

# Elgin Literary Festival

## February 6-8, 2015

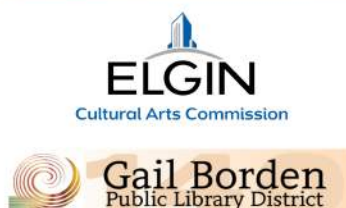
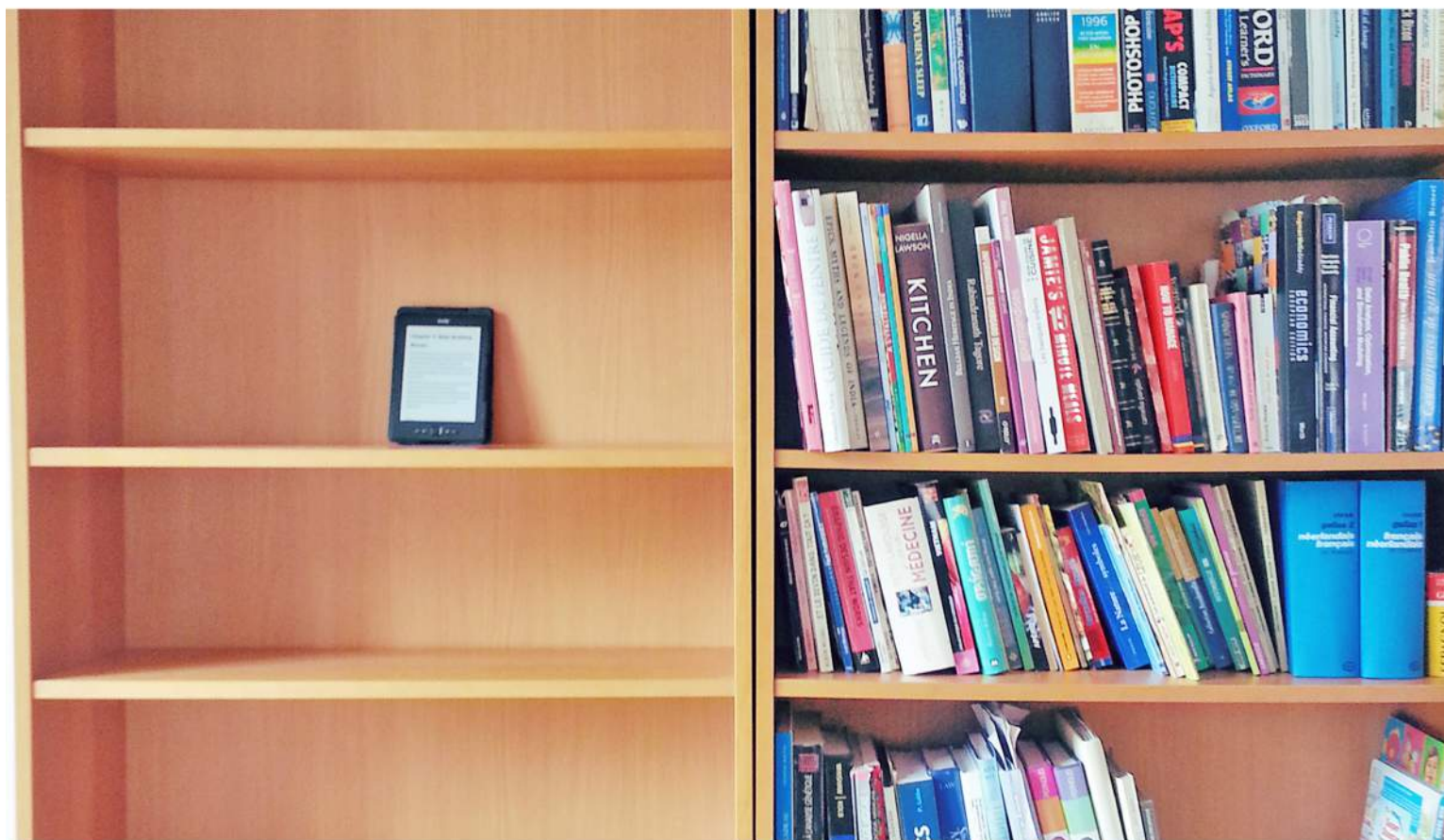
### Downtown Elgin

