why we come together in online communities, literary forums, conferences, residencies and festivals. Find the community you need, or even better, these activists can tell you how to start and nurture one. **Beth Burnett**, teacher with the Golden Crown Literary Society writing academy, author **Tammy Lynne Stoner**, founder of Gertrude Journal and GERTIE: A Queer Book Club, **David Swatling**, a managing editor of Big Thrill (The magazine of the International Thriller Writers), and award-winning journalist and advocate **Kathleen Archambeau** talk about the ways we grow and find strength in community. *Moderator: Erinn Beth Langille*, the co-founder and creative director of The Lemon Tree House Residency, in Tuscany, Italy.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**

## 1 PM

### SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: WRITERS READ

*Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.*

Authors **Lewis DeSimone**, **Martin Hyatt**, **Lania Knight**, **Barry McCrea**, **Justin Torres**, **Tommy Westerfield**, and **Hilary Zaid** share their latest or favorite works in our annual reading series. Enjoy a mix of Festival favorites and promising new voices.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room**

## 2:30 PM

### BEYOND BETTE AND JOAN: IN CONVERSATION WITH EMMY-NOMINATED FEUD WRITER, JAFFE COHEN

One of the most-buzzed about and acclaimed television events last year was the Emmy and Golden-Globe nominated, *Feud: Bette and Joan*. **Jaffe Cohen**, one of the show's co-creators, will discuss the origin and creation of the script. We will explore his journey from the groundbreaking comedy troupe, Funny Gay Males, to his current life as an acclaimed screenwriter. We will also gain some insights into his next projects, including his work on the highly anticipated, forthcoming Vivien Leigh biopic. *Interviewed by Martin Hyatt.*

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon C**

## 2:30 PM

### WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE: BABY BOOMER LESBIANS TALK ABOUT WRITING, RESISTANCE, AND RELEVANCE

How did the literary and political contributions of poets Audre Lorde and Adrienne Rich break ground and shape what we now call queer literature in the 21st Century? How did the work of the late Pat Parker and Gloria Anzaldua, as well as living authors such as Jewelle Gomez, Cherie Moraga, Dorothy Alison, Sarah Schulman, Elana Dykewomon and groundbreaking publishers such as Nancy K. Bereano, carry it on? Lesbians over fifty discuss the vibrant and essential lesbian writing, publishing, and resisting world of the '70's, '80's, and '90s and how it can lead us forward today.

**Panelists: Elana Dykewomon, Jewelle Gomez, and Judith Katz**

*Moderator: Michele Karlsberg*

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**



PHOTO BY RIDE HAMILTON

Dorothy Allison, SAS 2016



## 2:30 PM

### SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: WRITERS READ

*Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.*

Authors **Kathleen Archambeau**, **Peter Gajdics**, **Mary Griggs**, **Mercedes Lewis**, **Gar McVey-Russell**, **Jeffrey Round**, and **Vanda** share their latest works in our annual reading series. Enjoy a mix of Festival favorites and promising new voices.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room**

## 4 PM

### GAY POLITICS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Human rights, once won, can never be taken for granted. With a shift of the political wind, activists find the struggle goes on. These frontline activists assess the current political scene and articulate a pressing agenda for the present. **Stephen Driscoll** serves as chair of LGBT Outreach of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, **Melissa Flournoy** is a former Louisiana lawmaker and was the Louisiana State Director of Planned Parenthood Gulf South, **Mary Griggs** works with the Independent Women's Organization of New Orleans; and **Chris Bull** is co-founder and editorial director for Q.Digital, which owns and operates Queerty & LGBTQ Nation. He is also author of *Perfect Enemies: The Battle Between the Religious Right and the Gay Rights Movement*.

*Moderated by David Swatling* who has produced arts and culture documentaries for Radio Netherlands and is three-time winner of the NLGJA Excellence in Journalism Award.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon C**

## 4 PM

### LEAVE 'EM LAUGHING:

#### WRITING AND PERFORMING HUMOR

We are always grateful to the writers who make us laugh, and these four funny folks will take us into the process of how they do it. **Jaffe Cohen** is (among many other things) a stand-up performer who writes his own material; **Beth Burnett** specializes in romantic comedy; **Lewis DeSimone** knows the hilarity inherent in a good pair of heels; and **J.R. Greenwell's** humor draws on drag and sissy culture. How does each writer transmute the humor of life into surefire entertainment on the page? Come and find out!

*Moderator: David Pratt*

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**

## 4 PM

### SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: WRITERS READ

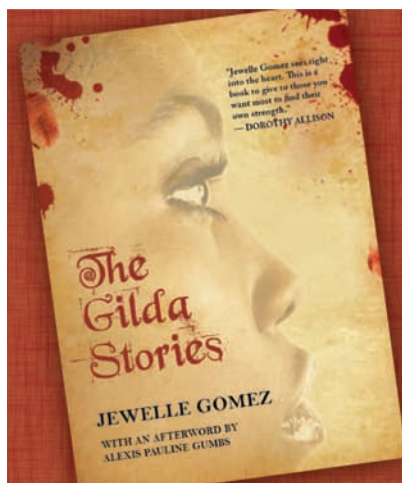
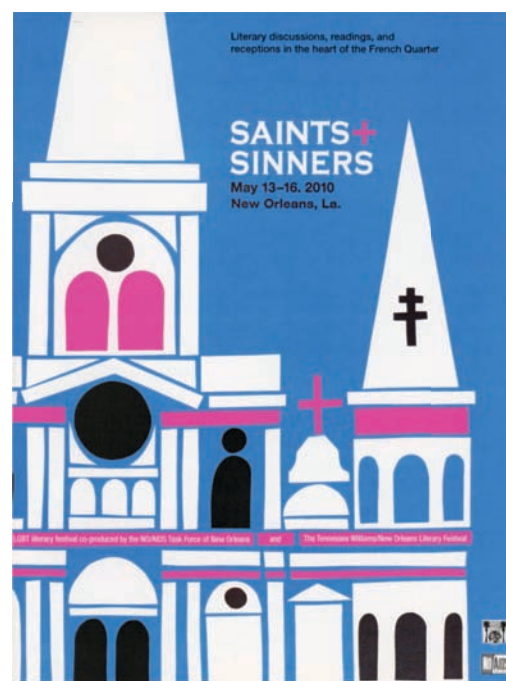
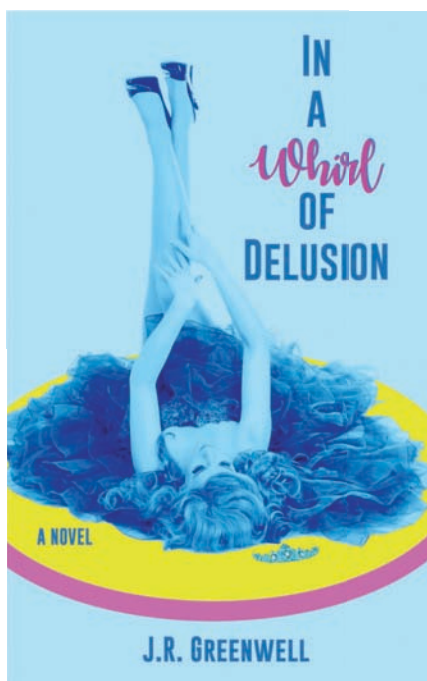
*Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.*

Authors **Rob Byrnes**, **Louis Flint Ceci**, **Sandy Lowe**, **Radclyffe**, **J.M. Redmann**, **Gillian Rodger**, **Ali Vali** share their latest or favorite works in our annual reading series. Enjoy a mix of Festival favorites and promising new voices.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room**



SAS Poetry Panel and Reading, 2007



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# NINTH ANNUAL SAINTS AND SINNERS SHORT FICTION CONTEST BOOK LAUNCH READING AND RECEPTION

**SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2018 • 6 PM**

**Hotel Monteleone, Vieux Carre Room**

(included in weekend pass or \$25 individual ticket)

Join this year's contest winner **Jeremy Schnotla**, runners-up **W.L. Hodge** and **William "Chris" Smith**, along with finalists **Laura Steadham Smith**, **Jameson Currier**, and **Reed Waller** for an evening of cocktails and readings from *Saints and Sinners 2018: New Fiction from the Festival* hosted by author **Cassie Pruyn**.

Special thanks to The John Burton Harter Foundation and Bold Strokes Books for their support of the Short Fiction Contest. Audience members receive a copy of *Saints + Sinners New Fiction from the Festival 2018*.



Cassie Pruyn



Radclyffe, Our Finalist Judge

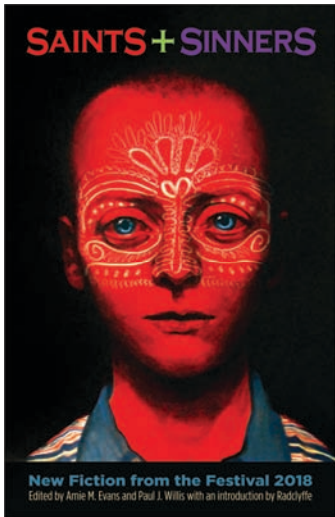


2017 Contest Finalist P.D. Walter with co-editor Amie M. Evans, and Winner J. Marshall Freeman

## Saints+Sinners Covers (2010-2017)



## 2018 CONTEST FINALISTS



Jameson Currier



Sarah Fonseca



Marshall J. Freeman



Dante Anthony Fuoco



W.L. Hodge



Mahin Ibrahim



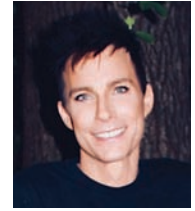
J. Michael Norris



James Penha



Miranda Recht



Jeremy Schnotala



Andrew Schopp



Vince Sgambati



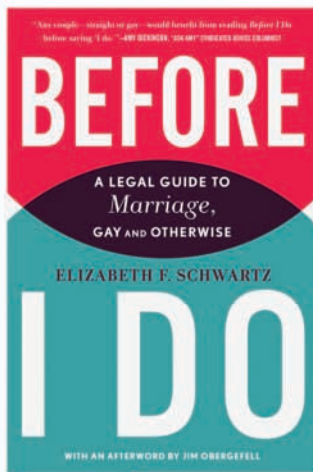
Laura Steadham Smith



William Chris Smith



Reed Vernon Waller



The dos and don'ts for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people – and anyone else – who is considering marriage.

