

Rally Speakers, April 8, 2017

Presented by the Skaaldic Society
www.arallyofwriters.com / www.skaalds.com

Lori Nelson Spielman, Keynote • Lori is the #1 international bestselling author of *The Life List* (Random House, 2013) and *Sweet Forgiveness* (Penguin Random House, 2015), novels which have been translated into over thirty-five languages. *The Life List* was optioned by Fox Studios and has sold more than a million copies worldwide. Lori, a speech-language pathologist, was a high school guidance counselor and a homebound teacher. She lives in Lansing with her husband and loves hiking, reading, traveling, and good food and wine. www.lorinelsonspielman.com

Andrea King Collier • A multimedia journalist, essayist, and author for over 25 years, Andrea specializes in foods, health and wellness, and health policy. Her work appears across print, online, and broadcast outlets, including *Salon*, *NBCBLK*, *Washington Post*, *Ebony*, *National Geographic*, and many others. She is the author of two books and teaches online courses for writers. She belongs to ASJA, NABJ, and AHCJ, where she is a Great Lakes Fellow. www.andreakingcollier.com

J. Gabriel Gates • The author of five novels, *The Tracks Trilogy*, *Blood Zero Sky* and *The Sleepwalkers*, Jacob also has had publications in several journals and anthologies, two of his screenplays have been optioned by Hollywood producers, and he has been working as a ghostwriter for several years. He received his MFA in Writing from Spalding University. www.jgabrielgates.com

Beverly Jenkins • The nation's premier writer of African-American historical romance, Bev has over 35 published novels and many awards, including two Career Achievement Awards and a Pioneer Award from *Romantic Times Magazine*, and a Golden Pen Award from the Black Writer's Guild. She grew up in the Motor City; in the 4th grade she was the editor of her elementary school newspaper. She also speaks NFL and gardening. www.beverlyjenkins.net

Landis Y. Lain • Landis began her writing career in the first grade, went on to graduate from MSU, and then snagged a law degree because her mother told her, "Writers starve so get a real job." Now a judge, and an avid romance and mystery reader, she writes fiction and nonfiction for varied ages. *Daddy's Baby* is her debut YA novel. Google Landis Y. Lain

Barbara Arno Modrack • A news producer for the *Lansing State Journal*, Barb's short stories have appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, hypertextmag.com, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Seventeen* and elsewhere. Google Barb Modrack

Steven Harper Piziks • Author of 25 books, Steven was born with a name no one can spell or pronounce, so he writes under the name Steven Harper in science fiction, fantasy, mystery, and steampunk, mostly for Penguin Random House. When not at his keyboard, he plays the folk harp, fiddles with video games, and pretends he doesn't talk to household cats. www.stevenpiziks.com

Alice Speilburg • A literary agent at Speilburg Literary Agency, Alice has worked in the publishing business since 2008. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Romance Writers of America, and the SCBWI, and is a board member of Louisville Literary Arts. She is currently building her client list and represents a wide range of fiction and nonfiction. www.speilburgliterary.com

Julie Lawson Timmer • The author of *Five Days Left* (Putnam, 2014), *Untethered* (Putnam, 2016) and *Mrs. Saint and the Defectives* (Lake Union, 2017), Julie grew up in Stratford, Ontario, Canada, and serves as legal counsel to an automotive supplier near Ann Arbor, where she lives with her husband and children. She is also a devotee of hot yoga and CrossFit. www.julielawsontimmer.com

Gijsbert and Robbyn Van Frankenhuyzen • Illustrator and author Nick and Robbyn's publisher told them it would only be one book, *The Legend of Sleeping Bear*. Twenty-five years and 35 books later they are still creating children's books. They have also spent 25 years in wildlife rehabilitation on their 40-acre farm in Bath MI, where rescued animals have become stories in their Hazel Ridge series. www.hazelridgefarm.com

Jess Wells • Winner of a San Francisco Art Commission Grant for Literature and four-time finalist for the national Lambda Literary Award, Jess is the author of nine volumes of work, including four books of short stories and two historical novels. Her work is published in dozens of anthologies and literary journals, including *Millennium Writing* and *The Owen Wister Review*. www.jesswells.com

Terry Wooten • Terry has been called "an everyday Homer writing as a modern Bard for ordinary heroes." He is an award-winning poet, creator of the Elders Project, and builder and host of the Stone Circle, the longest outdoor poetry venue in Michigan and the focus of an international documentary film, due in 2017. His collected works, *Stone Circle Poems*, won a 2016 Michigan Notable Book Award. www.terry-wooten.com

Rally Warm-Up

Friday April 7 • 7:00 pm • Free

Schuler Books, Eastwood Towne Center

"Storypaloosa"

Several Super Storytellers
including a Moth participant

In partnership with WKAR

