

**16TH ANNUAL**

SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN



# **festival of books**

**CARROLL UNIVERSITY**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
NOVEMBER 7-8, 2025**

**Christina Clancy Keynote**  
7 pm Friday, Carroll Campus Center  
Stackner Ballroom  
**50 Authors and Presenters**  
**Books Sales and Signings**  
**Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace and Exhibits**  
**Five Writing Contests**  
**Free Public Festival**  
**Free Parking**

**TURNING THE PAGE TOGETHER  
WITH OUR NEW PARTNERS**



**CARROLL  
UNIVERSITY**



WAUKESHA COUNTY  
*Community*  
FOUNDATION

**CARROLL UNIVERSITY**  
100 N EAST AVE, WAUKESHA, WI 53186  
[WWW.SEWIBOOKFEST.COM](http://WWW.SEWIBOOKFEST.COM)

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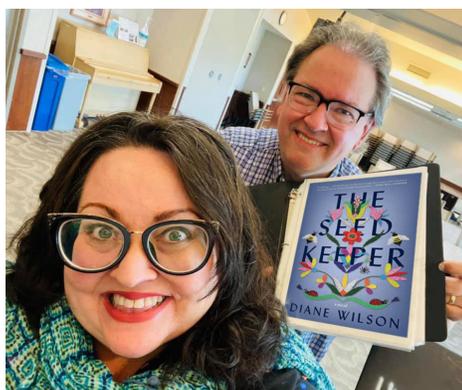
## A WAUKESHA READS CABARET

### Saturday 11:30 am - 12:15 pm

#### Featuring Candace Decker and Phil Smith

Cafeteria | Carroll Campus Center | First Floor

Candace Decker and Phil Smith explore the importance of seeds as symbols of life, culture, and hope, through stories and songs inspired by *The Seed Keeper*, the Waukesha Reads book for 2025.



**Candace Decker** has performed her one-woman cabarets throughout the Midwest and East Coast, including performances in Wisconsin for Waukesha Reads, Big Read in the Falls, Lakefly Writers Conference, and holiday inspired shows. She is a NY Cabaret Symposium Fellow, an Indiana Arts and Wisconsin Laird Foundation artist grant recipient, and guest cabaret artist with the Virginia State Thespian Conference. She's appeared in Milwaukee area musical theatre performances at Skylight Music Theatre and Forte Theatre Company. She has worked professionally as an actress, singer, and a theatre/cabaret teacher.

**Phil Smith** is a Menomonee Falls native and Carroll University graduate who has collaborated with Candace Decker on over a dozen cabaret productions, as pianist, singer, composer and arranger. Many of Phil's original songs – including "Dewey, My Library Crush" and "One Night(Stand)" – have been debuted publicly by Candy at Festival of Books events as well as other cabaret performances.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### Friday, November 7

Carroll Campus Center, Stackner Ballroom

- 5 – 7 pm**      **Maas Foundation Reception For Authors, Presenters, and Award Winners**  
Tickets REQUIRED: \$25
- 5 – 7 pm**      **Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace and Exhibits**
- 6 pm**          **Writing Contest Awards**  
Century Companies Writing Contest  
Duane Stein Short Story Writing Contest  
Lillian Boese Excellence in College Writing  
AllWriters' Adult Creative Writing Contest
- 5 – 8:30 pm**    **Festival Basket Raffle**  
Ticket Sale | 3:45 pm Saturday – Drawing, Rankin Hall
- 7 – 8:30 pm**    **Keynote, Christina Clancy**, author of *The Snowbirds*.  
Program is free and open to the public.  
Moderator: Jim Higgins
- 8:30 – 9 pm**    **Christina Clancy Book Sales and Signing**  
Sales by Books & Company

### Saturday, November 8

#### Cafeteria

Carroll Campus Center, First Floor

Brunch 11 am – 1 pm

#### Gert's Grab and Go

Next to the Main Dining Room, Carroll Campus Center, First Floor

Coffee/Snacks 11 am – 1 pm

#### Books & Company Bookstore

Rankin Hall | Room 140 | 9 am to 4 pm

#### Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace & Exhibits

Rankin Hall | Room 130 | 9 am to 4 pm

#### Festival Basket Raffle

Rankin Hall | Room 130

Open 9 am – 4 pm

Raffle Drawing 3:45 pm

#### Author Panels

Rankin Hall | Rooms 201, 230, 240, 320, 330

Session One 9 – 10 am

Session Two 10:15 – 11:15 am

Session Three 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Session Four 2 – 3 pm