Leading gay rights attorney Elizabeth F. Schwartz spells out the range of practical considerations couples should address before tying the knot, and explores the rights marriage provides – and those it *does not*. Covering parental rights, estate planning, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, finances, and much more, *Before I Do* is a crucial handbook that is relevant for all couples. After all, just because you can get married doesn't mean you *should*.

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**at Hotel Monteleone**

**CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF TRUMP**  
10am - 11:15am, Queen Anne Ballroom  
Moderated panel discussion

**MARRIAGE MINEFIELD**  
11:30am - 12:45pm, Royal Salon A  
Book reading & discussion



[www.elizabethschwartz.com/beforeido](http://www.elizabethschwartz.com/beforeido)





# PANEL AND READING SERIES SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018

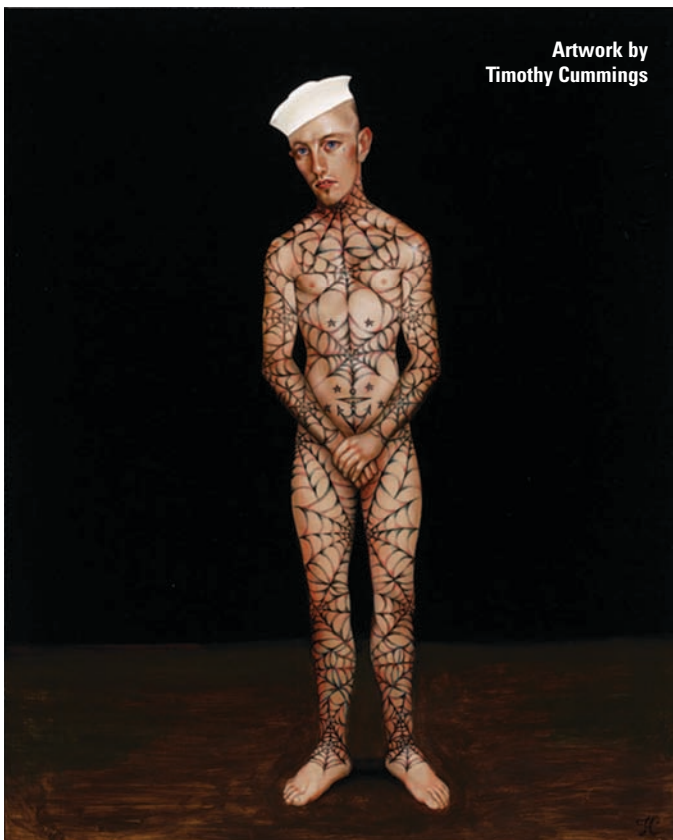
Registration/Information: 9 AM Hotel Monteleone Mezzanine

### 10 AM

#### HUMAN RIGHTS: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

This panel brings together writers and activists who have been on the frontlines of the human rights struggle for years to talk about gains and losses. **Calvin Trillin's** civil rights journalism has been collected in *Jackson, 1964: And Other Dispatches from Fifty Years of Reporting on Race in America*. **Elizabeth F. Schwartz** served as co-counsel on the case challenging Florida's same-sex marriage ban brought by the National Center for Lesbian Rights on behalf of six same-sex couples seeking the right to marry (*Pareto v. Ruvin*). Loyola University professor **Uriel Quesada** is the author of eight books of fiction, including *Mar Canibal* (2016) and editor of *Queer Brown Voices: 14 Personal Narratives of Latina/o Activism*. In her National Book Award-nominated debut novel, author and civil rights advocate **Margaret Wilkerson Sexton** puts a very human visage on the plight of three generations of a black family in New Orleans. Moderated by **Tania Tetlow**, Chief of Staff and Senior VP of Tulane University and Felder-Fayard Professor of Law, whose research focuses on unconstitutional race and gender discrimination against the victims of crimes. Sponsored in part by the Ethel & Herman L. Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies at the University of New Orleans.

Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom.



Artwork by  
Timothy Cummings

### 10 AM

#### OUT OF THIS WORLD: FANTASY, SCI FI AND HORROR

Speculative fiction can set a writer free to explore life without mundane limitations. But great spec fic comes with demands of its own! What challenges and opportunities come with giving established myths or theories your own unique spin? **Christian Baines** brings paranormal terrors to sunny Sydney in his urban fantasy *The Orchard of Flesh*. **Lania Knight's** next book *Devoured* is a science fiction novel set in the American Midwest. **Eric Andrews-Katz's** fantasy *Tartarus* takes us into a world of Greek gods. Meanwhile, **Jeff Mann** stakes his claim on the vampire genre in his latest book *Insatiable*.

Moderator: **Candice Huber**

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon A

### 10 AM

#### GET INSPIRED, STAY INSPIRED

We all know the thrill of that first spark of inspiration, but how to nourish it into a flame? How to sustain that glowing energy over a long career? Some do it by looking for role models, others by mentoring or teaching the next generation, getting involved in their literary communities, gathering at festivals like Saints and Sinners. We hear from **Andrew Holleran**, **Jeffrey Round**, and **Justin Torres** about their sources of inspiration, and **Kathleen Archambeau** talks about being inspired by the subjects in her book *Pride and Joy: LGBTQ Artists, Icons and Everyday Heroes*.

Moderator: **Ruth Sternglantz**

Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D



Martin Sherman and Moisés Kaufman at the Mark Taper Forum, 2015

PHOTO CREDIT: KATIE FALKENBERG/LOS ANGELES TIMES

### 11:30 AM

#### "IF THE WRITING IS HONEST": PLAYWRIGHTS DISCUSS THEIR PASSIONS, THEIR POLITICS, AND THEIR PEOPLE

Tennessee Williams wrote: "If the writing is honest it cannot be separated from the [person] who wrote it." The three playwrights on this panel are well known for exploring and representing gay and lesbian characters, their stories, and their history. **Jewelle Gomez** (*Bones and Ash, Waiting for Giovanni*), **Moisés Kaufman** (*Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde, 33 Variations*), and **Martin Sherman** (*The Boy from Oz, Bent*) will discuss the impulses and influences behind their plays, the writers and performers who inspire them, and the prevalence and diversity of plays by and about gay men and lesbians in contemporary theater.

**Panelists:** Jewelle Gomez, Moisés Kaufman, and Martin Sherman

**Moderator:** Thomas Keith

**Hotel Monteleone, Queen Anne Ballroom**

### 11:30 AM

#### MARRIAGE MINEFIELD WITH ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ

Now that we've secured the nationwide freedom to marry, we will have a decidedly unromantic discussion about marrying. The author of *Before I Do: A Legal Guide to Marriage, Gay & Otherwise*, an attorney who has been in the trenches working with LGBT families for over 20 years, will explore the automatic rights marriage brings. Death and divorce, income taxes and government benefits based on household income – these are just a few of the potential minefields to consider when tying the knot. Bring your questions and concerns and we promise not to tell your other half what was said! This will be the cheapest lawyer's time you'll ever come by.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon A**

### 11:30 AM

#### YOUR GENRE—COMFORT ZONE OR STICKING POINT? HOW TO SOLVE THIS LITERARY MYSTERY

Genre writers all know the pleasure of mastering a craft, whether it's a lesbian romance or a killer mystery. But over the long haul, does that genre become too easy a way for others to characterize your writing and pigeonhole your career? When does a mystery become a literary thriller? These four novelists—**Cheryl A. Head**, **Greg Herren**, **Jeffrey Round**, and **Ali Vali**—talk about the challenges of finding your genre, then transcending it.

**Moderator:** J.M. Redmann

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**

*Sponsored by Mystery Writers of America Southwest Chapter.*

### 11:30 AM

#### SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: WRITERS READ

*Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.*

Authors **Clayton Delery**, **Elana Dykewomon**, **Nairne Holz**, **James A. Jordan**, **Judith Katz**, **Cassie Pruyn**, and **Vince Sgambati** share their latest or favorite works in our annual reading series. Enjoy a mix of Festival favorites and promising new voices.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room**

### 1 PM

#### CREATING EXTRAORDINARY LITERARY CHARACTERS

Long after the last page is turned, a literary character stays with us, taking up a place in our minds and hearts. These writers discuss building characters who have staying power – the searching young men in the critically-acclaimed works of **Justin Torres**, **Nick White** and **Martin Hyatt**; the strong, complicated women in **Lauren Sanders'** exciting literary thrillers and **Hilary Zaid's** intelligent examination of history. These character-driven authors will reveal how they keep us turning the pages and how they create unforgettable characters.

**Moderator:** Martin Hyatt

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon A**



Justin Torres, SAS 2017

### 1 PM

#### CREATIVE NONFICTION: MAKING IT REMARKABLE

A true story makes for compelling reading, and yet, we often pay it our highest compliment by saying, "It reads like a novel." These authors talk about the challenges and pleasures of making their diverse subjects into page-turning reading. **Barrie Jean Borich** writes about the human body; **Clayton Delery** chronicled the Upstairs Lounge Fire and the murder of Fernando Rios; memoirist **Melanie Hoffert** is now working on a book about water; and **Gillian Rodger** is a scholar of theater history.

