



ART: MALAIKA FAVORITE PHOTO: DAVID HUMPHREYS



LOUISIANA
BOOK
FESTIVAL

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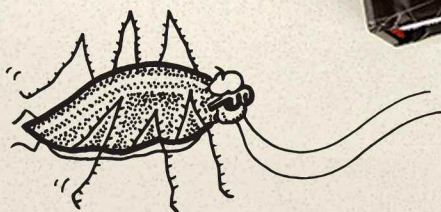
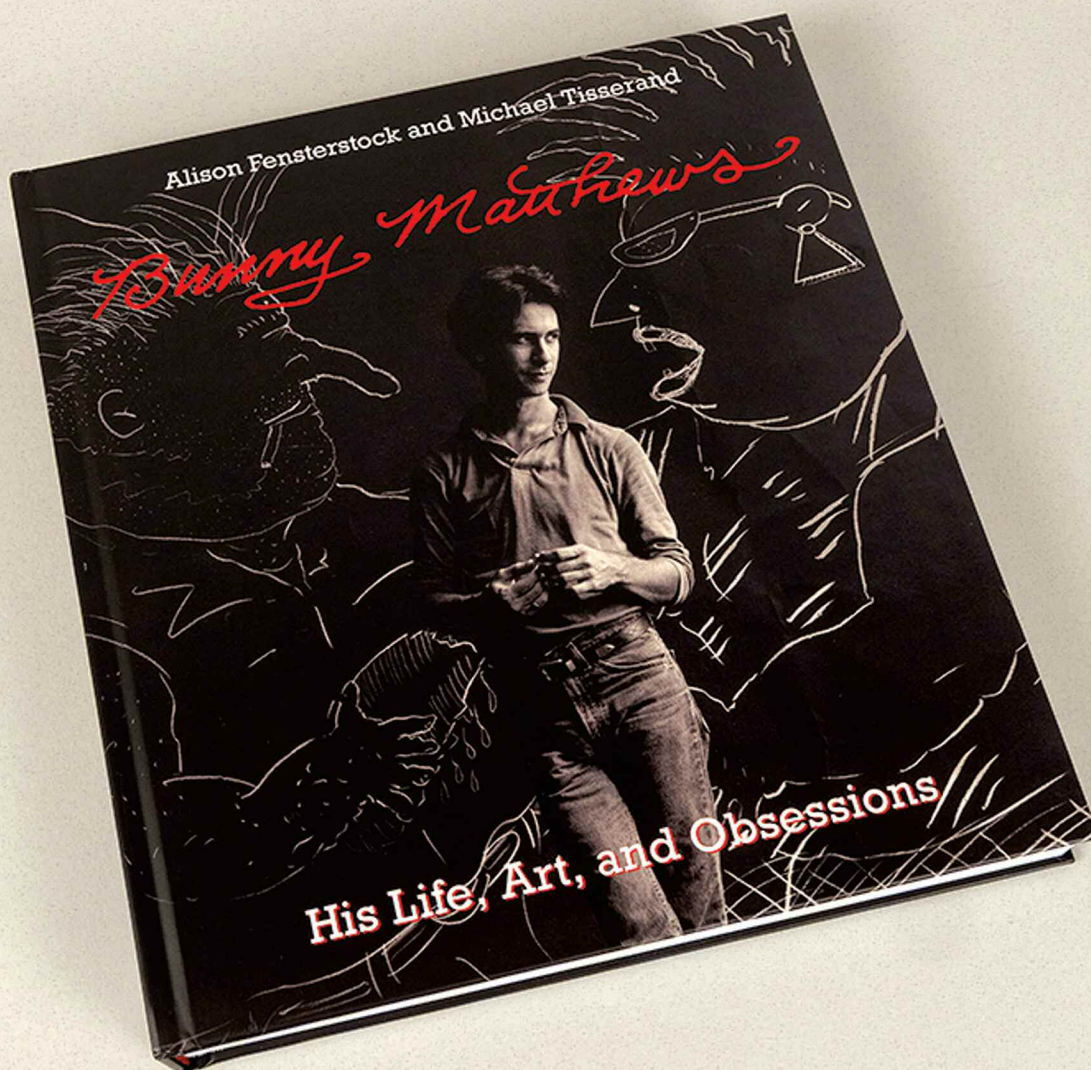
LOUISIANABOOKFESTIVAL.ORG

NEW IN PRINT FROM THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

BUNNY MATTHEWS

His Life, Art, and Obsessions

by Alison Fensterstock and Michael Tisserand



 The Historic
New Orleans Collection

hnoc.org • @visit_hnoc

“Bunny Matthews was as New Orleans as jazz, humidity, Jax beer, and fried ‘erstas.’ This book is a worthy introduction for newcomers and a valuable document for fans.”

—WAYNO, BIZARRO CARTOONIST



LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

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ORDER YOUR BOOKS ONLINE!

Want to purchase a book but don't have time to visit the Cavalier House Books Tent before the next program starts? Use this QR code to order your book(s) online and ship them to your house or pick them up later in the tent.



Welcome

Welcome to the 2026 Louisiana Book Festival!

Every fall, Louisiana sets aside a day to honor the written word, and I am delighted to welcome you to our state's signature literary gathering. This is a celebration built by and for readers and writers, a uniquely Louisiana tribute to the written works that bring us together.

Few places tell stories quite like we do. Our bayous and back roads, our music, and our history have shaped generations of authors whose voices carry well beyond state lines. This year, with the festival falling on Halloween, we lean happily into that moody, atmospheric tradition which has long made our state such fertile ground for the imagination. Over the course of the day, you will meet more than 200 authors and literary professionals from Louisiana and throughout the country, writing in every genre from picture books to true crime, from poetry to the thriller that keeps you up well past midnight.

Since 2002, this festival has grown into one of the nation's most respected literary events, welcoming tens of thousands of visitors to the heart of downtown Baton Rouge each year. That standing reflects a simple belief we hold dear: that reading enriches every life it touches. We are especially glad to see young readers among you, because the child who finds a favorite book here today may well be the author others gather to celebrate tomorrow.

Wherever your tastes may run, you will find something to stir them. There may be an insightful authors' panel that challenges you, a conversation that lingers long after the room has emptied, or a writer you did not yet know you were looking for. Wander among the books and exhibits, settle in for a poetry reading, get a book signed, or simply follow your curiosity from one tent to the next, with no set itinerary and nowhere you need to be. And you will find something harder to put into words: the easy, unmistakable warmth of people who love books, all in one place.

On behalf of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, the State Library of Louisiana, the Louisiana Center for the Book, and the Louisiana Library and Book Festival Foundation, thank you for being here. Your presence keeps this tradition vibrant and ensures that Louisiana's remarkable literary legacy will endure for generations to come.

Enjoy the day, and happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Billy Nungesser". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser
Honorary Chairman, Louisiana Book Festival



It is my great honor to welcome you to this year's Louisiana Book Festival. Whether this is your twentieth festival or your very first, you are now part of a community of readers that spans our entire state and region, and we are delighted you have joined us.

What began more than two decades ago as a hopeful experiment has become one of the most admired

literary festivals in the country. That reputation rests on the people who fill these streets each year: the authors who share their work, the exhibitors who bring their craft, and the readers whose curiosity gives the event its purpose. The 2026 lineup upholds that standard, and I am confident it will reward however you choose to spend your day.

A book festival, though, is never simply a marketplace for titles. In our Young Readers Pavilion, children meet the

characters and authors behind their favorite stories, and a lifelong love of reading quietly takes root. In Teen Headquarters, young adults meet writers whose work speaks to the questions of their age. Our adult programming, meanwhile, reaches across every shelf, from fiction and memoir to history, poetry, and far beyond.

That reach is the clearest expression of what the State Library of Louisiana has always stood for: the conviction that a love of reading belongs to everyone, at every age, in every parish. We are honored to carry that spirit forward through this festival, and to welcome a new year of readers into a tradition that only grows richer with time.

I hope the hours you spend with us prove both enriching and memorable, and I encourage you to wander, discover, and enjoy all that this extraordinary festival has to offer.

Meg Placke

State Librarian, State Library of Louisiana



Welcome to the Louisiana Book Festival, and Happy Halloween! I have a background in theater, so I'll say it the way a stage manager would: the house is open, the lights are up, and today the whole stage is yours. Thank you for joining us in downtown Baton Rouge for the 22nd edition of Louisiana's celebration of readers, writers, and the books that bring them all together.

History takes center stage this year, with a lineup of sessions that carries you from the nation's founding through the frontier and beyond and shows how the stories we tell about the past still shape us. Closer to home, we'll explore Louisiana's own story, from the Acadian exile to the rituals of New Orleans, the voices of Cajun radio, a regional history of Bayou DuLarge, and the assassination of the Kingfish.

Join me in offering a special welcome to Farrah Rochon, who becomes the first romance writer to receive the Louisiana Writer Award.

I've always loved a good shiver, and I don't think there's a better way to spend Halloween than with a story that keeps you looking over your shoulder in the dark. If you feel the

same way, you're in luck: along with this year's One Book, One Festival selection, Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire*, we have a strong horror lineup that takes you from Southern Gothic hauntings and family secrets to monsters in the woods and cosmic dread among the stars.

But you can follow whatever you're interested in, whether that's the denouement of Joe R. Lansdale's Hap and Leonard series, biographies about women ahead of their time, a poetry reading hosted by the Louisiana Poet Laureate, a multi-genre romance panel, an informative (and delicious) cooking demonstration, or a picture book for the youngest readers in your family. Meet the writers, ask them questions, and let them surprise you. Fair warning: with sessions happening in and around four different buildings in multiple rooms and tents, you can't do everything. Like Jazz Fest, you just have to pick, and there's no wrong choice.

Before I let you go, I want to say thank you to all of our authors, volunteers, and sponsors, the staff at the State Library of Louisiana, and thank YOU for being here. The curtain is up. Go find your story, browse, listen, discover, and leave with a stack of new books and a few new tales to tell.

Robert Wilson

Executive Director, Louisiana Center for the Book and Louisiana Book Festival



LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

GENERAL INFORMATION

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2026
9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.**

State Library of Louisiana, Capitol Park Museum, the Bienville Building, the Iberville Building, A.Z. Young Park, and nearby locations at Spanish Town Road and North 4th Street.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The 2026 Louisiana Book Festival (LBF) program features over 225 authors, scholars, poets, and panelists presenting book talks or participating in discussions as well as an abundance of book-related activities.



LBF INFORMATION CENTERS

Information Centers are located near the corner of North 4th Street and North Street, near the intersection of Spanish Town Road and North 4th Street, and in the A.Z. Young Park.

These Centers distribute maps, schedules, and programs and provide information concerning special needs access – arranging sign language interpretation, onsite transportation for visitors with disabilities, and large print and Braille reproductions of the LBF Program.

Additional services include First Aid and Lost and Found.

FOUND CHILDREN

Found children will be escorted to the Command Center Tent in the State Library parking lot along Spanish Town Road.



SPECIAL NEEDS

Free wheelchair accessible parking is available in the south parking lot of the State Library (enter from North 3rd Street). See maps.

Individuals with disabilities may request onsite transportation, as well as large print and Braille reproductions of the LBF Program at all the LBF Information Centers.

Requests for sign language interpretation may be made at LBF Information Centers. Service is limited and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

BOOKS AND AUTOGRAPHS

Books by featured authors will be available for purchase in the Cavalier House Books Tent, located on North 4th Street. Participating authors will sign their books at this location approximately 15 minutes after their feature presentations.

Signing schedules for participating authors are included with their listings in the “Featured Participants” section of this program and are available separately at LBF Information Centers and in the Cavalier House Books Tent. *Schedules are subject to last-minute changes and will be announced when possible.*

2026 LOUISIANA WRITER AWARD RECIPIENT FARRAH ROCHON



Author **Farrah Rochon** is the 2026 recipient of the Louisiana Writer Award, presented annually by the Louisiana Center for the Book in the State Library of Louisiana. Rochon is the 27th recipient of the prestigious award that recognizes outstanding contributions to Louisiana's literary and intellectual life exemplified by a contemporary Louisiana writer's body of work.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony Honoring Farrah Rochon
Presented by the Louisiana Center for the Book

10:00 am to 10:30 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

In Conversation with Farrah Rochon

A native of Edgard, Louisiana, *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling author Farrah Rochon began making up stories before she could hold a pencil. Throughout her grade school and high school years, she nourished her love of reading with frequent trips to the library, often writing stories of her own

when she couldn't find anything that caught her interest. But it wasn't until she began her studies as an undergraduate at Xavier University of Louisiana that she considered that writing could be something other than just a hobby. She honed her storytelling skills in graduate school at Southeastern Louisiana University, writing her novel longhand between classes as she worked toward her master's degree in psychology.

She was named *Shades of Romance Magazine's* (SORMAG) Best New Author of 2007 and was nominated for an Emma Award for best debut author the same year. Her debut novel, *Deliver Me*, garnered rave reviews, earning Farrah several SORMAG Readers' Choice Awards.

Rochon was a two-time finalist for Romance Writers of America's vaunted RITA Award and was a Romantic Times Book Reviews Reviewer's Choice Award nominee. In 2015, she won the Emma Award for Author of the Year. Her work has gone on to earn numerous accolades in the Romance industry.

Rochon found her footing in contemporary romance and solidified herself as one to watch in the genre, writing more than a dozen category-length novels for Harlequin's Kimani Romance line. With the rise of independent publishing in the earlier 2010's, Rochon eventually went the hybrid route, writing for both traditional publishing houses as well as publishing on her own.

In 2020, Rochon roared back into traditional publishing with the release of *The Boyfriend Project* series. Featured in national magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *O: The Oprah Magazine*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and more, the trilogy, which follows three women who become fast friends after discovering they are being catfished by the same guy, was optioned for film by Muse Entertainment.

Rochon served on the national board of directors of Romance Writers of America for five years and has given back to local writing groups across south Louisiana by delivering workshops, judging contests, and mentoring up-and-coming writers.

Regarding her philosophy on paying it forward, Rochon says, "Giving back to other writers is how I stay grounded. It reminds me that, although it can be an insular job, none of us

can do this alone. So many writers were there for me when I first started out, and it would be a pity if I could not be there for those coming up after and alongside me.”

Rochon’s career took an unexpected turn in 2022 with the publication of *Almost There*, the thirteenth book in Disney’s popular Twisted Tales series, her first foray into writing young adult novels. She has gone on to publish more than a half-dozen novels and short stories with Disney Publishing, with more to come in 2027 and 2028. She also continues to publish her beloved romance novels and in 2027 she will publish her first standalone book in more than a decade, an as-yet-untitled romantic women’s fiction set on the island of Santorini, Greece.

When asked about setting books outside of the United States, Rochon said, “As much as I love Louisiana, I’ve gained an appreciation for different countries and cultures around the

world and love to explore them in my work.”

However, Rochon says that Louisiana remains one of the best places to set a book. “There is nothing like my home state, and I love showcasing it through my work. Whenever I write a book set in New Orleans, the city becomes its own character. But I also like branching outside of the city. There are so many different areas in this state that deserve their time in the limelight. Nothing makes me happier than hearing someone say that they took a day trip to the bayou after reading about it in one of my books.”

When asked what it meant to be named the 2026 Louisiana Writer Award honoree, Rochon said, “Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that those stories I used to spin in my head would lead to me receiving such a prestigious honor. Louisiana has a rich history of amazing writers, and it is beyond humbling to be recognized as one of them.”

ABOUT THE ART



Path to Enlightenment

My vision for the cover design was to create a scene of enlightenment, emphasizing the idea that books lead us to knowledge about ourselves and our world. I used the book festival winners for the past 27 years as titles that invite self-discovery and are symbolic of all the books represented at the festival. I was thinking of the 17th century, the Age of Enlightenment that focused on intellectual and cultural enrichment. I believe that events like the Louisiana Book Festival offer a break from the mundane and invite visitors to experience paths to illumination and discovery.

I placed several of the books on floating islands that steer the reader towards adventure. Some of the books are placed in trees that float up to accentuate mental and spiritual growth. The central image is an open portal with stairs leading to a tree of knowledge with an open door at the base. This is the place we seek when we enter the world of books. We hope to be invited into that magical place inside our mind that helps us to become that special person we believe lives deep inside our inner being. When we reach that place in ourselves, we sense a glow of insight, a sense of satisfaction, fulfillment, and accomplishment.

— Malaika Favorite

THE NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL

This year, the National Book Foundation is partnering with the Louisiana Book Festival as part of its **NBF Presents** lineup, which brings National Book Foundation-honored authors, translators, and their books to readers at 15 events across five states and online from September through November 2026.

For other event locations and additional details, please visit NationalBook.org.

Joining the Foundation's slate of programming for the first time, the Louisiana Book Festival is happy to welcome authors **Ben Fountain** (*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, 2012 Fiction Finalist; *Rasputin Swims the Potomac*) and **T. Geronimo Johnson** (*Welcome to Braggsville*, 2015 Fiction Longlist; *The Occidental Book of the Dead*) as they play with language and humor to expose the most astonishing, horrifying, and honest parts of present-day American life. Their discussion will be moderated by **Delaney Nolan**, investigative journalist and author of *Happy Bad*.

National
Book 
Foundation

Presenter of the
National Book Awards



Ben Fountain



T. Geronimo Johnson



Delaney Nolan

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

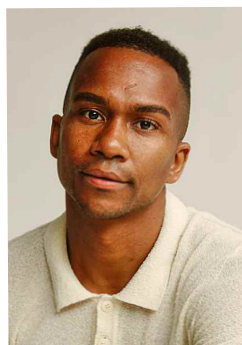
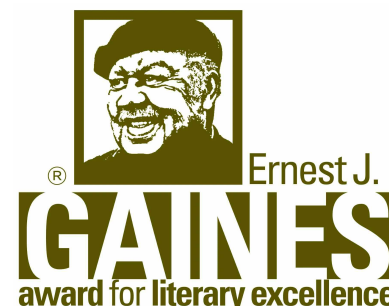
NBF Presents *Southern Satire*

A LITERARY WEEK IN BATON ROUGE

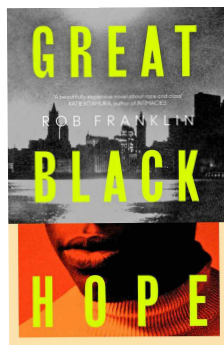
The Book Festival and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation join forces

This fall, downtown Baton Rouge is the heart of Louisiana's literary life twice in one week. The Louisiana Book Festival has partnered with the **Baton Rouge Area Foundation** (BRAf) to connect the Festival with BRAf's **Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence**, whose 2026 ceremony was held just two days before the festival.

Now in its 19th year, the Gaines Award is presented by BRAf to an emerging African-American fiction writer whose work shows promise of an impactful and long-lasting literary career. Named for the celebrated Louisiana novelist — a Pointe Coupee Parish native known for *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* and *A Lesson Before Dying*, among others — the award carries a \$15,000 prize and a reputation for spotting talent early; past honorees have gone on to win Whiting Awards and a MacArthur Fellowship.



Rob Franklin



This year's honoree is **Rob Franklin**, recognized for his debut novel ***Great Black Hope***, a national bestseller named a best book of the year by *TIME*, *Vogue*, NPR, and *Vanity Fair*. Franklin was celebrated at the Gaines Award ceremony on October 29 at the Manship Theatre, and today festival-goers have their own chance to hear from him. He joins the panel discussion "Under the Surface: Short Stories and Novels of Masking, Power, and Personal Reckonings" at 2:00 p.m. in the State Library's Seminar Center, followed by a book signing in the Cavalier House Book Tent at 3:15 p.m.

By aligning their calendars and audiences, the two organizations invite readers to make the most of one remarkable week celebrating Louisiana's literary present and future.



JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND PRESERVE

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve is part of the **National Park Service**. With six sites, the park stretches from the bustling streets of New Orleans to the peaceful prairies of Acadiana. Park programs share stories, celebrate traditions, and explore nature of south Louisiana.

Jean Lafitte NHP&P is excited to share their new **March Into Reading** program – a reading challenge that dives readers into select topics of south Louisiana's history, nature, and culture. Participants who read three books earn a special patch! Come by the booth to get your March Into Reading booklet, meet National Park Rangers, and do some fun family crafts and games.



DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY



Join the **Krewe of Dolly** from New Orleans and the **Dolly Diamonds** of Baton Rouge at the Louisiana Book Festival on Saturday, October 31, as we celebrate the joy of books, reading, and Dolly Parton's literacy legacy! Stop by our table to learn more about **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** and sign-up children to receive free monthly books, make your own colorful butterfly at our butterfly-making station, and pick up a special bookmark to take home. We can't wait to celebrate with Louisiana families and share a little Dolly sparkle and literacy joy!

Dolly Diamonds



PUBLIC LIBRARY ROUND-UP

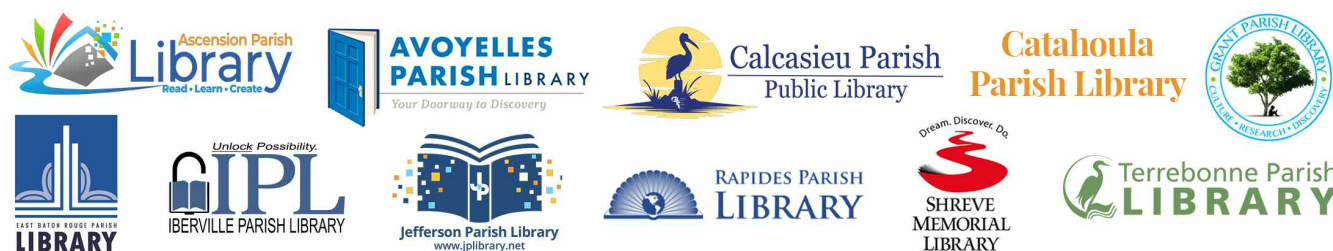
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Spanish Town Road between North Fourth Street and North Fifth Street

Public Library Round-Up

There are 68 public library systems across Louisiana, and a number of these have converged in Baton Rouge for the Louisiana Book Festival this year to highlight all the great resources and services public libraries provide. In addition to books, Louisiana libraries provide educational programs, access to digital media like e-books and online databases, job and resume assistance, computer and internet access, meeting space, and many more services to their communities.

We welcome the following library systems and encourage you to pay them a visit as you enjoy the festival. In addition, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library and Shreve Memorial Library will have their bookmobiles for festivalgoers to explore.



EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY'S "BOOKS & MUSIC" PROGRAM COMES TO THE LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Outside the State Library, Children's Author Tent 3

Now in its fifth year, **Books & Music** was created to spark children's joy, imagination, and love of music through programming where children sing, dance, play an instrument, experience a library book, and meet a professional musician. Every Saturday from September through May, sessions are held at different EBRPL branches all over the parish. Parents, guardians, and friends are invited to join in all of the activities. Laughter is guaranteed! Check ebrpl.com for times and locations.



ABOUT KID'S ORCHESTRA

KO serves over 1000 students in afterschool programs across South Louisiana, giving them the opportunity to study music, play an instrument, and perform in an ensemble. **KO's vision is to bring Louisiana together through music.** What better place to achieve that goal than the library and the Louisiana Book Festival?





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BOOKS ALONG THE TECHE LITERARY FESTIVAL™

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APRIL 2-4, 2027

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
THE BOOKS ALONG THE TECHE
LITERARY FESTIVAL!

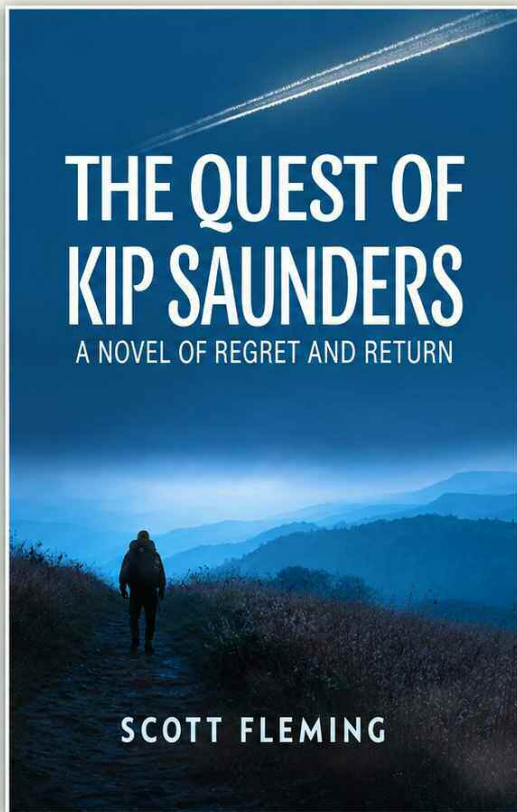
Featuring
STEPHANIE JUDICE

OUR GREAT SOUTHERN WRITER

Stephanie calls lush, moss-laden Louisiana home, where the landscape inspires mystical settings for her stories. She shares her small town, Southern lifestyle with her husband and four children, and loves autumn leaves, Gothic architecture, art museums, stormy nights, and Harry Potter marathons.

*We hope you will join us
to celebrate this great event,
which offers something
for readers of all ages.*





— A Novel of Regret and Return —

THE QUEST OF KIP SAUNDERS

From the Appalachian Trail to West Point, one man traces the path he tried to escape.



“The author writes with immense emotional depth.”

— Jim Kenney, Houston, Texas

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Author & Artist

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Romance Readers 
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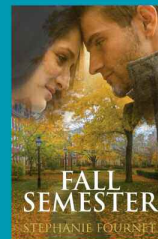
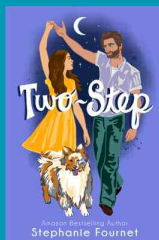
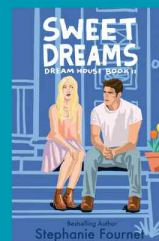


STEPHANIE FOURNET

BESTSELLING AUTHOR

CONTEMPORARY ROMANCE
&
ROMANTIC COMEDY

SET IN LOUISIANA



PROGRAMS BY SUBJECT

Please note, some programs may fall under multiple subject headings and be listed more than once.

ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Paper Girl's World:

Adventures of a Globetrotting Travel Writer in the 1980s

Judy Williamson

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Into the Lost World:

A Journey into Louisiana's Bayou Country

Andy Crawford

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Louisiana from the Sky

Philip Gould and Ben Sandmel

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Conversations with Jason Berry

Jason Berry and Howard Hunter

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Paper Girl's World:

Adventures of a Globetrotting Travel Writer in the 1980s

Judy Williamson

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Room 118

Family Legacies, Future Plans:

Lessons of Faith, Work, and Resilience

Jason G. Green, *Too Precious to Lose: A Memoir of Family, Community, and Possibility*

Robin Wilson, *Combining Cotton: Transform Your Ancestry into Your Competitive Advantage*

with moderator Mona Lisa Saloy

10:00 am to 11:00 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Undertow of Grief:

Strength and Healing in the Wake of Loss

Jill Christman, *The Heart Folds Early: A Memoir*

Karen C. McCord, *Only Rainbows: The Carley McCord Story*

Peggy Sweeney-McDonald, *Life in the A-Zone: How I*

Embraced the Journey with My Mother's Alzheimer's One

Pink Cloud Moment at a Time

with moderator Megan Holt

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Bunny Matthews: His Life, Art, and Obsessions

Alison Fensterstock and Michael Tisserand

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room B

Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

Artie Bennett, *The Tenth Man: A Miracle of Jewish Faith and Friendship in New Orleans*

Carlotta Walls LaNier and Lisa Frazier Page, *Carlotta's Special Dress: How a Walk to School Changed Civil Rights History*

Frank Murphy, Charnaie Gordon, and Anastasia Magloire

Williams, *Heroic Heart: An Illustrated Biography of Joe*

Delaney

Jason Peterson, *Blues with a Butter Knife: The Unstoppable*

Music of CeDell Davis

with moderator Lauren Landry

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Fierce Women: Power, Resistance, and Reinvention

Melissa Daggett, *Eugène and Eulalie*

James P. Gregory, Jr., *Vaudeville's Flower: The Many Lives of Cora Youngblood Corson*

Roberta Brandes Gratz, *Fearless Philanthropy: Edith*

Rosenwald Stern's Campaigns to Transform Lives in New Orleans

with moderator Miki Pfeffer

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Irma Thomas: Soul Queen of New Orleans

Scott Billington, Johnette Downing, and Irma Thomas

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Stranger Than Fiction: Hidden Histories, Unlikely Lives

Benjamin Hale, *Cave Mountain: A Disappearance and a Reckoning in the Ozarks*

Jon Hébert, *Hear This!: A Twisted Tale of Sonic Torment*

David Tuch, *The Wireless Operator: The Untold Story of the British Sailor Who Invented the Modern Drug Trade*

with moderator Morgan Tarpley Smith

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Never Tell a Black Girl How to Black Girl

Amena Brown blends storytelling, humor, and pop culture commentary to traverse the magic and wisdom she's gleaned from being raised by Southern Black women, and supported by the community of Black women who hold her down today.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Living in the Present with John Prine

Tom Piazza

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Examined Lives: Writers on Craft, Memory, and the Making of a Writer

David Armand, *The Roads We Travel: A Memoir on the Craft of Writing & Living*

Tracy Carr, *Conversations with Ellen Gilchrist*

and Lawrence Wells, *Backstory: A Literary Life on the Run*
with moderator Jack B. Bedell

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Finding Your Faith in Literature:***Why Some of the Greatest Stories are Relevant, Personal, and Transformative***

Karen E.B. Elliott with moderator Emily Carpenter

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Fragments of the Everyday: Essays and Reflections

Bob Becker, *Going South: Stories and Thoughts from a Northerner's Career as a Southerner*

Jack B. Bedell, *Fight Nights: Flash Essays*

Thomas Beller, *Degas at the Gas Station: Essays*
with moderator Emily Nemens

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Stone and Story: Biographies of American Monuments

Matthew Davis, *Biography of a Mountain: The Making of Mount Rushmore*

Brian Jay Jones, *The Capitol: The Surprising Biography of an American Building*

with moderator Robert Mann

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Not Up to You: Women Reckoning with Social Pressure and Systemic Abuse

Julie Cruse, *The Burn List: A Memoir of Abuse from Home to Higher Education*

Sandy Langhart Michelet, *My Family Tree Stops with Me: A Guide to Purpose and Possibility*

with moderator Lindsay Cronk

CEREMONIES**9:00 am to 9:45 am**

State Library of Louisiana, First Floor, Seminar Center

Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony***Honoring Farrah Rochon*****9:45 am to 10:15 am**

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony

Winner Grades K-2 - *One Chicken Nugget* by Tadgh Bentley

Winner Grades 3-5 - *Heroic Heart: An Illustrated Biography of Joe Delaney* by Frank Murphy, Charnaie Gordon, and

Anastasia Magloire Williams

10:30 am to 11:00 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony

Winner Grades 6-8 - *Eb & Flow* by Kelly J. Baptist

Winner Grades 9-12 - *The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich* by Deya Muniz

Honor Book Grades 9-12 - *Bonesmith* by Nicki Pau Preto

CHILDREN'S INTERESTS**9:15 am to 9:45 am**

Children's Author Tent 2

Dinos Down South ABC

Ashlyn Blanchard

(Ages 3 to 6)

9:30 am to 10:00 am

Children's Author Tent 1

Good Day, Louisiana Children's Museum

Shannon Kelley Atwater

(Ages 5 to 8)

9:30 am to 10:00 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Rowen and the Animal Shelter

Sara Deen Kimball

(Ages 5 to 10)

10:00 am to 10:30 am

Children's Author Tent 2

Pelican Lake

Emily Welch

(Ages 5 to 8)

10:15 am to 10:45 am

Children's Author Tent 1

Marvelous Mistakes: Accidents That Made History

Callie Dean

(Ages 4 to 8)

10:15 am to 10:45 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Roux's First Day

Julie Gerdes Becnel

(Ages 3 to 8)

10:45 am to 11:15 am

Children's Author Tent 2

Duck and Moose: Moose's Bad Hair Day

Kirk Reedstrom

(Ages 6 to 8)

11:00 am to 11:30 am

Children's Author Tent 1

Freedom's Eve: A Story of Watch Night

Pamela Courtney

(Ages 4 to 8)

11:00 am to 11:30 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Where Y'at, Jockamo?

