

2025 FFoB -- EXHIBITORS

1. **Steven Mayfield** A former physician and medical school professor with forty-two publications in the medical/scientific literature, Mayfield is the author of four award-winning novels (historical fiction, including *Treasure of the Blue Whale*) and one short story collection. His fiction blends heart, humor, and a dash of crime.

Micheal Strelow's fiction includes: *The Greening of Ben Brown*, Ken Kesey Novel Prize finalist; *Henry [Weinhard]: A Novel of Beer and Love in the West*; *Some Assembly Required*, Arthur C. Clarke Award nominee, three middle readers and three children's books including *The Princess Gardener*.

2. **CE Huntington** Christopher and Ellen Huntingdon grew up together in Florence and earned degrees at Temple University in Tokyo; worked for Oregon State Parks, and volunteered at the local hospice. This happily married couple uses this driving maxim: Strangers in strange lands tell strange tales.

Jason A. Kilgore Explore some Very Strange Worlds by this multi-genre author. Notable titles are *The First Nova I See Tonight*, and *Around the Corner from Sanity*. Fantasy, scifi, horror/ paranormal, poetry, scientific articles: Kilgore has something for everyone -- some of it fictional.

3. **Sue DeMarini** An independent Ashland author --the first female Southern Oregon chiropractor (retired): Her first book was *The Station Master's Wife* resulting from researching the history of her 100-year-old Victorian house. Currently writing novel #5 about the first female FBI agent.

Harriet Greene was born in Montreal, Canada and graduated from McGill University. She married and moved to rural Vermont, raised her family and sought adventures. Now settled in Oregon she sculpts in marble and writes, including *Crossing the Boundary* on challenging Rocky Mountain backpacking.

4. **Eric Alan** This author, photographer, lyricist, audio tech, and meditation/ workshop leader is an integral part of Oregon's music scene -- including as house emcee for the FACE Florence Winter Music Festival. His most recent book, *Grateful by Nature*, explores gratitude as a transformative practice. At Table #4, Eric will provide a space for attendees to **give audio a chance** -- with short sessions reading (and recording) their work aloud, with his sign-up workshop **Voicing Your Words**.

Ned Hickson Author and Workshop Leader Ned is an award-winning nationally syndicated columnist and retired journalist. His first suspense novel, *No Safe Harbor* features Shane McPhearson, PI; with the sequel *Harbinger of Truth* scheduled for release in 2025. Ned teaches workshops, is a featured speaker at book-centric events, and coaches aspiring writers via his **Easy Writer** online consultancy Ned will provide the workshop **From Manuscript to Published!**

5. **Tracy L. Markley** Markley is an award-winning personal trainer, fitness educator, and author focusing on stroke recovery and senior balance, functional training, and fall prevention. Her work has helped stroke survivors and caregivers worldwide. *The Stroke of an Artist* (2017) was her first book; since then Tracy has written a dozen more including a children's book.
6. **Robert Leo Heilman** is an award-winning author, essayist and commentator based in Southern Oregon and specializing in literary nonfiction and journalism. His published works include *While Librarians Wept*, *A Library System Dies 1997-2017* and *Overstory: Zero, Real Life in Timber Country*.
7. **Ink Drop Press** N.J. Hanson of Ink Drop Press is a member of the California Writer's Club, and has been writing seriously since high school. His science fiction and fantasy interests led to his first book, the award-winning *The Last Stand of the Dragon*, being released at the age of twenty-four.

Seafoam Green Hope Hill is an author and poet: *Dancing on the Ceiling*, *Dancing in a Minefield*, *Into the Shadow Realms*, and *Secrets Under the Skin*. She loves to look at things in a whole new light, and firmly believes that no one should purchase a tote too small to carry at least one book.