#### Author Signing

Rankin Hall | Room 101

Session One 10 – 10:30 am

Session Two 11:15 – 11:45 am

Session Three 1:30 – 2 pm

Session Four 3 – 3:30 pm

#### Waukesha Reads Cabaret | 11:30 am – 12:15 pm featuring Candace Decker and Phil Smith

Cafeteria | Carroll Campus Center | First Floor

#### Purchase Books | 3-4 pm

Rankin Hall | Rooms 130 and 140

#### Raffle Drawing | 3:45 pm

Rankin Hall | Room 130

# THANK YOU, SPONSORS

## Grant Support

Maas Foundation



John and Brigid Miller Fund



## Program Sponsors

Bonnie Birk

Timothy Galow

Faye Flesia

Kay Maas

John C. Miller

Michael and Laraine O'Brien

Mary Wunderlich

The Women's Philanthropic Club



## Operations Sponsor



## Facilities Sponsor



## Reception Sponsor

Maas Foundation

## Writing Contests Sponsors

### Duane Stein Short Story Writing Contest



### Century Companies-Middle and High School Essay and Poetry Contests



### Adult Creative Writing Contest



### Lillian Boese Awards for College Students Writing Excellence

Lillian Boese Fund

## Hospitality Sponsor



## Website Sponsor



## Bookmark Sponsors



## Friends of the Festival

Murray Deutsch

## Festival Patrons

Barbara and Andrew Ruggeri  
Alex Lackore  
Larry Nelson and Dawn Borowski

## Raffle Sponsor

The Women's Philanthropic Club



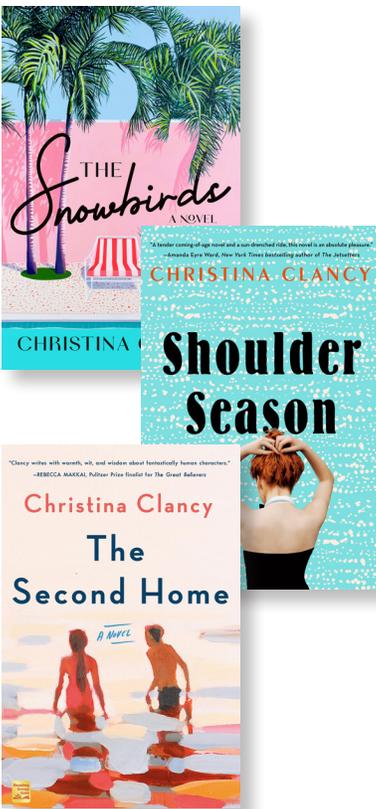
## Christina Clancy and the Snowbirds of Wisconsin

**Friday, November 7, 7 pm**

*Carroll University Campus Center, 2nd Floor, Stackner Ballroom*

Interview by Jim Higgins, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Book Editor

Book Signing: 8:30 pm – 9 pm



Madison author Christina Clancy has launched a career of bestselling novels set in Wisconsin. She's ready to talk about it and answer your questions.

Author of *The Snowbirds*, *Shoulder Season*, and *The Second Home*, her novels have been featured in *People Magazine*, *Good Morning America*, *CNN*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Buzzfeed*, *Pop Sugar*, and *Shelf Awareness*. *The Second Home* has been optioned for television and film and was selected by independent booksellers as an Indies Introduce and Indie Next pick. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Sun Magazine*, and in various literary journals.

Christina Clancy was born in Denver and raised in Milwaukee. She graduated from the University of Minnesota and worked at IBM before returning to school to earn a PhD in creative writing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. After graduating, she taught English at Beloit College before turning to writing full time.

She lives in Madison with her very tall husband in their 1916 prairie-style house when she isn't "snowbirding" in Palm Springs. She has two grown children who live in Chicago and New York City, and she has a little white dog named Bunny who loves everyone. Christina is a super smeller who can't stand cilantro, a frequent flyer junkie, a terrible cook, a former cycling instructor, and an avid reader who wishes everyone would read on airplanes. She loves to practice yoga and barre, swim, travel, write, teach, visit book clubs, and join other writers in conversation.

