Rochester Reads
BOOK FESTIVAL 2023

October 28, 10 am - 5 pm
SUNY Brockport’s ROCHESTER CAMPUS 161 Chestnut St, Rochester
FREE ADMISSION

Author Signings
Talks, Readings, Panels
Indie Bookstores
Small Press Publishers
Pop-Up Events

writers & BOOKS & AMPERSAND BOOKS
NCTA's Indie Bookseller of Writers & Books
Writers & Books is thrilled to present our inaugural Rochester Reads Book Festival, a pilot event inspired by this year’s Rochester Reads selection, N.K. Jemisin’s award-winning novel *The City We Became*, called by NPR “a love letter, a celebration and an expression of hope and belief.” We’re grateful to our brilliant 20-member Artistic Advisory Committee for recommending a lively, readable book that encourages readers to imagine widely and think critically about important issues in our national and local conversations.

Supported by a grant from Monroe County and the in-kind generosity of SUNY Brockport, our Book Festival aims to showcase area authors, booksellers, small press publishers, and other organizations that contribute mightily to the vitality of greater Rochester’s literary landscape. We hope you’ll enjoy your experience today and be encouraged to become better acquainted with the many exciting cultural resources in our own backyards.

For over two decades, Writers & Books’ Rochester Reads has been mission driven to bring readers of all ages and backgrounds together in conversation through the shared experience of literature. We’re optimistic that by exploring the world of ideas and imagination, our Book Festival will help catalyze new relationships and advance understandings across perceived differences, especially those that evolve from and are sustained by authentic dialog.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to participating exhibitors, writers, artists, supporters, and visitors who are joining hands with us to launch what we hope will become an annual Rochester Reads tradition.

With appreciation,

Alison Meyers  
www.wab.org
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Main Stage</th>
<th>Breakout 1</th>
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<th>Pop-Up</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Senator Samra Brouk</td>
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<td>Debi Bower with Robin Flanagan Day Trips</td>
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<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>Around Rochester All Day; Joanne Russo Insull</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>Dangerous Signs</td>
<td>Charlie Demott Wildey, Lightning Bolt</td>
<td>Performance: 30 min</td>
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<td>Performance: 30 min</td>
<td>Reading, Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Wendy Low, Write On!</td>
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<td>Write On! SummerWrite for Grown-ups: 45 min</td>
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<td>Bookstore: Keely Hutton; Author’s Note</td>
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<td>10:45</td>
<td>Say No to Banned Books Panel</td>
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<td>Reading &amp; Conversation: 45 min</td>
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<td>Bookstore; Cosmographia: Frances Tepper</td>
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<td>11:45</td>
<td>Rylie Day-Walker, Building Fantastical Worlds</td>
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<td>Ampersand: Linda Sue Park</td>
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<td>Nobody Birds the Sky: Denver Butson &amp; Terence Degnan</td>
<td>Reading, Conversation: 45 min</td>
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<td>N.K. Jemisin &amp; The Art of World Building Panel: 1 hr</td>
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<td>Book Culture: Mackenzie Reed, The Rosewood Hunt</td>
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<td>Straw Mat Writers, Reading</td>
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<td>Ampersand: Denver Butson &amp; Terence Degnan; Book Culture; Another Chapter: Elizabeth Everett</td>
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<td>Calvin Eaton &amp; Debora McDell-Hernandez, Just Desserts Presentation, Conversation: 45 Min</td>
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<td>Ampersand Books: Robin Flanigan; Signing with Katelyn Costello</td>
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<td>Scott Williams, Reading</td>
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<td>Ampersand: Straw Mat Writers</td>
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<td>Love4Words &amp; JB Lee 25 min</td>
<td>Valerie Dimino, You Are Not Alone, Reading, Talk, Q&amp;A: 45 min</td>
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<td>Danielle Gary, Adventures in Camelot Reading, Talk, Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>Joanne Insull</td>
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ASL Interpreter Available symbol created by Anitha Jagathish from Noun Project
Elizabeth Johnston Ambrose is the author of *Imago Dei*, 2021 winner of the Rattle Chapbook Poetry Prize in 2021. Her creative writing has been featured in such publications as *Women Studies Quarterly* and *McSweeney’s*, and in several anthologies. The recipient of a SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, her academic and creative work focuses on representations of women in literature and popular culture. She teaches at Monroe Community College and facilitates a writing-as-therapy group at the Rochester Breast Cancer Coalition.

