

# Elgin Literary Festival January 29-30, 2016 Hemmens Cultural Center

*a free celebration of the written word  
for readers and writers of all ages*

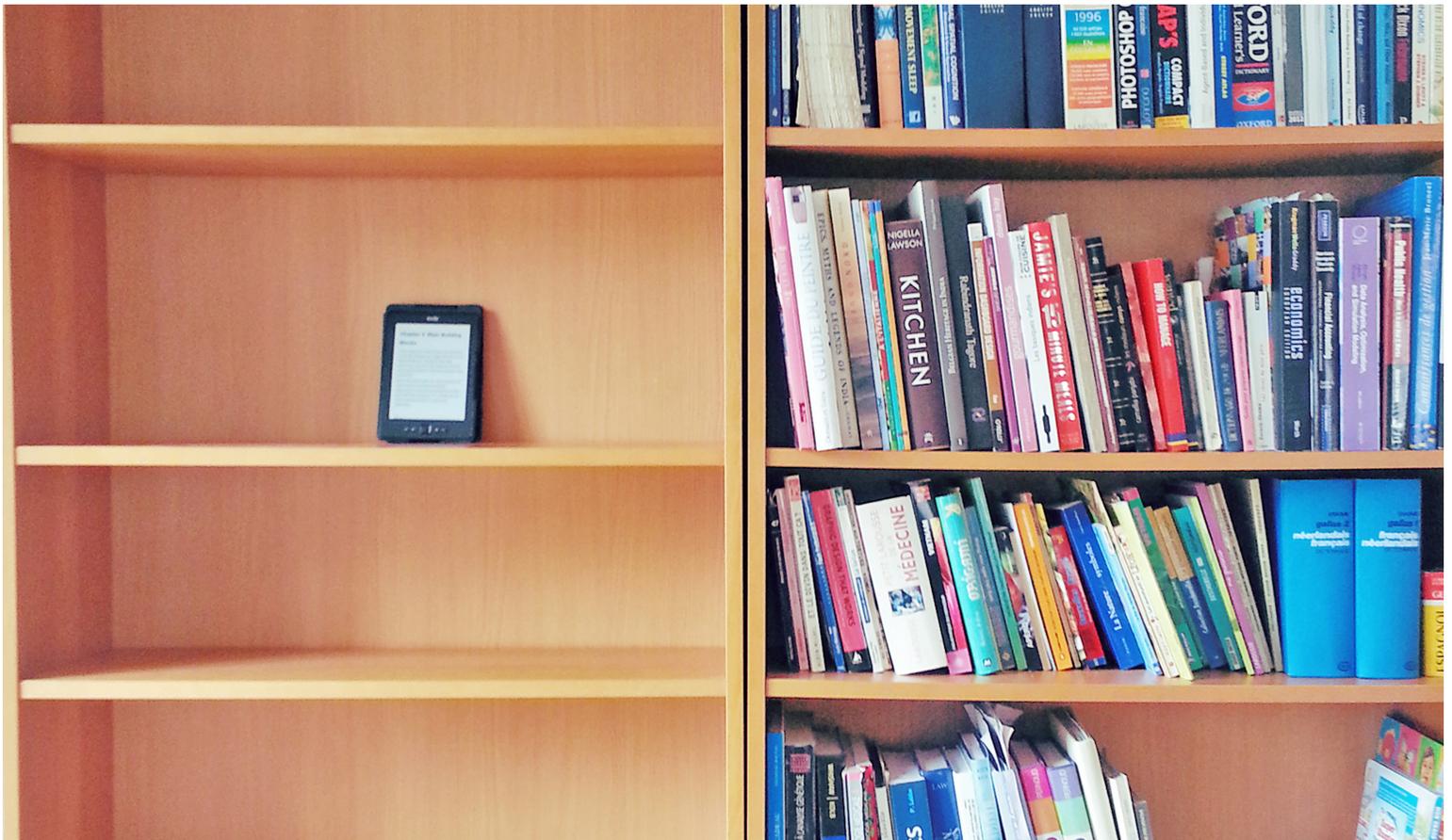
Featuring keynote speakers:

