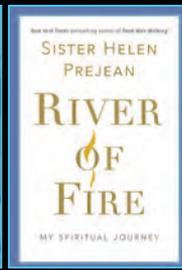


**VISITING  
WRITERS SERIES**

Wesley Yang  
Damon Young  
Rick Reilly  
Mahogany Browne  
Yolanda Caraway  
Minyon Moore  
Jennifer Block  
Lisa Kron  
Scott Simon  
Sister Helen Prejean  
Jerome Charyn  
Colson Whitehead  
Andy Greenberg  
Nadina LaSpina  
Valeria Luiselli



**TRIBUTE TO TONI MORRISON  
(1931-2019)**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

ALBANY FILM FESTIVAL  
THE CREATIVE LIFE SERIES  
Jhumpa Lahiri • Jerry Saltz  
AUTHORS THEATRE  
LATINIDADES SERIES  
WRITING LIFE & HEALTH SERIES



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

**EVENTS CALENDAR SPRING 2020**



## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

We feel Toni Morrison's presence at the NYS Writers Institute, and mourn her loss. We preserved her desk and office chair. We have a folder containing clippings, photographs and a program that bears her signature. We are leading a University-wide effort to honor **Toni Morrison**, our friend and former University at Albany colleague, who died in the Bronx on August 5, 2019 at age 88. Morrison is a towering figure in world literature and an iconic voice of the Black experience. Her luminous prose captivates each new generation of readers.

The Nobel Prize-winning author spent five years as the Albert Schweitzer Chair in the Humanities at UAlbany (1984-89). She shared office space with our founder, William Kennedy, and collaborated frequently with the Writers Institute. Morrison addressed a packed audience in the Campus Center Ballroom on September 13, 1984, just the second featured writer in our history.

Morrison wrote parts of *Beloved*, one of the most acclaimed novels in all of American literature, while at UAlbany. The book won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988. She organized "The Birth of Black Cinema," a three-day symposium at Page Hall in 1988 that included Spike Lee. She brought to campus Ralph Ellison, acclaimed author of *The Invisible Man*, as well as Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis.

Morrison wrote "Dreaming Emmett," a drama about Emmett Till, and the Writers Institute co-sponsored its premiere at Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany in 1986. Morrison taught a fiction workshop, mentored UAlbany students, raised our consciousness about racial injustice and left an indelible mark.

"Toni Morrison was the rarest of rare birds, a singular voice in American literary history"

—William Kennedy

As part of our tribute, we open our spring series with a January 24 screening of **THE PIECES I AM**, a documentary about Morrison's life and work, followed by a panel discussion and remembrance. This leads off a series of free Classic Film Series screenings at Page Hall, featuring films we will discuss at the Albany Film Festival March 28, 2020 on the uptown UAlbany campus. Enjoy the communal experience of watching these movies on the big screen with a large audience: **THE SEAGULL** (Feb. 7), **I LIKE IT LIKE THAT** (Feb. 14), **MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN** (Feb. 21), **DO THE RIGHT THING** (Feb. 28) and **THE IRISHMAN** (March 13). Then, join us on March 28 for a conversation with the director, screenwriter or author of the books those films are based upon at the **Albany Film Festival** – an exploration of the intersection of writing and film.

We also will celebrate science writing and UAlbany's nationally recognized programs in health and life sciences research through a special series called **Writing Life and Health**. Award-winning Mexican novelist and essayist **Valeria Luiselli** (April 22) headlines our **Latinidades at the Writers Institute** series, a celebration of Latinx voices in writing and the arts.

Many powerful conversations about great literature and pressing social issues await you. As Toni Morrison wrote: "Correct what you can; learn from what you can't."

**Paul Grondahl**

Events are free and open to the public and take place on the University at Albany's Uptown Campus, unless otherwise noted. Events are subject to change. See our website and page 24 for information on parking. For the latest information, event updates, video clips, and literary news, visit our website: [www.nyswritersinstitute.org](http://www.nyswritersinstitute.org)

## A TRIBUTE TO **TONI MORRISON** (1931-2019)

January 24 (Friday)

Film Screening and Remembrance – 7:00 p.m.

Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus



Photo: Magnolia Pictures

We gather to pay tribute to Toni Morrison, giant of American literature, Nobel laureate, University at Albany professor (1984-89), and the subject of the beautiful film, *THE PIECES I AM*. Toni was a member of the Writers Institute's office family during the early years of our organization. While in residence, she wrote *Beloved*, one of the landmark novels of 20th century literature, premiered her first play "Dreaming Emmett," (January 1986) about the murder of Emmett Till, and produced "The Birth of Black Cinema" symposium (1988).

### **THE PIECES I AM**

(United States, 2019, 120 minutes, color and b/w)

Directed by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders.

An artful and intimate meditation on the life and works of Toni Morrison – from her childhood in the steel town of Lorain, Ohio, to '70s-era book tours with Muhammad Ali, from the front lines with Angela Davis to her own riverfront writing room. The film features interviews with the 88-year-old author, as well as Oprah Winfrey, Hilton Als, Angela Davis, Fran Lebowitz, Walter Mosley, Sonia Sanchez and many more.

**NOTE: A discussion of Toni Morrison's life and work featuring members of the University at Albany community will immediately follow the film screening.**

*Cosponsored by UAlbany's Office of Diversity & Inclusion and The Women's Leadership Institute at The College of Saint Rose.*

# the creative life



A Conversation Series at UAlbany

Created and produced by the New York State Writers Institute, University Art Museum, and UAlbany Performing Arts Center in collaboration with WAMC Northeast Public Radio, this series features leading figures from a variety of artistic disciplines in conversation with WAMC's "Roundtable" host Joe Donahue about creative inspiration, craft, and career.