**Straw Mat Writers Reading, Main Stage, 1 PM**

Debi Bower is a web designer, photographer, and travel writer from Rochester, New York. After years of documenting day-trip ideas for her Girl Scout troop, in 2017, she launched daytrippingroc.com, writing detailed guides highlighting the best places to visit in Rochester, the Genesee Valley, and the Finger Lakes region, as well as several destinations in Central New York, Western New York, and the Southern Tier. In 2023, she published *Day Trips around Rochester, New York: Your Guide to Exploring within Two Hours of Rochester and the Finger Lakes Region.*

**Author’s Table, All Day**

Maria Brandt’s novella *All the Words* won the Grassic Short Novel Prize; her full-length play *Swans* premiered at Geva Theatre Center’s Fielding Stage; and her collection *New York Plays* was produced by Out of Pocket Theatre and published by Heartland Press. Her short fiction and nonfiction have been published widely in journals. She teaches Creative Writing at Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY. **Straw Mat Writers Reading, Main Stage, 1 PM**

Denver Butson’s fifth book, *The Scarecrow Alibis* (2022), won the Vern Rutsala Poetry Prize. *Nobody Birds the Sky* began as missives exchanged with poet Terence Degnan using the 50 states of the United States as substitutes for shifting states of grief. The work addresses Degnan’s immediate grief over his father’s death in 2022 and Butson’s still fresh, though evolved, grief over the sudden loss of his brother to a bullet 30 years before. **Nobody Birds the Sky Reading & Conversation, Main Stage, 12:15 PM; Book Signing, Ampersand Books, 1 PM**

Katelyn Costello is the author of the science fiction novel *Until All the Stars Are Found* (2021) and the fantasy saga *The Frituals*. Based in Rochester, NY, she works in the visual arts as a photographer, stage manager, and lighting designer. She holds a BA in English: Creative Writing from Wells College. **Book Signing, Katelyn Lane Exhibitor Table, 1:30 PM**

Dangerous Signs is an award winning troupe of Deaf/hearing performers, featuring ASL poetry, music and skits, that performs widely in Rochester, regularly goes to New York City, and has appeared on television in “Law & Order” and “America’s Got Talent.” The troupe is the recipient of the GEVA Theater Essie Calhoun Diversity Award. Troupe: Luane Haggerty, Peter Haggerty, Madison Halker, Matthew Parsley, Adrian Reed, Jordon Schdeit, Eddie Swayze, and friends. **Performance, Main Stage, 10:15 AM**

### Presenters

**Elizabeth Everett** is the author of three historical romance novels with a fourth forthcoming in 2024. Her *Secret Scientists of London* series has received critical acclaim from *BuzzFeed, Kirkus, Booklist, Publishers Weekly, PopSugar, Entertainment Weekly*, and various other outlets. Her work is inspired by her admiration for rule breakers and belief in the power of love to change the world. She resides with her family in Rochester, NY. **Book Signing, Another Chapter Bookstore, 1 PM**

**Rylie Day-Walker** is a writer, tutor/teacher, mother, and lover of Shakespeare who enjoys writing fiction and creative nonfiction. She has been published in literary magazines and newspapers, was part of the 2021 Listen to Your Mother cast, is a guest at Rochester’s speakeasy, and teaches in Writers & Books’ SummerWrite program. **Building Fantastical Worlds: SummerWrite for Grownups, Breakout #1, 11:45 AM**

Terence Degnan has published four books of poems, including *I Can Wonder Anything* (2023). *Nobody Birds the Sky* (originally titled *Dear Denver*) began as missives he wrote to his friend, poet Denver Butson, after the two had a conversation about grief and the evolution of grief in the days following Degnan’s father’s death in 2022. Terence lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. **Nobody Birds the Sky Reading & Conversation, Main Stage, 12:15 PM; Book Signing, Ampersand Books, 1 PM**