**Moderator:** Tammy Lynne Stoner

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**

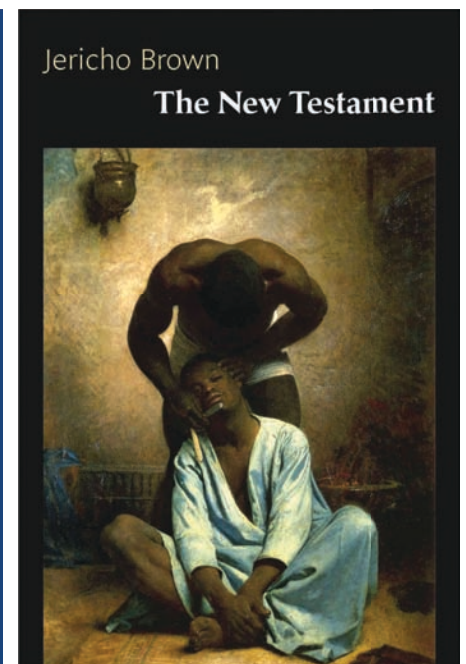
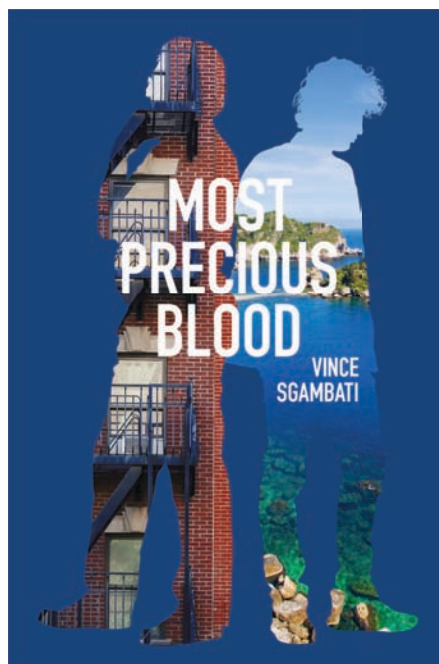
### 1 PM

#### SAINTS AND SINNERS READING SERIES: WRITERS READ

*Sponsored by the John Burton Harter Foundation.*

Authors **Cheryl A. Head**, **David Pederson**, **Felice Picano**, **Carol Rosenfeld**, **Martin Sherman**, **Lyle Blake Smythers**, and **Michael H. Ward** and share their latest works in our annual reading series. Enjoy a mix of Festival favorites and promising new voices.

**Hotel Monteleone, Cabildo Room**





## 2:30 PM

### TRANSGRESSIVE, SACRED, AND UNIVERSAL: IS POETRY INHERENTLY QUEER?

"Queer," which entered the language of sexuality and gender as a derogatory term, has come to be embraced by many in the community. If, in its many, various uses "queer" has come to mean transgressive, revolutionary, and in defiance of dualistic cultural norms, then is poetry an inherently queer art form? Throughout history and across the globe, poetry has proven its power as a force for resistance; sacred, ancient, and communal, it represents our most effective antidote to othering, to silencing. This panel will explore, through readings and discussion, the connections between "queerness," a term that evades definition, and poetry—a phenomenon that resists simplification, that perpetuates mystery, that gives voice to the collective.

**Panelists:** Jericho Brown, Jewelle Gomez, Mercedes Lewis, and Brad Richard

**Moderator:** Cassie Pruyn

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon A**

## 2:30 PM

### THE GREAT GAY READING LIST

Building on the fun we had at last year's panel about recommended reading, let's try to put together a list of fiction and nonfiction titles that would be valuable to a young gay reader. *Rubyfruit Jungle?* *Dancer from the Dance?* *Lesbian/Woman?* *The Joy of Gay Sex?* Panelists **Elana Dykewomon**, **Andrew Holleran**, **J.M. Redmann**, and **Nick White** and moderator **Susan Larson** contribute their faves, but bring your own lists and be ready to talk about them. We'll put it all together in a list that will be published in next year's festival fiction volume for us all to keep.

**Hotel Monteleone, Royal Salon D**

## 4 PM

### CLOSING RECEPTION

We'll induct our **2018 SAS Hall of Fame** members and announce our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Saints and Sinners **Emerging Writer Award** sponsored by **Rob Byrnes**.

See page 20 for more details.

**Hotel Monteleone, Iberville Room**



2014 Hall of Fame Inductees



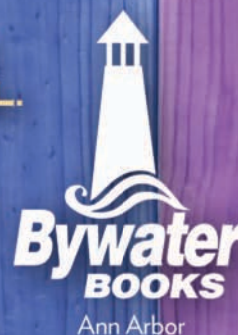
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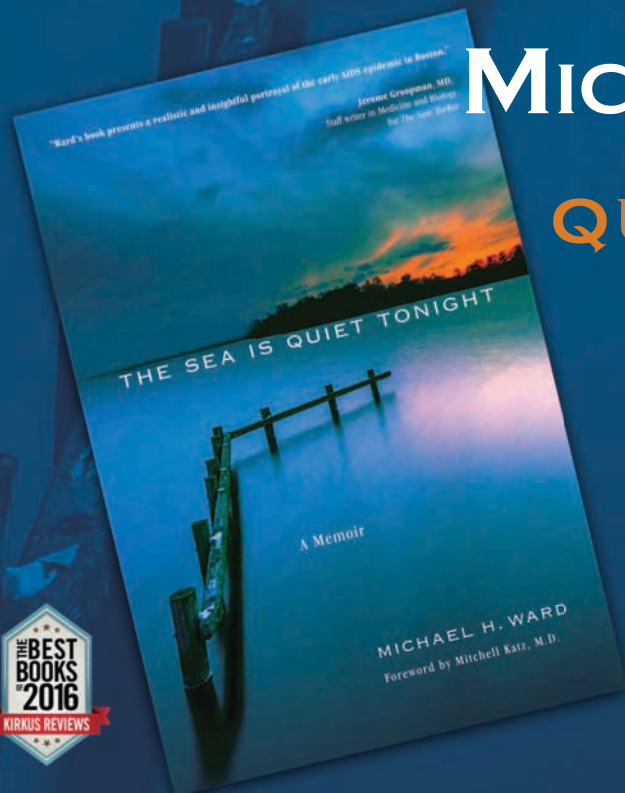
Meet our participating authors

**Elana Dykewomon, Cheryl Head, Judith Katz,  
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## CLOSING RECEPTION

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2018 • 4 PM – 6 PM

Hosted by Brad Richard and Erinn Beth Langille  
Hotel Monteleone, Iberville Room

(Admission included in Weekend Pass/Partner Pass)



Erinn Beth Langille



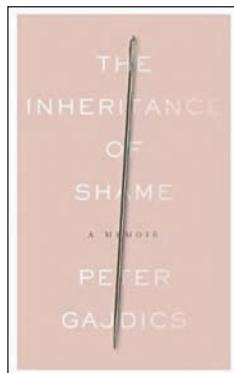
Brad Richard

**F**inish out the Festival by joining us as we honor outstanding members of our literary community. Wrap up the weekend with old and new friends, and pass one more good time at the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival.

We'll announce the winner of our sixth annual Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award, sponsored by Rob Byrnes. This award acknowledges an exceptional debut work or an author establishing a body of work that is propelling them to the next stage of their literary career. We'd like to congratulate our four finalists for their original and compelling works:

**Peter Gajdics** is honored for his memoir *The Inheritance of Shame*. Told over a period of decades, the story shows us the damaging repercussions of conversion therapy and reminds us that resilience, compassion, and courage to speak the truth exist within us all.

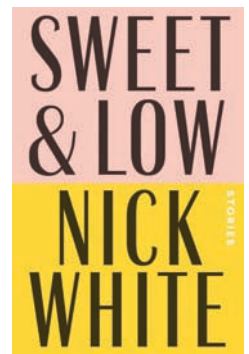
**Cassie Pruyn** is recognized for her debut poetry collection *Lena*, where she skillfully tells a story of love, heartbreak, and loss, bringing new meaning and understanding to the elegy. **Lauren Sanders** provides readers a literary spy thriller and love story that shifts between New York and Israel. *The Book of Love and Hate* is a page-turning novel of international espionage, white-collar crime, and failed Olympic aspirations.



And **Nick White** for his collection of short stories *Sweet & Low*, which was praised by the *Washington Post* as "Tennessee Williams...transposed to the twenty-first-century South." He tackles issues of masculinity, identity, and place, with a sharp eye for social commentary and a singular handling of character.



We'll induct this year's members into the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame. We'd like to congratulate them and acknowledge their dedication to LGBT literature. They have all shown their passion for our literary community through various avenues including writing, performing, promotion, publishing, editing, teaching, bookselling, and volunteerism. Through their work, they have all helped to ensure that the written work from the LGBT community will continue to have an outlet, and that people will have access to books and plays that will help dispel stereotypes, alleviate isolation, and provide resources for personal wellness.



2017 EW award winners Libby Ware and Matthew Griffin

## 2018 SAINTS AND SINNERS HALL OF FAME CLASS:



Elana Dykewomon



Judith Katz



Moisés Kaufman



Martin Sherman



Noel Twilbeck, Jr.

PHOTO BY MATHIAS FERD



2017 SAS Hall of Fame Recipients

## MEMBERS OF THE SAINTS AND SINNERS HALL OF FAME:

Dorothy Allison, Carol Anshaw, Ann Bannon, Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Maureen Brady, Jericho Brown, Rob Byrnes, Patrick Califia, Louis Flint Ceci, Bernard Cooper, Jameson Currier, Brenda Currin, Mark Doty, Mark Drake, Jim Duggins, Amie M. Evans, Otis Fennell, Michael Thomas Ford, Katherine V. Forrest, Nancy Garden, Jewelle Gomez, Jim Grimsley, Tara Hardy, Ellen Hart, Greg Herren, Kenneth Holditch, Andrew Holleran, Candice Huber, Fay Jacobs, G. Winston James, Raphael Kadushin, Michele Karlsberg, Joan Larkin, Susan Larson, Lee Lynch, Jeff Mann, William J. Mann, Marianne K. Martin, Stephen McCauley, Val McDermid, Mark Merlis, Tim Miller, Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain, Michael Nava, Achy Obejas, Felice Picano, Radclyffe, J.M. Redmann, David Rosen, Carol Rosenfeld, Steven Saylor, Carol Seajay, Kelly Smith, Jack Sullivan, Carsen Taite, Cecilia Tan, Patricia Nell Warren, Jess Wells, Edmund White, and Paul J. Willis.