Madi Hannan

(Ages 3 to 8)

11:30 am to Noon

Children's Author Tent 2

The Boy from the Swamp

Adam Dennis

(Ages 5 to 8)

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Carlotta's Special Dress:

How a Walk to School Changed Civil Rights History

Carlotta Walls LaNier and Lisa Frazier Page

(Ages 6 to 8)

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Scrim: My Tail

Margaret Orr

(Ages 3 to 9)

12:15 pm to 12:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

Fake Gnus

Leslie Helakoski

(Ages 4 to 7)

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Blues with a Butter Knife:

The Unstoppable Music of CeDell Davis

Jason Peterson

(Ages 7 to 10)

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

The Great Truffle Snuffle

Lindsay "Bones" Cordero

(Ages 5 to 8)

1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Young Readers' Pavilion

Children's Costume Contest

with Special Guest Judges

1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

The Tenth Man: A Miracle of Jewish Faith and Friendship in New Orleans

Artie Bennett

(Ages 4 to 8)

1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Incredibly Fast and Not at All Fun

Tadgh Bentley

(Ages 4 to 8)

1:45 pm to 2:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

New England Animals A to Z

Johnette Downing

(Ages Birth to 7)

2:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

How to Calm a Rain Bull: And Other Stories of the Changing Seasons from Around the World

Denise Gallagher

(Ages 5 to 8)

2:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

A Puppy Like Yours

Frank Murphy

(Ages 5 to 8)

2:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

The Kid Who Cracked the Code

Terysa Ridgeway

(Ages 4 to 8)

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

What's That Sound?: Birds of the Bayou

Margaret Simon

(Ages Birth to 5)

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Books & Music

Come experience one of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library's (EBRPL's) signature programs, Books & Music. Created in partnership with Kids' Orchestra (KO), participants experience high-quality music education centered around books from EBRPL's children's collection. For the Louisiana Book Festival, Books & Music will feature the Louisiana classic *Mama Don't Allow* by Thacher Hurd. Meet Miles (the hedgehog) with his saxophone and "Swamp Band." Find out how they outsmart the bad guys using music. Participants will engage in multiple musical activities as they listen to the story. Designed for ages 3-11 but all are welcome!

FICTION AND LITERATURE

9:30 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Women, Southern Landscapes:

Cultural Reflections on the Garden, 1870-1970

Elise L. Smith with moderator Morgan Tarpley Smith

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

NBF Presents Southern Satire

Join National Book Award–honored authors Ben Fountain (*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, 2012 Fiction Finalist; *Rasputin Swims the Potomac*) and T. Geronimo Johnson (*Welcome to Braggsville*, 2015 Fiction Longlist; *The Occidental Book of the Dead*) play with language and humor to expose the most astonishing, horrifying, and honest parts of present-day American life. Join the authors for readings and conversation on deploying satire to get closer to truth, both for themselves as writers and for their readers. Moderated by Delaney Nolan, investigative journalist and author of *Happy Bad*. Presented in partnership with the National Book Foundation.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Wayward Grace: Southern Novels of Upended Lives, Humor, and Second Chances

Susan Gregg Gilmore, *The Curious Calling of Leonard Bush: A Novel*

Stuart P. Green, *The Rebbe of Baton Rouge*

with moderator Robert Gwaltney

10:00 am to 11:00 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Undertow of Grief:

Strength and Healing in the Wake of Loss

Jill Christman, *The Heart Folds Early: A Memoir*

Karen C. McCord, *Only Rainbows: The Carley McCord Story*

Peggy Sweeney-McDonald, *Life in the A-Zone: How I Embraced the Journey with My Mother's Alzheimer's One Pink Cloud*

Moment at a Time

with moderator Megan Holt

10:15 am to 11:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Echoes of Atrocity: Fact Based Novels of Police Brutality, State Corruption, and Political Violence

Christopher Louis Romaguera, *Charras: A True Novel of the*

Assassination that Roiled the Yucatan by Hernán Lara Zavala

John Warner Smith, *Murders at Mer Rouge*

Amos Jasper Wright IV, *The Battle of Danziger Bridge: A Novel*

with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Shadows of the Past: Historical Novels of Tragedy, Heritage, and Resilience

Phil Oakley, *Austin Sunrise*

William Christy Smith, *Skylark: A Novel*

Shannon Terry Wiley, *Yellow September: A Novel*

with moderator Joy E. Rancatore

11:15 am to Noon

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Time and Time Again:

Ancestry, Identity, and the Weight of History

Ellen Morris Prewitt, *When We Were Murderous*

Time-Traveling Women

Rita Woods, *The Edge of Yesterday*

with moderator Megan Holt

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Lost and Found: Novels of Grief, Marginalized Lives, and the Search for Grace

Wes Blake, *Pineville Trace*

Joe Bond, *Hope House: A Novel*

Ashley N. Hudson, *The Bridge*

with moderator Mark Neely

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Lost Souls: Dark Secrets, Family Legacies, and Uncanny Phenomena

Megan Giddings, *Black Arts: Stories*

Robert Gwaltney, *Sing Down the Moon: A Novel*

with moderator Tracy Carr

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Crossroads & Connections:

Novels of Love, Legacy, and Life's Turning Points

Mary Hester, *Painting Grace*

Nina LaCour, *Meet Me in the Garden: A Novel*

Emily Nemens, *Clutch: A Novel*

with moderator Joy Holden

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Women and War: Secrets, Loss, and Survival

Sheryl Cornett, *No Secrets in this House: A Novel*

Karen Essex, *Run, Darling*

Elisa M. Speranza, *Triage: A Novel*

with moderator Miki Pfeffer

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ungovernable: Novels of Women Fighting for Survival, Agency, and Control

Victoria Dillon, *Ava: A Novel*

Donna Everhart, *Women of a Promiscuous Nature: A Novel*

Delaney Nolan, *Happy Bad: A Novel*

with moderator April Blevins Pejic

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Tides of Fortune and Loss:

Storms, Secrets, and Survival in Louisiana Fiction

Rod Davis, *Life in the Time of Hurricanes*

Vicki Salloum, *A Gathering Place*

Stephanie Soileau, *Should the Waters Take Us*

Michelle St. Romain, *Song of Belonging: A Novel*

with moderator Serena Puang

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Past Stories, Present Reckonings:

Race, Identity, and Belonging

cc ECK, *Ghost Gun: A Novel*

P.C. Verrone, *Rabbit, Fox, Tar: A Novel*

with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Le Grand Dérangement:

The Acadian Story in Fact and Fiction

Ryan U. Bernard, *The Bernards of Louisiana:*

An Acadian Family History

Marianne Rabalais Sulser, *Like Snow Before Sun*

with moderator Rien Fertel

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Finding Your Faith in Literature:

Why Some of the Greatest Stories are Relevant,

Personal, and Transformative

Karen E.B. Elliott with moderator Emily Carpenter

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Under the Surface: Short Stories and Novels of Masking, Power, and Personal Reckonings

Addie E. Citchens, *Dominion: A Novel*

T. Clark, *All This Want (and I Can't Get None): Stories*

Rob Franklin, *Great Black Hope: A Novel*

Che Yeun, *Tailbone: A Novel*

with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

All the Lonely People:

Stories from Appalachia and the Florida Gulf Coast

Cathy Schieffelin, *Snakeroot and Cohosh*

Daniel S.C. Sutter, *Debris: Stories*

with moderator Joy E. Rancatore

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Where the Wild Things Reign: Novels of Suspense, Survival, and Frontier Folklore

Johnnie Bernhard, *The Witch of Sonora*

Taylor Brown, *Wolvers*

with moderator Phil Oakley

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

State Library, Third Floor

One Book One Festival:

Interview with a Vampire by Anne Rice

with Gary Richards

FOODWAYS

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

Constance Bailey, Shelley Ingram, and Casey Kayser

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

From Pasture to Plate:

Preserving the Traditions of Boucherie and Boudin

Chase Cormier, *Boucherie*

Ken Wells, *Boudin*

with moderator David Johnson

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Memories from the Kitchen:

Mapping Identity Through Food and Flavor

Frank Brigtsen, *Color of Flavor: Recipes and Recollections from a Creole Chef*

Alon Shaya, *Memories of a Good Meal: Recipes of Resilience*

Inspired by Stories of World War II Survival

with moderator Elizabeth M. Williams

COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

The Cooking Demonstration Tent is supported in part by Assumption Foundation for the Arts and in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Dook Chase: A Chef's Journey

Dook Chase with moderator Joshua Hebert

11:15 am to Noon

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Southern Roots:

Recipes and Stories from Mama Dip's Daughter

Spring Council with moderator Joshua Hebert

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Cooking from Scratch:

A Careful Selection of Useful Recipes

Toya Boudy with moderator Joshua Hebert

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Instant Noodles and Beyond: A Comic Book with Recipes for Souped-Up Ramen, Mac & Cheese, and More

Robin Ha with moderator Joshua Hebert

GARDENING

9:30 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Women, Southern Landscapes:

Cultural Reflections on the Garden, 1870-1970

Elise L. Smith with moderator Morgan Tarpley Smith

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Louisiana Healing Garden:

Medicinal Plants for a Sustainable Future

Corinne Martin with moderator Elizabeth M. Williams

HISTORY

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

French in the Morning: A History of Cajun Radio

Noah Arceneaux with moderator David Johnson

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Wider Story: Untold Histories of the

American Revolution and Expansion

Richard Bell, *The American Revolution and the Fate of the World*

Denise Kiernan, *Obstinate Daughters: The Rebels, Writers, and Renegade Women Who Ignited the American Revolution*

Alexander Mikaberidze, *The Louisiana Purchase: The Grand Bargain and the Making of America*
with moderator Jared Wells

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

The Road to Cisterna: Darby's Rangers and Their Most Consequential Battle in World War II

David Lyle Williams

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

Rituals of New Orleans:

Coffee, Celebration, and the Making of Culture

Laura Guccione, *St. Joseph's Day in New Orleans*

Marielle Songy, *Coffee Culture New Orleans*

with moderator David Johnson

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Lincoln's Republic:

Election, War, and the Struggle for the Union

A.J. Cade, *Death or Victory: The Louisiana Native Guards & the Black Military's Significance in the Civil War*

Jonathan Earle, *He Has the People: Abraham Lincoln and the Election of 1860*

Scott Ellsworth, *Midnight on the Potomac: The Last Year of the Civil War, the Lincoln Assassination, and the Rebirth of America*

with moderator Gaines M. Foster

Noon to 1:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Unsettled: Myth and Reality on the American Frontier

Peter Cozzens, *Deadwood: Gold, Guns, and Greed in the American West*

Megan Kate Nelson, *The Westerners: Mythmaking and Belonging on the American Frontier*

with moderator Richard Bell

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Killing the Kingfish: The Huey Long Assassination

Jack B. McGuire with moderator Robert Mann

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Feather Wars and the Great Crusade to Save America's Birds

James H. McCommons with moderator Danny Heitman

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Le Grand Dérangement:

The Acadian Story in Fact and Fiction

Ryan U. Bernard, *The Bernards of Louisiana:*

An Acadian Family History

Marianne Rabalais Sulser, *Like Snow Before Sun*

with moderator Rien Fertel

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Stone and Story: Biographies of American Monuments

Matthew Davis, *Biography of a Mountain: The Making of Mount Rushmore*

Brian Jay Jones, *The Capitol: The Surprising Biography of an American Building*

with moderator Robert Mann

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Vol. II:

The Bowie Brothers and Bayou Buffalo (DuLarge)

Christopher E. Cenac

**HORROR, FANTASY,
AND THE SUPERNATURAL**

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Demons of Our Own Making:

Southern Gothic Hauntings and Family Secrets

David Armand, *Walk the Night: A Novel*

Emily Carpenter, *A Spell for Saints and Sinners: A Novel*

with moderator Karen E.B. Elliott

10:30 am to 11:30 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ghosts and Other Hauntings:

Grief, Rage, and Reckoning

Kim Fu, *The Valley of Vengeful Ghosts: A Novel*

Jennifer Murphy, *The Ghost Women: A Novel*

Tlotlo Tsamaase, *House of Margins: A Novel*

with moderator Serena Puang

11:15 am to Noon

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Time and Time Again:

Ancestry, Identity, and the Weight of History

Ellen Morris Prewitt, *When We Were Murderous*

Time-Traveling Women

Rita Woods, *The Edge of Yesterday*

with moderator Megan Holt

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Lost Souls: Dark Secrets, Family Legacies, and Uncanny Phenomena

Megan Giddings, *Black Arts: Stories*

Robert Gwaltney, *Sing Down the Moon: A Novel*

with moderator Tracy Carr

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Unholy Hell: Horror Novels of Cult Indoctrination, Fanatical Devotion, and Twisted Faith

Kevin Johnson, *'Twas the Night: A Novel*

Bethany C. Morrow, *The Body: A Novel*

with moderator Megan Holt

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Into the Woods:

Horror Novels of Monsters, Secrets, and Survival

Luke Larkin, *The Unheld: A Novel*

Carrie Lee South, *In the Woods They Wait: A Novel*

with moderator June Pulliam

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room A

Bloodlines & Burdens: A Young Adult Dark Fantasy Panel

Paige Hender, *Witch's Inheritance*

Nicki Pau Preto, *The House of the Dead Duology*

with moderator Jamie King

(Ages 14 to 18)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Beyond the Stars: Sci-Fi Novels of Cosmic Horror, Ancient Magic, Evil Empires, and Survival

Brian Fontenot, *Seraphim Descent*

Yoon Ha Lee, *Code and Codex*

with moderator A.E. Hooks

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

State Library, Third Floor

One Book One Festival:

Interview with a Vampire by Anne Rice

with Gary Richards

HUMOR AND SATIRE

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

NBF Presents Southern Satire

Join National Book Award–honored authors Ben

Fountain (*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, 2012 Fiction Finalist; *Rasputin Swims the Potomac*) and T. Geronimo

Johnson (*Welcome to Braggsville*, 2015 Fiction

Longlist; *The Occidental Book of the Dead*) play with language and humor to expose the most astonishing,

horrifying, and honest parts of present-day American

life. Join the authors for readings and conversation on

deploying satire to get closer to truth, both for

themselves as writers and for their readers. Moderated

by Delaney Nolan, investigative journalist and author of *Happy Bad*. Presented in partnership with the National

Book Foundation.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Never Tell a Black Girl How to Black Girl

Amena Brown blends storytelling, humor, and pop

culture commentary to traverse the magic and wisdom

she's gleaned from being raised by Southern Black

women, and supported by the community of Black

women who hold her down today.

INTERIOR DESIGN

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

The Functional Home: A Practical Guide to Planning Intentional Living Spaces

Julie Jones with moderator Aimee Walker

MAGICAL REALISM

11:15 am to Noon

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Time and Time Again:

Ancestry, Identity, and the Weight of History

Ellen Morris Prewitt, *When We Were Murderous*

Time-Traveling Women

Rita Woods, *The Edge of Yesterday*

with moderator Megan Holt

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Lost Souls: Dark Secrets, Family Legacies, and Uncanny Phenomena

Megan Giddings, *Black Arts: Stories*

Robert Gwaltney, *Sing Down the Moon: A Novel*

with moderator Tracy Carr

MUSIC

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Irma Thomas: Soul Queen of New Orleans

Scott Billington, Johnette Downing, and Irma Thomas

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Living in the Present with John Prine

Tom Piazza

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Quotes from the Road: A Music Book and Film Presentation

Robert Mugge

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Books & Music

Come experience one of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library's (EBRPL's) signature programs, Books & Music. Created in partnership with Kids' Orchestra (KO), participants experience high-quality music education centered around books from EBRPL's children's collection. For the Louisiana Book Festival, Books & Music will feature the Louisiana classic *Mama Don't Allow* by Thatcher Hurd. Meet Miles (the hedgehog) with his saxophone and "Swamp Band." Find out how they outsmart the bad guys using music. Participants will engage in multiple musical activities as they listen to the story. Designed for ages 3-11 but all are welcome!

MYSTERY, CRIME, SUSPENSE, AND THRILLERS

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Names Changed, Truth Intact:

Fact, Fiction, and Tom Aswell's The Dinosaur Club

Tom Aswell with moderator Miki Pfeffer

10:15 am to 11:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Echoes of Atrocity: Fact Based Novels of Police Brutality, State Corruption, and Political Violence

Christopher Louis Romaguera, *Charras: A True Novel of the Assassination that Roiled the Yucatan* by Hernán Lara Zavala

John Warner Smith, *Murders at Mer Rouge*

Amos Jasper Wright IV, *The Battle of Danziger Bridge: A Novel* with moderator Maurice Carlos Ruffin

11:00 am to Noon

State Library, Third Floor

Wrapped in a Mystery: Heists, Capers, and Hidden Lives

Jess Armstrong, *The Lost Souls of Saint Oda's:*

A Ruby Vaughn Mystery

Nathaniel Rich, *Cloudthief: A Novel*

Katy Simpson Smith, *The Maltese Version: A Novel*

with moderator Olivia Clare Friedman

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Killer Calendar: New Orleans Mysteries for Every Season

Ellen Byron, *A Murderer's Guide to Mardi Gras: A Vintage*

Cookbook Mystery and *A Crescent City Christmas: A Vintage*

Cookbook Mystery

Greg Herren, *Hurricane Season Hustle: A Scotty Bradley*

Mystery

Michael Rigg, *Shadows of Frenchmen: A Jonathan Gray, M.D.*

Mystery

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Drastic Measures: Southern Thrillers Made of Secrets, Survival, and Sisterhood

Ashley Elston, *Anatomy of an Alibi: A Novel*

Jennifer Moorhead, *Watch Her Run: A Thriller*

Emma C. Wells, *We Already Dug the Grave: A Novel*

with moderator Jamie Freeman

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Blood, Books, and Bass Guitars: High-Octane Crime Fiction

Joe R. Lansdale, *Petrified Dreams: A Hap & Leonard Novel*

Jim Ruland, *Mightier Than the Sword: A Novel*

Adrian Van Young, *Rough Beast*

with moderator Adam Vos

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Where the Wild Things Reign: Novels of Suspense, Survival, and Frontier Folklore

Johnnie Bernhard, *The Witch of Sonora*

Taylor Brown, *Wolvers*

with moderator Phil Oakley

NONFICTION

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Conversations with Jason Berry

Jason Berry and Howard Hunter

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Paper Girl's World: Adventures of a Globetrotting Travel Writer in the 1980s

Judy Williamson

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

The Functional Home: A Practical Guide to Planning Intentional Living Spaces

Julie Jones with moderator Aimee Walker

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Examined Lives:

Writers on Craft, Memory, and the Making of a Writer

David Armand, *The Roads We Travel: A Memoir on the Craft of Writing & Living*

Tracy Carr, *Conversations with Ellen Gilchrist*

Lawrence Wells, *Backstory: A Literary Life on the Run*
with moderator Jack B. Bedell

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

The Stories We Tell About Inequality, Race, Place, and the Myth of Progress

Monica Patrice Barra, *Good Sediment: Black Ecologies and the Politics of Restoration in Coastal Louisiana*

Katie Benner, *Miracle Children: Race, Education and the Fate of the World*

Sarah L. Webb, *Colorism: The Politics of Skin Tone and How We Get Free*

with moderator A.E. Rooks

POETRY

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Ralph Adamo, Jack B. Bedell, Jordan Biggs, Toby Daspit, Malaika Favorite, John Gery, Ashley Mace Havird, David Havird, Roberta Whitman Hoff, Mason Joiner, Julie Kane, Biljana D. Obradović, Ed Ruzicka, Bessie Senette, Michael S. True, and Andy Young with John P. Travis

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol I

Taylor Clement, *do not destroy this: Poems*

Rodney Jones, *The Body and the End of Time: Poems Selected & New, 1985-2025*

Justin Lacour, *A Reading from the Book of Panic*

Jonathan Penton, *A Limited Number of Miracles: A Walk Through the New Orleans Sculpture Garden*

Jennifer Polson Peterson, *Degenerate Era of an Expanding Universe: Poems*

with Gina Ferrara, *The Rooted and Recurrent: Poems*

Noon to 4:00 pm

State Library Lobby

Poetry-to-Order

Cassandra de Alba and GennaRose Nethercott will compose free custom poetry written on the topic of your choice – by individual request.

Noon to 12:30 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Fire in the Mind: New and Selected Poems

Catharine Savage Brosman with moderator Julie Kane

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol II

Emily Cosper, *Witness Before the Fall*

Bill Lavender, *city of god*

Biljana D. Obradović, *Called by Distances: Poems*

Ann Plicque, *New Barrier Islands: Poems*

Ed Ruzicka, *The Invention of Dreaming: Poems*

with Gina Ferrara, *The Rooted and Recurrent: Poems*

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Second Sight:

Poets Laureate Write Through Vision Loss

In this discussion inspired by a recent *64 Parishes* magazine article, former Louisiana poets laureate Darrell Bourque and Peter Cooley will discuss what it means to write through a major life change: recent diagnoses of macular degeneration and vision loss. This discussion will range over many issues central to poetic life: the senses, reading habits, writing practices, adaptations to disability, and sources of inspiration. Poet Benjamin Morris, author of the magazine article, will moderate.

ROMANCE

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library of Louisiana, First Floor, Seminar Center
Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony
Honoring Farrah Rochon

10:00 am to 10:30 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
In Conversation with Farrah Rochon
Farrah Rochon with moderator Jodi Laidlaw

10:45 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
Love Across Genres: A Romance Panel
Liz Lawson, *It Happened One Murder: A Novel*
Farrah Rochon, *A Forever Kind of Love*
Alexandra Vasti, *Scandal of the Summer*
with moderator Jodi Laidlaw

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
No Ordinary Love:
Romantasy, Vampires, and Epic Adventures
Paige Hender, *The Confessional*
Rachel Schneider, *Fire & Metal Series*
with moderator Lindsay Cronk

SCIENCE FICTION

11:00 am to Noon

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
Rebels, Empires, and Impossible Choices
in Young Adult Sci-Fi
Kristen Illarmo, *Against the Red Sky: Colony Exposed*
Yoon Ha Lee, *Starstrike*
with moderator Greg Herren
(Ages 12 to 17)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials
Beyond the Stars: Sci-Fi Novels of Cosmic Horror,
Ancient Magic, Evil Empires, and Survival
Brian Fontenot, *Seraphim Descent*
Yoon Ha Lee, *Code and Codex*
with moderator A.E. Rooks

SPIRITUALITY

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor
Finding Your Faith in Literature:
Why Some of the Greatest Stories are
Relevant, Personal, and Transformative
Karen E.B. Elliott with moderator Emily Carpenter

TEENS AND TWEENS

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Iberville Building Lobby

Teen HQ

The Teen HQ is a place for teenagers to hang out and plan their day at the festival. Activities include crafts, trivia games, and more.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Francois Room B
We Need to Talk About Cancer
Dr. Sanjay Juneja with moderator Julie Lee
(Ages 10 and up)

9:45 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
Behind the Gavel:
Lessons from Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson
Bernette J. Johnson with moderator Skyler E. Williams
(Ages 13 to 18)

10:30 am to 11:00 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A
Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony
Winner Grades 6-8 - *Eb & Flow* by Kelly J. Baptist
Winner Grades 9-12 - *The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich* by Deya Muniz
Honor Book Grades 9-12 - *Bonesmith* by Nicki Pau Preto

11:00 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building Lobby
Book to Screen: Young Adult Trivia

11:00 am to Noon

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
Rebels, Empires, and Impossible Choices
in Young Adult Sci-Fi
Kristen Illarmo, *Against the Red Sky: Colony Exposed*
Yoon Ha Lee, *Starstrike*
with moderator Greg Herren
(Ages 12 to 17)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

Double Trouble: Read and Make Manga with Misako Rocks!*How to Draw Kawaii Manga: Pets**Double Trouble: Lost in Japan*

(Ages 7 to 13)

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

Young Adult Romance Tropes and (Literal) Cheesy Puns Get the Royal TreatmentLindsey Duga, *Royal Liars*Deya Muniz, *The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich*

with moderator Manda Choate

(Ages 14 to 18)

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Finding Lafitte's Treasure: Join Archie Dare for an Escape Room Experience

Angelle Terrell with Erica Villani

(Ages 8 to 12)

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room A

Not Mid: Peak Middle Grade Stories of Courage and ConnectionAndrea Beatriz Arango, *No Place on Earth*Kelly J. Baptist, *Eb & Flow*Sarah Guillory, *A Wish with Wings*

with moderator Janet Lathrop

(Ages 8 to 12)

1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Iberville Building Lobby

Science Fiction...Double Feature: Young Adult Trivia**1:30 pm to 2:30 pm**

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

Twists & Turns: Seeking Truth in Young Adult SuspenseChannelle Desamours, *They Call Her Regret*Liz Lawson, *Murder Between Friends*T.L. Simpson, *Accelerant*

with moderator Manda Choate

(Ages 13 and up)

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room A

Bloodlines & Burdens: A Young Adult Dark Fantasy PanelPaige Hender, *Witch's Inheritance*Nicki Pau Preto, *The House of the Dead Duology*

with moderator Jamie King

(Ages 14 to 18)

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Finding Lafitte's Treasure: An Escape Room Experience

with Erica Villani

(Ages 8 to 12)

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Iberville Building, Lobby

Teens and Tweens Halloween Costume Contest**TRAVEL****9:00 am to 9:45 am**

State Library, Third Floor

Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

Constance Bailey, Shelley Ingram, and Casey Kayser

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Paper Girl's World: Adventures of a Globetrotting Travel Writer in the 1980s

Judy Williamson

WORLD WAR II**Nonfiction****9:30 am to 10:15 am**

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

The Road to Cisterna: Darby's Rangers and Their Most Consequential Battle in World War II

David Lyle Williams

Fiction**11:45 am to 12:45 am**

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Women and War: Secrets, Loss, and SurvivalSheryl Cornett, *No Secrets in this House: A Novel*Karen Essex, *Run, Darling*Elisa M. Speranza, *Triage: A Novel*

with moderator Miki Pfeffer

**ORDER YOUR BOOKS ONLINE!**

Want to purchase a book but don't have time to visit the Cavalier House Books Tent before the next program starts? Use this QR code to order your book(s) online and ship them to your house or pick them up later in the tent.

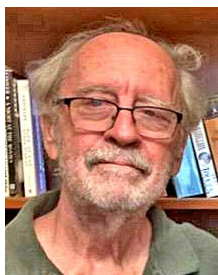


FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

More than 225 writers, poets, scholars, and panelists will present readings and book talks or participate in interviews or panel discussions in the State Library of Louisiana, the Capitol Park Museum, the Bienville Building, the Iberville Building, and in various tents across the festival site. Most authors will autograph their featured books in the Cavalier House Books Tent approximately 15 minutes following their featured presentations.