*a free celebration of the written word  
for readers and writers of all ages*

**Guest Speakers Simone Elkeles & Sarah Mirk**  
*NYT & USA Today Best Selling Author      Online Editor at Bitch Media*

[sidestreetstudioarts.org](http://sidestreetstudioarts.org)      [facebook.com/elginliteraryfestival](https://facebook.com/elginliteraryfestival)

[elginliteraryfestival@gmail.com](mailto:elginliteraryfestival@gmail.com)



## Panel Discussions & Guest Speakers Saturday, February 7, 2015

### **Real Life, Real Love**

#### **Romance/Contemporary Fiction/Issue Fiction**

##### **Panel**

with Lisa Jenn Bigelow, Karla Brandenburg,  
Kym Brunner, Simone Elkeles, Nicki Elson, Amy Pine,  
Joanne Zienty  
10-11:30am at Next Door Theater\*

### **Young Adult/Paranormal Discussion**

with Shannon Stoker  
10am-11:30am at Elgin Art Showcase

### **Stranger Than Fiction**

#### **Non-fiction Panel**

with Mike Murschel, Bart Scott, Sarah Ware  
10am-11:30am at Elgin Public House

### **Bonne & Clyde are Back! Crafting Fiction from Non-Fiction**

#### **Young Adult Suspense/Thriller Discussion**

with Kym Brunner  
Noon-1pm at Elgin Public House

### **Contemporary Fiction Discussion**

with Joanne Zienty  
Noon-1:30pm at Elgin Art Showcase

### **Exploring Other Worlds**

#### **Science Fiction/Fantasy/Paranormal/ Dystopian Panel**

with Al Cedeno, G.P. Ching, Cherie Colyer, Amanda Fowler,  
Karly Kirkpatrick, Kat Nichols, Shannon Stoker  
Noon-1:30pm at Next Door Theater\*

### **Books & Film Discussion (all genres)**

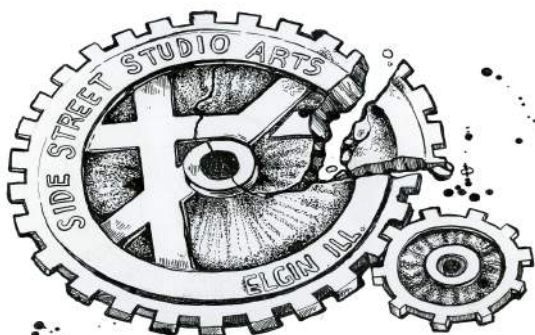
with Sarah Barthel  
2:30-3:30pm at Next Door Theater

### **Children's Lit Panel**

with Sarah Barthel, Lori Degman, Anna M. Lewis, Janet  
Riehecky, Natalie Rompella, Nancy Sack, Katie Sparks  
4-5:30pm at Next Door Theater\*

\*Next Door Theater is not handicap accessible.

ALL PANELS & DISCUSSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE NOTE  
THE CAPACITY OF EACH SPACE WILL LIMIT NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS  
ACCORDINGLY. ARRIVE EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR PARTICIPATION.



“Either write something  
worth reading or do  
something worth  
writing.”

*-Benjamin Franklin*

## Book Signings & Sales Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm in Exhibition Hall at Hemmens Cultural Center

### Participating Authors:

Sarah Barthel Lisa Jenn Bigelow  
Karla Brandenburg Kym Brunner  
Alfred Cedeno GP Ching Cherie Colyer  
Lori Degman Simone Elkeles Nicki Elson  
Laura Hawks Karly Kirkpatrick  
John LaFleur & Dave Metzger  
Donna Latham Anna M. Lewis Sarah Mirk  
Michael Murschel Kat Nichols  
Jeffrey Pierce Amy Pine Janet Riehecky  
Natalie Rompella Nancy Sack Bart Scott  
Trina Sotira Katie Sparks Shannon Stoker  
Bruce Strom Sarah Blossom Ware  
Joanne Zienty