Renée Ahdieh Kate Quinn Nathan Rabin Bart Scott

[sidestreetstudioarts.org](http://sidestreetstudioarts.org)

[facebook.com/elginliteraryfestival](https://facebook.com/elginliteraryfestival)

[elginliteraryfestival@gmail.com](mailto:elginliteraryfestival@gmail.com)



Dear Friends of the Elgin Literary Festival,

*A while ago, I had an idea...an idea to create a festival that brought together all of the amazing things that I had experienced at writers' workshops, conferences, authors' events, and in critique groups. I wanted to be able to give other writers and readers the opportunities that I had. I wanted to bring exciting programs and authors to you, right on your doorstep, and free and open to all ages and experience levels.*

*Living in Elgin, I knew we had the perfect location for what I had envisioned. Elgin is a thriving city, full of wonderful restaurants and venues, and welcoming to artists of all mediums. I felt that Elgin would be the best home for this idea, and after being introduced to the artists at Side Street Studio Arts, I knew I was in the right place.*

*I sincerely thank you for joining us for the 2016 Elgin Literary Festival. I hope our events spark great conversation and even greater inspiration.*

*Happy reading & writing,  
Karly Kirkpatrick  
ELF Founder*

## ELF Schedule Friday, January 29, 2016

**3-4:30pm Elgin Lit Fest for Kids  
at Gail Borden Public Library**  
270 N. Grove Ave., downtown Elgin  
Gail Borden Library Community Rooms



\*Kids' Program activities are geared to elementary aged readers.

Kick off a fun weekend at ELF with our Kids' Program. You can expect all manner of creative crafts, wacky activities, and silly antics.

**Story Corner:** Sit down and relax as local Elgin celebrities read award-winning children's books.

**Lego Expressions:** What can you express about the world of reading with Legos? We'll post pics of the best creations on our Facebook page.

**Comic Creations:** Do you love superheroes? What about graphic novels or Japanese Manga? Get started on making your own.

**Handpuppet Extravaganza:** For seasoned Paperhand fans or for first-timers, you are sure to enjoy creating characters from your favorite books.

[www.gailborden.info](http://www.gailborden.info)

"Always read something  
that will make you look  
good if you die in the  
middle of it."

-P.J. O'Rourke

**ELF then moves to  
Hemmens Cultural Center**  
45 Symphony Way, downtown Elgin  
[www.hemmens.org](http://www.hemmens.org)

**Check In/Info/Snacks/Bar**  
5-9:30pm in Exhibition Hall

**Write With Others Panel**  
with guests from National Novel Writing Month,  
Nik Markevicius, guests from Society of Children's Book  
Writers and Illustrators, Kate Wiegele  
5pm on the Exhibition Hall Stage

**Keynote Speaker Bart Scott**  
6:15pm on the Exhibition Hall Stage  
Bart Scott book sales & signing following keynote.  
Author and podcaster Bart Scott has loved Disney since even  
before he first stepped foot in a Disney theme park at age 9.  
Hear him talk about being a grown Disney-loving man, why  
going to Walt Disney World can be even more fun as an adult  
- and *without kids*, and how he turned his love of the Mouse  
into a successful, funny travel guide.

**Real World Writing Panel**  
with Elizabeth Heiter, Sue Meyers, Kate Quinn,  
Wayne Turmel  
7pm in Exhibition Hall  
Ever thought that your job or experiences would make a  
great book? Join our group of ELF authors that explain how  
they were able to mine the real world for writing success.

**Keynote Speaker Renée Ahdieh**  
7:30 on the Exhibition Hall Stage  
Renée Ahdieh book sales & signing following keynote.  
Young Adult author Renée Ahdieh discusses the process of  
getting published, especially as a writer of diverse  
background bringing to life different worlds. She will  
highlight specifics with regard to the industry and answer  
questions following her presentation.

