

# "MEET THE AUTHORS" BIO'S

## Chloe Benjamin

Website: [www.chloebenjaminbooks.com](http://www.chloebenjaminbooks.com)

Chloe is a graduate of Vassar College and has a M.F.A in fiction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She teaches workshops on the business of publishing—from writing a novel to finding a literary agent. Chloe also writes book reviews for national magazines. She lives in Madison, WI with her husband.

Her first novel, *The Anatomy of Dreams*, received the Edna Ferber Fiction Book Award, and was long listed for the Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize. Her second novel, *The Immortalists*, will be published in January 2018 in over 12 countries. The Jackal Group under the direction of Gail Berman is currently developing it for TV.



## Cathy Breitenbucher

Website: [www.mytwoelaines.com](http://www.mytwoelaines.com)

Cathy Breitenbucher spent 10 years as a sports writer at the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, and has written two books about speed skating. She has been a freelance writer since 1992, and has focused on medical writing for about 10 years.

Cathy is the co-author along with former Gov. Martin J. Schreiber of *My Two Elaines : Learning, Coping, and Surviving as an Alzheimer's Caregiver*. The book is in its second printing, and is winning acclaim throughout Wisconsin and beyond.



## Liz Czukas

Website: [www.lizczukas.com](http://www.lizczukas.com)

Liz Czukas is the author of fun, contemporary fiction for teens, like *Top Ten Clues You're Clueless*, Liz is also known as Ellie Cahill, author of romantic comedies for adults, like *Call Me, Maybe and I Temporarily Do*.

Liz is a native of Milwaukee, WI and currently lives in Brookfield with her family and her dogs. You can find out more about Liz at her website and all over social media.



## Christine DeSmet

Website: [www.christinedesmet.com](http://www.christinedesmet.com)

Christine is the author of the Fudge Shop Mystery Series (Penguin/Random House) and Mischief in Moonstone novella series, as well as a romantic suspense novel, *Spirit Lake*, all which are set in Wisconsin.

She is a UW-Madison Continuing Studies writing teacher of online courses and teaches retreat Master Classes. She specializes in one-on-one coaching and critiquing in all genres of novels and short stories.

She has won national awards for both screenplays and novel manuscripts. Her screenplays have optioned to New Line Cinema and others; she has screenplays currently with producers in Los Angeles and Madison.



## Kathy Flanigan

Websites: [www.wisconsinbeerbook.com](http://www.wisconsinbeerbook.com), [www.jsonline.com/beernear](http://www.jsonline.com/beernear)

Kathy Flanigan writes about the culture of craft beer for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. She has spent weekends and vacation time visiting more than 100 breweries in Wisconsin for her day job and her book, *Beer Lover's Wisconsin: Best Breweries, Brewpubs & Beer Bars*.



## Jim Higgins

Website: [www.jimhigginswi.com](http://www.jimhigginswi.com)

Jim Higgins writes and edits stories about books, the performing arts, and other subjects for *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, where he has been a reporter since 1983. Higgins is a two-time winner of an award voted by the *Sentinel* staff for humor writing.

He also was part of the *Sentinel* writing team that won the Association of Food Journalists 2004 Award for special projects for a series on obesity. He is a graduate of Marquette University.

Jim is the author of *Wisconsin Literary Luminaries: From Laura Ingalls Wilder to Ayad Akhtar*, which pays tribute to the excellence of Wisconsin writers.



## Paul Hoffman

Website: [www.paulhoffmanauthor.com](http://www.paulhoffmanauthor.com)

Wisconsin native Paul J. Hoffman is a career journalist and author of two nonfiction books. He worked as a sports writer at the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, and currently is a special publications editor at the *Daily Journal* in Franklin, Indiana.

His is first book, *Murder in Wauwatosa: The Mysterious Death of Buddy Schumacher*, was published in 2012 by The History Press. It is the story of the disappearance of an 8-year-old boy in 1925 and the subsequent investigation into the boy's murder. *Wicked Columbus, Indiana*, his second book, published in June 2017 by the same publisher, tells the true tales of some of that city's more salacious stories.

Paul was born in Madison, Wisconsin, raised in Wauwatosa and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. His parents now live in Brookfield, and he and his family reside in Indiana.



## David Krugler

Website: [www.davidkrugler.com](http://www.davidkrugler.com)

David Krugler grew up in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. After graduating with degrees in English and history from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, he earned a M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

His works of nonfiction include books on government propaganda, Cold War civil defense, and racial conflict in the United States. He is a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he has taught since 1997. His historical interest in communist espionage during World War II inspired him to write the novel, *The Dead Don't Bleed*.



## Melanie Radzicki McManus

Website: [www.melaniemcmanus.com](http://www.melaniemcmanus.com)

Melanie Radzicki McManus graduated from St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI. She has worked as a news reporter at a Green Bay radio station, as a press secretary at the Wisconsin State Capitol, and as editor of two local publications. Since 1994, McManus has worked as a freelance writer and editor, specializing in travel and fitness. She has won numerous awards for her writing, most notably the prestigious Lowell Thomas Gold and Grand Awards for her travel journalism.

Melanie has thru-hiked the Ice Age Trail, the Florida National Scenic Trail and the New England National Scenic Trail. She has also biked the Natchez Trace National Parkway. Her latest passion is exploring America's 11 National Scenic Trails. Her first book, *Thousand-Miler*, is a memoir about her record-setting hike of the Ice Age Trail.



## Marjorie Pagel

Website: <https://MeetMeAtTheCorner.blog>

Marjorie has taught writing and other English classes at Concordia University. She holds a Master's degree in English from UW-M. For many years she was a staff writer for a weekly Milwaukee suburban newspaper. She and her husband reside in Franklin, WI.

Marjorie is a member of a writing community known as RedOak Writers. She has published many articles, stories and poems; five of her one-act plays have been produced by Village Playhouse, West Allis. She recently published *The Romance of Anna Smith and Other Stories*. In this collection of twelve original short stories, she draws on memory and her imagination to create memorable characters and narratives for the reader.



## Jeanne Styczinski

Website: [www.mrsjeanne.com](http://www.mrsjeanne.com)

During Jeanne's 30-year career as a kindergarten teacher, she could see the important role that picture books played in the lives of students. They helped the children develop their literacy skills and a love of reading. In 2013, she fulfilled her life-long dream to write and illustrate picture books.

She has written and published three picture books, two which have won the Moonbeam Children's Book Award. Her third book, *Who Will Be My Friend?*, was published in July of 2017.



## Marion Youngquist

Marion was born and raised in Salem, Oregon. She edited both the yearbook and newspaper in high school and at Midland Lutheran College in Nebraska. Marion worked as a reporter/feature writer for *The Fremont Guide and Tribune*, *The Oregon Statesman*, and the *Wauwatosa Post*.

She married the Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church. After raising four children, Marion returned to writing and editing for church publications.

As a prize-winning poet, Youngquist is a member of The Academy of American Poets, The New York Dramatist Guild, Council for Wisconsin Writers, Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, and Tuesday Morning Poets - Milwaukee.

Her novels can be purchased on Amazon: *Procula*, *Maple Tree Tales*, *String of Pearls*, and *Christmas Presence*.

