

## National Authors' Day | Meet the Poets and Authors



### Everett Hoagland

Everett Hoagland, Professor Emeritus at UMass Dartmouth and a poet, has had his work featured in prominent publications like *The American Poetry Review* and anthologies including *The Best American Poetry*. Recipient of awards such as the 2023 American Book Award, Hoagland's recent works include *The Ways: Poems of Affirmation*. He has been a resident of New Bedford, MA, since 1973.



### Nick LeBlanc

Nick is an artist and educator from New Bedford, MA. His latest release is *falling all along*, a collection of 40 thematically linked poems exploring memory, nature, family, time, and transformation through vivid and often unexpected imagery. You can find him at [@nickdleblanc](#) on Instagram.



### Maia Livramento

Maia, also known as "Maize," is a local artist specializing in spoken word poetry. Maia uses her artistry to promote sobriety and recovery, offering powerful messages of healing and strength through her work. She was a featured artist in Ethan de Aguiar's short film *Love Letters* for New Bedford, further highlighting her creative influence in her community and beyond.



### Brad Chase

Brad Chase grew up in Harwich, Massachusetts between a swamp and herring run. Trained as a fish biologist, he went to sea for several years on foreign fishing boats, then built a career at laboratories in the ports of Narragansett, Salem, Gloucester, and New Bedford. *Codbones* is his first published collection of poetry.



### Paul Cordeiro

Paul Cordeiro has two archived haiku/tanka books archived at The Haiku Foundation's digital library, *Bare Earth* and *Wild Violets*. He has participated in *Domesticated Primate* press anthologies and *Anomaly* poetry group open mics.



### Kate Frazer Rego

Kate Frazer Rego is an artist and educator living in Southeastern Massachusetts. A graduate of UMASS Dartmouth and Boston University, Rego's work has been shown nationally, including at an international performance art festival in New York City, NY in 2018, as well as the Cambridge Art Association's Emerging Artist Exhibition in 2019.



### Phillip J. Mellen

Phillip J. Mellen is a visual artist, poet, and podcaster based in Taunton, Massachusetts, with deep ties, and big love for the New Bedford arts community. He studied fine art at Bristol Community College and went on to study painting at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia, where he completed the certificate program.



### G Pa Rhymes

Partnering with the talented illustrator Erica Leigh, G Pa Rhymes created *The Adventures of Cray* book series, inspired by his own family's adventures. He captivates kids with his "rappin' and rhymin'" stories and instills values like friendship, honesty, bravery, and environmental stewardship.



### **Deborah Thompson**

Marion native Deborah Thompson, known as the “Child Whisperer,” is an author, grandmother, and passionate educator. She ran a preschool in Marion, encouraging empathy and curiosity. With a heart for animals and a dedication to childhood education, she writes books and develops educational toys to inspire young learners. Thompson will be reading from her latest book, *Nova’s Wish*.



### **Naomi Slipp**

Naomi Slipp, PhD, oversees collections, curatorial, and educational initiatives at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. She leads a team of fourteen staff and about 100 volunteers, bringing expertise in interdisciplinary studies. Joining NBWM in 2021, her background includes teaching at Auburn University at Montgomery and a strong commitment to arts, history, science, and culture.



### **Terry Wolkowicz**

For over 20 years, Terry Wolkowicz has developed arts education programs, including her role as Education Director at the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra. She co-founded Sound Explorations, partnering with institutions like NOAA. Recognized for her contributions, Wolkowicz holds degrees in music education from the New England Conservatory and Harvard and has earned multiple awards for her community impact.



### **Elizabeth Bradford**

Writer and naturalist Elizabeth Bradford is the author of *Toward Antarctica* and *Approaching Ice*. Her work has appeared in *The Sun*, *New Yorker*, and *Atlantic Monthly*, and she co-edits *Broadsided Press*, a collaboration of poetry and art. Bradford teaches at Brandeis University, balancing her literary career with naturalist work on Cape Cod and abroad.



### **Daniel Georgianna**

Daniel Georgianna, Chancellor Professor Emeritus at UMass Dartmouth, specializes in marine resource economics and has contributed to several fishery policy-making committees. His recent project, *The Secret Life of Scallops* with Spinner Publications, explores the scallop fishery’s history, conservation practices, and future challenges. Georgianna lives in Fairhaven, MA, with his wife.