Author program(s) and signing schedules are included with their listings.

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Ralph Adamo

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

A lifelong Orleanian, **Ralph Adamo** has published nine books of poetry, among the earliest being *Sadness at the Private University* and *The End of the World*. A new and selected volume, *Waterblind*, came out in 2002, followed by three new books: *Ever, Poems 2000-2014*; *All the Good Hiding Places*; and *All Fall Down*. Among recognitions for his work is an NEA awarded in 2003. He edited *Barataria* in the 70s and *New Orleans Review* in the 90s. He teaches at Xavier University and edits *Xavier Review* and *Xavier Review Press*.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Andrea Beatriz Arango

No Place on Earth

Andrea Beatriz Arango is the award-winning author of several middle grade novels. She was born and raised in Puerto Rico, where she first discovered her love of writing and eventually became a teacher. She then spent a decade in the United States working in public schools and nonprofits. When she's not busy writing for tweens, you can find her hoping to spot manatees at the beach. Arango lives in Puerto Rico with her family.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room A

Not Mid: Peak Middle Grade Stories of Courage and Connection

(Ages 8 to 12)

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Noah Arceneaux

French in the Morning: A History of Cajun Radio

Noah Arceneaux is a professor of media studies at San Diego State University and lifelong aficionado of all things radio. He is the editor for the *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* and hosts the "Saturday Cajun Music Show" on station KEUN 105.5 FM in Eunice, Louisiana.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

French in the Morning: A History of Cajun Radio

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Armand

Walk the Night: A Novel

The Roads We Travel: A Memoir on the Craft of Writing and Living

David Armand was born and raised in Louisiana. From 2017–2019, he served as writer-in-residence at Southeastern Louisiana University, where he is currently Associate Professor of Creative Writing. An award-winning author, including the 2022 Louisiana Writer Award, Armand has published five novels, four collections of poetry, two memoirs, and a collection of essays.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Demons of Our Own Making: Southern Gothic Hauntings and Family Secrets

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Examined Lives: Writers on Craft, Memory, and the Making of a Writer

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jess Armstrong

The Lost Souls of Saint Oda's: A Ruby Vaughn Mystery

Jess Armstrong is the *USA Today* best-selling author of the Ruby Vaughn Mysteries. Her debut novel, *The Curse of Penryth Hall*, won the Mystery Writers of America/Minotaur First Crime Novel Competition. She has a master's degree in American History but prefers writing about imaginary people to the real thing. When she's not working on her next project, she's probably thinking about cheese, baking, on social media, or some combination of the above.

11:00 am to Noon

State Library, Third Floor

Wrapped in a Mystery:

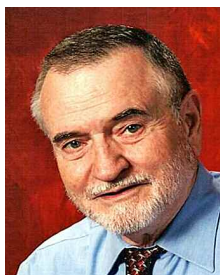
Heists, Capers, and Hidden Lives

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Tom Aswell

The Dinosaur Club

Tom Aswell, a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and a veteran of more than half a century of prize-winning reporting on Louisiana politics and politicians, has lived in Denham Springs, Louisiana, for 45 years with his wife of 58 years, Betty. He has written books about Louisiana rock & roll, wrongful convictions, corrupt sheriffs, and his latest, *The Dinosaur Club*, a historical novel about child sex trafficking.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Names Changed, Truth Intact:

Fact, Fiction, and Tom Aswell's The Dinosaur Club

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Shannon Kelley Atwater

Good Day, Louisiana Children's Museum

Shannon Kelley Atwater is an author and illustrator based out of New Orleans, Louisiana, where she lives with her husband, their three kids, and a pup named Pancake. Atwater utilizes traditional mediums while illustrating, mainly watercolors, gouache, and inks. A self-proclaimed Mardi Gras enthusiast and avid crafter, when she's not working on picture books, she loves creating elaborate costumes and playing dress up. Atwater has previously been featured at the Louisiana Book Festival with her books *Fais Do-Do*, *Goodnight Pothole*, and *Alligators Don't Like Flowers*.

9:30 am to 10:00 am

Children's Author Tent 1

Good Day, Louisiana Children's Museum

(Ages 5 to 8)

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Constance Bailey

Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

Constance Bailey, assistant professor of English at Georgia State University, is the editor of *Conversations with Kiese Laymon*.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Kelly J. Baptist

Eb & Flow

Kelly J. Baptist is the award-winning author of eight children's books, including *Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero*, *The Electric Slide* and *Kai*, and the NAACP Image Award-nominated *Eb & Flow*. A dedicated Kobe Bryant fan, she applies his Mamba Mentality to her writing craft. Driven to amplify youth voices, Baptist founded Kejeba Ink to publish serious student writers. An Oakwood University HBCU graduate and member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Baptist lives in Southwest Michigan where her five amazing children keep her busy.

10:30 am to 11:00 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony: Grades 6-8 and 9-12

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room A

Not Mid: Peak Middle Grade Stories of Courage and Connection

(Ages 8 to 12)

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Monica Patrice Barra

Good Sediment: Black Ecologies and the Politics of Restoration in Coastal Louisiana

Monica Patrice Barra is a cultural anthropologist with an interdisciplinary background in cultural geography and American Studies. Her scholarly and creative work is shaped by questions of racial and environmental justice and restorative land relations in the Americas. This has led her to work with coastal scientists, fishermen, farmers, descendant communities, artists, and various cultural institutions. She is assistant professor of race and environment in the Department of Anthropology and the School of the Earth, Ocean & Environment at the University of South Carolina.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

The Stories We Tell About Inequality, Race, Place, and the Myth of Progress

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Bob Becker

Going South: Stories and Thoughts from a Northerner's Career as a Southerner

Dr. Robert Becker was the Chief Executive Officer of New Orleans City Park from 2001 to 2021. Prior to managing City Park, Dr. Becker held senior management positions with the Audubon Nature Institute and was the Director of the New Orleans City Planning Commission. He holds degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Iowa, and the University of New Orleans. His previous book is *New Orleans City Park: From Tragedy to Triumph*.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Fragments of the Everyday: Essays and Reflections

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Julie Gerdes Becnel

Roux's First Day

Julie Gerdes Becnel has always been enchanted by the myths and tales that shape our collective imagination. Her storytelling takes many forms, including poetry, short fiction, plays, and children's books. She draws inspiration from the folklore and natural beauty of her Louisiana home. When Becnel isn't writing or helping clients through her creative consultancy, Little Rouge Hen, she can be found exploring the outdoors with her husband, two children, and her very own Lou-ga-rou.

10:15 am to 10:45 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Roux's First Day

(Ages 3 to 8)

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jack B. Bedell

Fight Nights: Flash Essays

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Jack B. Bedell is Professor of English and Coordinator of Creative Writing at Southeastern Louisiana University where he also edits *Louisiana Literature* and directs the Louisiana Literature Press. Bedell's work has appeared in *HAD*, *Heavy Feather*, *Hawkeye*, *The Shore*, *Stone Circle*, *Psalmtery & Lyre*, *trampset*, *Some Words*, and other journals. His work has also been selected for inclusion in *Best Microfiction* and *Best Spiritual Literature*. His latest collection is *Fight Nights*. He served as Louisiana Poet Laureate 2017-2019.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Examined Lives: Writers on Craft, Memory, and the Making of a Writer

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Fragments of the Everyday: Essays and Reflections

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Richard Bell

The American Revolution and the Fate of the World

Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland. His books have won or been shortlisted for the George Washington Prize, the Harriet Tubman Prize, and the Journal of the American Revolution Book of the Year Award. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress, and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.

Richard Bell's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Wider Story: Untold Histories of the American Revolution and Expansion

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

Noon to 1:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Unsettled: Myth and Reality on the American Frontier



Thomas Beller

Degas at the Gas Station: Essays

Thomas Beller is a Guggenheim Fellow and Professor and Director of Creative Writing at Tulane University. He is the author of six books, including the novel *The Sleep-Over Artist* (a New York Times Notable Book); a biography, *J.D. Salinger: The Escape Artist* (winner of the New York City Book Award for Biography/Memoir); and *Lost in the Game: A Book About Basketball*. A recipient of a Robert B. Silver's Works-in-Progress Award and a Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS) award, he is a longtime contributor to *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

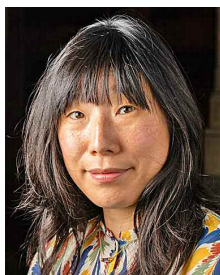
Fragments of the Everyday: Essays and Reflections

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Katie Benner

Miracle Children: Race, Education and the Fate of the World

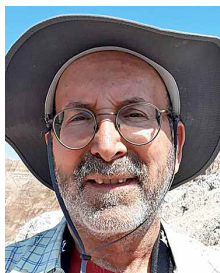
Katie Benner is an investigative reporter for *The New York Times*, where she has covered the Department of Justice and Silicon Valley. She was part of a team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for coverage of workplace sexual harassment. She has worked at publications including *CNN Money*, *Fortune*, and *Bloomberg*, and is an MSNBC contributor. She has appeared on CNN, CNBC, *PBS NewsHour*, and the radio program *Marketplace*. She lives in Washington, DC.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
The Stories We Tell About Inequality, Race, Place, and the Myth of Progress

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Artie Bennett

The Tenth Man: A Miracle of Jewish Faith and Friendship in New Orleans

Artie Bennett is delighted to share *The Tenth Man*, his moving new nonfiction picture book, with young readers. It's a story brimming with heart and humor. He's also the author of the classic kids' book *The Butt Book*, *The True Story of Zippy Chippy: The Little Horse That Couldn't*, which won the Magnolia Book Award, *Poependous!*, *Peter Panda Melts Down!*, *Belches, Burps, and Farts—Oh My!*, and *What's Afoot!* He makes his home in Brooklyn, New York.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Francois Room B
Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 1
The Tenth Man: A Miracle of Jewish Faith and Friendship in New Orleans
(Ages 4 to 8)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Tadgh Bentley

Incredibly Fast and Not at All Fun
One Chicken Nugget

Tadgh Bentley is an award-winning children's author and illustrator whose books have been published by HarperCollins, Penguin Random House, and Scholastic. A former teacher, he now visits schools and libraries, inspiring young readers and writers through lively storytelling, drawing demonstrations, and interactive workshops. Originally from the UK and now based in Ohio, Bentley is the creator of 11 picture books, including *Incredibly Fast and Not at All Fun*.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A
Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony: Grades K-1 and 3-5

1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3
Incredibly Fast and Not at All Fun
(Ages 4 to 8)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Ryan U. Bernard

The Bernards of Louisiana: An Acadian Family History

A native of South Louisiana, **Ryan U. Bernard** is a former journalist with freelance credits in *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *The International Herald Tribune*. More recently, he has edited a number of nonfiction books including *Acadie, Then and Now: A People's History*, which won the prestigious Prix France-Acadie in 2015. Since 2019, he has served as web and newsletter editor for the Acadian Museum of Erath, Louisiana.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent
Le Grand Dérangement: The Acadian Story in Fact and Fiction

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Johnnie Bernhard

The Witch of Sonora

Johnnie Bernhard is a traditionally published author of five novels. Her work has received the following literary distinctions: "Best of the University Presses, 100 Books" by the Association of University Presses, *Publisher's Weekly* "Books to Read," novel of the year by Press Women of Texas, and First Place, Fiction by the National Federation of Press Women. Bernhard served as a 2020 TEDx speaker for the Fearless Women Series.

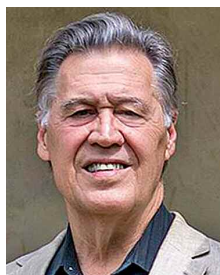
2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
Where the Wild Things Reign: Novels of Suspense, Survival, and Frontier Folklore

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Jason Berry

Conversations with Jason Berry

New Orleans investigative reporter and author **Jason Berry** gained national prominence for landmark coverage of Catholic Church clergy abuse in *Lead Us Not Into Temptation*, *Vows of Silence*, and the IRE Award-winning *Render unto Rome*. His books on New Orleans culture include *Up From the Cradle of Jazz* and *City of a Million Dreams*. A Guggenheim, NEH, and Civitella Ranieri fellow, Berry contributes to *The Guardian* and *Daily Beast*, and is the author of plays and fiction, including *Last of the Red Hot Poppas*.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Conversations with Jason Berry

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jordan Biggs

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Jordan Biggs is a Gen Z, south Louisiana-based poet native to Plaquemines Parish. Pre-Katrina, Biggs spent her childhood in Buras, Louisiana, which has become her muse. Her Cajun heritage fused with lived experiences of environmental injustices influenced her poetic debut which can be found in *Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana*.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Scott Billington

Irma Thomas: Soul Queen of New Orleans

Scott Billington is a musician, author, and multi-Grammy-winning music producer who has worked with artists such as Buckwheat Zydeco, Charlie Rich, Johnny Adams, Bobby Rush, Ruth Brown, and Solomon Burke, a career chronicled in his book *Making Tracks: A Music Producer's Southern Roots Music Journey*. He and 2017 Louisiana Writer Award recipient Johnette Downing have collaborated on the first biography of the iconic New Orleans singer Irma Thomas, *Soul Queen of New Orleans*.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Irma Thomas: Soul Queen of New Orleans

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



Wes Blake

Pineville Trace

Wes Blake is the award-winning author of *Pineville Trace* and the forthcoming *Hazelgreen and Other Haunts*. Pulitzer Prize finalist author Lee Martin called him a "writer to watch." His fiction and essays have appeared in *Electric Literature*, *storySouth*, and *Louisiana Literature Journal*, among others. He holds an MFA from the Bluegrass Writers Studio and lives in Nonesuch, Kentucky, with his wife and cats, where they've planted 100 trees.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Lost and Found: Novels of Grief,

Marginalized Lives, and the Search for Grace

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ashlyn Blanchard

Dinos Down South ABC

Attorney by day, writer by night, and mom around the clock, **Ashlyn Blanchard** was inspired by her children to begin bringing her stories to life. She draws inspiration from the people, places, and cultures she is lucky enough to encounter throughout life. Born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana, she now resides back in her home state after spending several years in Charleston, South Carolina, and Houston, Texas.

9:15 am to 9:45 am

Children's Author Tent 2

Dinos Down South ABC

(Ages 3 to 6)

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Joe Bond

Hope House: A Novel

Joe Bond began working on *Hope House* after his story *Damico* won *The Masters Review* Short Story Award. His writing has been published by *The Paris Review*, *People*, *New South*, *The New Ohio Review*, and ESPN. He grew up around group homes in eastern Kentucky and now lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Lost and Found: Novels of Grief, Marginalized Lives, and the Search for Grace

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Toya Boudy

Cooking from Scratch: A Careful Selection of Useful Recipes

Chef Toya Boudy, the author of *Cooking for the Culture*, has appeared on *Guy's Grocery Games*, *The Tamron Hall Show*, TLC, Food Network, CBS, and Today. Crowned Best Home Cook by Hallmark's Home & Family Channel, Boudy is an ambassador for the New Orleans Multicultural Tourism Network. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

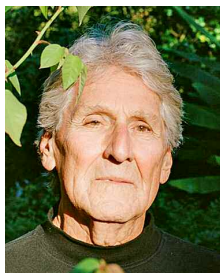
Cooking Demonstration Tent

Cooking from Scratch: A Careful Selection of Useful Recipes

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Darrell Bourque

Pont d'Amour: Love Songs for Anna Akhmatova - FORTHCOMING

Former Louisiana Poet Laureate, **Darrell Bourque** is the recipient of the Louisiana Writer Award and the LEH Humanist of the Year Award. His poetry collections include *The Blue Boat*, *Megan's Guitar*, *In Ordinary Light*, *migrare*, and *Until We Talk*. *Pont d'Amour: Love Songs for Anna Akhmatova* will be released by UL Press in Spring 2027.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Second Sight: Poets Laureate Write Through Vision Loss



Frank Brigtsen

Color of Flavor: Recipes and Recollections from a Creole Chef

Frank Brigtsen is the chef/owner of Brigtsen's Restaurant in New Orleans, Louisiana, which he opened in 1986 with his wife Marna. Chef Frank is a protégé of Chef Paul Prudhomme, whose cuisine has a solid foundation in Creole and Acadian traditions. He has won numerous awards and taught for many years at the New Orleans Cooking Experience, Chef John Folse Culinary Institute (at Nicholls State University), and New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA).

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Memories from the Kitchen: Mapping Identity Through Food and Flavor

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Catharine Savage Brosman

Fire in the Mind: New and Selected Poems

Catharine Savage Brosman, professor emerita of French at Tulane University, is prominent in the Republic of Letters as an essayist, scholar in French and American Literature, and, foremost, poet. Her 15 poetry collections include, most recently, *Metates and Other Poems*, *Arm in Arm*, *Memory of Manaus*, and *Clara's Bees*. Her short fiction appeared as *An Aesthetic Education and Other Stories*. Brosman lives in Houston, Texas.

Noon to 12:30 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Fire in the Mind: New and Selected Poems

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Amena Brown

Never Tell a Black Girl How to Black Girl: Essays

Amena Brown is a spoken-word poet and performing artist whose work interweaves keep-it-real storytelling with humor. She is the author of *How to Fix a Broken Record*, *Breaking Old Rhythms*, and most recently *Never Tell a Black Girl How to Black Girl*. Her poetry was featured in the *New York Times* bestselling book *Rhythm of Prayer*. Brown was featured in Olay's Face Anything campaign alongside Jennifer Hudson. She was also the poetic partner for PATTERN Beauty, Tracee Ellis Ross's natural hair care and beauty brand. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Never Tell a Black Girl How to Black Girl

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Taylor Brown

Wolvers

Taylor Brown is the author of *In the Season of Blood and Gold*, *Fallen Land*, *The River of Kings*, *Gods of Howl Mountain*, *Pride of Eden*, *Wingwalkers*, *Rednecks*, and *Wolvers*. You can find his work in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Garden & Gun*, *The Bitter Southerner*, and other publications. He's a recipient of the Southern Book Prize, Montana Prize in Fiction, Ron Rash Award in Fiction, Georgia Author of the Year, and serves as editor-in-chief of *BikeBound*.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Where the Wild Things Reign: Novels of Suspense, Survival, and Frontier Folklore

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ellen Byron

A Murderer's Guide to Mardi Gras

A Crescent City Christmas

Ellen Byron is a bestselling author, Anthony nominee, and recipient of multiple Agatha and Lefty awards for her Cajun Country Mysteries, Vintage Cookbook Mysteries, Catering Hall Mysteries (as Maria DiRico), and Golden Motel Mysteries. She is also an award-winning playwright and non-award-winning writer of TV hits like *Wings*, *Just Shoot Me*, and *Fairly OddParents*, but considers her most impressive achievement working as a cater-waiter for Martha Stewart.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Killer Calendar:

New Orleans Mysteries for Every Season

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



A.J. Cade

Death or Victory: The Louisiana Native Guards & the Black Military's Significance in the Civil War

A.J. Cade is a retired United States Marine and executive council member with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He is a professional military historian who holds a doctorate in history from George Washington University.

A.J. Cade's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Lincoln's Republic:

Election, War, and the Struggle for the Union

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Emily Carpenter

A Spell for Saints and Sinners: A Novel

Emily Carpenter is the bestselling author of six suspense novels. As Isla Moore, she has a contemporary romance series, the Thornhill, Georgia books. After graduating from Auburn University in Alabama, she moved to New York City to work behind the scenes for the CBS daytime dramas *As the World Turns* and *Guiding Light*. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, she lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with her family.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Demons of Our Own Making:

Southern Gothic Hauntings and Family Secrets

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Finding Your Faith in Literature:

Why Some of the Greatest Stories are Relevant, Personal, and Transformative

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Tracy Carr

Conversations with Ellen Gilchrist

Tracy Carr is a researcher, editor, and writer in Jackson, Mississippi. A former English instructor and librarian, she has a BA in English from the University of North Texas, an MA in English from Mississippi State University, and an MLIS from the University of Alabama. She serves on the board of the Mississippi Book Festival, manages the Mississippi Books page in the *Clarion Ledger* and *Hattiesburg American* newspapers, and is also the editor of *Conversations with Brad Watson*, forthcoming in 2027 by the University Press of Mississippi.

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room
Lost Souls: Dark Secrets, Family Legacies, and Uncanny Phenomena

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118
Examined Lives: Writers on Craft, Memory, and the Making of a Writer

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Christopher E. Cenac

Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Vol. II: The Bowie Brothers and Bayou Buffalo (DuLarge)

Dr. Christopher Everett Cenac, Sr., FACS, was born at Naval Air Station Memphis and raised in Houma, Louisiana. A founding member of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) Writing Louisiana committee, he has served on the LEH Board of Directors since 2019 and sits on the Louisiana Poet Laureate selection committee. Cenac also serves on the Louisiana Sea Grant Advisory Council and is the author of *Eyes of an Eagle*, *Livestock Brands and Marks*, and *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Volume 1*.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173
Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah, Vol. II: The Bowie Brothers and Bayou Buffalo (DuLarge)

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Dook Chase

Dook Chase: A Chef's Journey

Dook Chase is an acclaimed New Orleans chef and restaurateur, best known as the executive chef and co-owner of the legendary Dooky Chase's Restaurant. A fourth-generation member of the iconic Chase family, he proudly carries forward the culinary and cultural legacy established by his grandparents, Leah and Edgar Chase Jr. Chase brings a thoughtful, contemporary approach to the kitchen while honoring the classic Creole cuisine for which the restaurant is known. In 2025, the Chase family was awarded the James Beard America's Classics: South Award.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cooking Demonstration Tent
Dook Chase: A Chef's Journey

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Manda Choate

Moderator

Manda Choate is a Louisiana educator with over 25 years of experience. A high school English teacher turned school librarian, she also serves on the State Library's Louisiana Readers' Choice committee for 9-12 grades. She lives with her family in St. Martin Parish.

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
Young Adult Romance Tropes and (Literal) Cheesy Puns Get the Royal Treatment
(Ages 14 to 18)

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
Twists & Turns: Seeking Truth in Young Adult Suspense
(Ages 13 and up)



Jill Christman

The Heart Folds Early: A Memoir

Jill Christman is the author of *The Heart Folds Early: A Memoir*. Christman's other books include *If This Were Fiction: A Love Story in Essays*, *Darkroom: A Family Exposure*, and *Borrowed Babies: Apprenticing for Motherhood*. A 2020 NEA Literature fellow, she teaches nonfiction writing at Ball State University and serves as co-editor of *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative and Beautiful Things*. Visit her at JillChristman.com and on Instagram @jillchristmanwriter.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials
The Undertow of Grief: Strength and Healing in the Wake of Loss

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Addie E. Citchens

Dominion: A Novel

Clarksdale, Mississippi, native **Addie E. Citchens**, lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. A Jackson State University graduate, she trained in the Florida State writing program and Callaloo workshop. Her writing appears in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Oxford American's Best of the South*, *Columbia Journal*, and *midnight & indigo's* speculative fiction anthology. Her blues history research is featured in *Mississippi Folklife* and Mississippi Public Radio's *Arts Hour*. Citchens was the inaugural FSG Writer's Fellow. *Dominion* is her debut novel.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Under the Surface:

Short Stories and Novels of Masking, Power, and Personal Reckonings

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



T. Clark

All This Want (and I Can't Get None): Stories

T. Clark, from Westchester County, New York, holds BAs from Rutgers University and an MFA from Indiana University. Recipient of a Writer in the World fellowship in Nepal and the Ross Lockridge Jr. Award, they have earned support from the Fine Arts Work Center, Lambda Literary, the Elizabeth George Foundation, and the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, among others. Their fiction appears in *Joyland*, *The Kenyon Review*, *American Short Fiction*, and *The Offing*. They teach and write in New Orleans.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Under the Surface:

Short Stories and Novels of Masking, Power, and Personal Reckonings

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



Taylor Clement

do not destroy this: Poems

Taylor Clement, a native of Lake Charles, Louisiana, is a writer, poet, and researcher. She holds a PhD from Florida State University, and her work has been featured in *Renaissance Studies* and *Word & Image*. She currently teaches professional writing courses at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol I

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Peter Cooley

Little Everlastings - FORTHCOMING

Peter Cooley is emeritus professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at Tulane University. He is the author of 12 books of poetry including *The Van Gogh Notebook*, *Divine Margins*, and *Night Bus to the Afterlife*. He is also the Poetry Editor of *Christianity and Literature*. A former Poet Laureate of Louisiana, Cooley lives in New Orleans.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Second Sight:

Poets Laureate Write Through Vision Loss

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Lindsay "Bones" Cordero

The Great Truffle Snuffle

Lindsay "Bones" Cordero is a picture book author, illustrator, US Air Force veteran, and adventurer at heart. She approaches imagination as a form of inquiry to introduce young readers to the fascinating world around them. When she's not crafting fun, absurd stories, she's likely scuba diving or getting lost on a side quest—like truffle hunting.

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

The Great Truffle Snuffle
(Ages 5 to 8)

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Chase Cormier

Boucherie

Chase Cormier is a literary activist from Lafayette, Louisiana. His book *Mal* received the APMA Best Atlantic-Published Book Award. In *Boucherie*, he traces the history of butchering in Louisiana. From 2018 to 2023, he served as editor of *Feux follets*, a review of creative writing and visual art. He currently teaches French at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

From Pasture to Plate:

Preserving the Traditions of Boucherie and Boudin

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Sheryl Cornett

No Secrets in this House: A Novel

Sheryl Cornett taught English and Creative Writing at NC State University for many years before turning to writing full time. She and her husband divide their year between North Carolina and South Louisiana. Her poems, stories, critical essays, and creative nonfiction appear in numerous publications including *North Carolina Literary Review*, *Image*, *Pembroke Magazine*, *Mars Hill Review*, *The Independent Weekly*, and *Art House America*, among others. She is the winner of the 2026 Randall Kenan Literary Prize for her interview-essay with author Sharon Kurtzman, published in the *North Carolina Literary Review*.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Women and War: Secrets, Loss, and Survival

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Emily Cosper

Witness Before the Fall

Emily Cosper lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she has made her home for more than 30 years. Originally from the West, she remains drawn to its landscapes and hopes someday to divide her time between there and New Orleans. She recently retired after a long career as a professor of English and academic dean. Her work has appeared in *Porchlight: A Journal of Southern Literature*, *The Paddock Review*, and in her head.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents

Louisiana Poets, Vol II

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Spring Council

Southern Roots: Recipes and Stories from Mama Dip's Daughter

Southern Foodways Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award recipient **Anita Spring Council** is a chef, philanthropist, and vintage curator based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. As co-owner of Mama Dip's Kitchen, the celebrated restaurant founded by her mother in 1976, she spent decades working alongside her siblings to provide traditional country cooking to their customers. Today, she can often be found working alongside her daughter, Tonya Council, at Tonya's Cookies and Café.

11:15 am to Noon

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Southern Roots:

Recipes and Stories from Mama Dip's Daughter

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Pamela Courtney

Freedom's Eve: A Story of Watch Night

Pamela Courtney combined her love for writing, teaching, and music—creating MyLMNOP, a literacy and music program for early learners. She is the author of *A Season for Fishin': A Fish Fry Tradition*. Courtney lives in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where she enjoys cooking unique, pepper-hot Louisiana fare for her nieces and nephews.

11:00 am to 11:30 am

Children's Author Tent 1

Freedom's Eve: A Story of Watch Night

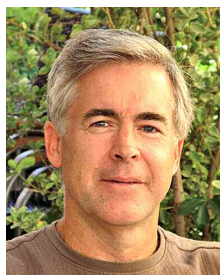
(Ages 4 to 8)

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Peter Cozzens

Deadwood: Gold, Guns, and Greed in the American West

Peter Cozzens is a retired Foreign Service Officer and the best-selling, international-award winning author of 19 books on the Civil War, American West, and Native Americans. His *The Earth Is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars of the American West* won the prestigious Gilder-Lehrman Prize for the best book on military history published in the English-speaking world. Cozzens is a fellow of the Society of American Historians.