“*The Snowbirds* is an insightful, propulsive exploration of modern marriage in middle age, equal parts sharp-eyed and heartwarming. Is it possible to commit to a relationship without losing your identity? What epiphanies might we have while getting lost? Christina Clancy's novel ponders these questions and more with humor and warmth. Set against the vivid, zany backdrop of Palm Springs and its Hollywood history, populated by a delightful cast of locals and transplants, *The Snowbirds* asks whether it's ever too late to find your partner—and yourself.”

— **Chloe Benjamin, New York Times bestselling author of *The Immortalists***

## FESTIVAL WRITING CONTESTS ENCOURAGE WRITERS

Promoting literacy means getting young people interested in reading and writing. To do this, the Festival has sponsored writing contests adding several over the years. The Festival of Books started with the Century Companies Essay and Poetry Contests for Middle and High School Students in 2010. Then, the Duane Stein Short Story Writing Contest was added for all students under 19 years of age in Wisconsin in 2018. In the past two years, the Festival Committee has looked to support college student writers and adults. The Lillian Boese College Excellence in Writing Contest was added last year. This year AllWriters' Workplace & Workshop Adult Creative Writing Contest was added. Participants in the newest competition must be an adult, minimum 21 years old, no maximum age.

The Festival's ability to honor these writers comes from the leadership and support of Andrea Bryant and the contest sponsors, Century Companies, Mars Construction, the Lillian Boese Fund and AllWriters' Workplace & Workshop. Here are the awards that will be given this year at 6 pm Friday, November 7, in the Carroll University Center Ballroom.

### Century Companies Essay and Poetry Contests for Middle and High School Students

<b>Essay Division for Middle Schools</b> First Place     \$250 Second Place    \$175 Third Place      \$75	<b>Poetry Division for Middle Schools</b> First Place     \$250 Second Place    \$175 Third Place      \$75	<b>Essay Division for High Schools</b> First Place     \$250 Second Place    \$175 Third Place      \$75	<b>Poetry Division for High Schools</b> First Place     \$250 Second Place    \$175 Third Place      \$75
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### Duane Stein Short Story Writing Contest

First Place	\$2,000
Second Place	\$1,000
Third Place	\$500

### The Lillian Boese Excellence in College Writing Contest for College Students

<b>Essay Division</b> First Place     \$350 Second Place    \$250 Third Place      \$100	<b>Fiction Division</b> First Place     \$350 Second Place    \$250 Third Place      \$100	<b>Poetry Division</b> First Place     \$350 Second Place    \$250 Third Place      \$100
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### AllWriters' Workshop and Workplace Writing Contest for Adults

<b>Fiction Division</b> First Place     \$200 Second Place    \$100 Third Place      \$50	<b>Non-Fiction Division</b> First Place     \$200 Second Place    \$100 Third Place      \$50	<b>Poetry Division</b> First Place     \$200 Second Place    \$100 Third Place      \$50
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## Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace and Exhibits

The Festival looks at all the elements of literacy in our community. One growing area is writing and self-publishing by authors. Bringing together those interested in books also provides an opportunity for those self-publishing to meet the public and introduce their work.

Writers Marketplace originally began as a person-to-person contact for self-published authors to sell their books during the Festival. Adjustments to the Festival for Covid put the Marketplace online. Now the authors can use the Festival website year-round to promote their books. The Marketplace continues in person at the Festival each November and online at [SEWIBOOKFEST.COM](http://SEWIBOOKFEST.COM) year-round.

Two years ago, the Festival named the Writers' Marketplace for the late Don Taylor. A well-known banker and community leader, he was also a self-published author and primary sponsor of Marketplace for many years. This year, the Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace and Exhibits are part of opening night in the Carroll Center Ballroom, enabling participants at the Authors and Presenters Reception to see what the Marketplace has to offer. All day Saturday it moves to the First Floor of Rankin Hall to be available to Festival patrons during the Saturday programming.

**Don Taylor**

**Friday, 5 pm to 8:30 pm**  
*Carroll Campus Center  
 Stackner Ballroom*

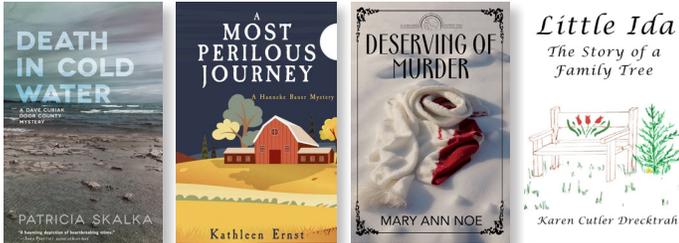
**Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm**  
*Rankin 130*

# Saturday Sessions

SESSION ONE: 9 AM – 10 AM

## IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL GIORGIO: FOR THE LOVE OF MYSTERY

Rankin 201



Patricia Skalka, Kathleen Ernst, Mary Ann Noe and Karen Cutler Drecktrah

In June of 2024, Wisconsin mystery author Michael Giorgio tragically lost his life after being struck by a passenger van in downtown Milwaukee. In this panel, we pull together Michael's love of history and mystery and present four authors who will talk about the mystery and historical genres, in celebration of Michael and his work.