**Inside Voice, Outside Voice: A Live Poetry  
Event**

Led by Jeffrey Pierce  
9pm at Exhibition Hall Stage  
Poetry is our language of impressions, used by the inward  
voice that narrates our feelings and fantasies. And poetry is  
our language of expressions, whose unique melodies and  
rhythms come from the sound of words themselves. *Inside  
Voice, Outside Voice* is a live poetry event in which local  
writers perform the poetry of inner experience using the  
sound of the spoken word.

# ELF Schedule Saturday, January 30, 2016

## Hemmens Cultural Center

45 Symphony Way, downtown Elgin

### Check In/Info/Snacks

8:30am- in Exhibition Hall

### Methods of Publishing

with Sue Meyers, A.J. Pine, Bart Scott, Wayne Turmel  
9am on the Exhibition Hall Stage

Are you interested in learning about the many paths to getting your work published? Join our publishing experts and learn how to take your work to the next level.

### SpecFic Panel

with Sandra Almazan, E. M. Kaplan  
9am in the Green Room

Do you love to read or write about other worlds? Sci-Fi and Fantasy fans won't want to miss this exciting panel with our Spec Fic authors.

### Banned Books

with Lily Escobedo, Melissa Franic, and Liz Melvin  
10am in the Rehearsal Room

### Writing a Memoir

with Nathan Rabin, Sarah Ware, Andra Watkins  
10am on the Exhibition Hall Stage  
Every life contains a great story. Learn how to craft a memoir and bring your story to life.

### Books Sales/Signing & Lunch

11am - 1pm in Exhibition Hall  
Lunch selections available for purchase from  
Blue Box Café.

### Pedaling Preservation Presentation

with Kimberly Bauer and Madeline Richmond  
11am in the Rehearsal Room  
Pedaling Preservation consists of two devoted Elginites in Madeline Richmond and Kimberly Bauer. Madeline is the photos, taken with a highly trained touch, they stand as an absolutely crucial fixture of the blog, treating Elgin's buildings and connected histories with class and respect. Kim is the words, she writes in an informal voice with formal facts about historic preservation and architectural history about the city of Elgin, aiming to gracefully bridge the gap between education and entertainment. Together, they want to make Elgin shine by showcasing its history in both the written and photographic forms. The stories we tell through our individual ways come together to tell stories about Elgin's history in a way that is different not only in the rhetorical and methodological approach but also through its digital medium. Harnessing the strengths of the digital age we aim to democratize Elgin's history in an easy to read, beautiful to witness blog that is for any age to enjoy.

### 8 Little Zombies Presentation

with John LaFleur and David Metzger  
12pm on the Exhibition Hall Stage  
A twist on the classic children's books and song of "8 Little Monkeys", updated for today's fixation with the Undead! From John LaFleur and Dave Metzger who have both read their sons the classic "8 Little Monkeys" more times than they can count!

### The Writer's Journey

with Janet Riehecky  
1pm in the Green Room  
Solve your plot problems by following *The Writer's Journey* Based on the work of Joseph Campbell and Christopher Vogler, *The Writer's Journey* focuses on identifying archetypal patterns in literature. These patterns are instantly recognizable and will help you solve problems with both plot and characterization.

### Trickster Tales Presentation

with Joseph Podlasek CEO of Trickster Art Gallery - the only Native American owned and operated art institution in IL.  
1pm in the Green Room  
Sharing the importance and values of a Trickster from a cultural perspective.

### YA Panel

with Renée Ahdieh, Karly Kirkpatrick, Bart Scott, Kristina Springer  
1pm in the Rehearsal Room

### Keynote Speaker Kate Quinn

1pm on the Exhibition Hall Stage  
Kate Quinn book sales & signing following keynote. Historical fiction author Kate Quinn has been a lover and writer of the past since age seven. She will discuss the writing, researching, and publishing of historical novels in a rapidly changing market, and answer questions following her presentation.

