

MEET THE AUTHORS



KB BALLENTINE

Poet KB Ballentine earned an MA in Writing from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and an MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Her most recent book, *Spirit of Wild*, was published in 2023, and her ninth collection, *All the Way Through*, will be released in October. She lives at the base of the Appalachian Mountains in Tennessee. kballentine.com



ROBERT BEATTY

Robert Beatty is an author, inventor, and entrepreneur who lives in Asheville, NC, with his wife and three daughters. Set in the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains, his *Serafina* and *Willa of the Wood* series tell the stories of brave, young, talented girls that Robert wrote with his own daughters in mind. His next book, *Sylvia Doe and the 100-Year Flood*, will be published in October 2024. robertbeattybooks.com



MEAGAN CHURCH

Meagan Church is the author of *The Girls We Sent Away* and *The Last Carolina Girl*. After receiving a BA in English from Indiana University, Meagan built a career as a freelance writer. She helps authors tell their own stories through book coaching and editing. A Midwesterner by birth, she now lives in North Carolina with her high school sweetheart, three children and a plethora of pets. meaganchurch.com



MARTIN CLARK

The author of a half dozen fast-paced legal thrillers, Martin Clark is a retired circuit court judge who graduated from Davidson College and attended the University of Virginia School of Law. His latest novel, *The Plinko Bounce*, tells the story of a lawyer who puts himself in peril to defend a confessed murderer. He and his wife, Deana, live on a farm with dogs, cats, chickens, and donkeys. martinclark.com



ABIGAIL CUTTER

After earning her MFA from George Washington University, Abigail Cutter turned her attention from art and printmaking to American history and writing. Inspired by the ghost that shares her 18th century farmhouse, *The Last of What I Am* tells the story of a deceased Confederate soldier still troubled by his role in the war. Abigail lives with her husband in that farmhouse in the Shenandoah Valley and in Waterford,

Virginia. abigailcutter.com



MONIC DUCTAN

Born and raised in Georgia, Monic Ductan earned degrees in English and creative writing from Georgia State University (BA), Georgia College (MFA), and the University of Southern Mississippi (PhD). Monic's collection of short stories, *Daughters of Muscadine*, focuses on working-class Black women, estrangement, and family life in rural Georgia. She lives in central Tennessee, where she is an associate professor at Tennessee Tech University and is at work on her first novel. monicductan.com



GEORGANN EUBANKS

Always a Festival favorite, Georgann Eubanks most recently served as editor for *Paul Green: North Carolina Writers on the Legacy of the State's Most Celebrated Playwright*, an anthology celebrating the work of North Carolina's most distinguished playwright of the 20th century. She also serves as the literary executor and director of the Paul Green Foundation. Georgann divides her time between the Piedmont and Blue Ridge

Mountains of North Carolina. georganneubanks.net



DENTON LOVING

Denton Loving is the author of the poetry collections *Crimes Against Birds* and *Tamp*. He is a co-founder and editor at EastOver Press and its literary journal, *Cutleaf*. For over a decade, he co-directed the Mountain Heritage Literary Festival at Lincoln Memorial University. Denton earned his MFA from Bennington College in Vermont and often sets his poetry in southern Appalachia. He lives on a farm near the Cumberland Gap. dentonloving.com



RYAN MCGEE

Ryan McGee is a senior writer for ESPN and co-host of Marty & McGee on ESPN radio and the SEC network. McGee has authored several books, including *Welcome to the Circus of Baseball* and co-writing *Racing to the Finish* with NASCAR superstar Dale Earnhardt, Jr. He also works as a field reporter for ESPN's SportsCenter and as a feature reporter for E:60. McGee lives in North Carolina with his family. [X/Instagram/Facebook: @espnmcgee](https://www.instagram.com/espnmcgee)



JIM MINICK

Serving as the 2024 Appalachian Writer in Residence, Jim Minick explores the places and people of Appalachia in poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Among the eight books he has authored or edited are *Without Warning: The Tornado of Udall, Kansas*; *The Intimacy of Spoons*; *Fire is Your Water*; and *The Blueberry Years: A Memoir of Farm and Family*. Jim serves as co-editor of *Pine Mountain Sand & Gravel Literary Journal*. He lives in southwest Virginia. jim-minick.com