Peter Cozzens's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Noon to 1:00 pm

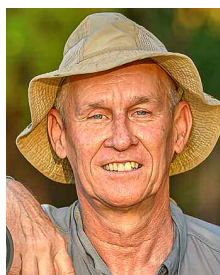
Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Unsettled: Myth and Reality on the American Frontier

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Andy Crawford

Into the Lost World: A Journey into Louisiana's Bayou Country

Andy Crawford is a South Louisiana-based landscape photographer whose goal is to connect viewers to God's great creation through his work. He travels the US extensively, but Louisiana's swamps are a focus of his time afield. No matter where he is working, however, his goal is to evoke a sense of awe and connection, compelling viewers to value the natural treasures around us — and take ownership in conservation of these landscapes.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

Into the Lost World:

A Journey into Louisiana's Bayou Country

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Lindsay Cronk

Moderator

Lindsay Cronk is the Dean of Libraries at Tulane University, newly named host of *The Reading Life* on WWNO New Orleans, and a person whose to-read list has its own to-read list. She's a Past President of Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, and Futures, and serves on the State Library of Louisiana Board of Commissioners. Lindsay is also a proud member of the American Library Association and the Chaissez Ladies. She's glad you're here. She wants your reading recommendations.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

No Ordinary Love:

Romantasy, Vampires, and Epic Adventures

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Not Up to You:

Women Reckoning with Social Pressure and Systemic Abuse



Julie Cruse

The Burn List: A Memoir of Abuse from Home to Higher Education

Julie Cruse is the founder and investigative survivor behind AcademicAbuse.com, a platform that serves as a hub for anonymous reporting, education, and action. She has spent over a decade working across public, private, and elite universities to rethink how educators support students using art- and technology-based pedagogy. Nowadays, she gardens and takes care of feral, stray, and adopted pets. And yes, she still pet sits on the side. *The Burn List* is her first book.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Not Up to You: Women Reckoning

with Social Pressure and Systemic Abuse

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Melissa Daggett

Eugène and Eulalie

Melissa Daggett holds a BA from Louisiana State University in Political Science and two master's degrees from the University of New Orleans: an MEd and an MA in History. Daggett taught US history at San Jacinto College in Houston, Texas. Her debut book, *Spiritualism in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans: The Life and Times of Henry Louis Rey*, chronicles the history of Modern American Spiritualism in the Crescent City with an emphasis on a Black Francophone séance circle.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Fierce Women: Power, Resistance, and Reinvention

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Toby Daspit

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Toby Daspit is Professor of Education at UL Lafayette. He is Emeritus Consultant for the National Writing Project of Acadiana which he directed/co-directed for 16 years and is the founder of the Improving the Blank Page youth writing program. Daspit has published two chapbooks – *Anatomy of a Ghost (and Other Poems Not About You)* and *Bar Coasters* – and is completing his first full-length collection of poetry.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Matthew Davis

A Biography of a Mountain: The Making and Meaning of Mount Rushmore

Matthew Davis is the author of *A Biography of a Mountain: The Making and Meaning of Mount Rushmore*, which is the 2026 One Book for South Dakota. He is also the author of *When Things Get Dark: A Mongolian Winter's Tale* and the children's book *The Magic Horse Fiddle*. His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, *Slate*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among other places. You can read his Substack "About a Place."

Matthew Davis's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

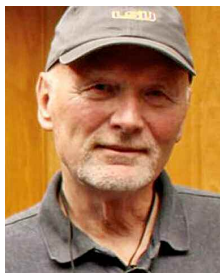
Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Stone and Story: Biographies of American Monuments

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Rod Davis

Life in the Time of Hurricanes

Rod Davis is the author of *The Life of Kim and the Behavior of Men*; *East of Texas*; *West of Hell*; *South, America*; *Corina's Way*, winner of the fiction prize in the PEN Southwest Book Awards for 2000-2005; and *American Voodoo*. Davis has worked at The Associated Press, *The Texas Observer*, *D Magazine*, the *San Antonio Express-News*, the Southern Poverty Law Center, at UT-Austin, SMU, and the Texas A&M System.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Tides of Fortune and Loss:

Storms, Secrets, and Survival in Louisiana Fiction

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Cassandra de Alba

Poetry-to-Order

Cassandra de Alba is a poet and researcher living in Massachusetts. Her chapbooks are *habitats*, published by Horse Less Press in 2016; *Ugly/Sad*, published by Glass Poetry Press in 2020; and *Cryptids*, coauthored with Aly Pierce and published by Ginger Bug Press in 2020. Her work has appeared in *The Shallow Ends*, *Big Lucks*, and *Wax Nine*, among other publications.

Noon to 4:00 pm

State Library, Lobby

Poetry-To-Order



Callie Dean

Marvelous Mistakes: Accidents That Made History

Callie Dean lives in Shreveport, Louisiana, with her husband and three sons. She is the author of the nonfiction picture books *Marvelous Mistakes* and the forthcoming *Unstoppable Song*, as well as the poetry chapbook *Metadata*. Outside of writing, Dean plays the violin in the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra and serves as the director of applied research at the LSUS Institute for Nonprofit Administration and Research.

10:15 am to 10:45 am

Children's Author Tent 1

Marvelous Mistakes:

Accidents That Made History

(Ages 4 to 8)

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Adam Dennis

The Boy from the Swamp

Adam Dennis lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. He earned his bachelor's degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and his juris doctorate from Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio. When he is not writing, he helps his wife run her successful pediatric dental practice or shuttles his two kids around town. In a past life, he toured the country in a van with a punk band and sweated behind the line in several high-profile kitchens.

11:30 am to Noon

Children's Author Tent 2

The Boy from the Swamp
(Ages 5 to 8)

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Channelle Desamours

They Call Her Regret

Channelle Desamours is a high school science teacher from Atlanta, Georgia, who loves writing tales about magical Black girls. When she's not napping to recover from her five a.m. writing sessions, she can be found building tiny homes on The Sims 4 or tending to her house plants. She is the author of *Needy Little Things*, a BCALA Children & Youth Literary Award winner, and *They Call Her Regret*.

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

Twists & Turns:

Seeking Truth in Young Adult Suspense

(Ages 13 and up)

2:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Victoria Dillon

Ava: A Novel

Victoria Dillon is a former research scientist, current pediatrician, and writer with a passion for exploring the intersections of politics and science. She has a unique ability to blend speculative fiction with thought-provoking social commentary, creating prose that speaks to both the heart and the mind. She has lived in the South throughout her childhood and career and loves naps with her cat, Americana music, and hunting for her next favorite fiction read in Nashville, Tennessee. She currently resides in Middle Tennessee.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ungovernable: Novels of Women Fighting for Survival, Agency, and Control

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Johnette Downing

Irma Thomas: Soul Queen of New Orleans
New England Animals A to Z

Recipient of the 2017 Louisiana Writer Award, **Johnette Downing** is a musician, author, illustrator, and poet with 32 books and 13 recordings. Called the "Bard of the Bayou," this New Orleans culture bearer has presented her Louisiana roots music and books on five continents. Her latest releases are *New England Animals A to Z* and *Irma Thomas, Soul Queen of New Orleans*, a biography co-written with Scott Billington.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, First Floor,
Seminar Center

Irma Thomas:
Soul Queen of New Orleans

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing

1:00 pm to 1:30 pm

Young Readers' Pavilion

Children's Halloween
Costume Contest

1:45 pm to 2:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

New England Animals A to Z
(Ages Birth to 7)

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Lindsey Duga

Royal Liars: A Royal Heirs Academy Novel

Lindsey Duga is the author of *Royal Heirs Academy* as well as several other YA novels and middle grade ghost stories. With a passion for history and mythology, she's always been fascinated with royalty across cultures and fantastical worlds. She lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with her family and dog, Delphi.

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

Young Adult Romance Tropes and (Literal) Cheesy Puns
Get the Royal Treatment
(Ages 14 to 18)

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Jonathan Earle

He Has the People: Abraham Lincoln and the Election of 1860

Jonathan Earle is a specialist in the history of the antebellum United States, especially its politics and culture. Educated at Columbia and Princeton Universities, he is the author of numerous books and articles including the prize-winning *Jacksonian Antislavery and the Politics of Free Soil*. *He Has the People* is his fifth book. Earle has served as dean of the Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College at Louisiana State University since 2014. He resides in Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Lincoln's Republic:

Election, War, and the Struggle for the Union

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



cc ECK

Ghost Gun: A Novel

cc ECK is a writer based between Brooklyn, New York, and the American South, whose work explores family inheritance, American violence, and the ways the past refuses to stay buried. *Ghost Gun* is a debut novel.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Past Stories, Present reckonings:

Race, Identity, and Belonging

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



Karen E.B. Elliott

Finding Your Faith in Literature: Why Some of the Greatest Stories are Relevant, Personal, and Transformative

Dr. Karen E.B. Elliott has served preparatory school and college students for 30 years. Through literature, she and her students navigate their relevancy and faith in a technocratic world. Elliott holds an EdD from Northeastern University, an MA from New York University, and a BA from Ithaca College. As a lifelong learner, Elliott has done intensive study at Oxford University focusing on Shakespeare, Medieval Literature, and Victorian Realism. She loves her students and her work.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Demons of Our Own Making:

Southern Gothic Hauntings and Family Secrets

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

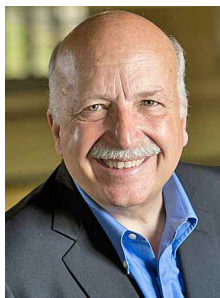
State Library, Third Floor

Finding Your Faith in Literature: Why Some of the Greatest Stories are Relevant, Personal, and Transformative

2:30 pm to 3:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Scott Ellsworth

Midnight on the Potomac: The Last Year of the Civil War, the Lincoln Assassination, and the Rebirth of America

Described by one reviewer as “a historian with the soul of a poet,” **Scott Ellsworth** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Secret Game*, winner of the 2016 PEN/ESPN Award for Literary Sports Writing, and *The Ground Breaking*, his critically acclaimed account of the Tulsa race massacre. Formerly a historian at the Smithsonian Institution, he has written about American history for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. He lives in Ann Arbor, where he also teaches at the University of Michigan.

Scott Ellsworth's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Lincoln's Republic:

Election, War, and the Struggle for the Union

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ashley Elston

Anatomy of an Alibi: A Novel

Ashley Elston worked for many years as a wedding photographer before turning her hand to writing. She has written six young adult novels and her adult debut, *First Lie Wins*, was a number one *New York Times* bestseller and was selected as a Reese's Book Club pick. She lives in Louisiana with her husband and three sons.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Drastic Measures:

Southern Thrillers Made of Secrets, Survival, and Sisterhood

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Karen Essex

Run, Darling: A Gabor Sisters Novel

Karen Essex is a bestselling author whose novels spotlight history's most fascinating women: those who shaped empires, commanded art, survived dangerous courts, and seduced the world. Her novels are published in 29 languages. *Leonardo's Swans*, a runaway bestseller in Italy, won the prestigious Premio Roma Prize for foreign fiction. A New Orleans native, Essex has also lived in London, Los Angeles, and Paris. She has appeared on numerous television shows and podcasts, including *The Today Show* and several PBS and NPR programs. She recently moved back to New Orleans.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Women and War: Secrets, Loss, and Survival

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Donna Everhart

Women of a Promiscuous Nature: A Novel

Donna Everhart is a *USA Today* bestselling author known for vividly evoking challenges of the heart and the complex heritage of the American South in her acclaimed novels. Her work has received numerous awards to include finalist for the Southern Book Prize, the prestigious NC Society of Historians Award of Excellence, and industry recognition such as a LibraryReads selection, two Indie Next Picks, and three Publishers Marketplace Buzz Books selections. She resides in North Carolina.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ungovernable: Novels of Women Fighting for Survival, Agency, and Control

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Malaika Favorite

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Malaika Favorite is a visual artist and poet whose publications include poetry collections *Dreaming of the Manor*, *Illuminated Manuscript*, and *Ascension*; a novella, *The Author Project*; and a 2025 novel, *After Color*.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Alison Fensterstock

Bunny Matthews: His Life, Art, and Obsessions

Alison Fensterstock is a former music critic for the *Times-Picayune* and *Gambit* in New Orleans and a columnist for the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities' quarterly *64 Parishes*. Outside of New Orleans, her writing has also appeared in *Rolling Stone*, *Pitchfork*, *MOJO*, the *Oxford American*, and other places. Her books include *The Definition of Bounce* and *How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music*. She's been a substitute DJ on WWOZ 90.7 FM since 2006.

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Bunny Matthews: His Life, Art, and Obsessions

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gina Ferrara

The Rooted and Recurrent: Poems

Gina Ferrara is the author of six poetry collections including her latest, *The Rooted and Recurrent*. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *Callaloo*, *The Poetry Ireland Review*, *Tar River*, and *The Southern Review*. In 2025, she was appointed Poet Laureate of Louisiana. Since 2007, she has curated The Poetry Buffet, a monthly reading series in New Orleans. She teaches at Delgado Community College and lives near Bayou St. John with her husband, Jonathan Kline, and their bulldog.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol I

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol II

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Rien Fertel

Moderator

Rien Fertel is the author of four books, most recently *Brown Pelican*, a finalist for the Rachel Carson Environmental Book Award. He is the lead book reviewer at the New Orleans Times-Picayune/Louisiana Advocate newspapers and is a five-time winner of the Best Critic Award from the Press Club of New Orleans.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Le Grand Dérangement:

The Acadian Story in Fact and Fiction



Brian Fontenot

Seraphim Descent

Brian Fontenot is a Louisiana native and graduate of Louisiana State University. He was the recipient of the Mary Manhein Award for Literary Non-Fiction as an undergraduate and, after graduating, worked as a reporter in south Louisiana for the *Tri-Parish Times*, the *Gumbo Entertainment Guide*, the *Courier*, and the *Daily Comet*. He has been a technical writer and editor in a variety of fields including emergency and disaster management and planning, IT, oil and gas, and health insurance.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Beyond the Stars:

Sci-Fi Novels of Cosmic Horror,

Ancient Magic, Evil Empires, and Survival

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gaines M. Foster

Moderator

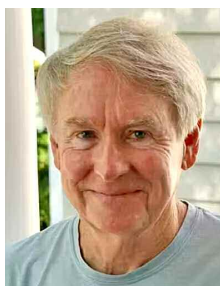
Gaines M. Foster taught history at LSU for longer than he cares to admit. His publications include *Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South*; *Moral Reconstruction: Federal Legislation of Morality, 1865-1920*; and, most recently, *The Legacy of the Lost Cause: Essays on Civil War Memory*.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Lincoln's Republic:

Election, War, and the Struggle for the Union



Ben Fountain

Rasputin Swims the Potomac: A Novel

Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel

Ben Fountain has received the Joyce Carol Oates Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, the PEN/Hemingway Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award for Fiction, the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, the Thomas Wolfe Prize, the Barnes & Noble Discover Prize for Fiction, and a Whiting Award, and has been a Finalist for the National Book Award and runner-up for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize.

Ben Fountain's appearance made possible by the National Book Foundation.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

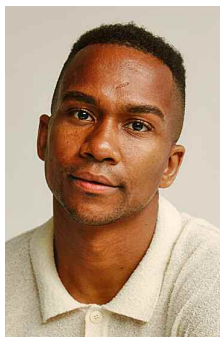
State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

National Book Foundation Presents Southern Satire

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



Rob Franklin

Great Black Hope: A Novel

Rob Franklin is the author of *Great Black Hope*, which was published in June 2025. A national bestseller, his debut novel was nominated for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, the Barnes and Noble Discover Prize, the VCU Cabell First Novelist Award, and the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence, and it was named a "Best Book of the Year" by *TIME*, *Vogue*, NPR, and *Vanity Fair*, among others. A co-founder of Art for Black Lives, Franklin holds a BA from Stanford University and an MFA from NYU's Creative Writing program. He teaches writing at School of Visual Arts and edits fiction for *Joyland*. He lives in New York.

Rob Franklin's appearance made possible by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Under the Surface:

Short Stories and Novels of Masking, Power, and Personal reckonings

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Jamie Freeman
Moderator

Jamie Freeman is the owner of TBR Books & Tea, an independent bookstore and café located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Freeman's professional background includes work in film production, bookkeeping, nonprofit administration, and government relations. She opened TBR Books & Tea in April 2025 to create an inclusive, community-focused space centered on a love of reading, creativity, and connection. Freeman is passionate about fostering a welcoming environment and helping readers discover the right books.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B
Drastic Measures:
Southern Thrillers Made of Secrets,
Survival, and Sisterhood



Olivia Clare Friedman
Moderator

Olivia Clare Friedman is the author of four books: the novel *Here Lies*, the short story collection *Disasters in the First World*, the poetry collection *An Arm Fixed to a Wing*, and the poetry collection *The 26-Hour Day*. She is an Associate Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi.

11:00 am to Noon
State Library, Third Floor
Wrapped in a Mystery:
Heists, Capers, and Hidden Lives



Kim Fu
The Valley of Vengeful Ghosts: A Novel

Kim Fu is the author of five books, including the novels *For Today I Am a Boy* and *The Lost Girls of Camp Forevermore*. Their story collection *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century* won the Washington State Book Award, the Pacific Northwest Book Award, and the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, and was a finalist for the Giller Prize, the Ignyte Awards, the Shirley Jackson Awards, and the Saroyan International Prize. Fu lives in Seattle.

10:30 am to 11:30 am
State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room
Ghosts and Other Hauntings:
Grief, Rage, and Reckoning

11:45 am to 12:30 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

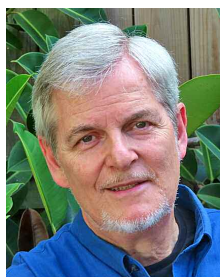


Denise Gallagher
How to Calm a Rain Bull: And Other Stories of the Changing Seasons from Around the World

Denise Gallagher is a children's author and illustrator. She is passionate about folktales and is inspired by her Louisiana home. She has written and illustrated two picture books and has illustrated folktales from Louisiana and Canada. The research she undertook for her latest book, a collection of folktales from around the world, has deepened her appreciation for them. Gallagher also loves to share her passion for literature and art with students of all ages.

2:15 pm to 2:45 pm
Children's Author Tent 1
How to Calm a Rain Bull: And Other Stories
of the Changing Seasons from Around the World
(Ages 5 to 8)

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



John Gery
Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

John Gery's seven poetry collections include *The Enemies of Leisure*, *A Gallery of Ghosts*, *Have at You Now!*, and *Davenport's Version*. He has received fellowships from the NEA, Fulbright Foundation, University of Minnesota, Louisiana Division of the Arts, and others. As a critic, he has written extensively on modernist and contemporary poetry. A Research Professor at LSU New Orleans, he directs the Ezra Pound Center for Literature and edits the EPCL Book Series at Clemson University Press.

9:00 am to 10:30 am
Outside Museum, West Tent
Diving Into Nature:
An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Megan Giddings

Black Arts: Stories

Megan Giddings is an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota and a celebrated author whose work has garnered critical acclaim and numerous accolades. Her debut novel, *Lakewood*, was one of *New York Magazine's* 10 best books of 2020 and a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. Her second novel, *The Women Could Fly*, was named one of the *Washington Post's* Best Science Fiction and Fantasy Novels of 2022. Giddings's writing has been supported by the Barbara Deming Foundation and Hedgebrook.

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room
Lost Souls: Dark Secrets, Family Legacies, and Uncanny Phenomena

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Susan Gregg Gilmore

The Curious Calling of Leonard Bush: A Novel

Susan Gregg Gilmore is the author of four novels including the bestselling *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen*, *The Funeral Dress*, and most recently, *The Curious Calling of Leonard Bush*. She has written for the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. A native Tennessean, she currently lives in Chattanooga with her husband.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor
Wayward Grace: Southern Novels of Upended Lives, Humor, and Second Chances

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Charnaie Gordon

Heroic Heart: An Illustrated Biography of Joe Delaney

Charnaie Gordon is a diversity and inclusion advocate, author, teacher, and digital creator. She is the author of several picture books and an educational flash card series called *Young Historians Club*. Her blog, *Here Wee Read*, is where she expresses her creativity and passion for reading, diverse literature, and literacy. She lives in Connecticut with her husband and two children.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

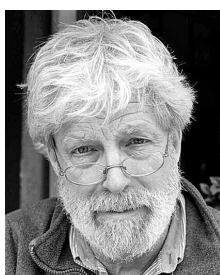
Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A
Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony: Grades K-1 and 3-5

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room B
Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Philip Gould

Louisiana from the Sky

Philip Gould is a documentary/architecture photographer born in Massachusetts and raised in California but making Louisiana's Cajun country his home and favorite subject since 1974. He has photographed throughout the state, the nation, Europe, and the Caribbean, including for over 20 books, mostly on Louisiana subjects. "When shooting," Gould noted, "I strive to be mindful of my artistic perspective as well as being empathetic to the subject. My own gold standard for my photographs is that they portray decisive, iconic moments of insight and truth."

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor
Louisiana from the Sky

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Roberta Brandes Gratz

Fearless Philanthropy: Edith Rosenwald Stern's Campaigns to Transform Lives in New Orleans

Roberta Brandes Gratz is an award-winning journalist, urban critic, lecturer, and author of several books, including *We're Still Here Ya Bastards: How the People of New Orleans Rebuilt Their City*. Gratz is a former reporter for the *New York Post* and has written for *The Nation*, the *New York Times Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Daily News*. She lives in New York City and New Orleans.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B
Fierce Women: Power, Resistance, and Reinvention

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Jason G. Green

Too Precious to Lose: A Memoir of Family, Community, and Possibility

Jason G. Green is a Maryland-born community organizer, attorney, and entrepreneur. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and Yale Law School, he served as Associate White House Counsel to President Obama, advising on economic and domestic policy. Green co-founded SkillSmart and serves as CEO of EverGreen Labs, supporting organizations that expand economic opportunity. He is a trustee for the Pleasant View Historic Association and directed the award-winning documentary *Finding Fellowship*. He splits his time between Maryland and Dallas, Texas, with his wife, Ritu, and son, Aidan.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Room 118

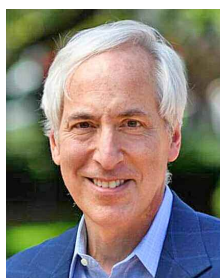
Family Legacies, Future Plans:

Lessons of Faith, Work, and Resilience

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Stuart P. Green

The Rebbe of Baton Rouge

Stuart P. Green is a distinguished professor of law at Rutgers University and the author of several leading books on criminal law and philosophy. He coauthored *The Rebbe of Baton Rouge* with his wife, Jennifer Anne Moses. After raising their three children largely in Baton Rouge, Moses and Green moved to Montclair, New Jersey, where they live with their two bad dogs.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Wayward Grace: Southern Novels of Upended Lives, Humor, and Second Chances

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



James P. Gregory, Jr.

Vaudeville's Flower: The Many Lives of Cora Youngblood Corson

James P. Gregory Jr. is the director of the William A. Brookshire LSU Military Museum. He is the author of numerous books and essays about the military history of the United States.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Fierce Women: Power, Resistance, and Reinvention

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Laura Guccione

St. Joseph's Day in New Orleans

Lifelong New Orleanian **Laura Guccione** holds degrees in anthropology, urban studies, and culinary arts. She combines scholarship with personal experience to uncover the city's hidden history. She lives in an 1830s Creole cottage just outside the French Quarter. *St. Joseph's Day in New Orleans* is her first book.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

Rituals of New Orleans: Coffee, Celebration, and the Making of Culture

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Sarah Guillory

A Wish with Wings

Sarah Guillory is the author of middle grade novels *A Wish with Wings*, which earned starred reviews from Kirkus, Publisher's Weekly, and Booklist; *Gus and Glory*, an ALA Notable Children's Book for 2026 and a Bank Street Best Book of 2025; and *Nowhere Better than Here*, a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2022, CBC Book of the Year, and the International Literacy Association's Intermediate Fiction Winner. She lives in Louisiana with her husband and dogs.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room A

Not Mid: Peak Middle Grade Stories of Courage and Connection

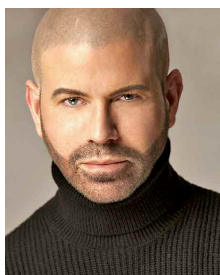
(Ages 8 to 12)

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Robert Gwaltney

Sing Down the Moon: A Novel

Robert Gwaltney, a recipient of the 2022 Pat Conroy Writers Residency, was named 2023 Georgia Author of the Year for his debut novel, *The Cicada Tree*. Gwaltney's work has appeared in such publications as *Southbound Magazine*, *Southern Literary Review*, *The Blue Mountain Review*, and *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*. His recent novel, *Sing Down the Moon*, was awarded an IPPY for Best Southeast Fiction.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Wayward Grace: Southern Novels of Upended Lives, Humor, and Second Chances

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Lost Souls: Dark Secrets, Family Legacies, and Uncanny Phenomena

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Robin Ha

Instant Noodles and Beyond: A Comic Book with Recipes for Souped-Up Ramen, Mac & Cheese, and More

Robin Ha is the award-winning author and illustrator of the graphic novel memoir *Almost American Girl* and the *New York Times* best-selling comic cookbook *Cook Korean!*. Raised in Seoul, South Korea, she moved to the US at 14 and studied illustration at the Rhode Island School of Design. Her comics have appeared in the *Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times*, as well as anthologies such as *Rise, New Frontiers: The Many Worlds of George Takei*, and *Shattered: The Asian American Comics Anthology*.

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

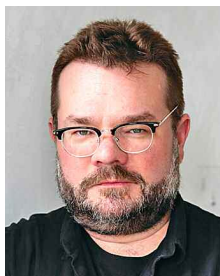
Cooking Demonstration Tent

Instant Noodles and Beyond: A Comic Book with Recipes for Souped-Up Ramen, Mac & Cheese, and More

2:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Benjamin Hale

Cave Mountain: A Disappearance and a Reckoning in the Ozarks

Benjamin Hale is also the author of the novel *The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore* and the collection *The Fat Artist and Other Stories*. His writing has appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, *Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Conjunctions*, and has been anthologized in *Best American Science and Nature Writing*. He is a senior editor at *Conjunctions*, teaches at Bard College and Columbia University, and lives in a small town in New York's Hudson Valley.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Stranger Than Fiction: Hidden Histories, Unlikely Lives

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Maddi Hannan

Where Y'at, Jockamo?

Madi Hannan is a New Orleans native, artist, author, illustrator, and science teacher whose work is inspired by the Gulf South's wonderfully weird creatures, vibrant culture, and distinct charm. She wrote and illustrated *Scrim on the Run*, *The Little Lost Alligator*, and *Scrim on the Run: Christmas Fun!*, and illustrated *Where Do Beignets Come From?*, *Welcome to Cafe Beignet*, and *Louise's Garden*. When not teaching biology or making art, Hannan enjoys dog sports with her dog, Jacques, baking cookies, and napping with her cats, Butters and Boba.

11:00 am to 11:30 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Where Y'at, Jockamo?
(Ages 3 to 8)

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ashley Mace Havird

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Ashley Mace Havird has published four poetry collections, including *Wild Juice* and *The Garden of the Fugitives*, which won the X. J. Kennedy Prize. Her debut novel, *Lightningstruck*, won the Ferrol Sams Award for Fiction. A new novel, *Swimmer*, is scheduled for publication with NatureCulture Press in February 2027. Her poems and stories have appeared widely in anthologies and journals such as *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Sewanee Review*, and *The Southern Review*.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

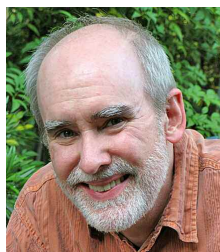
Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



David Havird

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

David Havird is the author most recently of *Weathering*, published by Mercer University Press in 2020, a “chimeric omnibus” of poetry and memoir. Find new work of his in *Asheville Poetry Review*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Literary Matters*, *Plume*, and *Raritan*. He retired from the classroom in 2020 after 30 years at Centenary College of Louisiana. He lives in Shreveport, Louisiana. For more about Havird go to DavidHavird.com.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jon Hébert

Hear This!: A Twisted Tale of Sonic Torture

Jon Hébert is a New Orleans author and musician. He has been featured in the New Orleans Public Library's *Renewed* anthology and the Patty Friedmann Writing Contest anthology. A lifelong musician, Hébert has released four albums of original roots and rock music and has been reviewed in New Orleans' renowned *OffBeat Magazine*. He lives in New Orleans with his girlfriend and their blind cat, who edits most of his work.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Stranger Than Fiction: Hidden Histories, Unlikely Lives

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Joshua Hebert

Moderator

Joshua Hebert is a father, husband, award-winning chef, lifelong musician, elected official, and trusted leader in the hospitality and nonprofit spaces. He is the Founder and President of Assumption Foundation for the Arts; Vice-Chair for Programs and Education for the Louisiana Partnership for the Arts; Vice President and elected member of the Assumption Parish School Board; Member of the Board of Directors for Louisiana School Boards Association; Consultant with US Foods; and owner of Bearfoot Hospitality. He serves with many local, state, and regional organizations in volunteer and consultative capacities, is a proud LSU Golden Band from Tigerland alum, and a member and guest conductor for the Bayou Community Band. Hebert resides in his hometown of Napoleonville, Louisiana, with his wife, Jamie, and their three sons, Jackson, James, and Luke.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Dook Chase: A Chef's Journey

11:15 am to Noon

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Southern Roots: Recipes and Stories from Mama Dip's Daughter

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Cooking from Scratch:

A Careful Selection of Useful Recipes

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cooking Demonstration Tent

Instant Noodles and Beyond: A Comic Book with Recipes for Souped-Up Ramen, Mac & Cheese, and More



Danny Heitman

Moderator

Danny Heitman is a longtime columnist for *The Baton Rouge Advocate* and the editor of *Forum*, a quarterly journal of ideas published by the national collegiate honor society Phi Kappa Phi. He also writes frequently about books and culture for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and other national publications. Heitman is the author of *A Summer of Birds: John James Audubon at Oakley House*, an LSU Press title that was adapted into a public television documentary and was nominated for an Emmy.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Feather Wars and the Great Crusade to Save America's Birds



Leslie Helakoski

Fake Gnus

Leslie Helakoski is the author and sometimes illustrator of 17 picture books. Her award-winning books are known for their humor and word play. Her newest addition is *Fake Gnus*, a *School Library Journal* selection. Recent titles are *When the Rain Came Down* and *Gator's Big Mouth*. Upcoming titles are *Crab Did It* and *Crabby Neighbors*. Helakoski teaches an online course on picture books and hosts a live retreat at Highlights Foundation.

12:15 pm to 12:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

Fake Gnus

(Ages 4 to 7)

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Paige Hender
Witch's Inheritance
The Confessional: A Graphic Novel

Paige Hender is a graphic novelist inspired by the macabre and the whimsical. When she's not making critically acclaimed comics, she can be found knitting at home in Shreveport, Louisiana, with her cats Chaplin and Keaton.