Rachel DeGuzman is Director of Engagement, Community Partnerships & Public Curation at Geva Theatre, Rochester. The founder of 21st Century Arts and managing curator of the community-rooted arts space, The Black House (Rochester), she serves on the Board of Trustees of The Strong National Museum of Play. She was featured in Rochester Museum and Science Center’s “Changemakers: 200 Rochester Women Who Have Changed the World” 2020 exhibition. **N.K. Jemisin & the Art of World Building Panel, Breakout 1, 12:30 PM**

Valerie Dimino is the co-author of *The Man behind the Curtain*, a memoir about the ways victims of abuse are intimidated and silenced. By day, she works as a medical copy editor, but has experience in marketing for higher education, performing arts, and medical informatics. She holds a BA and MA in creative writing from SUNY Brockport. **Presentation & Q & A, Breakout # 2, 2:30 PM; Book Signing, Lift Bridge Books, 3:15 PM**

Calvin Eaton (he/his/him) is a disabled author, educator, public speaker, content creator, and social entrepreneur with experience spanning over 13 years in the field of education. In 2012, he founded The Gluten Free Chef Brand, a health and wellness presence and online community for people who live gluten-free. In 2016, He established 540WMain, Inc., a nonprofit digital antiracist education platform that fosters understanding and change in the realm of racial justice. He has authored three books, most recently, **Just Desserts: 40 Step-by-Step Gluten-Free Dessert Recipes. Presentation/Conversation, Breakout # 2, 1:30 PM; Book Signing, Hipocampo Children’s Books, 2:15 PM**

### Presenters
Robin L. Flanigan is a national award-winning freelance journalist for magazines and newspapers around the country. The author of the children’s book M is for Mindful and 100 Things to do in Rochester before You Die, her essays have appeared in The Sun and other literary magazines and anthologies. She was a beat reporter for 11 years in newsrooms, including Rochester's Democrat and Chronicle.

Danielle Gary, M.Ed, is an education specialist for the University of Rochester’s School of Medicine and Dentistry, where she supports teaching, learning, professional development, equity, and wellness initiatives within the OBGYN Department. In her first memoir, Adventures in Camelot (2023), she shares the joys and challenges of raising a child with autism, weaving together humor, heartache, and hope to create a beautiful tapestry of family life.

Katherine Hammill is School Library System Director at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, supporting 25 component school districts and school libraries in Wayne, Ontario, Seneca and Yates counties. In her role as Director, she works to develop consistent, equitable, and regionally approaches to library services, systems, and programs that allow students and staff to engage with technology as safe, socially conscious digital citizens. She is pursuing a Doctorate in Education in Human Development at the Warner School of Education, University of Rochester.

Keely Hutton is a children’s book author and former English teacher. She worked closely with Ricky Richard Anywar to tell his story in her debut novel, Soldier Boy, named by Booklist one of the top 10 first novels of 2017 and one of the top 10 historical novels for youth in 2018. Her second novel, Secret Soldiers, was a 2020 Bank Street Best Children’s Book of the Year and 2020 Children’s Book Council Notable Social Studies Book for Young People. Don’t Look Back, a YA memoir co-authored with Achut Deng, was released in fall 2022. She lives in Rochester, NY, with her husband, two sons, and adorable dog Maximus.

Joanne Russo Insull is a former teacher and trainer who worked with children and adults with disabilities. She makes a home for two rescue dogs and feeds a group of crows who come every morning when she calls them. She has traveled to many places, and loves Italy, where she met a donkey who was the inspiration for Asinella. The author of five books, she is a member of SCBWI, is active with the Rochester Children’s Book Festival, and is a volunteer grant writer for a local school.

Jennifer Kircher Herman is an alumna of multiple workshops, including Bread Loaf and Provincetown Fine Arts. The recipient of the Nebraska Review Fiction Award and the Clarence Amann Award for nonfiction, her work has been published in such journals such as North American Review, Prairie Schooner, Ploughshares online, and Poets & Writers. She is a senior manager at a software company, splitting her time between Western NY and Granada, Spain.

