

HeART of Tipton's Authorama! to Feature Ten Area Authors

By Janis Thornton
Tribune correspondent

The Tipton County Public Library is playing host to ten established, Central Indiana authors on Saturday, June 25, as part of the third annual HeART of Tipton, sponsored by Tipton Main Street.

Authorama! will be located in the center of the library, where the authors will be stationed with their books from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to meet and chat with visitors.

"We are honored to have such a diverse group of authors participating in our author fair this year," said Tipton librarian Kendra Hummel, who coordinated the event. "Their works cover several genres, including mystery, history, true crime, inspiration, and even stories of the paranormal. I'm certain the community will enjoy coming in and getting to know these outstanding authors."

Two public programs are planned during *Authorama!* At 11 a.m., Ray Boomhower will speak about his work as editor of *Traces* and the magazine's history. And at 2 p.m., all of the authors will be part of a panel discussion about the craft of writing. Titled "The Write Stuff," the panel will be facilitated by Tipton-based writer Margie Porter.

Following are the participating authors and a brief biography for each:

Ray Boomhower

Ray Boomhower is an award-winning author of numerous books on Indiana history. His works have included biographies of Hoosiers such as World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle, astronaut Gus Grissom, Civil War general and author Lew Wallace, suffragette and peace activist May Wright Sewall, author and journalist Juliet Strauss, and the late Indiana congressman and environmentalist Jim Jontz. Boomhower also serves as senior editor of the Indiana Historical Society's popular, quarterly history magazine, *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*. His blog can be read at rayboomhower.blogspot.com.

Mike Brockley & Jeff Pearson

Muncie-based poets Mike Brockley and Jeff Pearson are frequently invited to exercise their nimble, poetry-writing muscle at artists' and writers' gatherings around the state. At each event, they are found poised over their Olympia manual (i.e., human-powered vs. battery-powered) typewriters, hammering out original poetry on request. They call it *Poems While You Wait*, composing original poetry on the spot for anyone who stops by to watch. Both are published many times in local and national poetry anthologies, and both are members of the Midwest Writers Workshop planning committee.

Diana Catt & Brenda Stewart

Mystery authors Diana Catt and Brenda Stewart, representing the Speed City, Indiana, chapter of the national Sisters in Crime writers organization, are bringing copies of the chapter's anthology, *Decades of Dirt: Murder, Mystery and Mayhem from the Crossroads of Crime*. The



book is a 2016 Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Project containing 15 mystery tales produced by members of the Speed City chapter of SiC. Catt and Stewart also will bring several of the chapter's other anthologies.

When Diana Catt's not digging up dirt, she is an environmental microbiologist who hunts mold in scary places. Fourteen of her mysteries are published, and she will have copies of her 2015 collection of short stories, *Below the Line*, available at the author fair. Learn more about her at dianacatt.com.

Brenda Stewart is an editor, mystery author, painter and sculptor. She also is a forensic artist specializing in clay facial reconstruction on skulls and has been known to work on Egyptian mummies. Her forensic mystery series features a forensic sculptor. For more information about her books, please visit brendarobertsonstewart.com.

Donna Cronk

Donna Cronk is the neighbors editor for New Castle's *Courier-Times*, where she writes feature stories and edits the lifestyles section. She also is founding editor of a quarterly women's magazine published by her newspaper. Her debut novel, *Sweetland of Liberty Bed & Breakfast*, garnered high marks from readers, and its sequel, *That Sweet Place: At Home*

in the Heartland, released in May, promises to exceed her readers' expectations. She also is a contributor to *Undeniably Indiana*, an Indiana Bicentennial project to be released this fall by Indiana University Press. Catch her blog at donnacronk.com.

Nicole Kobrowski

Nicole Kobrowski's newest book, *She Sleeps Well*, explores the remarkable life of noted Indiana bacteriologist Dr. Helene Knabe, whose contributions to public health often are overshadowed by her grisly murder in 1911 at the age of 35. Kobrowski also is the author of *Fractured Intentions: A History of Central State Hospital for the Insane* and more than a dozen books about the paranormal. Writing has been her passion for some 30 years, and she especially enjoys researching and writing about historical and ghostly events. Kobrowski holds a master's degree in adult education and is an educational consultant. She lives in Westfield. Her website is unseenpress.com.