January 30 (Thursday)

## Jhumpa Lahiri

Pulitzer Prize-winning author

Conversation with WAMC's Joe Donahue — 7:00 p.m.,  
Recital Hall, Performing Arts Center

One of the best-loved fiction writers of her generation, renowned for her novels of East Indian American immigrant experience, **Jhumpa Lahiri** fell completely in love with Italian language and literature

beginning in 2012. She now reads exclusively in Italian, and spends half the year in Italy. She recently edited and published *The Penguin Book of Italian Short Stories* (2019), a landmark collection of short works of fiction— nearly half appearing in English for the first time. During her visit, Lahiri will share her insights into the benefits of immersion in a foreign language for creativity, for broadening perspectives in an increasingly global culture, and for the appreciation of art and life. In her introduction, she says, "Only works in translation can broaden the literary horizon, open doors, break down the wall." Her previous books include *The Lowland* (2013), *Unaccustomed Earth* (2008), *The Namesake* (2003), and *Interpreter of Maladies* (1999), winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

**Following the conversation, there will be a book signing and reception in the theatre lounge.**

Major support for *The Creative Life* is provided by The University at Albany Foundation with additional support from the UAlbany Alumni Association, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, and University Auxiliary Services.

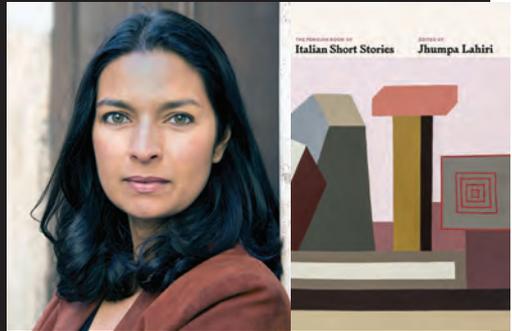


Photo: Liana Miuccio

## FEBRUARY

### A SPECIAL SPRING SERIES: **Writing Life and Health**

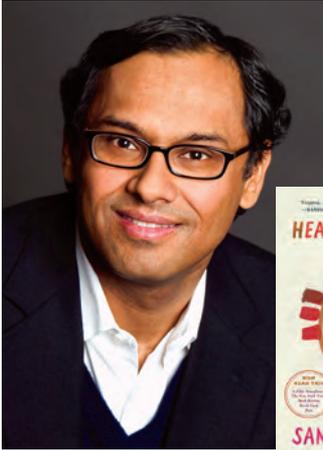


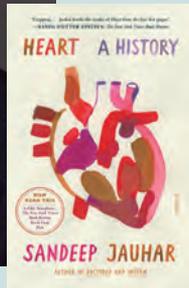
Photo: Maryanne Russell

Celebrating science writing and the University at Albany's nationally-recognized programs in health and life sciences research

February 3 (Monday)

**Sandeep Jauhar**, MD, bestselling author

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition  
Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus



**Sandeep Jauhar** is the author of *Heart: A History* (2018), the gripping and colorful story of the science of the human heart, and a *PBS NewsHour*/*New York Times* Book Club pick. Jauhar's previous

national bestsellers include *Intern: A Doctor's Initiation* (2007), and *Doctored: The Disillusionment of an American Physician* (2014). He serves as director of the Heart Failure Program at Long Island Jewish Medical Center.

*Cosponsored by UAlbany's RNA Institute and School of Public Health, UAlbany's Women in Science and Health network (WISH), and the Hudson Valley RNA Club.*



SEXUALITY MONTH KEYNOTE SPEAKER

February 4 (Tuesday)

**Ryan Russell**

NFL football player and poet

Keynote — 8:00 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom

**Ryan Russell** is the first openly LGBTQ player in the NFL, and the only male athlete in the four major professional sports leagues to self-identify as LGBTQ. Currently a free agent, Russell played football for Purdue University, the Dallas Cowboys (2015) and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2016-17).

Russell is also a writer and published poet. His first book of poetry, *Prison or Passion* (2019), captures the struggles of being a young boy without a father, and the strength that comes from building one's own definition of manhood.

*Sponsored by UAlbany's Sexuality Month, an annual spring series of the Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program of the Center for Behavioral Health Promotion. Cosponsors include the Division of Student Affairs, Student Association, UAS, and the NYS Writers Institute.*

**For the full schedule of Sexuality Month events, visit: [albany.edu/behavioralhealth](http://albany.edu/behavioralhealth)**

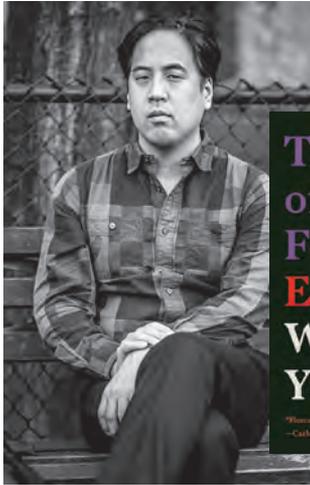


Photo: Rich Woodson

**The Souls  
of Yellow  
Folk /  
Essays**  
**Wesley  
Yang**



"Power and rebelling."  
—Carlos Lozada, *Washington Post*

BEING ASIAN IN AMERICA

February 6 (Thursday)

**Wesley Yang**, journalist and essayist

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m.,  
Standish Room, Science Library  
Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m.,  
Multi-Purpose Room,  
Campus Center West Addition

National Magazine Award-winning  
essayist **Wesley Yang** presents *The  
Souls of Yellow Folk* (2018), a powerful  
collection of essays about the biases  
faced by Asian Americans, and the  
peculiar racial anxieties awakened in  
the larger public by their successes.

The collection was named among the best books of  
the year by the *NY Times Book Review*, *Washington Post*, *Spectator* and *Publishers Weekly*.  
The title of Yang's book pays tribute to W. E. B. Du Bois' 1903 classic, *The Souls of Black  
Folk*. His work has appeared in *Best American Essays*, *Best American Magazine Writing*,  
*Best Creative Nonfiction*, and *Best American Nonrequired Reading*.