SIGNINGS AND BOOK SALES AT EXHIBITION HALL ARE FREE AND  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE NOTE EACH AUTHOR SETS THEIR  
OWN SCHEDULE AND MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE THE ENTIRE TIME  
EXHIBITION HALL IS OPEN. DAILY SCHEDULES WILL BE POSTED AT  
EXHIBITION HALL FOR YOU TO PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

## Side Street Studio Arts & Next Door Theater

*supporting the artistic process from creation to curation*

**CREATE CURATE COLLABORATE**

visit us during the Elgin Literary Festival at  
15 Ziegler Ct., Downtown Elgin



# WORKSHOPS

## Sunday, February 8, 2015

### **Social Media Marketing for Writers- The Power of Twitter and Facebook with Amy Pine**

9:30-10:30am Next Door Theater\*

\*Researching and connecting with bloggers

\*Forming online support groups

\*Making lasting connections with readers

\*Blog tours, review tours, teaser graphics

### **Writer's Playground with Elizabeth Melvin, Melissa Franic, & Lily Escobedo**

9:30-11:30am Imago

Let your inner scribe and play some word games! We'll try out some classic writing prompts and generate some new ideas in this interactive workshop.

>magnetic poetry

>exquisite corpse

>writer dice

>photo inspiration

### **Before and After... Landing Your First Publishing Contract with Kym Brunner**

11am-Noon Next Door Theater\*

Are you committed to being traditionally published, dreaming of seeing your book grace the shelves of Barnes & Noble? Hoping to be reviewed by the major hitters, such as Kirkus and School Library Journal? If so, I was recently in your shoes. From brainstorming a high concept premise to seeking agent representation and down the road to publication, this workshop highlights strategies that will guide you closer to that ultimate goal...as well as what to expect *after* you sign the contract.

### **Calling All Couch Potatoes: Mining Media for Literary Gold with Katie Sparks**

11:30am-12:30pm Hemmens Cultural Center

Why do people watch particular television shows or movies? What is the appeal?

That same attraction applies to readers and stories. Featuring "media snapshots" from popular TV shows and movies, writers are invited to learn the various ways to insert real life aspects into their story while also keeping an element of originality.

Using the "Four Golden Nuggets", this interactive workshop offers conversation starters and strength-based writing exercises sure to be Oscar-worthy. And that's a wrap!

### **Content Services: Another Market for Non-fiction Writers that You Didn't Know Existed with Dave Kirk**

11:30am-12:30pm Imago

Join Dave Kirk from Helium.com to learn more about writing opportunities for non-fiction writers!

### **Magic, Mystery, and Afterlife of Literature with Cherie Colyer**

12:30-1:30pm Next Door Theater\*

Wands aren't limited to wizards and vampires aren't the only beings who can compel their audiences. Fiction, non-fiction, a poem, and even an article in a newspaper or magazine can contain a bit of magic and mystery. It can have an afterlife. Join me for a discussion on the magic of our words, the mystery that whisks readers to new worlds, and the afterlife of great characters.

### **Crafting Publishing-Ready Poetry and Fiction with Trina Sotira & Dr. Jason Snart**

1-2pm Elgin Art Showcase

College of DuPage writing professors Dr. Jason Snart and Trina Sotira will help writers move their work closer to publication with a series of micro-lessons from crafting titles to removing unnecessary words, improving rhyme and fixing dialogue. Participants are encouraged to arrive with a poem or fiction sample to edit during the workshop.

### **History of Publishing with R.R. Donnelly Representative**

1-2:30pm Imago

Join representatives from R.R. Donnelly to hear all about the history of publishing.

### **Introduction to Self-Publishing with Karly Kirkpatrick & G.P. Ching**

2-3:30pm Next Door Theater\*

Learn the specifics of how to self-publish your writing from the experts.