## WISCONSIN & MILWAUKEE POETS LAUREATE IN CONVERSATION

Rankin 240



Brenda Cardenas and Shelly Conley

Between them, Cardenas and Conley share a vast amount of poetic and lifetime experience. Listen in as they discuss life, poetry, and the joys of being a poet laureate.

## THE LEGEND OF THE ONION

Rankin 230

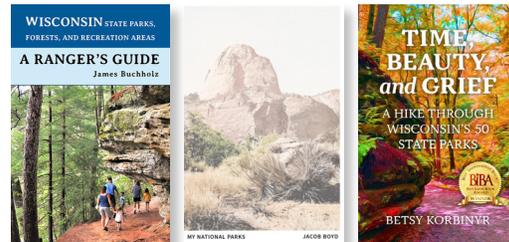


Christine Wenc, Rich Dahm, and Scott Templeton

In 1988, a newspaper formed in Madison, Wisconsin, that was destined to become a legend, a source of joy and humor, and a necessity for readers everywhere. Come hear about the journey.

## NATURE'S WORDS

Rankin 330



James Buchholz, Jacob Boyd and Betsy Korbinyr

State parks and nature trails call these writers to share their experience with the great outdoors in words.

## ALLWRITERS' WORKSHOP



## SERIES VS SEQUEL

Rankin 320

Carrie Newberry, J.R. Konkol, and Ross Hightower

You can't read just one! These authors talk about the drive to write series, encompassing a story that just can't be contained in one book. They'll also talk about the difference between writing a series and writing a sequel – how do you know when you're done?

# Saturday Sessions

SESSION TWO: 10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

## A PICTURE IS WORTH

Rankin 201

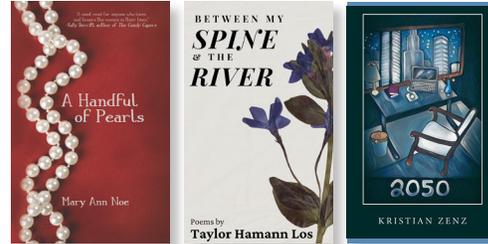


Rich Koslowski, Cris Siqueira, and Gene Kannenberg

Graphic novels and comic books are enjoyed by adults and kids alike. These authors will talk about the process of tying words to illustrations to tell a story and impact their audience.

## A TEACHER'S INFLUENCE

Rankin 320



Mary Ann Noe with Molly Ramstack, BJ Best with T. Hamann Los, and Dasha Kelly Hamilton with Kristian Zenz

Years after being in the classroom, these students continue to feel the influence of their teachers as they crack open book after book and read!

## LESSONS IN POLITICS

Rankin 230



Doug Moe, Katherine J. Cramer, and BJ Hollars

Whether historical or modern, political figures affect everyone's lives. This will be a discussion on a variety of political figures and how they've shaped Wisconsin.

## WOMEN CREATIVES: INTERRUPTIONS

Rankin 330



Wendy Vardaman, Rebecca Keller, and Dawn Tefft

Women's lives are a unique blend of passions, talents, and responsibilities. These women will talk about trying to live a creative life while also working with the natural interruptions that get in our way.

## ALLWRITERS' WORKSHOP



## AI EFFECTS ON WRITERS AND READERS

Rankin 240

Ross Hightower, Liesl Shurtliff, Lindsay Marie Morris, and Aaron Nodolf

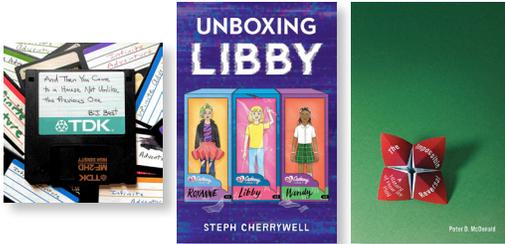
Everyone by now has heard of and been affected in some way by AI (Artificial Intelligence). The writers on this panel have all had their work stolen in order to train AI computer software. Let's talk about how this happened, how this affects writers, and ultimately, affects readers too.