MEREDITH RITCHIE

Meredith Ritchie is the debut author of *Poster Girls*. Set in North Carolina during WWII, the novel is based on true but nearly forgotten events that happened in her hometown. When her triplets left for college, Meredith wrote *Poster Girls* as a cure for acute empty nest syndrome. She lives in Charlotte with her husband, two cats, and four chickens, as well as a few grown adults who occasionally return to her cozy coop. meredithritchie.com



KATHERINE SNOW SMITH

Raleigh native Katherine Snow Smith has lived throughout the south, spending most of her career at the esteemed Tampa Bay Times. She earned her degree in journalism from UNC-Chapel Hill and is now getting her master's at her alma mater so she can teach another generation of college students. Katherine, who has three 20-something children, divides her time between Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and St. Petersburg, Florida. katherinesnowsmith.com



TOMMY TOMLINSON

Tommy Tomlinson is the author of *Dogland: Passion, Glory, and Lots of Slobber at the Westminster Dog Show* and *The Elephant in the Room*, a memoir about being overweight in America. He is also the host of the podcast *SouthBound* and author of a newsletter, *The Writing Shed*. Tommy wrote for The Charlotte Observer for twenty-three years. He and his wife, Alix Felsing, live in Charlotte, North Carolina, with Alix's mom and a cat. tommytomlinson.com



Ashe County's Literary Festival

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2024

A CELEBRATION OF READING

Ashe County's 15th annual On the Same Page Literary Festival will highlight twelve authors with a week featuring readings, workshops, and special events.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All Festival events are open to the public. Most are free. Some require reservations and/or tickets due to limited capacity. There is a \$12 charge for the Literary Trails Luncheon. Please call the Ashe County Arts Council at 336-846-2787 for tickets, reservations, and details, or visit us online at OnTheSamePageFestival.org. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early as events will begin promptly.

All events take place downstairs in the Community Room of the Ashe County Public Library, 148 Library Road in West Jefferson, unless otherwise noted in the description.

WORKSHOPS & CRAFT TALKS

Please note all workshops are free and open to the public, but registration is required in advance due to space. Register online at OnTheSamePageFestival.org

Writing Poems about Place, A Poetry Workshop with Denton Loving

Wednesday, September 18, 8:30 am – 10:30 am
The poet Maurice Manning tells us that place-poetry is not limited to any certain geography or natural setting. Every place is a place! Using various model poems, we'll dive into three of the most common ways writers create a sense of place in poetry.

Using Other People's Stories to Make Art, A Craft Talk with Jim Minick

Wednesday, September 18, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
While it might sound easy, you can't just use someone else's story, at least not without risks. We will explore the how's, why's, and hazards, and offer some advice and discussion.

Creating Compelling Characters, A Fiction Workshop with Meagan Church

Thursday, September 19, 8:30 am – 10:30 am
This workshop will focus on how to write empathetic and compelling characters that will hold the reader's attention and engage a contemporary audience.

Playing with Time, A Craft Talk with Jim Minick

Thursday, September 19, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Every time we write, we play with time, often without realizing it. So, how? In this session we'll explore the diverse ways writers manipulate time on the page.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM: Reading with Katherine Snow Smith

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM: Reading with Abigail Cutter

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM: Reading with Ryan McGee

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM: Page Turners Donor Reception, By Invitation Only, RSVP Required, Location: Ashe Arts Center

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Workshop with Denton Loving, Registration Required

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM: Reading with Martin Clark

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM: Reading with Denton Loving

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM: Reading with Meredith Ritchie

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Craft Talk with Jim Minick, Registration Required

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Workshop with Meagan Church, Registration Required

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM: Reading with Jim Minick

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM: Reading with Meagan Church

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM: Reading with Tommy Tomlinson

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Craft Talk with Jim Minick, Registration Required

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM: Reading with KB Ballentine

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM: Reading with Monic Ductan

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Literary Trails Luncheon with Georgann Eubanks, Registration Required, \$12 Fee for Lunch

In addition to these events, the On the Same Page Literary Festival includes outreach programs in Ashe County's public schools. More information about these events can be found on the website.



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ASHE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

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