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**BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES A SPECIAL READING
FIVE AUTHORS FROM NEW LABOR DAY ANTHOLOGY
INCLUDING 2012 ONE CITY ONE STORY AUTHOR ANNA SOLOMON,
HEIDI PITLOR, JANE ROPER, AMY BRILL & JOANNA SMITH RAKOFF
TUESDAY, MAY 6, AT OBERON IN CAMBRIDGE
WITH EMCEE CAREY GOLDBERG, OF WBUR'S COMMONHEALTH BLOG**

[Cambridge, MA—April 18, 2014, Updated April 24] Boston Book Festival proudly announces a special storytelling event celebrating the release of the new anthology **LABOR DAY: True Birth Stories by Today's Best Women Writers** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), edited by Eleanor Henderson and 2012's One City One Story author Anna Solomon. The event, featuring authors retelling their children's birth stories, will be held at Oberon, located at 2 Arrow Street, in Cambridge's Harvard Square on Tuesday, May 6, at 6pm. Tickets to benefit the Boston Book Festival are \$10 and may be purchased by calling 617.547.8300 or by visiting <http://americanrepertorytheater.org/oberon>. The authors will sign books and comedian Robin Maxfield will be the opening act before the author readings. **The event will be hosted/emceed by Carey Goldberg, co-host of WBUR's Commonhealth blog.**

About *LABOR DAY: True Birth Stories by Today's Best Women Writers*, released April 15, 2014

Eleanor Henderson and Anna Solomon have gathered true birth stories by women who have made self-expression their business. This anthology features thirty acclaimed writers sharing their personal birth stories—the extraordinary, the ordinary, the terrifying, the sublime, the profane. Bookstores are filled with month-by-month pregnancy manuals, but the shelves are virtually empty of artful, entertaining, unvarnished accounts of labor and delivery—the stories that new mothers need most.

LABOR DAY showcases women determined to give birth naturally and others begging for epidurals; women who pushed for hours and women whose labors were over practically before they'd started; women giving birth to twins and to ten-pound babies. These women give birth in the hospital, at home, in bathtubs, and, even in the car. Some revel in labor, some fear labor, some feel defeated by labor, some are fulfilled by it—and all are amazed by it.

LABOR DAY Contributing Writers

Nuar Alsadir
Amy Brill
Susan Burton
Sarah Shun-lien Bynum
Lan Samantha Chang
Phoebe Damrosch
Claire Dederer
Jennifer Gilmore
Julia Glass
Arielle Greenberg

Lauren Groff
Eleanor Henderson
Cristina Henriquez
Amy Herzog
Ann Hood
Sarah Jefferis
Heidi Julavits
Mary Beth Keane
Marie Myung-Ok Lee
Edan Lepucki

Heidi Pitlor
Joanna Rakoff
Jane Roper
Danzy Senna
Dani Shapiro
Anna Solomon
Cheryl Strayed
Sarah A. Strickley
Rachel Jamison Webster
Gina Zucker

About Host/Emcee Carey Goldberg

Carey Goldberg is the co-host of WBUR's **CommonHealth** blog. She has been the Boston bureau chief of *The New York Times*, a staff Moscow correspondent for *The Los Angeles Times*, and a health/science reporter for *The Boston Globe*. She was a Knight Science Journalism fellow at MIT; graduated summa cum laude from Yale; and did graduate work at Harvard. She is co-author of the triple memoir "Three Wishes: A True Story Of Good Friends, Crushing Heartbreak and Astonishing Luck On Our Way To Love and Motherhood."

About LABOR DAY Co-Editor Anna Solomon

Anna Solomon is a writer and essayist whose work has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *Harvard Review*, *One Story*, and *the New York Times Magazine*, among other publications. Her story "The Long Net" received *the Missouri Review's* 2011 Editors' Prize for fiction, and her story "The Lobster Mafia Story" was chosen as the 2012 One City One Story selection by the Boston Book Festival. She is the author of the novel *The Little Bride* and the co-editor, with Eleanor Henderson, of *Labor Day: True Birth Stories by Today's Best Women Writers*. Their eloquent communications about their coinciding pregnancies inspired this anthology of personal anecdotes from acclaimed female writers across the country. Solomon's website is www.annasolomon.com.

