

{ ISLANDERS WRITE }

2022



*Where writers with ties to the Vineyard
come to talk about writing and the writing life.*

EXPLORE THE ART, CRAFT, AND BUSINESS OF WRITING
WORKSHOPS • PANEL DISCUSSIONS
BOOK SIGNINGS & MORE

Saturday, July 30 - Monday, August 1
At Featherstone Center for the Arts in Oak Bluffs

Islanders Write is brought to you by:



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WELCOME TO ISLANDERS WRITE 2022

All of us at The Martha's Vineyard Times and its family of print and digital publications believe it is our community responsibility, as well as our deep pleasure, to celebrate the acts of writing and editing and of publishing books among all Vineyarders. As all our worlds become increasingly complex, writing and reading take on ever-greater urgency.

Islanders Write is intended to honor the great partnership that writers and makers of books forge with all readers, and the acts of courage required of each of them in all steps along the way, in all formats, and at all levels of practice and experience. And for us, nothing could be cooler than basking in the glow of great writers and demanding readers. We are delighted to welcome you back to Islanders Write!

The last Islanders Write was in 2019, some 200 years ago, or so it sometimes seems. This year we have expanded to over two days and we invite you to join us for an hour, a day, or the entire event.

In 2014, the MV Times and MV Arts and Ideas decided to put together a day of discussion about the art, craft, and business of writing and invite local, washashore, vacationing, and visiting writers to speak at the event. The Vineyard is flush with talented writers, and we brought together debut authors, Pulitzer Prize winners, and the mid-listers amongst us. What we all had in common was writing and the Vineyard.

And that continues. Everyone who is speaking on a panel or giving a writing workshop at this event has a connection to the Vineyard

and we are very grateful to each of them for taking time away from their writing, and their houseguests, to enlighten us. We have a number of new speakers this year and quite a few who have been a part of Islanders Write since we began in 2014 and we are grateful to each of them for volunteering their time and sharing their insights and expertise with us.

This is our second summer at Featherstone Center for the Arts, and we are delighted to be back at this gorgeous location. Please enjoy the artwork on the walls around you and if you are so inspired, sign up for an art class. Thank you to Ann Smith and everyone at Featherstone for their help in making this event run so smoothly during our time here. And we thank Anthony Esposito, the sound whisperer, who is in charge of making sure you can all hear our speakers.

We encourage you to build your library of Island-connected authors. The Bunch of Grapes bookstore is at Featherstone selling

books and hosting author signings. And for your other needs, the Chilmark Coffee truck is joining us in the morning to caffeinate us, and the Scottish Bakehouse is onsite to keep us nourished.

MV Times and MV Arts and Ideas remain dedicated to keeping this event free to attend. In order to do so, we welcome donations, which are tax-deductible. We are extremely grateful and appreciative to our generous supporters. We thank and applaud: Doug Liman, Stanley and Mary Ann Snider, the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, Judith Hannan, Island Proofreading, the Horwitz Family Fund, Susan Scheuer and Jonathan Lipnick, Keith Dodge, Victoria Riskin and David Rintels, Mad Martha's Ice Cream and Jim Feiner Real Estate. ■

— Barbara and Peter Oberfest,
Publishers MV Times,
& Kate Feiffer, IW Event Producer

On the Walls Around You

A pop-up exhibit,
curated by
Tanya Augoustinos
from A Gallery



REZ WILLIAMS
"View West, Ballycastle"
Oil on canvas, 40 x 42".



JENNIFER JOANOU
"Child Within" (diptych)
Hand printed, hand embroidered, on linen canvas,
38 x 78" and 42 x 78".



ALEJANDRO CARREÑO
"Concón Quemao"
Acrylic on canvas, 42 x 42".



RICHARD ERICKSON
"To + To = Too"
Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24".



IRVING PETLIN
"The Island 2 Night Sun"
Pastel, 26 x 35".

"The literary artist lends verbal depth to the visual. The visual artist provides visible articulation for the literary."

— Aberjhani, "Journey through the Power of the Rainbow"

Inspiration comes in many forms and Islanders Write is delighted to be back at Featherstone Center for the Arts, where conversations about writing take place in an art gallery. Featured here are five of the artists currently on exhibit in the Francine Kelly Gallery.

IRVING PETLIN (1934-2018)

Irvin Petlin studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and earned an MFA at Yale University under Joseph Albers in 1960. He is renowned for mastering pastels (his favorite medium). His paintings have been described as poetic, instead of being expressionist or realist. His use of symbols infuses metaphor and mystery into the compositions. His work appears in many public and private collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, and the

Pompidou Center, Paris. Petlin first came to the Vineyard in 1977, and produced a new body of work every summer. He invited friends and patrons to visit his studio in late August in his 18th-century barn-studio in Chilmark.

REZ WILLIAMS

In 2015, West Tisbury resident Rez Williams departed from exhibiting brightly colored paintings of fishing vessels he had become associated with for over a decade. His renewed interest in landscape painting was ignited by a 2014 Fellowship at the Ballinglen Arts Center in Ballycastle, County Mayo, Ireland. Nestled in an otherwise windowless studio assigned to him at the center, except for a large skylight which lit the room, he obviously lightened his palette and altered color relationships in subtle ways to accommodate for painting under natural light. This experience contributes still to the evolution of his palette choices.

ALEJANDRO CARREÑO

Vineyard-based since 2009, Cuban-born Carreño is a series artist, best known for his "Torso" and offshore fish paintings.

At the age of 16 he won first prize in the Annual Art Contest of the Federacion Estudiantil de Enseñaza Media (FEEM) in Cuba, which propelled him into art school, later earning him a scholarship to study Product Design in Germany at the Kunsthochschule Burg Giebichenstein. He graduated as Diplomdesigner in 1994 and soon thereafter had his first exhibition in Berlin. A year later he moved to the Caribbean, where brighter colors and textures influenced his aesthetic.

"Concon Quemao" is the latest work in a series featuring musicians set against Caribbean themed backgrounds. The painting depicts a Dominican Republic roots music punk band (with the same name as the title), admired for their outspoken lyrics confronting inequality. He uses symbolism to depict the sentiments of the disposed, economic forces at play, and the energy exuded while the band performs.

JENNIFER JOANOU

Jennifer Joanou, who has a background in fashion design and studied photography with Mary Ellen Mark and Keith Carter, uses these skills in her mixed-media work. Joanou has produced a series of altered

books and hand-illustrated visual arts journals from which she draws inspiration toward creating larger works. Joanou incorporates text, transferring multiple layers onto a new canvas. These inspirations have recently become larger works. Larger-than-life-sized renderings of handprinted sections are hand stitched together to form a whole and represent those parts of identity and history that translate as disconnected aspects of ourselves, and mended relationships that keep us moving forward.

RICHARD ERICKSON

Richard Erickson retired to the Vineyard after a career as a high school art teacher. He is a multimedia conceptual artist primarily concerned with making something that no one has made before. This, he says, is the purpose to which he is always working — nothing more. His Edgartown studio is filled with examples of his endeavors: from drawings in charcoal, to works on canvas, assemblages, collages, hand-sculpted objects, and mixed-media combinations with all the aforementioned. ■

— Tanya Augoustinos

SCHEDULE OF PANEL DISCUSSIONS

SATURDAY, JULY 30

7:30 PM

Covering the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Bob Drogin • Joshua Hammer • Doug Liman

SUNDAY, JULY 31

10 - 11 AM

The Secret Language of Children's Book Writing

Two renowned children's book authors reveal all

Marc Brown • Richard Michelson

11 AM - 12 PM

Sequels and Prequels

Revisiting characters

Nicole Galland • E. Lockhart • Gregory Mone
Jennifer Smith Turner

12:15 - 1:30 PM

Pitch Panel

Books projects pitched in front of a live audience

John Hough, Jr. • Torrey Oberfest
Rosemary Stimola • Gretchen Young

1:30 - 2:30 PM

Writing Your Grief

There's been so much grieving, but how do you write about grief?

