

## 'Doctoring Words' book event to feature Drs. Iannuccilli, Fine

MARY KORR  
RIMJ MANAGING EDITOR

BRISTOL – **EDWARD IANNUCCILLI, MD**, and **MICHAEL FINE, MD**, will share thoughts on their inspirational and, at times, unexpected journeys into authorship and offer tips on how aspirational writers can get started, at a book event to be held at Mount Hope Farm in Bristol on Thursday, April 20th, from 6 to 8 p.m. **DANTE BELLINI, Jr.**, former advertising exec and

creator of the PBS documentary, *Ken Burns: Here & There*, will moderate the discussion.

Dr. Iannuccilli, a retired gastroenterologist, Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame inductee, recipient of numerous professional honors, and currently a columnist for *GoLocalProv*, will speak about his latest book, *A Whole Bunch of 500 Word Stories*, terse and humorous reflections on growing up in Rhode Island – from pinball machines to the polio epidemic and so much more.

Dr. Fine, a family medicine practitioner, health strategist for Central Falls, and former director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, (2011–2015), will discuss his recently published book, *On Medicine as Colonialism*. Triggered by the Pandemic, it presents a reframing of the health care system in the United States, with a focus on how to replace the current health care marketplace with a system “that is for people and not for profit,” as he said in a recent book discussion.

In advance of the April event, RIMJ posed a few questions, below, to the speakers on their writing patterns and influences.

**RIMJ:** Can you briefly tell RIMJ readership what you will be discussing from your experiences in health care at the event?

**DR. IANNUCCILLI:** My experiences of observation and conversation in my day-to-day work as a physician helped me realize how capturing a moment, a conversation, and being able to describe them with the written word, are critical.

**DR. FINE:** Doctoring teaches us to listen to what is said and left unsaid from the people who are our patients. That skill and habit helps me listen out for the inner lives of everyone I meet. Those voices are what show up when I go to write a story. And that habit, in listening to the inner lives of others, is a necessary

process in a democracy. When we can see the inner lives of others, we start thinking they are mostly like us, and that’s the way we start being one people again.

**RIMJ:** Every writer has a pattern, usually, that takes them from inspiration to perspiration to publication. What is your writing modus?

**DR. IANNUCCILLI:** I look around and listen. I read the best writers, and then I read some more. From those experiences come hundreds of ideas. I carry a notebook with me wherever I go, being sure not to miss an idea. And I have a notebook on my bedstand for writing those middle-of-the-night revelations. I write, and then I write it again, and again, until I am comfortable, which almost never happens.

**DR. FINE:** I write every day from 8 a.m. to at least 1 p.m., six days a week. And finish at least one short story a month.

[Read some of his stories here: <https://www.michaelfinemd.com/news-and-events>]

**RIMJ:** Who are your favorite authors or whose work influenced you the most as a writer?

**DR. IANNUCCILLI:** Ernest Hemingway and David McCullough.

**DR. FINE:** William Carlos Williams, Allen Ginsberg, Tolstoy, IB Singer, IL Peretz, Dos-toyevsky, Robert Creeley, Chekhov, Wendell Berry, Charles Chestnutt, Edward P. Jones, with a bit of Hemingway in the mix. Lots of Old Testament, aka *Torah* and *Tanach*.

**RIMJ:** What is your favorite quote or words to live by?

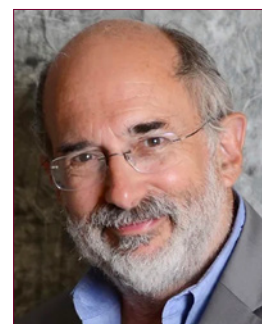
**DR. IANNUCCILLI:** From poet Mary Oliver...“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

**DR. FINE:** Pirkei Avot, 1:14: He (Rabbi Hillel) used to say: “If I am not for me, who will be for me? And when I am for myself alone, what am I? And if not now, then when?”

For reservations and more information on the Mount Hope Farm evening, visit: <https://www.mounthopefarm.org/upcoming-events/doctoring-words>



Edward Iannuccilli, MD



Michael Fine, MD



Dante Bellini, Jr.