8. **Mud City Press** Dan Armstrong is the owner and operator Mud City Press, an online magazine focusing on the environment and sustainable agriculture. He has published 14 novels and a short story collection. Dan volunteered with the Lane Co. Farmers' Market and Lane Co. Food Policy Council.
 9. **Karen D. Nichols** This Florence author/ artist has published two illustrated children's books, ten novels set in Oregon, and two memoirs based on her newspaper column, "The Moral of the Story." The novels may encompass any genre; thriller, mystery, adventure, romance, or drama with wit and humor.
 10. **First Steps Publishing** The First Steps team believes in empowering authors with multiple publishing choices: traditional, hybrid, and self-publishing -- to suit individual needs. Their comprehensive design packages allow authors to retain control of both their work and their royalties.
 11. **Jeff Cates** This Rising Star Award winner whose adventures—farming, firefighting, and teaching—fuel his fiction. He's published nearly 80 paid stories, and leads the Valley Writers Group in California. Books include *The Reb Riley Files* (paranormal crime). Jeff and his wife plus their two rescue dogs, farm and share produce as a gift of abundance and faith.
 12. **Robin Woods** A former high school and university instructor with two and a half decades of experience teaching English, literature, and writing; Robin earned a BA in English and an MA in Education. In addition to teaching, she has published seven highly-rated novels, an award-winning creative writing workbook series, and has multiple projects in the works.
 13. **Gary Lark** is the author of eight poetry collections, *Coming Down the Mountain* the latest. His work has appeared in Beloit Poetry Journal, Catamaran, and Rattle. Gary and his wife Dorothy live in Oregon's Rogue Valley.
 14. **P.L. Vosseller** has been writing since the early 1970s, using her imagination for creating worlds that control loneliness, attention, abandonment, and love. Her love of writing and 10 years of law enforcement experience gave her the courage to "say the quiet parts out loud."
- Jennifer French** After 35 years in college administration, French found a new purpose as a certified Long-Term Care Ombudsman and artist in Oregon. Her 2025 mystery, *All Under the Same Roof*, is set in a retirement home, Green Pastures; and two YA novels, *Hoot Owl Shares the Dawn* and *Fidgets*.
15. **A. Lynne Ash** is the author of three memoirs of camping adventures, and *Eugeneana: A Memoir of an Oregon Hometown*. Ash was probably the first female jogger and long-distance runner in Eugene in the early 1960s. "I shopped in the men's department -- women's running shoes didn't exist."
 16. **Luminare Press** This Eugene-based shop offers the best in hybrid and self-publishing assist services. Outstanding custom cover designs, professional interior formatting and ebooks are part of their print-on-demand package... plus a range of other services. And, authors keep 100 percent of their book royalties. Their workshop recognizes that there is no one-size-fits-all method of self-publishing. answer. We'll help you determine what path works best for you and your book. Bring your curiosity and your questions! **Workshop Leader**

17. **A.B. Herron** This indie author resides in the Pacific Northwest where her Elemental Wolf novels take place. Her books are a blend of mythical creatures. Mingling her studies in anatomy and zoology, she entwines science and magic to creative effect. Find her at @a.b.herron or www.abherron.com.

Angela Kern This author is a freelance editor with over twenty years of experience. *Cecaelians & Secrets* is her first novel.

18. **D.L. Hayes** loves writing, drawing, and film noir. The fantasy novel in the 1940s setting of “Kritter Kreek,” a community made up entirely of animals, stars a noir-style novel tabby cat private detective who solves mysteries.

Kay Loraine Kay’s art and writing background (Master’s Degree in Art Therapy and private practice) informed her writing of poetry, short stories, plays, and novels. The use of abstraction, surrealism, political art, textures, colorful imagery to create realistic, multi-dimensional characters whose thoughts and actions are often contradictory.

19. **Lori Tobias** I am the author of two published books, a novel and a memoir, and a career journalist, previously on staff at the Rocky Mountain News and The Oregonian and continue to freelance for numerous publications. I live on the Oregon Coast with my husband, Chan, a retired lineman, and rescue pups Gus and Lily.

Gerri Almand became an accidental author when her sweet-talking husband convinced her they needed to buy an RV and see the world. Now with three humorous, multiple-awarded nonfiction books to her credit, Gerri and her husband live in Eugene, Oregon. Her fourth humorous book, which chronicles her attempts to fit into an over-55 community, will be released in the fall of 2025.

20. **Joe R. Blakely** The historical nonfiction *Bellfountain Giant Killers* which led me to write a novel: *Lifting Oregon Out of the Mud-- Building the Oregon Coast Highway* and *Kidnapped on the Oregon Coast Highway-1926* and my novel *Murder on the Oregon Coast Highway-1961*. Also biographies, etc.

