



ART BY BENJI ANDERSON

36TH ANNUAL

# SOUTHERN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS

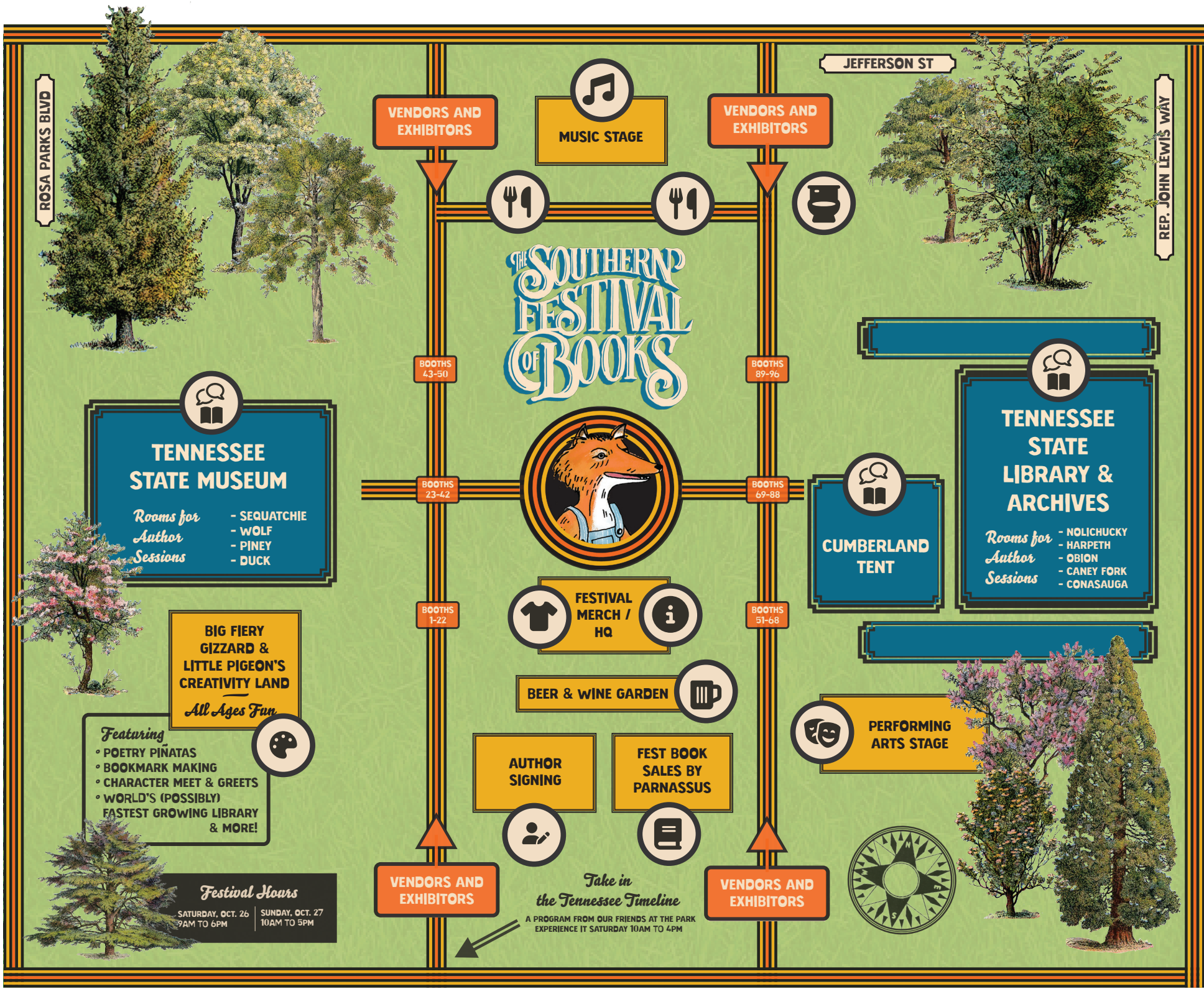
OCTOBER  
26-27, 2024  
NASHVILLE

THE BICENTENNIAL CAPITOL MALL STATE PARK,  
THE TN STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES,  
AND THE TN STATE MUSEUM

THE 36TH ANNUAL  
SOUTHERN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS:  
A CELEBRATION OF THE WRITTEN WORD IS

A PROGRAM OF  
HUMANITIES  
TENNESSEE





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## WELCOME

**WELCOME TO THE 36TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS: A CELEBRATION OF THE WRITTEN WORD!** We hope you find a weekend filled with meeting and hearing from authors, having interesting conversations, and adding books to your TBR stack!

We offer sincere thanks to the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee State Library and Archives. These beautiful facilities belong to the people of Tennessee, and the staff at both have worked hard to welcome you this weekend.

We also thank Parnassus Books, our official bookseller, CSPAN's BookTV (filming all weekend in the Obion Room of the Tennessee State Library), Metro Nashville Public Schools for helping coordinate our Festival Student Reader Days, the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt University, Hall Strategies, and the *Nashville Scene*. We hope you take a moment to review the back cover, which highlights our generous funders and sponsors. Please consider joining them as a Festival donor. You may give on our website at [www.humtn.org](http://www.humtn.org), in the Festival app, via Venmo @HumTN, or stop by Festival headquarters and make your donation. Every level of support matters; thank you!

There is a map in this program and at various sites around the Bicentennial Mall Park. We have a record number of exhibitors this year, and a full slate of programming on the Music and Performing Arts stages. Whether attending sessions, buying books and getting them signed, or enjoying the outdoor Festival, we're glad you're here. And don't forget to stop by the Headquarters Tent to say hello and to shop for Southern Festival of Books merchandise.