## Congratulations to Saints and Sinners on their 15th anniversary



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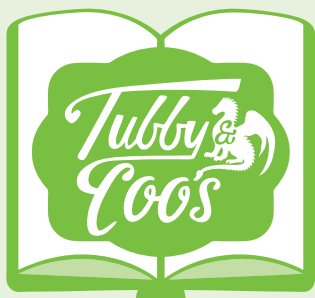


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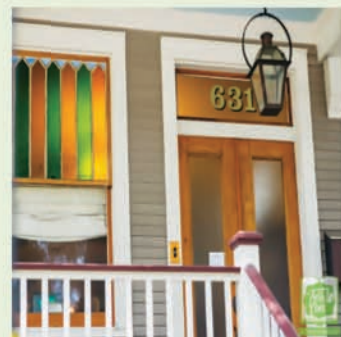
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## FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS



Before **Eric Andrews-Katz** moved to Seattle in 1994, nothing much happened. Since then he has authored the "Agent Buck 98" spy-series (*The Jesus Injection* and *Balls & Chain*), and the award winning, *TARTARUS* (all from Bold Strokes Books). His work can also be found in several anthologies, including *Best Gay Love Stories 2015*, and the *Saints & Sinners Anthologies* (2014 & 2015). An expanded list of his work can be found at: [www.EricAndrewsKatz.com](http://www.EricAndrewsKatz.com)



**Kathleen Archambeau** has been an advocate for the LGBTQ community since 1992. She wrote a regular column for one of the longest-running queer newspapers in the country. An award-winning writer and journalist, publications include: *Climbing the Corporate Ladder in High Heels* and *Pride & Joy: LGBTQ Artists, Icons and Everyday Heroes*, with a foreword by Academy Award-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black and featuring Richard Blanco, Carolina De Robertis, Emma Donoghue, Tony Kushner and Colm Tóibín. Please visit her at: [www.kathleenarchambeau.com](http://www.kathleenarchambeau.com)



**Christian Baines** has written on travel, theatre, and various aspects of gay life, factual and fictional. Some of his thoughts have spawned novels, including queer paranormal series *The Arcadia Trust*, and *Puppet Boy*, which was a finalist for the 2016 Saints and Sinners Emerging Writer Award. Born in Australia, he now travels the world whenever possible, living, writing, and shivering in Toronto, Canada on those odd occasions he can't find his passport.



**Tom Baker** is a graduate of the College of William & Mary. He enjoyed a successful career in the advertising world, winning many awards for the ads and commercials he produced. He is the author of three novels and a book of short stories. His 2014 novel, *Paperwhite Narcissus*, was recently catalogued by the Library of Congress. His most recent novel, *Green*, was published by Lethe Press in September 2017 - "A sharp and intriguing tale about a gay draftee in the '60s" - Kirkus Reviews. Tom is a member of a creative writing workshop that meets weekly in Malibu. He writes full time and lives in a tree house in Santa Monica Canyon.



**Barrie Jean Borich** is the author of *Apocalypse, Darling*, forthcoming in 2018 (Ohio State University Press/Machete Series in Literary Nonfiction). Her memoir *Body Geographic* (University of Nebraska Press/American Lives Series 2013) won a Lambda Literary Award and Kirkus called the book "an elegant literary map that celebrates shifting topographies as well as human bodies in motion." Borich's previous book, *My Lesbian Husband* (Graywolf 2000) won the ALA Stonewall Book Award. She is an associate professor at Chicago's DePaul University, where she edits *Slag Glass City*, a journal of the urban essay arts.



**Jericho Brown** is the recipient of a Whiting Writers Award and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and the National Endowment for the Arts. His first book, *Please* (New Issues 2008), won the American Book Award, and his second book, *The New Testament* (Copper Canyon 2014), won the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and was named one of the best books of the year by Library Journal, Coldfront, and the Academy of American Poets. He is an associate professor in English and creative writing at Emory University in Atlanta.



**Chris Bull** is co-founder and editorial director of Q.Digital, which owns and operates both LGBTQ Nation, GayCities and Queerty ([queerty.com](http://queerty.com)). Bull is author of *Perfect Enemies: The Battle Between The Religious Right and the Gay Rights Movement* and editor of *Come Out Fighting: A Century of Essential Writing on Gay & Lesbian Liberation, While the World Sleeps: Writing from the First Twenty Years of the Global AIDS Plague*.



**Beth Burnett** is the Director of Education and a teacher with the GCLS writing academy. Beth teaches women's empowerment classes, runs a Lansing women's networking group, and works for the Library of Michigan. She has published four books, including the recently released *Eating Life*. After an MA in Creative Writing, she is back in grad school for a second time, this time for an MA in marketing and new media. She is also working on her fifth romantic comedy and a self-help book for women. She loves to crochet, draw badly with colored pencils, and take pictures of her cat. In her spare time, Beth reads, walks with her geriatric dog, and silently judges people who don't use the Oxford comma.



**Rob Byrnes** is the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of six novels, including *When the Stars Come Out*, *The Night We Met*, and the Grant Lambert/Chase LaMarca series of crime capers. His short stories and essays have been included in several anthologies, including *Equality: What Do You Think When You Think Of Equality?*, *Best Gay Romance 2014*, and *Men of the Mean Streets*. He was inducted into the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame in 2016. A native of Rochester, NY, he now lives in "Manhattan-adjacent" West New York, NJ, with his partner, Brady Allen. Visit him at [www.RobByrnes.net](http://www.RobByrnes.net).



**C.D. Cain** is a transplant to South Georgia from Louisiana. She is the author of the Chambers of the Heart series, including *When It Raines*, *It Pours* and *After the Storm*. Her short story "Ten Hours" was published in *A Heart Well Traveled: Tales of Long Distance Romance and Unlikely Outcomes* (Vol. 1). Beyond writing, she enjoys spending time outdoors especially if this is on her porch with a nice smooth red. She always loves to hear from her readers and is available through: Twitter (@cdcain1019), Facebook (C.d. Cain), Goodreads (Cdcain), email ([cdcain1019@yahoo.com](mailto:cdcain1019@yahoo.com)).





**Louis Flint Ceci's** poetry has been published in *Colorado North Review*, read on-air at PRI and the BBC, and appeared in *Impossible Archetype*. His short stories have appeared in *Diseased Pariah News*, *Trikone*, *Jonathan*, and in the anthologies *Queer and Catholic*; *Gay City Volume 4: At Second Glance*; *Saints+Sinners 2017: New Fiction from the Festival*; and *Best Gay Erotica, Vol 4*. His first novel, *Comfort Me*, was published in 2009. In 2000, he launched Beautiful Dreamer Press, which has published several volumes of poetry and fiction, including this year's *Wallaçonia* by David Pratt, *Gay Zoo Day* by Mike McClelland and *Channeling Morgan* by Lewis DeSimone.



**Jaffe Cohen** is an award-winning screenwriter, author, and stand-up comic whose screenplay, *Best Actress*, co-written with Michael Zam, was the basis for *Feud: Bette and Joan*, starring Jessica Lange and Susan Sarandon. He was nominated for two Emmy awards for co-creating the show and co-writing the pilot, along with a Writer's Guild nomination for Best Writing in a Limited Series. The show was also nominated for Golden Globe, Critic's Choice and Satellite Awards. With his writing partner Michael Zam, Jaffe is developing *The Code* for the BBC; *Kate* about the secret life of Katherine Hepburn; *Brenda* with Oscar-winning director, Paolo Sorrentino, and a musical biopic about Mama Cass for Chrissy Metz (currently starring in *This Is Us*). Jaffe also has the distinction of being one of the first openly gay stand-up comedians on national television from his groundbreaking appearance on Comic Strip Live in 1990.



**Brenda Currin**, Obie Award (*My Sister in This House*). Films: *Out of Blue* (2018 release starring Patricia Clarkson), *In Cold Blood*, *The World According to Garp*, *Reds*, *Taps*, and cult classic *C.H.U.D.* Locally: *Dividing the Estate*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Suddenly Last Summer*. NYC, recently: *Gun Country*, *Mr. Toole*, *Orpheus Descending*.

Widely performed: *Sister and Miss Lexie & A Fire Was in My Head* adapted from stories of Eudora Welty. Brenda is a member of the Saints and Sinners Hall of Fame.



**Clayton Delery** is most recently the author of *Out for Queer Blood: The Murder of Fernando Rios and the Failure of New Orleans Justice* (Exposit 2017). His previous book, *The Upstairs Lounge Arson* (McFarland 2014) was named Book of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities—the first time an LGBT-themed book has received this designation. Clayton Delery has also contributed chapters to the anthologies *Queering the South*, *Fashionably Late*, and *My Gay New Orleans*.



**Lewis DeSimone** is the author of *Channeling Morgan*, *Chemistry*, and *The Heart's History*. His work has appeared in *Chelsea Station*, *Christopher Street*, *James White Review*, *Glitterwolf*, *Jonathan*, and a number of anthologies, including *My Diva: 65 Gay Men on the Women Who Inspire Them*, *The Other Man*, and *Not Just Another Pretty Face*. He lives in San Francisco, where he is working on his next novel.

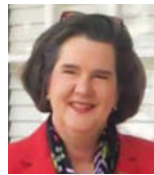
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**Stephen Driscoll** serves as chair of LGBT Outreach of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Co-chair of the National Stonewall Democrats from 2004-2014, he has been a delegate to Democratic National Conventions since 1996. He taught at MIT, was Associate Director/Resident Choreographer of the Opera Company of Boston, and Resident Photographer at the Jacobs Pillow Dance Festival. He recently played Shylock in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* and serves on the Board of the British American Drama Academy.



**Elana Dykewomon** is the award-winning author of eight books foregrounding lesbian heroism, including the novels *Riverfinger Women*, *Beyond the Pale* and *Risk*. Her most recent, *What Can I Ask – New & Selected Poems 1975-2014*, was published as a Sapphic Classic by Sinister Wisdom/Midsummer Night's Press. Elana is a long-time social justice activist, editor & teacher. She lives in Oakland, stirring up trouble whenever she can. See: [www.dykewomon.org](http://www.dykewomon.org) for info on her writing classes, editing & current publications.