21. **TBD**

22. **Lee Boutell** Lee quit college at age 21 to open the first natural foods restaurant in Eugene, Oregon. He and kindred spirits ran the business as a profit-sharing collective and a center for social and political activism. His book, *We Can Change the World*, describes the intrigue, excitement, and camaraderie of the community that risked breaking all the rules during a time of great upheaval.

Coco McQuown is a storyteller who writes for curious minds, brave hearts, and wild imaginations. Her debut picture book *Night Hunt! Ryukyu* takes readers on an interactive flashlight adventure through the jungles of Okinawa. She draws inspiration from folklore, family adventures, and wild places—crafting stories meant to be read aloud, remembered, and loved.

23. **Big Wave Spoken Word** This team, represented at the Festival by Charles Castle, is dedicated to promoting and celebrating poetry and the spoken word through monthly events and annual contests, providing poets and writers with an opportunity to share their work with the community. Big Wave Spoken Word hosts a free, monthly Open Mic at its umbrella group, Florence Regional Arts Alliance: <http://www.fraaoregon.com/> **Workshop on Poetry** reading/ writing / enjoying!

24. **Jennifer Chambers** is an award-winning writer, coach, publisher, and host of the *Your Voice Matters* and *Same Crime, Different Time* podcasts. She writes nonfiction about women and history, plus the occasional fantasy. After a traumatic brain injury erased her early memories, she rebuilt her life through storytelling. Now, she helps others do the same.

25. **C. Edwin (Ed) Fender** has always been a wordsmith. He was a technical writer until retiring in 2011 to refocus his writing skills on books: novels, *Infinite River* and *Italy Calls*; memoirs -- *Idyllic Peru*, *The Legend of Fender's Garage*, and *Edified, Sometimes a Magical Journey*; and children's books -- *In The Spooky Forest* and *Plex – The Magical Bunny*. He and his wife, Maureen, live in Eugene, Oregon.
26. **Sue Fagalde Lick**, a writer/musician/dog mom living in the woods south of Newport, Oregon, has published more than a dozen books, including *Stories Grandma Never Told*, *Childless by Marriage*, and *No Way Out of This: Loving a Partner with Alzheimer's*, the novels *Up Beaver Creek*, *Seal Rock Sound*, and *Between the Bridges*, and four poetry collections.
27. **Judy Fleagle** A former editor/staff writer at *Oregon Coast* and *Northwest Travel* magazines, Fleagle is the author of eight non-fiction books and is a co-founder of the Florence Festival of Books. Her volumes include *Around Florence*, part of the Arcadia Publishing series; and *Crossings: McCullough's Coastal Bridges* (with Richard Knox Smith) which documents and vision of the structural engineer Conde B. McCullough, whose innovative skills helped create the Oregon Coast Highway in the 1930s.
28. **Connie Strome Bradley** As a native Oregonian, Connie has a deep appreciation for the natural resources of Florence. This respect is apparent in her well-crafted children's books, beautifully illustrated by Carol Johnson Unser, including *Snowball: The Nanny Goose of Sutton Lake*. Connie is one of the Co-founders of the Florence Festival of Books.
29. **Cy Bishop** I use my degree in Counseling Psychology to create fully dimensional characters with unique personalities and quirks. My books include traditional fantasy, space fantasy, post-apocalyptic, and more--where the rules of reality need not apply. Connect with me at cybishop.com

Alene Reaugh attended the UW while working as a Claims Investigator. Her first book is the story of her great-great aunt, Beatrice Andrewartha, who disappeared in 1919 shortly after marrying a man she met on a train. The scandal of her probable murder became a family secret. After twenty years of research, Alene exposed the secret and tells the story.

30. **Glenn Voelz** Glenn served as an Army Intelligence officer for twenty-five years on several continents, held senior leadership positions at the highest levels in Washington, DC, and taught at West Point. His books include genres such as history, government contracting, search and rescue, and military satire, Glenn is also a professional ski patroller and Wilderness Emergency Medical Technician.

31. FACE Table

32. **Indigo: Editing, Design & More -- Olivia Hammerman** Indigo's mission is to improve the book world! In addition to providing expert services to authors, small presses, and large publishers, Indigo advocates for thriving independent bookstore commerce and greater inclusion and diversity in the publishing industry. Let us help you discover what services are right for you, your book, and your budget. **Workshop Leader**
33. **Toby Neal -- Keynote Speaker** Mystery author Toby Neal was raised in the jungle on Kauai and got herself to college via scholarship. During her career as a mental health therapist, wife, and mother, she began writing the Paradise Crime World series: Thrillers, Mysteries, and Cozy Mysteries, all starring brave female investigators fighting crime in the dark side of an interconnected Hawaii universe.