JB Lee is an aspiring author with a passion for storytelling and a love for the written word. They craft captivating narratives that transport readers to extraordinary worlds and explore the depths of human emotions and experiences. JB Lee seeks to inspire and provoke thought.

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Poetry Takes Wing Competition Winners: Sponsored by Seneca Park Zoo and co-sponsored by Writers & Books, the several-months-long competition took inspiration from World Migratory Bird Day. Writers of all ages and backgrounds submitted poems in Spanish and English, grounded in an ethos of conservation and referencing a bird or birds in some way. Reading, Main Stage, 3:15 PM

Mackenzie Reed’s debut YA novel The Rosewood Hunt arrives in October 31, 2023. A tale of captivating suspense and devastating betrayal, the plot follows Lily Rosewood through an irresistible cat and mouse thrill of mystery and romance. The author holds a BA in Communications and Media from Nazareth College.

Reading, Breakout #2, 12:30 PM

Gaya R. Shakes, PhD, is a retired secondary English teacher and lead teacher mentor in the Rochester City School District. Previously, she served as an adjunct professor of urban education at Nazareth College. An American Federation of Teachers Distinguished Fellow and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, she has published articles about culturally relevant pedagogy, teacher reflection, and the intellectual empowerment of African American women. N.K. Jemisin & the Art of World Building Panel, Breakout Room 1, 12:30 PM

Angelique Stevens’ nonfiction has been published or is forthcoming in Best American Essays, LitHub, The New England Review, and several anthologies. She has received fellowships from Bread Loaf, Tin House, Kenyon Review, and Sewanee Writers Workshop; a fellowship to the Perilplus Mentorship Collective; a teaching fellowship to the Lighthouse Book Project; and a residency to the Hedgebrook’s Writers in Residence Program. She lives in Upstate NY where she teaches creative writing, literature of genocide, and race literatures. Straw Mat

Writers Reading, Main Stage, 1 PM

Frances Tepper is the author of the memoir Fair Lady: Memoirs of a County Fair Manager (Cosmographia Books, 2021) and the romance-suspense After the Enchantment (Fair Lady Press, 2022). Nominated for Best Local Author in Rochester, NY’s CITY Magazine in 2021, she was inducted into the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs Hall of Fame in 2022. Book Signing, Cosmographia Books, 11:30 AM; Reading, Breakout #1, 1:50 PM

Jeffrey Tucker, PhD, studies literature as a context for discussions about postmodernism, cultural and identity politics, and racial representation. The Director of Undergraduate Studies, Departments of English and Black Studies, University of Rochester, he is the author of A Sense of Wonder: Samuel R. Delany, Race, Identity, and Difference (Wesleyan University Press, 2004) and is the editor of Conversations with John A. Williams (University of Mississippi Press, 2018). N.K. Jemisin & the Art of World Building Panel, Breakout # 1, 12:30 PM

Charlie DeMott Wildey’s novel Lightning Bolt (2023) is available from NFB Publishing. His work can be found in The Rialto Books Review Vol.02 and his Substack “Feed Charlie.” He has performed comedy around New York State for over 11 years. He lives in Caledonia, NY, with his wife, their daughter, and their cat Pashmina. Reading and Q & A, Breakout # 1, 10:15 AM; Book Signing, Ampersand Books, 10:45 PM

Scott Williams’ poetry and short fiction can be found in Coffeehouse, Scryptic Magazine, Juniper Poetry, Punch Drunk Press, Oddball Magazine, Peach Mag, Mason Street Review, Owl Light Magazine, and Le Mot Juste. The recipient of the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Association of Mathematicians, he is Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, University at Buffalo. Reading, Main Stage, 2 PM

Interested in viewing our Schedule, Presenters, and Exhibitors online? Scan the QR code:

Ampersand Books, Writers & Books’ indie bookstore at 740 University Avenue, Rochester, NY: Curated selection of award-winning and hard-to-find fiction, poetry, and nonfiction; small press titles; texts focused on social justice, craft of writing, and books by local authors. Discounts for Writers & Books members and book clubs; NY Times bestsellers always 15% off.