Noon to 12:45 pm
State Library, Second Floor,
Meeting Room

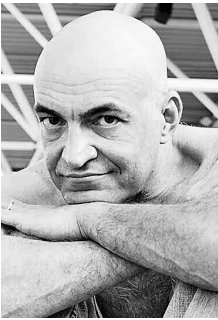
**No Ordinary Love:
Romantasy, Vampires,
and Epic Adventures**

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Iberville Building, Le Francois,
Room A

**Bloodlines & Burdens:
A Young Adult Dark Fantasy Panel**
(Ages 14 to 18)

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Greg Herren
Hurricane Season Hustle: A Scotty Bradley Mystery

Greg Herren is a New Orleans-based author and editor of 33 novels, including the Lambda Award-winning *Murder in the Rue Chartres*. He co-founded the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival and has edited for Bold Strokes Books, Bella Books, and Harrington Park Press. His acclaimed works span YA mysteries (*Sleeping Angel*), short fiction, and anthologies like *Love, Bourbon Street* and *FRATSEX*. A former fitness columnist and board member for Mystery Writers of America, he currently works as a public health researcher for the NO/AIDS Task Force.

11:00 am to Noon
Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
**Rebels, Empires, and Impossible Choices
in Young Adult Sci-Fi**
(Ages 12 to 17)

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173
**Killer Calendar:
New Orleans Mysteries for Every Season**

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Mary Hester
Painting Grace

Mary Hester taught English and technical writing at Louisiana State University and worked as a freelance technical editor for the LSU Press and other LSU departments and state agencies. She then attended the LSU Law School, practiced law for 25 years, and was elected to the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. She now lives in North Carolina with her husband, Mark, and happily devotes her time to reading and writing fiction.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm
Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173
**Crossroads & Connections:
Novels of Love, Legacy, and Life's Turning Points**

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Roberta Whitman Hoff
Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Originally from New England, **Roberta Whitman Hoff** now lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, with her two cats. She's an English major and recently published a horror poem about abuse against women for Black Spot Books.

9:00 am to 10:30 am
Outside Museum, West Tent
**Diving Into Nature:
An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana**

10:45 am to 11:30 am
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Joy Holden
Moderator

Joy Holden was born and raised in Louisiana. She is a former high school English teacher who now writes for *The Advocate* and *The Times-Picayune* as a features reporter. She reviews books and conducts interviews with authors, which she says is one of her favorite parts of her job.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm
Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173
**Crossroads & Connections:
Novels of Love, Legacy, and Life's Turning Points**

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Megan Holt
Moderator

Dr. Megan Holt is Executive Director for One Book One New Orleans and the Words & Music Festival. Her 2021 TEDx Talk, “Becoming Part of the Story,” focuses on her work as an adult education advocate. Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities recognized her efforts in 2023 with the Light Up for Literacy Award. Her most recent professional accomplishment is founding a book club inside Orleans Parish Jail, connecting local authors with incarcerated readers.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

***The Undertow of Grief:
Strength and Healing in the Wake of Loss***

11:15 am to Noon

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

***Time and Time Again:
Ancestry, Identity, and the Weight of History***

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

***Unholy Hell: Horror Novels of Cult Indoctrination,
Fanatical Devotion, and Twisted Faith***



Ashley N. Hudson
The Bridge

Ashley N. Hudson is an author, screenwriter, filmmaker, and professional stuntwoman whose work explores grief, hope, and the enduring bonds that connect people beyond words. Drawing on years of experience in film and television, she brings a visual and emotionally grounded approach to storytelling. Her fiction centers on deeply human characters navigating loss, love, and transformation, with particular attention to voices and experiences that are too often overlooked.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

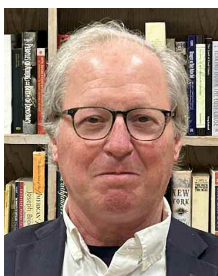
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

***Lost and Found: Novels of Grief,
Marginalized Lives, and the Search for Grace***

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Howard Hunter
Conversations with Jason Berry

Howard Hunter is a New Orleans native. He has taught high school history for 42 years and has written articles for both academic and general audiences. He is the co-author of *Tearing Down the Lost Cause: The Removal of New Orleans's Confederate Statues* with James Gill, and a contributor to *The New Orleans Garden District: Profiles in Preservation*. He is the editor of *Conversations with Jason Berry*, published by University Press of Mississippi in February 2026.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Conversations with Jason Berry

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Kristen Illarmo
Against the Red Sky: Colony Exposed

Kristen Illarmo is a New Orleans-based author of young adult science fiction and fantasy. Her fast-paced, cinematic stories feature flawed heroes, complex villains, and moral tension that questions authority and blind loyalty—without losing hope or love at the core. She's been a featured author at the Louisiana Book Festival, representing both of her duologies.

11:00 am to Noon

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

***Rebels, Empires, and Impossible Choices
in Young Adult Sci-Fi***
(Ages 12 to 17)

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Shelley Ingram
Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

Shelley Ingram is Professor of English and Folklore at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Her research focuses primarily on the relationship between folklore and literature, including its connections to ethnography and race, region, food, ghosts, and environment. Her essays have appeared in edited collections and in journals such as *Food & Foodways* and *Journal of Folklore Research*, and she is co-author or co-editor of three books about folklore, literature, and place.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

***Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside,
and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South***

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson

Behind the Gavel: Lessons from Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson

Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson is the first African American Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. A graduate of Spelman College and LSU Law Center, she has devoted her career to advancing civil rights, equal justice, and judicial excellence. Her distinguished service on the bench and lifelong commitment to public service have earned her numerous honors and recognition as one of Louisiana's most influential legal leaders.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

Behind the Gavel:

Lessons from Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson

(Ages 13 to 18)

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Johnson

Moderator

David Johnson is the Director of Marketing and Engagement for the Jefferson Parish Library. He previously served as the digital media editor for *OffBeat* magazine, communications director for the New Orleans Museum of Art, and editor of *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* magazine and KnowLA, the Digital Encyclopedia of Louisiana, at the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

French in the Morning: A History of Cajun Radio

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

Rituals of New Orleans:

Coffee, Celebration, and the Making of Culture

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

From Pasture to Plate:

Preserving the Traditions of Boucherie and Boudin



Kevin J. Johnson

'Twas the Night: A Novel

Kevin J. Johnson grew up reading *Goosebumps* and roaming the horror aisles of the nearest Blockbuster Video. He studied Creative Writing at Florida State University and currently lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, with his wife and a rambunctious long-haired miniature dachshund named Pepper. *'Twas The Night* is his debut novel.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

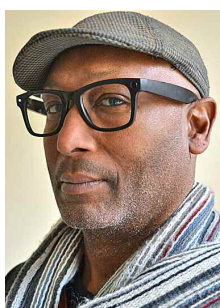
State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Unholy Hell: Horror Novels of Cult Indoctrination, Fanatical Devotion, and Twisted Faith

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



T. Geronimo Johnson

The Occidental Book of the Dead: A Novel

Welcome to Braggsville: A Novel

Born and raised in the American South, **T. Geronimo Johnson** is the bestselling author of *Welcome to Braggsville*, longlisted for the National Book Award and Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence, and *Hold It 'Til It Hurts*, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. He won the inaugural Joyce Carol Oates Prize, the Rome Prize, Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, and the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing; received his MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where he later taught writing; and has held Stegner and Iowa Arts fellowships.

T. Geronimo Johnson's appearance made possible by the National Book Foundation.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

National Book Foundation Presents

Southern Satire

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



Mason Joiner

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Mason Joiner is originally from Alexandria, Louisiana. He is currently an Associate Professor of English at Delgado Community College in New Orleans. In addition to writing poetry, Joiner is an avid Dungeons and Dragons player.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Brian Jay Jones

The Capitol: The Surprising Biography of an American Building

Brian Jay Jones is the critically-acclaimed bestselling biographer of some of the world's most iconic creative geniuses. Born in the Midwest and raised in the Southwest, Jones has a degree in English from the University of New Mexico. He spent more than two decades as a public policy analyst and speechwriter for thought leaders and elected officials at all levels of government, including nearly 10 years in the US Senate. He presently lives in New Mexico.

Brian Jay Jones's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Stone and Story:

Biographies of American Monuments

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Julie Jones

The Functional Home: A Practical Guide to Planning Intentional Living Spaces

Julie Jones, a Certified Interior Designer in California with 18 years of residential design experience, earned her BFA in Interior Design in 2008, specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, and new construction. After her work gained traction on social media in 2021, she launched Julie Jones Designs in 2022, offering virtual interior design services. Her rapidly growing firm now employs space planners, designers, drafters, and assistants. By sharing design and space planning advice online, Jones aims to make quality interior design more accessible and affordable.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

The Functional Home:

A Practical Guide to Planning Intentional Living Spaces

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Rodney Jones

The Body and the End of Time: Poems Selected and New, 1985-2025

Rodney Jones, the author of 11 books of poetry, has received the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, and has been a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize for Poetry, the Griffin Poetry Prize, and the Pulitzer Prize. His work has appeared in *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* and 10 editions of *The Best American Poetry*. He lives in New Orleans.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents

Louisiana Poets, Vol I

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Dr. Sanjay Juneja

We Need to Talk About Cancer: An Important Book for Patients, Family, and Friends

Dr. Sanjay Juneja, a hematologist and medical oncologist widely recognized as "TheOncDoc," is a trailblazer in healthcare innovation. Garnering over 750k followers and 50 million views on social media, Dr. Juneja's unique ability to simplify complex topics has earned him global acclaim. His insights have been featured in *The Washington Post*, *WIRED*, *Bloomberg*, and PBS.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

We Need to Talk About Cancer

(Ages 10 and up)

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Julie Kane

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

2025 Louisiana Writer Award recipient **Julie Kane** is a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and served as Louisiana Poet Laureate from 2011-2013. She is Professor Emerita of English at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She is the author of *Naked Ladies*, *Jazz Funeral*, *Body and Soul*, and *Mothers of Ireland*.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

Noon to 12:30 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Fire in the Mind: New and Selected Poems

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Casey Kayser

Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

Casey Kayser is an associate professor of English and director of the Medical Humanities program at the University of Arkansas. Her research specialties include narrative medicine and medical humanities; modern and contemporary American and southern literature and drama; folklore; and gender studies. She is author of *Marginalized: Southern Women Playwrights Confront Race, Region, and Gender*, winner of the 2021 Eudora Welty Prize, and the co-editor of two collections on Carson McCullers.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Third Floor

Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Denise Kiernan

Obstinate Daughters: The Rebels, Writers, and Renegade Women Who Ignited the American Revolution

New York Times Bestselling author **Denise Kiernan** is the author of nonfiction books such as *The Girls of Atomic City*, *The Last Castle*, *We Gather Together*, and the National Bestseller *Obstinate Daughters*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Rolling Stone*, and many others. She has appeared on NPR's *Weekend Edition*, PBS *NewsHour*, MSNBC's *Morning Joe*, and *The Daily Show*. She lives in North Carolina.

Denise Kiernan's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Wider Story: Untold Histories of the American Revolution and Expansion

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Sara Deen Kimball

Rowen and the Animal Shelter

Sara Deen Kimball grew up in Atlanta, Louisiana, and is a volunteer with the Louisiana State Animal Response Team (LSART). She started the Ralph's Responders program to teach children about responsible pet ownership, which led to her writing *Rowen and the Animal Shelter*. The R.A.L.P.H. (Ready and Living Prepared Heroes) program is free to download and share online at LSART.org. Kimball also volunteers with her adopted border collie, Finn, as a therapy team and to teach responsible pet ownership.

9:30 am to 10:00 am

Children's Author Tent 3

Rowen and the Animal Shelter

(Ages 5 to 10)

10:15 am to 11:00 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jamie King

Moderator

Jamie King received her MLIS from LSU and has served as the school library column editor for the Louisiana Library Association and as a member of its intellectual freedom and legislative committees. A proud educator of over 30 years, King currently works at Glen Oaks High School in the school library and sponsors the book club The Page Turners. She currently serves on the Louisiana Teen Readers' Choice awards committee and is passionate about bringing the right book to the right student at the right time.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room A

Bloodlines & Burdens:

A Young Adult Dark Fantasy Panel

(Ages 14 to 18)



Justin Lacour

A Reading from the Book of Panic

Justin Lacour lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, with his wife and three children and edits *Trampoline: A Journal of Poetry*.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents

Louisiana Poets, Vol I

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Nina LaCour

Meet Me in the Garden: A Novel

Nina LaCour is the award-winning and bestselling author of *Yerba Buena*, as well as many works for children and young adults. A former indie bookseller and educator, she lives with her family in San Francisco.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Crossroads & Connections:

Novels of Love, Legacy, and Life's Turning Points

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jodi Laidlaw

Moderator

Jodi Laidlaw is a bookseller at Blue Cypress Books in New Orleans, Louisiana. With an undergraduate degree in English Literature and a decade of experience in corporate marketing, she serves Blue Cypress Books as manager where she leads efforts in Marketing, Events, and Operations. Laidlaw is an avid reader who is passionate about cultivating community through stories. She hosts two book clubs, The HEA Club and The Guild, which have a combined membership of over 600 readers and were recognized in *Gambit's* Best of New Orleans 2025.

10:00 am to 10:30 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

In Conversation with Farrah Rochon

10:45 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Love Across Genres: A Romance Panel



Lauren Landry

Moderator

Lauren Landry, MLIS, is an award-winning educator in Jefferson Parish. Her work in giving away 35,000 books to children earned her the cherished nickname "The Book Fairy." She loves talking about children's books with fellow bibliophiles and especially loves serving on the Louisiana Young Readers' Choice award committee for grades 3-5. She lives in Metairie, Louisiana, with her husband, two children, and dog.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Little Books, Big Lives:

Picture Book Biographies



Carlotta Walls LaNier

Carlotta's Special Dress: How a Walk to School Changed Civil Rights History

Carlotta Walls LaNier is a member of the Little Rock Nine. She gained national attention for the role she played in desegregating Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. LaNier received the Congressional Medal of Honor and six honorary degrees, and now speaks at venues across the country. She lives in Denver, Colorado.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Carlotta's Special Dress:

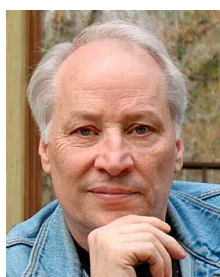
How a Walk to School Changed Civil Rights History

(Ages 6 to 8)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Joe R. Lansdale

Petrified Dreams: A Hap and Leonard Novel

Joe R. Lansdale is the author of nearly four dozen novels, including *Rusty Puppy*, the Edgar-award winning *The Bottoms*, *Sunset and Sawdust*, and *Leather Maiden*. He has received nine Bram Stoker Awards, the American Mystery Award, the British Fantasy Award, and the Grinzane Cavour Prize for Literature. He lives with his family in Nacogdoches, Texas.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Blood, Books, and Bass Guitars:

High-Octane Crime Fiction

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Luke Larkin
The Unheld: A Novel

Based in Missoula, Montana, **Luke Larkin** is a queer author living and working in Big Sky country. He received his MFA in creative writing from the University of Montana, and his work can be found in places like *HAD*, *Sonora Review*, *Popshot*, *Firewords*, and elsewhere. *The Unheld* is his debut novel.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm
State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials
Into the Woods:
Horror Novels of Monsters, Secrets, and Survival

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

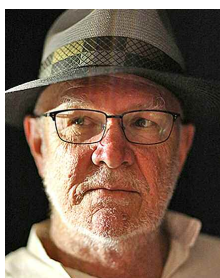


Janet Lathrop
Moderator

Janet Lathrop is an experienced educator and library media specialist with 33 years of teaching experience. For the past 27 years, she has served as the librarian at West Feliciana Middle School in St. Francisville, Louisiana. She has served on the Louisiana Young Readers Choice Grades 6-8 Committee for the past four years and currently holds the position of Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Teen Library Association. Lathrop and her husband are the proud parents of five children and grandparents to two granddaughters.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm
Iberville Building, Francois Room A
Not Mid: Peak Middle Grade Stories of Courage and Connection
(Ages 8 to 12)

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Bill Lavender
City of God

Bill Lavender is a poet, editor, and publisher who has lived and worked in New Orleans, Louisiana, since 1975. In 1995, he founded Lavender Ink and its translation imprint Diálogos. Today Lavender Ink/Diálogos has more than 250 books in print. He is also co-founder of the New Orleans Poetry Festival. The author of 14 books of poetry and a novel, he has spent his career at the intersection of writing, translation, and independent publishing.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm
Outside Museum, West Tent
The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol II

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Liz Lawson
It Happened One Murder: A Novel
Murder Between Friends

Liz Lawson is the *New York Times* bestselling author of The Agathas series (co-written with Kathleen Glasgow), *Murder Between Friends*, and *The Lucky Ones*. Her adult debut, *It Happened One Murder*, released in 2026 from Sourcebooks, with a second book entitled *One Wedding and a Murder* forthcoming in May of 2027. Her books have been translated into 14 languages, been book club picks for Barnes and Noble, Target, and Read With Jenna, and been written about in publications like *The New York Times*. She lives in the DC metro area.

10:45 am to 11:45 am
State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room
Love Across Genres: A Romance Panel

Noon to 12:45 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
Twists & Turns: Seeking Truth in Young Adult Suspense
(Ages 13 and up)

2:45 pm to 3:30 pm
Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Julie Lee
Moderator

Julie Lee is an 8th Grade English Language Arts teacher who is passionate about helping students find their voices through reading, writing, and thoughtful conversation. As a surviving sibling of a terminal pre-teen cancer patient, Lee also brings a deeply personal perspective to discussions surrounding childhood cancer, caregiving, grief, and survivorship. Her lived experience, combined with her work in education, gives her a unique appreciation for the power of stories to foster understanding, connection, and meaningful dialogue.

9:30 am to 10:15 am
Iberville Building, Francois Room B
We Need to Talk About Cancer
(Ages 10 and up)

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Yoon Ha Lee

Code and Codex
Starstrike

Yoon Ha Lee is a Korean-American science fiction and fantasy writer who received a BA in math from Cornell University and an MA in math education from Stanford University, and is pursuing an MFA in media composition and orchestration at ThinkSpace Education. Lee's hobbies include game design, art, and destroying the reader. He lives in Louisiana with his family and pets (5-string viola, morin khuur, spinning wheel...catten) and has not yet been eaten by alto clefs.

11:00 am to Noon

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C
Rebels, Empires, and Impossible
Choices in Young Adult Sci-Fi
(Ages 12 to 17)

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

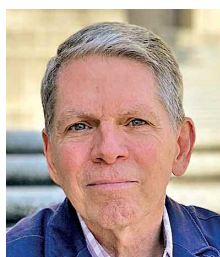
State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials
Beyond the Stars: Sci-Fi Novels
of Cosmic Horror, Ancient Magic,
Evil Empires, and Survival

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Robert Mann

Moderator

Robert Mann is the author of 10 books on US and Louisiana political history. He was a senior aide to US senators Russell Long and John Breaux and Louisiana governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. He served on the faculty of LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication for 18 years before retiring in 2024. He lives in Baton Rouge.

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent
Killing the Kingfish:
The Huey Long Assassination

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium
Stone and Story:
Biographies of American Monuments



Corinne Martin

Louisiana Healing Garden: Medicinal Plants for a Sustainable Future

Corinne Martin is a clinical herbalist and amateur naturalist who has worked with medicinal plants for more than 40 years. A retired instructor of holistic and integrative health, she has a passionate love for nature and for the lush and threatened environment of her home ground of Louisiana. She is the author of *Louisiana Herb Journal*.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent
Louisiana Healing Garden:
Medicinal Plants for a Sustainable Future

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



James H. McCommons

The Feather Wars and the Great Crusade to Save America's Birds

James H. McCommons is a professor emeritus at Northern Michigan University and a veteran journalist, specializing in ecology, environmental, and travel topics. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Audubon*, and *Discover*, among other publications. He is the author of *Waiting on a Train: The Embattled Future of Passenger Rail Service*, and *Camera Hunter: George Shiras III and the Birth of Wildlife Photography*.

James H. McCommons's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium
The Feather Wars and the Great Crusade
to Save America's Birds

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing



Karen C. McCord

Only Rainbows: The Carley McCord Story

Karen C. McCord is the author of *Only Rainbows*, a moving memoir sharing her journey through grief, faith, and healing after the tragic death of her daughter, sports journalist Carley McCord. She also wrote *Lessons of the Lilies*, a deeply personal reflection on infertility, hope, and spiritual resilience. Through her writing and online presence, McCord offers comforting encouragement to those navigating loss, reminding readers that even in the darkest seasons of heartbreak, grace, light, and hope remain.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials
The Undertow of Grief:
Strength and Healing in the Wake of Loss

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent
Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Jack B. McGuire

Killing the Kingfish: The Huey Long Assassination

Jack B. McGuire spent over 40 years as an officer for Union Savings and Loan Association in New Orleans, Louisiana. His public service included working as special assistant to the mayor, press secretary, and public relations director for New Orleans from 1964 to 1970, alongside serving as a councilman-at-large for Mandeville from 1984 to 2000. McGuire also authored *Killing the Kingfish* and *Win the Race or Die Trying*, and co-authored *Louisiana Governors: Rulers, Rascals, and Reformers*, all published through University Press of Mississippi.

Noon to 12:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

Killing the Kingfish:

The Huey Long Assassination

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Sandy Langhart Michelet

My Family Tree Stops with Me: A Guide to Purpose and Possibility

Sandy Langhart Michelet is a Louisiana author and speaker who empowers women to find strength, community, and hope. Childless not by choice due to unexplained infertility, she transformed her journey into advocacy by founding The Childless Life, connecting thousands of women worldwide and helping them see that legacy is built on impact, not lineage. Known for her authenticity and humor, she is a World Childless Week Ambassador and a recognized voice in women's advocacy.

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Not Up to You: Women Reckoning

with Social Pressure and Systemic Abuse

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Alexander Mikaberidze

The Louisiana Purchase: The Grand Bargain and the Making of America

Alexander Mikaberidze is the LSU Systems Boyd Professor of History and the Ruth Herring Noel Endowed Chair at Louisiana State University-Shreveport. He is the author and editor of over two dozen books, including *The Napoleonic Wars: A Global History*, winner of the Gilder-Lehrman Military History Prize and the Society for Military History's Distinguished Book Award.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Wider Story: Untold Histories of the

American Revolution and Expansion

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jennifer Moorhead

Watch Her Run: A Thriller

Jennifer Moorhead is the Amazon bestselling author of *Broken Bayou* and *Poison Wood*. She has written and produced three indie short films, all of which made the top 20 at the Louisiana Film Prize and won awards at festivals worldwide. Moorhead lives in Louisiana with her husband while their grown daughters are off creating their own stories. When she's not writing, she's playing mahjong or on the court, providing job security for her tennis coach.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Drastic Measures: Southern Thrillers

Made of Secrets, Survival, and Sisterhood

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Benjamin Morris

Moderator

A native of Mississippi, **Benjamin Morris** is the author of one book of nonfiction and three books of poetry, most recently *The Singing River*. His work has appeared in *The Oxford American*, *Lithub*, and *The Southern Review*, and received fellowships from the Mississippi Arts Commission and Tulane University. His next book, a memoir entitled *Defender of the Citrus: A New Orleans Love Story*, is forthcoming in 2027 from University Press of Mississippi.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Second Sight: Poets Laureate

Write Through Vision Loss

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Bethany C. Morrow

The Body: A Novel

Bethany C. Morrow is a national bestselling author writing for adult and young adult audiences. She is the author of the novels *Mem*, *A Song Below Water*, *A Chorus Rises*, and *So Many Beginnings: A Little Women Remix*. She is the editor/contributor to the young adult anthology *Take the Mic*, which won the 2020 ILA Social Justice in Literature award. Her work has been featured in *The LA Times*, *Forbes*, *Bustle*, *Buzzfeed*, and more. She is included on *USA Today's* list of 100 Black novelists and fiction writers you should read.

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Unholy Hell: Horror Novels of Cult Indoctrination, Fanatical Devotion, and Twisted Faith

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Robert Mugge

Quotes from the Road: The Wit and Wisdom of American Musicians

Filmmaker/author **Robert Mugge** has directed more than three dozen films, most of them focused on traditional American music, and published three books, two of which are music related. His latest book is a collection of thematically organized excerpts from musician interviews he has conducted over the past five decades. Mugge has also served five years as an endowed chair professor at Ball State University and two years as filmmaker in residence for Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Quotes from the Road: A Music Book and Film Presentation

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Deya Muniz

The Princess and the Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Deya Muniz was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where they grew up watching *Pride and Prejudice* and reading copious amounts of shōjo manga. In 2017, they moved to the United States to pursue a master's degree in sequential art, where they met and fell in love with a wonderful girl who makes delicious grilled cheese sandwiches.

10:30 am to 11:00 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony: Grades 6-8 and 9-12

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

Young Adult Romance Tropes and (Literal) Cheesy Puns Get the Royal Treatment
(Ages 14 to 18)

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Frank Murphy

A Puppy Like Yours

Heroic Heart: An Illustrated Biography of Joe Delaney

Frank Murphy is an award-winning children's book author and longtime elementary school teacher from the Philly area, whose books celebrate kindness, inclusion, empathy, leadership, and history. Best known for picture books and easy readers, such as *A Boy Like You*, *Heroic Heart*, *A Puppy Like Yours*, *A Teacher Like You*, and *Brave Clara Barton*, Murphy creates stories that encourage children to be confident, compassionate, and true to themselves.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony: Grades K-1 and 3-5

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room B

Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 2:45 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

A Puppy Like Yours
(Ages 5 to 8)

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jennifer Murphy

The Ghost Women: A Novel

Jennifer Murphy holds an MFA in painting and art history from the University of Denver and an MFA in creative writing from the University of Washington. She is the recipient of the 2013 Loren D. Milliman Fellowship for creative writing and was a contributor at the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference from 2008 through 2012. The author of *I Love You More* and *Scarlet in Blue*, a Michigan Notable Book, as well as the winner of the Nancy Pearl Book Award for Fiction, she lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ghosts and Other Hauntings: Grief, Rage, and Reckoning

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Mark Neely

Moderator

Mark Neely is the author of *Beasts of the Hill* and *Dirty Bomb*, both from Oberlin College Press, and *Ticker*, which won the Idaho Prize for Poetry and was published by Lost Horse Press. His fourth book, *Late Stage*, was published by Jacar Press in 2024. His awards include an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship, an Indiana Individual Artist grant, and the FIELD Poetry Prize. He is a professor of English at Ball State University and co-editor of *River Teeth: A Journal of Nonfiction Narrative*.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Lost and Found: Novels of Grief, Marginalized Lives, and the Search for Grace



Megan Kate Nelson

The Westerners: Mythmaking and Belonging on the American Frontier

Born and raised in Colorado, **Megan Kate Nelson** is a writer and historian now based in Boston, Massachusetts. She has written about US western history, the Civil War, and American culture for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *Time*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*. Nelson earned her BA in history and literature from Harvard University and her PhD in American Studies from the University of Iowa. She is the author of *Saving Yellowstone*; *The Three-Cornered War*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; *Ruin Nation*; and *Trembling Earth*.

Megan Kate Nelson's appearance made possible in part by a Strategic Partnership Grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Noon to 1:00 pm

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

Unsettled: Myth and Reality on the American Frontier

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Emily Nemens

Clutch: A Novel

Emily Nemens is the author of the novels *Clutch* and *The Cactus League*, both of which were *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice selections. Nemens, who received her MFA at LSU, spent over a decade editing literary quarterlies, including leading the *Paris Review* and serving as coeditor of the *Southern Review*. She teaches in the MFA program at Bennington College and lives in central New Jersey.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Crossroads & Connections: Novels of Love, Legacy, and Life's Turning Points

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Fragments of the Everyday: Essays and Reflections



GennaRose Nethercott

Poetry-to-Order

GennaRose Nethercott is the author of a novel, *Thistlefoot*; a Vermont Book Award winning short story collection, *Fifty Beasts to Break Your Heart*; and a book-length poem, *The Lumberjack's Dove*, which was selected by Louise Glück as a winner of the National Poetry Series. A writer and folklorist alike, she helps create the podcast *Lore* and she tours nationally and internationally performing strange tales (sometimes with puppets in tow). She lives in the woodlands of Vermont, beside an old cemetery.

