



FALL 2023

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**Haystack Book Festival** brings together in unmoderated conversation writers and thinkers who have something to talk about. Past and upcoming talks are as various as Rosa Alcalá and MacArthur Award winner John Keene discussing the relation between their creative writing and their work as translators; Pulitzer Prize finalist Janice Nimura and Dorothy Wickenden on the women who helped spark the first American civil rights movement; Sam Sifton and cookbook author Melissa Clark on the world of *New York Times Cooking*, and Lynn Garafola and Marina Harss on modern ballet and the life of the choreographer Bronislava Nijinska.

In memoriam Martha Saxton 1945–2023

## Writers in Conversation

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## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, at the Norfolk Library

### **4:00 PM: Writing Lives**

Ada Calhoun and Priscilla Gilman in conversation with  
Courtney Maum

### **6:00 PM: The Brendan Gill Lecture**

Susanna Moore

*Open reception to follow at Manor House Inn on Maple Avenue*

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, at the Norfolk Library

### **10:30 AM: On the Use and Abuse of Religion**

Elizabeth Bucar and Bob Smietana

### **1:00 PM: Inspired by the Legacy of Anne Garrels: A Conversation About Covering Conflict**

George Packer and Elizabeth Becker

### **3:00 PM: Liberalism and Resentment: Political Ideas and Emotions**

Samuel Moyn and Robert Schneider

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st, at Great Mountain Forest

### **8:00 AM: Birding Through Great Mountain Forest**

Eileen Fielding

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1st, at the Norfolk Library

### **11:00 AM: Traveling Through History in Contemporary America**

Neil King Jr. and Rinker Buck

### **1:30 PM: How the Changing Landscape Touches Us All—Humans and Nonhumans Alike**

Carl Safina



## Writing Lives

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Ada Calhoun, the author of *Also A Poet: Frank O'Hara, My Father and Me*, and Priscilla Gilman, the author of *The Critic's Daughter: A Memoir*, will join novelist and memoirist Courtney Maum in a conversation about growing up in a world where life and art folded into and around one another in extraordinary ways.

Both Ada Calhoun, daughter of the poet and art critic Peter Schjeldahl, and Priscilla Gilman, daughter of the drama critic and professor Richard Gilman, grew up in New York in the 1970s and 1980s. Whether uptown or downtown, artworld or university, their lives unfolded in relation to a parental passion for writing with which they found themselves in a continuous, sometimes tense, sometimes celebratory negotiation.

Ada Calhoun is the author of *Also a Poet*, named one of the best books of 2022 by the *New York Times*, NPR, and the *Washington Post*; longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Nonfiction; and featured on the *TODAY Show* and *PBS News Hour*. Her other books include *New York Times* best seller *Why We Can't Sleep* and *St. Marks Is Dead*.



Friday, September 29th • 4:00 PM

Priscilla Gilman is the author of the memoirs *The Critic's Daughter* and *The Anti-Romantic Child* and a former professor of English literature at Yale University and Vassar College. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *O, the Oprah Magazine*, and elsewhere. She lives in New York City.

Courtney Maum is the author of five books, including the groundbreaking publishing guide that *Vanity Fair* recently named one of the ten best books for writers, *Before and After the Book Deal*, and the memoir *The Year of the Horses*, chosen by the *TODAY Show* as the best read for mental health awareness.

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"A grand slam of a memoir . . . *Also a Poet* is packaged as a love triangle: father, daughter and O'Hara. It's actually a tetrahedron from which all kinds of creative characters pop forth. It's a big valentine to New York City past and present, and a contribution to literary scholarship, molten with soul."

— *New York Times Book Review*

"This revealing and clearly heartfelt memoir—a love letter to her father that doesn't obscure the difficult and frustrating aspects of their relationship—works precisely because Gilman delivers a detailed portrait of her father, proverbial warts and all . . . She certainly provides the rest of us with a daughter's thoughtful and empathetic profile of her dad."

— Daneet Steffens, *Boston Globe*

"Gorgeously written, wry but loving, heartbreaking and, most of all, roving . . . *The Year of the Horses* is a memoir of power and beauty."

