KAREN CARR - Karen has written and published three picture books and a cozy mystery-romance. Karen has called Mason City home since 1981 and retired from the hospital there after 33 years. She spends her retirement writing, going to book/craft shows, fishing, and enjoying her four grandchildren.

MATTHEW DAVENPORT - Matthew lives in Des Moines with his beautiful wife, Ren. He spends his time writing, reading, and working to promote and support writing communities in Iowa through his company Davenport Writes, LLC.

DIANE FANNON-LANGTON - Diane is a Cedar Rapids native who has worked for The Gazette for more than two-thirds of her life. She writes a weekly column, “Time Machine,” that focuses on area history.

ANN GARVIN - Ann is a USA Today Best Selling Author of I Like You Just Fine When You’re Not Around and two other books published by Penguin Random house. She runs the Tall Poppy Writers, a co-op designed to amplify the voices of women writers, and The Fifth Semester, a writing program for new writers.

DENNIS GREEN - Known primarily as a media personality, Dennis has added novelist to his resume. His first book, the sci-fi mystery Traveler, scored in the Top Ten in the 2014 Ben Franklin Independent Publishing Awards. He published a sequel, Prisoner, and is working on the final volume of the Traveler Trilogy, Hunter.

ANN GARVIN - Ann is a USA Today Best Selling Author of I Like You Just Fine When You’re Not Around and two other books published by Penguin Random house. She runs the Tall Poppy Writers, a co-op designed to amplify the voices of women writers, and The Fifth Semester, a writing program for new writers.

GAIL KITTLESON - Gail taught college writing and ESL, and facilitates writing workshops and women’s retreats. She and her husband enjoy family in northern Iowa, and Arizona in winter. She has written a memoir, Catching Up With Daylight, as well as historical fiction, In This Together and In Times Like These (coming Feb 2017).

TERESA LABELLA - Teresa has been fascinated with fiction since she learned to read. A career journalist, non-profit manager, and consultant, she has published a trio of contemporary romance novels and an e-book about life and love in rural Iowa. Teresa lives in Davenport with her husband John and three rescued Huskies.

WILL LENZEN JR. - Will has a deep passion for storytelling and has studied the craft for nearly 20 years. Along with a small library of screenplays, articles, and short stories, he has co-authored Destined, book one in the Blood Games Trilogy, with Jordan Pinckney. He is also Creative Director at Cycle Studios.

JORDAN PINCKNEY - Jordan lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife and baby boy. He spends a lot of time writing, watching movies, and reading to feed his passion for storytelling. He has co-authored Destined, book one in the Blood Games Trilogy, with Will Lenzen Jr., and hopes to start up some YA writing workshops in the near future.

LENNOX RANDON - Randon, a writer battling metastatic GIST cancer, is a native Texan. He has worked as a police officer, technical writer, and teacher. Randon is the author of Friends Dogs Bullets Lovers and Memoirs of a Dead White Chick.
9:00-10:15
Writing for Money or Fulfillment: Can You Do Both? Do You Need To?
with Dennis Green, Vicki Hughes, & Kelly Harms
OR
Character Development: How Do You Write Backstory?
with d.Nichole King, Will Lenzen Jr., Jordan Pinckney, & Melissa Tagg

10:30-11:45
Writer’s Block: What Do You Do When the Ideas Stop?
with Karen Carr, Teresa LaBella, & Lennox Randon
OR
Creative Nonfiction: The Complications & Compensations of Writing Nonfiction So It Reads Like Fiction
with Diane Fannon-Langton, Zachary Michael Jack, & Ann Garvin

11:45-12:15
Break to chat with authors, browse book sale tables

12:15-1:30
Lunch with the Authors

1:30-3:00
Self-Publish Without Spending Money
(MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED TO ATTEND) with Matthew Davenport
OR
Memoir: Creativity Unleashed!
(MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED TO ATTEND) with Gail Kittleson

Special thanks to our moderators:
Steve Semken, Mary Sharp, R’becca Groff, and John LaBella