### Keynote Speaker Nathan Rabin - *View From the Basement*

2:30pm on the Exhibition Hall Stage  
Nathan Rabin book sales & signing following keynote. Author and pop culture writer shares stories from his life and career as he chronicles how he made the epic journey from a Scribner author and head writer of *The A.V. Club* to being a freelance writer living in his in-laws' basement. Rabin's talk with focus on how his perspective and values have changed over the decades and how that shift has proven essential in surviving the rocky waters of both publishing and online media. Also, there will be jokes and rambling stories and pop culture references so obscure even Rabin himself won't understand them. A good time is promised for all!

### 4-7pm ELF Reception at Romance Premium Café

Free delicious finger foods  
154 E. Chicago St., downtown Elgin



# Book Signings & Sales

Saturday, January 30, 2016

11am to 1pm

in Exhibition Hall

some authors times may vary

## Participating Authors:

Renée Ahdieh  
Karla Beandenburg  
Elizabeth Heiter  
Lauren Jankowski  
Karly Kirkpatrick  
John LaFleur & David Metzger  
Kat Nichols  
AJ Pine  
Kate Quinn  
Nathan Rabin  
TS Rhodes  
Janet Riehecky  
Bart Scott,  
Kristina Springer  
Wayne Turmel  
Sandra Ulbrich Almazan  
Cristina Victoria Mancini  
Andra Watkins  
and more...

SIGNINGS AND BOOK SALES AT EXHIBITION HALL ARE  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



“Either write something  
worth reading or do  
something worth  
writing.”

-Benjamin Franklin



[www.theBlueBoxCafe.com](http://www.theBlueBoxCafe.com)



[www.CityofElgin.org](http://www.CityofElgin.org)



Side Street Studio Arts was founded by Tanner Melvin and Erin Rehberg in 2013 as an outlet for the Elgin arts scene. Currently under the direction of Amanda Harris, Melvin, and Rehberg, Side Street provides educational and creative resources and an accessible space, run by artists. Side Street's mission is to support the artist and artistic journey through collaboration.

[www.SideStreetStudioArts.org](http://www.SideStreetStudioArts.org)

# Keynote Speakers



**Renée Ahdieh**  
IS SPEAKING  
FRIDAY AT  
7:30PM



**Kate Quinn**  
IS SPEAKING  
SATURDAY AT  
1PM



**Nathan Rabin**  
IS SPEAKING  
SATURDAY AT  
2:30PM



**Bart Scott**  
IS SPEAKING  
FRIDAY AT  
6PM

**Renée Ahdieh** is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In her spare time, she likes to dance salsa and collect shoes. She is passionate about all kinds of curry, rescue dogs, and college basketball. The first few years of her life were spent in a high-rise in South Korea; consequently, Renée enjoys having her head in the clouds. She lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with her husband and their tiny overlord of a dog. She is the author of *The Wrath and the Dawn*.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Nathan Rabin** was the original head writer of *The A.V. Club*, a position he held for most of his 16 years at *The Onion*. He is also the author of four books, including *Weird Al: The Book* (with "Weird Al" Yankovic) and *You Don't Know Me But You Don't Like Me*. In 2004 and 2005 he was a panelist on *AMC's Movie Club With John Ridley*, hosted by the Oscar-winning *12 Years A Slave* screenwriter John Ridley. He lives in Chicago with his wife, dog and baby.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Kate Quinn** is a native of southern California. She attended Boston University, where she earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Classical Voice. A lifelong history buff, she has written four novels in the *Empress of Rome Saga*, and two books in the *Italian Renaissance* detailing the early years of the infamous Borgia clan. All have been translated into multiple languages. Kate has succumbed to the blogging bug, and keeps a blog filled with trivia, pet peeves, and interesting facts about historical fiction. She and her husband now live in Maryland with a small black dog named Caesar, and her interests include opera, action movies, cooking, and the Boston Red Sox.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Bart Scott** is a writer, podcaster & artist living in the Chicago area. More importantly he's a dad and a husband and a borderline obsessive Disney fan. His first book, *Balaam* is a fun, exciting adventure for young readers (and those young at heart) based on the Old Testament character of the same name. Oh, and his talking ass! His latest book, *Ears of Steel: The Real Man's Guide to Walt Disney World* is somewhat irreverent, somewhat satirical, and entirely hilarious! This travel guide was written with tongue planted firmly in cheek, partly to justify his own Disney addiction, but also as a tool for the ladies out there who can't get their man to believe Disney's not just for kids. Written with the personal mandate that it be funny first, helpful . . . well, maybe, readers of both genders love it. Whether you've never been to Walt Disney World or you've been one hundred times, you'll laugh out loud over and over again!