# Saturday Sessions

**SESSION THREE: 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM**

## INTERACTIVE FICTION

Rankin 330

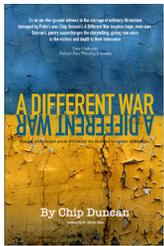


BJ Best, Steph Cherrywell, and Peter McDonald

Can you play a story? Can you read a game? Three authors who have published traditional books in various genres (fiction, nonfiction, and poetry) and who have also designed interactive stories for online and real-life play will discuss these ideas. They will consider how traditional writing and contemporary games intersect with and inform each other.

## THE WAR IN UKRAINE TOLD THROUGH PHOTOS, PROSE & POEMS

Rankin 230



Chip Duncan

The inimitable Chip Duncan returns to present us with the war in Ukraine in a way we've never seen before. Going beyond the news reports, Duncan shows the reality of this situation through stark photographs and expressions of poetry and prose.



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## PUBLISHING PRESENT AND FUTURE

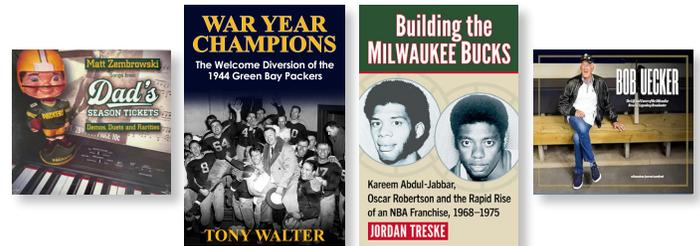
Rankin 240

Amber Cederström (University of Wisconsin Press)  
Kira Henschel (Henschel Haus)  
Cris Siqueira (Lion's Tooth Bookstore)  
Erin Irelan (Story Keepers Books)  
Natasha Meyer (Well Red Damsel)

Let's learn about what's happening in the publishing industry from those that are steeped in it: the publishers who produce the books, and the bookstores who sell the books. This will be a discussion between the panelists and the audience about current trends and issues within the industry.

## INSIDE WISCONSIN SPORTS CULTURE

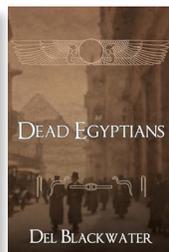
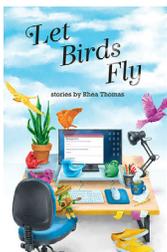
Rankin 201



Matt Zembrowski, Tony Walter, Jordan Treske and Todd Rosiak

Wisconsin is steeped in its love for sports, from the Packers to the Brewers to the Bucks. These writers will talk about how sports comes right into Wisconsin homes and affects all of our lives.

## ALLWRITERS' WORKSHOP



## FIRST TIME BOOKS

Rankin 320

Rhea Thomas, Howard Veregin, and Del Blackwater

Yes, indeed, it is possible to traditionally publish a book in our current times! These three writers all wrote their first novels, submitted them, and sold them to traditional publishers. They'll talk about their process and how this was possible.

# Saturday Sessions

SESSION FOUR: 2 PM – 3 PM

## TURMOIL INSIDE & OUT

Rankin 320

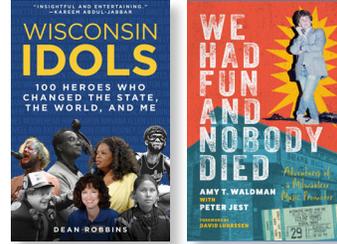


Deborah Hufford, Greg Renz, and Marisa Dondlinger

Whether it's fighting a fire, trying to find your kidnapped baby, or trying to duck away from a war, these writers fill their plots with chaos. Characters fight exterior battles and interior struggles. Do the writers?

## STARS OF WISCONSIN

Rankin 240



Dean Robbins and Amy T. Waldman

Yes, heroes exist, even in Wisconsin! Two writers talk about those heroes among us who have shaped Wisconsin's past and present.

## COOKBOOK STAGE

### FOOD TALK

Rankin 230



Jeanette Hurt and Mary Bergin

We all love to eat food, but we also love to talk about it! Two great cookbook writers sit down together to talk about Wisconsin eateries and their recipes and demonstrate how to make the iconic dishes.