### **The Well of Inspiration with Michael Murschel**

3-4pm Imago

Gain immediate access to your own personal well of inspiration through this interactive workshop, designed to give you the on-board attitude and nurture to draw forth your innate creativity when and where you want and need it. Learn breakthrough tactics and techniques. Tap into your inner voice, collective memory, deep-core creativity. Techniques discussed and demonstrated include guided imagery, associative language, and learning to discern and trust your own inner voice. Take-aways include an improved attitude of reliance and trust in your personal creative connectedness, a practical matrix for unleashing creativity, and resources for follow-up.

### **Nail Your Rhyme, Every Time! with Lori Degman**

4-5pm Next Door Theater\*

Learn how to write and revise a rhyming picture book, with a focus on rhyme, meter, and story.

### **Secrets of Writing Creative Nonfiction for Children with Anna M. Lewis**

4-5pm Elgin Art Showcase

How to get started, where to get ideas, finding your niche, tips for the writing process, and strategies to get your article or book published.

ALL WORKSHOPS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PLEASE NOTE THE CAPACITY OF EACH SPACE WILL LIMIT NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ACCORDINGLY. ARRIVE EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR PARTICIPATION.

\*Next Door Theater is not handicap accessible.

## Special Events

Downtown Elgin's First Friday is a monthly celebration in support of local arts, restaurants, shops, and nightlife hot spots. Enjoy extended retail hours, special events, promotions, and live entertainment hosted by restaurants, bars, art galleries and performance venues. Check out [facebook.com/DowntownElginFF](https://facebook.com/DowntownElginFF) for all the First Friday Elgin Literary Fest events and discounts!



### Friday, February 6

#### 5-8pm Open Mic Night at Blue Box Café

10 minute slots available for interested readers and writers. Slots are available on a first come, first served basis. So, get there early to sign up! Share your writing, drink great coffee, kick off the inaugural Elgin Literary Festival!

#### 6-10pm More Than Opening at Side Street Studio Arts

More Than is a visual art exhibition in conjunction with the Elgin Literary Festival featuring artists who create works using the essentials of storytelling - the objects to inspire, the words to build, and the tools to tell.



### Saturday, February 7

#### Noon-1:30pm Young Authors Lunch at Blue Box Café

BY INVITATION ONLY.

#### 1-4pm Waterline Writers-The White Page at Imago

Get to know yourself as a writer! Most people hesitate to try writing fiction or poetry because they're not already Writers. If the white page—or blank screen—has always intrigued, called to, or frightened you, this class will give you new tools, several short starts, and a new experience of your own creativity. LIMIT 6 PEOPLE.

#### 4:30-7pm Teen Writers and Artists Project at Imago

Join TWAP for Wordplay, a showcase featuring local poets. It consists of a workshop, open-mic time, and a performance by one of their featured performers!

6-8pm ELF Dinner at Solo Restaurant & Wine Bar  
\$20 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Limited space available. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. To register visit [SideStreetStudioArts.org](https://SideStreetStudioArts.org) and click on Elgin Literary Festival.

#### ELF Dinner Menu

Soup or walden salad

(Choose one)

Pork tenderloin

Penne pasta

New Orleans pasta

Chocolate crunch

**solo**  
restaurant & wine bar

### 8-11pm Readers Ball at 11 Douglas Ave.

Come one, come all to the Readers Ball. Dress as your favorite author or character or just be your fabulous self. Enjoy music, drinks and desserts. Admission is free. Cash bar available thanks to Martini Room - do not miss the special ELF Martini.



### Sunday, February 8

#### 1-4pm Elgin Lit Fest for Kids at Gail Borden Public Library

Author-led story time, book-themed art projects, and more!



#### 2-3:30pm Waterline Writers-Galleries are for Writers Too! at Side Street Studio Arts

Waterline Writers' Anne Veague has a unique approach to re-igniting creativity. With access to a gallery's paintings, photography and sculpture, it is easy to find attributes such as use of light, intentionality, scope, metaphor, transparency, emotional impact--and even framing!--that can help writers approach their own work in innovative ways. We'll intersperse informal discussion inspired by pieces in the gallery with time to work on your current writing project or maybe the new one which will come to life in the gallery! Open to creative writers of any genre, at any level. Bring laptop or pen, paper & clipboard.