We offer a very warm welcome to all our Festival friends from near and far, and we look forward to celebrating the written word with you!

TIM HENDERSON,  
Executive Director  
Humanities Tennessee

## ROBERT PENN WARREN TRACK

In partnership with the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities at Vanderbilt University, we are pleased to present a themed track called **Emerging Technologies and the Human Experience**. The track will explore technological innovation and its impacts on human flourishing and futures across time. From the printing press to the internet, electricity to quantum mechanics, steam engines to AI: What can humanistic inquiry tell us about the meanings and legacies of these and other technologies? What do emerging technologies reveal about who we are – and what and who we value (and don't)? Warren track sessions are marked with a triangle in this program.

## EVENTS KEY



YOUTH  
SESSIONS



ROBERT PENN  
WARREN TRACK  
SESSIONS

## TRIPLE THOUGHT PASSPORT

The passport returns! Start your day at the Headquarters Tent and pick up a TRIPLE THOUGHT PASSPORT. Attend three separate sessions at this year's Festival and bring back the completed passport to the HQ tent to receive a sur-prize. (First completed, first served!)

## PAUL COLLINS' UNBANNABLE LIBRARY

Stop by the Carillon to experience, contemplate, and discuss ideas and big, big books created by visual artists and writers.

## FESTIVAL ART

The 2024 poster artwork is by **BENJI ANDERSON**. Benji Anderson b.1996 is a self-taught artist from Nashville, TN. He has shown works in Nashville, Atlanta and New York. And he likes mustard. a lot. More of Benji's work on Instagram at @benjianderson3. Thanks Benji!

## DOWNLOAD THE SOFESTOFBOOKS APP

Customize your schedule and more! [sofestofbooks.org](http://sofestofbooks.org)



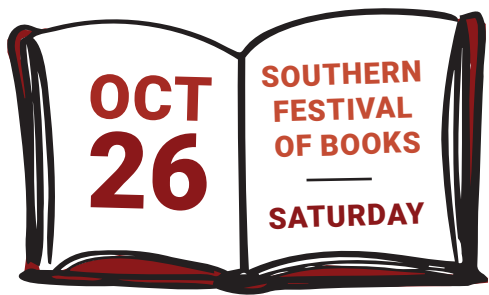
The Southern Festival of Books is a program of Humanities Tennessee



The Southern Festival of Books publication is designed by







9:00 AM–10:00 AM

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

**Brad Montague, Kristi Montague**  
*Fail-A-Bratton* New York Times bestselling duo Brad and Kristi Montague are throwing a big party to celebrate failures in this fun and affirming book that finds the joy in trying and learning, even if you don't succeed.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

**Darcie Little Badger**  
*Sheine Lende* Darcie Little Badger's *Elatsoe* launched her career and in the years since has become a beloved favorite. This prequel to *Elatsoe*, centered on Ellie's grandmother, deepens and expands Darcie's one-of-a-kind world and introduces us to another cast of characters that will wind their way around readers' hearts.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

**Richard Panek**  
*Pillars of Creation: How the James Webb Telescope Unlocked the Secrets of the Cosmos* The James Webb Space Telescope is transforming the universe right before our eyes—and here, for the first time, is the inside account of how the mission originated, how it performs its miracles of science, and what its revolutionary images are revealing.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

**Susanna Chapman, Thyra Heder**  
*The Fastest Drummer: Clap Your Hands For Viola Smith!*, *Nose to Nose: A Picture Book* For lovers of the art form that is the children's picture book come two charming tales: A jazz drumming prodigy and a puppy learning to solve problems.

9:30 AM–10:30 AM

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

**Anne Byrn**  
*Baking in the American South: 200 Recipes and Their Untold Stories* Experience mouthwatering Southern baking—from humble home kitchens to innovative new Southern chefs. One of the world's richest culinary traditions comes to life through this essential cookbook from bestselling author Anne Byrn. With 200 recipes from 14 states and more than 150 photos, *Baking in the American South* has the biscuits, cornbread, cakes, and rolls that will help you bake like a Southerner, even if you aren't.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

**Louis Bayard**  
*The Wildes: A Novel In Five Acts* In this singularly powerful novel, bestselling author Louis Bayard brings Oscar Wilde's wife Constance and two sons out from the shadows of history and creates a vivid and poignant story of secrets, loss, and love.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

**Women's National Book Association presents Coffee with Sarah Adams, Melissa Ferguson, Sarah Ready, and Sophie Sullivan**

*How To Plot a Payback: A Novel, Switched: A Novel, The Rule Book: A Novel, Can't Help Falling in Love: A Novel* This popular annual event features four bestselling romantic comedy authors, with special gifts for the audience.

