

Presenter Bio's Young Writers Oct. 2021



Susan Stevens Chambers has been a family lawyer for over 41 years and now has an Alternative Dispute Resolution practice in Southern Minnesota. She has written the book "Good Thunder, Blue Earth, which was produced as a reader's theater presentation and is currently being considered for another. Her manuscript "Family Law" received an Honorable Mention, and she is in numerous anthologies. She has served as a Poet in Schools in Minnesota, Texas, Utah, and Iowa. Susan has presented poetry classes at University's in Utah and Minnesota. She has presented poetry writing workshops, poetry talks, poetry critiques session, performance poetry and talks on copyright/publishing contracts in Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin. For over 17 years she has been an annual presenter for Young Writer's conferences (Third grade through high school) in separate regions of Minnesota.

Jennifer L. Davidson is a Rochester author and owner of Rochester Writing Lab. She is a freelance writer and youth creative writing instructor. She enjoys writing, reading, and sharing all she has learned about being creative with students young and old. www.jenniferldavidsonwriter.com

El Holly enjoys writing about a lot of things, but her heart is taken by the fantasy genre. Her fantasy adventure series, Phantasmic Wars, has been described by readers as "completely unique" and "very imaginative." When she isn't writing, she reads, teaches, drinks coffee, and goes on adventures with her family. She lives in Minnesota with her husband, their two kids, and her favorite fluffball, Mack. www.elhollywrites.com

John Lauritsen is a native of Milan/Montevideo, MN and graduate from Montevideo Senior High School. He has a Master's degree from Saint Cloud State. His reporting career began in 2001 and he has been at WCCO-TV for the past 14 years. John loves featuring rural Minnesota and exploring the great state we all live in! www.wcco.com

Lacey Louwagie has successfully completed National Novel Writing Month seven times. She is a freelance writer and editor and author of "Rumpled," a retelling of Rumpelstiltskin. She lives in South Dakota with her two young sons, husband, cat, and hundreds of books. www.laceylouwagie.com

Author, speaker & photographer, **Terri DeGezelle Michels** is an active bicyclist, aspiring chef, and Nana. Terri has published more than 60 children's non-fiction titles, as well as her first picture book Simon of Cyrene, the Legend of the Easter Egg. Terri shares her writing experiences during school visits where she encourages students to read, write, be kind and follow their dreams. www.terrimichels.com/

Chris Olson is an elementary principal who loves to hear and share stories with students and former middle school language arts teacher for 16 years. He enjoys sharing slightly exaggerated stories of his past with students. He loves to teach writing and someday hopes to publish an anthology of his stories.

Patrick Ryan is a freelance writer living in Mankato MN. He has authored over thirty nonfiction books. He has also written fiction and his most recent young adult book is “I Didn’t Put Honey in the Soap Dispenser”. Mr. Ryan is married to a violist, and he has two adult children. His next project is an Adult Novel to accompany the young adult book.

Ozgur K. Sahin is an **award-winning** Minnesota author of “The Brethren of the Spanish Main” series of historical privateer novels. They are available now in hardcover and eBook formats. www.ozgurksahin.com

Melanie Schmidt is the Youth Development Program Coordinator for Mankato Area Public Schools Community Education & Recreation Department. She has spent the past 25 years of her career life organizing youth opportunities, coaching and connecting community organizations to build capacity for youth from elementary through senior high.

Kate St. Vincent Vogl is the author of “Lost & Found: A Memoir of Mothers”. National ABC news has featured her story, and The Akron Beacon Journal named it among the best of the year. Her essays appear in the best-selling anthologies “Listen to Your Mother” and “Why We Ride”. Vogl has received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant for her latest work, as well as a residency at the Anderson Center. She graduated from Cornell University cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School, and from the Creative Writing Program at Hamline. She teaches creative writing to students of all ages at the Loft Literary Center. www.katevogl.com

Aaron Ziemer is currently the Sales Manager at Marshall Radio. He grew up in Paynesville, Minnesota and attended Southwest Minnesota State graduating with a BS in Speech Communication/Radio Television in May 2001. Aaron has spent 20 years at Marshall Radio, including 17 years as News Director. Most recently he has transitioned into Advertising, where he spent the last two years before being promoted to manager. www.marshallradio.net