**Melissa Flournoy** has earned the reputation as a saint and a sinner over thirty years of political service, social activism and community engagement. Melissa started her career working in community serving nonprofits. In 1991, Melissa was elected to the House of Representatives and in 1995 she was defeated in a runoff for the state senate. Over the last 30 years, Melissa has been an advocate for children, families, LGBTQ. Melissa founded the LOUISIANA Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO), served as Director of the Rand Gulf States Policy Institute and served as State Director for Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast. Melissa is board chair of LOUISIANA Progress and active in Democratic politics.



**Peter Gajdics** is an award-winning writer whose essays, short memoir and poetry have appeared in, among others, *The Advocate*, *New York Tyrant*, *The Gay and Lesbian Review/Worldwide*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, and *Opium*. He is a recipient of a writer's grant from Canada Council for the Arts, a fellowship from The Summer Literary Seminars, and an alumni of Lambda Literary Foundation's "Writers Retreat for Emerging LGBT Voices." *The Inheritance of Shame: A Memoir* is Peter's first book. He lives in Vancouver, Canada.



**Jewelle Gomez** is the author of seven books including the double Lambda Literary Award-winning vampire novel, *The Gilda Stories*, in print continuously since 1991. Her adaptation of the book for the stage, *Bones and Ash*, toured thirteen U.S. cities. *Waiting for Giovanni*, her play about James Baldwin, premiered in 2011. Her newest play, *Leaving the Blues*, is about singer/songwriter Alberta Hunter and premiered in fall 2016.



**J.R. (John) Greenwell's** new novel *In a Whirl of Delusion* (Chelsea Station Editions) humorously explores the questionably competitive world of drag through the eyes and adventures of a young, quirky Southern sissy. JR, an author and playwright from Cox's Creek, Kentucky, was a finalist for the 2014 Saints & Sinners Emerging Writer Award for his debut collection of short fiction *Who the Hell is Rachel Wells?* His memoir *Teased Hair and The Quest for Tiaras* can be found on his website: [www.jrgreenwellmga79.com](http://www.jrgreenwellmga79.com).



**Matthew Griffin** is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He has taught writing at the University of Iowa and University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and he worked for several years as Assistant to the Director of Highlander Research and Education Center, a renowned hub of grassroots organizing for social justice throughout the South and Appalachia. His first novel *Hide* was the winner of the 2017 Crook's Corner Book Prize, a Stonewall Honor Book, and longlisted for the PEN/Bingham Prize for debut fiction. His writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *Electric Literature*, and elsewhere. He was born and raised in North Carolina and now lives with his husband and too many pets in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he teaches at Tulane University.



By day, **Mary Griggs** is a non-profit management consultant and a political activist. By night, she writes. Whenever she can, she takes advantage of all the amenities New Orleans has to offer, especially the food! She is the author of four lesbian romance and speculative novels, published by Bella Books. Her website at [www.marygriggs.com](http://www.marygriggs.com) and her food blog can be found at [www.mouthbrothels.com](http://www.mouthbrothels.com)



**Cheryl A. Head's** first novel *Long Way Home: A World War II Novel* is about personal courage, race, and sexual identity. It was a 2015 Next Generation Indie Book Awards finalist in African American Literature and Historical Fiction. Her novel *Bury Me When I'm Dead* (Bywater Books), the first book in the Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries, was honored as a 2017 Lammy Finalist. The next work in the series, *Wake Me When It's Over*, will be released in May 2018.



**Greg Herren** is the author of over thirty novels and fifty short stories. He has won numerous awards, including the Anthony Award, the Lambda Literary Award (twice) and two Independent Press medals for outstanding work in young adult mystery/horror. His popular Scotty Bradley mystery series has been nominated for numerous awards, and the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* called it "so much fun it should be thrown from Mardi Gras floats."



**Melanie Hoffert** is the author the memoir *Prairie Silence*, which won the 2014 Minnesota Book Award for Memoir and Creative Nonfiction. Her work has been published in several literary journals, including the *Baltimore Review* and *New Millennium Writings*, where her essays won each publication's non-fiction writing award. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Hamline University. She divides her time between Minneapolis and a cabin near Battle Lake, Minnesota. She's working on a book about water.



**Andrew Holleran** is the author of three novels, a book of short stories and a collection of essays on AIDS. He recently retired from the MFA program at American University and now lives in Florida, where he is a regular contributor to *The Gay and Lesbian Review*.



**Nairne Holtz** is the author of *This One's Going to Last Forever* (Insomniac, 2009), a Lambda Literary Award finalist, and *The Skin Beneath* (Insomniac, 2007), which was shortlisted for Quebec's McAuslan Prize. Her new novel, *Femme Confidential*, will be released in October 2017. For more information about Nairne and her projects, go to [www.femmeconfidential.com](http://www.femmeconfidential.com).



**Candice Huber** owns New Orleans' premier geeky bookstore, board gaming store, and nerd mecca: Tubby & Co's Mid-City Book Shop, named after her grandparents. She is an active online writer and regular contributor to the feminist website Nerdy But Flirty. Huber established a Tubby & Co's publishing company last year, which will publish its first books in the Spring/Summer of 2018.



Louisiana native **Martin Hyatt** is the author of the Lammy-nominated novels, *Beautiful Gravity* and *A Scarecrow's Bible*. Both of his novels won a Stonewall Honor Book Award from the American Library Association. Martin is also the recipient of the Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction, an Edward F. Albee Fellowship, and he was named a "star of tomorrow" by *NY Magazine*. His work has appeared in places such as *The Huffington Post* and *Electric Literature*. He has recently completed a memoir entitled *Greyhound Country*. He currently lives in NYC.



Award winning author, **Isabella**, lives in California with her wife and three sons on the central coast of California. When she isn't writing, she's traveling to the Sierra foothills and working on a little cabin in the woods. Isabella's first novel, *Always Faithful*, won a GCLS award in the Traditional Contemporary Romance category in 2010. She was also a finalist in the International Book Awards, and an Honorable Mention in the 2010 and 2012 Rainbow Awards. She is a member of the Rainbow Romance Writers, Romance Writers of America and the Gold Crown Literary Society. She has written several short stories and just finished her next novel, *Forever Faithful*, out now. You can also find Isabella's book at iTunes, Amazon, Barnes and Nobel, Smashword, Kobo, Sony, All Romance Ebooks, and the Sapphire Books website!



**James A. Jordan** is pursuing his PhD at Southern Mississippi. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Fiction Southeast*, *The Greensboro Review*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*, among others. A member of the Peauxdunque Literary Alliance, he serves as a Festival Associate for the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and Saints and Sinners LGBT Festival. He received his MFA from the University of New Orleans.



**Michele Karlsberg** is a publicist, producer, publisher, event planner, literary executor, speaker, advocate and author. Last year Michele was awarded the Publishing Professional Award from the Lambda Literary Foundation. Michele launched Lesbian and Gay Book Month and LGBT Libraries in Community Centers in NYC and Staten Island. She has been instrumental in planning many conferences. Michele's WORDS column appears monthly in the San Francisco Bay Times. Michele is the co-editor of the Lambda Literary Award finalist *To Be Continued* and *To Be Continued: Take Two*. Her non-fiction piece entitled "The Isle Of Staten" appears in the book *Love, Christopher Street*.



**Judith Katz** is the author of two novels, *The Escape Artist*, recently reissued by Bywater Books, and *Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound* which won the 1992 Lambda Literary Award for best lesbian fiction. She was raised and educated on the east coast and has lived in Minneapolis since the 1980s. She is currently working on a sequel to *The Escape Artist*.



**Moisés Kaufman** is founder and Artistic Director of Tectonic Theater Project, a Tony- and Emmy-nominated director and playwright, and a National Medal of Arts winner. He has directed Jessica Chastain, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno, Liev Schreiber, and Robin Williams, among many others. His play *The Laramie Project* (which he wrote with the Tectonic Theater Project) is among the most performed plays in America. Kaufman also co-wrote and directed the HBO film adaptation of *The Laramie Project*, which received Emmy Award nominations for Best Director and Best Writing, the GLAAD Media Award, the National Board of Review (Best TV Movie), and the Humanitas Prize. He is an OBIE Award winner and a Guggenheim Fellow in Playwriting.





**Thomas Keith** has edited the Tennessee Williams titles for New Directions since 2002, including four volumes of previously unpublished or uncollected one-acts, and is co-editor of *The Selected Letters of Tennessee Williams and James Laughlin*. Keith is editor of *Love, Christopher Street*, an anthology of LGBT essays about New York City. He served as dramaturg for Sundance Theater Lab, reader for Yale Drama Prize, teaches theater at Pace University, has participated in this Festival every year since 2002, and in *Saints and Sinners* since 2005.



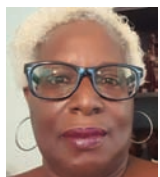
**Lania Knight's** first book, *Three Cubic Feet*, was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in Debut Fiction. Her work has been published by *Post Road*, *Fourth Genre*, *PANK*, *Shooter Literary Magazine*, *Short Fiction* and elsewhere. A science fiction novel set in the American Midwest is forthcoming from Burlesque Press. Lania moved to England in 2015 and is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at University of Gloucestershire. Read more about her at [www.laniaknight.com](http://www.laniaknight.com).



**Erinn Beth Langille** is an award-winning writer who has published in national magazines, newspapers and journals including *Maclean's*, *Billie*, *Canadian Literature* and the *National Post*. She has degrees from Dalhousie University, the University of Essex, and two from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and is currently a fiction candidate in the MFA program at the University of New Orleans. A past participant of several residency programs, she is the co-founder and creative director of The Lemon Tree House Residency, in Tuscany, Italy. [www.erinnbethlangille.net](http://www.erinnbethlangille.net)



**Susan Larson** is the host of "The Reading Life" on WWNO, New Orleans' NPR affiliate, and the author of *The Booklover's Guide to New Orleans*, recently published in a second edition. She is the past president of the Women's National Book Association of New Orleans, which presents the Pinckley Prizes for Crime Fiction, and she is a former member of the boards of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and The New Orleans Public Library.