Nancy Slonim Aronie • Elizabeth Benedict
Merissa Nathan Gerson

2:30 - 3:30 PM

Ghostwriting: With, and And

Writing other people's stories

James Dale • Laura Holmes Haddad • Fran Schumer

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

9 - 10 AM

Writing the Nontraditional Memoir

Where to put the "me" in memoir

Frank Bergon • Joshunda Sanders • Philip Weinstein

10 - 11 AM

All About Auto-Fiction

What is it, and what are the rules?

Hanna Halperin • Peter Kramer • Mathea Morais • Susan Wilson

11 am - 12 pm

A Conversation about Food Writing

Food: The plot thickens

Dawn Davis • Dr. Jessica B. Harris

12:15 - 1:15 PM

Politics and Race

Truth and revisionism: How do you write about it?

Callie Crossley • Frye Gaillard

1:15 - 2:15 PM

Pulling Back the Sheets

A conversation on writing and the writing life
(while married and stuck in the house together)

James Lapine • Sarah Kernochan

2:15 - 3:45 pm

Historical Fiction

Exploring today through writing about yesterday

Geraldine Brooks • Nicole Galland • Misan Sagay
Elisa Speranza • Katherine Sherbrooke

Vin-Lit Fun Facts

Did you know?

By Esme Broyard

- Rumor has it Nathaniel Hawthorne, author of "The Scarlet Letter," based his character Hester Prynne on a part-Wampanoag woman he met while on the Island procuring horses for his uncle's stage company in the summer of 1836. Their torrid love affair was later said to result in a child, though this was never confirmed.

- Playwright Lillian Hellman and her longtime partner, writer Dashiell Hammett, lived in an old sailors' tavern built in the 1770s. It was located in Vineyard Haven Harbor, near the home of John Hersey, author of "Hiroshima," and novelist William Styron, earning their area the nickname "Writer's Row."

- John Hersey fished for bluefish nearly every day during his summers spent on the Island. He used his experience as the basis for a book titled "Blues," in which a sage, crafty fisherman explains all things bluefish to a young listener.

- Shel Silverstein, cartoonist and beloved author of the children's books "The Giving Tree" and "A Light in the Attic," lived part-time in an Oak Bluffs Campground gingerbread cottage.

- According to William Styron, author of "Sophie's Choice," the Bunch of Grapes Bookstore in Vineyard Haven is the "best bookstore in America."

- Dorothy West's choice to set her 1995 book "The Wedding," in Oak Bluffs, was inspired by her longtime editor, Jacqueline Kennedy. Kennedy encouraged her to pay tribute to the island they both loved.

- In December 1840, Herman Melville, author of "Moby Dick," signed onto a whaling ship commanded by Capt. Valentine Pease of Edgartown. It's long been rumored that Capt. Pease was at least a partial inspiration for the infamous character Captain Ahab. Capt. Pease apparently took no offense as he later invited Melville to dine at his home.

- After her older sisters ridiculed her childhood efforts at poetry, Edgartown-born Dionis Coffin Riggs put it aside for almost four decades. Then, a friend encouraged her to enter a poetry contest. She won, taking home the \$1 prize and went on to publish over 1,000 more poems before her death in 1997, making her Martha's Vineyard most prolific poet.

- Judy Blume, who was a longtime seasonal Martha's Vineyard resident, docked her motor boat on Lake Tashmoo for many years. It was named Ralph, the same name her character Michael gave to a certain part of his body in her book "Forever." If you know, you know.

**With assistance from A. Bowdoin Van Riper from the M.V. Museum.*



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SUNDAY, JULY 31

8:15 - 8:45 am
Wake Up and Write!
Judith Hannan

Essayist, author, and workshop leader Judith Hannan will lead participants in a series of quick writing prompts to encourage free association and the revelation of scenes and stories.

Judith Hannan is the author of the memoir "Motherhood Exaggerated" (CavanKerry Press), and an essayist whose writing has appeared in numerous publications such as Lilith Magazine, the Washington Post, and The Martha's Vineyard Times, for which she pens a twice-monthly column.

10 - 11 am
Debut Authors: A Survival Guide
Alice Early

Publishing is full of surprises. Alice Early will share what she wished someone had told her about topics like choosing the type of editor your book needs, finding an agent (do you even need one?), navigating the reshaped publishing world, and how to promote your book in ways that won't make you crazy.

Alice Early, a recovering international business workaholic, published her first novel, "The Moon Always Rising," in 2020.

11 - 12 pm
Writing the Family
Laurie Lindeen

Nothing is more interesting to readers and complicated for writers than writing honestly and openly about our families. Some of us are so worried about how our parents, children, partners, siblings, and extended family members (as well as our imagined readers) will receive our written recollections that we paralyze ourselves. For others, our feelings may be so heated or charged that we render ourselves unreliable narrators. In this workshop, you will do a number of writing exercises that will help you feel comfortable and free you up to write about your family.

Laurie Lindeen has written extensively about her family members in her memoir "Petal Pusher," as well as in New York Times essay "Johnny Goes to College"; all were required to sign off to fact checkers ensuring the veracity of Lindeen's memories. For the past decade, Laurie has led memoir-writing bootcamps, retreats, and courses in the Midwest and Western states.

12:30 - 2:30 pm
Using Personal Photos for Poetry and Prose
Kelly DuMar

In this workshop, you will write creatively from a personal photo. This technique allows you to express new truths and dig into the deeper and hidden meanings of an image as you reveal personalities, identity, relationships, conflicts, universal truths, and beauty. No matter the quality of the photo, you will find powerful hidden meanings and revelations worthy of development into creative prose and poetry. Whether you're writing poetry or prose, memoir or a blog, family history or a monologue, writing from personal photos will help you express the truth of what you feel — and know — and to be surprised to find you have so much to say.

Each participant should bring between one and three personal photos to this workshop. Photos can be of a family member or close friend, they can be recent or from your childhood, a favorite travel photo or a photo of you or your family on the Vineyard. In other words, any photograph that is meaningful to you.

Kelly DuMar is a poet, playwright, and workshop leader who guides new and experienced writers to generate new writing across genres. Kelly's fourth poetry collection will be published in January 2023, by Lily Press.

3 - 3:45 pm
Decrease Stress and Enhance Your Writing Process
Noel Foy

Did you know your thinking brain gets hijacked when you're highly stressed? When this happens, it impedes your writing, creativity, organization, critical thinking, mental flexibility, and self-regulation. Learn about the impact of stress on writing, and how to use neuroscience findings, practical language, and productive responses to reduce and better manage typical stressors experienced by writers.

Noel Foy is an anxiety coach and founder of Neuro Noel Consulting, and the award-winning author of "ABC Worry Free."

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

8 - 8:30 am
Wake Up and Write!
Judith Hannan

Essayist, author, and workshop leader Judith Hannan will lead participants in a series of quick writing prompts to encourage free association and the revelation of scenes and stories.

9 - 10 am
The Six Senses of Memory
Laurie Lindeen

How do we, as writers, recreate the crystal-clear images in our minds so our readers

can really see and imagine them? Let the six senses of memory do the heavy lifting for you! In a series of guided exercises, you can develop and sharpen your writing by employing your senses of sight, smell, taste, sound, touch, and intuition.

11 - 11:45 am
Hybrid Publishing
Jennifer Smith Turner

Are you feeling flummoxed trying to figure out the complicated world of self-publishing? With a focus on hybrid publishers, Jennifer Smith Turner will share what she's learned since the publication of her first poetry book in 2003 through the publication of her award-winning novel in 2020. Turner will explain what hybrid publishers do, how to find one, and how her novel sold thousands of copies. Jennifer will share her lessons learned that participants can apply for themselves.

Jennifer Smith Turner's debut novel, "Child Bride," won several literary awards including Best E-Book for 2020 by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and Biblioboard, and the 2020 Sarton Women's Book Award.