Director **MICHAEL MAYER**, who will appear at the  
1st **Albany Film Festival** (see pages 2-3), won the  
2007 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical  
for *SPRING AWAKENING*.



FILM SCREENING

February 7 (Friday)

**THE SEAGULL**

Screening — 7:30 p.m.,  
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue,  
Downtown Campus

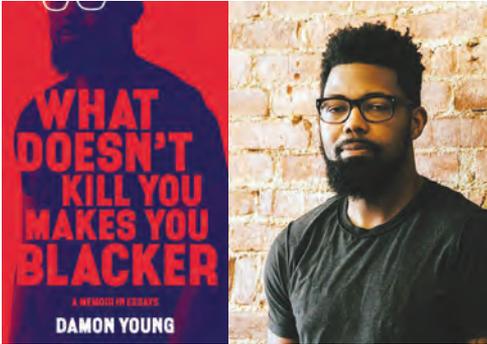
(United States, 2018,  
98 minutes, color)

Directed by Michael Mayer.

This adaptation of Anton Chekhov's classic features an all-star cast including  
Annette Bening, Saoirse Ronan, Elizabeth Moss and many others.

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU BLACKER

Photo: Sarah Huny-Young



February 13 (Thursday)

**Damon Young**

journalist and humorist

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition  
 Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Campus Center West Auditorium

**Damon Young** is the author of the new book, *What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Blacker* (2019), about surviving in a world where "existing while Black is an extreme sport."

*Entertainment Weekly* said Young "has already established himself as one of our most vibrant voices on race. Now comes his first book, a blazing memoir in essays." A senior editor for *The Root*, Young is co-founder and editor-in-chief of the online magazine, *VerySmartBrothas*, which is now an integral component of *The Root*. *VSB* was dubbed "the blackest thing that ever happened to the internet" by the *Washington Post*. Young is also a columnist for *GQ.com*, and the author of *Your Degrees Won't Keep You Warm at Night: The Very Smart Brothas Guide to Dating, Mating, and Fighting Crime*.



**DARNELL MARTIN**, who has worked on major films with Oprah, Beyoncé and Spike Lee, will appear at the 1st **Albany Film Festival** (see pages 2-3).

FILM SCREENING

February 14 (Friday)

**I LIKE IT LIKE THAT**

Screening — 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

(United States, 1994, 104 minutes, color)

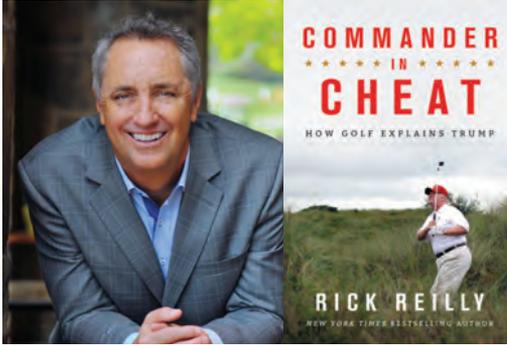
Written and directed by

**Darnell Martin**. Starring Luna Lauren Velez, Jon Seda.

The first-ever film from a Hollywood studio to be directed by an African American woman, *I LIKE IT LIKE THAT* presents the marital difficulties of a young Puerto Rican couple living in the South Bronx.



## HOW GOLF EXPLAINS THE PRESIDENCY



February 19 (Wednesday)

### Rick Reilly

sportswriter and author

Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m.,  
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue,  
Downtown Campus

**Rick Reilly**, one of America's preeminent sportswriters, is the author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump* (2019). Based on

an impressive number of interviews with caddies, partners, opponents, golf pros and employees, Reilly presents a vivid glimpse into the President's inner life. Named the NSMA National Sportswriter of the Year a total of eleven times, Reilly is renowned for his commentary at *Sports Illustrated* (1985-2007), particularly his back page column "The Life of Reilly," and for his eight years at ESPN. He is also the winner of the Damon Runyon Award for Outstanding Contributions to Journalism. *USA Today* called him, "the closest thing sportswriting ever had to a rock star."

## BECOMING HER OWN REVOLUTION



February 20 (Thursday)

### Mahogany Browne

poet, writer, activist and educator

Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m.,  
Huxley Theatre, NYS Museum,  
Cultural Education Center, Albany

Additional event on February 21 (Friday)

Presentation/Q&A — 6:00 p.m.,  
Hudson Area Library, 51 N. 5th St., Hudson

**Mahogany Browne** is one of the leading poet-activists of the New York City arts scene. *Ploughshares* declared that "Browne has become her own revolution"—an artist committed in word and deed to changing the world. Both educator and organizer, she is curator of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe Friday Night Slam, publisher of Penmanship Books, founder of the Women Writers of Color Reading Room, director of Black Lives Matter at Pratt Institute, and artistic director at Urban Word NYC. Her poetry collections include *Kissing Caskets* (2017) and *Redbone* (2016). Her YA and children's books include *Black Girl Magic* (2018), *Woke Baby* (2018), and *Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice* (March 2020).

*Cosponsored by the Hudson Area Library, NYS Museum and the Office of Cultural Education to mark the 2020 Centennial of Women's Suffrage.*



Bestselling author **JONATHAN LETHEM** will appear at the 1st **Albany Film Festival** (see pages 2-3).

FILM SCREENING  
February 21 (Friday)

## MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN

Screening — 7:00 p.m., Page Hall,  
135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

(United States, 2019, 144 minutes, color) Directed by Ed Norton. Starring Ed Norton, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Bruce Willis.

Based on the bestselling novel by **Jonathan Lethem**, *MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN* is the tale of a NYC detective with Tourette syndrome. Both book and film pay homage to the *film noir* genre.



### FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED POLITICS

Photo: Sharon Farmer



Yolanda Caraway



Minyon Moore

February 27 (Thursday)

## Yolanda Caraway and Minyon Moore

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m.,  
Standish Room, Science Library  
Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m.,  
Campus Center Ballroom

**Yolanda Caraway** and **Minyon Moore**, political strategists and organizers, are coauthors with

Donna Brazile and Leah Daughtry of the book, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics* (2018), a group memoir of four women who are among the most influential African Americans in the U.S. political sphere.

**Yolanda Caraway** served as Chief of Staff of the National Rainbow Coalition and Jesse Jackson's 1988 presidential campaign; Deputy Assistant Political Director for the Mondale/Ferraro 1984 presidential campaign; Director of the DNC's Fairness Commission; and Deputy Chair of the Democratic National Committee. She is currently President and CEO of The Caraway Group, a D.C.-based public relations firm that she founded in 1987.

**Minyon Moore** was Assistant to the President and Director of White House Political Affairs during the Clinton Administration, serving as principal political adviser to the President, Vice President, First Lady and senior White House staff. She also worked as senior advisor to Jesse Jackson, Michael Dukakis and Hillary Clinton during their presidential campaigns. She is currently a principal of the Washington D.C. political consulting firm, The Dewey Square Group.

*Cosponsored by the UAlbany Student Association.*



NYS Writers Institute

**ALBANY**  
FILM FESTIVAL **SPEAKER**

FILM SCREENING

February 28 (Friday)

**DO THE RIGHT THING**

Screening — 7:30 p.m., Page Hall,  
135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus  
(United States, 1989, 120 minutes, color)

Directed by Spike Lee. Starring Spike Lee, Danny Aiello, Rosie Perez.

This landmark American film features dancer and activist **Rosie Perez** in her first acting role as “Tina,” the love interest of “Mookie,” played by Spike Lee.



MARCH

A SPECIAL SPRING SERIES: **Writing Life and Health**

March 3 (Tuesday)

**Jennifer Block**, health care journalist,  
in conversation with Elisa Albert, fiction writer

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room,  
Campus Center West Addition

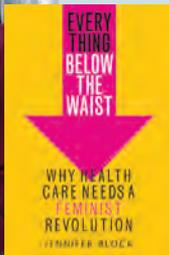
Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m.,  
Huxley Theatre, NYS Museum,  
Cultural Education Center, Albany

**Jennifer Block** is the author of an eye-opening investigation into the shortcomings of women’s health care—*Everything Below the Waist: Why Health Care Needs a Feminist Revolution* (2019), “a must-read for women, especially any woman who might ever need to see a doctor”

(*Washington Post*). Block is also the author of *Pushed* (2007), about the national crisis in maternity care. Her investigative reporting into problems with the contraceptive implant, Essure, helped bring about the product’s discontinuation.

**Elisa Albert** is the author of *After Birth* (2015), *The Book of Dahlia* (2008), *How This Night is Different* (2006), and the editor of the anthology *Freud’s Blind Spot* (2010).

Cosponsored by UAlbany’s RNA Institute and School of Public Health, UAlbany’s Women in Science and Health network (WISH), the Hudson Valley RNA Club, and the NYS Museum and Office of Cultural Education to mark the 2020 Centennial of Women’s Suffrage.



## LATINIDADES AT THE WRITERS INSTITUTE

Photo: Eric T. White

March 6 (Friday)

# Lady Pink

Graffiti artist, activist and educator, and film screening of **WILD STYLE**

Film screening and Q&A – 7:00 p.m.,  
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

**Lady Pink**, a major figure of New York's graffiti subculture of the 1970s and '80s, is the creator of artwork in the collections of many of the world's leading museums, including the Whitney, the MET, and the Groninger Museum of Holland. The Ecuador-born artist continues to paint commissioned, custom-made mural work. For decades, she has led mural workshops for teenagers, in order to help them realize their artistic visions and to beautify their neighborhoods. Lady Pink will spend the afternoon with students at Albany High School.



**SAM POLLARD**, legendary movie editor will visit the 1st **Albany Film Festival** (see pages 2-3).

## WILD STYLE

(United States, 1983, 82 minutes, color)  
Directed by Charlie Ahearn.

Lady Pink stars with 'Lee' George Quinones in this film about urban graffiti culture and guerilla artistry in the 1980s. Widely regarded as the first-ever hip-hop motion picture, the film features rare footage of music icon Grandmaster Flash, as well as The Rock Steady Crew, Cold Crush Brothers and Queen Lisa Lee, among others.

*Cosponsored by the UAlbany Department of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies (LACS).*



BURIAN LECTURE SERIES ON LIFE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS



Photo: Eva Weiss

March 9 (Monday)

## Lisa Kron

Tony Award-winning playwright

The 24th Annual Burian Lecture – 7:30 p.m.,  
Campus Center West Auditorium

**Lisa Kron**, actress and playwright, wrote the lyrics and book for the hit Broadway musical, *FUN HOME*, winner of the 2015 Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Original Score and Best Book of a Musical. A story of family and sexual awakening, and the first Broadway musical with a lesbian protagonist, *FUN HOME* is a musical adaptation of Alison Bechdel's bestselling graphic memoir of the same name.

Ben Brantley of the *NY Times* called it, "a beautiful heartbreaker of a musical." Kron is also a founder of the award-winning theatre company, The Five Lesbian Brothers, renowned for absurdist humor and the puncturing of lesbian stereotypes.