# 2016 Elgin Literary Festival Schedule

	Exhibition Hall	EH Stage	Rehearsal Room	Green Room	Gail Borden Public Library
<b>Friday</b>	Check In/ Info/Snacks/Bar (available from 4-9:30pm)				
<b>3-4:30pm</b>					Kids ELF
<b>5pm</b>		Write With Others Panel - guests from NaNoWriMo, Nik Markevicius, guests from SCBWI, Kate Wiegele			
<b>6:15pm</b>		Keynote Speaker - Bart Scott			
<b>7pm</b>	Real World Writing Panel – Elizabeth Heiter, Sue Meyers, Kate Quinn, Wayne Turmel				
<b>7:30pm</b>		Keynote Speaker - Renée Ahdieh			
<b>9pm</b>		Poetry Reading led by Jeffrey Pierce			
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<b>Saturday</b>	Exhibition Hall	EH Stage	Rehearsal Room	Green Room	Romance Premium Café
<b>9am</b>	Check In/ Info/Snacks (available from 8:30am - 3pm)	Methods of Publishing - Sue Meyers, A.J. Pine, Bart Scott, Wayne Turmel		SpecFic Panel - Sandra Almazan, E.M. Kaplan	
<b>10am</b>		Writing a Memoir - Nathan Rabin, Sarah Ware, Andra Watkins	Banned Books - Lily Escobedo, Melissa Franic, Liz Melvin Pedaling Preservation Presentation - Kimberly Bauer & Madeline Richmond		
<b>11am</b>	Book Sales & Lunch featuring selections for sale from Blue Box Café				
<b>12pm</b>	Book Sales & Lunch featuring selections for sale from Blue Box Café	<i>8 Little Zombies</i> Presentation - John LaFleur & David Metzger			The Writer's Journey – Janet Riehecky
<b>1pm</b>		Keynote Speaker - Kate Quinn	YA Panel – Renée Ahdieh, Karly Kirkpatrick, Bart Scott, Kristina Springer		Trickster Tales Presentation - Joseph Podlasek
<b>2:30pm</b>		Keynote Speaker - Nathan Rabin			
<b>4-7pm</b>					Closing Reception



The EFF is 4 days of dance, comedy, drama, and music all performed live for you in downtown Elgin!

[www.ElginFringeFestival.com](http://www.ElginFringeFestival.com)

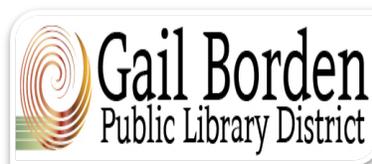


- Cover designs by Elgin artists
- Original articles on Elgin culture
- Detailed local events calendar

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[www.marqueemedia.net](http://www.marqueemedia.net)

### Elgin Literary Festival Sponsors



Special Thanks to *Jamey Bouwmeester, Tish Calhmer, Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, Elgin Downtown Neighborhood Association, Amanda Harris, Richard Johnson, Karly Kirkpatrick, Roberto Martinez, Tanner Melvin, Erin Rehberg, John Steffen, Butch Wilhelmi*