Presenter Bio’s
Young Writers Oct. 2020

For ten years, Mary Bleckwehl has taken her love of stories and her award-winning books into schools, libraries, and wherever book lovers roam. Before that, she taught school and raised kids and unruly pets. Her most recent release, Claire’s Hair, touches on a sensitive topic with humor and empathy. Henry you’re late again! and Henry you’re hungry AGAIN? are previous favorites. Soon her five non-fiction and two middle grade novels hit the shelves. Bleckwehl lives in Northfield MN with her husband and one monster dog. https://marybleckwehl.com

Lauren K. Carlson is a poet and writer. Winner of the Comstock Review’s chapbook prize, she has worked as a teaching artist in schools and care centers throughout Minnesota. www.laurenkcarlson.com

Jennifer L. Davidson is a Rochester author and owner of Rochester Writing Lab. She has written three books in the, Kody Burkoff Mystery Series, and is hard at work editing her fourth standalone novel. She enjoys writing, reading, and sharing all she has learned about being creative with students young and old. www.jenniferldavidsonwriter.com

El Holly (Kristen Rohloff) likes to write, mostly fantasy and poetical musings. Her fantasy adventure series, Phantasmic Wars, has been described by readers as “completely unique” and “very imaginative.” When she isn’t writing, she enjoys reading, teaching, drinking coffee, and going on random adventures with her family. She lives in Minnesota with her husband, their two kids, and a dog that is more of a fluffball than anything else. http://elhollywrites.com

Ryan Jacobson is an award-winning author and a successful book publisher. He has written more than 50 titles—including everything from comic books and ghost stories to “choose your path” adventures and football biographies. He greatly enjoys sharing his knowledge of writing and book publishing at schools and special events. When he isn’t working on books, Ryan likes to build LEGO sets, play board games, and try new restaurants. He lives in East Central Minnesota with his wife and two sons. https://authorryanjacobson.com/

John Lauritsen is a reporter for WCCO-TV. He has been with the station for 11 years. You will find him doing the news of the day, a Finding Minnesota segment, and occasionally on the anchor desk. He is an Emmy Award-winning reporter with WCCO-TV. John was born and raised in the Montevideo area and graduated from St. Cloud State University. He is known for his Finding Minnesota and Good Question reports, as well as daily news stories for WCCO. www.wcco.com

Chris Olson is an elementary principal and former middle school language arts teacher. He enjoys sharing slightly exaggerated stories of his past with students. He loves to teach writing and someday hopes to publish an anthology of his stories.

Lisa M. Bolt Simons is the author of 45 books, which include 40 nonfiction children’s books, four middle grade sports novels, and an adult history book; five more nonfiction children’s books will be released in 2021. She just retired from education after 25 years to focus on writing full time. www.lisamboltsimons.com

Kate St. Vincent Vogl teaches students from nine to 90 at the Loft Literary Center. Her book, Lost & Found: A Memoir of Mothers was featured on national ABC news. You can find her writing in best-selling anthologies such as Why We Ride. www.katevogl.com