



UPSTART CROW, INC.

Literacy • Literature • Culture

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2026 Upcoming Guests

Author interviews and conversations for the Upstart Crow literary podcast and public programs. Guests span fiction, nonfiction, poetry, graphic novels, and history—amplifying both established and emerging voices.

Podcast Guests

Emil Wilson

The Nightingales (debut graphic novel)

Discussing the graphic novel *The Nightingales*—based on a true family story set in 1985 Oregon involving an AIDS sufferer brought into a home and the impact his living there has on family life and dynamics.

Bio: Artist/illustrator based in San Francisco. *The Nightingales* is his first graphic novel. More at publisher pages (e.g., [Simon & Schuster / Avid Reader Press](#)) or [Instagram \(@emilwilsonart\)](#).

Timeline: July 2026

Kathryn DeZur

Objects of Affection (memoir / essays)

Discussing the memoir *Objects of Affection*—essays exploring a rocky childhood, family trauma, inherited objects/possessions, and their cultural/personal significance; includes photography.

Bio: Essayist, poet, photographer, and Professor Emerita of English at SUNY Delhi. Runs Substack *Cabinet of Wonders*. Author of poetry chapbook *Blue Ghosts*. Lives in the northern Catskill Mountains. Website: kathryndezur.com.

Timeline: August 2026

Marty Ross-Dolen

Always There, Always Gone (memoir)

Discussing the memoir *Always There, Always Gone*—a fragmented narrative exploring multigenerational grief/trauma after her grandparents' death in the 1960 plane collision over NYC; they ran *Highlights for Children* magazine; mother-daughter story and family business impact.

Bio: Retired child and adolescent psychiatrist in Columbus, Ohio. Granddaughter of *Highlights for Children* executives. Focuses on processing inherited loss through writing and family archives. Author website: linktr.ee/martyrossdolen · [Simon & Schuster author page](#).

Timeline: August 2026

Nicholas Reynolds & Katie S. Sanders (co-authors)

Ortiz's War (historical nonfiction)

Discussing the historical book *Ortiz's War*—about Peter Ortiz, American Marine/OSS operative who parachuted behind enemy lines to aid the French Resistance against Nazis; highly decorated.

Bio: Nicholas Reynolds: Colonel USMC (Ret.), former CIA historian, *New York Times* bestselling author (e.g., Hemingway biography). Teaches and writes on WWII/intelligence history. Website: nicholasreynoldsauthor.com.

Katie S. Sanders: Award-winning journalist and podcast producer (National Geographic, NYT, Washington Post, etc.). Her grandfather was rescued by Ortiz, inspiring the project. Website: katiessanders.com.

Timeline: August 2026



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Jamy Bond

The Island of Ghost Ships (hybrid collection)

Discussing the hybrid collection *The Island of Ghost Ships*—memoir/essays on her sister Shelby's death in a car crash in South Africa while in the Peace Corps; retracing steps with survivor; explores sisterhood, grief, service legacy.

Bio: Fiction/nonfiction writer. MFA from George Mason University (co-founded *So To Speak*). Peace Corps volunteer (Bulgaria), Fulbright scholar (Mozambique), international development work. Stories/essays in *The Sun*, *The Rumpus*, *Best Microfiction*, etc. Debut chapbook *Combat Zones*. Website: jamybond.com.

Timeline: In the works

Dallas Hudgens & Sylvia Jones

Relegation Books & poetry (Dope Calisthenics)

Interview on Sylvia Jones's poetry (e.g., upcoming *Dope Calisthenics*, last under Relegation Books banner) + Dallas's founding/achievements with Relegation Books and retiring the imprint.

Bio: Dallas Hudgens: Author (*Wake Up, We're Here*, etc.) and founder of Relegation Books (small press). Website: dallashudgens.com · relegationbooks.com.

Sylvia Jones: Poet (e.g., *Television Fathers* from Meekling Press). Editor, teacher (George Washington University, etc.), lives/writes in Baltimore. Work in various journals/anthologies.

Timeline: In the works

Upstart Crow & Fairfax County Public Library

Virtual Author Interview Series — Fall 2026

The episodes will be in the evenings and include live interviews, livestream access, and recordings for the Upstart Crow podcast and YouTube channel. This scalable series model is already in development with Fairfax County Public Library.

Lois Romano

An Inconvenient Widow (Simon & Schuster, 2026)

Former *Washington Post* reporter/columnist. In-depth biography reframing Mary Todd Lincoln's life, challenges as First Lady/widow, political influence, and public perception.

Hosted by William Miller

Shubha Sunder

Optional Practical Training: An Immigrant's Journey (Graywolf Press)

2025 Whiting Award winner. Novel drawing from her experiences as an Indian immigrant student/teacher navigating life in America.

Hosted by William Miller

Jane Kamensky

President & CEO, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello

Leading historian, author, Ken Burns expert. Discussion on the founding generation, compromise, civic discourse, and "courageous conversations" (including Jefferson's dinner parties / Feast of Reason).

Hosted by Ken Budd

Valerie Tripp

American Girl series

Acclaimed author of historical fiction for young readers (Felicity, Josefina, Kit, Molly, Maryellen, etc.). Focus on creative process, historical accuracy, and cultural impact—timely for America's 250th. [Penguin Random House](http://PenguinRandomHouse.com)

Hosted by Jennifer Disano



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Partnership Opportunities

Upstart Crow welcomes co-hosted series, underwriting, venue partnerships, and multi-year collaboration. Ready-to-underwrite programming that complements arts centers, libraries, universities, and community organizations. Full editorial independence with transparent sponsor acknowledgment.

Contact us at: ContactUpstartCrow@gmail.com