Kurt Meyer

Tipton High School graduate, Kurt Meyer — whether writing as newspaper columnist, novelist or blogger — chronicles and explores the changing cultural landscape of Midwestern small-town life. A Realtor and former teacher, he has specialized in

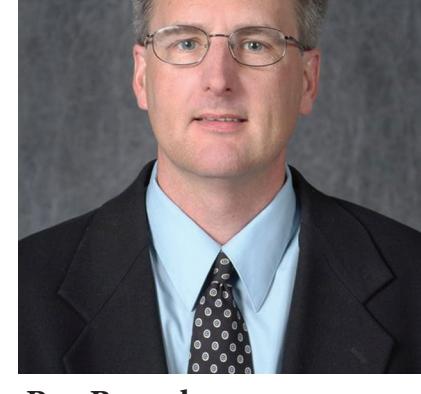
marketing historic properties, has restored multiple Victorian-era homes, and co-founded the annual literary journal, *Polk Street Review*, where his stories also appear. His novels, *Noblesville*, was released in 2014, and *The Salvage Man*, was released in 2015. Meyer blogs at kurtameyer.com.

Kelly O'Dell Stanley

Kelly O'Dell Stanley — author of *Praying Upside Down: A Creative Prayer Experience to Transform Your Time with God* — won the first place award for Inspirational Writing in the 2013 Writer's Digest competition. A regular contributor to *crosswalk.com* and Internet Café Devotions, she also has written for *(in)courage*, *Today's Christian Woman*, *Today's Christian Living*, *Tiferet Journal*, *Sasee Magazine*, and numerous blogs. In addition to writing, Stanley is a graphic designer whose work has won numerous awards. She is a member of the Midwest Writers Workshop planning committee and lives in Crawfordsville. Her website is kellyostanley.com.

Janis Thornton

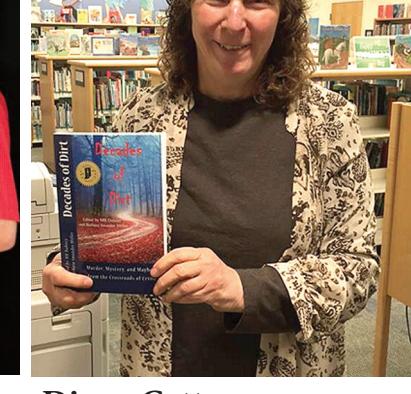
Janis Thornton is the author of two pictorial history books: *Images of America: Tipton County*, released in 2012, and *Images of America: Frankfort*, released the following year. In 2014, her first cozy mystery novel, *Dust Bunnies & Dead Bodies*, was published. Its sequel, *Dust Bunnies & More Dead Bodies*, is due out late this summer. Thornton's story about the Tipton County Courthouse's long-time, resident mummy will appear in *Undeniably Indiana*, scheduled for a fall release from I.U. Press. She also is a member of the Midwest Writers Workshop planning committee. She lives in Tipton. •



Ray Boomhower



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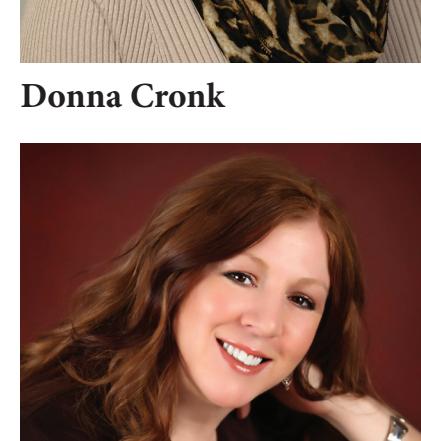
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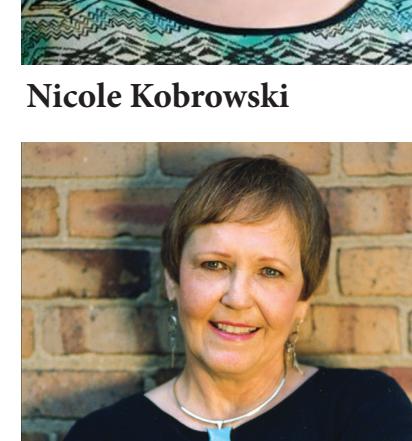
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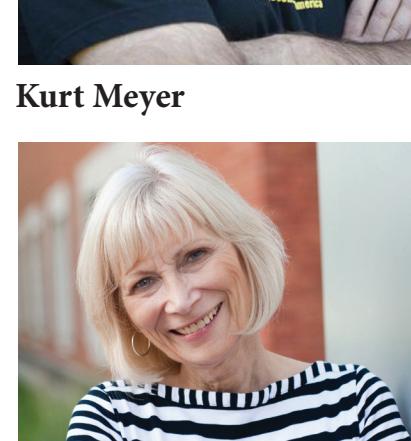
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