About Heidi Pitlor

Heidi Pitlor is a Concord, Massachusetts native, a former Houghton Mifflin Harcourt senior editor, and the editor of *the Best American Short Stories* series since 2007. She graduated from Emerson College with an MFA in creative writing and has contributed to their literary magazine *Ploughshares*. As well as a contributor to *Labor Day*, Pitlor is the author of *The Birthdays*, which *Publishers' Weekly* describes as "a multilayered portrait of family in all its fragility and its strength." Her novel entitled *We All Fall Down* is forthcoming in 2015.

About Jane Roper

Jane Roper is the Boston-based author of a 2011 novel, *Eden Lake*, and a 2012 memoir, *Double Time: How I Survived--And Mostly Thrived--Through the First Three Years of Mothering Twins*, which *the San Francisco Chronicle* described as "like sharing a bottle of wine with a friend." Roper's writing has also appeared on *Babble*, *The Huffington Post*, *Salon*, and *Poets & Writers*. In addition to contributing to *Labor Day*, she regularly discusses motherhood and parenting twin girls on her blog, *Jane's Calamity* (janeroper.com/blog/).

About Joanna Smith Rakoff

Joanna Smith Rakoff is the author of *A Fortunate Age*, the 2010 winner of the Goldberg Prize for Jewish Fiction by *Emerging Writers*, and of a forthcoming memoir *My Salinger Year*. A journalist, critic, and poet, Rakoff's work has appeared in *the New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, *the Paris Review*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Vogue*, *the Boston Globe*, and elsewhere. A local contributor to *Labor Day*, she lives in Cambridge with her two children. Her website can be found at www.joannasmithrakoff.com.

About Amy Brill

Amy Brill is a writer and producer whose articles, essays, and short stories have appeared in *Salon*, *Guernica*, *Redbook*, and *Time Out New York*, as well as in anthologies such as *Before and After: Stories from New York* and *Lost and Found*. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and she has been awarded fellowships in fiction by several foundations. Brill has also worked as a broadcast journalist and received the George Foster Peabody Award for writing MTV's *The Social History of HIV*. *Booklist* calls her debut novel, *The Movement of Stars*, "a stirring historical drama" driven by a "compelling and likeable character."

About Robin Maxfield

Comedian Robin Maxfield is the producer of Boston Comedy Chicks, Boston's only all-female comedy night. She has performed with the shows *Expressing Motherhood* and *Motherloaded*. Maxfield is a two-time mass mouth story slam winner, and she hosts a monthly story slam in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood.

About The Boston Book Festival

The Boston Book Festival celebrates the power of words to stimulate, agitate, unite, delight, and inspire by holding year-round events culminating in an annual, free festival that promotes a culture of reading and ideas and enhances the vibrancy of Boston. The sixth annual Boston Book Festival will be October 25, 2014. Details will be announced in over the coming months. The Boston Book Festival is produced by the nonprofit organization of the same name, and is made possible with the generous support of individual donors and sponsors, including Presenting Partner 90.9 WBUR.

<http://www.bostonbookfest.org/>

About Oberon

OBERON is the American Repertory Theatre's second stage, a destination for theater and nightlife on the fringe of Harvard Square. In addition to offering work from the A.R.T.'s main season, OBERON is also a thriving incubator for emerging artists to imagine new projects that could only exist in this exciting club theater environment. Hundreds of artists and performance groups brought work to the space each year. OBERON regularly features local performers including aerialists, beat poets, food artists, tap dancers, gender-bending sketch troupes, comedians, hula-hooping burlesquers, and pop-and-lock human statues to name but a few. <http://americanrepertorytheater.org/oberon>

Select interviews and high resolution images are available by email request at ami@ashmontmedia.com.

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