*Presented by the UAlbany Theatre Program and the Jarka and Grayce Burian Endowment in collaboration with the NYS Writers Institute.*

HOST OF NPR'S "WEEKEND EDITION" PRESENTS CHILDREN'S BOOK

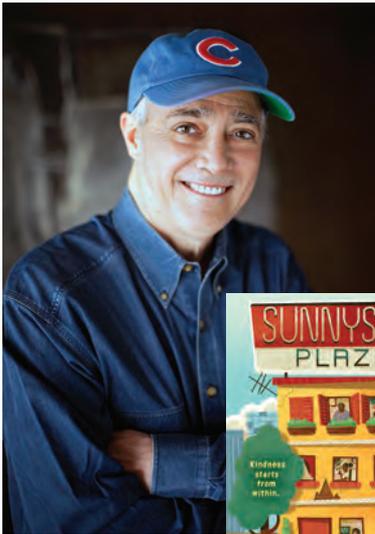


Photo: Marcos Galvany

March 10 (Tuesday)

## Scott Simon

host of NPR's "Weekend Edition"

Craft Talk – 4:15 p.m.,  
Standish Room, Science Library  
Presentation/Conversation – 7:30 p.m.,  
Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue,  
Downtown Campus



**Scott Simon**, beloved host of NPR's "Weekend Edition" since it first aired in 1985, and one of the best-known voices on American radio, will present his new middle grade book, *Sunnyside Plaza* (2020). The book tells the story of a developmentally disabled adult woman who seeks to solve the mystery of a number of suspicious deaths in her group home. *Kirkus* called it, "A tender insight into being different and wonderful."



**CHARLES BRANDT**, author of *I Heard You Paint Houses* will appear at the 1st **Albany Film Festival** (see pages 2-3).



FILM SCREENING

March 13 (Friday)

## THE IRISHMAN

Screening – 6:30 p.m.

[NOTE EARLY START TIME], Page Hall,  
135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus  
(United States, 2019, 209 minutes, color)

Directed by Martin Scorsese.

Starring Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci

A major film event of 2019, this gangster movie about the disappearance of Jimmy Hoffa is based on the book *I Heard You Paint Houses* by homicide investigator and true crime author **Charles Brandt**.

“DEAD MAN WALKING” AUTHOR PRESENTS NEW MEMOIR

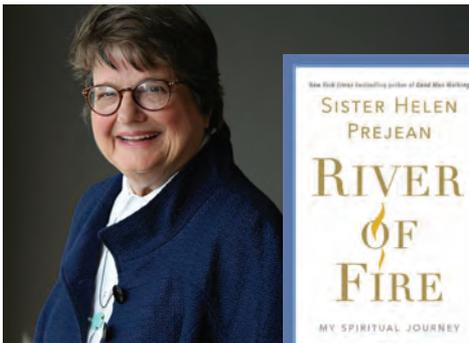


Photo: Michael Lionstar

March 23 (Monday)

## Sister Helen Prejean

death penalty activist and nun

Q&A – 4:15 p.m.,

Standish Room, Science Library

Presentation/Conversation

7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western  
Avenue, Downtown Campus

**Helen Prejean** is a Roman Catholic nun and a preeminent advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. Her bestselling book

about ministering to death row inmates, *Dead Man Walking* (1993), was adapted as a 1995 film starring Susan Sarandon (as Sister Helen) and Sean Penn. A member of the Congregation of St. Joseph based in New Orleans, Prejean has previously served as chairperson of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Her new memoir, *River of Fire* (2019), recounts her spiritual journey from praying for God to solve the world's problems to engaging full-tilt in working to address societal injustices.

*Cosponsored by UAlbany's School of Criminal Justice.*

# the creative life



A Conversation Series at UAlbany



Photo: Celeste Sloman

March 24 (Tuesday)

## Jerry Saltz

Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic

Book signing and reception — 6:00 p.m.,  
University Art Museum

Conversation with WAMC's Joe Donahue  
7:00 p.m., Campus Center West Auditorium

**Jerry Saltz** is one of the most influential and popular culture writers working today. Since 2006, he has been senior art critic and columnist for *New York Magazine*. Formerly the senior art critic for *The Village Voice*, he received the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism in 2018, and was nominated for that award in both 2001 and 2006. For two seasons,

he was a judge on Bravo's "Work of Art: The Next Great Artist." His new book, *How to Be An Artist* (2020), is full of practical inspiration for creative people - brimming with dozens of brand new rules, prompts, exercises and tips designed to break through creative blocks, ignite motivation, conquer bad habits and help artists of all kinds to realize their dreams. Comedian and artist Steve Martin says, "Inspiration leaps off the pages from Jerry Saltz's new book on creativity!"

Major support for *The Creative Life* is provided by The University at Albany Foundation with additional support from the UAlbany Alumni Association, College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, and University Auxiliary Services.

## March 28 (Saturday): Albany Film Festival

See pages 2-3 and visit [albanyfilmfestival.org](http://albanyfilmfestival.org) for more details.

## LATINIDADES AT THE WRITERS INSTITUTE

# A DOMINICAN WRESTLES WITH HIS ISLAND'S HISTORY

March 31 (Tuesday)

## EDDIE'S PEREJIL

A solo play written and performed by Edward Paulino  
Performance — 7:30 p.m., Main Theatre, Performing Arts Center  
Followed by Q&A with  
Edward Paulino and director Samantha Galarza

**EDDIE'S PEREJIL** is a gripping solo play written and performed by Edward Paulino about a working-class Dominican-American college student who stumbles upon a document describing a long-forgotten genocide against Haitians by Dominicans known as the 1937 Haitian Massacre, *el Corte*, and *temwayaj kout kouto*. This discovery and subsequent self-reflection sets him on an inescapable collision course with his romanticized notion of what it means to be Dominican in the diaspora.



**Edward Paulino**, professor of global history at John Jay College, CUNY, co-founded Border of Lights, an organization that commemorates the 1937 genocidal Haitian massacre and promotes solidarity between Haitians and Dominicans. He serves on the board of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigration Rights. He is also the author of *Dividing Hispaniola: The Dominican Republic's Border Campaign against Haiti, 1930-1961* (2016).

**Samantha Galarza** is a queer, mixed-race, Puerto Rican, SAG-AFTRA actress/writer/singer/performance artist/educator/director. As an “art-ivist,” her work explores queer identity politics, fluidity, gender, systemic and internalized racism, love, substance abuse, migration, and the U.S. prison industrial complex.



Cosponsored by UAlbany's Department of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies (LACS), Department of Anthropology, Department of Sociology, and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (LLC).