## HEALING GRIEF AND TRAUMA THROUGH LITERATURE

Rankin 201



Katie Kalisz, Kathryn Gahl, and Kathie Giorgio

Through poetry, memoir, and fiction, these three writers will talk about how literature can help and heal even the most traumatic of events.

## ALLWRITERS' WORKSHOP



### WRITING ACROSS GENRES

Rankin 330

Alice Benson, Angela Bier, and Barbara Geiger

Much is said about "branding" in the publishing industry. But these writers chose to break those boundaries and write in several genres...and found success doing so.

## FESTIVAL OF BOOKS COMMITTEES

The heart of the Festival has always been its volunteers—those who devote themselves throughout the year and those who roll up their sleeves on Festival weekend. Their dedication is what makes the celebration of books and ideas come alive.

This year's journey truly reflected our 2025 theme, "Turning the Page Together." When news came in the spring of 2024 that the Board of Regents planned to close UWM-Waukesha on June 30, 2025, many wondered what the future would hold for the Festival of Books. The UWM-Waukesha Foundation Board reached out to Laraine O'Brien to explore possibilities.

Laraine called on volunteers across the Festival's 15-year history, and about 20 answered the call—meeting throughout the summer of 2024 to imagine a new chapter. Together, they resolved that the Festival's story wasn't over; it was simply time to turn the page.

Their search for a new home led to a partnership with Carroll University, which welcomed the Festival to its campus, and with the Waukesha County Community Foundation (WCCF), which embraced it as one of its community projects. In June 2025, newly formed committees stepped forward with fresh energy and a shared purpose—to ensure that the Festival continues to inspire and bring people together for years to come.

### Executive Committee

**Laraine O'Brien**, Community Co-Chair, Sponsorship Chair and Acting Executive Chair

**Kathie Giorgio**, Program Coordinator and Program Chair

**Timothy Galow**, Carroll University Committee Co-Chair, Chair of the Carroll English, Modern Languages and Philosophy Department, and Writing Program Coordinator

**Michelle Gibson**, Deputy Program Coordinator

**Lisa Beaudoin**, Owner, Books & Company, Festival Bookstore

**Ronald Gulotta**, Retired Dean UWM-Waukesha

**Kristian Erik Zenz**, Writing Contests Chair, UWM Student Representative

**Dolores Greenawalt**, Volunteer Chair

**Mary Wunderlich**, Marketing Communications Chair

**Kate Neudecker**, Website Producer and Editor

**Kay Maas**, Community Volunteer

### Program Committee

**Kathie Giorgio** (Chair), Director of AllWriters' Workplace and Workshop LLC, Novelist and Poet

**Margaret Rozga**, Poet

**Laraine O'Brien**, Community Co-Chair

**Larry Nelson**, Waukesha County Supervisor

**Faye Flesia**, Retired UWM-Waukesha Director of Library

**Kay Maas**, Community Volunteer

**John Klima**, Waukesha Public Library

**Simon Bronner**, Emeritus Dean UWM College of General Studies

**Richard Hedderman**, poet

**Michelle Gibson**

**Barbara Geiger**, author and retired school teacher

### Community Advisory Council

**Laraine O'Brien** (Chair), Community Co-Chair

**Andrea Bryant**, Waukesha Philanthropist

**Eve Bruce**, Co-Owner Martha Merrell's Books & Toys

**Bruce Gay**, Director, Waukesha Public Library

**Brittany Larson**, Director, Bridges Library System

**Alyssa Pisarski**, Director, Community Engagement and Waukesha Reads Program Waukesha Public Library

**Larry Nelson**, Waukesha County Supervisor, Friends of the Waukesha Public Library

**Amanda Payne**, Waukesha County Business Alliance

**Duane Stein**, Retired Waukesha School District teacher and Short Story Contest

**Anne Styza**, Waukesha Philanthropist and Writer

**Ellyn Lem**, UWM OSHER Program and Writer

**Melissa Baxter**, President, Waukesha County Community Foundation

**Loren Mintz**, Carroll University Librarian

**Timothy Galow**, Carroll University Co-Chair

**Lisa Beaudoin**, Owner, Books & Company

**Simon Bronner**, Emeritus Dean UWM College of General Studies

**James Boling**, Youth and Family Education UW Extension, Waukesha County

### Volunteer Committee

**Timothy Galow**

### Carroll Volunteer Committee

**Dolores Greenawalt**

### Marketing & Communications Committee

**Mary Wunderlich** (Chair)

**Kathie Giorgio**, **Kay Maas**, **Kate Neudecker**, **Laraine O'Brien**, **Faye Flesia**, **Sally Hanson**

### Sponsorship Committee

**Laraine O'Brien** (Chair)

**Alex Lackore**, **Kay Maas**, **Mary Wunderlich**

### Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace and Exhibits Committee