#### 5-7pm Closing Party at Side Street Studio Arts

Celebrate the closing of the inaugural Elgin Literary Festival, in the midst of More Than, the visual art exhibition featuring artists who create work using the essentials of storytelling, with the readers, writers, volunteers, and supporters who made the whole thing possible.

## Keynote Speakers

**Simone Elkeles** is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of novels for teens. Simone's books have won many awards including being YALSA Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, being named to the YALSA Popular Paperbacks and Teens Top Ten lists, and added to the Illinois "Read for a Lifetime" Reading List. Simone also won the coveted RITA award from the Romance Writers of America for her book *Perfect Chemistry*. Simone is especially proud of the fact that the Illinois Association of Teachers of English named her Author of the Year. Simone currently has eight teen books in bookstores: *Perfect Chemistry*, *Rules of Attraction*, *Chain Reaction*, *Leaving Paradise*, *Return to Paradise*, *How to Ruin a Summer Vacation*, *How to Ruin my Teenage Life*, *How to Ruin Your Boyfriend's Reputation*.

Simone was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, where she still lives today. Simone went to the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and received her Bachelor's of Science there in Psychology in 1992. She continued her education at Loyola University-Chicago where she received her Master's of Science degree in Industrial Relations while working for a manufacturing company creating diversity programs for their employees.

She loves animals (she has two dogs - a labradoodle and a German Shepherd), kids (she also has two of those) and her family. In her spare time she's the Hockey Mom for her kids hockey teams and is an active Girl Scout leader specially trained in outdoor education. She also spends time mentoring other teen and adult authors. (She also loves sushi, which you can probably tell by reading her books.) Simone writes about teens because she was a teen in the 80's (when spiked hair and blue eye shadow were "rad") and she loves writing about those exciting teen relationships and romances.

\* \* \* \* \*



**SIMONE ELKELES  
IS SPEAKING  
SATURDAY AT  
2PM AT ELGIN  
ART SHOWCASE**



**SARAH MIRK IS  
SPEAKING  
SATURDAY AT  
4PM AT ELGIN  
ART SHOWCASE**

**Sarah Mirk** I am a Portland, Oregon-based editor and writer interested in most things, including primarily sexual politics, media, and history. Since January 2013, I've been the online editor at Bitch Media, where I write and edit daily feminist articles and host the twice-monthly radio podcast Popaganda. I've also worked as a staff writer for weekly newspapers *The Portland Mercury* and *The Stranger* and have published work in various magazines (including *Portland Monthly*, *Oregon Humanities*, and *Symbolia*). I also write, draw, and edit nonfiction comics. My nontraditional guidebook to relationships *Sex From Scratch: Making Your Own Relationship Rules* was published in August 2014. The *Portland Tribune* did a laughably kind profile of me a few years ago and Portland comics collective Gridlords once called me the "hardest working woman in Portland." The *Yale Daily News* recently ran my photo under the headline "Bitches Get Stuff Done."

\* \* \* \* \*



**Sunday, February  
8, 1-4pm Elgin Lit  
Fest for Kids  
at Gail Borden  
Public Library**

*Author-led story  
time with  
Lori Degman,  
John LaFleur,  
Janet Riehlky,  
Nancy Sack,  
Katie Sparks  
Book-themed art  
projects, and more!*