## APRIL

### THE ADVENTURES OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT

April 2 (Thursday)

## Jerome Charyn

novelist, in conversation with  
Paul Grondahl, TR biographer

Conversation/Q&A – 7:30 p.m.,  
Huxley Theatre, NYS Museum,  
Cultural Education Center, Albany

**Jerome Charyn**, a colossus of  
American letters, is the author of  
fifty books in the last fifty years,  
including thirty novels. Michael

Chabon calls him “one of the most important writers in American literature.” Jonathan Yardley of the *Washington Post* said, “Give this guy a Pulitzer.... No one deserves it more.” Charyn’s recent novels have fictionalized the lives of Emily Dickinson, Abraham Lincoln and Jerzy Kosíński. His new book is *The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King: A Novel of Teddy Roosevelt and His Times* (2019), a rollicking tale of the sickly child, NYC Police Commissioner, environmentalist, Rough Rider and “perfect bull in a china shop” who became our 26th President.

**Paul Grondahl**, director of the Writers Institute, is the author of *I Rose Like a Rocket: The Political Education of Theodore Roosevelt* (2004).

Cosponsored by the UAlbany History Department, Friends of the New York State Library, NYS Museum and Office of Cultural Education.

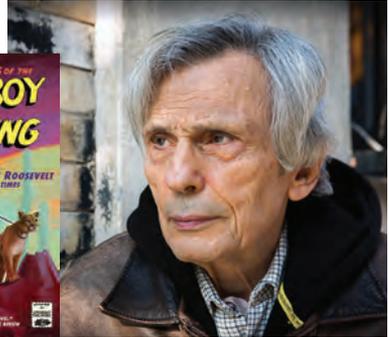
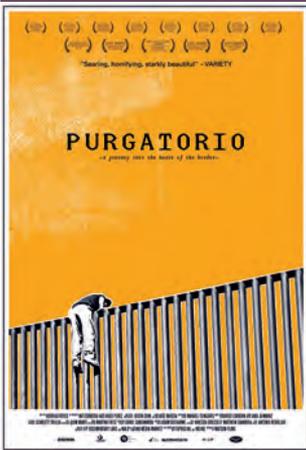


Photo: Klaus Schoenwiese

## LATINIDADES AT THE WRITERS INSTITUTE



### FILM SCREENING

April 3 (Friday)

## PURGATORIO: A JOURNEY INTO THE HEART OF THE BORDER

Screening – 7:30 p.m., Page Hall,  
135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus  
(Mexico/USA, 2013, 80 minutes, color, in Spanish  
and English) Directed by Rodrigo Reyes.

This stunning documentary about life and landscape  
at the US-Mexico border was directed by Rodrigo  
Reyes, who visited Albany in 2018 with his award-  
winning feature, *LUPE UNDER THE SUN*.

Former NYS Writers Institute videographer Hugo  
Perez co-wrote *PURGATORIO*.

# AUTHORS THEATRE

**April 6 (Monday)**

**Staged Reading — 7:30 p.m.**

**Arena Theatre, Performing Arts Center**

Staged reading of the new play **INTERSTATE** with equity actors and UAlbany students, followed by Q&A with playwright Amina Henry and director Sarah Blush

**INTERSTATE** follows the cross-country drive of 40-something flight attendant Red and her two kids, Robin and Manny, who are too old to be taking a vacation with their mother. Ex-boyfriends are visited; Texas gets weird; and the Grand Canyon is reached at last. A funny and irreverent new play, **INTERSTATE** asks what it means to be family, and what it is to be a woman.

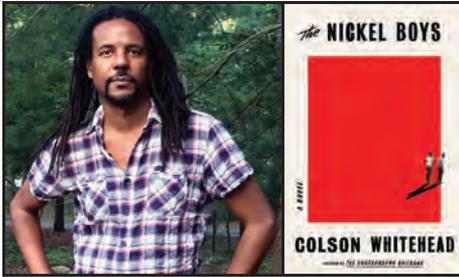


**Amina Henry** is a significant emerging playwright. Recent productions include **THE ANIMALS**, **DUCKLINGS**, **HUNTER JOHN AND JANE** and **THE JOHNSONS** (at JACK, Brooklyn, NY) and **BULLY** (SUNY Purchase, Clubbed Thumb WinterWorks).

**Sarah Blush's** directing projects include Amina Henry's **BULLY**; Bailey Williams' **I THOUGHT I WOULD DIE BUT I DIDN'T**, a *Time Out Critics* Pick; and **SEHNSUCHT**, a *New York Times Critics* Pick.

*Presented by the UAlbany Theatre Program and the Jarka and Grayce Burian Endowment in collaboration with the NYS Writers Institute.*





79th ANNUAL MCKINNEY AWARDS

April 13 (Monday)

## Colson Whitehead

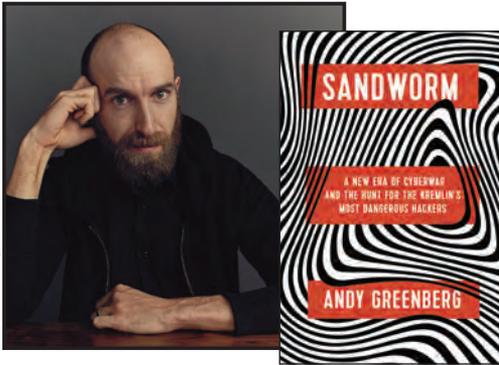
major American novelist

Reading and McKinney Writing Contest Awards — 8:00 p.m., CBIS (Biotech) Auditorium, Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies Building, Rensselaer (RPI), Troy

**Colson Whitehead**, a leading writer of his generation, received the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award and Carnegie Medal for his #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *The Underground Railroad* (2016). Whitehead also serves as New York's official State Author by proclamation of Governor Cuomo under the auspices of the New York State Writers Institute. His new novel is *The Nickel Boys* (2019), about young men struggling to survive in a Florida reform school based on the notorious, real-life Dozier School for Boys, where dozens of young inmates died under suspicious circumstances.