Another Chapter Bookstore, 24 High Street, Fairport, NY: New books for adults and children; gift items; loyalty and educator discounts.

Author’s Note, 519 Main Street, Medina, NY: Brings authors from around the country to Western New York; free shipping for all book orders shipped throughout the U.S; lovingly sold selected books, toys, stationery, gifts, and coffee.

Before Your Quiet Eyes, 439 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, NY: Brick and mortar store that features used and rare books; carries art, including ceramics, painting, photography, prints and ephemera; monthly poetry readings.

Presenters

Adrienne Pettinelli is the Director of the Henrietta Public Library in Rochester, NY, and author of Helping Homeschoolers in the Library (2008, ALA Editions). She has served on several book award committees, including the 2015 Caldecott Selection Committee, and is a reviewer specializing in picture books and beginning readers for Horn Book Magazine. She teaches for the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is a visiting lecturer at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Say No to Banned Books Panel, Breakout #1, 10:45 AM; Book Signing, Ampersand Books Table, 12 PM

Adrienne Pettinelli

Jeffrey Tucker

Frances Tepper

Gaya R. Shakes

Angelique Stevens

Writers & Books, 740 University Avenue, Rochester, NY

www.wab.org

Ampersand Books

Another Chapter Bookstore

Author’s Note

Before Your Quiet Eyes

Exhibitors

Presenters

Say No to Banned Books Panel, Breakout #1, 10:45 AM; Book Signing, Ampersand Books Table, 12 PM
Exhibitors

BOA Editions, Ltd, North Goodman Street, Suite 306, Rochester, NY: Not-for-profit publisher of poetry and other literary works that foster readership and appreciation of contemporary literature; publishes both new and established poets and authors of unique literary talent.

Book Culture, 28 South Main Street, Pittsford, NY: Wide assortment of books and gift items for the whole family.

Bookeater Books, 836 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY: Independent bookstore & café on two levels.

Burning Books, 420 Connecticut Street, Buffalo, NY: Radical bookstore focused exclusively on social justice issues and work to support individuals and movements struggling against oppression and domination in all its forms.

Cosmographia Books, Rochester, NY: Inspired by the symbolism of the cosmographia, in 2015, writer and editor Nina Alvarez founded a press that seeks to embody the spirit of multidimensional mapping.

Hipocampo Children’s Books, 638 South Avenue, Rochester, NY: Independent Woman/Latinx owned children’s bookstore with a varied collection representing the rich cultures and languages of western NY; toys and children’s apparel.

In This Moment Chapbooks, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY: The series invites 10 teams of Black writers and photographers to profile 10 Black leaders from across the city of Rochester, resulting in the publication of a series of 10 chapbooks. By December 2023, 10,000 free chapbooks will have been distributed to over 70 schools and 40 Monroe County and Rochester Public Libraries. The program teams and chapbook images are curated by local Black curator Amanda Chestnut. Jeanne Strazzabosco coordinates the program; Visual Studies Workshop Press is the publisher.

Just Poets, Rochester, NY: Volunteer-run organization that celebrates poets and poetry by supporting writers at all levels of ability to improve their work and find their individual poetic voice. Just Poets also seeks to increase public awareness and appreciation of poetry.

Lift Bridge Book Shop, 45 Main Street, Brockport, NY: Operating since 1972, an independent bookstore with new and used books, baby gifts, toys, games and more.

Logos, Wilson Commons 104, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY: University of Rochester’s undergraduate art and literature journal, founded in 1972. Logos is an entirely student-run magazine aiming to showcase the best of undergraduate work from across campus.

Love4Words, 1029 Lyell Avenue, Unit #706, Rochester, NY: Black-owned book editing boutique catering to Black female entrepreneurs who need an editor and mentor through the self-publishing process.

Noire Reading Room, Rochester, NY: Black-feminist bookstore featuring Black, Queer, and Radical texts; founded by Kristen Walker and Tonya Noel.

Open Letter Books, Dewey Hall 1-219, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY: The University of Rochester’s nonprofit, literary translation press dedicated to increasing access to world literature for English readers.