270 N. Grove Ave,  
Downtown Elgin  
gailborden.info

**Shannon Stoker** has been writing her entire life. She decided to give writing a serious try after her husband bought her a small dog as a birthday gift. Nucky stole her heart immediately and she wanted a job that provided more flexibility to stay with him. When she's not writing Shannon enjoys watching an insane amount of television shows as well as horror movies. Shannon got a little taste of television herself when she competed on an episode of TLC's *Four Weddings*. You can catch her episode in replays on the channel. Shannon Stoker was born in Clawson, Michigan and raised in Elgin, Illinois. She currently lives in DeKalb, Illinois with her husband Andy and small dog Nucky.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Joanne Zienty** Born and raised on Chicago's South Side, Joanne Zienty vividly remembers the "glow of industry" that lit the night sky with an orange haze and can still summon the acrid odor of the fumes of coke ovens and blast furnaces, although the steel mills have been shuttered for decades. Joanne spent a lot of time wandering the aisles of her local branch of the Chicago Public Library. Besides wandering, she also did a lot of reading. But when she couldn't find the stories she wanted to read, she started writing her own. Joanne's first success as a writer came in 5th grade, when she completed a 70 page novel - an homage to Walter Farley's *Black Stallion* series - and had her first play - a Thanksgiving melodrama - produced on the stage of her elementary school. She's been writing ever since.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Guest Speakers

**SHANNON STOKER  
IS SPEAKING  
SATURDAY AT  
10AM AT ELGIN  
ART SHOWCASE**

**JOANNE ZIENTY IS  
SPEAKING  
SATURDAY AT  
NOON AT ELGIN  
ART SHOWCASE**



## NOTES

## 2015 Elgin Literary Festival Schedule - Saturday

2/7	Imago	Side Street Studio Arts	Next Door Theater <small>*Next Door Theater is not handicap accessible.</small>	Blue Box Café	Elgin Art Showcase	Hemmens Cultural Center	Pub 217 at Elgin Public House	Solo Restaurant & Wine Bar	11 Douglas Ave.
10am		Open Gallery Hours	Romance/ Contemporary Fiction/Issue Fiction Panel		Guest Speaker Shannon Stoker	Book Signings & Sales	Non-Fiction Panel		
11am		Open Gallery Hours	Romance/ Contemporary Fiction/Issue Fiction Panel (ends at 11:30am)		Guest Speaker Shannon Stoker (ends at 11:30am)	Book Signings & Sales	Non-Fiction Panel (ends at 11:30am)		
Noon		Open Gallery Hours	SciFi/Fantasy/ Paranormal/ Dystopian Panel	Young Authors Lunch	Guest Speaker Joanne Zienty	Book Signings & Sales	YA Suspense/ Thriller Panel		
1pm	Waterline Writers: The White Page Workshop	Open Gallery Hours	SciFi/Fantasy/ Paranormal/ Dystopian Panel (ends at 1:30pm)	Young Authors Lunch (ends at 1:30pm)	Guest Speaker Joanne Zienty (ends at 1:30pm)	Book Signings & Sales	YA Suspense/ Thriller Panel (ends at 1:30pm)		
2pm	Waterline Writers: The White Page Workshop	Open Gallery Hours	(begins at 2:30pm) Books & Film Discussion-All Genres		Keynote Speaker Simone Elkeles	Book Signings & Sales			
3pm	Waterline Writers: The White Page Workshop	Open Gallery Hours	Books & Film Discussion-All Genres (ends at 3:30pm)		Keynote Speaker Simone Elkeles (ends at 3:30pm)	Book Signings & Sales			
4pm	(begins at 4:30pm) Teen Writers & Artists - Wordplay Workshop	Open Gallery Hours	Children's Lit Panel		Keynote Speaker Sarah Mirk	Book Signings & Sales			
5pm	Teen Writers & Artists - Wordplay Workshop	Open Gallery Hours	Children's Lit Panel (ends at 5:30pm)		Keynote Speaker Sarah Mirk (ends at 5:30pm)				
6pm	Teen Writers & Artists - Wordplay Workshop							Writers Dinner	
7pm								Writers Dinner	
8pm									Readers Ball
9pm									Readers Ball
10pm									Readers Ball