Noon to 4:00 pm

State Library, Lobby

Poetry-To-Order



Delaney Nolan

Happy Bad: A Novel

Delaney Nolan received her MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she was a Rona Jaffe fellow. She has since received a Pushcart Prize, two Academy of American Poets Prizes, and a Fulbright Fellowship in fiction; her fiction has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Guernica*, *Indiana Review*, *Oxford American*, *Tin House*, *TriQuarterly*, and elsewhere, and has been adapted into a radio play and a short film. She is an investigative reporter for *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, and *Al Jazeera*. *Happy Bad* is her first novel.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

National Book Foundation Presents Social Satire

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ungovernable: Novels of Women Fighting for Survival, Agency, and Control

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Phil Oakley

Austin Sunrise

Phil Oakley is an award-winning journalist, author, educator, filmmaker, and executive. The author of eight novels, he published his first book in 2014, 50 years after starting it at UT Austin. Oakley's career includes serving as Director of the Louisiana Film Commission, a Walt Disney Company executive supervising ABC News coverage, and an editor for *The Dallas Morning News*. He covered presidential campaigns from LBJ to George W. Bush. Oakley recently retired from Kennedale High School and lives in Arlington, Texas, with his wife, Nancy.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Shadows of the Past:

Historical Novels of Tragedy, Heritage, and Resilience

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Where the Wild Things Reign:

Novels of Suspense, Survival, and Frontier Folklore



Biljana D. Obradović

Called by Distances: Poems

Biljana D. Obradović is a Serbian-American poet, translator, and Professor at Xavier University of Louisiana. Her acclaimed poetry collections include *Le Riche Monde*, *Frozen Embraces*—which won the Rastko Petrović Award—*Incognito*, and *Little Disruptions*. A prolific translator, she has brought numerous Serbian poets to English, earning the NASSS Prize for *The Politics of Hope*, and has translated prominent English-language poets into Serbian. She also co-edited the award-winning anthology *Cat Painters: An Anthology of Contemporary Serbian Poetry*.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

The Louisiana Poet Laureate

Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol II

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Margaret Orr

Scrim: My Tail

The author of two children's books, **Margaret Orr** worked at WDSU-TV for 45 years, serving 15 of those years as chief meteorologist. She was recognized with Emmys for her coverage of hurricanes and tornadoes and many credit her with helping to save lives during dangerous weather. She was also honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Press Club of New Orleans and the Louisiana Association of Broadcasters and, in 2025, the broadcaster's association inducted her into its hall of fame.

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 3

Scrim: My Tail

(Ages 3 to 9)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Lisa Frazier Page

Carlotta's Special Dress: How a Walk to School Changed Civil Rights History

Lisa Frazier Page is a professional-in-residence at Louisiana State University and a former editor and award-winning reporter at *The Washington Post*. She is a coauthor of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream*. Page lives in the New Orleans metropolitan area with her husband.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

11:45 am to 12:15 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

Carlotta's Special Dress:

How a Walk to School Changed Civil Rights History

(Ages 6 to 8)

12:30 pm to 1:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



April Blevins Pejic

Moderator

April Blevins Pejic is a writer and producer based in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her production credits include the A&E Networks *Cold Case Files*, *Crime in Progress*, and *Interrogation Raw*. Her essays and stories have appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Green Briar Review*, several anthologies, and have twice been noted in the *Best American Essays*. She holds an MFA from the University of New Orleans and has taught English at Xavier University of Louisiana and Nicholls State University.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ungovernable: Novels of Women Fighting for Survival, Agency, and Control

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Jonathan Penton

A Limited Number of Miracles: A Walk through the New Orleans Sculpture Garden

Jonathan Penton founded the e-journal *Unlikely Stories* in 1998 and still runs it as Editor-in-Chief. He has served in technical and administrative roles for a number of literary and arts organizations, including the New Orleans Poetry Festival, *Rigorous: a journal by BIPOC*, and *Big Bridge*. His previous books of poetry include *Standards of Sadiddy* and *Prosthetic Gods*. He lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, with his family.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

**The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents
*Louisiana Poets, Vol I***

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jason Peterson

Blues with a Butter Knife: The Unstoppable Music of CeDell Davis

Jason Peterson's byline has appeared in *Performer Magazine*, *The Current*, *American Songwriter*, *Living Blues*, and elsewhere. When not writing, Peterson can be found building a to-be-read pile of books that will hopefully not topple over and also playing bass guitar. He was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, and now lives with his wife, two kids, and a scruffy dog in south Louisiana, where he's still getting used to trading snow for swamps.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

12:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

**Blues with a Butter Knife:
*The Unstoppable Music of CeDell Davis***
(Ages 7 to 10)

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jennifer Polson Peterson

Degenerate Era of an Expanding Universe: Poems

Jennifer Polson Peterson serves as the 2024-28 Poet Laureate of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. In 2025, she was named a Laureate Fellow of the Academy of American Poets. Her poems have appeared in *The Threepenny Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Colorado Review*, *Image*, *The Southern Humanities Review*, and elsewhere. She teaches writing at the University of Southern Mississippi.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

**The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents
*Louisiana Poets, Vol I***

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Miki Pfeffer

Moderator

Miki Pfeffer holds a PhD in Urban History and focuses on the culture of women. Her *Southern Ladies and Suffragists* won a Eudora Welty prize, and *A New Orleans Author in Mark Twain's Court: Letters from Grace King's New England Sojourns* brought her into Twain scholarship. She subscribes to the adage that "historians are people who like to read other people's mail" and continues to transcribe all correspondence of Grace King and family. She is a visiting scholar at Nicholls State University.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

**Names Changed, Truth Intact:
*Fact, Fiction, and Tom Aswell's Dinosaur Club***

10:30 am to 11:30 am

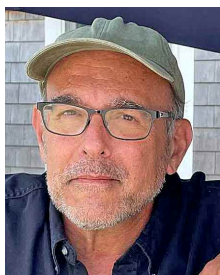
A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Fierce Women: Power, Resistance, and Reinvention

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Women and War: Secrets, Loss, and Survival



Tom Piazza

Living in the Present with John Prine

2015 Louisiana Writer Award recipient **Tom Piazza** is celebrated both as a novelist and as a writer on American music. His most recent book is *Living in the Present with John Prine*, a memoir of his friendship with the great singer-songwriter. His 14 books also include *Why New Orleans Matters* and the novels *The Auburn Conference* and *City of Refuge*. He was a principal writer for the HBO drama series *TREME*, and the winner of a Grammy Award for his album notes to *Martin Scorsese Presents The Blues: A Musical Journey*. He lives in New Orleans.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Living in the Present with John Prine

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Ann Plicque

New Barrier Islands: Poems

Ann Plicque spent most of her undergrad hours at LSU. She earned a bachelor's in journalism from Northern Illinois University and worked as a newspaper copy editor for some years. Later she attended the University of New Orleans Creative Writing Workshop in poetry and graduated with honors. Her first book, *New Barrier Islands*, was published this year.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

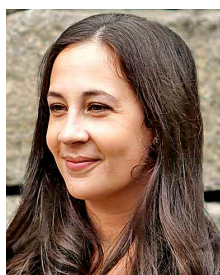
Outside Museum, West Tent

**The Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents
*Louisiana Poets, Vol II***

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Nicki Pau Preto

Ghostsmith

Bonesmith

Nicki Pau Preto is an award-winning and *Sunday Times* bestselling author living just outside of Toronto—though her dislike of hockey, snow, and geese makes her the worst Canadian in the country. She studied art and art history in university and worked as a graphic designer before becoming a full-time writer.

10:30 am to 11:00 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

**Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony:
*Grades 6-8 and 9-12***

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room A

Bloodlines & Burdens:

A Young Adult Dark Fantasy Panel

(Ages 14 to 18)

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ellen Morris Prewitt

When We Were Murderous Time-Traveling Women

Ellen Morris Prewitt is an award-winning author who weaves her Southern life—and family secrets—into her work. Her short stories have twice been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, garnering a Special Mention. The manuscript of her first novel was runner-up in the William Faulkner Literary Contest. She's proud to be on *Porchlight: A Southern Journal's* list of "12 Southern Writers to Read Alongside the Canon." Come visit her writer-in-residence program at 100 Men Hall in Bay St. Louis.

11:15 am to Noon

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

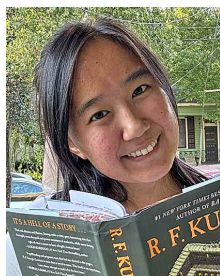
Time and Time Again:

Ancestry, Identity, and the Weight of History

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Serena Puang

Moderator

Serena Puang is a cultural critic, freelance journalist, and content creator based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She has written for the *New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, NBC, and many other publications. She's passionate about writing about communities of color, accessibility, and books, and she writes a monthly column in *Rooted*, called "Reading the Room," where she features books written by authors from historically underrepresented communities in publishing.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Ghosts and Other Hauntings:

Grief, Rage, and Reckoning

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Tides of Fortune and Loss:

Storms, Secrets, and Survival in Louisiana Fiction



June Pulliam

Moderator

June Pulliam is a Distinguished Instructor of English and an affiliate of the Screen Arts and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies programs at Louisiana State University. She is the author of several books and articles about horror film and fiction, young adult fiction, and punk rock.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Into the Woods:

Horror Novels of Monsters, Secrets, and Survival

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Joy E. Rancatore

Moderator

Joy E. Rancatore is an award-winning, multi-genre indie author focused on writing the soul with heart, while providing experiences that bring readers and authors together to #ShareTheRead. She is the author of seven currently published books. As Director of Programs and Engagement with Women in Publishing, an editor for indie authors, and a frequent writing workshop leader for teens and adults, Rancatore values and invests in both readers and writers on a daily basis.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Shadows of the Past:

Historical Novels of Tragedy, Heritage, and Resilience

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

All the Lonely People:

Stories from Appalachia and the Florida Gulf Coast



Kirk Reedstrom

Duck and Moose: Moose's Bad Hair Day

USA Today-bestselling author **Kirk Reedstrom** studied at Centenary College of Louisiana, interned with William Joyce at Moonbot Studios, and worked as a bookseller at Blue Willow Bookshop. He created *Squiggle Party* (a monthly-ish newsletter of drawing and story prompts), serves as a Primetime Storyteller for the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, and has featured comic zines in *Salon*, *Relief Journal*, *The Quaranzine*, and *All Things Considered*. Reedstrom mixes his own experiences with traditional and digital mediums to create funny, chaotic characters that make people laugh. Duck & Moose is his debut graphic novel series.

10:45 am to 11:15 am

Children's Author Tent 2

Duck and Moose: Moose's Bad Hair Day

(Ages 6 to 8)

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Nathaniel Rich

Cloudthief: A Novel

Nathaniel Rich is the author of *Cloudthief* and three previous novels, all *New York Times Book Review* Editors' Choice selections, including the New Orleans-set *King Zeno*. His nonfiction includes *Second Nature*—the basis for the film *Dark Waters*—and *Losing Earth*, currently being adapted for film by Oscar-winner Tom McCarthy. Rich is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, frequently contributes to *Harper's* and the *New York Review of Books*, and teaches at Tulane University.

11:00 am to Noon

State Library, Third Floor

Wrapped in a Mystery:

Heists, Capers, and Hidden Lives

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Gary Richards

Presenter/Moderator

Gary Richards is Professor of English and former Chair of the Department of English and Linguistics at the University of Mary Washington. He routinely offers the courses Southern Literature, Modern American Fiction, and Contemporary American Fiction and has taught special topics courses in American humor and post-World War II American drama. He has also offered senior seminars on William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and the literature of New Orleans. He is the author of *Lovers and Beloveds: Sexual Otherness in Southern Fiction, 1936-1961*.

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

State Library, Third Floor

One Book One Festival:

***Interview with a Vampire* by Anne Rice**



Terysa Ridgeway

The Kid Who Cracked the Code

Terysa Ridgeway is a bestselling children's author, computer scientist, and former rocket scientist whose stories inspire young readers to see themselves as problem-solvers and creators. She is the author of the Terysa Solves It series, including the new picture book *The Kid Who Cracked the Code*. Ridgeway is a technology leader at Google and the founder of Code+Play, a hands-on STEAM learning space in Lafayette, Louisiana, where children explore coding, robotics, and creative problem-solving through play.

2:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Children's Author Tent 2

The Kid Who Cracked the Code

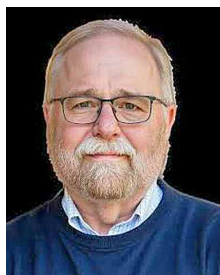
(Ages 4 to 8)

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Michael Rigg

Shadows of Frenchmen: A Jonathan Gray, M.D. Mystery

Michael Rigg, a lawyer for over four decades, writes mysteries and thrillers set in Virginia Beach—his home—and New Orleans, a favorite “research” spot where he belongs to three Mardi Gras Krewes. He is a retired Navy Judge Advocate and former civilian attorney for the Department of the Navy Office of the General Counsel. Rigg is a member of International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America, and Sisters in Crime, including its Southeastern Virginia chapter, Mystery by the Sea.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Killer Calendar:

New Orleans Mysteries for Every Season

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Farrah Rochon

A Forever Kind of Love

2026 Louisiana Writer Award recipient **Farrah Rochon** is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling author of 40-plus adult romance and young adult novels, novellas, and short stories. When she is not writing in her favorite coffee shop, Rochon spends most of her time reading, traveling the world, visiting Walt Disney World, and catching her favorite Broadway shows.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, First Floor,
Seminar Center

Louisiana Writer Award Ceremony

10:00 am to 10:30 am

State Library, Second Floor,
Meeting Room

In Conversation with Farrah Rochon

10:45 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor,
Meeting Room

***Love Across Genres:
A Romance Panel***

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Misako Rocks!

Double Trouble: Lost in Japan
How to Draw Kawaii Manga: Pets

Misako Rocks! is a Japanese manga artist whose books have been published worldwide. Her graphic novel *Bounce Back* was selected for the American Library Association's 2021 Best Graphic Novels for Children list. She is also the creator of the *How to Draw Kawaii Manga* activity book series. In addition to making books, Misako teaches online manga classes for kids through her community, “Learn Manga with Misako.”

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

Double Trouble:

Read and Make Manga with Misako Rocks!

(Ages 7 to 13)

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Christopher Louis Romaguera

Charras: A True Novel of the Assassination that Roiled the Yucatan by Hernán Lara Zavala

Christopher Louis Romaguera is a Cuban-American writer who was born in Miami, Florida, and has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans. Romaguera has been published in *Passages North*, *Catapult*, *Boundless 2024*, and other publications. He is an alum of Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA) and was a 2023 Periplus Fellow. His translation of the novel, *Charras: A True Novel of the Assassination that Roiled the Yucatan*, was published by UNO Press in 2025.

10:15 am to 11:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Echoes of Atrocity: Fact Based Novels of Police Brutality, State Corruption, and Political Violence

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



A.E. Rooks

Moderator

A.E. Rooks is the author of *The Black Joke: The True Story of One Ship's Battle Against the Slave Trade*, winner of the Maritime Foundation's Mountbatten Award for Best Book in 2022. A *Jeopardy!* champion who's additionally received two national awards for sex positive journalism, Rooks's literary passions are united by what the past can teach us about the present, how history shapes our future, and above all, really interesting stories.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

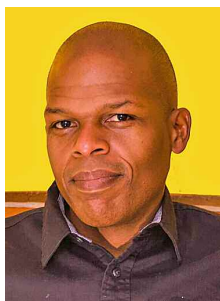
The Stories We Tell About Inequality, Race, Place, and the Myth of Progress

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Beyond the Stars: Sci-Fi Novels of Cosmic Horror, Ancient Magic, Evil Empires, and Survival

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Maurice Carlos Ruffin

Moderator

Maurice Carlos Ruffin, a Guggenheim Fellow, is the author of the National Bestseller *The American Daughters*, as well as *The Ones Who Don't Say They Love You*, a One Book One New Orleans selection which was longlisted for the Story Prize. His debut, *We Cast a Shadow*, was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. All three books were New York Times Editor's Choice selections. Ruffin is the recipient of the Iowa Review Award in fiction and the Louisiana Writer Award.

10:15 am to 11:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Echoes of Atrocity: Fact Based Novels of Police Brutality, State Corruption, and Political Violence

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

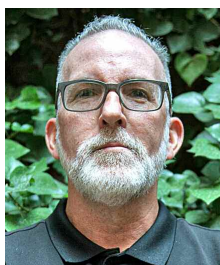
State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Past Stories, Present Reckonings: Race, Identity, and Belonging

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Under the Surface: Short Stories and Novels of Masking, Power, and Personal Reckonings



Jim Ruland

Mightier Than the Sword

Jim Ruland is an old punk who lives by the sea. He's also a bestselling chronicler of punk rock, a frequent contributor to the *LA Times*, a columnist for *Razorcake* fanzine, and a veteran of the US Navy.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Blood, Books, and Bass Guitars: High-Octane Crime Fiction

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Ed Ruzicka

The Invention of Dreaming: Poems

Ed Ruzicka's fifth full-length book of poetry, *The Invention of Dreaming*, was released this spring. He is the winner of the 2026 "Silent River Prize" and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize three times. Ruzicka's poems have appeared in the *Atlantic Review*, *Canary*, and *Rattle*, as well as countless other literary journals. He is president of the Poetry Society of Louisiana and lives in Baton Rouge with his kind wife, Renee.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, West Tent

Louisiana Poet Laureate Presents Louisiana Poets, Vol II

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Vicki Salloum

A Gathering Place

Vicki Salloum is a Mississippi native who has called New Orleans home for many years. She is the author of five novels. Her latest is literary fiction that explores the complexities of cultural identity, family bonds, and the resilience of community in the face of catastrophic loss. In addition to her longer works, her short fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies. She holds an MFA in creative writing from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Tides of Fortune and Loss: Storms, Secrets, and Survival in Louisiana Fiction

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Mona Lisa Saloy

Moderator

Mona Lisa Saloy, PhD, Louisiana Poet Laureate Emerita, is an award-winning poet, folklorist, and scholar devoted to Black Creole culture in New Orleans. A retired Hilton Endowed Professor of English at Dillard University, she documents sidewalk songs, jump-rope rhymes, and the significance of the Black Beat poets, especially Bob Kaufman. Her books include *Red Beans & Ricely Yours*, winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize, and *Black Creole Chronicles*, chosen for One Book One New Orleans 2024. Recently featured on CBS *Sunday Morning*, she writes for those who cannot or do not tell Black Creole cultural stories.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Room 118

Family Legacies, Future Plans: Lessons of Faith, Work, and Resilience

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Ben Sandmel

Louisiana from the Sky

Author, musician, and folklorist **Ben Sandmel** travels Louisiana documenting traditional music, produces the musicians' interview stage at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, and was the drummer/producer on the Grammy-nominated album *Deep Water* by the historic Cajun band the Hackberry Ramblers. Sandmel wrote the books *Zydeco!* and *Ernie K-Doe: The R&B Emperor of New Orleans*. His articles appear in academic anthologies and such magazines as *The Atlantic* and *The Wall Street Journal*. In 2021, Sandmel received a master's degree in musicology from Tulane University.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, Fourth Floor

Louisiana from the Sky

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Cathy Schieffelin

Snakeroot and Cohosh

Cathy Schieffelin is an avid reader and writer. A love of nature and years of adventure and travel contribute to her daily writing life. Her work has been published in *Adanna Literary Journal*, *Halfway Down the Stairs* online literary journal, *Micro-fiction Mondays*, and the *Frontier Nursing Service Newsletter*. Her first novel, *The Call*, was published in 2024 and was awarded the 2025 International Impact Book Award in the Mystery/Thriller and Suspense/Thriller Adventure categories. *Snakeroot and Cohosh* is her second novel.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

All the Lonely People:

Stories from Appalachia and the Florida Gulf Coast

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Rachel Schneider

Metal Slinger

Light Wielder

Rachel Schneider lives in South Louisiana with her husband and daughter. She loves curse words, crawfish, and all things romance.

Noon to 12:45 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

No Ordinary Love:

Romantasy, Vampires, and Epic Adventures

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Bessie Senette

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Bessie Senette is the self-published author of *Cutting the Clouds: A Bayou Mystic's Poems, Musings, and Imaginings*. Her poems have been published in the online poetry magazine *MockingHeart Review* and *Diving Into Nature* by Portals Press. She was recently nominated for a Pushcart Award for her poem, "A Creation Story." Her eco-poetry collection, *Louisiana Pines*, is soon to be published, the title poem of which appears in *Diving Into Nature*.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Alon Shaya

Memories of a Good Meal: Recipes of Resilience Inspired by Stories of World War II Survival

Alon Shaya is a two-time James Beard Award-winning chef, author, and co-founder of Pomegranate Hospitality, whose restaurants include Saba and Safta. Born in Israel, raised in Philadelphia, and based in New Orleans, Shaya is known for his deeply personal approach to Israeli and Mediterranean cuisine. He is the author of *Shaya: An Odyssey of Food, My Journey Back to Israel*, and the forthcoming *Memories of a Good Meal*, inspired by stories of WWII survival.

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor

Memories from the Kitchen:

Mapping Identity Through Food and Flavor

1:30 pm to 2:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Margaret Simon

What's That Sound?: Birds of the Bayou

Margaret Simon lives on Bayou Teche in New Iberia, Louisiana, and is a retired elementary teacher. Her latest poetry book is a collaboration with Phebe Hayes, *Were You There?: A Biography of Emma Wakefield Paillet*. She's the author of *Bayou Song: Creative Explorations of the South Louisiana Landscape*. Simon has contributed to children's poetry anthologies including *The Poetry of US* by National Geographic. Simon writes a blog regularly at ReflectionsontheTeche.com.

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Children's Author Tent 1

What's That Sound?: Birds of the Bayou

(Ages Birth to 5)

3:45 pm to 4:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



T.L. Simpson

Accelerant

T.L. Simpson is a nationally acclaimed novelist and journalist whose YA novel *Cope Field* was a 2026 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. A longtime newspaper editor in Arkansas, Simpson draws on his experience covering sports, crime, and community life in his fiction.

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

Twists & Turns:

Seeking Truth in Young Adult Suspense

(Ages 13 and up)

2:45 pm to 3:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Elise L. Smith

Southern Women, Southern Landscapes: Cultural Reflections on the Garden, 1870-1970

Elise Smith, professor emerita at Millsaps College, received her PhD from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in art history. In addition to a number of journal articles, she has written or co-authored five books. Two focus on individual artists, Lucas van Leyden and Evelyn De Morgan, and the others, co-authored with literary scholar Judith Page, explore the garden as a personal and professional space for female artists and writers since the 18th century.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Women, Southern Landscapes:

Cultural Reflections on the Garden, 1870-1970

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



John Warner Smith

Murders at Mer Rouge

John Warner Smith served as Louisiana Poet Laureate from 2019 to 2021, the only African American male to hold the role in its 84-year history. The author of five poetry collections—including *Our Shut Eyes*, with a sixth arriving in 2027—he also wrote the novella *For All Those Men* and the novel *Sisters of Gavinville*. A Cave Canem Fellow and Academy of American Poets Fellow, Smith won the 2019 Linda Hodge Bromberg Literary Award. He is an adjunct English instructor at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

10:15 am to 11:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Echoes of Atrocity: Fact Based Novels of Police Brutality, State Corruption, and Political Violence

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Katy Simpson Smith

The Maltese Version: A Novel

Katy Simpson Smith was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. She is the author of the novels *The Story of Land and Sea*, *Free Men*, *The Everlasting*, and *The Weeds*, as well as the monograph *We Have Raised All of You*. Her writing has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Paris Review*, the *Oxford American*, and *Granta*, among other publications. She is 2025-2026 fellow at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute and teaches in the Bennington Writing Seminars. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

11:00 am to Noon

State Library, Third Floor

Wrapped in a Mystery:

Heists, Capers, and Hidden Lives

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Morgan Tarpley Smith

Moderator

Morgan Tarpley Smith is an award-winning journalist and bestselling author of stories with history and heart. She writes both contemporary and historical fiction as well as children's fiction under the pen name M.L. Tarpley. She also works as a grant writer, marketing and public relations consultant, and publishing assistant for authors and lives in Shreveport, Louisiana, with her husband and son. Find out more about her at MorganTarpleySmith.com and MLTarpleyBooks.com.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Southern Women, Southern Landscapes:

Cultural Reflections on the Garden, 1870-1970

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Stranger Than Fiction:

Hidden Histories, Unlikely Lives



William Christy Smith

Skylark: A Novel in Stories

Skylark is **William Christy Smith's** first novel. He is primarily a short story writer who specializes in Southern Gothic themes based on the horrors of the AIDS crisis of the 1980s. Smith holds degrees from Westminster College, the University of Chicago, and the University of New Orleans. He is a regular participant at the Tennessee Williams/Saints & Sinners literary conferences. He is a member of the Saints & Sinners Hall of Fame and serves as editor of *The Triangle*, the online literary journal of the Publishing Triangle.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Shadows of the Past:

Historical Novels of Tragedy, Heritage, and Resilience

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Stephanie Soileau

Should the Waters Take Us

Stephanie Soileau is the author of the critically acclaimed story collection *Last One Out Shut Off the Lights*. Her work has been supported by fellowships from the Wallace Stegner Fellowship program at Stanford University and the National Endowment for the Arts. Originally from Lake Charles, Louisiana, Soileau now lives in Chicago with her family and teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Chicago.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Tides of Fortune and Loss:

Storms, Secrets, and Survival in Louisiana Fiction

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Marielle Songy

Coffee Culture New Orleans

Marielle Songy is a food and culture writer from New Orleans, Louisiana. Her previous book, *The Absinthe Frappé*, was published by LSU Press.

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Outside Museum, North Tent

Rituals of New Orleans:

Coffee, Celebration, and the Making of Culture

11:00 am to 11:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Carrie Lee South

In the Woods They Wait: A Novel

Carrie Lee South earned her MFA at the Arkansas Writers Workshop where she served as the fiction editor for the literary magazine *Arkana*. She's currently the fiction editor at *StoryBottle Co.* Her work has appeared in *Waxwing*, *F(r)iction*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Tales to Terrify*, and elsewhere. When she's not reading and writing, she's spending time with birds—the ones outside and the four parrots that live in her house.

1:15 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Into the Woods:

Horror Novels of Monsters, Secrets, and Survival

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Elisa M. Speranza

Triage

Elisa M. Speranza (she/her) is a New Orleans-based author and literary citizen. She is board chair and an instructor for the nonprofit New Orleans Writers Workshop and has been a featured author at the Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival and the Louisiana Book Festival. She is the co-founder of the Washashores Writers Collective on Martha's Vineyard and writes "The Bricklayer's Daughter" on Substack.

11:45 am to 12:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Women and War: Secrets, Loss, and Survival

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Michelle St. Romain

Song of Belonging: A Novel

Michelle St. Romain grew up in Louisiana and her work is inspired by her French heritage. She holds English degrees from Loyola University, New Orleans, and California State University, Sacramento, was a fellow in Bookgarden, and completed a residency at Craigarden in 2023. Her debut novel received the Bronze Medal for Southern Fiction by the Independent Publishers Book Awards and her writing has been featured in *BookTrib*, the Poetry Phone Line Project of the Oregon Humanities, *The Rapids*, and The Stanford Challenge Anthology 2026. She lives in Oregon.

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Tides of Fortune and Loss:

Storms, Secrets, and Survival in Louisiana Fiction

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Marianne Rabalais Sulser

Like Snow Before Sun

Marianne Rabalais Sulser is a Louisiana native living in Colorado, but she still likes to *laissez les bon temps rouler* with her husband and three occasionally well-behaved children. Her maternal ancestors were among the Acadians expelled from Nova Scotia in the 1750s. She brings this overlooked history vividly to life through fiction. When she is not writing, Sulser can usually be found in her garden, volunteering at Denver Botanic Gardens, or chauffeuring her kids to one of their many after-school activities.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

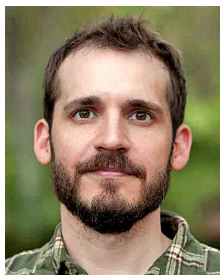
Le Grand Dérangement:

The Acadian Story in Fact and Fiction

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Daniel S.C. Sutter

Debris: Stories

Daniel S.C. Sutter is a 2025-27 Wallace Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. His fiction has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *The Carolina Quarterly*, *BOOTH*, *Fugue*, and elsewhere. His work has won the Robert Watson Literary Prize for Fiction and the Press 53 Award for Short Fiction. He holds a PhD in Creative Writing from Florida State University and an MFA from the University of New Orleans Creative Writing Workshop. Sutter is from Tampa, Florida.

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

All the Lonely People:

Stories from Appalachia and the Florida Gulf Coast

3:00 pm to 3:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Peggy Sweeney-McDonald

Life in the A-Zone: How I Embraced the Journey with My Mother's Alzheimer's One Pink Cloud Moment at a Time

Peggy Sweeney-McDonald is a Louisiana author, speaker, actress, and podcast host whose work explores caregiving, family, resilience, and finding joy in life's unexpected moments. An LSU graduate, she speaks throughout Louisiana on Alzheimer's caregiving and the power of storytelling. Through her books, podcast, and Pink Cloud Moments community, she encourages others to discover grace, hope, and connection in everyday life.

10:00 am to 11:00 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

The Undertow of Grief:

Strength and Healing in the Wake of Loss

11:15 am to Noon

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Angelle Domingue Terrell

Archie Dare and the Pirate Code

Angelle Domingue Terrell is a South Louisiana author who writes stories about family, resilience, and the good kind of troublemaking.

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Finding Lafitte's Treasure:

Join Archie Dare for an Escape Room Experience
(Ages 8 to 12)

1:45 pm to 2:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Irma Thomas

Irma Thomas: Soul Queen of New Orleans

Irma Thomas, Soul Queen of New Orleans, is a beloved New Orleans icon with a career that spans 60 years. Her self-penned song "Wish Someone Would Care" was a national hit in 1964, and her post-Hurricane Katrina album, *After the Rain*, won a 2007 Grammy Award, her first. A contemporary of artists like Aretha Franklin and Etta James, she celebrates her official biography written by Johnette Downing and Scott Billington.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Irma Thomas: Soul Queen of New Orleans

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



Michael Tisserand

Bunny Matthews: His Life, Art, and Obsessions

Michael Tisserand, a former editor of *Gambit* newspaper, is the author of books including *Krazy: George Herriman a Life in Black and White*; *The Kingdom of Zydeco*; *Sugarcane Academy*; and *My Father When Young*. Tisserand's work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, the *Oxford American*, *The Nation*, and MSNBC. With support from a Guggenheim Fellowship, he is currently working on a book about Charlie Chaplin and *The Great Dictator*, forthcoming on Oxford University Press.