Sponsored by Rensselaer's 79th Annual McKinney Writing Contest and Reading; Vollmer W. Fries Lecture; Department of Communication and Media; School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; Rensselaer Union; Friends of the Folsom Library; Poets & Writers; and the NYS Writers Institute. For directions: <http://www.rpi.edu/tour/index.html>

### A NEW ERA OF CYBERWAR AND CYBERSECURITY



April 14 (Tuesday)

## Andy Greenberg

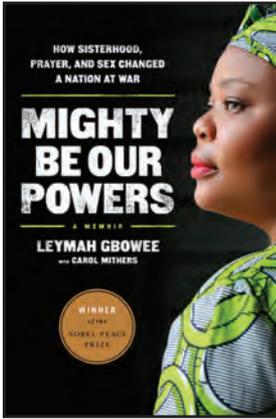
Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m., Standish Room, Science Library  
Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Page Hall, 135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus

**Andy Greenberg** is the author of *Sandworm: A New Era of Cyberwar and the Hunt for the Kremlin's Most Dangerous Hackers* (2019). The *LA Times* said, "Sandworm is much more

than a true-life techno-thriller. It's a tour through a realm that is both invisible and critical to the daily lives of every person alive in the 21st century." An award-winning senior writer for *Wired*, Greenberg covers security, privacy, information freedom, and hacker culture. His previous book, *This Machine Kills Secrets* (2012), was a *New York Times* Editor's Choice.

Cosponsored by the University at Albany's College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC), the first college of its kind in the nation, and a launch pad for the next generation of cybersecurity professionals. Studies have indicated a need for 1.8 million new cybersecurity experts worldwide by 2022.

WINNER OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



April 15 (Wednesday)

## Leymah Gbowee

Liberian peace activist and Nobel laureate

Presentation/Conversation — 12:00 p.m.,  
Location TBD, UAlbany Uptown Campus

**Leymah Gbowee** received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her work in leading a women's peace movement that brought an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. Gbowee shared the prize with fellow Liberian Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Yemen-native Tawakkol Karman. Gbowee and Sirleaf became the second and third African women to win the prize. Gbowee is the founder and president of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, which provides educational and leadership opportunities to girls,

women and youth in West Africa. She is also the author of *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer and Sex Changed a Nation at War* (2011).

*Sponsored by the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in partnership with more than a dozen UAlbany schools and departments.*

CELEBRATING THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

April 17 (Friday)

## Nadina LaSpina

disability rights activist and author

Disability Resource Center Awards/  
Celebration/Reception — 3:00-5:00 p.m.,  
Campus Center Assembly Hall

Presentation/Conversation — 7:30 p.m.,  
Huxley Theatre, NYS Museum,  
Cultural Education Center, Albany

**Nadina LaSpina** is a prominent activist in the disability rights movement who has

been arrested countless times for civil disobedience. This past July, she served as the Grand Marshal of the 5th Annual Disability Pride Parade in New York City. She is the author of the new memoir, *Such a Pretty Girl* (2019). The book spans her remarkable life from her early years with polio, and her experience as an object of well-meaning pity in her native Sicily; to her adolescence in America, spent almost entirely in hospitals, where she is tortured in the quest for a cure; to her subsequent rebellion, activism, and growing ability to claim and enjoy her own beauty.

*Cosponsored by the UAlbany Disability Resource Center in honor of the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the NYS Museum and Office of Cultural Education to mark the 2020 Centennial of Women's Suffrage.*



Photo: Gene Grown

## LATINIDADES AT THE WRITERS INSTITUTE

# BRIDGING IMMIGRANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

April 22 (Wednesday)

The Power of Storytelling with

**Valeria Luiselli**

novelist and essayist

Craft Talk — 4:15 p.m.,  
Standish Room, Science Library

Earth Day reception and events begin at  
6:00 p.m., Capital District LATINOS,  
160 Central Ave, Albany.

Visit Capital District LATINOS  
on Facebook for schedule.

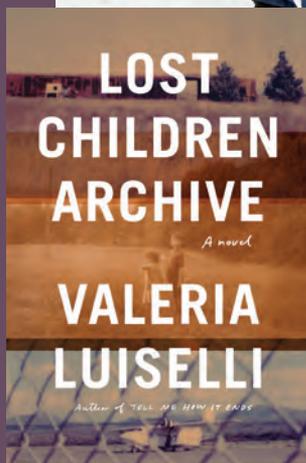
Author Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m.,  
Capital District LATINOS, Fellowship Hall

**Valeria Luiselli**, winner of a 2019 MacArthur “Genius” Award, is a bestselling New York-based Mexican author who writes fiction and nonfiction to voice her outrage about issues regarding 21st century migration in the United States. She received the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for her bestselling 2015 novel, *The Story of My Teeth*, and the National Book Critics Circle Award for her 2017 nonfiction book, *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions*. Her new novel is *Lost Children Archive* (2019), about one family’s road trip from New York to Arizona—into the heart of the immigration crisis. It was named a Best Book of 2019 by the *NY Times*, *TIME*, *NPR*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

Cosponsored by Capital District LATINOS.



Photo: Diego Berrueros/Gatopardo



## A SPECIAL SPRING SERIES: **Writing Life and Health**

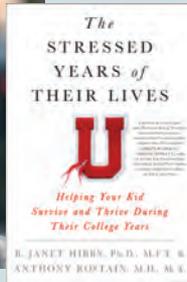


Photo: Michael D. Robinson

April 23 (Thursday)

### **Dr. B. Janet Hibbs**

psychologist, family therapist and author



Q&A — 4:15 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

Presentation/Q&A — 7:30 p.m., Campus Center West Auditorium

**B. Janet Hibbs**, a leading expert in adolescent mental health, is coauthor with Anthony Rostain, MD, of *The Stressed Years of Their Lives: Helping Your Kid Survive and Thrive During Their College Years* (2019). Amid high rates of anxiety and depression among

students on college campuses, *The Stressed Years of Their Lives* reaffirms the vital importance of families in keeping kids healthy, and building social and emotional readiness for school.

