

## Schedule of Events:

### Rocktown Author Room

1PM-4PM

#### Community Youth Center - 2nd Floor

*Drop in anytime to meet local authors, buy books, and have them signed.*

*No advance registration is required.*

### Panel Session I: "Authoring 101" \*

1:30PM - 2:30PM

#### Meeting Room - 1st Floor

*Learn tips and tricks of the trade from these published authors: Tammy Cullers (moderator) Lori Mier, Michael Sullivan, and Elwood Yoder*

**\*Advance registration required. Walk-ins accommodated only if space allows.**

### Panel Session II: "Writing like an an adult: thinking like a child" \*

2:30PM-3:30PM

#### 1st Floor Meeting Rooms

*Learn how to discover character voice with panelists: Chris Barcomb, Gayle C. Krause, Jodi Meadows, and NoNieqa Ramos (moderator)*

**\*Advance registration required. Walk-ins accommodated only if space allows.**



## 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: [info@mrlib.org](mailto:info@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 these localities 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 about your public library at:

**[www.mrlib.org](http://www.mrlib.org)**



## CELEBRATING LOCAL AUTHORS

Saturday, April 9, 2022

1PM - 4PM

Central Library - Harrisonburg



# MEET THE AUTHORS



**Chris Barcomb** is the writer and creator of the comic book series *The Amazing Adventure of Superior Sam*, which features an amputee superhero whose superpower is showing people what it's like to be different, all while taking on the challenges of protecting his school from bullies. An amputee himself, Barcomb is also a retired police officer. He resides in Staunton, VA, with his wife and two cats.



**Sydney Tooman Betts** resides with her husband near the extensive cavern system that inspired the setting for several chapters in her series *The People of the Book*. Betts has experienced a variety of cross-cultural adventures in North and Central America as well as in Europe and the Middle East. Her teaching experiences span preschool to guest lecturing at the graduate level. Before penning her first novel, *A River too Deep*, Betts ghost-wrote several stories for an adult literacy program.



**Tammy Cullers** is a local middle school English teacher by day, and a writer and a newspaper publisher by night. She has co-written three *Local Lore* books and three cozy mysteries. She has also written a middle grade novel. Cullers is a self-professed "Jill-of-all-trades," who "hopes to one day master one of them."



**P. A. Duncan** is a former commercial pilot, aviation safety official, and bureaucrat, but one with an overactive imagination. A graduate of James Madison University with degrees in history and political science, she lives and writes in the Shenandoah Valley. Her short fiction has placed or won several juried contests. Her debut novel, *A War of Deception*, was a featured historical fiction selection in an international contest.



**Rachel Freed** studied photography at Longwood University in Farmville, VA. She began making zines four years ago with fellow artist Karen Ennis; their collaborative zine is called *Brown Goose Poetry*. Freed lives in the Harrisonburg area with her husband, two kids, two cats, guinea pigs, a hairy bunny, and a whole lot of books.



**Allison K. Garcia** has been featured in local newspapers, radio stations, universities, and national podcasts for her writing. Her works about marginalized Christians have won several awards, including 1st place in the 2018 Royal Dragonfly Awards for Ebook Cultural Fiction. Allison's stories have been featured in four boxed sets and she has four published novels: *Vivir el Dream*, *Finding Amor*, *Finding Seguridad*, and *Finding Paz*.



**M.K.B. Graham** is a novelist and a former staff writer for two Virginia universities, a career she left to pursue full-time writing. She is the author of two historical fiction novels, *Cairaerie* and *Fleuringala*, both set in Western Virginia. She holds a degree in political science from Virginia Tech, where she was the first associate editor of the university's signature magazine. Graham lives in Rockingham County with her husband, Mark.



**Gayle C. Krause** has taught children's literature to writers, served on Clear Fork Publishing's YA Advisory Board, and was a past member of the Poets' Garage, the 12 x 12 Picture Book Challenge, and The Rhyme Revolution Committee. Her *Rock Star Santa* was performed as a play in Australia and in Montserrat. Her title *Daddy, Can You See the Moon?* shares royalties with Our Military Kids, and her YA novel, *Ratgirl: Song of the Viper* was nominated for the International Reading Award and the Horn Book/Boston Globe Award.