—Lisa Taddeo, author of *Animal*



## The Brendan Gill Lecture

Susanna Moore, author of *The Lost Wife: A Novel*

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A highly anticipated novel by one of our most compelling and sensual writers brings to life a devastating Native American revolt and the woman caught in the middle of the conflict. This is about a seminal and shameful moment in America's conquest of the West.

In 1854 Sarah Brown left her home in Rhode Island and found her way to Minnesota. In 1856 she married Dr. John Wakefield. Originally from Winsted, CT, and armed with a medical degree from Yale, Dr. Wakefield worked as a physician in the Upper Sioux Agency in the Shakopee, now a suburb of Minneapolis–St. Paul. When the short-lived Dakota War broke out in 1862, Sarah tried to flee to safety with her two children but was captured by the Sioux and held for some six weeks. In a trial that followed on the cessation of hostilities, Wakefield testified on behalf of her captor. Although his sentence was commuted, he was hung along with 37 others in December of that year, and in 1864 Wakefield published her own account, *Six Weeks in the Sioux Teepees: A Narrative of Indian Captivity*.

Friday, September 29th • 6:00 PM

In *The Lost Wife* Susanna Moore draws on both her own research and her imagination to retell Sarah's story from the moment she leaves her first husband and child in Rhode Island through the end of 1862, breaking off with Chaska's hanging even as first word of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation reaches Shakopee. Through the voice and story of Sarah Brinton, Moore gives us a hard-eyed and intimate view of the American West, at once disillusioned and nerved with moral clarity.

With a dozen books to her credit, Susanna Moore is widely considered one of America's most important and distinctive writers, noted both for her stunning prose and for her unflinching gaze. Her first novel, *My Old Sweetheart* (1982), was nominated for the PEN/Hemingway Award and won the Prize for First Fiction from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her controversial 1995 novel *In the Cut* was made into an equally controversial film, now widely recognized as a masterpiece, by the director Jane Campion.

*Open reception to follow at Manor House Inn on Maple Avenue*

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"In her searing new novel, *The Lost Wife* . . . [Susanna Moore] writes of the past with quiet insight through the eyes of women who . . . frequently move from a form of innocence to some collision with history . . . As in all Moore's writing, the details are tartly precise. So are her striking observations, offered without sentimentality or fanfare . . . [a] beautifully crafted novel . . . Moore is a strong and inventive writer."

— *The New York Review of Books*



## On the Use and Abuse of Religion for Life

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Elizabeth Bucar, author of *Stealing My Religion: Not Just Any Cultural Appropriation*, and Bob Smietana, author of *Reorganized Religion: The Reshaping of the American Church and Why It Matters*, talk about religious appropriation and what it means in our lives.

Although many of us are members of one or another community of faith, our society is as a whole explicitly secular, and elements of numerous faiths move increasingly easily across and beyond such communities: Christian churches sponsor yoga classes and drum circles, Tibetan flags enter into domestic spaces as decoration or political signs, and tourists of all faiths walk Catholic pilgrimage trails in the Pyrenees. We may complain about the “commercialization” of Christmas, but we live comfortably with it as a national and not merely Christian celebration. What is—and what should be—our relation to such practices?

**Saturday, September 30th • 10:30 AM**

Liz Bucar is a leading expert in religious ethics. She is the author of four books, including her most recent, *Stealing My Religion: Not Just Any Cultural Appropriation*, and the award-winning *Pious Fashion: How Muslim Women Dress*. At Northeastern University, Bucar teaches courses on sexual ethics, Islam, and cultural appropriation and directs the popular comparative religion program in Spain that includes a 150-mile hike on the Camino. Her public scholarship has appeared in *The Atlantic*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Teen Vogue*.

Bob Smietana is an award-winning religion reporter and editor who has spent two decades producing breaking news, data journalism, investigative reporting, profiles, and features for magazines, newspapers, trade publications, and websites. Most notably, he has served as a senior writer for *Facts & Trends*, senior editor of *Christianity Today*, religion writer at *The Tennessean*, correspondent for Religion News Service, and contributor to OnFaith, *USA TODAY*, and the *Washington Post*.