12 - 1 pm
Setting the Table: Building Narratives Around Food
Moira Silva

Food has power. In this generative workshop, writers will mine their food-related memories to better understand their perspectives. We'll use this foundation as we explore techniques for rendering vivid scenes, settings, and characters. Writers will draw inspiration from excerpts by Michelle Zauner, Dr. Jessica B. Harris, Anthony Bourdain, Tom Junod, Sandra Cisneros, and Carmen Maria Machado. Participants will leave feeling enthused about developing in-class drafts using their new skills in multisensory scene creation.

Moira Silva's food writing can be found in Edible Vineyard, Cook the Vineyard, and Taproot Magazine.

1 - 2 pm
Writing the Agent Query Letter
Mathea Morais

This workshop will examine the all-important agent query letter. From figuring out how to target appropriate agents to writing that very important pitch, Mathea Morais will go step-by-step through the query letter process. Attendees will come away with a better understanding, not only of how to write a query letter, but of whom to send it to.

Mathea Morais is the director of literary arts at Featherstone (formerly Noepe Center for Literary Arts), the author of "There You Are" (Chicago Review Press), and has taught English and creative writing to young people for more than 15 years.

2:15 - 3:15 pm
What Remains? Processing the Pandemic
Moira Silva

We all have our March 2020 stories. Add those to the ways in which our lives have changed since then, and there is plenty to explore on paper! This workshop will explore ways to write about your experience during the pandemic, whether it be one of grief or silver linings, of loneliness or finding new forms of connectedness. During discussions, drafting, and sharing, writers are encouraged to discover their own truths while holding space for those whose perspectives may be different.

Moira Silva is the co-creative producer of Covid Monologues MV: A Project to Nourish, Inspire & Connect.

SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS

**SATURDAY,
JULY 30, 7:30 PM**

**Covering the Russian
Invasion of Ukraine**



Bob Drogin spent nearly 38 years at the Los Angeles Times as a reporter and editor, based in New York, Manila, Johannesburg, and Washington (but not Los Angeles). He wrote stories from 49 states, and more than 60 countries. For his sins, he served as White House editor during the Trump administration. He has won or shared numerous journalism awards, including a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, and is author of “Curveball: Spies, Lies and the Conman who Caused a War.” He now freelances for the Washington Post.



Joshua Hammer has spent 30 years as a foreign correspondent, the first half as a Newsweek bureau chief on five continents, the rest as a frequent contributor to the New York Times Magazine, GQ, Smithsonian, the New York Review of Books and other publications. He’s the author of five books, including the bestselling “The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu” and “The Falcon Thief,” and is working on his sixth, about the 19th century archaeologists and scholars who deciphered the world’s oldest writing, to be published in 2024. Josh has made two journalistic trips to Ukraine since the Russian invasion.



Doug Liman is a film and television director and producer. His film credits range

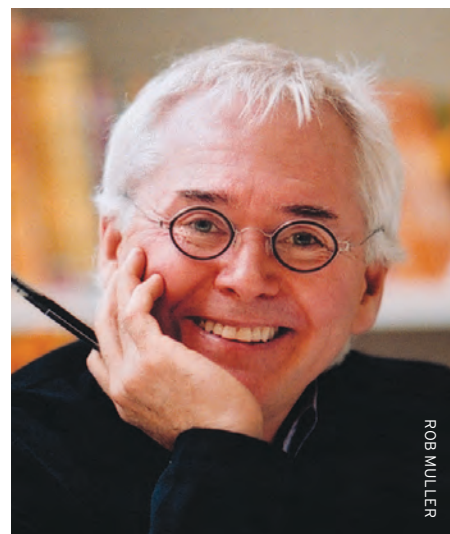
Islanders Write Panelists



from creating the Bourne Identity franchise to small indie films like “Swingers” and “Locked Down.” In Ukraine, where he traveled earlier this year, he seemed best known for “Mr. and Mrs. Smith.” His television-producing credits include nine seasons of “Suits,” “The O.C.,” “Covert Affairs,” and the upcoming Netflix series “Chaos Agent.” Liman serves on the board of the Legal Action Center and the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law at Yale Law School. He is also in the “Guinness Book of World Records.”

SUNDAY, JULY 31

**10 – 11 am
The Secret Language of Children’s
Book Writing: Two renowned
children’s book authors reveal all**



Marc Brown is the author and illustrator of the New York Times bestselling “Arthur” series, and executive producer of “Arthur” on PBS. The show has won seven Emmys and the Peabody Award, and is now the longest-running children’s animated show in history. The “Arthur” books have sold more than 75 million copies, and the show is seen by children all around the world. He is currently in production for “HOP,” a new animated preschool series for HBO. Also, an “Arthur” feature film in collaboration with John Legend is in development. marcbrownstudios.com.



Richard Michelson’s children’s books have been listed among the 10 Best of the Year by the New York Times, Publishers Weekly, and the New Yorker; and among the Best Dozen of the Decade by amazon.com. A three-time

Massachusetts Book Award finalist, Rich represented the commonwealth at the 2018 Library of Congress National Book Festival, and has received two Gold Medals from the Association of Jewish Libraries, the 2018 National Jewish Book Award and 2019 Samuel Minot Jones Lifetime Achievement Award. He has served two terms as poet laureate of Northampton, where he owns R. Michelson Galleries. richardmichelson.com.

**11 am – 12 pm
Sequels and Prequels
Revisiting characters**



Nicole Galland’s most recent novel is “Master of the Revels,” a sequel to “The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O” (co-written with Neal Stephenson, and recently optioned for the screen). Her historical fiction includes “I, Iago,” “The Fool’s Tale,” and “Crossed: A Tale of the Fourth Crusade.” Her contemporary work includes “On the Same Page,” about two competing newspapers on Martha’s Vineyard. She is an occasional contributor to The MV Times, and recently returned from a year in Ireland, enjoying a responsible midlife crisis: grad school. Her current work-in-progress is set in her favorite stomping ground, Shakespeare’s London. nicolegalland.com.



E. Lockhart is the author of the No. 1 New York Times bestseller “We Were Liars.” She also invented a superhero for DC Comics. Her books include “Whistle: A New Gotham City Hero” and “Again Again.” “The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks” was a National Book Award finalist and a Printz Honor book. “Genuine Fraud” was a New York

Times bestseller and a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. emilylockhart.com.



Gregory Mone is the author of 15 books for children and adults, including the “Atlantis” novels and the NY Times bestselling “Jack and the Geniuses” series with Bill Nye. A former editor at Popular Science magazine, he is currently writing about intelligent robots, earth science, pirates, and Skeletor, and his books have been translated into 12 languages. gregorymone.com.



Jennifer Smith Turner’s debut novel “Child Bride” won several literary awards, including Best E-book for 2020 by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association and Biblioboard, and 2020 Winner of the Sarton Women’s Book Award. She is the author of two poetry books: “Lost and Found Rhyming Verse Honoring African American Heroes” and “Perennial Secrets Poetry & Prose.” Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, including The MV Times and Vineyard Gazette. She is working on a sequel to “Child Bride,” and a third poetry collection. the-authorjennifer.wordpress.com.

**12:15 – 1:30 pm
Pitch Panel: Book projects
pitched in front of a live audience**

John Hough, Jr., is the author of six novels, including his most recent book, “The Sweetest Days.” His nonfiction work includes “The Fiction Writer’s Guide to Dialogue.” He is a former VISTA volunteer,

Islanders Write Panelists

Continued from D5

speech writer for Sen. Charles Mathias of Maryland, and assistant to James Reston at the Washington bureau of the New York Times. johnhoughjr.com.