**Sharon Clymer Landis** is an author, writer, poet, nature and animal lover, deep soul, and spiritual director, trained at Kairos School of Spiritual Formation. She co-manages a beautiful farm in Virginia named "Starry Meadows," which she refers to as an enchanted place of rolling hills and meadows of wildflowers, the kind of place she loved as a child and where her grandchildren feel free and safe.



**Margaret Locke**, 2018 RITA® Finalist and *USA Today* bestselling author of the *Magic of Love* and *Put Up Your Dukes* series, writes binge-worthy romance that keeps you up past your bedtime. She delights in making readers laugh, cry, and think. Because love matters. When not writing, Margaret adores spending time with her fabulous husband, two fantastic kids, and three funny felines.



**William "Chris" Markham** lives in Staunton with his wife and four children and has four books in the MRL collection. By day he teaches 5th grade in Rockingham County schools. By night, he writes, paints, and acts. Pre-pandemic he could be seen in a murder mystery dinner theatre at Massanutten or performing at libraries during the summer reading program. When he's not creating, he enjoys watching TV and playing games with his kids.



**Jodi Meadows** lives in rural Virginia, wants to be a ferret when she grows up, and she has no self-control when it comes to yarn, ink, or outer space. Still, she manages to write books. She is the author of the *Incarimate* trilogy, the *Orphan Queen* duology, the *Fallen Isles Trilogy*, and the *Nightrender* duology. She is also a co-author of *New York Times* bestsellers *My Lady Jane* and *My Plain Jane*, and other books in the *Lady Janies* series.



**Lori Mier** is the author of *Merin and Her Very Bright Star* in which Mier drew from her own story of loss and healing. Mier loves chai tea, working daily as a social change agent, and sunrise hikes with her son. She is also the co-author of a personal transformation book. She has a degree in Social Work and has worked with youth and families in foster care and adoption. She currently works independently as an Ecotherapist Guide and Coach, author and nature photographer, combining all of these to offer a unique and healing experience. Lori lives in the Shenandoah Valley with her husband and son.



**John Norment** began writing shortly after experiencing a life threatening stroke that required him having to relearn how to speak, read, and write. His first book, *Strong Work*, chronicles his experiences surrounding his illness and recovery. *The Tunnel Through the Trees* is the first title of his *Hollow Oak* tetralogy, a series inspired by his years working with youth. John is a board member and vocal advocate for Brain Injury Connections of the Shenandoah Valley. He lives in Harrisonburg with his wife and two boys.



**NoNieqa Ramos'** debut picture book *Your Mama*, earned starred reviews from Booklist, School Library Journal, and Kirkus and was selected by Virginia Center for the Book as Virginia's Great Read for 2021. It was also highlighted by the Library of Congress' Center for the Book at the National Book Festival and was a finalist for the Kirkus Prize, a School Library Journal Best Picture Book of 2021, a Kirkus Best Picture Book of the 2021, and a National Council of English Books Notable Poetry Book. Her children's book *Beauty Wake* has earned starred reviews from Booklist and Kirkus. NoNieqa is a proud member of Las Musas Books collective.



**Michael J. Sullivan** is a *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Washington Post* bestselling American writer of epic fantasy and science fiction, best known for his debut series *The Riyria Revelations*, which has been translated into fourteen languages: French, German, Spanish, Czech, Dutch, Polish, Hungarian, Japanese, Georgian, Bulgarian, Russian, Portuguese, Italian and Turkish. In 2012, io9 named him one of the "Most Successful Self-Published SciFi and Fantasy Authors."



**Morgan Vega** worked in higher education for seven years before transitioning into the publishing industry. Morgan interned at Kore Press, worked as an editor at Scarsdale Publishing, and now is the Marketing and Sales Associate at No Starch Press. Morgan grew up and lives in the Shenandoah Valley and when she's not writing, Morgan's free-lance editing and talking about books on social media. *Sleeping Around* is her debut novel.



**Elwood Yoder** has written eight books of which four are historical novels and two are congregational history books. In 2021, Elwood released *Peggy Jones*, a historical fiction book about an enslaved woman from the 1820s who lived in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg. All that is historically known about Peggy Jones comes from eleven hand-written lines on her 1827 emancipation document. Elwood is a former high school history teacher and he has two forthcoming books, to be released in October 2022. Elwood has lived in Harrisonburg for over thirty years.