**Mercedes Lewis'** published works include *Glimpses of a Fractured Soul*, *Our Happy Hours*, *Women In Uniform: Medics and Soldiers and Cops, Oh My!*, and the award winning (Goldie) poetry anthology *Roses Read: Sappho's Corner Poetry Series, Volume 3*. She is the former Director of Events for GCLS, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for education, and the recognition and promotion of lesbian literature. Find her at [www.mercedeslewisblog.wordpress.com](http://www.mercedeslewisblog.wordpress.com).



In her capacity as Senior Editor for Bold Strokes Books, **Sandy Lowe** reviews submissions and proposals, edits and develops content for publication, and oversees publication production. Sandy has a Master's degree in Publishing from the University of Sydney, Australia.



**Jeff Mann** has published five books of poetry: *Bones Washed with Wine*, *On the Tongue*, *Ash*, *A Romantic Mann*, and *Rebels*; two collections of essays *Edge* and *Binding the God*; a book of poetry and memoir, *Loving Mountains*, *Loving Men*; six novels: *Fog*, *Purgatory*, *Cub*, *Salvation*, *Country*, and *Insatiable*; and three volumes of short fiction: *A History of Barbed Wire*, *Desire and Devour*, and *Consent*. The winner of two Lambda Literary Awards and two Pauline Réage Novel Awards, he teaches creative writing at Virginia Tech.



**Barry McCrea** is a writer from Dublin, Ireland. His novel *The First Verse* won the 2006 Ferro Grumley prize for fiction and a Barnes & Noble "Discover" award. His most recent book *Languages of the Night* won the American Comparative Literature Association's Welles Prize for the best book of 2015. He is a professor of comparative literature at the University of Notre Dame where he teaches on its campuses in Indiana and Rome.



**Gar McVey-Russell** began writing early in life, but thought he wanted to be an astronomer. (He also thought he was straight. Go figure.) At UCLA, he co-created a left-leaning paper called *Free Association*. He also wrote commentaries for *The Daily Bruin* and feature articles for the LGBTQ newsmagazine *Ten Percent*, for which he received an award. He began fiction writing in the early 90s. His work has appeared in *Sojourner: Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS* (1993) and other publications. He published his first novel *Sin Against the Race* in October, 2017. Gar is married and lives in Oakland, California.



**David S. Pederson** was born in Leadville, Colorado, but the family soon relocated to Wisconsin, where he currently lives with his husband. He is passionate about mysteries and old movies, and also enjoys studying classic ocean liners, floor plans, and historic homes. A lifelong film noir and murder mystery enthusiast, David is the author of *Death Comes Darkly* and *Death Goes Overboard*, as well as the upcoming *Death Checks In*, his third published book. Contact him at [davidspederson@gmail.com](mailto:davidspederson@gmail.com)



**Frank Perez** serves as President of the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana. He is the author of two books: *In Exile: The History and Lore Surrounding New Orleans Gay Culture and Its Oldest Gay Bar* (with Jeffrey Palmquist) and *Treasures of the Vieux Carre: Ten Self-Guided Walking Tours of the French Quarter*, and the co-editor of the anthology *My Gay New Orleans: 28 Personal Reminiscences on LGBT+ Life in New Orleans*. He also writes a column on gay New Orleans history for *Ambush Magazine*.



**Felice Picano's** beloved stories, novellas and novels are translated into seventeen languages, and include national and international bestsellers. Four of his plays have been produced. He's received awards for poetry, drama, short stories, and novels in the US, UK, France, and Germany. Picano's recent non-fiction *True Stories, True Stories Too* and the 1970's memoir, *Nights At Rizzoli*, have received glowing reviews and awards. He currently teaches two writing workshops for the West Hollywood Public Library. [www.felice.picano.net](http://www.felice.picano.net)



**David Pratt** is the author of three published novels: *Bob the Book* (Chelsea Station Editions), which won a 2011 Lambda Literary Award, *Looking After Joey* (Lethe Press), and a young adult novel *Wallaçonia* (Beautiful Dreamer Press). Several of his short stories are collected in the volume *My Movie* (Chelsea Station); some of these are being adapted into a film by San Francisco-based director Joseph Graham. David also has a performing arts background, and is currently collaborating on a performance piece with Michigan artist Nicholas Williams.



**Cassie Pruyn** is a New Orleans-based poet born and raised in Portland, Maine. Her poems have appeared in *AGNI Online*, *The Normal School*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Poet Lore*, *Salt Hill Journal*, and others. She is the author of a narrative history of New Orleans' Bayou St. John, and of *Lena* (Texas Tech University Press), winner of the 2017 Walt McDonald First-Book Prize in Poetry.



**Uriel Quesada** is the author of eight books of fiction, including the 2016 novel *Mar Canibal*. He received the Costa Rica National Book Award in 1990 and 2005, and the Áncora Award in Literature in 2005. He has published two non-fiction volumes: *(Re)Imaginar Centroamérica en el siglo XXI*, an edited book on Central American literature and culture, and *Queer Brown Voices. 14 Personal Narratives of Latina/o Activism*. Quesada lives in New Orleans and works at Loyola University New Orleans.



**Radclyffe** has written over fifty romance and romantic intrigue novels, dozens of short stories, and, writing as L.L. Raand, has authored a paranormal romance series, *The Midnight Hunters*. She is an eight-time Lambda Literary Award finalist in romance, mystery, and erotica—winning in both romance (*Distant Shores*, *Silent Thunder*) and erotica (*Erotic Interludes 2: Stolen Moments* edited with Stacia Seaman and *In Deep Waters 2: Cruising the Strip* written with Karin Kallmaker). A member of the Saints and Sinners Literary Hall of Fame, she is also the president of Bold Strokes Books, one of the world's largest independent LGBTQ publishing companies. Find her at [facebook.com/Radclyffe.BSB](https://facebook.com/Radclyffe.BSB), follow her on Twitter @RadclyffeBSB, and visit her website at [Radfic.com](http://Radfic.com).



**J.M. Redmann's** mystery series features New Orleans PI Micky Knight. Her books have won First Place in the ForeWord mystery category, and three Lambda Literary awards. *The Intersection of Law & Desire* was an Editor's Choice of the San Francisco Chronicle and a recommended book by Maureen Corrigan of NPR's *Fresh Air*. Writing as R. Jean Reid, she has two books out, *Roots of Murder* and *Perdition*. Redmann lives in New Orleans.



**Brad Richard** chairs the creative writing program at Lusher Charter School. 2015 Louisiana Artist of the Year, he is the author of three collections of poems, *Habitations*, *Motion Studies*, and *Butcher's Sugar*, and two chapbooks, *The Men in the Dark* and *Curtain Optional*. With Elizabeth Gross, he co-curates *The Waves*, a quarterly LGBTQ+ reading series at Antenna Gallery.



**Gillian Rodger** is Professor of Musicology and Ethnomusicology in the Music Department, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her ongoing research interests cluster around popular musical theater of nineteenth-century America and working-class popular culture. She explores the early history of variety theater (the form that preceded vaudeville) and its connections to other musical theater forms including minstrelsy and burlesque. In all of her work, Rodger focuses on song and singing, and particularly on song as a dramatic moment. She argues that in non-narrative theater—that is, theater without a linking or overarching narrative structure—song functions to provide narrative periods in the performer's act. Popular songs of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries relied heavily on stereotypical characters and scenarios and the skills of the performers were instrumental in bringing these songs to life.



**Carol Rosenfeld** is a New York City-based writer and poet. Her debut novel, *The One That Got Away*, was published by Bywater Books in June 2015. Her short stories appear in several anthologies, the most recent is *Saints & Sinners: New Fiction From the Festival 2016*, by Amie M. Evans and Paul J. Willis (Bold Strokes Books). Carol is the chair of the Publishing Triangle and the coordinator for the Triangle's annual Thom Gunn and Audre Lorde poetry awards.



**Jeffrey Round** is the Lambda Award-winning author of the Dan Sharp mystery series and *Endgame*, dubbed a "punk rock reboot" of an Agatha Christie classic. His first two books were listed on *AfterElton's Top 100 Greatest Gay Books*. His most recent books are *Bon Ton Roulette* and *The God Game*.



**Lauren Sanders** is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Kamikaze Lust*, which won a Lambda Literary Award, and *With or Without You*, a Lambda Literary Award finalist. Her most recent novel is *The Book of Love and Hate*, which Michelle Tea calls "a brainy, expertly written bona fide page-turner." Other writing has appeared over the years in publications and journals including *Book Forum*, the *American Book Review*, and *Time Out/New York*. She is also the editor of a really fun anthology called *Too Darn Hot: Writing About Sex Since Kinsey*. Lauren lives in the great nation of Brooklyn with her girlfriend and her pitbull-beagle Maverick.



**Elizabeth F. Schwartz** served as co-counsel on the case challenging Florida's same-sex marriage ban brought by the National Center for Lesbian Rights on behalf of six same-sex couples seeking the right to marry (*Pareto v. Ruvin*). This lawsuit resulted in Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Sarah Zabel's finding that Florida's same-sex marriage ban deprived same-sex couples due process and equal protection under the law, and in the ordering of Miami-Dade county to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Publications include: *Before I Do: A Legal Guide to Marriage, Gay and Otherwise*; *Transgender Discrimination*, Trial Magazine (American Association for Justice, Oct. 2016); *Out and About: LGBT Experience in the Profession*, Trailblazing Advocacy (American Bar Association, 2015).



**Vince Sgambati's** first novel *Most Precious Blood* was recently published by Guernica World Editions. His short stories received awards from the Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest (2013 & '16) and Nimrod Literary Awards: the Katherine Anne Porter Prize for Fiction. His fiction and creative nonfiction have appeared in *North American Review*, *Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry*, *Gertrude Journal*, *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, *Lavender Magazine*, *Off The Rocks*, and *Saints and Sinners: New Fiction from The Festival*.



**Martin Sherman's** plays have been performed in over sixty countries, and include *Passing By*, *Bent*, *Messiah*, *When She Danced*, *A Madhouse in Goa*, *Some Sunny Day*, *Rose*, *Onassis*, *Gently Down the Stream* (some of which is set in New Orleans) and *I'll Be Seeing You*, as well as the musical *The Boy from Oz* and two adaptations of novels: *A Passage to India* (E.M. Forster) and *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* (Tennessee Williams). His screenplays include *The Summer House*, *Alive and Kicking*, *Bent*, *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*, *Callas Forever* and *Mrs. Henderson Presents*. He has been nominated for two Tonys, two Oliviers, and two BAFTAs.