10:00 AM–11:00 AM

BIG FIERY GIZZARD AND LITTLE PIGEON'S CREATIVITYLAND

(ALSO ON SUNDAY AT 10AM)  
**Puppet Truck Show: Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves**  
"Open Sesame!" Enter the magical Cave of Wonders and behold Wishing Chair Productions colorful adaptation from the Tales of the Arabian Nights. Classic storytelling with a cast of colorful marionettes, clever sets, and props, and exciting original music are sure to enchant the entire family. Running time: 40 minutes. *Presented by Nashville Public Library's Wishing Chair Productions*

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

**Betsy Phillips, Aran Shetterly**  
*Dynamite Nashville: Unmasking The FBI, The KKK, and the Bombers Beyond Their Control, Morningside: The 1979 Greensboro Massacre and the Struggle For An American City* Two historians bring us stories from Nashville and Birmingham of white racists who murdered people, who blew up homes, schools, and religious buildings, and escaped any meaningful justice. It is also the story of how communities and heroes pushed back.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

**Joy Jordan-Lake, Susan Verde**  
*Echoes Of Us: A Novel, I Am We: A Book Of Community* These charming children's books are perfect bedtime reads, putting the littles to bed with heartwarming tales of community and how animals say good night.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

**Kathleen Dorothy Blackburn, Sarah Labrie, Stephanie Smith**  
*Loose of Earth: A Memoir, No One Gets to Fall Apart: A Memoir, Everywhere the Undrowned: A Memoir of Survival and Imagination* Consider the memoir. In beautiful prose and starkly told remembrances, three women move forward by sharing how they survived the past.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

**Kristin Tubb, Christina Wyman**  
*Fowl Play, Slouch* Two middle-grade novelists are in their top form with funny and relatable stories about family, growing up, and the awkward years we all experience.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

**Peng Shepherd, Justin Taylor**  
*All This And More: A Novel, Reboot: A Novel* Can television be more real than reality? A middle-aged woman turned reality TV star and a former child star looking for a reboot are the protagonists in two novels filled with twists.

CUMBERLAND TENT

**Ron Rash**  
*The Caretaker: A Novel* From award-winning author Ron Rash ("One of the great American authors at work today" —The New York Times) comes a breathtaking love story and a searing examination of the acts we seek to justify in the name of duty, family, honor, and love.

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

**Adam Rapp**  
*Wolf At The Table: A Novel* *The Corrections* meets *We Need to Talk About Kevin* in this harrowing multigenerational saga about a family harboring a serial killer in this "masterful novel" that "peers into the dark heart of America" (Richard Ford, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Independence Day*)

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

**Bonnie Jo Campbell, Rachel Khong**  
*Real Americans: A Novel* These *Today Show* Read with Jenna picks explore resilience, and the role that family plays in shaping who we become.

10:45 AM

BIG FIERY GIZZARD AND LITTLE PIGEON'S CREATIVITYLAND

**Josef's Big Dream: An INDY 500 Story**  
Join 2 time INDY 500 winner Joseph Newgarden and Ashley Newgarden as they read from and talk about their book Josef's BIG Dream: An INDY 500 Story.

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

**Alice Randall**  
Alice Randall, award-winning professor, songwriter, and author presents "a celebration of all things country music" (Ken Burns) as she reflects on her search for the first family of Black country music.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

**Andrew C. McKevitt, Jonathan Metz**  
*Gun Country: Gun Capitalism, Culture and Control in Cold War, What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country Of Arms* The history of gun control policy in America, and its limitations, are the core of these two books from notable scholars.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

**Eli Cranor, Joshua Perry, Henry Wise**  
*Broiler: A Novel, Seraphim: A Novel, Holy City: A Novel* Is justice truly blind? Three edgy noir thrillers explore the side of the system that can turn an eye to punishment by race or class. The real heroes find a way to even the scales.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

**Meredith Seacrest Leach, Jessica Young**  
*The Make-Believers, Two Homes, One Heart* The power of imagination and the importance of a loving family come to life in these beautiful books for children and their parents.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

**Prisca Dorcas Mojica Rodríguez**  
*Tias and Primas: On Knowing and Loving the Women Who Raised Us* From the author of *For Brown Girls with Sharp Edges and Tender Hearts*, a celebration of the women at the heart of Latine families.

11:30 AM–12:30 PM

CUMBERLAND TENT

**Andre Dubus in conversation with Ann Patchett**  
*Ghost Dogs: On Killers and Kin* From the literary master and best-selling author of *Townie*, reflections on a life of challenges, contradictions, and fulfillments. In *Ghost Dogs*, Dubus's nonfiction prowess is on full display in his retelling of his own successes, failures, triumphs, and pain.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

**Helen Phillips, Marguerite Sheffer**  
*Hum: A Novel, The Man In the Banana Trees* With plots shaped by environmental catastrophe, dizzying technological change and more, explore new work from Phillips, "one of our most profound writers of speculative fiction" (*The New York Times*), and the debut short story collection from Sheffer that "... is a truly remarkable work of literary art and marks the arrival of an absolutely brilliant new storyteller." (Maurice Carlos Ruffin)

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

**Lisa Unger in conversation with J.T. Ellison**  
*The New Couple In 5B: A Novel* A couple inherits an apartment with a spine-tingling past in this unputdownable thriller from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six*.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

**Tennessee Writers/Tennessee Stories presents Jared Sullivan**  
*Valley So Low: One Lawyer's Fight For Justice in the Wake of America's Great Coal Catastrophe* A riveting courtroom drama about the victims of one of the largest environmental disasters in U.S. history—and the country lawyer determined to challenge the notion that, in America, justice can be bought.

