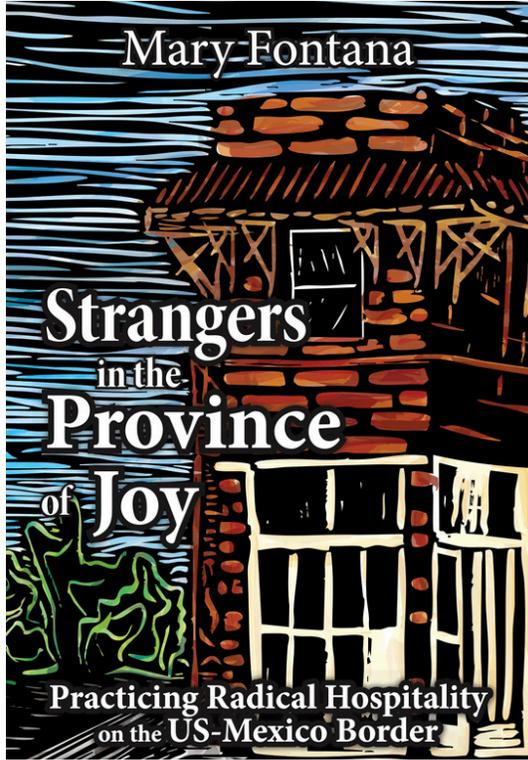


Mary Fontana



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Mary Fontana is an award-winning writer-researcher who has supported migrant hospitality efforts at the US-Mexico border for over twenty years. Her first book, *Strangers in the Province of Joy: Practicing Radical Hospitality on the US-Mexico Border*, will be published by Orbis Books in May 2026. She has written about border issues for *America*, *BorderLore*, and *Consequence*, and was a finalist for the 2025 Richard J. Margolis Award for social justice journalism. She also holds a Ph.D. in the biological sciences and has authored many scientific papers. She lives in Seattle with her spouse and two children.

PRAISE FOR *STRANGERS IN THE PROVINCE OF JOY*:

An important, necessary, and heartbreaking book.

-Benjamin Alire Sáenz, author of *Everything Begins and Ends at the Kentucky Club*

An incredibly uplifting story of one community's relentless hospitality and grace...

A must-read. -Beto O'Rourke, former Congressman and author of *We've Got to Try*

This compelling read narrates the story of Annunciation House...and renews my commitment in challenging times to do my part. It recounts a reservoir of community, ingenuity and commitment...JUST WHAT WE NEED in this moment.

-Simone Campbell, SSS, author, *A Nun on the Bus*

SPEAKING TOPICS

- ✓ Embroidered Truths: reconstructing rich (and accurate) historical narratives from subjective memories
- ✓ Radical Hospitality: rewriting the immigration "crisis" narrative in border communities
- ✓ How We Got Here: tracing root historical causes of migration through compelling individual stories
- ✓ The Writing Life: habits to support your writing goals, pivoting to a writing career in mid-life, practical advice for parent writers



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