**Michelle Gibson** (Chair)

### Website Team

**Kate Neudecker**, **Michelle Gibson**, **Laraine O'Brien**

### Writing Contests

**Kristian Erik Zens** (Chair)

### Duane Stein Short Story Writing Contest

**Duane Stein** (Chair)

### Site Planning and Logistics

**Timothy Galow**

### Administrative Support

**Michelle Gibson**, Deputy Festival Coordinator

### Moderators

**Kathie Giorgio**, **Larry Nelson**, **Margaret Rozga**, **Ruchard Hedderman**, **Sue Kalinka**, **Barbara Geiger**, **Tim Galow**, **Greg Ahrenhoerster**, **Maggie Ginsberg**, **Laraine O'Brien**, **Marcia Williams**, **Kathy Randall**, **Angie Bier**, **Kristian Zenz**, **Karen Decktrah**

# Turning the Page Together

## COMMENTS ON OUR THEME FOR THIS YEAR FROM SOME OF THE FESTIVAL OF BOOKS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I've been a part of the festival since Day One, and I've always approached it the way I approach writing – I have no idea what the story is about until it's done. There's a great level of discovery as I add characters (the writers) and the plot (what is the festival going to be about?) and somehow, it all falls together into one amazing event. This year, like adding another book to a series, we've moved on to a new setting, a new place for everything to happen. The festival's story has moved forward...a new place, a new challenge, and sure enough, it's all fallen together again. Wait until you see how our story has continued! Come turn the page with us as we start a new chapter.

— **Kathie Giorgio**  
Program Chair and Coordinator

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Turning the page comes with great excitement, sometimes trepidation, of what is to come, and at the same time, connection to what went before. Reading is a solitary act but proceeding together, metaphorically, we join experience, share emotion, and create the future. We are not ready to close the book. Instead, we open our minds and hearts as we behold what is next on the (web)page, screen and horizon.

— **Simon J. Bronner**  
Ph.D. –Program Committee, Retired UWM Dean

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My 31 years as a middle school English teacher taught me that those people who become lifelong readers and learners are not only smarter than nonreaders, but also more successful in life. So Turning the Page Together is the perfect theme for the 2025 Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books as we bring authors and readers together at Carroll University to experience the joy of literature which is especially needed during chaotic times.

— **Larry Nelson**  
Program Committee, Waukesha County Supervisor

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Young and old always learn something when they read. One does not have to be a billionaire to read as long as we have libraries. "Reading Is Food for the Brain."

— **Faye Flesia**  
Program Committee, Retired UWM-Waukesha Librarian

The announcement of the closure of UWM-Waukesha in 2024 seemed like it might be the end of the story for the Festival of Books as we lost our longtime home. Fortunately, numerous people worked to find a new home and new partners, and were able to transform what seemed the end of a story merely into the end of a chapter. Now in 2025, as we start our next chapter at Carroll University and with the Waukesha County Community Foundation as partners, we gather again with the larger community of readers and writers from SE Wisconsin to celebrate our love of books as we turn the page together to see what happens next in our story.

— **Kate Neudecker**  
Website Producer and Editor

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As Chair of the English department at Carroll, I am excited that the Book Festival has found its new home here. To welcome such a vibrant celebration of writing, learning, and community aligns perfectly with our mission to inspire curiosity and foster dialogue. The festival's relocation offers our students, faculty, and neighbors the chance to 'turn the page' together into a new chapter of discovery.

— **Timothy Galow**  
Festival Co-Chair Carroll University, Department of English, Modern Languages, and Philosophy, and Writing Program Coordinator

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Communication of ideas through reading and writing has been at the foundation of our society. It's how we learn from each other. The Southeast Wisconsin Festival of Books was intended to give light to the ideas that originate in our region through writers who live here and those writers who write about our state, and to provide a forum to discuss those ideas. Over the past fifteen years, hundreds of writers and thousands of readers have participated. I could not imagine stopping this worthwhile activity. I was pleased that so many of the volunteers that had worked in the past to present the Festival were anxious to continue. I was even more heartened when many sponsors also stepped up and supported "Turning the Page Together." We have turned the page with a new location, new volunteers, new sponsors, but with the same purpose, supporting literacy for all so that our community can continue to thrive.