Gretchen Young is vice president, executive editor at Grand Central Publishing. She has edited 100 New York Times bestsellers, including 12 books with Caroline Kennedy, and Elizabeth Alexander's "The Trayvon Generation" and her memoir "The Light of the World," a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Young has worked with a diverse group of authors, including George Carlin, Ethan Hawke, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Congressman John Lewis, Google's Eric Schmidt, Robin Roberts, Amber Ruffin, David Attenborough, Willie Geist, Billie Eilish, and the Pulitzer Prizewinning novelist Oscar Hijuelos. She previously spent over 15 years at Hyperion, where she also launched the ESPN imprint and developed projects with the ABC Television Group.

1:30 – 2:30 pm
Writing Your Grief
There's been so much grieving, but how do you write about grief?



Torrey Oberfest is a partner at Bloomvale, where she advises publishing companies on growth strategies, corporate strategy, and mergers and acquisitions. Prior to that she was VP of corporate strategy at Hachette Book Group. At HBG, Torrey focused on corporate acquisition and business strategy. Torrey was previously the managing editor of Bulfinch Press.



Nancy Slonim Aronie is the founder of the Chilmark Writing Workshop on Martha's Vineyard, the author of "Writing from the Heart; Finding the Power of Your Inner Voice" (Hyperion), and "Memoir as Medicine: The Healing Power of Writing Your Messy, Imperfect, Unruly (but Gorgeously Yours) Life Story" (New World Library), which was published in 2022. She has been a commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," and her column, "Writing From the Heart," appears in The Martha's Vineyard Times. Aronie also teaches at Esalen, Kripalu, Omega Institute, Open Center in NYC, and Blue Spirit in Costa Rica. chilmarkwritingworkshop.com.

Elizabeth Benedict has spent decades writing and thinking about grief and loss in their many guises, in her own five novels and personal essays, in teaching, and in editing three anthologies. They include the NY Times bestseller, "What My Mother Gave Me: 31 Writers on the Gifts That Mattered Most," and "Mentors, Muses and Monsters: 30 Writers on the People Who Changed Their Lives." Four of her essays have been Notable Mentions in "Best American Essays." She has taught writing at Princeton, the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Columbia, and

Swarthmore, and now runs a college essay consulting company, Don't Sweat the Essay, Inc. Her memoir, "Tremble," is forthcoming. elizabethbenedict.com.



Merissa Nathan Gerson is a writer, speaker, and spiritual consultant. Her work focuses on grief and grieving, inherited trauma, sex and intimacy, and how these themes relate to religion, disability, and identity. Her book, "Forget Prayers, Bring Cake: A Single Woman's Guide to Grieving" (Mandala Publishing) was published in 2021. She was the intergenerational trauma consultant to Amazon's hit show "Transparent," and has had writing featured in the New York Times, Playboy Magazine, the Atlantic, elle.com, Tablet Magazine, Lilith Magazine, and beyond. Merissa teaches alternative journalism at Tulane University. merissanathangerson.com.

2:30 – 3:30 pm
Ghostwriting, With, and And
Writing other people's stories



James Dale. Almost on a whim, Jim and Hall of Fame pitcher Jim Palmer wrote the book, "Together We Were Eleven Foot Nine." Since then, Jim has collaborated on nonfiction books, including "The Power of Nice" with agent and lawyer Ron Shapiro; "Alpha Docs" with a Johns Hopkins cardiologist; "Tiger Woods Made Me Look Like a Genius" with Tiger's coach; "Illegal Procedure" with

a former NFL agent; "Just Show Up," a New York Times bestseller with Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr.; "The Q Factor" with Super Bowl coach Brian Billick, and Congressman Elijah Cummings' memoir, "We're Better Than This," a NAACP Image Award winner. Jim is currently working on a book with a major standup comedian. jamesdaleinc.com.



Laura Holmes Haddad has co-authored and ghostwritten cookbooks and cookbook proposals. Her work includes being co-author, with chef Lulu Powers, of "Lulu Powers Food to Flowers," (HarperCollins); co-author, with Beecher's Cheese founder Kurt Dammeier, of "Pure Flavor: 125 Fresh All-American Recipes from the Pacific Northwest," (Clarkson Potter); ghost writer, "I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas" and "Easy Green Organic," by Anna Getty (Chronicle Books). After Laura was diagnosed with Stage IV inflammatory breast cancer and completed three years of treatment, she wrote "This Is Cancer: Everything You Need to Know, from the Waiting Room to the Bedroom" (Hachette/Seal Press, 2016; audio edition, Blackstone Audio). lauraholmeshaddad.com.



Fran Schumer's poetry, fiction, personal essays, and articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Nation, the North American Review, and other publications. She is the author of "Most Likely to Succeed," and co-author with Mary Cunningham of the NY Times bestselling "Powerplay: What Really Happened at Bendix" and "Change4good: The Ten Essentials for Food, Fitness and the Good Life," with Lauren Jawno. Fran was also the Underground Gourmet for New York Magazine for three years, and the restaurant critic for the New York Times' New Jersey section, and received a 2021 poetry fellowship from the MV Institute of Creative Writing.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1

8:15 – 8:45 am
Writing the Nontraditional Memoir
Where to put the "me" in memoir

Frank Bergon is a novelist, critic, and essayist who has published a dozen books of both fiction and nonfiction, primarily on the history and environment of the



Rosemary Stimola, a former professor of language and literature and an award-winning children's bookseller, founded the Stimola Literary Studio in 1997. Representing both fiction and nonfiction from preschool through young adult, she is honored to count among her clients many award-winning authors and illustrators, including New York Times bestselling authors Suzanne Collins, Jodi Lynn Anderson, and Karen M. McManus; National Book Award and Newbery Honor Medalist Thanhha Lai; Coretta Scott King; author and Newbery Honor Medalist Renee Watson; Caldecott Medalist Matthew Cordell; Sibert Medalist Tanya Lee Stone; and Edgar Award Medalist James Ponti; among others. stimolaliterarystudio.com.

American West. His most recent book, "The Toughest Kid We Knew: The Old New West: A Personal History," is an untraditional memoir of portraits and essays about his ranching family and boyhood community in rural California and Nevada, with a special focus on his Basque heritage. Frank taught literature and writing at Vassar for many years. frankbergon.com.



SAM MOORE

both our world and ourselves wrong, his new book explores the comedy of revision that besets our ongoing lives in space and time. philipweinsteinauthor.com.

10 – 11 am
All About Auto-Fiction
What is it, and what are the rules?



Hanna Halperin is the author of "Something Wild," winner of the 2021 Edward Lewis Wallant Award, finalist for the 2021 National Jewish Book Award for Debut Fiction, and longlisted for the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award. Her stories have been published in the Kenyon Review, n+1, New Ohio Review, and Joyland. She has taught fiction workshops at GrubStreet in Boston, and worked as a domestic violence counselor. Her second novel, "I Could Live Here Forever," is forthcoming in spring of 2023. hannahalperin.com.



JULIAN BUDGE

Joshunda Sanders is an author, speechwriter, and writing coach. She frequently writes about books for Oprah Daily and O Magazine, as well as the Boston Globe. Her writing has also appeared in many publications, including the New York Times, Oxford American, the Bellevue Literary Review, Kweli Journal, and more. In addition to the memoir "The Beautiful Darkness: A Handbook for Orphans," she has written two children's books and a journalism textbook, and is currently at work on her debut novel, which is forthcoming from Park Row Books. joshundasanders.com.



Peter D. Kramer is the author of seven books, including "Ordinarily Well," the novel "Spectacular Happiness," and the international bestseller "Listening to Prozac." Dr. Kramer, who is emeritus professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University, hosted the nationally syndicated public radio program "The Infinite Mind." His essays, op-eds, and book reviews have appeared in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Slate, Times Literary Supplement, and elsewhere. His book in progress is a work of autofiction that deals with the nature of retirement and the transition from doctor-writer to writer. peterdkramer.blogspot.com.