### **Robert Demanche**

Robert Demanche, co-author of *The Last of the Fairhaven Coasters*, is a Fairhaven native who enjoys storytelling. He contributed to *A Picture History of Fairhaven* and has a longstanding friendship with the Tucker family, bringing insights into the region’s maritime heritage.



### **Alfred Saulniers**

Acushnet native Alfred Saulniers earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin and has since had an extensive international career, consulting for institutions like the World Bank and the UN. After returning to New Bedford in 2000, he contributed to *Spinner Publications*, including *A Picture History of New Bedford*. He’s now working on *The Secret Life of Scallops*, exploring scallop fishery history and its environmental future.



### **Kimberly J. Ward**

Memoirist Kimberly J. Ward, author of *Crew of Three*, shares her journey of living aboard a sailboat with her family from Massachusetts to Grenada. Passionate about memoir writing, she now teaches workshops and enjoys life on the South Coast of Massachusetts, where she and her husband run an oyster farm. Their daughter studies at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.



### **Pamela Lowell**

Pamela Lowell, MSW, LICSW, is an author and therapist specializing in trauma. Her latest book, *My Summer with Ospreys*, is a narrative of hope and community, interwoven with environmental themes and Mass Audubon adventures. Known for her insightful illustrations and dedication to nature, Lowell inspires readers to become environmental stewards.



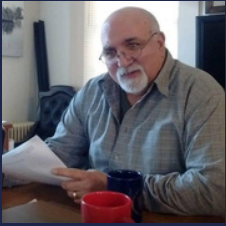
### **DeWolf Fulton**

DeWolf Fulton, first cousin five times removed of Nor'West John D'Wolf—the first North American to circumnavigate the globe "by land route"—shares stories and images of this remarkable voyage. Holding a BA in English from Lake Forest College and an MA from Bread Loaf at Middlebury, Fulton has a background in journalism as a former editor of the Bristol Phoenix and teaching experience at several institutions.



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### **Joseph Thomas**

A New Bedford native and co-founder of Spinner Publications, established in 1980, Joseph (Joe) Thomas has served as Publisher and Executive Director, overseeing the production of over 50 publications documenting southeastern Massachusetts, particularly the history and culture of New Bedford. His latest work, *A Picture History of New Bedford*, showcases the city's rich heritage through compelling imagery and narratives. With a background in Literature, Sociology, and Graphic Arts from Providence College, UMass Dartmouth, and the Art Institute of Boston, Joseph has co-authored and edited 35 books while also handling photography, art selection, layout, and design for nearly all Spinner's works.



### **Kerrin Willis**

Kerrin Willis, a high school English teacher and historical fiction writer, is known for her strong feminist themes. She holds a BA from Stonehill College and an MA from Simmons College, currently pursuing an MFA in Fiction. Willis lives in Taunton, MA, where she balances teaching, family life, and creative writing, often inspired by her passion for empowering women.



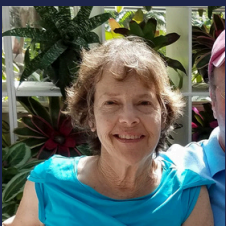
### **Ralph Hickok**

Sports historian Ralph Hickok, a Harvard graduate, is best known for his work on *The New Encyclopedia of Sports*. Specializing in pro football, he has authored books like *Vagabond Halfback*. Member of multiple sports history associations, Hickok has received the Ralph E. Hay Award for his contributions to sports historiography. Hickok is the author several books, including his latest titled, *Love, Sex, and Other Calamities*.



### **Leslie Lawrence**

Leslie Lawrence, a retired marketing strategist and founder of a successful agency serving clients like Milton Bradley, Friendly's, Random House, and Apple, counts family and friends among her greatest blessings. Inspired by her mother Isabel's positive spirit, especially during her own cancer battle, Leslie always feared hearing the same diagnosis—and in 2016, she did. She approached treatment with grace and authenticity, celebrating in 2022 when she reached the five-year cancer-free milestone. Now, like her mother, Leslie shares her story through her poignant photographic memoir *I'm a Lucky Woman*, spreading hope with every page. She and her husband, Ron, live on the SouthCoast of Massachusetts, where she enjoys time with family and gives back through volunteer activities.



### **Holly FitzGerald**

Author of *Ruthless River*, FitzGerald was born in Seattle and educated in counseling at Suffolk University, Holly FitzGerald is a former counselor and educator who lives in South Dartmouth, MA. After many years of service at Bristol Community College, she brings her experience to writing, exploring themes of resilience and human connection.