## 2015 Elgin Literary Festival Schedule - Sunday

2/8	<i>Imago</i>	<i>Side Street Studio Arts</i>	<i>Next Door Theater</i> <small>*Next Door Theater is not handicap accessible.</small>	<i>Elgin Art Showcase</i>	<i>Hemmens Cultural Center</i>	<i>Gail Borden Public Library</i>
9am	(begins at 9:30am) Writer's Playground Workshop	Open Gallery Hours	(begins at 9:30am) Social Media Marketing for Writers - The Power of Twitter and Facebook			
10am	Writer's Playground Workshop	Open Gallery Hours	Social Media Marketing for Writers - The Power of Twitter and Facebook (ends at 10:30am)		Book Signings & Sales	
11am	(begins at 11:30am) Content Services: Another Market for Nonfiction Writers that you Didn't Know Existed	Open Gallery Hours	Before and After: Landing Your First Publishing Contract		Book Signings & Sales (begins at 11:30am) Calling All Couch Potatoes: Mining Media for Literary Gold	
Noon	Content Services: Another Market for Nonfiction Writers that you Didn't Know Existed (ends at 12:30pm)	Open Gallery Hours	(begins at 12:30pm) Magic, Mystery, and Afterlife of Literature		Book Signings & Sales Calling All Couch Potatoes: Mining Media for Literary Gold (ends at 12:30pm)	
1pm	History of Publishing	Open Gallery Hours	Magic, Mystery, and Afterlife of Literature (ends at 1:30pm)	Crafting Publishing-Ready Poetry and Fiction	Book Signings & Sales	Author-led Story Time & ELF Art Projects for Kids & Families
2pm	History of Publishing (ends at 2:30pm)	Waterline Writers - Galleries are for Writers Too!	Intro to Self-Publishing Panel		Book Signings & Sales	Author-led Story Time & ELF Art Projects for Kids & Families
3pm	The Well of Inspiration	Waterline Writers - Galleries are for Writers Too!	Intro to Self-Publishing Panel (ends at 3:30pm)		Book Signings & Sales	Author-led Story Time & ELF Art Projects for Kids & Families
4pm		Open Gallery Hours	Nail Your Rhyme Every Time!	Secrets of Writing Creative Nonfiction for Children	Book Signings & Sales	
5pm		Closing Reception				



*Save the Dates*

**Rhythms & Rhymes:**  
A History of African-American Dance & Music

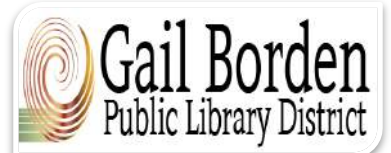
Sunday, February 22nd  
Friday, February 27th  
Saturday, February 28th

at the Elgin ArtSpace Lofts  
& Ola la! Ijorere

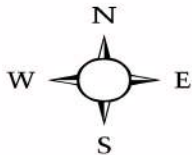
51 S. Spring Street Elgin 60120



# Elgin Literary Festival Sponsors



Special Thanks to Sarah Barthel, Catherine Blair, Jamey Bouwmeester, Tish Calhamer, Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, Elgin Downtown Neighborhood Association, Amanda Fowler, Carrie Frederich, Sean Hargadon, Amanda Harris, Richard Johnson, Karly Kirkpatrick, Rachel Elizabeth Maley, Roberto Martinez, Tanner Melvin, Tiffany Philpot, Erin Rehberg, Fred Steffen, John Steffen



## Elgin Literary Festival February 6, 7, 8



**1**  
Blue Box Cafe  
176 E. Chicago St.



**2**  
Elgin Art Showcase  
164 Division St.



**3**  
Elgin Public House  
219 E. Chicago St.



**4**  
Gail Borden Library  
2700 N. Grove Ave.



**5**  
The Hemmens  
45 Symphony Way



**6**  
Imago  
216 Prairie St.



**7**  
Next Door Theater  
15 1/2 Ziegler Ct.



**8**  
Side Street Studio Arts  
15 Ziegler Ct.



**9**  
Solo  
13 Douglas Ave.



**10**  
Reader's Ball  
11 Douglas Ave.  
2nd floor

[www.sidestreetstudioarts.org](http://www.sidestreetstudioarts.org)  
[www.facebook.com/elginliteraryfestival](https://www.facebook.com/elginliteraryfestival)  
#ELF