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

**Brenda Wineapple**  
*Keeping the Faith: God, Democracy and the Trial That Riveted A Nation* The dramatic story of the 1925 Scopes trial, which captivated the nation and exposed profound divisions in America that still resonate today—divisions over the meaning of freedom, religion, education, censorship, and civil liberties in a democracy.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

**Gina Balibrera, Jen Fawkes**  
*The Volcano Daughters: A Novel, Daughters of Chaos: A Novel* History and mythology intertwine in these two fascinating novels that focus on the women that history has so often overlooked.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

**John Vercher**  
*Devil Is Fine: A Novel* Still reeling from a sudden tragedy, our biracial narrator receives a letter from an attorney: he has just inherited a plot of land from his estranged white grandfather. He travels to a beach town several hours south of his home with the intention of selling the land immediately and moving on. But upon inspection, what lies beneath the dirt is far more complicated than he ever imagined. In a shocking irony, he is now the Black owner of a former plantation passed down by the men on his white mother's side of the family.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

**Ravynn Stringfield, Julian Winters, Jeff Zentner**  
*Love Requires Chocolate, Prince of The Palisades, Colton Gentry's Third Act: A Novel* First loves are

universal and universally beloved. Three young adult novels immerse readers into the shaky, crazy, wonderful world of love.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

**Wilmoth Foreman, Alana White**  
*Young James K. Polk: A Novel, Sacagawea: Westward With Lewis And Clark* Biographies of fascinating historical figures are aimed at middle grade readers, bringing history to life from the bookshelf.

12:30 PM–1:30 PM

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

**Ace Atkins**  
*Don't Let The Devil Ride: A Novel* S.A. Cosby meets Don Winslow in the breakout thriller from *New York Times* bestselling author Ace Atkins. A Memphis woman hires a PI to find her missing husband, only to discover that he is involved in a dangerous web of international intrigue—and she and her children are now at risk.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

**Carlos Lozada**  
*The Washington Book: How to Read Politics and Politicians* The Pulitzer Prize-winning opinion columnist at *The New York Times* and "an absolutely original genius" (Bob Woodward, *The Washington Post*) Carlos Lozada explores how people in power reveal themselves through their books and writings and, in doing so, illuminate the personal, political, and cultural conflicts driving Washington and the nation.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

**Renée Watson**  
*Skin & Bones: A Novel* From the acclaimed #1 *New York Times* bestselling author comes a soulful and lyrical novel exploring sisterhood, motherhood, faith, love, and ultimately what gets passed down from one generation to the next.

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

BIG FIERY GIZZARD AND LITTLE PIGEON'S CREATIVITYLAND

**Meet a Meteorologist**  
Have you ever wondered how meteorologists on TV predict the weather? Meet, chat, experiment and create with local, long-time broadcast WSMV meteorologist Lisa Spence.

OBION ROOM: MUSEUM

**David Greenberg**  
*John Lewis: A Life* A comprehensive, authoritative biography of Civil Rights icon John Lewis, "the conscience of the Congress," drawing on interviews with Lewis and approximately 275 others who knew him at various stages of his life, as well as never-before-used FBI files and documents.

CONASAUGA ROOM: MUSEUM

**Larry Wells**  
*Ghostwriter: Shakespeare, Literary Landmines, and an Eccentric Patron's Royal Obsession* Part literary mystery, part examination of what constitutes fiction versus reality, *Ghostwriter* is based on the true story of author Lawrence Wells, then 45, hired by the University of Mississippi in 1987 to ghostwrite a novel for a wealthy, eccentric donor ("Mrs. F," then 75), who was convinced that Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, was William Shakespeare. Believing herself to be the reincarnation of Queen Elizabeth I, Mrs. F treated ghostwriter Wells as a "captive" Edward de Vere.

CUMBERLAND TENT

**Liz Moore**  
*The God Of The Woods: A Novel* When a teenager vanishes from her Adirondack summer camp, two

worlds collide. Moore's novel is a *New York Times* bestseller, a Jimmy Fallon Summer Reads pick, and is included on President Barack Obama's summer reading recommendations.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

**Lynnell Edwards, Annette Sisson**  
*The Bearable Slant of Light: Poems, Winter Sharp with Apples: Poems* These two new collections face the world today, bringing a readability rich with emotional and intellectual pleasures.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

**Sarah Adams, Matthew Hubbard, Jenna Levine**  
*The Rule Book: A Novel, The Last Boyfriends Rules For Revenge, My Vampire Plus-One* Romance or fauxmance? Everyone deserves to be the leading character in their own romantic comedy. These three writers show why rom-com is the genre of the moment.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

**Terah Shelton Harris, Sarai Johnson, Phyllis Dixon**  
*Long After We Are Gone: A Novel, Grown Women: A Novel, A Taste For More: A Novel* These three novels create a rich and moving portrait of Black women's lives today. From surviving generational trauma, to sibling bonds and motherhood, these novels speak truth.

1:30 PM–2:30 PM

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

**Darnell Arnoult, Didi Jackson, Jim Minick**  
*Incantations: Poems, My Infinity: Poems, The Intimations of Spoons: Poems* Three masters of form imbue the ordinary with the sacred, exploring the natural world, grief, and the beauty in the every day.

2:00 PM–3:00 PM

BIG FIERY GIZZARD AND LITTLE PIGEON'S CREATIVITYLAND

**Puppet Truck Show: Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves**  
(ALSO ON SUNDAY AT 2PM)  
"Open Sesame!" Enter the magical Cave of Wonders and behold Wishing Chair Productions colorful adaptation from the Tales of the Arabian Nights. Classic storytelling with a cast of colorful marionettes, clever sets, and props, and exciting original music are sure to enchant the entire family. Running time: 40 minutes. *Presented by Nashville Public Library's Wishing Chair Productions*

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

**Crystal Wilkinson**  
*Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts: Stories and Recipes from Five Generations of Black Country Cooks* NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A lyrical culinary journey that explores the hidden legacy of Black Appalachians, through powerful storytelling alongside nearly forty comforting recipes, from the former poet laureate of Kentucky.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