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Bunny Matthews: His Life, Art, and Obsessions

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



John P. Travis

Diving into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

John P. Travis is editor and publisher at Portals Press LLC, a small literary press in New Orleans, Louisiana. He's a former journalist, teacher, and author of the novel *Pitching in the Dark* and the short story collection *J.J.'s Journal*. He is the curator of *Diving into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana*, which features 56 poets, including eight Louisiana poets laureate, who voice their concerns about environmental matters and reverence for the wonders of nature.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Michael S. True

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Born in 1952, **Michael S. True** has traveled extensively, absorbing both the social and natural wonders of the world. He holds a master's degree in education from Indiana University. Following a teaching career, he moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2004, where he reinvented himself as a multimedia artist. Attending poetry readings at the historic Maple Leaf Bar, True met John Travis, publisher of Portals Press, subsequently penning three books and contributing to various anthologies.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Tlotlo Tsamaase

House of Margins: A Novel

Tlotlo Tsamaase is a Nommo Award-winning Motswana author. Longlisted for the British Science Fiction Award, her debut novel, *Womb City*, is an Ignyte, Nommo, and Locus Award finalist. Her novella, *The Silence of Wilting Skin*, is a Lambda Literary Award finalist, and her short fiction has appeared in multiple best-of anthologies, such as *Africa Risen*, *New Suns 2*, *Chiral Mad 5*, and others. She received support from the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. Originally from Botswana, she now lives in Nebraska and can be found online at TlotloTsamaase.com.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

***Ghosts and Other Hauntings:*
*Grief, Rage, and Reckoning***

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Tuch

The Wireless Operator: The Untold Story of the British Sailor Who Invented the Modern Drug Trade

David Tuch, PhD, is a historian, author and entrepreneur. His debut book, *The Wireless Operator*, tells the extraordinary true story of his cousin, Harold Derber, who was one of the largest marijuana traffickers in American history. Originally from New York, Tuch has lived in England and France and now makes his home in Brookline, Massachusetts, with his wife and four children.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

***Stranger Than Fiction:*
*Hidden Histories, Unlikely Lives***

12:45 pm to 1:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Adrian Van Young

Rough Beast

Adrian Van Young is the author of five books of fiction—most recently, *Family Thing*. His writing has been published in *Electric Literature*, *Guernica*, *BOMB*, *Granta*, *McSweeney's*, and *The New Yorker*, among others. He teaches part-time in the MFA Program at University of New Orleans, is a professional freelance editor, and currently splits his time between New Orleans, Louisiana, and Paris, France, where he lives with his family.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

***Blood, Books, and Bass Guitars:*
*High-Octane Crime Fiction***

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Alexandra Vasti

Scandal of the Summer

Alexandra Vasti is a British literature professor by day and *USA Today* bestselling romance writer by night. After finishing her PhD at Columbia University, she moved to New Orleans with her family. Her books have received starred reviews from *Publisher's Weekly*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, *BookPage*, *Shelf Awareness*, and *Kirkus*, and have been featured in *The New York Times*, NPR, *Entertainment Weekly*, *People*, and elsewhere. Her novel *Ladies in Hating* was the recipient of a 2025 Lambda Literary Award.

10:45 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

Love Across Genres: A Romance Panel

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



P.C. Verrone

Rabbit, Fox, Tar: A Novel

P.C. Verrone's work has appeared in *FIYAH*, *PodCastle*, *Nightmare*, and numerous anthologies. He has been a Tin House Resident, a Playwrights' Center Fellow, and a WNDB Black Creatives Revisions Workshop winner. He graduated from Harvard College and holds an MFA in creative writing from Rutgers University–Newark. He lives in Dallas, Texas, with his husband, a historian.

1:00 pm to 1:45 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

***Past Stories, Present reckonings:*
*Race, Identity, and Belonging***

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Erica Villani

Moderator

Erica Villani is a pre-K to 8th grade librarian. She's been working in libraries since she was 17 (12 if you count when she started to volunteer)! She loves libraries, reading, and most of all getting people into books.

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Finding Lafitte's Treasure:

Join Archie Dare for an Escape Room Experience

(Ages 8 to 12)

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Iberville Building, Francois Room B

Finding Lafitte's Treasure:

An Escape Room Experience

(Ages 8 to 12)



Adam Vos

Moderator

Adam Vos is Newscast Editor for the WRKF/WWNO Newsroom and the Baton Rouge-based host for *Louisiana Considered*. A native of Iowa, he received his journalism degree from Iowa State University and began his public radio journey at Iowa Public Radio. Before he moved to Louisiana, Vos was the Operations Coordinator for a network of public radio stations covering portions of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas. He is a choir singer, plays string bass and bass guitar, and you might find him bicycling around Baton Rouge.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, Fifth Floor, Capitol View Room

Blood, Books, and Bass Guitars:

High-Octane Crime Fiction



Aimee Walker

Moderator

Owner/President of **Aimee Walker Interiors**, Walker is a graduate of Louisiana State University and Commercial College of Art with an extensive background in color, design, and placement. She has been featured in numerous local and regional magazines and on television. She has earned many awards for her creativity and room designs.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

The Functional Home: A Practical Guide to Planning Intentional Living Spaces



Sarah L. Webb

Colorism: The Politics of Skin Tone and How We Get Free

Dr. Sarah L. Webb is the founder of Colorism Healing, a global platform providing education, resources, and events to address colorism. Dr. Webb's work has been featured on NPR, Fox, Forbes, TED, and MTV. She holds a doctorate from Louisiana State University and previously worked as a professor and corporate consultant. She lives in New York City.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

State Library, Second Floor, Meeting Room

The Stories We Tell About Inequality, Race, Place, and the Myth of Progress

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Emily Welch

Pelican Lake

Emily Welch is an author, illustrator, potter, and art teacher. Her artwork pays homage to the unique spirit of the places she's always called home. Welch was raised in Baton Rouge and is now living in Shreveport, Louisiana, with her husband, two children, and beloved dog, Magnolia II. She is also the creator of the brand Magnolia Creative Co., selling handmade pottery, dinner and serving ware, and custom watercolor artwork and illustrations representing Southern lifestyle and spirit all across the country.

10:00 am to 10:30 am

Children's Author Tent 2

Pelican Lake

(Ages 5 to 8)

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Emma C. Wells

We Already Dug the Grave: A Novel

Emma C. Wells is the *USA Today* Bestselling author of Southern Gothic and Psychological Thrillers. Her latest has been praised as a "...Deep South hell-ride." When she's not hiding behind her computer screen, you can find her spending time in nature or wandering aimlessly through an art gallery or antique mall.

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent B

Drastic Measures: Southern Thrillers Made of Secrets, Survival, and Sisterhood

2:15 pm to 3:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Jared Wells

Moderator

Jared Wells is a Senior Instructor of History and has been on the faculty at Nicholls State University since 2017. Prior to that, he served as an adjunct and Visiting Instructor during the years of 2011 to 2017. He focuses on Early Republic America and Public History. He is the Public History Coordinator and manages the Department's internships and Public History Certificate Program.

9:30 am to 10:30 am

Capitol Park Museum, First Floor, Auditorium

The Wider Story: Untold Histories of the American Revolution and Expansion



Ken Wells

Boudin

Ken Wells grew up on the bayous of South Louisiana, second of six sons of an alligator-hunting father and a Cajun French-speaking mother and gumbo chef extraordinaire. He's a Pulitzer Prize finalist (*Miami Herald*), editor of two Pulitzer Prize-winning projects (*Wall Street Journal*), and the author of *The Good Pirates of the Forgotten Bayous: Fighting to Save a Way of Life in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina* and *Gumbo Life: A Journey down the Roux Bayou*, among others.

11:00 am to 11:45 am

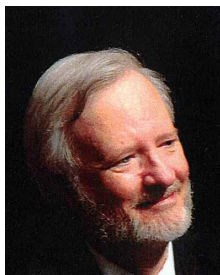
Outside Museum, North Tent

From Pasture to Plate: Preserving the Traditions of Boucherie and Boudin

Noon to 12:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Lawrence Wells

Backstory: A Literary Life on the Run

Lawrence Wells is the director of Yoknapatawpha Press in Oxford, Mississippi, and a frequent New York Times Syndicate contributor. He has authored four historical novels, including *Fair Youth*, a 2024 Hawthorne Fiction Prize finalist. Wells won the 2014 Faulkner-Wisdom gold medal for narrative nonfiction and scripted the Emmy-winning 1994 documentary *Return to the River*, narrated by James Earl Jones. Wells has authored three autobiographies published by the University Press of Mississippi – *In Faulkner's Shadow*, *Ghostwriter*, and *Backstory* (co-authored by his late wife, Dean Faulkner Wells).

12:45 pm to 1:45 pm

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 118

Examined Lives: Writers on Craft, Memory, and the Making of a Writer

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Shannon Terry Wiley

Yellow September: A Novel

Shannon Terry Wiley is a Southern writer who spent over 30 years in the English classroom teaching seniors. She is a Louisiana native who loves to read and write and play with her rescue pup, Dante. Wiley holds an MA in Creative Writing from Sam Houston State University and a BA in English Literature from Louisiana State University. She and her husband love to travel and enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

10:30 am to 11:30 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

Shadows of the Past: Historical Novels of Tragedy, Heritage, and Resilience

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

CELEBRATING READERS, WRITERS AND THEIR BOOKS



Anastasia Magloire Williams

Heroic Heart: An Illustrated Biography of Joe Delaney

Anastasia Magloire Williams is an award-winning illustrator-author with a lifelong passion for storytelling and its power to heal, unite, and inspire. Using various styles and vibrant colors, she makes it her mission to elevate unsung histories that reflect the diverse tapestry of our world. She has illustrated over 20 titles in children's lit and her work has been published in gaming and TV animation. She is represented by Alex Gehringer at The Bright Agency.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois Room A

**Louisiana Readers' Choice Award Ceremony:
Grades K-1 and 3-5**

10:30 am to 11:30 am

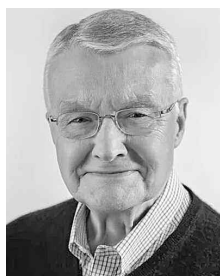
Iberville Building, Le Francois Room B

Little Books, Big Lives: Picture Book Biographies

11:45 am to 12:30 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



David Lyle Williams

The Road to Cisterna: Darby's Rangers and Their Most Consequential Battle in World War II

David Lyle Williams is a former US Army officer (1967–1969). He has a PhD in wood science and worked for 50 years in the forest products industry.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Center 173

**The Road to Cisterna: Darby's Rangers and Their
Most Consequential Battle in World War II**

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Elizabeth M. Williams

Moderator

Elizabeth M. Williams is a writer, public scholar, and speaker. She has a weekly newsletter and podcast, *Tip of the Tongue*, about food, drink, and culture. She is the author of many books and articles about foodways and food culture in New Orleans and the South.

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

State Library, Third Floor

**Memories from the Kitchen:
Mapping Identity Through Food and Flavor**

2:00 pm to 2:45 pm

Outside Museum, North Tent

**Louisiana Healing Garden:
Medicinal Plants for a Sustainable Future**



Skyler E. Williams

Moderator

Attorney **Skyler E. Williams** is the founder of Williams Legal Authority. A graduate of Louisiana State University and Southern University Law Center, she has built a career across private practice, public service, and community advocacy. Her practice includes civil litigation, family law, personal injury, estate planning, and successions. She has also served in the Eligibility Section of the Louisiana Department of Health and worked with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services' Eviction Diversion and North Baton Rouge Heir Property Project. She also served on the governing board of the River Road African American Museum.

9:45 am to 10:15 am

Iberville Building, Le Francois, Room C

**Behind the Gavel:
Lessons from Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson**
(Ages 13 to 18)



Judy Williamson

Paper Girl's World: Adventures of a Globetrotting Travel Writer in the 1980s

Judy Williamson spent the go-go 1980s circling the globe on assignment as chief travel writer and photographer for *The Dallas Morning News* and later as travel editor of the *Houston Chronicle*. Born in New Orleans and raised in Covington, she returns to Louisiana with *Paper Girl's World*, a lavishly illustrated memoir filled with adventure, glamour, mishaps, and wildly entertaining stories—a magic-carpet rewind to travel before Google Maps and selfies.

9:00 am to 9:45 am

State Library, Fourth Floor

**Paper Girl's World:
Adventures of a Globetrotting Travel Writer in the 1980s**

10:00 am to 10:45 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing

2026 LOUISIANA BOOK FESTIVAL



Robin Wilson

Combing Cotton: Transform Your Ancestry into Your Competitive Advantage

Robin Wilson is a 3x author, entrepreneur, and designer who founded Clean Design Home, where she focuses on allergen-aware products and interiors. Her family history is archived in the Library of Congress. With roots from Texas and Louisiana, her book reminds us to search for the stories of our ancestors. Her story: her paternal grandfather was a cotton sharecropper and she has built a global brand with products made of cotton.

9:30 am to 10:15 am

Bienville Building, First Floor, Conference Room 118

Family Legacies, Future Plans:

Lessons of Faith, Work, and Resilience

10:30 am to 11:15 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Rita Woods

The Edge of Yesterday

Rita Woods is an award-winning author and physician whose work has earned the AALBC Award for Fiction, the Hurston-Wright Literary Award for Fiction, and Chicago Book of the Year. Twice named one of Chicago's Top 50 Artists, she serves as Medical Director of a men's maximum-security prison, mentors youth writers, and is a Trustee on her local library board. She lives with her family in suburban Chicago.

11:15 am to Noon

State Library, Fifth Floor, Serials

Time and Time Again:

Ancestry, Identity, and the Weight of History

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Amos Jasper Wright IV

The Battle of Danziger Bridge

Amos Jasper Wright IV is from Alabama. His first short story collection, *Nobody Knows How It Got This Good*, and his first novel, *Petrochemical Nocturne*, were published by the University of West Alabama's Livingston Press. His author website is AmosJasperWright.com

10:15 am to 11:15 am

A.Z. Young Park, Author Tent A

Echoes of Atrocity: Fact Based Novels of Police Brutality, State Corruption, and Political Violence

11:30 am to 12:15 pm

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



Che Yeun

Tailbone: A Novel

Che Yeun is an author and historian from Seoul, Korea. Her debut novel, *Tailbone*, received starred reviews from *Publisher's Weekly* and *Booklist*, and translations are forthcoming in Turkish, Portuguese, and French. Her work has received support from Hedgebrook, the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, and the David TK Wong Fellowship. After completing her PhD in History of Science at Harvard University, she serves as an Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University.

2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

State Library, First Floor, Seminar Center

Under the Surface: Short Stories and Novels of Masking, Power, and Personal Reckonings

3:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Cavalier House Book Tent

Book Signing



Andy Young

Diving Into Nature: An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

Andy Young grew up in West Virginia. She has taught creative writing at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and lived in Egypt during recent revolutionary times. She's the author of *Museum of the Soon Departed* and *All Night It Is Morning*. Her work has been translated into several languages.

9:00 am to 10:30 am

Outside Museum, West Tent

Diving Into Nature:

An Eco-Poetry Anthology of Louisiana

10:45 am to 11:30 am

Cavalier House Books Tent

Book Signing



ORDER YOUR BOOKS ONLINE!

Want to purchase a book but don't have time to visit the Cavalier House Books Tent before the next program starts? Use this QR code to order your book(s) online and ship them to your house or pick them up later in the tent.

EXHIBITORS

64 Parishes

Sponsor Tents

64 Parishes is an award-winning quarterly magazine all about the history and culture of Louisiana.

A

Adams / Russell / Wells-Johns

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Christian and inspirational books for sale

AGdR Press

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Wonderful books for interesting readers

AgeView Press - Author Jeanette Vaughan

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Louisiana History and Biography; Historical and military fiction; Military memoir; Medical thriller; Self-help

AgeView Press - Author Mary Ritter

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Louisiana History and Biography; Historical and military fiction; Military memoir; Medical thriller; Self-help

And Then God Said, "Give Me Your Heart"

Kiesha Trotter, Author

Exhibitor Tents
Inspirational books; personal testimony of betrayal, deliverance, restoration; discovering purpose and revelation

Ann Noelle, LLC

Exhibitor Tents
Stationery goods and gifts

Tanya Ardoin, Author of Crawville

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Crawville is a Louisiana children's book series by author Tanya Ardoin that celebrates Cajun culture, traditions, family, and language.

Desaree Armand, Romantic Suspense and Sci-Fi & Fantasy Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Two novels: *Sealed in Silence* and *The Secret of the Snow Globe*, as well as themed coffee mugs and stickers

Joshua Arnold, Author of *Hollowborn: Roots*

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Signed copies of *Hollowborn: Roots*, an adult urban fantasy about a forgotten librarian, vampires, dangerous bargains, found family, and a talking cat.

Ascension Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
APL provides books, digital resources, technology, programs, and community services, serving as a vital resource for lifelong learning to all ages.

Brittany Ashlyn

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Kidlit / YA author

Lonesome B. Augustine, Author

Exhibitor Tents
Signed copies of *ICE* and *Dark Prairie*

Avoyelles Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
At Avoyelles Parish Library, your library card opens the door to books, movies, online learning, museum and park passes, and so much more. All for free!

B

Bedtime Lullabou and Caro Giovanni

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Bedtime Lullabou is an illustrated children's book written by Angie Kay Dilmore; *Caro Giovanni* is a historical fiction novel by Madelaine B Landry.

Douglas Bell

Exhibitor Tents
Creating literary fiction that uses meditation to reveal authentic selves through stories of identity, privilege, love, and transformation.

John D. Bertucci, *Night Hawks*

Exhibitor Tents
Local author of *Night Hawks*, *Last Hope*, *My Life with Amazing Animals*, and *The French Quarter Connection*

BeWal Publishing

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
BeWal Publishing, the publishing division of BeWal Consulting, offers books celebrating Louisiana's literary and cultural legacy.

Jerry J. Bobb, Lafayette, LA Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Overcoming Adversity: Believe in Yourself! A children's book series designed to inspire kids to dig deep and believe in their own SUPER POWER!

Dr. Melanie Bonita, Author Marketing Coach

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
She is the author of eleven #1 Amazon Best Sellers, who offers six-figure and best-selling author coaching, billboard promotion, and author merch.

Books Along the Teche Literary Festival

Exhibitor Tents
Three day literary festival featuring authors, literary presentations, music, food, and more

Books by Zariah

Exhibitor Tents
A kid-author brand featuring dyslexia-friendly children's books, coloring books, and kid-friendly cookbooks that spark creativity and confidence.

S. G. Boudreaux, Author and Book Artist

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
My own written works and paper creations

The Building Blocks for Financial Literacy

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
This book is a financial literacy guide that breaks all financial literacy generational curses.

C

Cajun Kids Adventures Book Series

Exhibitor Tents
Award-winning adventure series for ages 8-14, featuring Louisiana adventures; part of the AR reading program, along with dyslexia-friendly font.

Calcasieu Parish Public Library

Public Library Round-Up
The Calcasieu Parish Public Library welcomes all with convenient access to high-quality and innovative collections, resources, and services.

A. Marie Cantrelle

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Speculative Fiction books

April Capochino, *Living in the Gray*

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
A memoir about navigating life's paradoxes

Carpe Librum

Exhibitor Tents
Bookish things for bookish people: shirts, bookmarks, totes, and so much more!

Melissa Norton Carro

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Author, *Mt. Moriah's Wake* and *In the Dew of Little Things*

Catahoula Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
A rural library with branches in Harrisonburg and Jonesville – promoting our communities through activities that include all ages!

Catahoula Publishing

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Rooted in the South and inspired by the stories that shape us, Catahoula Publishing is a new independent press with a love for good stories, strong characters, and a deep sense of place.

Jason Cavallaro, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
I read over 3,000 horror novels, then wrote a book listing the best ones. Come talk to me about horror!

Charmed by Nathalie Ann

Exhibitor Tents
Charmed by Nathalie Ann creates bookish accessories for readers who love to carry their favorite stories everywhere.

Chatgris Publishing

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Independent publisher of rare and unique titles based in New Orleans

Chela's Books and Things

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Beautifully illustrated children's books run the gamut of environmental science, anatomy, biology, botany, geopolitics, and national-mandated literacy

Contend for Christ Ministries

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
CFC exists to spread the Gospel and train Christians in the faith once for all delivered to the saints through written materials and outreach.

The Conundrum Bookshop

Exhibitor Tents
A well-curated independent bookstore based in St. Francisville, Louisiana, featuring books by regional authors with lots of signed editions.

Tanya Carron Cormier, LPC-S, Author of *Don't Judge Job's Wife*

Exhibitor Tents
The Bible story of Job is well-known, but have you thought about Job's wife and what she may have felt during those trials? Don't Judge Job's Wife...

Courtney Kelly Books

Exhibitor Tents
Be inspired and empowered by our STEM-themed children's books and merchandise featuring a young civil engineer from New Orleans!

D**Makeyah Daurham**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Spiritual poem book *The Master's Hands*

Euniq Davis, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Euniq Davis, Author of *Broken Woman* and *"Oops, Where Did I Leave My Underwear?"*

Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Sponsor Tents
Find out all the ways you can #FeedYourSoul in Louisiana by visiting the DCRT booth, www.crt.state.la.us, and www.ExploreLouisiana.com.

Lori Downs, Sustainable Living

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Second Nature: How to Build Ecohabitats that Stick

Dr. Dill's Antique Shop for Tohopkas

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
YA Adventure Fantasy novel by author Joe Curtis

E**Earthrise Editing Services**

Exhibitor Tents
Earthrise Editing Services provides book coaching and editing for writers at all stages of the writing-to-publishing journey.

East Baton Rouge Parish Library

Intersection of N. 4th Street and Spanish Town Road
The East Baton Rouge Parish Library provides a host of engaging programs, services, and resources to the community.

Emily and the Invisible Goat by Genesis de la Vie Simmons

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Emily's mischievous invisible goat, Nibbles, makes staying focused in class a challenge. Join Emily as she learns to self-regulate and stay focused.

Empoword Publishing Worldwide (EPW)

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
EPW offers premium and affordable book publishing services in various genres including children's books, memoirs, novels, nonfiction, and more!

Empty Desk NOLA

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Exploring community trauma, youth resilience, and the impact of systemic loss on New Orleans educational spaces through the self-created publication *Empty Desk: When the Classroom Carries the City's Grief*

F**D. Firmin, Book of Trials and Tribulations**

Exhibitor Tents
Book: *Goodness of God... Ask, Seek... Jesus I Knock*; prayers and lessons

First Steps in Early Reading

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
A set of 32 lessons in letter/sound correspondence taught with a multi-sensory approach. Contains rhymes, stories, mazes, and other activities.

Scott Fleming, Author and Artist

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Signed copies of Scott Fleming's debut novel, *The Quest of Kip Saunders*, along with wildlife-themed notecards featuring his original artwork.

Gigi Fontenot, Author of the Bootsy the Cajun Pitbull Series

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Award-winning children's books, celebrating Cajun culture, Louisiana traditions, kindness, friendship, and adventure.

Stephanie Fournet, Author

Exhibitor Tents
Louisiana romance and romantic comedy author

Sarah F. Frederick

Exhibitor Tents
Children's and Young Adult Author

G**Jamar J. Gailes, Author of *Loving 42: A Mother's Prayer, a Son's Journey, a Father's Strength***

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Loving 42: A chronicled inspirational memoir of fate and faith that collide at the intersection of life and death by International Impact Award-Winning Author, Jamar L. Gailes @ www.thegailesgroup.com

Latoya Garrett

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Christian Romance, Suspense, Women's Fiction books; bookmarks, tote bags, and coffee mugs

Edward G. Gauthier, Psychological Mystery and Science Fiction

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Three Novels: *Director Guy*, *The Dragon's Eye*, *Black Hole*, and *Invasion of the Dream Wheel*

Sophia Gehring, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Capitol Walkway
Eliza Bliss's Summer Before Seventh Grade romance series, *The Princess of Castles*, and new releases

Grand Verse Comics

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Indie comics writer Nigel Langley

Grant Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
Grant Parish Library provides free access to books, eBooks, digital resources, technology, educational programs, research assistance, and community events.

Greater Baton Rouge Chapter, National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
The Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana provides information, referral, education, and advocacy for blind individuals and their families in our community.

DeeAnne Green, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Children's book author

Jeffrey Pipes Guice

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
New Orleans-based author, poet, and storyteller

Gumdrop Books

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Gumdrop Books is a trusted provider of high-quality books, educational resources, and library solutions for schools, classrooms, and public libraries.

H**Nancy Polk Hall, Historical Fiction/Cozy Mystery Author**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Historical Fiction - the past feels personal: Post-war France secrets in *Call of the Blackbird*; a 1960s English manor murder in *Death at Brookhaven*

Hero's Path Publishing

Exhibitor Tents
The Feebee book series is written on a second/third-grade reading level and is also a great read-aloud for younger children.

Historic New Orleans Collection

Sponsor Tents
The Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC) is a museum, research center, and publisher dedicated to the stewardship of the history and culture of New Orleans and the Gulf South.

I Bet I Know Where You Got Your Shoes

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
A playful, beautifully illustrated celebration of New Orleans culture, crafted to delight young readers and adults alike.

Iberville Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
Come by for information on resources and programs the Iberville Parish Library has to offer.

If I Only Had 25 Hours in a Day...**by Melinda Turner**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
If I Only Had 25 Hours in a Day... is an inspirational book to get you "Refocused, Redirected, and Renewed" – three words that changed my life. Also "Living My Best Life" t-shirts.

Jean Isabella, Contemporary Black Romance

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Contemporary Black romance by Jean Isabella - stories about mature love, real connection, emotional depth, and relationships worth rooting for.

It's Complicated Series by Natasha Briscoe

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Louisiana-based trilogy that follows Seth Adam's journey through life and love. You will surely make a connection with Seth or his inner circle.

J**Sheila L. Jackson, Fiction and Nonfiction Books**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road
Contemporary Christian suspense/romance and nonfiction books

Jefferson Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up
Since 1949, the Jefferson Parish Library has served the people of Jefferson Parish, currently through 17 branch locations and online services.

J Allen Jernigan

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway
Historical Christian fiction

Joyful Moments:

Stories of Love, Faith, and Family

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Joyful children's books for families who laugh, learn, and grow together with love!

Junior League of Baton Rouge

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

River Road Recipes cookbooks & merchandise

K

Luz Evan Kanin

Exhibitor Tents

Fantasy / Romantasy Author

Krishna West, Baton Rouge

Exhibitor Tents

We meet regularly to discuss the timeless knowledge of Bhagavad Gita and its practical application in our modern world.

L

Lafayette Literary Ladies

Exhibitor Tents

Danielle Ducrest: *Fantasy Tipping the Scales* and adult coloring; Rainey Pavo: Character-driven adult romance, *The Guilt of Wanting* and *Unverified*

Dr. Keith E. Leger, Author of *Listed*

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Speculative literary fiction set in Louisiana, where parents list unborn children on a human stock exchange tied to life achievements.

Kiah Lewis

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Children's chapter books, Fantasy

Sherlin Henderson Lewis

with Enough Grace Publishing

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Historical romance, inspirational, and postmodern literature

Lily Book Series by Missy Publishing

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

The Greatest Treasure and *Lily's Mysterious Odyssey* are charming children's picture books about living in NOLA that teach young readers about compassion.

Terry Lindsey and Teena Myers

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

A pastor's Christian Sci-Fi and international author's insights into biblical faith. SCWguild.com

Line by Lion Publications

Exhibitor Tents

Traditional, independent publishing house specializing in genre fiction

Loratone

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Based in New Orleans, Loratone pairs children's storybooks with atmospheric soundscapes to engage reluctant and neurodivergent readers aged 4-10.

Louisiana Life

Sponsor Tents

Louisiana Life is a statewide lifestyle magazine celebrating the people, places, culture, food, and traditions of Louisiana, with stories that highlight what makes life in our state unique.

Louisiana Public Broadcasting

Sponsor Tents

Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) is the PBS station for Louisiana. Our mission is to provide programs and resources that educate and entertain. LPB develops content that showcases the uniqueness of Louisiana.

Louisiana Reading Association

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

We are a statewide nonprofit literacy organization, a chapter of the International Literacy Association, promoting literacy research and development.

Loveday Funk

Exhibitor Tents

Original books, surreal artwork, oracle decks, and whimsical gothic creations inspired by folklore, fairy tales, and the strange beauty of Louisiana.

LSU Department of English

Exhibitor Tents

LSU's English Department provides information about literacy, cultural programs/events, a display of faculty publications, *New Delta Review*, and *Delta* literary journal.

LSU Libraries and Friends of the

LSU Libraries

Exhibitor Tents

Save the date for the 2027 Friends of the LSU Libraries Annual Book Bazaar and see what services LSU Libraries make available to the public!

LSU Press

Exhibitor Tents

One of the South's leading scholarly publishers, LSU Press is noted for its books on southern history, literature, the Civil War, Louisiana culture, music, food, fiction, and poetry.

