

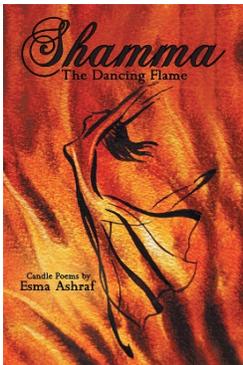
# Authors Panel! – October 26, 2019



Quincy Quill is an adorable baby bird eager to chirp and ready to fly. But things aren't happening as quickly as he would like. Will he learn to chirp? Is he ever going to be able to fly? This charming illustrated children's book by author Raquel Arrechea answers those questions, and teaches children the value of perseverance, as Quincy learns that everyone, even a baby bird, does things when the time is just right.

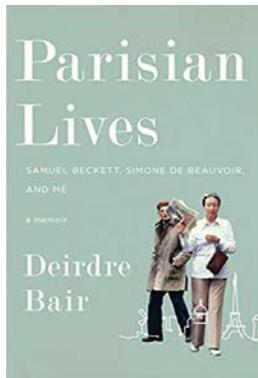
Written when she was nine years old, Arrechea brings her story, accompanied by the beautiful illustrations of Tanja Russita, about growing up and taking flight to children everywhere.

**Raquel Arrechea** grew up in West New York, NJ. At age nine she wrote her first story *The Bird That Couldn't Fly*. Raquel is a CPA and the Executive Director for the Individual Tax Practice at a nationwide CPA firm. She graduated from New York University from which she earned her Bachelor of Science in Accounting and holds both a Master of Science in Taxation and Certificate of Completion in Financial Planning from Fairleigh Dickinson University. In recognition of her business achievements, Raquel was named to the Fairleigh Dickinson University Silberman College of Business' '50 Under 50 List' of top alumni business leaders under the age of 50. She is also the recipient of the National Association of Cuban American Women's prestigious Elena Mederos Award. Raquel has been a long-time board member of the International Women's Writing Guild and gives back to the community through her contributions as an animal advocate and her volunteerism for the Colonel Potter Cairn Terrier Rescue Group. [www.raquelarrechea.com](http://www.raquelarrechea.com)



*“Shamma: The Dancing Flame*, is an interesting read. Shamma in Urdu means a “flickering flame” of a candle, while in Arabic it means “proud”. And, thus both these construal aptly apply to Esmat Ashraf’s book. The depth of emotion, and the variety of thoughts takes the reader through an interesting emotional voyage. The author talks about a myriad of thoughts, from a person in love, to exploring a “Parallel Universe”, to calling her lover “Ruthless Him!, to “In Love, I Melt”! This collection of poems is worth reading again and again while exploring the author’s thoughts, or narrator’s vision!” – Customer Review

**Esmat Ashraf** is a passionate writer, inspired by the power of words, where she finds freedom to live without any barriers. According to her; “When I am not writing, I am not breathing.” She became published for her poem, “Wish List” in Brown Girl Magazine. As a bilingual writer, her poetry has also been recognized in Urdu Language. <https://www.esmashraf.com/>



In *Parisian Lives: Samuel Beckett, Simone de Beauvoir, and Me: A Memoir*, Deirdre Bair draws on her extensive notes from the period, including never-before-told anecdotes and details that were considered impossible to publish at the time, *Parisian Lives* is full of personality and warmth and gives us an entirely new window on the all-too-human side of these legendary thinkers.

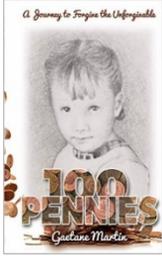
"In a candid and engrossing memoir, Bair creates unvarnished portraits of those two headstrong, demanding, and brilliant individuals as well as of her growth as a researcher, writer, and feminist... A rare, welcome look at the art and craft of biography." - Kirkus Review

**Deirdre Bair** received the National Book Award for *Samuel Beckett: A Biography*. Her biographies of Simone de Beauvoir and Carl Jung were finalists for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, and the Simone de Beauvoir biography was chosen by the New York Times as a Best Book of the Year. In her latest book, *Parisian Lives*, she explores her fifteen remarkable years in Paris with Samuel Beckett and Simone de Beauvoir, painting intimate new portraits of two literary giants and revealing secrets of the biographical art. [www.deirdrebaireauthor.com](http://www.deirdrebaireauthor.com)



In Kelly DuMar's *girl in tree bark*, the past, especially the life of the family of origin, acts as a kind of sap that provides nutrients for the photosynthesis that charges the poems. But the poems send their salubrious nourishment down to the past, which becomes transformed with the poem-making. The effect of the past on the present, and vice-versa, is not static; it is a reciprocally kinetic symbiosis, played out in fluent, daring narratives, in language keen with insight and liquid with sumptuous musicality. In almost every poem, a coupling of devastation and healing works a remarkable magic. — Tom Daley, author of *House You Cannot Reach*

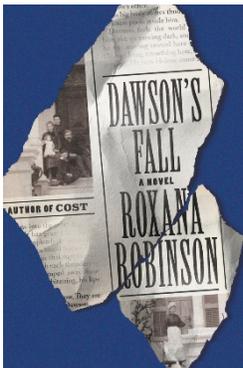
**Kelly DuMar** is a poet, playwright and workshop facilitator from the Boston area. She's author of three poetry collections: *girl in tree bark*, (*Nixes Mate*). *Tree of the Apple* (Two of Cups Press). and *All These Cures*, (Lit House Press). Kelly's writing and photos are published in *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Tiferet*, *Crab Fat* and more. She's on the board and faculty of the International Women's Writing Guild. You can read her daily blog, #NewThisDay, at [kellydumar.com/blog](http://kellydumar.com/blog)



*100 Pennies: A Journey to Forgive the Unforgivable* is Gaetane Martin's story, a story that is rooted in her childhood in rural Canada. Those roots held childhood hunger, incredible poverty, generational incest and an ever-present fear of violence from an alcoholic father. Those roots also held the seeds of the activist she became, of the woman no longer afraid to speak her truth, and shows how she found her way to the flowering of a healthy and happy life; how she was able to forgive the unforgivable and, in so doing, set herself free.