**Lyle Blake Smythers** is an actor and writer in the Blue Ridge Mountains of southwest Virginia. In 2012 his first novel, the heroic fantasy *Feasting With Panthers*, was published by Pink Narcissus Press. Bold Strokes Books has published *Death by Sin* and *Worms of Sin*, the first two books in his M'Coul and Ghoul urban fantasy series.

He has also written short pieces for the original anthology *Queer Fish* and various magazines.



**Penelope Starr** is a writer, founder of Odyssey Storytelling, workshop presenter, LBGTQ activist, citizen folklorist and restorer of Navajo rugs. Her book, *The Radical Act of Community Storytelling: Empowering Voices in Uncensored Events* was published in 2017 by Parkhurst Brothers. Her new passions are consulting with communities that want

to create their own storytelling events and finishing a novel in linked short stories. See more at: [penelopestarr.com](http://penelopestarr.com).



**Ruth Sternglantz** is an editorial and marketing consultant for Bold Strokes Books. She's spent her entire professional life studying stories in one form or another, as editor, academic, and attorney. A medievalist by training, she loves everything about old texts but believes there's nothing quite like the privilege and responsibility of working with contemporary authors, making new queer books, and connecting both authors and books with readers.



**Tammy Lynne Stoner** is the author of *Sugar Land* (Red Hen Press, 2018), publisher of *Gertrude Journal*, wrangler of GERTIE: A Queer Book Club, and creator of Dottie's Magic Pockets—the first show for kids in gay families. She's worked as a gas station attendant, medical experimentee, house cleaner, college instructor, and Production Manager

for *OUT*, the *Advocate*, and Alyson Books. Her work has appeared in *Folio*, *The Portland Review*, and *American Fiction 2015*, among others. [TammyLynneStoner.com](http://TammyLynneStoner.com)



**David Swatling** was a 2015 Lambda Literary Award finalist for his debut psychological thriller *Calvin's Head*. He grew up in New York, studied theatre, and escaped to Amsterdam in 1985. He produced arts and culture documentaries for Radio Netherlands and is three-time winner of the NLGJA Excellence in Journalism Award, among other international honors. His short story "Poets' Walk" appeared in the UK magazine *Chase the Moon*. He is currently a managing editor of the online magazine *The Big Thrill*.

His short story "Poets' Walk" appeared in the UK magazine *Chase the Moon*. He is currently a managing editor of the online magazine *The Big Thrill*.



**Justin Torres'** first novel *We the Animals*, a national best seller, has been translated into fifteen languages and is currently being adapted into a feature film. He lives in Los Angeles, where he is Assistant Professor of English at UCLA.



**Ali Vali** is the author of The Devil series, including the new book *Heart of the Devil*, and the Forces series, including the new *Force of Fire: Toujours a Vous*. She's written numerous stand-alones, the newest being *Beauty and the Boss*, and also had an installment *Girls with Guns*. Originally from Cuba, Ali has retained much of her family's traditions and language and uses them frequently in her stories.

family's traditions and language and uses them frequently in her stories.



**Vanda** is working on a series of novels about LGBT history in New York City. *Juliana (Book 1, 1941-1944)* was released in February 2016. *Olympus Nights on the Square (Book 2)* was released October 17, 2017 and *Paris, Adrift (Book 3)* will be released in March 2018. As a playwright, Vanda has received numerous honors, among them an Edward Albee Fellowship.

Her play *Vile Affections*, published by Original Works, was a finalist for a National Lambda Award.



**Michael H. Ward** received his B.A. and M.A. in English Literature from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He taught in the University of Maryland Overseas Program and then became Director of Freshman English at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. From 1971 to 1979 he worked for Educational Testing Service, then moved to Boston and began a private practice in psychotherapy, which he maintained for more than thirty years. In retirement he wrote his memoir, *The Sea is Quiet Tonight*, out of a need to memorialize the events of the early AIDS epidemic in Boston. He is happily married and lives on Cape Cod with his husband, Moe, and cat, Jack.



**Thomas Westerfield** is a two-time finalist in the Saints + Sinners New Fiction Contest, his stories "Mr. Sissy in Sin City" and "Obituaries" were published in the 2016 and 2017 anthologies, respectively. His play "Items on Today's Agenda" was selected as a Top Ten finalist in the 2017 Tennessee Williams Literary Festival's One-Act Play Contest. This play is part of a recently completed trio of one-acts titled *What the Heart Speaks At Last* which he hopes to see produced later this year. Westerfield is putting the final touches on a collection of shorts stories. In 1988 *The Advocate* named him one of the "25 Unsung Heroes of the Gay Community."



A native of Mississippi, **Nick White** is the author of the novel *How to Survive a Summer* (Blue Rider/Penguin, 2017). He is an Assistant Professor of English at The Ohio State University's MFA Program in Creative Writing. His short stories, poems, and essays have appeared in a variety of places, including *The Kenyon Review*, *Guernica*, *The Hopkins Review*, *Indiana Review*, *The Literary Review*, *Lit Hub*, and elsewhere. His short story collection, *Sweet & Low*, will be published on June 5, 2018 (Blue Rider/Penguin).



**Paul J. Willis** has over 22 years of experience in non-profit management. He earned a B.S. degree in Psychology and a M.S. degree in Communication. He started his administrative work in 1992 as the co-director of the Holos Foundation in Minneapolis. The Foundation operated an alternative high school program for at-risk youth. Willis has been the executive director of the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival since 2004. He is the founder of the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival (established in 2003). Current fascinations include Adam Rippon, Tara Lipinski, and Johnny Weir; directing staged readings of obscure Tennessee Williams one-act plays; and Eurovision.



A 2017 Tennessee Williams Scholar at the Sewanee Writers' Conference, **Hilary Zaid** is also an alumna of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers and the Tin House Writers' Workshop. Her short fiction has appeared in print and online venues including *Lilith Magazine*, *The Southwest Review*, *The Utne Reader*, *CALYX*, *The Santa Monica Review*, and *The Tahoma Literary Review* and have been twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize. An alumna of Harvard and Radcliffe, she holds a Ph.D in English from the University of California, Berkeley, and works as a freelance editor. Hilary lives in the Bay Area with her family. <http://www.paperiswhite.com/>

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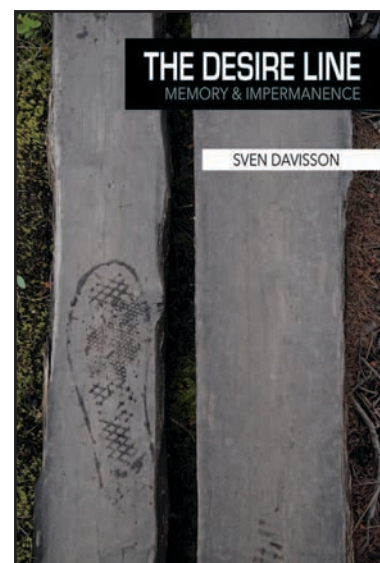
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## 2019 SHORT FICTION CONTEST

### Opens April 15!

Be sure to enter the 10th annual Saints and Sinners Short Fiction Contest and be part of our 2019 anthology produced by Bold Strokes Books. We're pleased to announce that SAS Hall of Famer and award-winning author Jeff Mann will be our finalist judge. Guidelines and deadlines at: [sasfest.org](http://sasfest.org)



**Jeff Mann** has published five books of poetry: *Bones Washed with Wine*, *On the Tongue*, *Ash*, *A Romantic Mann*, and *Rebels*; two collections of essays, *Edge* and *Binding the God*; a book of poetry and memoir, *Loving Mountains*, *Loving Men*; six novels: *Fog*, *Purgatory*, *Cub*, *Salvation*, *Country*, and *Insatiable*; and three volumes

of short fiction: *A History of Barbed Wire*, *Desire and Devour*, and *Consent*. The winner of two Lambda Literary Awards and two Pauline Réage Novel Awards, he teaches creative writing at Virginia Tech.

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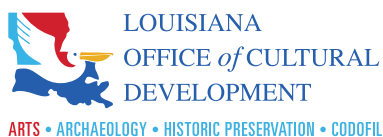
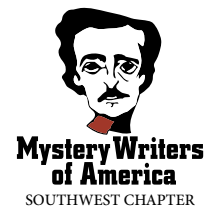
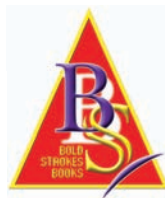
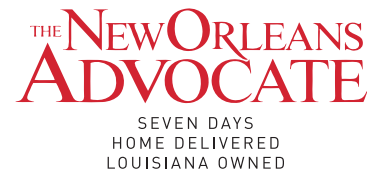


