

***GAMMACK, JULIE** is an Iowa native whose media career included a stint as the morning talk radio host on WHO-AM radio and a former Des Moines Register columnist. She was a business coach with Vistage International in Annapolis, MD, and Chicago. Gammack and her husband moved back to Iowa in 2020. She founded the Okoboji Writers' Retreat and Iowa Writers' Collaborative (<https://iowawriters.substack.com/>) . She is the author of *Julie Gammack's Iowa Potluck* (<https://okobojiwriters.substack.com/>)

GARSON, ARNOLD spent 47 years in the newspaper business -- reporter, investigative reporter, managing editor, editor, and publisher. Founder of *Family Stories by Arnold Garson*, through which he researches and writes long-form family histories and other specialized histories for clients. He has a long list of writing and reporting awards, but perhaps the most meaningful to him was this comment from one of last year's OWR participants: "Arnold Garson was one of the top speakers for me. He taught us how to do family research and encouraged me to write my story. He was supportive without being placating".

GARSON, SCOTT grew up in Iowa and spent a number of summers on Lake Okoboji. These days, he teaches and coordinates undergraduate creative writing at the University of Missouri. He's the founding editor of *Wigleaf*—an international journal of very short fiction, and a five-time Pushcart Prize awardee. As Editor, he has enjoyed working with debut and emerging writers and more established writers, like *New York Times* bestselling authors Rumaan Alam and Roxane Gay. His work has appeared in *American Short Fiction*, *Conjunctions*, *Kenyon Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Threepenny Review*, and many others, and in the full-length collection, *Is That You, John Wayne?*

GILBERT, RICHARD is co-facilitating the Okoboji Writers' Retreat. He began his career at 15 when he was paid 5 cents a column inch for local features in the *Seymour (IA) Herald*. At age 20, he went to work for the *Harlan (IA) Tribune and News-Advertiser*. At 27, he was editor of the *Iowa REC News*. At 29, he bought the *Eagle Grove Eagle* and was editor and co-publisher. His writing career took on another form while he served as Governor Bob Ray's press secretary, a position from which he was recruited to join the corporate ranks of *The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company*, the capstone of which was when he was named president. After the Register he headed two other large media companies in New York and Chicago. He honed his facilitator skills through roles as lead director of various corporate boards and as a CEO coach.

***HEFTMAN, NIK** is an Emmy Award-winning Associate Producer for CBS Mornings. He has over a decade of experience telling award-winning stories in print, broadcast, newspapers, and magazines. He is a storyteller who treats News, features and other events with equal passion and thrives within the deadline-intensive newsroom environment. He is also founder of The Seven Times which directs video shoots highlighting Black-owned business in several states. <https://theseventimes.substack.com/>

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