

## Thank you for attending!

We value your feedback. If you registered for our panel sessions, you will receive an emailed survey to help us improve future festivals.

If you only attended the Author Room and have feedback to share, please email your thoughts to: [abrueckner@mrlib.org](mailto:abrueckner@mrlib.org).

## About MRL

Founded in 1928, Massanutten Regional Library is a seven branch system that serves over 160,000 residents in Harrisonburg, Page County, and Rockingham County.

As a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization we are funded in partnership with state and locality support and through the generosity of our patrons. Thank you!

We welcome you to visit us at any of our branches in: Bridgewater, Broadway, Elkton, Grottoes, Harrisonburg, Luray, and Shenandoah. All are welcome at MRL!

Learn more at: [www.mrlib.org](http://www.mrlib.org)



## CELEBRATING LOCAL AUTHORS

Saturday, April 12, 2025

10AM – 3PM

Central Library – Harrisonburg





**Liz Biddle**

Youth – picture books  
Adult book forthcoming



**James Blakey**

Adult – fiction  
Paranormal thriller, crime, mystery,  
horror fantasy



**Lauralee Bliss**

Adult – historical fiction, nonfiction



**Tammy Cullers**

Adult – fiction  
Cozy mystery



**Devlyn D'Alfonzo**

Adult – fiction



**Lori D'Angelo**

Adult – fiction  
Feminist sci-fi, horror, literary,  
short stories

## Panel Sessions:

**Panel 1: *Picture This! The Collaborative Process of Publishing Children's Picture Books***

**10:30 AM - 11:15 AM, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

Bringing a children's picture book to life is a true team effort, blending words and illustrations into a cohesive, magical experience. This panel will delve into the collaborative journey between authors, illustrators, and editors, offering insights into how these creative partnerships develop and flourish.

**Panel 2: *Two Sides of the Story: Insights into Traditional and Self-Publishing***

**12:30 PM - 1:15 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

Choosing between traditional and self-publishing is a critical decision for any author. Explore the advantages and challenges of each path, including insights into contracts, creative control, marketing, and distribution.

**Panel 3: *Stories That Reflect Us All: Writing Diverse Characters and Narratives***

**1:30 PM - 2:15 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

How do authors create characters and stories that authentically reflect the diverse world we live in? Our panelists will share their experiences and strategies for crafting characters from various cultural, racial, gender, and social backgrounds while avoiding stereotypes and tokenism.

# ROCKTOWN

*Author Festival*

**Scan for full bios!**



**Russ Eanes**

Adult - nonfiction  
Memoir, travel



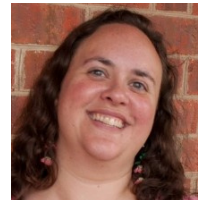
**Joseph G. Fitzgerald**

Adult - fiction



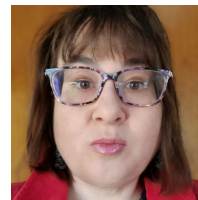
**Beth Ford**

Adult - fiction  
Historical, romance



**Allison K. Garcia**

Adult - fiction  
LGBTQ+, Christian



**Stephanie S. Gardner**

Adult - nonfiction



**Clifford Garstang**

Adult - fiction  
Literary, mystery, multicultural



**Katie Gigliotti**

Youth – picture books



**Amanda K. Gross**

Adult – nonfiction  
Memoir, social justice, history



**Sarah Hanger**

Youth – picture books



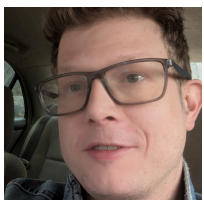
**Arnold Dale Haywood**

Adult – fiction  
Romance



**Robert Hoskins**

Adult – fiction  
Literary



**Travis Hupp**

Adult – poetry



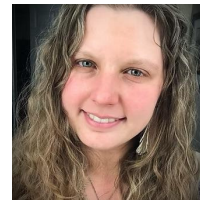
**Amber Showalter**

Adult – poetry



**Zach Stivers**

Adult – fiction  
Sci-fi/fantasy



**A. D. Stone**

Youth – children's books



**Lee Swanson**

Adult – fiction  
LGBTQ+, adventure, romance,  
crime, thriller



**Morgan Vega**

YA – contemporary



**Liesl West**

Adult – fiction  
Fantasy, romance





**Brent L. Kendrick**

Adult – nonfiction  
Creative, memoir,  
crucial scholarship



**Brent L. Kendrick**

Adult – nonfiction  
Creative, memoir,  
crucial scholarship



**Gayle C. Krause**

Youth/young adult  
Picture books, historical fiction,  
poetry, fantasy



**Gayle C. Krause**

Youth/young adult  
Picture books, historical fiction,  
poetry, fantasy



**John J. Lamb**

Adult – fiction, nonfiction  
Mystery, ghost phenomena, memoir



**John J. Lamb**

Adult – fiction, nonfiction  
Mystery, ghost phenomena, memoir



**David Martin**

Adult – fantasy



**David Martin**

Adult – fantasy



**Linda H. Miller**

Youth – picture books & JF



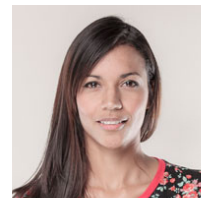
**Linda H. Miller**

Youth – picture books & JF



**Maria Palacio**

Youth – picture books



**Maria Palacio**

Youth – picture books



**Robyn Puffenbarger**

Adult - nonfiction



**Robyn Puffenbarger**

Adult - nonfiction



**Wendy Reardon**

Youth - Christian, picture book



**Wendy Reardon**

Youth - Christian, picture book



**Mary Ruberry**

Adult - nonfiction

Spirituality, wellness, psychology



**Mary Ruberry**

Adult - nonfiction

Spirituality, wellness, psychology



**Linda Schnepel**

Adult/youth - devotional/Christian,  
picture books



**Linda Schnepel**

Adult/youth - devotional/Christian,  
picture books



**Rosemary Shenk**

Youth



**Rosemary Shenk**

Youth



**Avelia A. Shindyapin**

Middle grade - fantasy, poetry



**Avelia A. Shindyapin**

Middle grade - fantasy, poetry