**Jennifer Moorman, Meg Shaffer**  
*The Magic All Around, The Lost Story: A Novel* A little magic provides the spark in these two novels, one inspired by "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," and the other with a magical Victorian house with a radio that tunes itself to the listener's mood and a pantry that rearranges to provide just the right ingredients.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

**M.L. Rio, Daniel Kraus**  
*Graveyard Shift: A Novel, Pay The Piper: A Novel* Just in time for Halloween come two tales of horror. While studying in archives, novelist Daniel Kraus turned up a surprise: a half-finished novel by horror master George Romero. Kraus worked with Romero's estate to bring this unfinished masterpiece to light. M.L. Rio is a contemporary horror master, and this new novella is a story about a ragtag group of night shift workers who meet in the local cemetery to unearth the secrets lurking in an open grave.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

**Micaiah Johnson, L.M. Sagas, Nghi Vo**  
*Those Beyond The Wall: A Novel, Cascade Failure: A Novel, The Brides Of High Hill (Singing Hills Cycle, 5)* Three science fiction thrillers from award-winning writers involve the best of the genre: apocalyptic landscapes, dazzling futuristic cities, and potential planetary destruction.

CUMBERLAND TENT

**Simon van Booy in conversation with Ann Patchett**  
*Sipsworth: A Novel* *Sipsworth* is a reminder that there can be second chances. No matter what we have planned for ourselves, sometimes life has plans of its own. With profound compassion, Simon Van Booy illuminates not only a deep friendship forged between two lonely creatures, but the reverberations of goodness that ripple out from that unique bond.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

**Sloane Crosley**  
*Grief Is for People* Disarmingly witty and poignant, Sloane Crosley's memoir explores multiple kinds of loss following the death of her closest friend. A *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice, one of *Vogue*, *Esquire*, *W*, and *Real Simple*'s Best Books of the Year So Far, and one of The Most Anticipated Books of the Year: *TIME*, *The Washington Post*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Paste*, *The Millions*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Lit Hub*, *Real Simple*, *Nylon*, *BookPage*, *Book Riot*, *The Story Exchange*, *Sunset* and *Zibby Mag*.

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

**Tribute to Brad Watson**  
*There is Happiness: New and Selected Stories* A posthumous collection of beloved and never-before-read stories from a titan of contemporary Southern fiction. The panelists include Watson's longtime editor Alane Mason, Ron Rash, Andre Dubus and Jill McCorkle.

2:30 PM–3:30 PM

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

**Peter Swanson, Erica Wright**  
*A Talent For Murder: A Novel, Hollow Bones: A Novel* A trusting wife must face the question of whether she is married to a serial killer. A sister learns her brother is the suspect in a fire that killed two people. Ordinary people turn sleuths to find the answers and stop the killing.

3:00 PM–4:00 PM

NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

**Tyler Mahan Coe, Brian Fairbanks**  
*Cocaine and Rhinestones: A History of George Jones and Tammy Wynette, Willie, Waylon, and the Boys: How Nashville Outsiders Changed Country Music Forever* The history of country music is fascinating and filled with tales that would make for great...country songs. Join this session for behind the scenes stories about the careers of some of the biggest names in country.

CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

**Avery Cunningham, Sara Koffi**  
*The Mayor of Maxwell Street: A Novel, While We Were Burning: A Novel* At the intersection of race and class lie these two propulsive debut novels, historical fiction set in the Chicago underworld of the 20's, and the tale of a griefstricken mother in Memphis who wants only the truth.

SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

**Jayne Anne Phillips**  
*Night Watch: A Novel* From one of our most accomplished novelists, a mesmerizing story about a mother and daughter seeking refuge in the chaotic aftermath of the Civil War—and a brilliant portrait of family endurance against all odds. Winner of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

**Joanna Brichetto, Leigh Ann Henion**  
*This is How a Robin Drinks: Essays on Urban Nature, Night Magic: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark* A new appreciation of the natural world, from our back yards to the sights and sounds of the woods at night, are featured in these new books.

PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

**Kimberly King Parsons, Liz Riggs**  
*We Were the Universe: A Novel, Lo Fi* Living the creative life as a musician and looking back on years touring with a band are at the core of these two novels from ambitious, inventive new voices.

OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

**Michael Bertrand, Amanda Edgar, Andre Johnson, Charles McKinney**  
*Southern History Remixed: On Rocknroll and the Dilemma of Race, The Summer of 2020: George Floyd and the Resurgence of the Black Lives Matter Movement, From Rights to Lives: The Evolution of the Black Freedom Struggle* Scholars of the Civil Rights era and the Black Lives Matter movement bring us understanding of the role that music played in race relations, the similarities between parallel eras in social justice, and the work still to come.

CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

**Rea Frey, Sophie Sullivan**  
*In Every Life: A Novel, Can't Help Falling in Love: A Novel* Being in love means taking a chance on love. These cliff-divers-of-the-heart romantic novels show women taking that chance, and looking back on the what-ifs of the chances not taken.

3:30 PM–4:30 PM

HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

**RJ Jacobs, Lauren Nossett**  
*This Is How We End Things: A Novel, The Professor: A Novel* For fans of dark academia, enjoy two twisty thrillers that play out on college campuses, complete with winter storms and dead bodies.

CUMBERLAND TENT

**TJ Klune**  
*Somewhere Beyond the Sea (Cerulean Chronicles, 2)* *Somewhere Beyond the Sea* is the hugely anticipated sequel to TJ Klune's *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, one of the best-loved and best-selling fantasy novels of the past decade. *Somewhere Beyond the Sea* is a story of resistance, lovingly told, about the daunting experience of fighting for the life you want to live and doing the work to keep it.