Toby eventually wrote her first memoir, the award-winning *Freckled: A Memoir of Growing up Wild in Hawaii* : surviving childhood from age 4-18 being raised by "free range parents" in the surfing culture of

1970's Kauai. The sequel, *Open Road: a Midlife Memoir of Travel through the National Parks* covered her transition to becoming a full time writer experiencing the USA. A third memoir, *Passages: Searching for Home in Climate Change Times* is set for release in 2026.

Toby has enjoyed a six-figure writing career for the last 12 years, and does some author coaching and counseling. "I'm endlessly fascinated with people's stories," she says. Find out more and download a free book or two <http://www.tobyneal.net/>.

Her Keynote will highlight her three series -- and about writing addictive books that will have readers begging for the next in the series. Plus (the fine print) a little about the business end of being a writer.

34. **Ruby McConnell and Brendan O'Meara -- Author's Conversation**

Ruby and Brendan are friends, writing colleagues, and partners in various literary hijinks emanating from the Emerald City of Eugene. Their Conversation will stress **The Power of Personal Connection in the Digital Age** -- as well as the importance of sharing ideas and not "writing in a vacuum." Both of these successful authors believe in collaboration and communication with creative friends, acquaintances, and casual passersby.

McConnell is a writer, geologist, and environmental advocate whose award-winning work has been featured in scientific and mainstream outlets including *Oregon Humanities Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *High Country News*. She is author of the critically acclaimed outdoor series *A Woman's Guide to the Wild* and *A Girl's Guide to the Wild*. Both her personal essay collection *Ground Truth: A Geologic Survey of a Life* (a finalist for the 2020 Oregon Book Awards), and 2024's *Wilderness and the American Spirit*, a critical and vibrant portrait of the American relationship to the land in Western stories, were listed as Best Reads by *Ms. Magazine*. Her work with *Alta Journal* on the story of Mouseketeer Dennis Day won an L.A Press Club Entertainment Journalism First Place Award in 2024. You can find her in the woods or at [@rubygonewild](https://www.rubymcconnell.com/) or <https://www.rubymcconnell.com/>

O'Meara In his own words: "I'm a writer, editor, and podcaster. I wish I was a cartoonist. I host The Creative Nonfiction Podcast. I've interviewed hundreds of nonfiction storytellers across the CNF multiverse like Susan Orlean, Patrick Radden Keefe, Laura Hillenbrand, and Mary Karr. I've been a journalist — mainly sports — for twenty years, winning the occasional award for feature writing. I'm the author of *Six Weeks in Saratoga* and the biography *The Front Runner: The Life of Steve Prefontaine*, [published in May 2025] by Mariner Books, an imprint of HarperCollins. My work has appeared in *Creative Nonfiction*, *Brevity*, *Writer's Digest*, *Trail Runner Magazine*, and *Mountain Home Magazine*, among others. Bats right, throws right. You may email me **brendan dot r dot omeara @ gmail dot com**. For **podcast inquiries**, email **creativenonfictionpodcast at gmail dot com**. Go to <https://brendanomeara.com/bio/>

35. **Mike Salt** Oh, the Horror! Salt's Linkville Horror Series is guaranteed to keep you awake and make you hide the book covers in a locked garden shed on your neighbor's property. Linkville Volume 1 won the Inkshares 2018 Horror Competition. This dark and gritty universe is filled with drama, terror, and dread. Readers -- consider yourself forewarned!
36. **Steve Davala** Author and wood crafter Steve Davala creates unique worlds and items in the realms of fantasy, Sci-Fi, and wood turning. He and Laurie Davala, created two children's books: *Books are for Reading, Not Eating!* and *The Books Bit Me Back!* Illustrated by Francesca Da Sacco.
37. **Kids' Activities Table with Kassy Keppol** Siuslaw Elementary teacher, author, and creative 2D artist Keppol returns to the Kids' table for creative crafting of books, coloring and more. Check out her latest

book -- for children and their adults -- *What Mommy Doesn't See*, an exploration of a child's imagination through a heartwarming tale of love with hidden creatures on every page.