J. B. Harter, *Self Portrait as Artist*, 1980

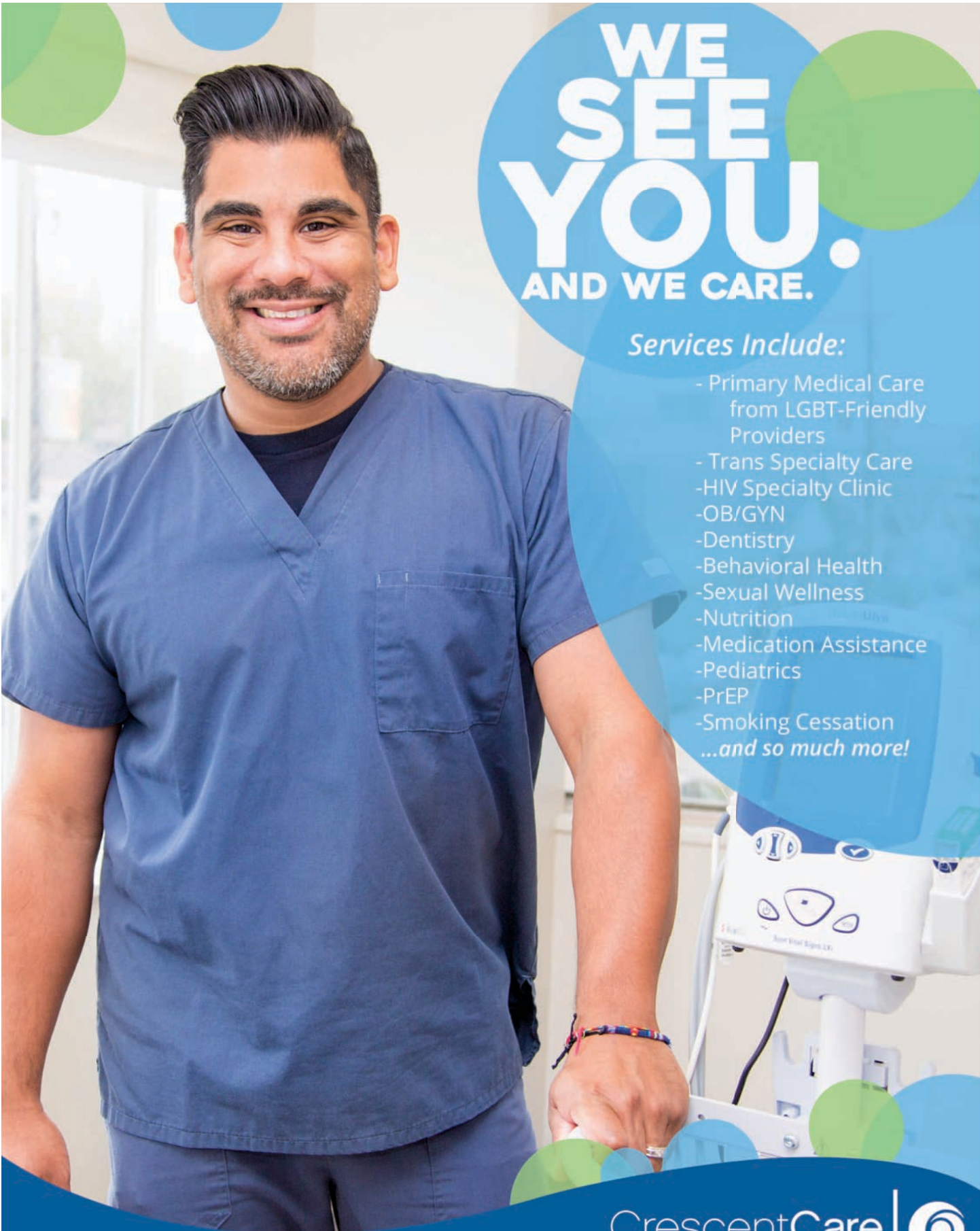


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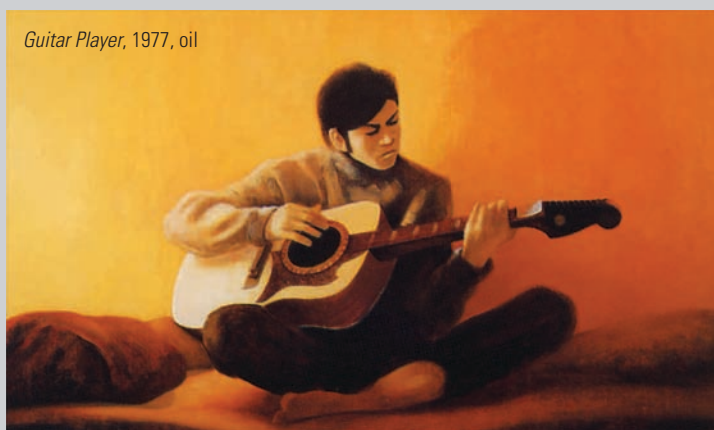
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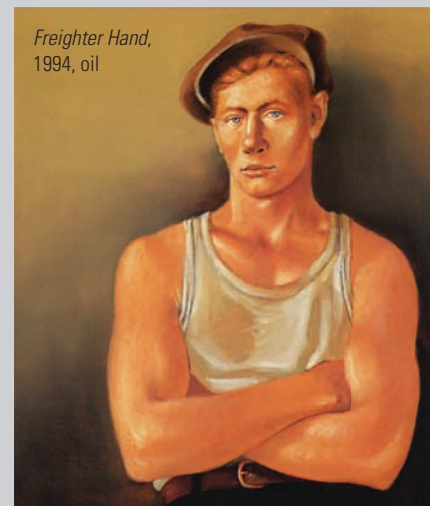
Empowering awareness of visual and queer arts through the work of John Burton Harter

The John Burton Harter Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes John Burton Harter's art and the interests he cared about. For more information on the Foundation and to view more of Harter's portfolio, visit: [jbharter.org](http://jbharter.org)

**John Burton Harter** (1940-2002) documented the richness of gay experience through his prolific artwork. Harter is most known for exquisite figure studies, especially fine compositions of the male body. These works range from classical studio drawings to completed paintings and self-portraits. He created over 3,000 works of art during his life largely based in New Orleans. His paintings have received acclaim at showings in New York, Baton Rouge, and San Francisco.



*Guitar Player, 1977, oil*



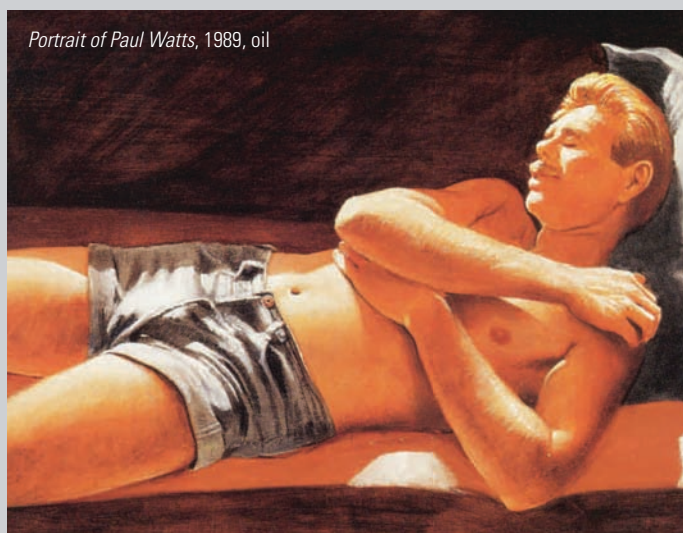
*Freighter Hand, 1994, oil*

“ I am an Artist first and a gay artist incidentally, but a large part of my work reflects a gay orientation. It isn't an agenda especially, but it is a representative of imagery I feel important both to me and to viewers of my work. Because of the Religious Right it is most at risk, as I have written before, and most in need of the safeguards of publication and dissemination. ”

— J.B. Harter



*Helenus 2nd Position, 1996, oil*

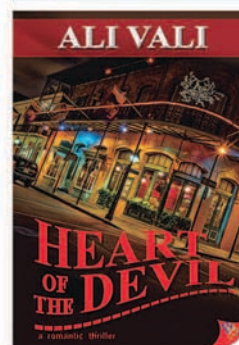
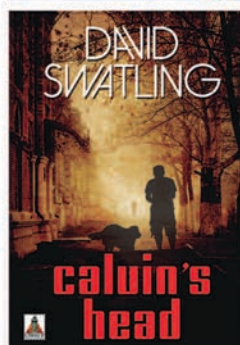
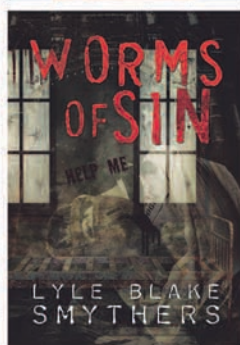
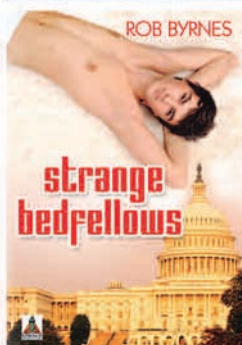
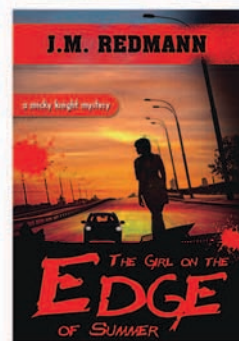
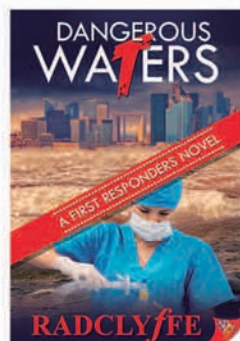
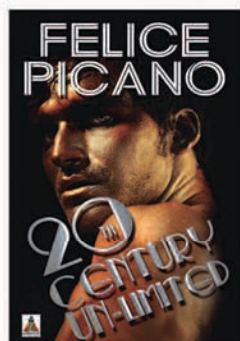
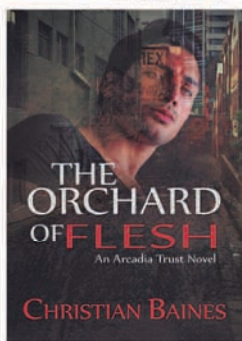
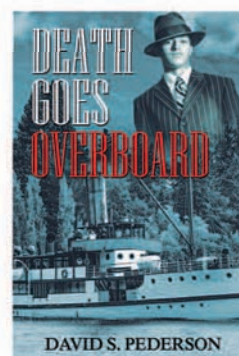
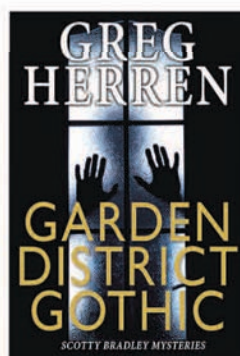


*Portrait of Paul Watts, 1989, oil*

“ The development of my art has paralleled my homoerotic exploration and as I discovered aspects of the gay world I incorporated them into my paintings and drawings. My translation of the gay world into imagery, to art, defined what I was learning to myself, and each—art and lifestyle—became a part of the other. ”

— J.B. Harter





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