Cosponsored by UAlbany's Center for Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research, RNA Institute and School of Public Health, UAlbany's Women in Science and Health network (WISH), and the Hudson Valley RNA Club.

## LATINIDADES AT THE WRITERS INSTITUTE

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL MONTH OF HOPE

April 24 (Friday)

### **Zine Festival: Promoting Justice and Hope Through Creative Writing**

1:00 p.m. — 3:30 p.m., Capital District LATINOS, 160 Central Ave, Albany

“Zines”, short for magazines or fanzines, are self-made and published creative writing pieces that explore a topic of interest. They are created with any available materials from collage, digital photography, hand-written writing, cartoons, pasted images, and digital designs. The Zine Fair hosted by Capital District LATINOS will feature zines by over 100 students from UAlbany, Saint Rose, Emma Willard School, Averill Park and Castle Island Montessori. Come experience how students, from elementary school to college, examine important issues of racial justice, culture, identity, language, gender and more. You can even begin to create your own zine!

Sponsored by Capital District LATINOS and UAlbany's Department of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies (LACS).



FILM SCREENING

April 24 (Friday)

## BABY FACE

Screening — 7:30 p.m., Page Hall,  
135 Western Avenue, Downtown Campus  
(United States, 1933, 76 minutes, b/w)

Directed by Alfred E. Green.

Starring Barbara Stanwyck, George Brent.

A classic of pre-Code Hollywood, *BABY FACE* tells the story of a young woman who uses sexual charm for personal and social advancement. This screening will feature “objectionable” footage removed in 1933 by

the New York State Censorship Board in its mission to protect public morality.

*Cosponsored by the NYS Archives Partnership Trust in association with the archive of the NYS Department of Motion Picture Censorship in Manuscripts and Special Collections of the NYS Library.*

## A SPECIAL SPRING SERIES: **Writing Life and Health**



April 29 (Wednesday)

## Louise Aronson, MD

bestselling author on aging

Presentation/Q&A [REGISTRATION REQUIRED]

10:00 a.m., Carondelet Hospitality Center,  
385 Watervliet Shaker Rd, Latham

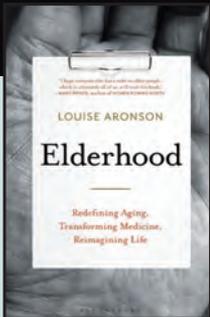
Presentation/Conversation — 4:15 p.m.,  
Multi-Purpose Room, Campus Center West Addition

**Louise Aronson** is author of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Elderhood: Redefining Aging, Transforming Medicine, Reimagining Life* (2019). The reviewer for *Nature* called it, “Exquisitely written... a new paradigm: a re-balancing act in which technology has a role but the focus returns to care.... One can only hope

its practices are adopted swiftly.” Aronson is Professor of Medicine at UC San Francisco, where she directs UCSF Health Humanities and Social Advocacy Initiative.

*Cosponsored by The Albany Guardian Society: Service to Seniors in the Capital District. To register for the morning event, visit: [www.albanyguardiansociety.org](http://www.albanyguardiansociety.org).*

*Afternoon event cosponsored by UAlbany’s RNA Institute and School of Public Health, UAlbany’s Women in Science and Health network (WISH), and the Hudson Valley RNA Club.*



Back by Popular Demand!

## LITERATURE IN PERFORMANCE

May 2, 2020 (Saturday)

# selectedSHORTS®

Let us tell you a story.

Performance – 7:30 p.m.,  
Main Theatre, Performing Arts Center

Advance tickets: \$15 general public • \$10 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff.  
Day of show tickets: \$20 general public • \$15 students, seniors & UAlbany faculty-staff. For more information, contact the PAC Box Office: (518) 442-3997.

It's story time...  
for adults

**S**pellbinding short stories by established and emerging writers take on new life when they are performed by stars of stage, screen and television. Public Radio International's wildly popular series and podcast comes to town offering a unique evening of literature in performance. **Stay tuned to [nyswritersinstitute.org](http://nyswritersinstitute.org) for more updates on the featured stories and cast.**

*Presented in collaboration with the UAlbany Performing Arts Center with support from the University at Albany Foundation, Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, University Auxiliary Services, and Residence Inn by Marriott.*

To sign up for email updates and for additional information on events, video clips, and literary news, visit our website at: [www.nyswritersinstitute.org](http://www.nyswritersinstitute.org) and follow us on **Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.**

### **On Campus Parking:**

Courtesy parking for Writers Institute events on the Uptown Campus will be available in the **State Quad Student Parking Lot** one hour prior to and one hour after events.

**Visitor Parking lots** are also available for \$5 per vehicle, though parking spaces are very limited.

For Downtown Campus events, courtesy parking will be available in the **Thurlow Student Parking lot.**

**Handicapped entrances available:** Milne Hall (from Washington Avenue) and Richardson Hall (Page Courtyard, Western Avenue).

For a map of the campuses including parking lots go to:  
<https://www.albany.edu/map/index.php>

With special thanks to our primary sponsors,

**The University at Albany Foundation, The New York State Writers Institute Classic Film Series Endowment, and The Maguire Family Endowment at the NYSWI.**

### **The New York State Writers Institute**

gratefully acknowledges the support of University Auxiliary Services, Division of Student Affairs, Student Association, Alumni Association, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Office of University Events, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, University at Albany Bookstore, WAMC Northeast Public Radio, Albany *Times Union*, and Friends of Writing.

**William Kennedy, Executive Director**

**Paul Grondahl, Director**

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1400 Washington Avenue • Albany, NY 12222  
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