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*“Stealing My Religion* not only deftly grapples with fascinating case studies to name and center the ethical challenges of religious appropriation, but also models how to use this knowledge to reassess our relationship to practices of religious appropriation that we all collude with in various ways. The book also invites us to pause to (re)assess our participation in these complicated spheres of praxis—as educators and scholars, or just everyday folks—and ultimately our responsibilities to the communities we have harmed along the way.”

— Shobhana Xavier, *Reading Religion*

“Telling rich stories about people and communities across a vast religious spectrum, Smietana delivers his insights on reimagining American Christianity and organized religion more broadly.”

— *Library Journal*





## Inspired by the Legacy of Anne Garrels: A Conversation about Covering Conflict

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Two of America's leading journalists, George Packer, most recently the author of *Last Best Hope: America in Crisis and Renewal*, and Elizabeth Becker, author of *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*, explore life at the frontline and how the coverage of war has changed.

From the frontlines of Ukraine to the culture wars exploding across the United States, conflict is everywhere. Packer and Becker will talk about how the coverage of war has shaped their reporting on conflict more generally and what lessons can be applied in thinking about polarization and divisions in every society. The conversation is inspired by the reporting legacy of Anne Garrels, Norfolk resident and NPR correspondent, who died one year ago. Annie, a friend and colleague of both Packer and Becker, covered the collapse of the Soviet Union, the wars in Central America, and combat in the Middle East, always keeping her focus on the civilians caught in the crossfire of global conflict.

**Saturday, September 30th • 1:00 PM**

George Packer is a staff writer at *The Atlantic* and the author of 10 books, including *The Unwinding: An Inner History of the New America* (a winner of the 2013 National Book Award); *Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century* (the winner of the 2019 Hitchens Prize and *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize); and, most recently, *Last Best Hope: America in Crisis and Renewal*. Before joining *The Atlantic* in 2018, he was a staff writer at *The New Yorker* for 15 years. He writes about American politics and culture and U.S. foreign policy.

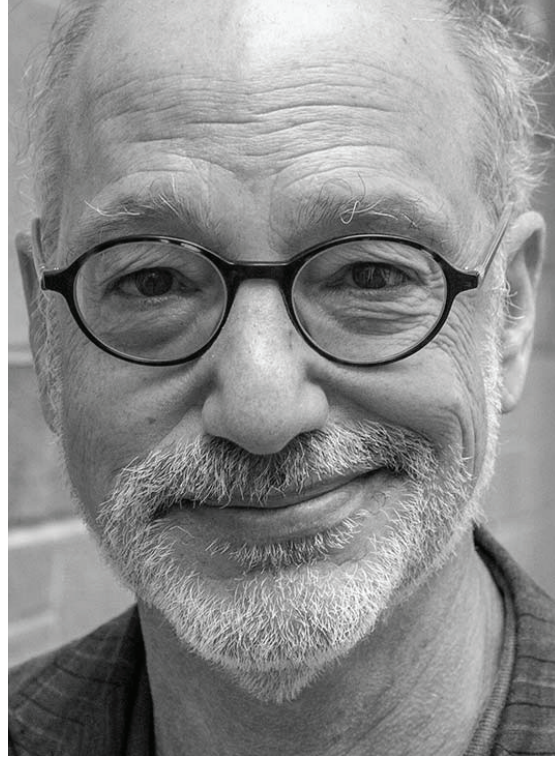
Elizabeth Becker is an award-winning journalist and author, most recently of *You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War*, which won the 2022 Sperber Book Prize and Harvard's Goldsmith Book Prize. Her history *When the War Was Over: Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge* has been in print since 1986 and is now a classic. Becker covered international affairs for over four decades, as a war correspondent in Cambodia for the *Washington Post*, as Senior Foreign Editor at National Public Radio, and as a *New York Times* correspondent.

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### **Anne Garrels (1951–2022)**

For almost 25 years Anne Garrels traveled the world as a senior foreign correspondent for NPR, covering conflicts in Chechnya, Afghanistan, the former Yugoslavia, Palestine, and Pakistan among others. She is the author of *Naked in Baghdad: The Iraq War and the Aftermath as Seen by NPR's Correspondent*, and *Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia*.