Philip Weinstein taught at Swarthmore College for many years before retiring to Martha's Vineyard, where he continues to both teach and write. After nine books of professional literary criticism, he determined to write about life, not just literature, and for an audience of general readers, not experts. The result is "Soul-Error," a book of personal essays that are never just personal. Inspired by Montaigne's use of the phrase "soul-error" for our stubborn insistence on reading

Mathea Morais is the director of literary arts at Featherstone, and formerly at Noepe Center for Literary Arts, and the author of "There You Are" (Chicago Review Press), which was called "a novel that effectively intertwines ruminations on race, music, romance, and history," by Kirkus Review (starred review) and was named one of Ms. Magazine's "October 2019 Reads for the Rest of Us," and Electric Literature's "The 20 Best Debuts of the Second Half of 2019." She has taught English and creative writing to young people for over 15 years. matheamorais.com.



SHANNON RYND-RAY

Dr. Jessica B. Harris is the author, editor, or translator of 18 books, including 12 cookbooks. Harris's books have been inducted into the James Beard Cookbook Hall of Fame, and her 2011 book, "High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey from Africa to America," won the International Association of Culinary Professionals' Food History Award in 2012, and was made into a four-part Netflix docuseries, which won an NAACP Image Award. Harris was the 2020 James Beard Lifetime Achievement awardee, and one of TIME magazine's 100 most influential people of 2021. Dr. Harris is a professor emerita at Queens College, CUNY. africooks.com.



MARK ALLEN LOEWELL

Susan Wilson is the author of 12 novels, including "One Good Dog" (2010), which spent six weeks on the New York Times bestseller list, and "The Dog Who Danced" (2012), winner of the Maxwell Medal for Fiction from the Dog Writers Association of America. Her first novel, "Beauty" (1996), was made into a CBS Sunday Night Movie starring Jamey Sheridan, Jeannine Turner, and Hal Holbrook. "A Man of His Own" was chosen as the One Book One Independence 2020 selection by the Independence Public Library, Independence, Iowa. Susan's most recent novel, "What a Dog Knows," was released in June. susanwilsonwrites.com.



ROG WALKER/PAPER MONDAY

12:15 – 1:15 pm
Politics and Race: Truth and revisionism: How do you write about it?



Callie Crossley hosts the radio show and podcast "Under the Radar with Callie Crossley," and shares radio essays each Monday on GBH's "Morning Edition." She also hosts "Basic Black" on Boston Public Radio, which focuses on current events impacting communities of color. She has won numerous TV, radio, film, and journalism awards, including the prestigious Gold Baton DuPont Columbia Award, a national Edward R. Murrow Award, a national Emmy Award, and an Academy Award nomination for her producer work on the documentary series "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years." She has just been named one of four 2022 recipients of the Governor's Award In the Humanities.

11 am – 12 pm
A Conversation about Food Writing
The plot thickens



Dawn Davis is the editor in chief of Bon Appétit and Epicurious. Davis, formerly vice president and publisher of 37 Ink, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, is an award-winning publisher and storytelling advocate who, for over two decades, has championed and elevated underrepresented voices. Her interest in food and restaurants led her to write "If You Can Stand the Heat: Tales from Chefs and Restaurateurs," profiling prolific chefs of the time. Davis was named the 2019 Editor of the Year by Poets & Writers, and has published several award-winning and New York Times bestselling books.

Frye Gaillard, writer in residence at the University of South Alabama, is the author of more than 30 books. His two most recent titles, "The Southernization of America," co-authored with Cynthia Tucker, and "A Hard Rain: America in the 1960s," were named by NPR to its list of Best Books for 2022 and 2018, respectively. His other award-winning titles include "Watermelon Wine: The Spirit of Country Music," and "The Dream Long Deferred." Gaillard's byline has appeared

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The MV Times newsletter, delivered straight to your inbox every weekday.



Minute

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Islanders Write Panelists

Continued from D7

in such publications as the Guardian, the Washington Post, the Bitter Southerner, the Oxford American, the Journal of American History, and Parade.



1:15 – 2:15 pm
Pulling Back the Sheets
A conversation on writing and the writing life (while married and stuck in the house together)



James Lapine is a director, playwright, author, and librettist. He has been the recipient of three Tony Awards, a Peabody Award, and the Pulitzer Prize. His book "Putting It Together: How Stephen Sondheim and I created 'Sunday in the Park with George,'" was released last summer, and was a New York Times bestseller.

Sarah Kernochan won two Academy Awards for her documentaries "Marjoe" (1973) and "Thoth" (2002). She has also scripted films including "9½ Weeks," "Impromptu," "Somersby," "What Lies Beneath," "All I Wanna Do" (which she wrote and directed), and "Learning to Drive." In addition to her film work, Kernochan recorded two albums of her songs for RCA; published two novels, "Dry Hustle" (1977) and "Jane Was Here" (2011), and penned a "paranormal memoir" of her encounters with ghosts, available on her blog. She is currently working on a new novel, as well as a musical libretto for director James Lapine. sarahkernochan.com.



2:15 – 3:45 pm
Historical Fiction: Exploring today through writing about yesterday



Geraldine Brooks is the author of six works of historical fiction, including the 2006 Pulitzer Prize winner, "March," and the just-released novel "Horse" (Viking). An award-winning former foreign correspondent for the Wall Street Journal, the Australian-born Brooks is also author of the nonfiction works "Nine Parts of Desire" and "Foreign Correspondence." She lives in West Tisbury, where she is a conservation commissioner. geraldinebrooks.com.



Screenwriter **Misan Sagay** won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Writing in a Motion Picture for Fox Searchlight's critical box office hit, "Belle." Also nominated for a Humanitas Prize,

Sagay's screenplay was inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate, mixed-race daughter of a British admiral. Sagay's producing and screenwriting credits include "Secret Laughter of Women," starring Colin Firth and Nia Long; and the award-winning ABC television movie, "Their Eyes Were Watching God," starring Halle Berry and executive-produced by Oprah Winfrey. She is currently writing "Black the O," a feature film for Netflix, "Sharon," a feature film for Amazon starring Viola Davis, "Ada Johnson," a three-part series for the BBC, and "The Knick Renaissance" for HBO.

Nicole Galland (Nicole is doing double duty at Islanders Write — her bio can be found under Sequels and Prequels)