#### 4:00 PM–5:00 PM

##### BEER AND WINE GARDEN

###### Substack Meetup

Join Ben Bolling (*The New Futurists*) and Jon Cochran (*First Thing Monday*) to meet other Substack creators, share skills, and talk about the craft of writing for a digital audience.

##### PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Amy Jo Burns, Bret Anthony Johnston, Jeff Zentner

**Mercury: A Novel, We Burn Daylight: A Novel, Colton Gentry's Third Act: A Novel** Rural life provides the roots for three novels of young love, midlife reckonings and next chapters. From Pennsylvania to Texas to Kentucky, new novels from three acclaimed writers are grounded in American stories.

##### OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Caitlin Cass

**Suffrage Song: The Haunted History of Gender, Race and Voting Rights in the U.S. New Yorker** contributing cartoonist Caitlin Cass traces the fight for suffrage in the U.S. from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This intersectional history of women and voting rights chronicles the suffrage movement's triumphs, setbacks, and problematic aspects.

##### NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Jill McCorkle

**Old Crimes: and Other Stories** From a *New York Times* bestselling author ("...One of our wryest, warmest, wisest storytellers" —Rebecca Makkai author of *The Great Believers*), a story collection that is funny and tragic in equal measure, about crimes large and small.

##### CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Leslye Penelope, Shawntelle Madison

**Daughter of the Merciful Deep: A Novel, The Fallen Fruit: A Novel** Historical fiction meets fantasy in these two novels, making page-turning family sagas about the inevitability of fate, the invincibility of love, and the indelible bonds of family.

##### DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Lisa Gornick, Tessa Fontaine

**Ana Turns: A Novel, The Red Grove: A Novel** In the blink of a life, women make countless choices. These two novels explore mothers, daughters, sisters, the dangers of being a woman in this world, and the flawed, fierce choices we make.

##### CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

###### MJ Wassmer

**Zero Stars, Do Not Recommend: A Novel** *White Lotus* meets Kevin Wilson in this whip-smart social satire about a man who finds himself trapped on an island resort after the sun explodes, and suddenly must choose whether to save himself from the chaos, or help the fellow guests make it off the island alive...

#### 4:30 PM–5:30 PM

##### CUMBERLAND TENT

###### Kidizenship

Kidizenship and Vanderbilt University's Project On Unity and American Democracy have launched a contest to recognize and celebrate the voices and vision of Nashville's rising generation.

##### HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Jeff Biggers, Mike Maden

**Disturbing the Bones: A Thriller, Clive Cussler Ghost Soldier (The Oregon Files)** A global peace summit.

An archeological discovery. Mysterious arms dealers and flame-throwing robots. These two thrillers are high-speed and high-intensity, from the acclaimed director of *The Fugitive* and the continuation of Clive Cussler's legacy.

#### 4:30 PM–6:00 PM

##### SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Suttree's Knoxville: A Hymn to the Past in Words and Music

###### Eric Dawson, Ron Rash, William Tyler

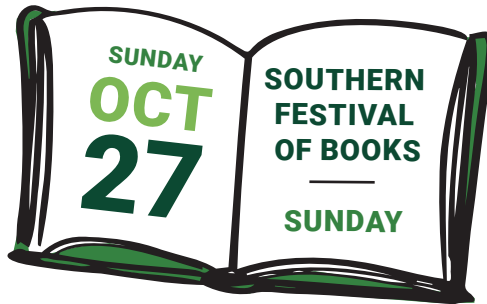
This interactive experience features documentary footage from the era of Cormac McCarthy's novel, paired with music developed by William Tyler and short readings from the novel. The multimedia presentation was created by Eric Dawson, manager of the Calvin McClung Historic Collection at the Knoxville Public Library.

#### 5:00 PM–6:00 PM

##### OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Jared Sullivan

A riveting courtroom drama about the victims of one of the largest environmental disasters in U.S. history—and the country lawyer determined to challenge the notion that, in America, justice can be bought.



#### 10:00 AM–11:00 AM

##### NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Margot Livesey

###### The Road from Belhaven: A Novel

From the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*, a novel about a young woman whose gift of second sight complicates her coming of age in late-nineteenth-century Scotland.

##### CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Doan Phuong Nguyen, Gennifer Choldenko

###### The Road from Belhaven: A Novel and

###### The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman

When you're 11 or 12, life can be at its most confusing. These books explore how change and uncertainty affect us all, and provide an empathetic path for readers.

##### CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Jack Bedell, Holly Haworth, Jane Hicks

###### Ghost Forest: Poems, The Way the Moon: Poems,

###### The Safety of Small Things: Poems

Poets translate the world. Whether by chasing ghosts, the moon, or the natural world, the three collections here help us to illuminate our own lives.

##### PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Kyle Lukoff

###### Just What to Do

Newbery Honor winner Kyle Lukoff explores the importance of learning to apologize.

##### OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Mark Cheatham, Jeff Sellers

###### Who is James K. Polk: The Presidential Election

###### of 1844, The Tennessee State Capitol

Tennessee history is fascinating, especially when told by scholars who know the stories behind the stories. Join these two to learn about President James K. Polk and the historical state Capitol.

##### SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Meredith Adamo, Kara Thomas

**Not Like Other Girls, The Champions (The Cheerleaders)** In high school as in life, the only way out is through. These YA thrillers feature girls caught in tangled webs and unsolved mysteries.

##### HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Michael Sims

###### The Penguin Book of Murder Mysteries

For classic murder mystery readers, a scintillating anthology of lost treasures to read alongside Edgar Allan Poe and Sherlock Holmes.

#### 10:30 AM–11:30 AM

##### CUMBERLAND TENT

###### Alison Espach

**The Wedding People: A Novel** A propulsive and uncommonly wise novel about one unexpected wedding guest and the surprising people who help her start anew. A Today Show #ReadwithJenna Book Club Pick

#### 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

##### HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Tennessee Book Award winners: Monic Ductan, Denton Loving

Join us for a panel discussion with the winners of the inaugural Tennessee Book Awards, presented by Humanities Tennessee and the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

##### OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Andrew Smith

###### Devil in the Stack: A Code Odyssey

From internationally-bestselling author and journalist Andrew Smith, an immersive, alarming, sharp-eyed journey into the bizarre world of computer code, told through his sometimes painful, often amusing attempt to become a coder himself.

##### DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Brian Griffin, John C. Mannone

###### Single Lens Reflex: Poems, Sacred Flute: Poems

These clear-eyed collections look at ugly truths in language that help us understand, illuminating the best and worst of humanity.

##### CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Erica Ivy Rodgers, Jill Tew

###### Lady Of Steel And Straw, The Dividing Sky

These two highly praised debut fantasy young adult novels create new worlds with an army of the dead, missing memories, and dystopian romance.

##### NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Kimberly Brock, Joy Jordan-Lake

###### The Fabled Earth: A Novel, Echoes of Us: A Novel

Cumberland and St. Simons Island, Georgia are the sites of these two historical fiction novels. The era of wealth in the 1930s and the tragedies of World War II bring the past to life.

##### PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Miles Harvey, Ruben Reyes, Bradley Sides

**The Registry Of Forgotten Objects: Stories, There is a Rio Grande In Heaven: Stories, Crocodile Tears Didn't Cause The Flood: Stories** Enter the unexpected. These three short story collections, through fantasy and magical realism, create strange, gripping, and memorable worlds.

##### SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Sara Raasch, Beth Revis

###### The Fate Of Magic: A Novel

The breathtaking sequel to the instant *New York Times* bestseller *Night of the Witch* culminates with a sweeping romance and an epic battle to determine the fate of magic...and the world.

##### CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Tessa Fontaine, Rea Frey

###### The Red Grove: A Novel, In Every Life: A Novel

When the people they love most disappear without a trace, the heroines of these novels show what strength and persistence are as they uncover secrets and find answers.

#### 12:00 PM–1:00 PM

##### OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Barbara Jenkins, Sayantani DasGupta

###### So Long as it's Wild: Standing Strong After My Famous Walk Across America, Brown Women Have

###### Everything: Essays on (Dis)Comfort and Delight

Through traveling the world we come to know ourselves. From daydreaming of faraway places to seeing them in person, these collections tell funny, tough, and inspiring stories from the road.

##### SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Gabino Iglesias

###### House of Bone and Rain: A Novel

In this "stunningly visceral" (*New York Times* Book Review) novel, a group of young men seek vengeance after one of their mothers is murdered in a Puerto Rican slum; *Stand By Me* with a haunted, obsidian-dark heart.

##### NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Gaylord Brewer, Ben Groner III

###### Before the Storm Takes It Away: Brief Nonfiction, Dust Storms May Exist: Poems

Through these prose pieces and poems, Brewer and Groner explore the contemporary world with clear eyes and powerful lyricism. The power of reminiscence shapes these works.

##### CUMBERLAND TENT

###### Joan Baez

###### When You See My Mother, Ask Her to Dance: Poems

An intimate, autobiographical poetry collection from legendary artist and activist, Joan Baez.

##### CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Joe Nolan

###### Nowville: The Untold History of Nashville's Contemporary Arts Scene

This is the origin story of Nashville's surging contemporary art scene told by the ones who were there before anyone else. Not a story about commercial spaces or official institutions—this is the story of moldy warehouse studios and improvised galleries, happy-kegger after-parties and front lawn art sales, exhibitions in apartment living rooms and secret art displays hidden in plain sight.

##### HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

###### John Hendrix

###### The Mythmakers: The Remarkable

###### Fellowship of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien

From *New York Times* bestselling, award-winning creator John Hendrix comes *The Mythmakers*, a graphic novel biography of two literary lions—C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien—following the remarkable story of their friendship and creative fellowship, and how each came to write their masterworks.

##### PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

###### K. Ancrum, Anton Treuer

###### Icarus, Where Wolves Don't Die: A Novel

These young adult coming-of-age stories take place in different worlds with universal themes: learning to love oneself and others amid teenage turmoil.

##### CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Sarah Pinsker, Lauren Thoman

###### Haunt Sweet Home, You Shouldn't Be Here: A Novel

For fans of dark, twisty, and the supernatural. Get immersed in these two thrillers.

#### 12:30 PM–1:30 PM

##### DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Phyllis Gobbell

###### Notorious In Nashville (A Jordan Mayfair Mystery)

The old and new collide in Nashville. A crooked developer, Tommy Kahn, plans to demolish a historic building, the Eagles Nest, and build yet another sleek, new tower. At The Bluebird Cafe, where so many music careers have been launched, a washed-up drunk named Notorious interrupts Willow Goodheart's performance, accusing her of stealing his song. Truth-teller Caleb Hunter, determined to shine a light on the corruption in New Nashville, is murdered, his body dragged from the river. Jordan Mayfair finds herself immersed in it all when she comes to "Music City" with Alex, her travel-writer uncle, and learns that her daughter Holly, who works for Tommy Kahn, might be in danger...