## Liberalism and Resentment: Political Ideas and Emotions

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Two distinguished historians explore connections between past and present, with particular attention to elements of contemporary political culture. Samuel Moyn's *Liberalism Against Itself: Cold War Intellectuals and the Making of Our Times* examines six lives in a crucial period of twentieth-century liberalism and their problematic legacy. Robert Schneider's *The Return of Resentment: The Rise and Decline and Rise Again of a Political Emotion* reveals the surprising history of a term (and phenomenon) that plays a crucial role in contemporary politics.

For Moyn, the works of Judith Shklar, Isaiah Berlin, Karl Popper, Gertrude Himmelfarb, Hannah Arendt, and Lionel Trilling represented a moment in intellectual history that had unfortunate consequences in subsequent decades right down to the present. Schneider shows that an idea that is often associated with Nietzsche and comes all too easily to hand for analyzing contemporary politics in the United States turns out to have much older roots and unexpected meanings. In their conversation, Moyn and Schneider

## Saturday, September 30th • 3:00 PM

will explore the power of the past over the present but also ways in which we might better face contemporary predicaments.

Samuel Moyn is Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and History at Yale University. Among his books are *Origins of the Other: Emmanuel Levinas Between Revelation and Ethics*, *A Holocaust Controversy: The Treblinka Affair in Postwar France*, *The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History*, *Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World*, and *Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War*.

Robert Schneider is Professor of History at Indiana University and Visiting Scholar in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. He was also editor of the *American Historical Review*. Among his books are *Public Life in Toulouse, 1463–1789: From Municipal Republic to Cosmopolitan City*, *The Ceremonial City: Toulouse Observed, 1738–1780*, and *Dignified Retreat: Writers and Intellectuals in the Age of Richelieu*.

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“Skeptical of received wisdom and over-burnished reputations, *Liberalism Against Itself* is a continuously bracing and necessary exercise in intellectual iconoclasm. It not only rescues a distinguished Western tradition from its skittish cold-war exponents and bellicose neo-conservative exegetes; it also alerts us to the many political and intellectual possibilities still open to us.”

— Pankaj Mishra, author of *Age of Anger: A History of the Present*

“A wonderfully creative book, *The Return of Resentment* takes an emotion that seems entirely of our amnesiac moment in politics and culture and demonstrates that this emotion has a rich and controversial history. Schneider moves deftly between act and idea. He shows us why resentment is so prevalent today, while illustrating what resentment is and how it works. This book is a guide to the past and an intellectual road map for the future.”

— Michael C. Kimmage, author of *The Abandonment of the West: The History of an Idea in American Foreign Policy*



## Birding Through Great Mountain Forest\*

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Have your binoculars ready for a morning walk with Eileen Fielding, director of the Sharon Audubon Center, to look for migrating species. Fall brings both songbirds and raptors through New England, especially on the heels of a cold front, though it's hard to predict what you'll see on any one day. Even if the birds are scarce, Eileen has a wealth of knowledge to impart about the various habitats the walk will include, and the residents and migrants drawn to them.

The precise timing of fall bird migration is dependent on wind and weather conditions so we never know what we will see besides our all-year-rounders. Whatever is flying by, Eileen will share insights about habitat preferences, nesting behavior, migratory patterns and more from her many years of experience.

## Sunday, October 1st • 8:00 AM

As a longtime resident of New England, Eileen Fielding has both a personal attachment and a passion for the wildlife, landscape, and conservation of our region. She holds both an MS and PhD in ecology from the University of Connecticut, as well as a BS in natural resources from the University of Massachusetts, and has spent more than 20 years working with nonprofits. Eileen joined the center staff in 2018.

The walk will be along habitat created to support wildlife diversity in Great Mountain Forest. Comprising over 6,000 acres, GMF supports sustainable forestry operations, research projects, a summer intern program as well as many miles of trails open to the public. For more information go to [www.greatmountainforest.org](http://www.greatmountainforest.org).