RocArts United, 137 East Avenue Suite 222, Rochester, NY: Local arts and culture organization on a mission to promote collaboration, accessibility, equity, sustainability and recognition of the diverse creative community in the Greater Rochester Area.

Rochester Children’s Book Festival, Monroe Community College, R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center, 1000 East Henrietta Road, Rochester, NY: Presented by RACWI (Rochester Area Children’s Writers and Illustrators) and Lift Bridge Book Shop, in affiliation with The Friends and Foundation of the Rochester Public Library, the Rochester Children’s Book Festival promotes the excitement and joy of reading and writing by providing children the opportunity to meet and interact with authors.

Yesterday’s Muse, 32 W Main Street, Suite 1, Webster, NY: Independent used and rare bookseller that has been in operation for almost 20 years; specializes in Literature, Military, American and Local History, and General Antiquarian.

Writers & Books Staff

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Almeta Whitis, Storyteller in Residence
Writers & Books, 740 University Avenue, Rochester, NY

Writers & Books, 740 University Avenue, Rochester, NY www.wab.org

Writers Forum presents The Ingersoll Reading: Allegra Goodman

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 7:30 pm
Brockport Downtown / SUNY REOC
161 Chestnut Street, Rochester


The New York Times called Goodman’s latest novel, Sam, “A portrait of a girl at risk that shimmers with an unusual intimacy and depth.” The book is a Today Show / Read With Jenna Book Club selection. Goodman’s other novels include The Chalk Artist (winner of the Massachusetts Book Award), Intuition, The Cookbook Collector, Paradise Park, and Kaaterskill Falls. Her short stories have appeared in The New Yorker, Commentary, and Ploughshares and have been anthologized in The O. Henry Awards and Best American Short Stories. Presented with the support of the Ingersoll Family Foundation.
Writers & Books Mission

Writers & Books promotes reading and writing as lifelong activities for people of all ages and backgrounds to enrich their lives and the intellectual, social, and cultural vibrancy of their communities.

Values

We believe in the power and importance of the written word; in celebrating the written word as a tool for communication and an art form; that storytelling is a vital aspect of the human experience that unites humanity; that reading builds empathy and brings people together; and in creating a safe space for voices of all backgrounds, beliefs, origins, and abilities.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Accessibility & Inclusion

Writers & Books commits to an antiracist philosophy and practice. We commit to making our programs welcoming and accessible to readers and writers from all backgrounds. We commit to continually educating ourselves and to transforming our organization in support of justice, equity, diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. In our program of literary services, we commit to amplifying marginalized voices throughout our community and resisting the legacies of systemic racism and discrimination that have both formed and undermined our city. As a literary arts organization we understand that silence is complicity.

Land Acknowledgment

Writers & Books would like to call attention to the complex and troubled history of the lands and waterways on which we live and work. We acknowledge that we are beneficiaries of the intentional exclusions, genocide, and erasure of Indigenous peoples. We invite you to join us in honoring the lands and waterways we occupy and the histories of their Indigenous peoples, stewards of these resources for centuries; and in paying respect to these communities, who are a vital part of the present, past, and future of the places we now call home.

Writers & Books sits on the unceded, ancestral homelands of the Onöndowa’ga or “the people of the Great Hill.” In English, they are known as the Seneca people, “The Keeper of the Western Door.” Together, with the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, and Tuscarora, the Seneca make up the sovereign Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Acknowledgment is only the beginning of our effort. Through engagement with the written and spoken word, Writers & Books is committed to welcoming and uplifting a wide range of perspectives with the goals of dismantling ongoing legacies and repercussions of settler colonization; promoting Indigenous peoples’ myriad, essential contributions to art, culture, and society; and implementing sustainable and equitable social, economic, and environmental practices in our day-to-day operations.
Konar Properties is proud to sponsor Rochester Reads

Join us in welcoming N.K. Jemison to Rochester, recognizing the impact Writers & Books has on our community, and celebrating the transformative power of books.

Trevor Harrison & Danielle Bloch
Mary S. Mulligan Charitable Trust

Rochester Institute of Technology College of Liberal Arts Department of English