Author **Gaetane Martin** has been interviewed on local and national radio about her story and her work. She is the President of the local chapter of Toastmasters International, a Certified Life Coach, and Certified Feng Shui Practitioner. Her passion is speaking publicly about the issues of childhood sexual abuse, alcoholism and childhood hunger and poverty.

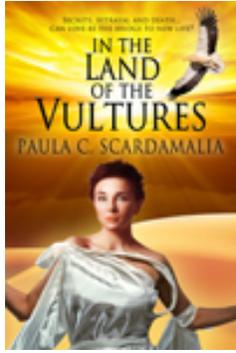
She has presented at hospitals and mental health conferences on the impact of the trauma of sexual abuse and how to work with children and teenage victims. Putting her experiences into action she also lobbied politicians on behalf of parents for Megan's Law, now a federal law requiring law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding registered sex offenders. [www.gaetanemartin.com](http://www.gaetanemartin.com)



In *Dawson's Fall*, a novel based on the lives of Roxana Robinson's great-grandparents, we see America at its most fragile, fraught, and malleable. Set in 1889, in Charleston, South Carolina, Robinson's tale weaves her family's journal entries and letters with a novelist's narrative grace, and spans the life of her tragic hero, Frank Dawson, as he attempts to navigate the country's new political, social, and moral landscape.

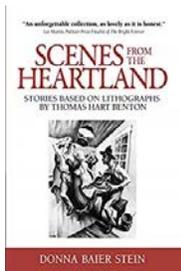
"Dawson's Fall asks what truth means in an era when conviction matters more, and Roxana Robinson's answer — that morality is friable — should make us sit up and tremble." --Katy Simpson Smith, *The New York Times* Book Review

**Roxana Robinson** is the author of *Dawson's Fall*. Her five previous novels include *Sparta* and *Cost*, three collections of short stories; and the biography *Georgia O'Keeffe: A Life*. Her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Vogue*, among other publications. She has received fellowships from the NEA and the Guggenheim Foundation. She was president of the Authors Guild from 2014 to 2017. She teaches in the Hunter MFA program at Hunter College and divides her time among New York, Connecticut, and Maine. [www.roxanarobinson.com](http://www.roxanarobinson.com)



Samara dreams of a man to love her and give her children. But while she serves as priestess to the goddess of death that will never happen. No man would dare to touch her. No one, that is, until she is rescued from the desert by a man who compels her to lie about what she is. For Darouk, as Maker for the realm of Nehmir, death is his enemy. He's lost too many of his family too soon, including his infant nephew. He'd rather give his care and attention to building roads and buildings that last. He won't risk loving and losing a wife and family. But in order to save the king, the queen, and their chance at happiness, both Samara and Darouk must honor death, then choose love.

**Paula Chaffee Scardamalia** is a book coach, dream and tarot intuitive and the author of fiction, *In the Land of the Vultures*, and nonfiction, *Tarot for the Fiction Writer*. For 20 years, Paula's presented workshops across the country at: national and regional Romance Writers of America conferences and meetings; the San Diego University Writers Conference; and the International Women's Writing Guild. Paula publishes Divine Muse-ings, a weekly e-newsletter (since 2009) on writing, creativity, dreams, and tarot. She was dream consultant for PEOPLE Country Magazine and is the award-winning author of *Weaving a Woman's Life: Spiritual Lessons from the Loom*. [www.diviningthemuse.com](http://www.diviningthemuse.com)



When a contemporary writer turns her imagination loose inside the images of an iconic artist of the past, the result is storytelling magic at its best. Here are nine tales that bring to vivid life the early decades of the 20th century as witnessed by one of America's most well-known painters. Thomas Hart Benton sketched fiddlers and farm wives, preachers and soldiers, folks gathering in dance halls and tent meetings. Though his lithographs depict the past, the real-life people he portrayed face issues that are front and center today: corruption, women's rights, racial inequality.

**Donna Baier Stein** is the author of *The Silver Baron's Wife* (PEN/New England Discovery Award, Bronze winner in Foreword Reviews 2017 Book of the Year Award, more), *Sympathetic People* (Iowa Fiction Award Finalist), *Sometimes You Sense the Difference*, *Letting Rain Have Its Say*, and *Scenes from the Heartland: Stories Based on Lithographs by Thomas Hart Benton*. She was a Founding Editor of *Bellevue Literary Review* and founded and publishes *Tiferet Journal*. She has received a Fellowship from the Johns Hopkins University Writing Seminars, a scholarship from Bread Loaf Writers conference, and other awards. Her work has been published in *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Florida Review*, *Confrontation*, *Gargoyle*, *Writer's Digest*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *New York Quarterly*, and many other journals and anthologies. [www.donnabaierstein.com](http://www.donnabaierstein.com)