— **Laraine O'Brien**  
Festival Community Co-Chair, Sponsorship Chair, Festival Founder

Thank you

## COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

Carroll University  
Waukesha County Community Foundation  
UW Extension  
Allo Chocolat  
Alton Antiques & Gifts  
Alverno College  
Antique and Unique Mall on Main  
Avalon Square  
Books & Company  
Boswell Books  
Bridges Library System  
Waukesha County  
Big Bend Library  
Brookfield Public Library  
Butler Public Library  
Delafield Public Library  
Eagle Public Library  
Elm Grove Public Library  
Hartland Public Library  
Menomonee Falls Public Library  
Mukwonago Public Library

New Berlin Public Library  
Oconomowoc Public Library  
Pauline Haass Public Library  
Pewaukee Public Library  
Town Hall Library  
Waukesha Public Library

### Jefferson County

Fort Atkinson Public Library  
Jefferson Public Library  
Johnson Creek Public Library  
L.D. Fargo Public Library  
Palmyra Public Library  
Waterloo Public Library  
Watertown Public Library  
Whitewater Public Library

### Blue House Books, Kenosha

Café de Arts

Community of the Living Spirit

Friends of the Waukesha Public Library

IAG Wealth Management

Ink Link Books

LaCasa de Esperanza  
Literatus & Co. Books and More  
Lion's Tooth  
Martha Merrell's Books and Gifts  
Modera Salon and Spa  
Mount Mary University  
Reads by the River  
Shear Class  
Signature Salon and Spa  
Steaming Cup  
Sweet Dreams Custard Shop  
UW-Milwaukee OSHER  
Waukesha Civic Theatre  
Waukesha Pewaukee Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Waukesha Reads  
Wauwatosa Public Library  
Wisconsin Philharmonic  
Women's Philanthropic Club  
Woodland Patterns Book Center

## FOOD and BEVERAGE SATURDAY OPTIONS

Rankin Hall Room 130 will have complimentary coffee from 8 am to 11:30 am.

Cafeteria is the Main Dining Room in the Carroll Campus Center.  
Open from 11 am-1pm

Gert's Grab and Go, next to the Main Dining Room, is open until 1 pm. with coffee and snacks.

Use credit card for payment.

## RESTROOMS

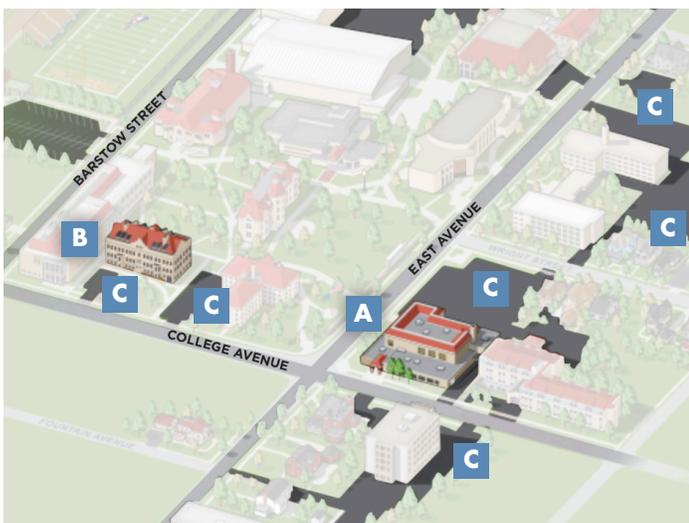
Located in Rankin Hall and the Carroll Campus Center

## SEATING POLICY

All programs are seated first come, first served.  
If occupancy limit is reached, no one is allowed in the room.

## PARKING

Free Parking is available in all designated University Parking lots



### A Carroll Campus Center | First Floor

First Floor | Cafeteria, Gert's Grab and Go, General Information  
Second Floor Stackner Ballroom | Friday Maas Festival Reception, Christina Clancy Keynote, Book Sales and Signing, Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace and Exhibits, Writing Contest Awards, Basket Raffle

### B Rankin Hall

All Floors | Author Presentations  
Main Floor | Don Taylor Writers' Marketplace, Books & Company Sales, Author Signings, Festival Basket Raffle, Complimentary Coffee (Saturday Morning)

### C Parking Lots