Kyra Wills Luckett, MSW, RSW

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Author of children's book *My Weekend in the Country with MeeMaw!* and young reader's chapter book *When Kami Discovers Her R.O.A.R.* Instagram: @KyraWillsLuckett

Luna Press

Exhibitor Tents

Luna Press, a New Orleans publisher, creates beautifully illustrated books inspired by the correspondence between words and images.

M

Sabina Malik, Author of *Jaya's Paper Heart*

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Signed copies of *Jaya's Paper Heart*, a speculative short-fiction collection blending fairy tale, dystopia, and magical realism

Marais Bleu Cyanotype Studio

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Join Marais Bleu Cyanotype Studio to make your own sun-printed bookmark, take home a kit, and browse original art and prints.

C.J. Michelli

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Christian Epic Fantasy

Charlie Montgomery

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Practical business guide author helping small business owners recognize and prevent bookkeeping fraud, backed by 45+ years of consulting experience.

Mud Puddle Media

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Children's books

Fred Mulhearn, "Louisiana's Own Cartoonist"

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Cartoon books about the Great State of Looziana

Ian T.M. Mungall, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Author of *What Happened to Us: Books One, Two, and Three*

The Mustard Seed Effect

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

A Memoir of Pain, Survival, Healing, and Faith

My Life Story:

Memories Living Southwest of Button River

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

A reflection of the journey through life, sharing struggles, triumphs, and various connections along the way that have helped define the author.

Teena Myers and Terry Lindsey

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

A pastor's Christian Sci-Fi and international author's insights into biblical faith. SCWguild.com

N

Nelson's Unlimited

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Books, pictures

Nini & Connor: The Tale of the Hawk

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Children's illustrated book

O

October Nights Press

Exhibitor Tents

Horror Fiction by Award-Winning author, editor, and screenwriter Mark C. Scioneaux

The Oxford American

Sponsor Tents

Now in its 34th year, the Oxford American (OA) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to explore the complex, vital American Southern culture through exceptional writing, music, and visual art via its award-winning print magazine, live events, and multimedia storytelling. Learn more at OxfordAmerican.org.

P

Pelican Publishing

Exhibitor Tents

Pelican Publishing has been publishing quality books in the heart of Louisiana since 1926, including children's books, adult nonfiction, and regional topics.

Donte Perry, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Signed copies of the book *My Life in Rearview*

PREACH's Boys to Books Not Bars Program

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Literacy program for African American boys pre-K to 3rd grade

David L. Preston

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Historical Fiction, Crime/Mob Fiction, Espionage/Spy Thriller Fiction, and Vampire Romantasy

A Psalm a Day Keeps the Devil Away

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

A book signing by Jena Kleinpeter, author

R

Rapides Parish Library

Public Library Round-Up

Rapides Parish Library is located in the heart of Louisiana. Our mission is "[p]romoting literacy. Guiding discovery. Changing lives...for all!"

E. Lane Redmond, Southern Gothic Horror Author

Exhibitor Tents

Southern Gothic novels blending Mardi Gras traditions, Louisiana history, and supernatural mystery. Bookmarks and other promo items also available.

Relax with Words

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Author Sherry D. Lewis - Romance, Fantasy, Children's books, Drama

Revitalize Romance by Orsonna Lee

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

A 28-day Challenge to Reignite Passion in Your Marriage

Jeanne McIntosh Rietzke, Author

Exhibitor Tents

Novel *Inherited Death* and related merchandise

C.J. Rivers, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Faith-filled mystery and adventure stories

***Rome Unconquered, 1599* by Darren Catallo**

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

It is 1599 and the Roman Empire still survives. A character-based and fun take on alternative history!

Holly Rose, Romance Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Holly Rose will be signing her romance novels and selling bookish goods like bookmarks and candles.

S

Richard S. Sargent and Rodney Rhoda Taylor

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Horror and other movie cookbooks, memoirs, LGBTQ+ plays, and more!

Michael Sarrazin, Indie Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Romance novel, handmade bookmarks, and decorated coasters

The Saturni Series

Exhibitor Tents

A four-book dark fantasy series set in New Orleans

SCBWI Louisiana/Mississippi

Exhibitor Tents

Welcome to SCBWI Louisiana/Mississippi.

Interested in writing and/or illustrating books for children?

Rolanda Shaw, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town

Books by Rolanda Shaw focusing on healing, self-love, personal growth, and transformation

Tracy F. Shea, *Excavating the Termitary*

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Signed copies of *Excavating the Termitary*, a historical novel inspired by Maurice Maeterlinck and Eugène Marais.

Carla Shelton, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Forgiveness is a Decision carlashelton.com

Shree, Award-winning Author and Entrepreneur

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Books of several genres

Shreve Memorial Library

Public Library Round-Up

Trunk-or-treat and programming

***Sinking Dixie* by John Breerwood**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

A dystopian New Orleans future

Sister Mac's

Exhibitor Tents

We create our own bookish designs on high-quality cotton t-shirts and sweatshirts in unique colors to appeal to all readers. Shop us at sistermacs.com

Micah Smith, Horror Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Micah will be signing and selling copies of his cosmic horror novel *WANT*, a subliminal advertising story through the eyes of the advertiser.

Rodney Jr. Smith, Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Author of five children's books

***A Southern Enchantress* by Deborah Trahan**

Exhibitor Tents

A Southern Enchantress, by Deborah Trahan, set in New Orleans and along Coastal Mississippi, combines magical realism with historical fantasy.

The Southern Review

Exhibitor Tents

The Southern Review, a literary journal published quarterly at LSU, features fiction, poetry, and nonfiction essays from award-winning authors and poets.

State Library of Louisiana

Sponsor Tents

We support literacy and lifelong learning for all Louisianians. One of the ways in which we do this is by providing access to a wide array of print and electronic resources, including the archival Louisiana Collection and the Louisiana Library Connection databases.

Shequilla Sterling, Finally Free

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Author of *From the Ashes* and *From Surviving to Living*, sharing stories and resources about healing, resilience, and breaking cycles

T

Tales of Two Sisters

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Sisters RM Huie and Andreè Maduell's books: *A Quiet Journal for Grief, Loss, and Major Life Changes*; *Take a Ride on a Streetcar*; *God and PTSD*

Talking Books and Braille Library (TBBL)

Sponsor Tents

Housed in the State Library, TBBL is a free service for qualified Louisianians whose visual or physical impairments cause difficulty reading standard print.

Rodney Rhoda Taylor and Richard S. Sargent

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Horror and other movie cookbooks, memoirs, LGBTQ+ plays, and more!

TBR Books & Tea

Exhibitor Tents

A Baton Rouge bookshop with cafe

Terrebonne Parish Library System

Public Library Round-Up

Terrebonne Library, recipient of the IMLS National Medal for Museum & Library Service, hosts the Jambalaya Writers' Conference, Market, and NEA Big Read.

Three Fortnights Press

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Original romance novels written and published by Black women with corresponding bookish reader paraphernalia such as humorous stickers, tote bags, etc.

Twin Oaks Elementary School

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

At Twin Oaks Elementary School, every student is an author. Meet our young writers, participate in activities, and discover books created and published by students.

U

UL Press

Exhibitor Tents

UL Press is the world's largest publisher of Louisiana books.

V

Marie Veillon, Rom-Com Author

Exhibitor Tents

Marie Veillon writes romantic comedies that blend elements of her faith and Cajun culture with minty romance, quirky humor, and happily ever afters.

The Vine Christian Bookstore

Exhibitor Tents

We will feature Christian books, devotionals, children's books, and journals.

W

Wagging Tales Press and Mary Walsh

Exhibitor Tents

Mary Walsh and Wagging Tales Press are award-winning multi-genre authors with over 20 titles. We have supernatural, crime, romance, children's, etc.

Valencia Wallace, Award-Winning Author of Southern Psychological Thrillers

Exhibitor Tents

Award-winning memoir and Southern psychological thrillers rooted in Louisiana life, lore, and buried secrets.

WBRZ Channel 2

Sponsor Tents

A family-owned news station serving the Baton Rouge area since 1955

West Baton Rouge Museum

Exhibitor Tents

A regional history museum with diverse rotating exhibits, musical jams, apprenticeships, art workshops, lectures, and more.

***A World Alone* by Mary Bourque Marcotte**

Exhibitors' Row-Spanish Town Road

Mary's World Series Books 1 and 2: *This World So Fierce* and *A World Alone*, Mary's popular handmade bookmarks, bookish gifts and paraphernalia

Andrea Wren, Historical, Romance, and Children's Books Author

Exhibitors' Row-Museum Walkway

Andrea Wren, author of *Isabella the Belle of Ironwood*, *BLESS*, *Until the Day Dawns*, and children's books *Maggie the Bee Charmer* and *Maggie and Friends*

WRKF Baton Rouge Public Radio

Sponsor Tents

WRKF is public radio for Louisiana's capital region, providing trusted news, cultural programming, classical music, emergency alerts, and timely weather and disaster information. Listen wherever you are via 89.3 FM, wrkf.org, WRKF app, or smart speaker.



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The Southern Review

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Angela Germany, West Baton Rouge Parish Library

Public Librarians across the state

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Our friends from:

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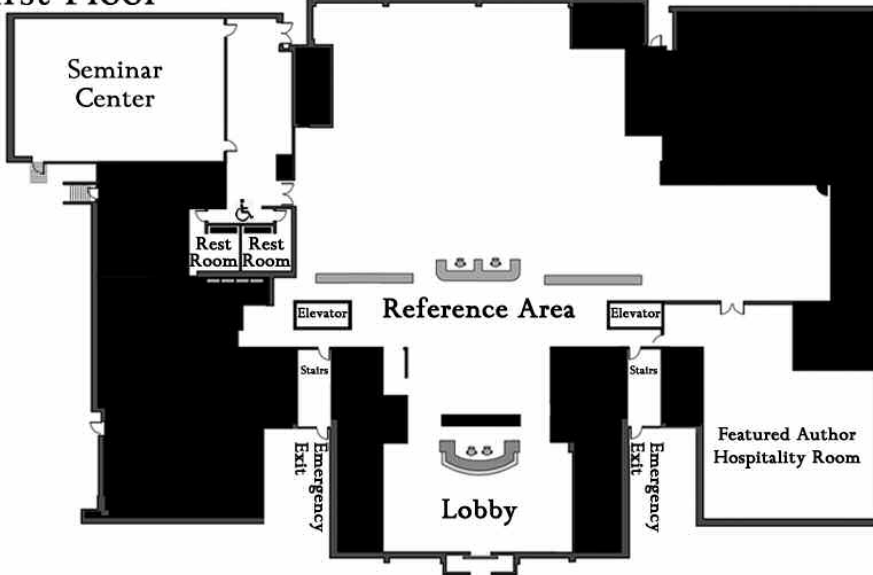
Capitol Park Museum

Bienville Building

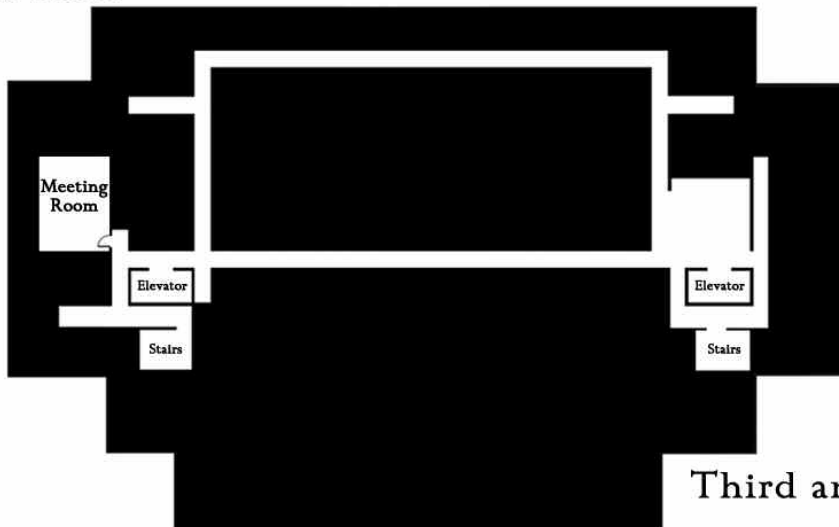
Iberville Building

State Library Map

First Floor

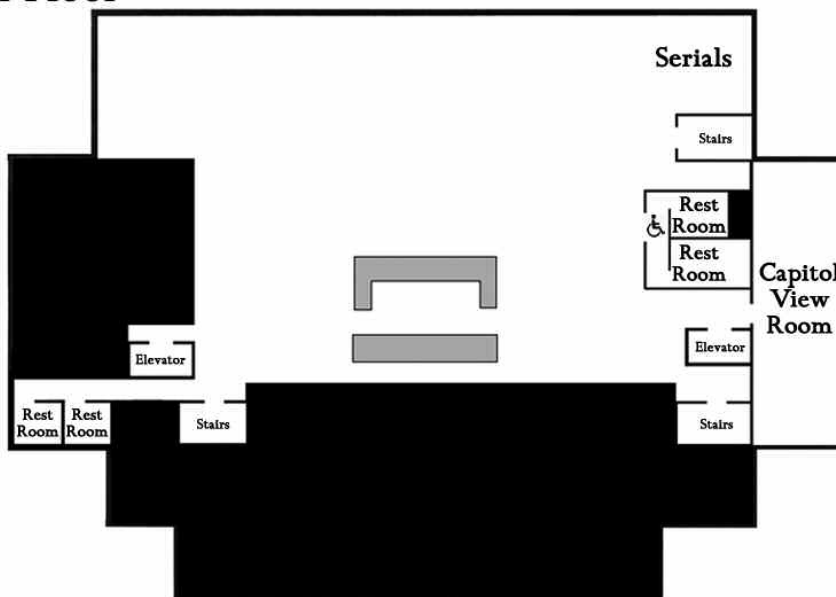


Second Floor



Third and Fourth Floors*

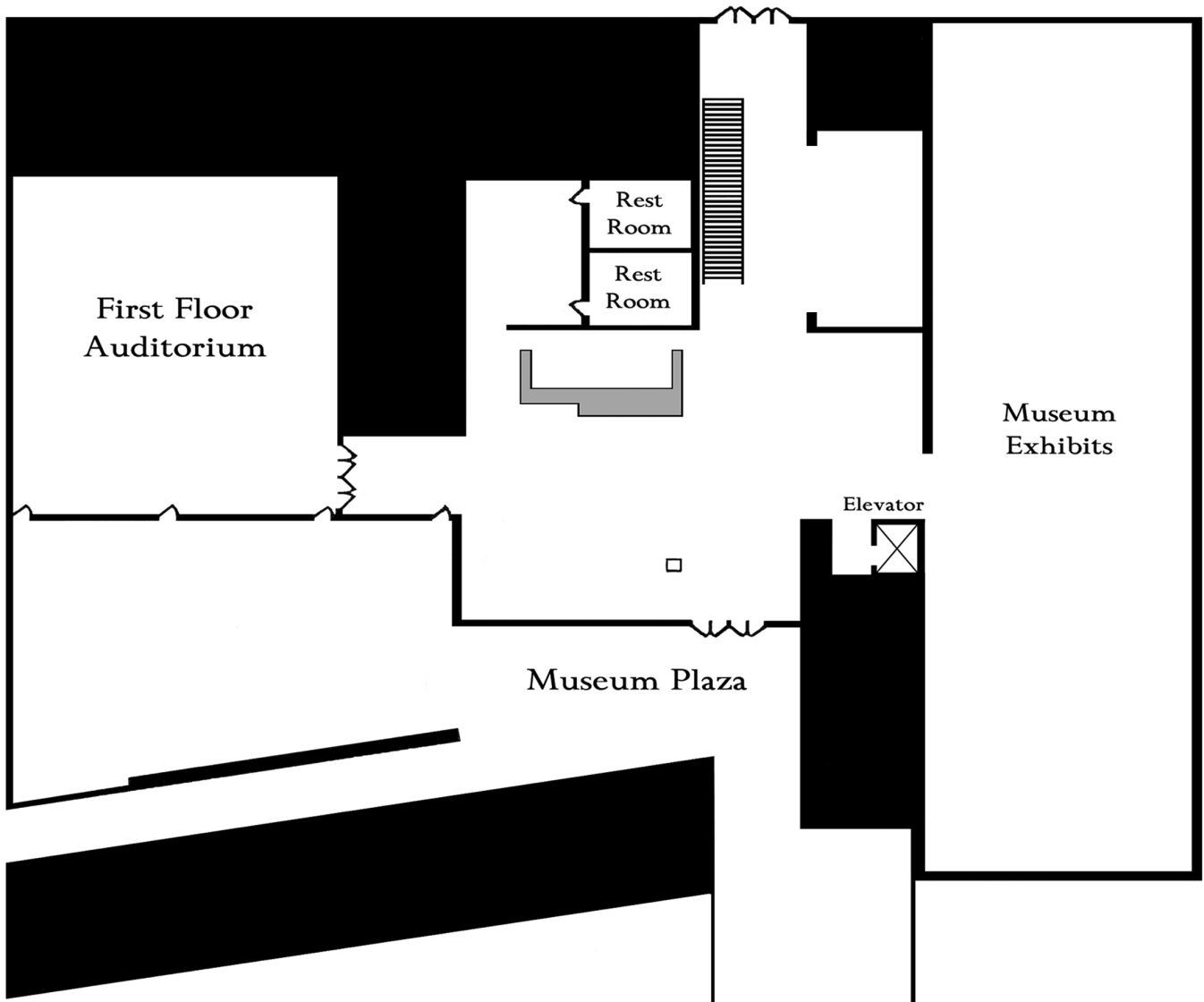
Fifth Floor



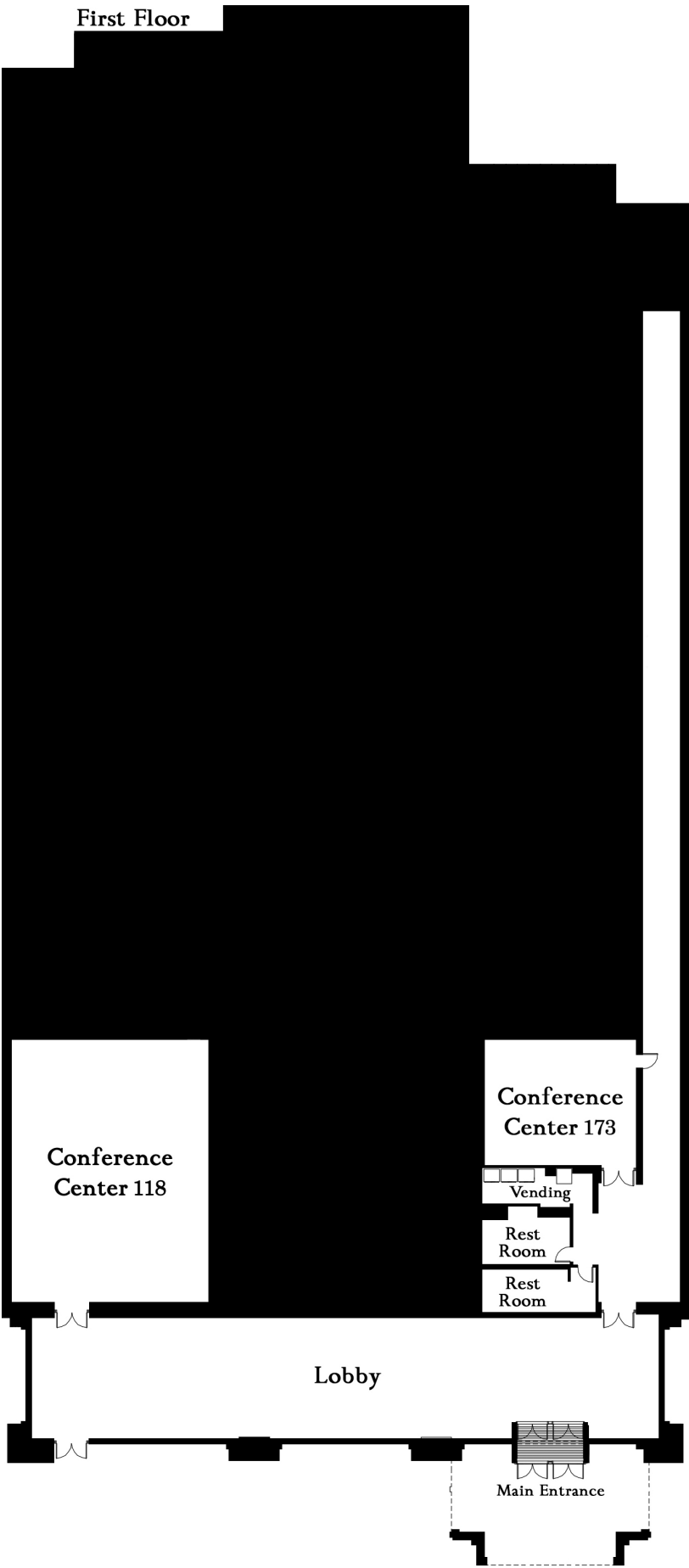
*All programs on the Third and Fourth Floor will be set up just outside the elevators

Capitol Park Museum Map

First Floor

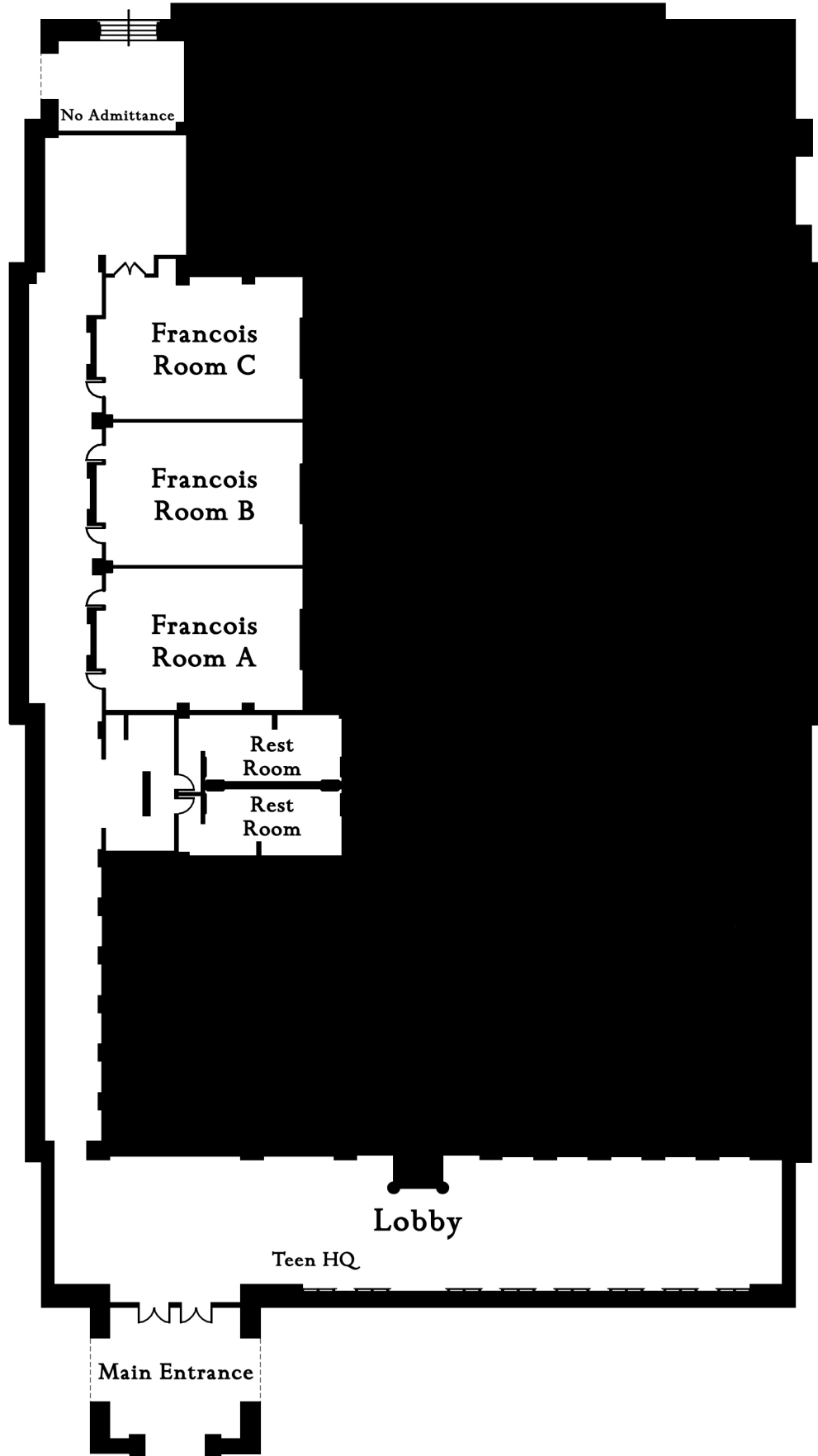


Bienville Building Map



Iberville Building Map

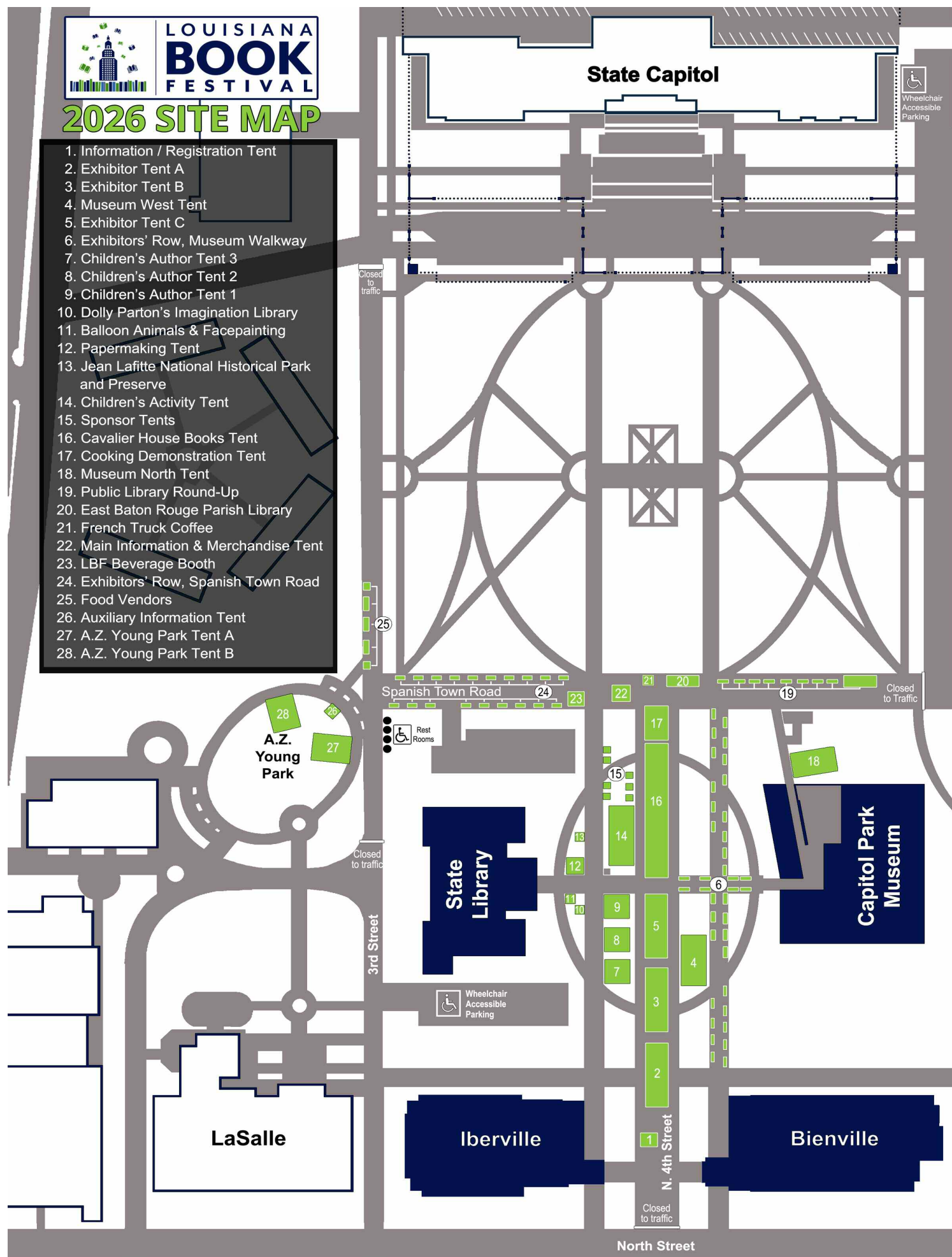
First Floor





2026 SITE MAP

1. Information / Registration Tent
2. Exhibitor Tent A
3. Exhibitor Tent B
4. Museum West Tent
5. Exhibitor Tent C
6. Exhibitors' Row, Museum Walkway
7. Children's Author Tent 3
8. Children's Author Tent 2
9. Children's Author Tent 1
10. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
11. Balloon Animals & Facepainting
12. Papermaking Tent
13. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve
14. Children's Activity Tent
15. Sponsor Tents
16. Cavalier House Books Tent
17. Cooking Demonstration Tent
18. Museum North Tent
19. Public Library Round-Up
20. East Baton Rouge Parish Library
21. French Truck Coffee
22. Main Information & Merchandise Tent
23. LBF Beverage Booth
24. Exhibitors' Row, Spanish Town Road
25. Food Vendors
26. Auxiliary Information Tent
27. A.Z. Young Park Tent A
28. A.Z. Young Park Tent B



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