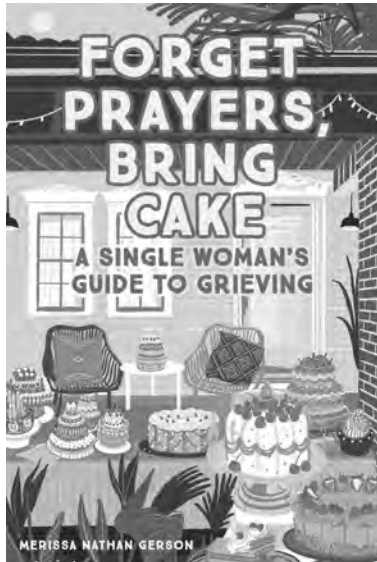
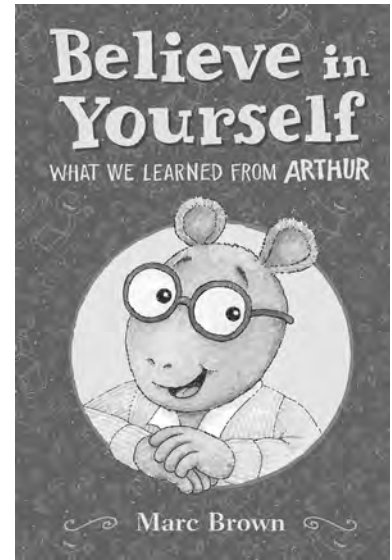
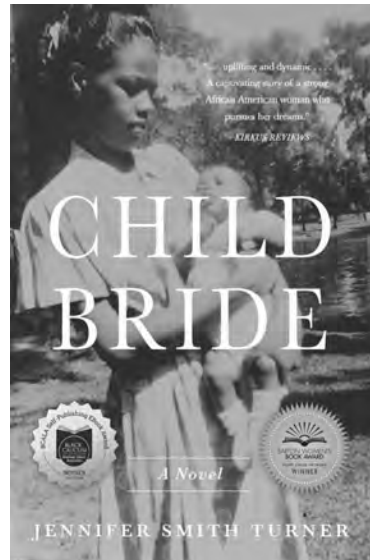
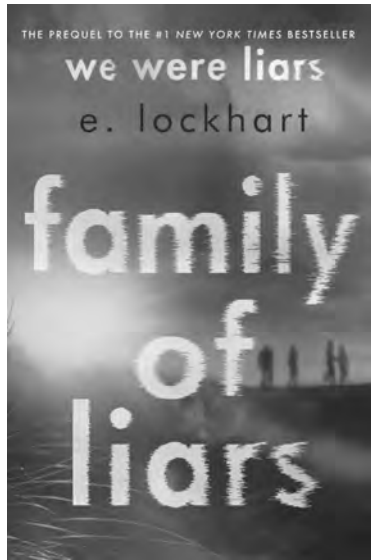
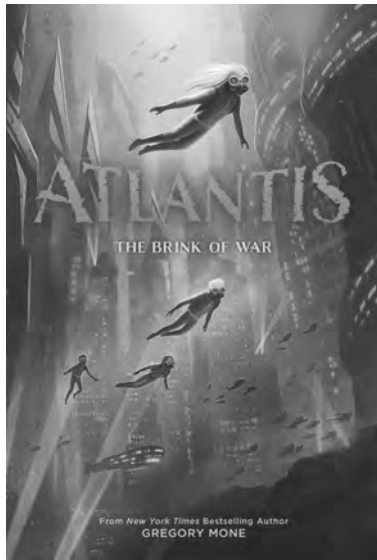
Katherine Sherbrooke is the author of "Leaving Coy's Hill," a New York Times 2021 Summer Reading Selection, "Fill the Sky," the winner of a 2017 Independent Press Award, and "Finding Home," a family memoir. She devotes much of her nonwriting time to the GrubStreet creative writing center as chair of the board. kasherbrooke.com.



Elisa M. Speranza is the granddaughter of Irish and Italian immigrants, raised Catholic, and educated by nuns. Her first novel, "The Italian Prisoner," was a finalist in the William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition for a novel-in-progress in 2019. Speranza is an alumna of Boston College and Harvard's Kennedy School. elisamarieesperanza.com.

For longer bios, visit islanderswrite.com.

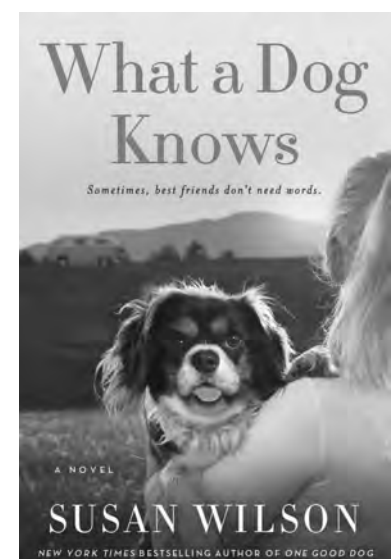
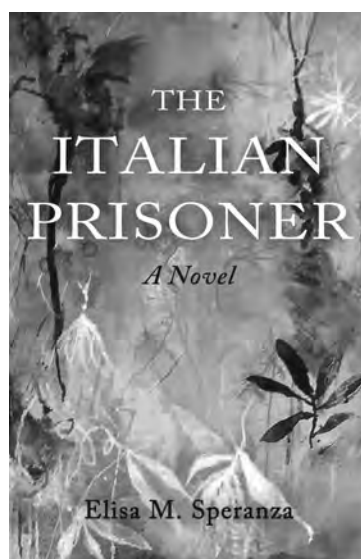
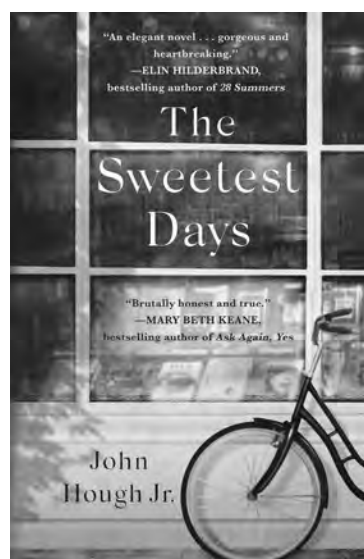
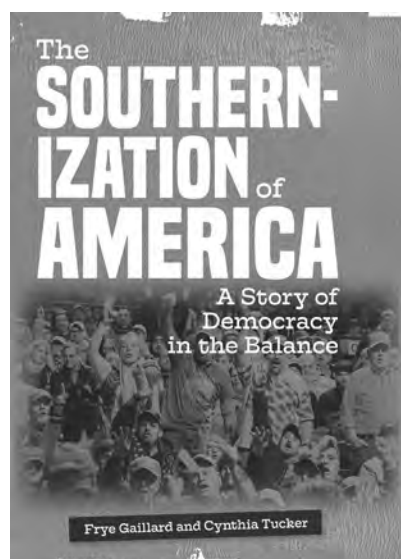
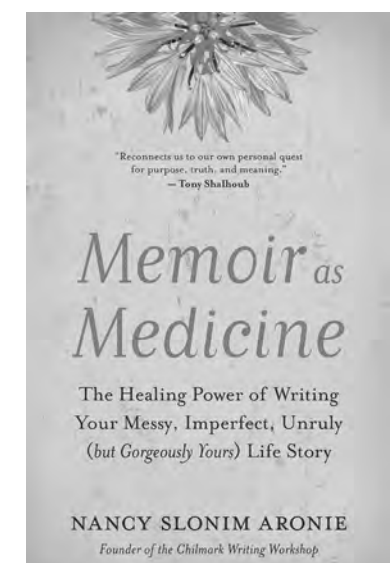
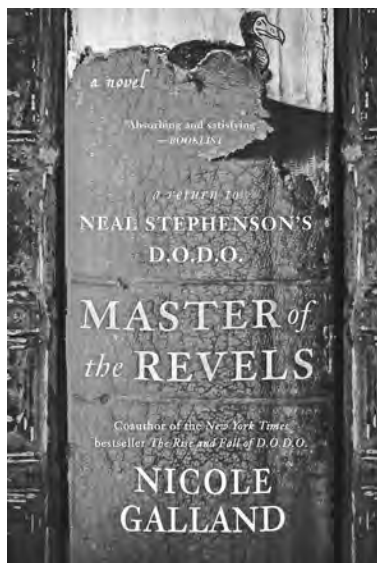
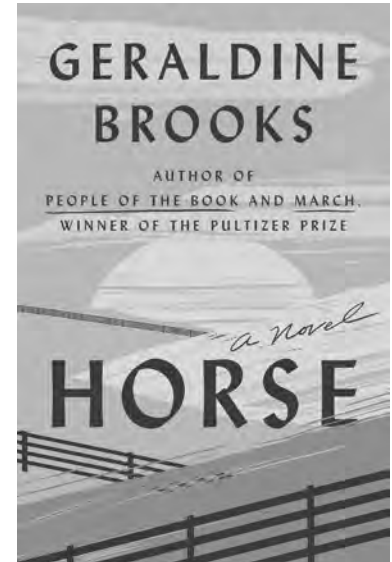
Everyone who speaks at Islanders Write has a connection to Martha's Vineyard. They are our friends, neighbors, seasonal visitors, and weekenders. We are indeed very lucky that this Island attracts so many talented writers and publishing professionals, and we are extremely grateful that they are here to share their insights and experience with us. Thank you!



AUTHOR SIGNING AT ISLANDERS WRITE

Every home should be filled with books by Vineyard authors.

Find these books and many others at the Bunch of Grapes pop-up.



