

# 2017 Showcase of Local Authors

Saturday, April 29, 2017, 11 AM - 2 PM

in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Middletown Thrall Library

*Meet some of the authors who will join us....*



**Francis Brown** (writing as **Claire Gem**) - Claire is a multi-published, award winning author of fiction and nonfiction. She writes romance, supernatural suspense, and women's fiction as well as memoir and authorial resource books. Her supernatural suspense, *Hearts Unlocked*, won the 2016 New York Book Festival. Her women's fiction, *The Phoenix Syndrome*, won the FCRWA's The Beacon Contest. Her most recent work, *Spirits of the Heart*, is a supernatural suspense novel set on the grounds of the Middletown Psychiatric Center. A New York native who grew up in Middletown, Claire has lived in five of the United States and held a variety of jobs, from waitress to bridal designer to research technician – but loves being an author best. She and her happily-ever-after hero, her husband of 38 years, now live in central Massachusetts. Website: [www.clairegem.com](http://www.clairegem.com)



**Jennifer Circosta** - Jennifer is a truth seeker and artistic expressionist! She is a poet at heart and author of life! Jennifer is the author of two books with a third, *Poems from Passion*, coming out 2017. Jennifer's poetry has been published in 8 different anthologies, various magazines and on-line journals. She has been the featured author/poet in the Canvas newspaper and her written works, have been likened to the great Edgar Allen Poe, E.E. Cummings, and Emily Dickinson. Most recently, Jennifer won Best Poem of 2016 and was a finalist in the prestigious Stephen A. DiBiase Poetry Contest. Also, her poems have been broadcast live in Manchester, London on the Scribble Poetry Radio Show. Jennifer has been the main guest speaker at college's and libraries offering creative lectures and teaching students about The Super Power of Emotion at her Be Beautiful book signing events. She has

read and performed her written works throughout NYC, the Hudson Valley and is available for school and/or library events. Jennifer has a degree in theater arts and psychology. She is a certified emotional wellness coach, energy therapist/intuitive, yoga instructor and meditation coach. She offer's innovative workshops in meditation, self-discovery, transformation and healing. Currently, Jennifer is the creator and facilitator of The Healing Project a community based support and learning initiative that focuses on transformation and healing. To learn more information about Jennifer and her work please go to: [www.jennifersmusing.com](http://www.jennifersmusing.com)



**Marina Cramer** - Born in postwar Germany into a family of refugees from the Soviet Union, Marina Antropow Cramer has enjoyed the benefit of lifelong ties to the Russian expatriate community on both sides of the Atlantic. She holds a BA degree in English from Upsala College in East Orange, NJ. Her work has been performed by Roselee Blooston's Short Story Theater, as part of the non-profit *Tunnel Vision Writers' Project*, which showcased spoken word, music, and visual art projects. A short story, "Pear," appeared online in *Blackbird Literary Journal* in 2009; another story, "Grave," came out in the Fall 2009 online issue of *Istanbul Literary Review*. The digital journal *Wilderness House Literary Review* published "In Case of Fire" in the Winter 2010 issue, and "Half the Bed" in Winter 2012. Between 1985 and 2002, Marina Antropow Cramer owned and operated *The Cup and Chaucer Bookstore* in

Montclair, NJ. When its doors closed, she worked for Watchung booksellers, a fellow bookseller in the same town, for the next twelve years. Among her favorite duties while there was leading a writing workshop for kids and compiling an annual litmag of their work. Together with author Jenny Milchman, she facilitated *Writing Matters: A Dialog on the Craft and Business of Words*. A series of bi-monthly panel discussions that ran at the book shop from 2009 to 2012, *Writing Matters* featured conversations with publishing industry professionals, as well as writers, translators, illustrators, playwrights, and poets. She left bookselling in 2014 to focus on writing full-time, and now lives in New York's Hudson Valley. *Roads* is her first novel. Website: [www.marinaantropowcramer.com](http://www.marinaantropowcramer.com)



**Nicole Karr** - Chef and author of *Handmade Pasta: Workshop & Cookbook*. She holds a degree in culinary arts from the New York Restaurant School and attended the Academia Barilla in Parma, Italy. She lives in New York City. **Website:** [www.facebook.com/chefnicolekarr](http://www.facebook.com/chefnicolekarr)



**Elaine Freed Lindenblatt** grew up in a restaurant on Route 17 in Southfields, NY. She is the daughter of Reuben Freed, a Russian immigrant who turned his roadside eatery into the celebrated Red Apple Rest. Elaine is an editor and writer whose essays--on topics ranging from slice-of-life to the Holocaust--are widely published in the Times Herald Record and other Hudson Valley newspapers. She calls her book Stop at the Red Apple "the story I had to tell." **Website:** [www.StopattheRedApple.com](http://www.StopattheRedApple.com)



**Tracey Lyons** - An Amazon Top Ten bestselling historical romance author of the Women of Surprise series, Tracey sold her first book on 9/9/99! Her books have been translated into several languages and are available in print, digital and audio formats. Tracey lives with her husband in Warwick, NY. A true upstate New Yorker, Tracey believes you should write what you know. Her historical romances are all set in the New York State area. Tracey considers herself a small town gal who writes small town romances. Her latest release is *A Changed Agent*. **Websites:** [www.traceylyons.com](http://www.traceylyons.com) [www.facebook.com/TraceyJLyonsAuthor/](http://www.facebook.com/TraceyJLyonsAuthor/) [twitter.com/TraceyJLyons](http://twitter.com/TraceyJLyons) and [www.pinterest.com/tracejlyons/](http://www.pinterest.com/tracejlyons/)



**Marianne Sciucco** - During swim season, you can find Swim Mom Marianne Sciucco at one of many Skyline Conference swim meets, cheering for her daughter Allison and the Mount Saint Mary College Knights. All those long hours sitting on cold, metal bleachers inspired her to write *Swim Season*, a young adult novel about the new girl on the team who challenges a longstanding school record. Sciucco is not a nurse who writes but a writer who happens to be a nurse. A lover of words and books, she dreamed of becoming an author when she grew up but became a nurse to avoid poverty. She later brought her two passions together and writes about the intricate lives of people struggling with health and family issues. Her debut novel *Blue Hydrangeas*, an Alzheimer's love story, is a Kindle bestseller; IndieReader Approved; a BookWorks featured book; and a *Library Journal* Self-e Selection. She also has

two short stories available on Kindle, Ino's Love and Collection. A native Bostonian, Marianne lives in New York's Hudson Valley, and when not writing works as a campus nurse at a community college. She enjoys books, the beach, and craft beer, preferably all at the same time. **Websites:** [mariannesciucco.blogspot.com](http://mariannesciucco.blogspot.com) and [www.facebook.com/marianne.sciucco.1](http://www.facebook.com/marianne.sciucco.1)



**Teshinia Simpson** - I want to share a few things with you about me and my book. I am from Newark, New Jersey, and *The Blessings and the Curse* is the true story of my life. In this unforgettable memoir, I share my experiences and struggles as a young girl growing up in Newark, New Jersey. I share the spiritual war within myself between good and bad and the way I was treated by my family. Everything you read in this book was a real-life event or experience. From skipping school and lying to my mother slipping in and out of my life to dealing drugs, and alcoholism I share how I overcame these challenges to become a better, stronger person, in spite of the odds. *The Blessings and the Curse* is a powerful story about recognizing where you come from, never giving up, and persevering to live a significant life.