

The English Reading Series — Winter 2022

Christian McKay Heidicker

January 14



Christian McKay Heidicker reads and writes and drinks tea. His cat, Lucifer Morningstar, keeps the demons out of his apartment, while his other cat, Rorschach, keeps dragging them back in. Christian is the author of the Newbery Honor-winning *Scary Stories for Young Foxes* and its companion *SSFYF: The City*, as well as the *Thieves of Weirdwood* trilogy, *Cure for the Common Universe*, and *Attack of the 50 Foot Wallflower*. He lives by a graveyard in Salt Lake City, Utah. Visit his spirit at cmheidicker.com. (Photo cred: Kay Patino)

Nicole Walker

February 18



Nicole Walker is the author of *Processed Meats: Essays on Food, Flesh and Navigating Disaster*, *The After-Normal: Brief, Alphabetical Essays on a Changing Planet*, *Sustainability: A Love Story*, *Where the Tiny Things Are*, *Egg*, *Micrograms*, *Quench Your Thirst with Salt*, and *This Noisy Egg*. She edits the *Crux* series at University of Georgia press, is nonfiction editor at *Diagram*, and teaches creative writing at Northern Arizona University.

Karan Mahajan

January 21



Karan Mahajan is the author of *Family Planning*, a finalist for the International Dylan Thomas Prize, and *The Association of Small Bombs*, which was shortlisted for the 2016 National Book Award, won the 2017 NYPL Young Lions Fiction Award, and was named one of the *New York Times* Book Review's "10 Best Books of 2016." In 2017, he was selected as one of *Granta's* Best Young American Novelists. His reporting and criticism have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker* Online, and other venues. He teaches at Brown University.

K. A. Hays

February 25



K.A. Hays' most recent book is *Anthropocene Lullaby* (February 2022, Carnegie Mellon). She is the author of three prior books of poetry: *Windthrow* (2017), *Early Creatures, Native Gods* (2012), and *Dear Apocalypse* (2009). Her poems appear widely in journals and have been selected for two editions of *Best American Poetry*. Born in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, she earned an MFA from Brown University. She teaches Creative Writing at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, and directs the Bucknell Seminar for Undergraduate Poets, a 3-week all-expenses paid summer writing retreat and conference for undergraduate poets from any university or college in the United States.

Jimmy Baca

January 28



Jimmy Baca is an American poet, memoirist, and screenwriter from New Mexico. While serving a five-year sentence in a maximum security prison, he learned to read and began to turn his life around, eventually emerging as a prolific artist of the spoken and written word.

Photo by Lonnie Anderson

Lance Larsen

March 4



Lance Larsen has published five poetry collections, most recently *What the Body Knows* (Tampa 2018). Former poet laureate of Utah, he has received a number of awards, including a Pushcart Prize, an NEA fellowship, and the Southwest Writers Award. His nonfiction has appeared in *Southern Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Brevity*, *Brief Encounters* (a Norton anthology), and elsewhere. He plays a scrappy game of basketball, loves Skagen watches, and grows hostas with exotic names like *Blue Angel* and *Fire and Ice*. He often fools around with aphorisms: "A woman needs a man the way a manatee needs a glockenspiel." Sometimes he juggles.

Elizabeth McCracken

February 4



Elizabeth McCracken is the author of seven books: *Here's Your Hat What's Your Hurry*, *The Giant's House*, *Niagara Falls All Over Again*, *An Exact Replica of a Figment of My Imagination*, *Thunderstruck & Other Stories*, *Bowlaway*, and the forthcoming collection of short stories *The Souvenir Museum*. She's received grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and others. *Thunderstruck & Other Stories* won the 2015 Story Prize. Her work has been published in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Pushcart Prize*, *The O. Henry Prize*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and many other places.

George Handley

March 11



George Handley teaches and writes about the environmental humanities at BYU. His publications include the environmental memoir, *Home Waters*; a novel, *American Fork*; and two recent collections of essays, *If Truth Were A Child*, and *The Hope of Nature*. He is a founding member of LDS Earth Stewardship, Conserve Utah Valley, and Mormon Scholars in the Humanities. He currently serves on the board of Trustees for the Nature Conservancy of Utah and on the Provo City Council.

Patrick Madden & Joey Franklin

February 11



Creative writing professor Patrick Madden has never stopped regretting the day seventeen years ago when he let Joey Franklin join his creative nonfiction class at BYU. Ever since that fateful semester, Joey has been a thorn in Madden's professional side, attending the same university as Pat for graduate school (Ohio University), and then weaseling his way into a faculty position at BYU. Then Joey published not one, but two books of personal essays at University of Nebraska Press, where Pat himself has published three of his own books. On top of that, Pat is forced to work with Joey every week as co-editor of the literary magazine *Fourth Genre: Explorations in Nonfiction*. And now, they're sharing a stage at the English reading series.

Amy Leach

April 1



Amy Leach grew up in Texas and earned her MFA from the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa. Her work has appeared in *The Best American Essays*, *The Best American Science and Nature Writing*, and numerous other publications, including *Granta*, *A Public Space*, *Orion*, *Tin House*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She is a recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award, a Rona Jaffe Foundation Award, and a Pushcart Prize. Her books are *Things That Are* and *The Everybody Ensemble*. Leach lives in Bozeman and teaches creative writing at MSU.

(Join us April 8th for the Paxman Student Reading!)

Fridays at 12:00 pm in the HBLL Auditorium

Go to ers.byu.edu to find out more about BYU's English Reading Series.