Literary liaisons

Writers Residency at Slough Farm provides a space and time to write.

BY MATHEA MORAIS



MATHEA MORAIS

Shira, Esper, and Angel share a hug outside Featherstone Center for the Arts after teaching Charter and Regional High School students all about writing an ode.

One of the greatest things about living on Martha's Vineyard is when you get to see it through the eyes of a person who has never been here before. For me, there is a magic in this, because it pushes me out of the slog of everyday life, and I am overcome with how lucky I am to call this place home.

Bringing Shira Erlichman and Angel Nafis to the Island for the first Literary Arts at Featherstone Writers Residency at Slough Farm was this experience, but amplified. If you don't follow Shira on social media, then you should (like take your phone out now and do it) because she has a way of seeing the world, and expressing what she sees, that is unique.

For two weeks in October and November of 2021, Brooklyn-based writers and poets Shira Erlichman and Angel Nafis, along with Island-based writer Esper Gaspardi, were residents at Slough Farm in

writers would be inspired by the outstanding beauty of Slough Farm, and also that they would join in the goings-on at the farm in whatever ways worked for them, possibly taking a break from poetry to collect eggs or harvest carrots, or ride one of the ponies.

Looking back on their time there, Esper said, "Before this residency, I had never been given the freedom to just sit and write without the sometimes frustrations of life, deadlines, and lectures in my peripheral. Those two weeks gave me the opportunity to indulge in the numerous side projects I never had time to develop and outline, and I left the residency with numerous new ideas and rough drafts."

And while the Writers Residency was inspiring and productive, we were right in that we had a lot to learn. It turned out it is more complicated than we thought to marry a working farm with the writing life. But all three writers were able to negotiate the challenges that came up, and give us valuable feedback, which we will incorporate into this coming

"Those two weeks gave me the opportunity to indulge in the numerous side projects I never had time to develop and outline, and I left the residency with numerous new ideas and rough drafts." —Esper Gaspardi

Katama. The goal of this partnership between Featherstone and Slough was very simple: Provide writers with the time and space to write. We dreamed of bringing off-Island writers to the Island during the off-season, as the peace and beauty of that time of year is so conducive to writing, and we wanted to offer Island writers the opportunity of living with and writing alongside writers from other places.

As it was our first try at it, all involved went in with an understanding that there would be a lot we had to learn. The only plan we had was that the three would work on individual writing projects as well as teach an hour-and-a-half-long writing workshop to a group of Charter and Regional High School students at Featherstone. We hoped that the

year's residency, currently in the planning process.

Upon arriving home, Shira posted, "We rested. We rode horses for the first time. We spent long, quiet days with our books-in-process. We shared work with each other by lamplight. We looked up at the exact same time and saw a shooting star ... we kept our ancestors in the conversation. We watched a lone cow get loose again; get gathered ... We underlined & crossed out & revisited & were visited & riveted." ■

Mathea Morais is director of Literary Arts at Featherstone. Follow them on Social Media or subscribe to the newsletter at featherstoneart.org/literaryarts to find out more about this fall's upcoming Literary Arts at Featherstone's Writers Residency at Slough Farm.

In memory of Arnie Reisman & Jack Shea



Arnie Reisman knew how to laugh. Funny people often have hearty laughs, and Arnie was certainly funny. He joined us for the first Humor Writing panel at Islanders Write, and because it was both informative and rollicking, a rare combination, we brought the entire panel back and decided to do it again a few years later. To many of us, Arnie seemed irrepressible. He was a playwright, a poet, a documentary filmmaker, a thinker, a fount of knowledge, a raconteur and humorist, a James Thurber expert, an activist, a friend to many, a husband to Paula, and yes, the list continues.

Thank you, Arnie, for enlightening, inspiring, and entertaining us.

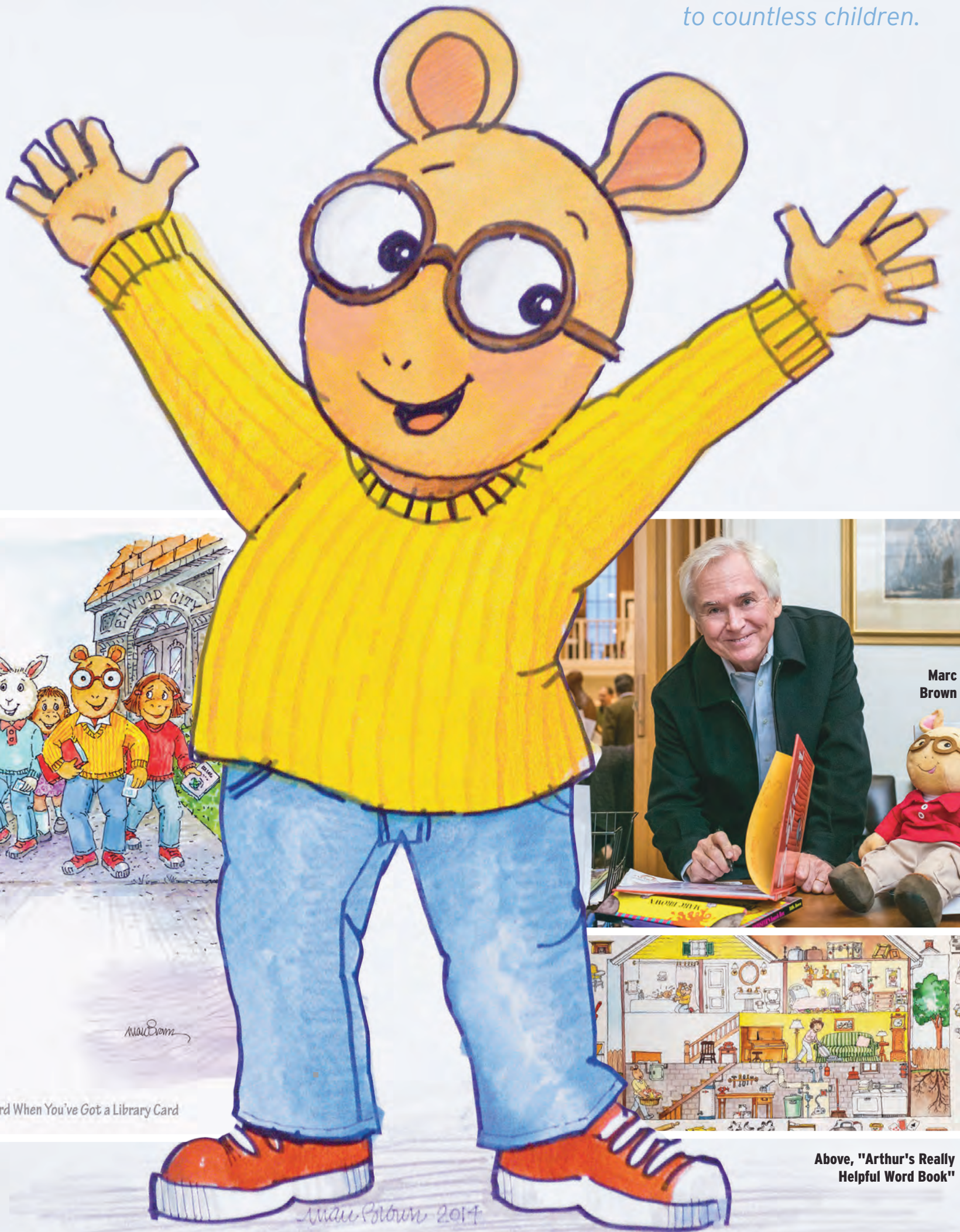


If you've ever attended an Islanders Write event, it was probably because you read an article written by **Jack Shea** about one of the writers who was scheduled to speak, or maybe it was because you read an overview written by Jack about the event itself. If you were at Islanders Write, you would have seen Jack. Although it's doubtful you would have talked to him. Jack would have been sitting in the front row, often just a bit off to the side, typing away on his computer which was on his lap. Jack covered every Islanders Write. His coverage began months before the event and ended with a comprehensive wrap-up that he churned out in seemingly no time. Jack was a dream to work with. He knew books and he knew writing and he wrote about them both beautifully.