**\*Meet at Mountain House, 200 Canaan Mountain Road, Falls Village CT**

**Park only in the area to the left of the barn or along the road, north of the West Gate**

**Registration required – Limited to 20 participants**





## Traveling Through History in Contemporary America

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Neil King Jr., author of *American Ramble: A Walk of Memory and Renewal*, and Rinker Buck, author of *Life on the Mississippi: An Epic American Adventure*, take you on literary journeys—both on foot and afloat through historical America and what it represents today.

Neil King Jr.'s desire to walk from Washington, DC, to New York City began as a whim and soon became an obsession. Rinker Buck had the same obsession when he traveled the Oregon Trail in a covered wagon and then built a flatboat named *Patience* to navigate the mighty Mississippi River. Both speak of the people they meet, the tales they hear and the sense of connection with the ever-changing landscape. Their different paths lead to similar revelations about the vastness of the United States, the richness of its history, and the transformative power of embracing the unknown through travel.

Sunday, October 1st • 11:00 AM

Neil King Jr. is a former national political reporter and editor for the *Wall Street Journal*. He was deeply involved in the 9/11 coverage that won the *Journal* the Pulitzer Prize. He has also written for the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, and other publications. *American Ramble* is his first book.

Rinker Buck began his career in journalism at the *Berkshire Eagle* and was a longtime staff writer for the *Hartford Courant*. He has written for *Vanity Fair*, *New York*, *Life*, and many other publications, and his work has won the PEN New England Award, the Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Writing Award, and the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award. He is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Oregon Trail*, *Flight of Passage*, and *First Job*.

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"This is a near perfect book, an exquisitely seen and felt memoir of an American journey; it's not just a geographic journey, full of keen observations and thoughtful insights, but a spiritual one, finding in our complex and sometimes contradictory landscape a mirror in which King's own inner life awakens as he wanders. Amazing."

— Ken Burns

"Audacious . . . Compelling . . . An antidote to the cynicism of the times . . . *Life on the Mississippi* sparkles. . . . His prose, like the river itself, has turns that quicken the pulse."

— *Wall Street Journal*



## How the Changing Landscape Touches Us All—Humans and Nonhumans Alike

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*Alfie and Me: What Owls Know, What Humans Believe* is a moving account of raising, then freeing, an orphaned screech owl whose lasting friendship with the author illuminates humanity's relationship with the world.

Carl Safina's lyrical nonfiction writing explores how humans are changing the living world, and what the changes mean for nonhuman beings and for us all. His work fuses scientific understanding, emotional connection, and a moral call to action.

Through an accident of nature, Carl Safina and his wife, Patricia, had the chance to form an extraordinary bond with an injured baby screech owl they christened Alfie. As she matured, she welcomed them to her elusive world, allowing them to witness remarkable strategies for survival, mating, and parenthood. This intimate glimpse amplified Safina's awareness of how humans are altering and endangering the living world and drove home the weight of responsibility that rests on humanity's shoulders to preserve and sustain that world for all its inhabitants.



**Sunday, October 1st • 1:30 PM**

Carl Safina grew up raising pigeons, training hawks and owls, and spending as many days and nights in the woods and on the water as he could. He is now the first Endowed Professor for Nature and Humanity at Stony Brook University and is founding president of the Safina Center. He hosted the PBS series *Saving the Ocean*, and his writing appears in the *New York Times*, *TIME*, the *Guardian*, *Audubon*, *Yale e360*, and *National Geographic*, and on the Web at Huffington Post, CNN.com, Medium, and elsewhere. Safina is the author of ten books, including the classic *Song for the Blue Ocean*, as well as *New York Times* best seller *Beyond Words: What Animals Think and Feel* and *Becoming Wild: How Animal Cultures Raise Families, Create Beauty, and Achieve Peace*

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“Carl Safina has written a book of great wisdom and beauty, full of drama and insight. How right to choose an owl, symbol of learning, to help us see anew the twinned truths of compassion and connection—gifts our kind desperately needs to keep our world alive.”

—Sy Montgomery, author of *The Soul of an Octopus: A Surprising Exploration into the Wonder of Consciousness*

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