#### 1:00 PM–2:00 PM

##### PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

###### D.W. Gillespie, Nicki Pau Preto, Adam Rosenbaum

###### Give Me Something Good to Eat,

###### The Last Hope School for Magical Delinquents, The

###### Ghost Rules

It's the season for ghosts, for magic, and for intrepid middle grade heroes. Meet three teens willing to take on the underworld, master their powers, and solve the puzzles.

##### NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Desiree Evans,

###### Saracicia Fennell

###### The Black Girl Survives in This One: Horror Stories

A YA anthology of horror stories centering Black girls who battle monsters, both human and supernatural, and who survive to the end.

##### CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Johnny Compton, Emma C. Wells

###### Devils Kill Devils: A Novel, This Girl's A Killer: A

###### Novel

Whether seeking out serial killers or fighting real demons, these two thrilling novels are perfect for the season of chills.

##### OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

###### KB Brookins, Corey J. Miles, Julian Randall

**Pretty: A Memoir, Vibe: The Sound and Feeling of Black Life in the American South, The Dead Don't Need Reminding: In Search of Fugitives, Mississippi, and Black TV Nerd S\*\*T** Through scholarship,

popular culture, and lived experience, the authors open their lives to the world.

##### HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Keren Blenkfeld, Allen Hershkowitz

###### Lovers In Auschwitz: A True Story, Finding My

###### Father's Auschwitz File

These true stories from Auschwitz show the deepest of evils, and the most miraculous strength of those committed to survive.

##### CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Michael Gray Bulla, Jenna Voris

###### The Ghost of You, Every Time You Hear That Song: A

###### Novel

Music is everything for the teenage musicians in these powerful young adult novels. When the world falls apart, our stories are our own to tell.

##### GRAND HALL, MUSEUM

###### Todd Lockwood,

###### Michael Sampson

###### The Twelve Days of Christmas: A Holiday Fantasy,

###### Rainbow Bear

Two legends of children's illustrations share their new books, and the creative inspirations behind them.

#### 1:30 PM–2:30 PM

##### CUMBERLAND TENT

###### Katherine Applegate,

###### Gennifer Choldenko

###### Mouse And His Dog: A Dogtown Book

Now a *New York Times* bestseller, an Indie bestseller, and an Amazon Best Children's Book! From beloved authors Katherine Applegate and Gennifer Choldenko and with illustrations by Wallace West, Dogtown is at once an uplifting story and a page-turning adventure, sure to find a forever home in readers' hearts.

##### DUCK ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Andi Kopek

###### Shmehara: A Poet's Journey Through War and

###### Peace

Shmehara, a debut collection of poems by a contemporary poet, Andi Kopek, takes you on a very personal and transformative journey where the written word, visual art, and animation are fused together.

#### 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

##### CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Harpeth River Writers Group:

###### Micki Furhman, Cindy King,

###### Cate Moore, Kathy Rhodes,

###### Mike Tucker, Tom Wood

###### In Tangled Lives: A Harpeth River Writers Anthology

features twenty-two short stories and one novella. Nine Nashville-area authors explore connections people make in love, kinship, and friendship—amorous encounters, family entanglements, lasting love, illicit love, and love gone awry. Heroes, chums, lovers, and others, the characters navigate ties, twists, and turns to unexpected ends.

##### PINEY ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Jamie Quatro

###### Two-Step Devil: A Novel

From a *New York Times* Notable "writer of great originality" comes a bold new novel about love, faith and two societal outsiders whose lives converge in the contemporary American South.

##### NOLICHUCKY ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Julian Randall,

###### Scout Underhill

**The Dead Don't Need Reminding: In Search of Fugitives, Mississippi, And Black TV Nerd S\*\*T, Dndoggos: Get the Party Started** Adventure is out there! In these two middle grade novels, young

readers are given the chance to escape into imaginary worlds.

##### HARPETH ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Melissa Collings, Mary Liza Hartong

###### The False Flat: A Novel, Love and Hot Chicken: A

###### Delicious Southern Novel

These novels set in Tennessee feature the classic ingredients for Southern humor and warmth: friendship, romance, and hot chicken.

##### OBION ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Neesha Powell-Ingabire, Andrew C. Ross

###### Come By Here: A Memoir in Essays From Georgia's

###### Geechee Coast, The Realms of Oblivion: An

###### Excavation of the Davies Manor Historic Sites

###### Omitted Stories

Through scholarship and personal essays, these untold stories of lives and experiences from a plantation near Memphis and on Georgia's coast continue to bring truth-telling to history.

##### SEQUATCHIE ROOM: MUSEUM

###### Next Chapter Society 2024

###### Author Ambassador

###### And the Author Ambassador Is ...

Join the Nashville Public Library's Next Chapter Society as it announces its next author ambassador and features a conversation with past ambassadors who promote the library's vital role in Nashville.

##### CANEY FORK ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Randy O'Brien, Karen Spears Zacharias

###### The Farm: A Novel, No Perfect Mothers: A Novel

###### In Tennessee and Kentucky, at a prisoner of war camp

###### and a home for unwed mothers, these powerful

historical fiction novels put pregnant women and limited choices at the forefront.

#### 3:00 PM–4:00 PM

##### CONASAUGA ROOM: LIBRARY

###### Andrew Maraniss

###### Beyond The Game: Maya Moore Beyond

###### The Game





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