Jack wrote for The Martha's Vineyard Times for years, covering sports and culture. It is with heavy hearts we said a final farewell to our friend and talented colleague Jack Shea. Rest in peace, Jack. You will be missed!

Celebrating 25 seasons of 'Arthur'

The 8-year-old aardvark has brought understanding and joy to countless children.



Marc Brown

Above, "Arthur's Really Helpful Word Book"

COURTESY MARC BROWN

R. Michelson Galleries and Featherstone Arts Center are pleased to exhibit a selection of original and limited-edition artwork by the New York Times bestselling author and illustrator (and Vineyard resident) Marc Brown. Forty-five years ago, Marc Brown created "Arthur" the aardvark, and since then "Arthur" has sold more than 65 million books in the U.S. alone. Many of the "Arthur" books were written and illustrated

here on the Vineyard — the Island makes a cameo appearance in "Arthur's Family Vacation." The television show based on the books is seen by children in more than 100 countries and territories around the world. The PBS series has won seven Emmy Awards, and is the longest-running children's animated series on American television.

Brown first came to the Vineyard in 1979, when his future wife, Laurie, was at Harvard's Project Zero doing

research on the influence of the illustrations in a picture book and how they helped children understand the story. While perhaps best known for the "Arthur" books and TV series, Brown's art career encompasses much more than "Arthur." He has been awarded a Children's Choice Award, a Boston Globe/Horn Book Honor Award, and a Library of Congress Book of the Year Award, among many other honors. ■



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 - Mad Martha's Ice Cream and Jim Feiner Real Estate
- Additional thanks to: Anonymous, Loren and Nancy Ghigilone, Susan and Marc Levine, and Alicia Winter.

Thank you to our event vendors who keep us well read and fed:



Bunch of Grapes
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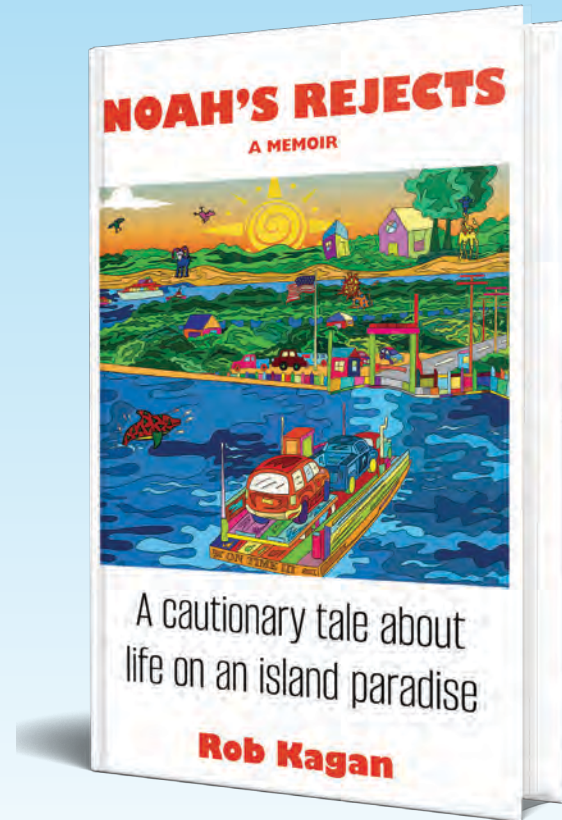
The Martha's Vineyard Community Foundation



Many thanks to our wonderful event volunteers. We appreciate your help and enthusiasm!

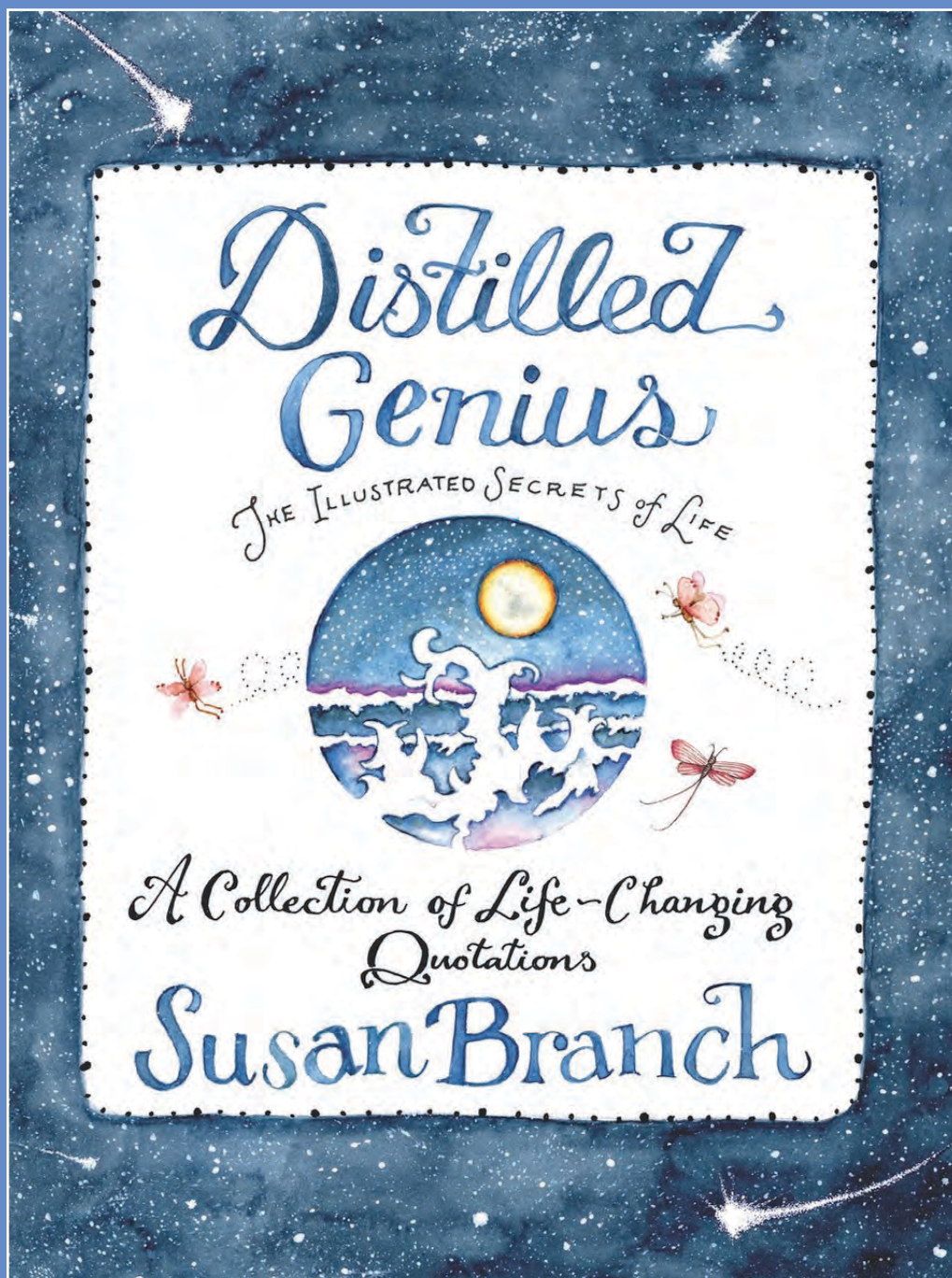
We are committed to ensuring that Islanders Write remains free to attend and in order to do this, we ask for your help. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to Islanders Write, please contact Kate Feiffer at Kate@mvtimes.com.

WARNING: READ BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE TO MARTHA'S VINEYARD FULL-TIME



www.noahsrejects.com

Also available at Bunch of Grapes in Vineyard Haven



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