

# 7 Coming-Up Author Showcase

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm

Tuesday, October 8

Exhibit Hall

Seven authors with books to be released in 2020 will speak. Authors will sign ARCs after the event. *Boxed lunches may be purchased in advance.*

## Gretchen Berg / *The Operator*

Debut novelist Gretchen Berg drew on the experiences of her own grandmother for the inspiration behind *The Operator* (William Morrow/HarperCollins, due March 2020). Set in the early 1950s, *The Operator* is the story of Vivian, a somewhat nosy small town switchboard operator, and a bit of gossip she “accidentally” overhears, gossip that cuts just a little too close to home. Listening in on her neighbors’ secrets is one thing, but learning that her neighbors are talking about her and her family is cause for mortification. To avoid becoming the town’s laughingstock, Vivian needs to get the bottom of the rumor, regardless of the cost. Gretchen Berg is also the author of the memoir *I Have Iraq in My Shoe: Misadventures of a Soldier of Fashion*. She lives in Chicago.



## Melissa Crandall / *Elephant Speak: A Devoted Keeper’s Life*

In *Elephant Speak: A Devoted Keeper’s Life Among the Herd* (Olligan Press/IPS, due March 2020), writer Melissa Crandall offers a unique biography of Roger Henneous, who was for more than thirty years keeper and friend to the elephants at the Oregon Zoo. Henneous began his career at a time when zoos and zookeepers were looking to improve the lives of the animals in their care, seeking more ethical, enriching and healthier relationships. His reward for learning to understand what the elephants had to tell him was a rare level of trust and respect from the herd in his charge. Melissa Crandall’s essays have appeared in dozens of publications, including *Allegory* and *ASPCA Animal Watch* magazines.

## DJ Lee / *Remote: A Love Story*

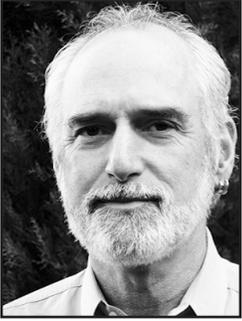
DJ Lee grew up in Seattle, far from her family in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness of Idaho and Montana. *Remote: A Love Story* (OSU Press, scheduled Spring 2020) is the result of her seven-year attempt to reconcile with her family, to heal relationships as cold, distant and hard as the landscape of the Selway—one of the most remote places left in North America. Her journey to understanding saw her learning to wrangle mules and learn the ways of the wolverine, even as she strove to uncover the roots of her mother’s emotional remoteness. Debbie Lee is a writer, teacher, and Regents Professor in the English Department at Washington State University. She divides her time between Moscow, Idaho and Oak Park, Illinois.



## Jody J. Little / *Worse Than Weird*

Middle-grade fans of Ann Martin and Leslie Connor will love Mac MacLeod, the spunky heroine in Jody J. Little’s new novel *Worse Than Weird* (HarperCollins, due March 2020). Mac needs to earn enough money to pay for the summer coding camp of her dreams, and winning a citywide food truck scavenger hunt is just the ticket. Navigating the streets of Portland, piecing together the clues and meeting new people, Mac learns that there are worse things in life than having weird parents. Portlander Jody Little works as an elementary school teacher, and is the author of *Mostly the Honest Truth*, which was both a Winter/Spring 2019 Indies Introduce title and a Spring 2019 Kids Next Pick.

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### **Daniel Mathews / *Trees in Trouble***

Here in the West, we need look no further than to our western pine forests to witness the effects of climate change. In *Trees in Trouble* (Counterpoint/IPS, due April 2020), Portland writer Daniel Mathews explores a dramatic story of loss through fire, insect damage and forest mismanagement of some of our most iconic tree species. Deeply researched and personally compelling, *Trees in Trouble* is told through the eyes of forest managers and scientists, fire bosses and activists. And, fortunately for the bristlecones, ponderosas, Jeffreyes and the humans who love them, Mathews also offers hope for a future of well-managed and healthy pine forests. Daniel Mathews' previous books include *Natural History of the Pacific Northwest Mountains* and *Rocky Mountain Natural History*.

### **Erin Yun / *Pippa Park Raises Her Game***

*Great Expectations* is reimaged for tween readers in Erin Yun's debut novel *Pippa Park Raises Her Game* (Fabled Film Press/Consortium, due February 2020). Just like Pip in Charles Dickens' classic tale, twelve-year old Korean-American Pippa Park has her life changed by education when she receives a basketball scholarship to an elite private school. But it's not easy fitting in, especially when someone begins threatening to reveal Pippa's humble family background at her sister's laundromat to the kids at her new school. Erin Yun has written for a WNYU radio serial, helped create a play for an art festival in London, and served as a consultant for the Broadway play *What the Constitution Means to Me*. Raised in Texas, she now lives in New York City.



### **Abigail Hing Wen / *Loveboat, Taipei***

Ever Wang isn't looking forward to spending her summer learning Mandarin at a strict academic program in Taiwan. In Abigail Hing Wen's debut novel *Loveboat, Taipei* (Harper Teen/Harper-Collins, due February 2020), Ever's summer takes a surprising turn when one of her classmates whispers that the language program's best kept secret is that there is no supervision. And just like that, the studious girl from Ohio with a secret passion for dance is dropped into a summer-long playland with way more freedom than she has ever had before—maybe more freedom than is good for her. When not writing stories, Abigail Hing Wen is busy working as an attorney in venture capital and artificial intelligence in Silicon Valley.